

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2021**

MODERNISATION OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN KERALA

***223. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to modernise and enhance amenities at various railway stations in Kerala including Chengannur, a prominent railway station that is the hub for pilgrims/devotees of Sabarimala Dharma Sastha temple in Kerala;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the allocations, if any, made by the Government in this regard; and**
- (c) whether the Government has received any request or proposal from the Government of Kerala in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2021 REGARDING MODERNISATION OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN KERALA

(a) & (b): Modernisation/upgradation of Railway stations is a continuous and on-going process and are undertaken under various schemes from time to time. At present, development of Railway stations is undertaken under Adarsh Station scheme based on identified need of providing better enhanced passenger amenities at stations. Various passenger amenities such as improvement to façade of the station building, retiring room, waiting room (with bathing facilities), separate waiting room for ladies, computer based public address system, landscaping of circulating area, signages, Pay & Use toilets, water coolers, ramps at entry to station for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens etc. are provided at Railway stations identified and developed under the 'Adarsh' station scheme depending upon the respective category of the station. In the State of Kerala, 77 stations, including Chengannur station, have been identified for development under this scheme.

Chengannur is a Non-Suburban Grade (NSG)-3 category station. In addition to provision of Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) at this station as per norms, the station has also been developed/modernized under Model, Modern and Adarsh Station Schemes. The station being the hub for sabarimala pilgrims, a pilgrim shelter with sufficient facilities like bathroom complex with 33 toilets, renovated waiting rooms are provided for the convenience of Pilgrims. Moreover, during the pilgrim season, additional facilities like information centre, Medical Help Desk, Tourist Information Centre, Public Transport facility within station premises etc. are provided.

The allocation/expenditure on works of modernization/upgradation/augmentation of railway stations is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Passenger Amenities'. The details of allocation and expenditure for development and maintenance of stations are maintained zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise. There is only 01 zone, namely, Southern Railway, which caters to the State of Kerala. The budget allocated under Plan Head- 53 'Passenger Amenities' during the last three years and the current year for Southern Railway is as under:-

(Figures in crores)

S.No.	Year	Budget Allocation
1	2018-19	108.47
2	2019-20	111.55
3	2020-21	213.11
4	2021-22	224.57

(c) Representation of Government of Kerala has been received to improve the physical infrastructure like waiting hall, lighting etc. available at Dharmadam Halt station. Dharmadam is a Halt Grade (HG) - 3 category station and essential amenities like waiting hall, drinking water (taps), shady trees, seating arrangements are available at this station as per norms. However, upgradation of amenities at stations is a continuous process subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works.
