

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2973
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2024

**INTRODUCTION OF VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICES IN
MAHARASHTRA**

2973 SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to introduce Vande Bharat Sleeper train services connecting major cities in Maharashtra, such as Mumbai and Pune, to other economic hubs like Delhi and Bengaluru;
- (b) if so, the proposed timeline for the introduction of these services; and
- (c) the expected benefits of such services for Maharashtra's economic growth and inter-state connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) The first prototype of Vande Bharat Sleeper train set has been manufactured and is presently under commissioning at Integral Coach Factory(ICF), Chennai. Thereafter, it will undergo extensive field trials. The timeline of rollout of train(s) is subject to successful completion of the trials.

As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. Presently, 136 Vande Bharat services, with Chair Car coaches, are operational across Indian Railways, connecting States having Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified network. Of these, 22 Vande Bharat Services, on origination-termination basis, are catering to the needs of the stations located in the State of Maharashtra.

Further, Mumbai-Delhi and Mumbai-Bengaluru sectors are served by 33 pairs and 17 pairs of trains respectively while Pune-Delhi and Pune-Bengaluru sectors are served by 08 pairs and 19 pairs of trains respectively. Moreover, introduction of new train services, including Vande Bharat services and its variants, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc.
