

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1262
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022**

WITHDRAWAL OF EXCESS FARE ON SABARIMALA TRAINS

1262. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways charge excess fare on Sabarimala trains, for example, the charge is Rs. 795 on Sabarimala trains for Hyderabad-Kottayam in Sleeper Class whereas the normal fare is Rs. 590 on all other trains and if so, facts in this regard;**
- (b) whether charging excess fare from pilgrims who visit Sabarimala once in a year for pilgrimage amounts to exploitation;**
- (c) if so, whether the Railways is considering to withdraw the excess fare and instead provide a small concession; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1262 BY SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2022 REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF EXCESS FARE ON SABARIMALA TRAINS

(a) to (d): Special trains based on demand are introduced to facilitate passengers travelling from one location to another. This requires special efforts for running of these trains like sometimes transfer of rakes from one location to another, special arrangement for crew/guards at different locations, charting of path, one side demand etc. Therefore fare of special trains including Sabarimala Express has been kept higher and is charged as per policy of 2015 revised from time to time. Unreserved second class of such specials is charged on normal superfast Mail/Express fare. At present, there is no proposal to review the existing fare structure of special trains.
