

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2187
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

2187 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the existing railway infrastructure supports the operational speed of Vande Bharat trains without the need for special tracks, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) the measures taken to upgrade or maintain tracks to ensure the safe and efficient operation of Vande Bharat trains;
- (c) the current number of Vande Bharat trains in operation across the country and the plans for future deployments;
- (d) the criteria used for selecting routes for Vande Bharat trains; and
- (e) whether there are plans for expanding services to new regions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2187 BY SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.08.2024 REGARDING OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS.

(a) & (b) Indian Railways network consists of various routes with different permissible sectional speed permitted to run passenger trains including Vande Bharat trains.

Upgradation of railway track is an ongoing process and Indian Railways has taken up following upgradation measures to improve safety and track standards:

- i. Laying of track structure consisting of 60 kg R260 & R350HT longer rails on pre-stressed reinforced concrete (PSC) sleepers with 1660 sleepers per km with upgraded modern fastening system.
- ii. Use of thick web switches and weldable Cast Manganese Steel (CMS) crossings along with improved fittings etc.
- iii. Modernization of track structures with weldable CMS crossings to reduce number of fish plated joints and continuation of LWR through main lines in yards.
- iv. Maximisation of Flash butt welding in place of thermit welds by providing long rail panels and testing of Flash Butt welds by advanced technology of phased array Ultrasonic testing to enhance weld reliability.
- v. Adoption of mechanised system for track maintenance using high output plain tampers and points & crossing tampers for improved maintainability & reliability of track.
- vi. Deployment of state-of-the-art modern machines including Rail Grinding machines manufactured in India on Railway network to further improve asset reliability.
- vii. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc. to improve progress of track renewal along with ensuring quality and to reduce human errors.

(c) to (e) As of now, 102 Vande Bharat train services are operational across the Indian Railways, connecting states having Broad Gauge electrified network. Introduction of new train services, including Vande Bharat services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability etc.
