

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 491  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025**

**SPECIAL TRAINS FOR AYYAPPA SWAMY PILGRIMS**

**491. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to start operation of a Special Trains from Visakhapatnam/ Kakinada to Chengannur (Sabarimala) during the Mandala-Makaravilakku season to facilitate the travel of Ayyappa Swamy devotees from Andhra Pradesh;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of such trains;**
- (c) whether the Government has examined the feasibility of introducing such special trains in South Central Railway during the pilgrimage season in view of the heavy rush of devotees; and**
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure adequate train connectivity and also safe and comfortable travel facilities for Ayyappa Swamy pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh to Sabarimala ?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d) As the railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains services including special trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries.**

**Indian Railways(IR) operates Special train services to supplement the accommodation available by regular trains and to facilitate travel of passengers during festivals, holidays, religious congregations etc. Accordingly, to facilitate the passengers travel to Sabarimala during the Mandala-Makara Vilakku Pooja, IR has notified around 200 trips of Special trains from South Central Railway and East Coast Railway which includes 20 trips of special trains serving Visakhapatnam and 18 trips of special trains serving Kakinada.**

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