

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4310

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

TRAIN HALT

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate coaches in mail and express trains lead to passenger rush/problems and if so, the action taken to consider increase in the number of coaches and improve passenger amenities at railway stations and surrounding places;

(b) whether the Railways are considering stoppage of all express trains/important trains at Tripunithura, Ernakulam district, Kerala, Kudachi and Ugar railway station, Belgaum district, Karnataka, Coimbatore railway junction, Nandura and Raver railway stations, Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these stoppages are likely to be provided?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) No, Madam. Passenger carrying trains generally run to a scheduled composition for which adequate coaches are available. To meet passenger rush is mainly sectional and thus certain trains are augmented from time to time, depending on the waiting-list position and room available in these trains for adding extra coaches. Special trains are also planned to clear seasonal rush, as well as for special occasions such as Melas. Moreover, railways also introduce new services to take care of unmet demand every year.

However, to meet with increasing requirement of coaches, apart from setting up new coach manufacturing units, the production capacity of the existing Railway production units is being augmented and orders for coach manufacture have also been placed on public and private sector firms.

Improvement of passenger amenities at railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken based on the volume of passenger traffic handled at the station, inter-se priority of works etc. subject to availability of funds.

Further, Indian Railways always endeavor to improve on the amenities/facilities provided to passengers in trains as a continuous process. Key initiatives in this direction are:

(1) Cushioned seats/berths, toilet & washbasins facilities etc. in all mainline long distance train coaches.

(2) Looking mirrors, snack tables, magazine bags, water bottle holders, coat hooks, small luggage racks, luggage securing arrangement etc. in all reserved coaches (including sleeper class coaches).

(3) Mobile/laptop charging facilities are provided in coaches of Express trains to improve the facilities.

(4) Bio-toilets are also being fitted on all newly manufactured ICF design coaches.

(b) & (c) Provision of stoppage of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways and depends upon various factors like, demand, traffic offering at station, operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of alternative services, passing time of the train at the station, population and signification of towns/cities and developments. However, representations received at various levels of railway administration and action as found feasible & justified is taken subject to traffic justifications, etc. At present, there is no plan for providing stoppages of additional trains at such stations.