

Title: Re: Introduction of Vande Bharat trains in Kerala.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): The Vande Bharat Express is now operating in almost all the states of the country. Apart from some North Eastern states and Union Territories, Kerala is the only state which has not got this state-of-the-art train. The reason cited for the denial of Vande Bharat trains to Kerala is that 36 percent of the total railway track in the State has sharp curves. It is the assessment of the Railways that the train cannot run at the intended speed through this route. The first proposal of the Railway Board was Vande Bharat Express from Thiruvananthapuram to Mangalore. But this idea can be implemented only if it is run in 8 hours. No attempt has been made on the part of the Divisions in Kerala to overcome any of these obstacles. Moreover, the work of the maintenance depots, which need to be repaired when the Vande Bharat Express arrives, has also not been advanced enough. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to sanction a Vande Bharat train connecting the Kollur Mukambika temple in Karnataka with Shri Padmanabha Swamy in Trivandrum, or Coimbatore with Kannur and to iron out the technical obstacles for the running of Vande Bharat trains in Kerala.