

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 777
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS IN KERALA

777 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the occupancy rates of various Vande Bharat inducted Expresses so far;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Vande Bharat Expresses operating in Kerala have recorded the highest occupancy rates so far;
- (c) whether it reflects the urgent need for operating more high speed trains in Kerala; and
- (d) if so, whether the Railways will take proactive steps for accordng sanction for the Silver Line (Semi High-Speed Rail from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod) project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) During financial year 2023-24 (upto October, 2023), the overall utilisation of Vande Bharat trains has been 92.54%.

(b) Yes Sir. However the occupancy of trains keeps on varying depending on various factors.

(c) Introduction of train services is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, resource availability, etc.

(d) Silver Line Semi High Speed Rail from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod in Kerala has been identified by Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), a Joint Venture company of State Government of Kerala (51%) and Ministry of Railways (49%) for development. After survey, KRDCL has submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Semi High Speed Rail Project to the Ministry of Railways for approval. Sufficient details for technical feasibility are not available in the DPR. Therefore, KRDCL has been advised to provide detailed technical documents such as alignment plan, details of land, crossings over existing railway network, etc. to further, examine the feasibility of project. Southern Railway has been advised to discuss various issues related to the project with KRDCL and submit their comments to Ministry of Railways for further examination. The project is not yet sanctioned.