

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5153
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

NEW TRAINS FOR KERALA

5153. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to introduce new train services to and within Kerala to improve connectivity and address increasing passenger demand;**
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed new trains including routes, frequency, and expected date of commencement;**
- (c) whether the Government has received any requests from the Kerala Government or public representatives for additional train services, and if so, the action taken thereon; and**
- (d) the details of the steps being taken to enhance rail infrastructure including doubling, electrification and new railway line projects in Kerala to support the introduction of new trains?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) Railway network straddles across State boundaries. Accordingly, trains are introduced across such boundaries as per network requirement. However, during the period 2022-23 and 2024-25 (till February, 2025), 10 new train services including 04 Vande Bharat train services (on originating /terminating basis) have been introduced, serving various stations located in the State of Kerala.

Further, receipt of requests/ representations *inter alia* for introduction of new train services is a continuous and dynamic process. The requests/representations so received are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time.

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

Presently, the Broad Gauge network situated in the State of Kerala has been 100% electrified.

Railway Infrastructure:

Railway projects are also surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

As on 01.04.2024, 08 projects (02 new lines, and 06 Doubling) of total length of 419 Km, costing ₹12,350 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala, are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 26 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹3,046 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	2	146	0	304
Doubling/ Multitracking	6	273	26	2,742
Total	8	419	26	3,046

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
2025-26	₹3,042 crore (more than 8 times)

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

Total Land required for Projects in Kerala	476 Ha
Land Acquired	66 Ha (14%)
Balance Land to be acquired	410 Ha (86%)

Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

Details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

Land acquisition status in major Projects of Kerala					
Sl. No.	Name of Project	Total Status of Land (Ha)			Amount deposited with State govt. (Cr)
		Total Scope	Total Acquired	Total Pending	
1	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari Doubling	40	33	7	1312
2	Eranakulam-Kumbalam Doubling	4	2	2	262
3	Kumbalam-Turavur Doubling	10	6	4	248
4	Angamali - Sabarimala new line	416	24	392	282

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Kerala.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climate conditions etc.
