

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 72
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025

TRACK UPGRADATION FOR VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

*72 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the average speed of Vande Bharat trains has decreased from 84.48 kilometre per hour in 2020-21 to 76.25 kilometre per hour in 2023-24 due to incomplete track upgradation and infrastructural constraints;
- (b) the current status of track upgradation vis-a-vis targets and the steps taken to expedite track modernization to enable Vande Bharat trains to run at their designated speeds; and
- (c) the current status and anticipated timeline for the rollout of Vande Bharat Sleeper trains, including the key factors contributing to delays in their production and deployment?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 72 BY DR. FAUZIA KHAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 25.07.2025 REGARDING TRACK UPGRADATION FOR VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

(a) to (c) The Vande Bharat trains presently running over the Indian Railway network are Semi-High speed train services with design speed of 180 kmph and maximum operating speed of 160 kmph. The average speed of the train depends upon geometry of the track, stoppages enroute, maintenance work in the section etc.

Upgradation and improvement of railway tracks on Indian Railways to increase the speed potential have been carried out in a big way during last 10 years. The measures for track upgradation include use of 60 kg rails, wider base concrete sleepers, thick web switches, longer rail panels, H Beam sleepers, modern track renewal and maintenance machines etc.

As a result of above measures, there has been significant increase in speed potential of the tracks. The details of speed potential of railway tracks during 2014 vis a vis 2025 are as under:

Sectional Speed (kmph)	2014		2025	
	Track Km	%	Track Km	%
<110	47,897	60.4	22,862	21.6
110-130	26,409	33.3	59,800	56.6
130 & above	5,036	6.3	23,010	21.8
Total	79,342	100	1,05,672	100

The first prototype of Vande Bharat Sleeper trainset has already been manufactured. Based on the extensive field trials and the experience gained therein, the first rake of Vande Bharat sleeper train is undergoing commissioning.
