

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2899  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023**

**DELHI-KATHGODAM/DELHI-TANAKPUR VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

**†2899. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH LODHI:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is considering to start Delhi-Kathgodam and Delhi-Tanakpur Vande Bharat trains;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide a halt at Rampur station so that the people of neighbouring areas also get benefitted;**
- (c) the manner in which the safety of railway tracks is being ensured in view of the high speed of Vande Bharat trains;**
- (d) whether the railway tracks on which Vande Bharat trains run are reportedly being obstructed by anti-social elements; and**
- (e) if so, the action taken in this regard?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2899 BY SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH LODHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.12.2023 REGARDING DELHI-KATHGODAM/DELHI-TANAKPUR VANDE BHARAT TRAINS**

**(a)and (b) As on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, 68 Vande Bharat train services are running across the Indian Railways, connecting states having Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified network. At present, Delhi is connected to Kathgodam and Tanakpur by 03 and 01 pair of Express train services respectively. Besides, introduction of new train services and provision of stoppage of existing train services, including Vande Bharat services, are ongoing processes over Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc.**

**(c) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways. Railway is having a set system of inspection, maintenance and repair of track. Further, following steps are taken to ensure safety of track:-**

- Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Pre-stressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fanshaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is used, while carrying out primary track renewals.**
- Long rail panels of 260 M/130M length are being manufactured at the steel plant to minimize number of Alumino Thermit joints in the track.**
- Patrolling of railway tracks is done to look out for weld/rail fractures for ensuring safety.**
- Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.**
- Mechanization of track maintenance is being carried out to reduce human errors.**

- **Track management system has been introduced on Indian Railways for development of database and decision support system and to decide rationalize maintenance requirement and optimize inputs.**
- **Inspections at regular intervals are carried out to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.**
- **Safety fencing has been stipulated at vulnerable locations for speed above 110 kmph to 130 kmph and all along the track for speed above 130 kmph, as a minimum standard.**

**(d) and (e) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, therefore, State Governments are responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and maintenance of law and order on Railways through their law enforcement agencies viz. Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP/District Police to provide better protection and security to railway property, passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith.**

**During the year 2023 (up to Nov), 04 incidents of obstruction by putting foreign elements on railway tracks by anti-social elements on route of Vande Bharat trains were reported and action against the arrested persons in these cases have been taken as per law.**

**The following steps are taken by RPF in coordination with GRP/District police & Civil administration :-**

- 1. Various awareness programme including OPERATION SATHI are conducted regularly in inhabited areas adjacent to Railway track to sensitize people towards the menace of stone pelting and its consequences.**

- 2. Public are being made aware of the consequences arising out of agitation leading to damage & destruction of railway property during these agitations.**
- 3. The train escorting parties have been sensitized to remain more vigilant in the vulnerable sections/spots, where incidents of vandalizing on trains are frequently reported.**
- 4. Detailed guidelines have been issued regarding action to be taken to control incidents of stone pelting on moving trains. Analysis of these incidents followed by substantive action is taken to curb these incidents.**
- 5. Regular drives are conducted against anti-social elements like drunkard, mischievous elements etc. in the effected section/black spots and the apprehended persons are prosecuted under legal provisions of law.**
- 6. State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) have been constituted for all State/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of respective Director General of Police/Commissioner of States/Union Territories for regular monitoring and review of security arrangements of the Railways.**

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