

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1560**  
**ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023**

**RESUMPTION OF TRAINS SERVICE STOPPED DUE TO CORONA**

**1560. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to Corona and its after-effects, many trains were stopped by the Railways throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, with special reference to the trains run by Southern Railway;
- (c) out of those trains, the details of the trains which resumed journeys ;
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to resume all such trains that were stopped during Corona period; and
- (e) the steps taken by Southern Railway and the Ministry to resume the train service that were running from Chennai to Tindivanam - Villupuram, prior to Corona?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) With a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Railways had discontinued the operation of all regular passenger carrying trains with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020 and only special train services were being operated. Meanwhile, Indian Railways have undertaken rationalization of the time table in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay. The exercise has been undertaken, *inter alia*, to provide for better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, minimizing conflicts in existing time table, which, *inter-alia* involved conversion of Passenger services into Mail/Express services. During the rationalisation exercise, a few trains have been discontinued. Since November-2021, Mail/express train services are being operated as per rationalized timetable and regular numbers. Further, all the trains serving Chennai-Tindivanam-Villupuram section prior to Covid-19, are in operation.

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