

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

RE-EVALUATING FARES OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

1122. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Railways has started Vande Bharat trains in several parts of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details of trains running and future targets, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Railways are re-evaluating the fares of certain Vande Bharat trains operating on short-distance routes which are experiencing low occupancy;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to ensure that a large number of people can utilise the train service by making it more affordable?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b) On Indian Railways' network, the first Vande Bharat Express viz. 22435/22436 New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express was introduced on 15th February, 2019. Till 24.07.2023, 50 Vande Bharat Express have been introduced serving various stations like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mysuru, Bhopal, Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Puri, Visakhapatnam, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Bilaspur, Nagpur, Jabalpur, Ranchi, Patna, Tirupati, Sri Sainagar Shirdi, Shri Mata Vishno devi Katra, Lucknow,

Gorakhpur, Solapur, Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, etc. Indian Railways do not introduce train services on State-wise basis as Railways network straddle across State boundaries. However, introduction of train services, including Vande Bharat services, is an on-going process, subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification etc.

(c) & (d) Zonal railways had been delegated power to introduce discounts up to a maximum of 25% of basic fare in AC chair car and Executive class in order to optimize utilization of accommodation (vide commercial circular no . 40 of 2019, dated 27.8.2019). This authorized zonal railways to offer competitive fares over certain segments after analyzing the travel trends for all competitive modes in the region and also estimating the future occupancy potential. The same provisions were extended with some minor modifications (vide commercial circular no. 11 of 2023, dated 8.7.2023). Further, fare rationalization is a continuous process to optimize utilization of travel accommodation in trains.

(e) There are different types of train services running over Indian Railways. Certain train services with lower fare to give benefit to underprivileged sections of the society and others with higher fare for higher category of services. Passengers opt such services based on requirement and their convenience.
