

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592**  
**ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024**

**AFFORDABILITY OF TRAVELLING IN VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

592 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of the Vande Bharat Trains;
- (b) the details of the number of routes operational across the country including Tamil Nadu, as of now;
- (c) the details of the overall utilization of these trains across the country;
- (d) whether these trains are doing extremely well on all the routes, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is planning to provide affordable rail travel to poor, lower middle and middle class, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592 BY SHRI R. DHARMAR ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 29.11.2024 REGARDING AFFORDABILITY OF TRAVELLING IN VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

(a) to (f): With a view to provide better travel experience to the passengers, Indian Railways has introduced Vande Bharat trains with modern coaches having following enhanced safety features and amenities:

1. Fitted with KAVACH.
2. Faster acceleration and semi High speed operation up to 160 KMPH.
3. Fully Sealed Gangway for Free Passenger Movement.
4. Automatic Plug Doors.
5. Reclining Ergonomic Seats and Comfortable Seating with revolving seats in executive class.
6. Better Ride Comfort.
7. Mobile charging sockets for every seat.
8. Mini Pantry with provision of Hot Case, Bottle Cooler, Deep freezer & Hot Water Boiler.
9. Direct and Diffused Lighting.
10. For Divyangjan passengers special lavatory in DTC.
11. Emergency openable Windows and fire extinguisher in each coach.
12. CCTVs in all Coaches.
13. Emergency Alarm Push buttons and Talk Back Units on all Coaches.
14. Better fire safety – Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.
15. Driver-Guard communication with voice recording facility & Crash hardened memory.
16. Coach condition monitoring System (CCMS) display with remote monitoring.
17. Disaster lights – 4 numbers in each coach in case of Emergency.
18. 4 platform side cameras including rear view cameras outside the coach.

As on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2024, 136 Vande Bharat train services are running across the Indian Railways, connecting states having Broad Gauge (B. G.) electrified Railway

network, which straddles across State boundaries, and as such trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. Presently, 16 Vande Bharat Express services, on originating/terminating basis, are catering to the needs of stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The overall occupancy of Vande Bharat express trains during 2024-25 (upto October 2024) is approximately 100%.

Indian Railways constantly endeavors to cater to the travelling needs of all sections of society by operating different types of services with different composition, which includes both Non-AC and AC coaches. Of the total number of Coaches being presently utilized for running of train services, two-third are non-AC and one-third are AC variants. With a view to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non-AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches. With a view to augment the accommodation for passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, more than 600 General Class coaches have been attached in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches, during the current financial year.

Keeping in view the increased demand, IR has provisioned production of 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General and Sleeper Class Coaches during next two to three years to cater to the needs of masses.

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology and are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

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