

## **Regarding the problems faced by people due to the introduction of Integrated Block Signalling System in Trivandrum**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the problems being faced by my constituents in my Constituency regarding the integrated block signalling system that has recently been introduced by the Trivandrum Railway Division.

According to media reports, Trivandrum bound trains are currently being regularly held up at the outer areas of Trivandrum Central due to the non-availability of platforms and overall congestion at Trivandrum Central Railway Station. Many of my constituents have come to me to say that they are just sitting in a train half an hour or forty minutes on the tracks without any station to alight at because of this problem. In fact, the recent and highly successful introduction of Vande Bharat trains has unfortunately only exacerbated the problem because it further affects the schedules of other passenger trains.

Delays caused by these hold-ups are a source of immense inconvenience to passengers, especially those who are commuting daily on these trains to reach their workplaces including at very important nearby institutions like ISRO, the Regional Cancer Centre, the airport, techno-park, HLL, Sree Chitra Tirunal Medical Institute and other institutions of national and public importance. If the existing system can be modified in such a manner that these trains stop at either Trivandrum Pettah or Kochuveli stations, passengers could then alight rather than wait for the train in the middle of nowhere to finally proceed to their destinations, then they can alight and go to their workplaces in a more timely manner.

This could also have other benefits including reducing platform and traffic congestion at the Trivandrum Central Station and improvements in the signalling system including the possible adoption of advanced automatic signalling would also help ensure the smooth passage of trains. The long promised, awaited and much delayed development in the Nemom Coaching Terminal which the Minister

himself has promised has still not begun and that would definitely help ease the congestion at the stations.

Given that such measures would provide significant ease of travel and convenience to a large number of commuters in Kerala's capital, I would gratefully view it if he could kindly examine this issue urgently and implement much needed changes in the interest of the commuting public.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.