

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2620
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

MODIFICATION IN ORIGINAL DESIGN OF VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER

2620. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the supply of 200 Vande Bharat sleeper trains as part of Indo-Russia Joint Venture are likely to face delay as per the report published in The Hindu on 22nd November, 2024 and if so, the reasons for the same;**
- (b) the reasons for modifications in the original designs of said trains;**
- (c) the response of the Government on cost escalation of Joint Venture (JV) due to modifications in the designs for sleeper coaches;**
- (d) the current status of prototype trains under the said JV for development of rail coaches for same trains and status report for the prototype of sleeper coaches, specifying the target date for same; and**
- (e) whether the Government has formed any joint ventures for development of non-AC sleeper and general coaches and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): With a view to provide better travel experience to the passengers, Indian Railways introduced first-ever indigenously designed and manufactured semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains

with modern coaches, advanced safety features and passenger amenities.

As on 02nd December, 2024, 136 Vande Bharat train services are operational on the Broad Gauge (B.G.) electrified network of Indian Railways.

Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains have been planned for long and medium distance journey. Design of trains to be manufactured by Indian Railways has been finalized. At present, 10 Vande Bharat Sleeper trains are under production. The first prototype has been manufactured and will undergo field trials. Further production of 50 Vande Bharat Sleeper rakes has been taken up by ICF, Chennai.

In addition, Contracts for manufacturing of 200 Vande Bharat sleeper rakes have also been awarded to Technology Partners. Design of these Vande Bharat Sleeper rakes has been taken up. Design, development and manufacturing of Non AC sleeper and general coaches is a continuous process on Indian Railways and is undertaken in its own Production units based on operational and traffic requirement.

Indian Railways have recently introduced Amrit Bharat trains, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches and are equipped with modern safety and passenger amenity features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, fully sealed gangway, modular toilets with pressurised flushing system, mobile charging sockets etc.