

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1089
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

REDUCTION IN FARES OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

1089 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that some Vande Bharat trains are being run with low occupancy;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken to make these trains economically viable; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to reduce the fares of such Vande Bharat trains?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a), (b) & (c) : During 2023-24 (upto June 2023), the overall utilization of Vande Bharat trains is 99.60%. Further, on Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. Indian Railways strives to provide economically reasonable fares to all passengers of the country.

(d) : Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of society and gave subsidy of Rs. 59,837 crore on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Fare rationalization is a continuous process to optimize utilization of travel accommodation in trains. In 2019, Zonal railways had been delegated power to introduce discounts up to a maximum of 25% of basic fare in AC chair car and Executive class over certain segments after analyzing the travel trends for all competitive modes in the region and estimating the future occupancy potential. The same provisions have been extended with some minor modifications vide instructions on 08.07.2023.
