

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1111
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

PASSENGER AMENITIES IN RAILWAYS

1111. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to restore the passenger amenities, facilities and concessions in trains similar to pre-Covid stage, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government has restored the de-reserved facilities available in trains running through Kollam railway station, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details regarding the present status of the developmental activities of Kollam railway station;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to complete the development of Kollam railway station in a time bound manner, if so, the proposed date of completion of the same;**
- (e) the details of amenities and facilities proposed to be provided in Kollam railway station as the part of developmental activities;**
- (f) whether the Government proposes to complete the work earlier than the proposed date, if so, the details thereof;**
- (g) whether the Government proposed to restore the travel concessions of a senior citizen, if so, the details of action taken thereon; and**
- (h) whether the Government proposes to restore all the stoppages in Kollam Lok Sabha constituency exist prior to covid-19 and if so, the details of stops, cancelled and restored till this date and the details of stoppages proposed to restore?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1111 BY SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.07.2023 REGARDING PASSENGER AMENITIES IN RAILWAYS

(a): Due to restrictions imposed during Covid-19 pandemic vide Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of passengers by trains, the services like unreserved coaches, linen, blankets, curtains, catering facilities etc., were withdrawn. All these services have been restored back. As regards concessions in passenger fare it is informed that Government gave subsidy of ₹59,837 crore on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, concessions beyond this subsidy amount are continuing for many categories like Divyangjans, students and Patients.

(b): The de-reservation facility in sleeper class in trains running through Kollam has already been restored in 11 trains.

(c) to (f): Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) for development of Stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long term approach.

So far, 1309 railway stations have been identified under this scheme. Kollam is one of stations undertaken for redevelopment under this scheme.

Redevelopment of Kollam Railway Station includes aesthetically appealing architecture, Southern and Northern side terminal buildings, spacious Roof Plaza, multilevel car parking, lifts, escalators, state of the art facilities for passengers including facilities for Divyangjan etc.

Development/Redevelopment of Railway Stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers and trains and requires various statutory clearances from urban/local bodies etc. and these factors affect the completion time. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

(g): Already replied in respect of item (a) above.

(h): Indian Railways have undertaken rationalization of the time table, including rationalization of stoppages, 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 generation of additional path for freight traffic and speed up train services. However, to facilitate passengers, stoppage of 8 trains at 5 stations in Kayankulam-Kollam-Aryankavu section including stoppage of 20923/20924 Tirunelveli-Gandhidham Humsafar Express at Kollam (w.e.f 20.07.2023) have been provided. Besides, provision of stoppage of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability etc.
