

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 308
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024**

OPERATIONS OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS IN KERALA

308 DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government aims to introduce more Vande Bharat trains in Kerala in 2024-25;**
- (b) if so, the details of routes which are being considered in the State;**
- (c) the progressive measures being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the average speed of Vande Bharat trains in Kerala;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the reasons for not introducing more Vande Bharat trains in the Southern part of the country despite mounting demand due to commercial and industrial activities?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. Maximum attention has been given to the Southern part of India which is catered by Southern Railway, South Central Railway, South Western Railway and East Coast Railway and of the 102 Vande Bharat train services presently in operation, 34 Vande Bharat services are being operated by these Zonal Railways.

4 (four) Vande Bharat trains viz. 20631/20632 Mangaluru Central-Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express and 20633/20634 Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express, serving the stations located in the State of Kerala have been introduced.

Besides, introduction of Vande Bharat services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc.

Further, speed of train services, including of Vande Bharat services, is dependent on various factors like Maximum Permissible Speed of the sections and the gradient of the sections enroute, speed potential of rolling stock/Loco, availability of path, maintenance corridor blocks, permanent and temporary speed restrictions, signaling system, stoppages etc. All the Vande Bharat Express has been charted at the Maximum Permissible speed of the sections enroute, so as to optimally utilize the speed potential of the Vande Bharat Coaches. Besides, speeding-up of train services is an on-going process on Indian Railways.
