

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4268  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026**

**STOPPAGE FOR VENAD EXPRESS AT VAIKOM ROAD RAILWAY STATION**

**4268. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has received a representation from the Vaikom Road Users Forum regarding the sanctioning of a stoppage for the Venad Express (16301/02) at Vaikom Road Railway Station (VARD) and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Sixty-two percent of the station's revenue is generated from reserved ticket sales despite the lack of a functioning reservation counter and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has evaluated the strategic importance of this station which serves major pilgrimage centres such as the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple and educational hubs like IIT Kottayam and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to sanction a one-minute halt for the Venad Express to accommodate the needs of students, employees and pilgrims in the region?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (d) To facilitate the passengers, stoppage of 16649/16650 Mangalore Central - Kanniyakumari Express has been provided at Vaikom Road station w.e.f. 01.11.2025. Accordingly, Vaikom Road station is presently being served by following 19 train services:**

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Train No. and Name</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>12625 Thiruvananthapuram Central - New Delhi Express</b>

2	12626 New Delhi - Thiruvananthapuram Central Express
3	16325 Nilambur Road - Kottayam Express
4	16326 Kottayam - Nilambur Road Express
5	16327 Madurai - Guruvayur Express
6	16328 Guruvayur - Madurai Express
7	16649 Mangalore Central - Kanniyakumari Express
8	16650 Kanniyakumari - Mangalore Central Express
9	16791 Tuticorin - Palakkad Express
10	16792 Palakkad - Tuticorin Express
11	56005 Ernakulam - Kottayam Passenger
12	56006 Kottayam - Ernakulam Passenger
13	66303 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU
14	66304 Ernakulam - Kollam MEMU
15	66307 Ernakulam - Kollam MEMU
16	66308 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU
17	66310 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU
18	66321 Ernakulam - Kollam MEMU
19	66322 Kollam - Ernakulam MEMU

Moreover, proposals/ requests/ suggestions/ representations, both formal and informal inter alia for provision of stoppage of trains are received from Members of Parliament, elected representatives, organizations/rail users etc. at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Divisional Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/ requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, these are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time, which is an on-going process.

**Besides, provision of stoppages of train services, which is an on-going process, depends on the traffic justification, operational feasibility including availability of extra time on the section & availability of matching infrastructure such as Platform length etc.**

**Reservation Counter:**

**Vaikom Road (VARD) is a Station Ticket Booking Agent (STBA) operated NSG-6 station in Thiruvananthapuram Division of Southern Railway. The nearest PRS Centre is at Piravom Road (PVRD) station, located at a distance of 6 Km from VARD.**

**At present more than 87% reserved tickets are issued online which provides an option to get railway reservation tickets from anywhere, anytime. Moreover, Railways has launched RailOne App on 01.07.2025. This App enables passengers to book reserved as well as unreserved tickets on mobile phone. This, in effect, brings the Passenger reservation system facility to passenger's palm.**

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