

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1801
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020
ZERO BASED TIMETABLE**

1801. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways is intending to revoke and cancel 6,000 unnecessary stoppages of regular train services after implementing the zero-based timetable;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether a new criteria for revoking a stoppage has been formulated and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether this decision by the Railways to revoke stoppages and train services are likely to result in cancellation of more than 500 train services and 6000 stoppages, significantly disrupting the stream of services the railways is offering at present to the commuters and if so, the details in this regard;**
- (e) whether any State Government including Kerala has expressed its dissent to this decision of the Government; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): Rationalisation of time table is an ongoing process on Indian Railways (IR) and to this end, IR has embarked upon the zero based time tabling initiative, which, inter-alia, includes scheduling of trains based on scientific principles, ensuring adequate corridor blocks for maintenance, increasing throughput by providing freight corridors, improving punctuality, improving utilization of Rolling Stock and providing convenient and efficient services to the passengers. The initiative, inter-alia, includes rationalization of stoppages and trains taking into account the demand, utility for the passengers and commercial viability. However, at present, no decision has been taken to cancel 500 trains or 6000 stoppages. Besides, to contain the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic, Indian Railways have discontinued all regular time tabled passenger carrying trains w.e.f. 23rd March, 2020, and presently, only special trains, with limited stoppages, are being operated by Indian Railways, keeping in view the concerns and suggestions of the State Governments.
