

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1399**  
**ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024**

**OPERATION OF VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TO PUDUCHERRY**

1399 SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of Vande Bharat express running in the country;
- (b) the pre-conditions for operating the Vande Bharat in a sector;
- (c) whether Government will consider to run Vande Bharat train in the route between Chennai and Puducherry; and
- (d) if so, by when it will be operated, considering the convenience of the passengers and time?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) As on 02<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024, 136 Vande Bharat train services are operational on the Indian Railways network which are being run on the Broad Gauge (B. G.) electrified network with Vande Bharat Coaches. Presently, Chennai - Puducherry sector is being served by 06 pairs of train services. Further, Villupuram station, which also caters to the needs of passengers of Puducherry, is presently well connected to Chennai which includes 2 pairs of Vande Bharat services namely 20627/28 Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express and 20665/66 Chennai Egmore-Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express. Besides, 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.

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