

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1468
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2021**

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

1468. SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to expand the network of Vande Bharat Express;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the plan of the Government to operate new routes with respect to this train and other semi-high speed trains in the country?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) To prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways (IR) have discontinued all regular passengers carrying trains w.e.f. 23rd March,2020. Presently, only special trains, with limited stoppages, keeping in view the concerns and suggestions of State Governments are being operated. Prior to outbreak of the pandemic, 02 pairs of Vande Bharat Express were in operation as detailed below:-

- i. 22435/22436 New Delhi- Varanasi Vande Bharat Express**
- ii. 22439/22440 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express**

Introduction of new trains services, over IR, is an on-going process and all available technologies are used for new trains.
