

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4067
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026**

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS IN TAMIL NADU

4067. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the total number of Vande Bharat Express trains presently operational across the country particularly those covering Kallakurichi constituency of Tamil Nadu and other Southern States, route-wise;**
- (b) the details of the criteria adopted for selection of routes including extent to which passenger demand, regional connectivity and travel time reduction have been considered in introducing these services;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of occupancy levels, punctuality, affordability and passenger feedback regarding Vande Bharat Express trains since their introduction and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of funds allocated, sanctioned and utilised for manufacturing, upgrading and maintenance of Vande Bharat train sets during the last five years; and**
- (e) whether there are proposals to introduce new Vande Bharat services or extend existing routes in Tamil Nadu particularly those connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) As the Railway network straddles across boundaries of State(s)/Constituency(ies), trains are introduced as per network requirements, across such boundaries.

Presently, Chinna Salem station, a major station serving the Kallakurichi

constituency, is served by 12 trains as listed below:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	16529 SMVT Bengaluru - Karaikal Express
2	16530 Karaikal - SMVT Bengaluru Express
3	16573 Yesvantpur - Puducherry Express
4	16574 Puducherry - Yesvantpur Express
5	16855 Puducherry - Mangalore Central Express
6	16856 Mangalore Central - Puducherry Express
7	22153 Chennai Egmore - Salem Express
8	22154 Salem - Chennai Egmore Express
9	76813 Cuddalore Port - Salem DMU
10	76814 Salem - Cuddalore Port DMU
11	76815 Vriddhachalam - Salem DMU
12	76816 Salem - Vriddhachalam DMU

Further, Indian Railways, with a view to improve travel experience of the passengers, have introduced indigenously designed and manufactured Vande Bharat trains (Chair Car and Sleeper) with modern coaches, advanced safety features and passenger amenities.

Vande Bharat services (Chair Car):

Vande Bharat Chair Car services have the following features:

- Jerk Free Semi-Permanent couplers.**
- Fitted with KAVACH.**
- Centrally controlled Automatic Plug Doors and Fully Sealed wider gangways.**
- Emergency Alarm Push buttons and Talk Back Units on all Coaches.**

- **Improved fire safety - Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.**
- **Higher acceleration with design/operating speed of 180/160 KMPH.**
- **Driver-Guard communication with voice recording facility & Crash hardened memory.**
- **Air conditioning units provided with indigenously developed UV-C lamp based disinfection system for deactivating 99% harmful bacteria from conditioned air to improve the hygiene standards inside the passenger area.**
- **Better Ride Comfort.**
- **CCTVs in all Coaches.**
- **For Divyangjan passengers special lavatory in the driving coaches on each end.**
- **Coach condition monitoring System (CCMS) display with remote monitoring**

As on 06.08.2026, 81 pairs of Vande Bharat train services (Chair Car) are being operated on the Indian Railways network, as listed below:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	22435/22436 Varanasi - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express
2	22439/22440 New Delhi - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
3	20901/20902 Mumbai Central - Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express
4	22447/22448 New Delhi - Amb Andura Vande Bharat Express
5	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
6	20825/20826 Bilaspur - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
7	22301/22302 Howrah - New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express
8	20833/20834 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express

9	22223/22224 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Sainagar Shirdi Vande Bharat Express
10	22225/22226 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Solapur Vande Bharat Express
11	20171/20172 Rani Kamlapati - Nizamuddin Vande Bharat Express
12	20701/20702 Secunderabad - Tirupati Vande Bharat Express
13	20643/20644 Chennai - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
14	20977/20978 Ajmer - Chandigarh Vande Bharat Express
15	20633/20634 Kasargod - Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express
16	22895/22896 Howrah - Puri Vande Bharat Express
17	22457/22458 Anand Vihar - Dehradun Vande Bharat Express
18	22227/22228 New Jalpaiguri - Guwahati Vande Bharat Express
19	20911/20912 Indore - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
20	22229/22230 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Madgaon Vande Bharat Express
21	22349/22350 Patna - Ranchi Vande Bharat Express
22	20661/20662 Bengaluru - Dharwar Vande Bharat Express
23	20173/20174 Rani Kamlapati - Rewa Vande Bharat Express
24	22549/22550 Gorakhpur - Prayagraj Vande Bharat Express
25	12461/12462 Jodhpur - Sabarmati Vande Bharat Express
26	22925/22926 Ahmedabad - Okha Vande Bharat Express
27	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express
28	20677/20678 Chennai - Narsapur Vande Bharat Express
29	20703/20704 Kacheguda - Yesvantpur Vande Bharat Express
30	20631/20632 Mangaluru - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
31	26963/26964 Udaipur - Asarva Vande Bharat Express
32	22347/22348 Howrah - Patna Vande Bharat Express

33	20835/20836 Rourkela - Puri Vande Bharat Express
34	20897/20898 Howrah - Ranchi Vande Bharat Express
35	22415/22416 Varanasi - New Delhi Vande Bharat Express
36	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
37	20645/20646 Madgaon - Mangaluru Vande Bharat Express
38	20705/20706 Nanded - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Vande Bharat Express
39	22477/22478 New Delhi - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
40	22425/22426 Ayodhya Cantt. - Anand Vihar Vande Bharat Express
41	22487/22488 Delhi - Amritsar Vande Bharat Express
42	22961/22962 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express
43	20707/20708 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
44	20663/20664 Mysuru - Chennai Vande Bharat Express
45	22233/22234 New Jalpaiguri - Patna Vande Bharat Express
46	22469/22470 Khajuraho - Nizamuddin Vande Bharat Express
47	22231/22232 Kalaburagi - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
48	20841/20842 Bhubaneswar - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
49	22345/22346 Patna - Gomti Nagar Vande Bharat Express
50	20887/20888 Ranchi - Varanasi Vande Bharat Express
51	22545/22546 Lucknow - Dehradun Vande Bharat Express
52	22489/22490 Varanasi - Meerut City Vande Bharat Express
53	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express
54	20671/20672 Madurai - Bengaluru Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
55	22499/22500 Deoghar - Varanasi Vande Bharat Express
56	22309/22310 Howrah - Jamalpur Vande Bharat Express
57	20871/20872 Howrah - Rourkela Vande Bharat Express
58	20893/20894 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express

59	20891/20892 Tatanagar - Brahmapur Vande Bharat Express
60	22303/22304 Howrah - Gaya Vande Bharat Express
61	20669/20670 Hubballi - Pune Vande Bharat Express
62	20673/20674 Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T) Kolhapur - Pune Vande Bharat Express
63	20101/20102 Secunderabad - Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
64	20829/20830 Durg - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
65	21893/21894 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express
66	21895/21896 Tatanagar - Patna Vande Bharat Express
67	20175/20176 Banaras - Agra Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
68	26901/26902 Sabarmati - Veraval Vande Bharat Express
69	26401/26402 Jammu Tawi - Srinagar Vande Bharat Express
70	26403/26404 Jammu Tawi - Srinagar Vande Bharat Express
71	26501/26502 Patliputra - Gorakhpur Vande Bharat Express
72	26751/26752 Belagavi - KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
73	26405/26406 Amritsar - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Vande Bharat Express
74	26101/26102 Pune - Ajni Vande Bharat Express
75	26301/26302 Jogbani - Danapur Vande Bharat Express
76	26481/26482 Jodhpur - Delhi Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
77	26471/26472 Bikaner - Delhi Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
78	26461/26462 Delhi - Firozpur Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
79	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Vande Bharat Express
80	26505/26506 Khajuraho - Banaras Vande Bharat Express
81	26503/26504 Saharanpur - Gomtinagar Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat Services (Sleeper Trains):

For long distance travel the Sleeper variant of Vande Bharat Express has been indigenously designed and developed. These are aimed to improve

travel experience of the passengers and set new benchmarks in terms of safe and comfortable journey. Two such trains have already been manufactured. After extensive trials, these trains have been introduced on Indian Railways. The First Vande Bharat Sleeper service viz. 27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express has commenced regular operation w.e.f. 22.01.2026.

These train sets have been provided with modern coaches having advanced safety features and passenger amenities like:

- **Jerk-Free Semi permanent couplers and Anti Climbers.**
- **Fitted with KAVACH.**
- **Higher acceleration with design/operating speed of 180/160 KMPH.**
- **Crashworthy Design of Car body complying with EN standards.**
- **Fire barrier doors at the end of each coach for compliance of Fire Safety standards.**
- **Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.**
- **Regenerative braking system for energy efficiency.**
- **Air conditioning units provided with indigenously developed UV-C lamp based disinfection system for deactivating 99% harmful bacteria from conditioned air to improve the hygiene standards inside the passenger area.**
- **Centrally controlled Automatic Plug Doors and Fully Sealed wider gangways.**
- **CCTVs in all coaches.**
- **Emergency talk-back unit for communication between Passenger and Train Manager/Loco Pilot in case of emergency.**
- **For Divyangjan passengers special lavatory in the driving coaches on each end.**
- **Centralized Coach Monitoring System for better condition monitoring of passenger amenities such as Air conditioning, Saloon Lighting etc.**

- Ergonomically designed ladder for ease of climbing on to upper berths.

As on 06.08.2026, the following 01 pair of Vande Bharat train services (Sleeper Car) are being operated on the Indian Railways network:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	27575/27576 Howrah - Kamakhya Vande Bharat Sleeper Express

Of the aforementioned 81 pairs of Vande Bharat train services (Chair Car) being operated on the Indian Railways network, at present, the States of Tamil Nadu, Keralam and Karnataka are served by 09 pairs of Vande Bharat trains, 03 pairs of Vande Bharat trains and 12 pairs of Vande Bharat trains respectively.

Similarly, the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are presently served by 08 pairs of Vande Bharat trains and 05 pairs of Vande Bharat trains respectively. These are as listed below:

Vande Bharat trains serving the State of Tamil Nadu:

SN	Train no. and Name
1	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
2	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express
3	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
4	20643/20644 MGR Chennai Central - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
5	20663/20664 Mysuru - MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express
6	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express
7	20671/20672 Madurai - Bengaluru Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
8	20677/20678 MGR Chennai Central - Narasapur Vande Bharat Express
9	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Jn. Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat trains serving the State of Keralam:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20631/20632 Mangaluru Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
2	20633/20634 Kasaragod - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
3	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Jn. Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat trains serving the State of Karnataka:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
2	20631/20632 Mangaluru Central - Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express
3	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
4	20645/20646 Madgaon - Mangaluru Central Vande Bharat Express
5	20661/20662 KSR Bengaluru - Dharwad Vande Bharat Express
6	20663/20664 Mysuru - MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express
7	20669/20670 Hubballi - Pune Vande Bharat Express
8	20671/20672 Madurai - Bengaluru Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
9	20703/20704 Kacheguda - Yesvantpur Vande Bharat Express
10	22231/22232 Kalaburagi - SMVT Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express
11	26651/26652 KSR Bengaluru - Ernakulam Jn. Vande Bharat Express
12	26751/26752 Belagavi - KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat trains serving the State of Andhra Pradesh:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20677/20678 MGR Chennai Central - Narasapur Vande Bharat Express
2	20701/20702 Secunderabad - Tirupati Vande Bharat Express
3	20703/20704 Kacheguda - Yesvantpur Vande Bharat Express
4	20707/20708 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
5	20829/20830 Durg - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
6	20833/20834 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express
7	20841/20842 Bhubaneswar - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
8	22231/22232 Kalaburagi - SMVT Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express

Vande Bharat trains serving the State of Telangana:

SN	Train no. and Name
1	20101/20102 Nagpur - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express
2	20701/20702 Secunderabad - Tirupati Vande Bharat Express
3	20703/20704 Kacheguda - Yesvantpur Vande Bharat Express
4	20707/20708 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
5	20833/20834 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express

Besides, introduction/extension of train services including Vande Bharat train services and its variants, on any route/section, which is an on-going process, 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**

- **Occupancy and the traffic requirement of the section**

Punctuality:

Punctuality is accorded high priority on Indian Railways (IR) and all possible efforts are made to run trains on time. However, on Indian Railways, several factors affect punctuality which include foggy weather, path constraints/congestion, asset maintenance and other issues, alarm chain pulling, agitations, cattle run over and other unforeseen circumstances.

The steps taken to improve punctuality of train services include:

- **Regular, continuous and real-time monitoring of punctuality of trains using technological tools and IT systems.**
- **Use of an integrated digital platform for monitoring of train operations comprising Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) and Control Office Application (COA) which are integrated with National Train Enquiry System (NTES).**
- **Progressive advancement for automatic uptake of timings by the train movement itself, is being achieved through GPS devices fitted locomotives {Real-Time Train Information System (RTIS) and Remote Monitoring and Management of Locomotives and Trains (REMMLOT)} and Data loggers integrated with the station signaling system.**
- **IR has been replacing conventional coaches (ICF coaches) by modern light weight LHB coaches having state-of-the art technology. The Production units of Indian Railways are producing only LHB coaches from April 2018 onwards. The production of LHB coaches has continually increased during the years and about 50,000 LHB coaches have been turned out since 2014. IR has also been proliferating Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat Rapid Rail and Amrit Bharat trains, for quick acceleration and deceleration.**
- **To improve punctuality, IR also undertakes rationalisation of time tables. One such exercise, in a scientific manner, was undertaken with the assistance of IIT- Mumbai using their traffic simulator. The exercise also**

aimed at provisioning of fixed Integrated Maintenance blocks on all sections to minimise detention and improve punctuality.

- **New generation High capacity Locomotives are being utilised for Right powering of trains.**
- **Further, with a view to minimise and mitigate the effect of fog and to assist the Loco Pilots run the train during foggy weather conditions the following steps have been taken by Indian Railways:**

(i) GPS based FOG SAFE DEVICE – A Global Positioning System (GPS) based portable 'Fog Safe Device' (FSD) is being provided to Loco Pilots, which displays upcoming critical landmarks such as approaching signal, level crossing gates, permanent speed restrictions etc. in advance during poor visibility conditions like fog. This device is used for safe train operation especially during winter season and to help reduce stress on Loco Pilots while running in poor visibility conditions. As on 31.05.2026, there are 33,624 Fog Safe devices available over Indian Railways.

(ii) Modified Semi-Automatic Stop Signal (MASS) System: MASS has been introduced on the Automatic Signalling territory during abnormal conditions like Fog & Bad Weather impairing visibility. The system helps minimise delay in train operation during foggy weather conditions.

Train operation during fog and poor visibility conditions is an essential component of the training curriculum and the same has already been incorporated in the Transportation Module and Technical Module of the prescribed training syllabus for Loco Pilots (LPs) and Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs).

- **Modernisation of Signalling infrastructure: Indian Railways is modernising the signalling infrastructure for enhanced reliability & safety. It is using reliable digital technology by provision of electronic interlocking systems with adequate redundancy (in power supply & transmission media), dual detection systems for train vehicle**

verification and replacement of electromechanical installations. Several improvement measures have been taken such as:

- a. Provision of Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals in place of old mechanical signalling. It has been provided at 6671 stations as on 30.06.2026.**
 - b. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety for verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6671 stations upto 30.06.2026.**
 - c. Axle counters for automatic clearance of Block Section, BPAC (Block Proving Axle Counter) are provided to ensure complete arrival of train without manual intervention before granting line clear to receive next train and to reduce human element. These systems have been provided on 6085 Block Sections up to 30.06.2026.**
 - d. Signalling assets maintenance are planned & under taken during Rolling Block introduced in Indian Railways (Open Lines) General Rules vide Gazette notification dated 30.11.2023, wherein work of integrated maintenance/repair/replacement of assets is planned in advance on rolling basis and executed.**
- Capacity enhancement and Infrastructure augmentation**

Capacity enhancement of railway network has been taken up by Indian Railways in a big way during the last 12 years. The details of commissioning/laying of new track across Indian Railways are given below:-

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-26	36,429 Km	8.32 Km/day (nearly 2 times)

As on 01.04.2026, across Indian Railways, 514 Railway infrastructure projects (169 New Line, 29 Gauge Conversion and 316 Doubling) of total length 40,000 Km, costing approx. Rs. 8.31 lakh crore are sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'26 (Km)	Total Expenditure upto Mar'26 (Rs. in Crore)
New lines	169	16,634	3,361	1,57,572
Gauge conversion	29	3987	3,045	24,227
Doubling	316	19,379	6,177	1,23,454
TOTAL	514	40,000	12,583	3,05,253

Due to these initiatives, Indian railways, during 2025-26 recorded an overall punctuality of more than 77% while the punctuality of Vande Bharat services was over 85%.

Affordability:

Indian Railways (IR) caters to various segments of the travelling public and, accordingly, operates different types of train services like Suburban/Non-suburban ordinary train services, Mail/Express, Amrit Bharat, Vande Bharat, Vande Bharat Sleeper, Namo Bharat Rapid Rail, Tejas, Humsafar, Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and Garib Rath services etc.

Ministry of Railways while deciding the fare structure of various types of passenger services gives due consideration to aspects like the cost of service, value of service, type of services/facilities offered, affordability, competition from other competing modes and socio-economic considerations etc.

Vande Bharat services since its introduction in February 2019, have been proliferated to 81 routes (162 train Chair Car services) up to July 2026.

Vande Bharat trains operate as a distinct passenger service segment having specific fare structure with features like improved suspension systems, faster acceleration with semi-high speed operation, automatic plug doors, ergonomics seats, mini pantry, CCTV's, KAVACH etc.

The fares of Indian Railways are among the lowest in comparison to other countries in the world.

A comparison of the Indian Railway passenger fares (ordinary class) with the fares of the similar segment of services of the neighbouring countries is as under:

Country	Approx lowest fare per PKM	Comparison with India
India	~ ₹ 0.20	
Pakistan	~ ₹ 0.54	~ 2.5x higher
Bangladesh	~ ₹ 0.37	~ 2x higher
Sri Lanka	~ ₹ 0.51	~ 2.5x higher

Keeping in view the affordability, the fare structure of Vande Bharat train services for AC chair car over a journey between 300 km to 400 km is around ₹2.19 per PKM which is much lower than the fares of similar segment of services in countries like China, Japan and France, where it ranges from ₹7.00 to ₹20.00 per PKM.

The rationalised fare structure has facilitated the wider expansion of these services across the country reflecting strong passenger demand for these services. Vande Bharat services have high occupancy level on all major routes with occupancy of Vande Bharat near 100% demonstrating a change in passenger preferences.

Indian Railways provides affordable transportation service to about 760 crore passengers annually. The fare structure of Indian Railways besides

considering the socio-economic factors also largely aligns with the relevant best practices adopted by different railway systems of the world.

The total amount of subsidy given in FY 2024-25 on passenger tickets is provisionally estimated at ₹60,239 Crore, this amounts to a 43% subsidy on the cost of passenger travel. In other words, if the cost of providing services is ₹100 then the price of ticket is ₹57 only. There is no concession in fare in Vande Bharat trains, however four seats as reserved quota are earmarked for persons with disabilities (Divyangjans) in chair car of each train service.

The average overall occupancy of Vande Bharat Express trains since their introduction is around 100%.

The expenditure on infrastructure including that related to Vande Bharat trains is part of expenditure on overall maintenance and upgradation works of Railways and is incurred under both Revenue and Capital Segments.
