

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

OCCUPANCY RATE OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

943. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to reduce the fares of short-distance trains registering low occupancy and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the manner in which the said step is going to make fares more feasible and help out the people;**
- (c) the details of routes on which fare reduction is likely to be implemented initially and the additional routes identified for the purpose;**
- (d) the total amount of revenue likely to be saved by the Railways by reducing the operational cost of Vande Bharat trains;**
- (e) the details of the occupancy rate of Vande Bharat Trains at various routes; and**
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase occupancy rate in Vande Bharat routes?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 943 BY SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA, SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE, SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK, SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE, SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO AND SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.07.2023 REGARDING OCCUPANCY RATE OF VANDE BHARAT TRAINS

(a) to (f): Zonal railways had been delegated power to introduce discounts up to a maximum of 25% of basic fare in AC chair car and Executive class in order to optimize utilization of accommodation (vide commercial circular no . 40 of 2019, dated 27.8.2019). This authorized zonal railways to offer competitive fares over certain segments after analyzing the travel trends for all competitive modes in the region and also estimating the future occupancy potential. The same provisions were extended with some minor modifications (vide commercial circular no. 11 of 2023, dated 8.7.2023). Further, fare rationalization is a continuous process to optimize utilization of travel accommodation in trains.

During current financial year, 2023-24 (up to June 2023), the overall utilization of Vande Bharat trains has been 99.60%.

The operational cost depends on various factors including traction energy cost and traction energy consumption. It is continuous endeavour of Indian Railways to reduce the operational cost of trains. Vande Bharat rakes are having regenerative braking system as its core design feature which feeds braking energy back to Over Head Equipment (OHE) and thus reduces traction energy consumption.
