

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3823
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

NEW TRAIN SERVICES FOR NORTH KERALA

3823. SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the trains running through North Kerala are always overcrowded and passengers are often forced to get down due to the harrowing experiences within the crowded compartments;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to increase the compartments in existing trains and allot more train services in North Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) On Indian Railways, the demand pattern of reserved accommodation is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. Moreover, trains running on popular and convenient timings are generally well patronized. However, State-wise data of the number of passengers is not maintained.

As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced as per network requirement, across such boundaries. However, during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till 31.10.2024), 10 train services including 04 Vande Bharat Express have been introduced, on originating/Terminating basis, from the stations located in the State of Kerala.

In its constant endeavour to provide additional accommodation to travelling passengers, Indian Railways (IR), in addition to the various types of regular trains, also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers. Accordingly, during the year 2024, 13523 special train trips were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation. To cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/Dipawali/Chhath, 7990 trips of Special trains have also been operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, to serve approximately 1.8 crore passengers. IR also augments the load of trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers.

During the year 2023-24, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on a permanent basis while during the year 2024-25(till November, 2024), 774 coaches have been utilized for permanent augmentation. Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches.

Besides, augmentation of load of existing trains, introduction of new train services, etc., is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, resource availability, etc.

To run more trains, the capacity of the existing rail network situated in Kerala is required to be increased. To increase the capacity, several projects passing partly/fully through Kerala has been taken up the Railway.

Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹372 crore/year
2024-25	₹3,011 crore (more than 8 times)

However, execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in the State of Kerala is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Kerala	475 Ha
Land Acquired	64 Ha (13%)
Balance Land to be acquired	411 Ha (87%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Kerala. Railway had deposited ₹2111.83 crore for land acquisition to Government of Kerala. Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition.
