

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025**

OVERCROWDING TRAINS IN KERALA

2235. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the overcrowding situation in trains running in Kerala;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any request from Kerala to run a third and a fourth line between Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru for trains at higher speeds; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction considering that 90 per cent of the trains travelling within Kerala in the North-South direction connecting Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru are overcrowded and existing rail lines have become oversaturated?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) On Indian Railways, demand pattern is not uniform throughout the year and it varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is sub-optimal utilization.

Indian Railways(IR), continuously monitor the demand pattern and makes consistent efforts to cater to the needs of travelling passengers by introducing new trains, extending and increasing the frequencies of existing trains. Loads of existing trains are also augmented, both on temporary and permanent basis, to enhance the accommodation available for passengers.

In addition, IR also operates Special train services during festivals, holidays, etc. to cater to the extra needs of passengers and to supplement the accommodation available by regular trains. Accordingly, to cater to the needs of Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru sector, IR operated 416 trips of special trains and augmented 03 pairs of trains utilising 7 coaches during 2024-2025 (till February, 2025).

To facilitate passengers, presently, two pairs of trains viz. 06031/06032 Shoranur - Kannur Passenger Special and 06169/06170 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU Express specials have been operationalised w.e.f 01-11-2024 and 07-10-2024 respectively, which are in addition to the 14 regular trains serving the sector.

Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/District-wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries/District boundaries.

Final Location Survey (FLS) for 3rd & 4th line between Mangaluru - Shoranur and 3rd line between Shoranur - Ernakulam - Kottayam - Thiruvananthapuram has been sanctioned.

Sanctioning of Railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railway. Railway infrastructure projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

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)

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but pace of execution of project is dependent on expeditious land acquisition. Railway acquires the land through State Government and the completion of a railway project is dependent of land acquisition. 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	66 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. For instance, details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

SN	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)
1.	Angamali - Sabarimala new line (111 Km)	416	24.4	391.6
2.	Ernakulam - Kumbalam Patch Doubling (8 Km)	4.2	1.59	2.61
3.	Kumbalam - Turavur Patch Doubling (16 Km)	10.3	5.30	5
4.	Trivandrum - Kanyakumari Doubling (87 Km)	40.15	32.69	7.46
5.	Shoranur - Vallathol Doubling (10 Km)	4.77	0	4.77
