GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2947 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2021

FUND ALLOCATION FOR BHARAT GAURAV TRAIN

2947. DR. HEENA GAVIT:

SHRI HARISH DWIVEDI: SHRI B.B. PATIL: DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL: SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE: SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE: SHRI P RAVINDHRANATH: SHRI KANUMURU RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Bharat Gaurav trains being launched under Indian Railways to tap the huge potential of tourism;

(b) the details of the funds allocated, sanctioned and planned to be disbursed for the next five years, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(c) the tentative timeline and schedule on which the trains will be made operational, State/Union Territory-wise especially of States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government has also proposed to spare 180 trains exclusively for the same;

(e) the details of special facilities being offered by the Government in these trains;

(f) whether sector level contractors are being taken into consideration to begin the operation of the said train; and

(g) the details of total employment and revenue likely to be generated by undertaking this project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) Ministry of Railways have issued policy instructions on 23.11.2021 vide Commercial Circular No. 14 for operation of theme based tourist circuit trains 'Bharat Gauray' over Indian Railways and the same is available on Indian Railway's website <u>https://bharatgauravtrains.indianrailways.gov.in</u>. The objective is to tap the vast tourist potential of India by showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world.

(b) No fund is envisaged to be allocated for this scheme as this policy is a revenue generating model.

(c) Timeline and schedule for making these trains operational will depend on many factors, marketing of tour packages and placement of rake demands. The trains may cover any State or Union territory including the states of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh depending upon the itinerary planning.

(d) The number of trains will depend upon the coach composition of a train requested by the service provider, which may comprise a minimum of 14 coaches and a maximum of 20 coaches per train. Indian Railways have identified 3033 coaches which are offered under this scheme.

(e) Any special facilities and comprehensive tour services comprising meals, accommodation, transport, sightseeing, tour guide shall be decided and provided by the service provider. Indian Railways would facilitate service providers in smooth operation of these trains.

(f) Under the policy, Service providers may include State Tourism Development Corporations, Public Sector Undertakings or others who may be at sector level.

(g) Promotion of tourism under this scheme will generate a multiplier effect on increase in employment opportunities in tourism and related sectors. The revenue earned by railways will be in accordance with the applicable charges notified vide the said policy instructions and will depend upon the number of trains operated.

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