

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4492  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025**

**STRENGTHENING VANDE BHARAT CONNECTIVITY TO NEW JALPAIGURI**

**4492 SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR :**

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

**(a) whether the Government is aware of the consistently high passenger demand for Vande Bharat Express services to New Jalpaiguri, especially during the summer and festive seasons, and if so, the steps being taken to enhance connectivity on this sector;**

**(b) whether the Government proposes to expand the existing Howrah–New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express from a 16-coach rake to a 20-coach configuration to cater to growing demand and reduce waitlist issues during peak travel periods and if so, the details thereof; and**

**(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the Patna–New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express from the present 8-coach rake to a 16-coach configuration in view of the rising passenger volume on this route and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (c) Introduction of new trains, augmentation of services on any route/section depends on various factors which include:**

- Capacity of that section,**
- Availability of path,**
- Availability of required rolling stock,**
- Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock,**
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets**

**Considering the above factors, New Jalpaiguri station is presently being served by 148 Mail/Express including the following 06 Vande Bharat train services:**

- 1. 22301/02 New Jalpaiguri - Howrah Vande Bharat Express (introduced w.e.f. 30.12.2022)**
- 2. 22227/28 New Jalpaiguri - Guwahati Vande Bharat Express (introduced w.e.f. 29.05.2023)**
- 3. 22233/34 Patna - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express (introduced w.e.f. 14.03.2024).**

**22301/02 New Jalpaiguri - Howrah Vande Bharat Express and 22233/34 Patna - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, presently operating with 16 coaches and 08 Coaches respectively, are adequately catering to the needs of passengers of the respective sectors.**

**To increase the capacity of the rail network and hence to run more trains/facilitate augmentation, Indian Railways have taken up network expansion works in a big way.**

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