

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYSRAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1554  
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025

## NEW PASSENGER TRAINS AND HIKE IN FARE

1554 # SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new passenger trains started in the country in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the total percentage increase in passenger fares in different classes during the said period, the total additional revenue received by Government from the increased fare amount, year-wise and class-wise; and
- (c) the number of Vande Bharat trains currently being operated, the State-wise details of the operational Vande Bharat trains along with the average speed and average manufacturing cost of a Vande Bharat train and a Shatabdi train?

## ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. As on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2025, 144 Vande Bharat train services are operational across the Indian Railways, connecting States having Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified Railway network. The Vande Bharat trains 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 the geometry of the track, stoppages enroute, maintenance work in the section etc. The average manufacturing cost of a Vande Bharat and Shatabdi train depends upon the length and composition of the train as per traffic requirement.

During the period 2021-2022 to 2024-2025, more than 750 train services have been introduced on the Indian Railways network. Besides, during the current financial year 2025-26 (upto 28th July), more than 60 train services have been introduced.

Indian Railways provide affordable transportation service to more than 720 crore passengers. The fare of Indian Railways are lowest in the world, even when compared with the neighbouring countries.

The total amount of subsidy given in FY 2023-24 on passenger travel is provisionally estimated at Rs. 60,466 crore. This amounts to a 45% subsidy on the cost of passenger travel. In other words, if the cost of providing service is Rs. 100, then the price of ticket is ₹ 55 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers.

After a gap of more than 5 years, fares have been rationalized w.e.f. 01 July 2025. The increase in fares is very low, ranging from half paise per km to two paise per km for premium classes. The details of the fare revision are as follows:

- i. No increase in General Class up to 500 km and thereafter Half paise increase in fare per passenger per kilometer.
- ii. Half paise increase in fare per passenger per kilometer in Sleeper Class Ordinary and First-Class Ordinary.
- iii. 01 Paisa increase per passenger per kilometer in Non-AC Classes in Mail Express.
- iv. 02 paisa increase per passenger per kilometer in reserved AC-Classes.

To maintain affordability for low and middle income families, the fares for MST and Suburban travel have not been revised. Further, the fare revision is likely to have insignificant impact on the total amount of subsidy because the revision ranges from half paise to 2 paise only per kilometer of travel. It is estimated that less than half the trips will have a marginal increase in fare. For example, for a low-income traveller in general coach, there is no fare increase for 500 km travel.

The additional revenue received from the increased fare is subsumed in the total passenger revenue, and it is not maintained separately. However, the total Passenger Revenue in the last five years is as under:-

Year	Passenger Revenue (₹ in crore)
2020-2021*	15,248/- (COVID Year)
2021-2022	39,214/-
2022-2023	63,417/-
2023-2024	70,693/-
2024-2025 (Provisional)	75,368/-

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