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Title: Need to undertake proper maintenance of coaches of all the trains running to and from Kerala and expedite setting up of the sanctioned rail coach factory at Palakkad in Kerala.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): It came to notice that the coaches attached to the trains running through Kerala are very old and worn out ones. A few days before there occurred an incident at Alappuzha Railway Station, coming under Trivandrum Division in which a coach attached to a passenger train separated and broken into two parts while the train halted at the railway station. There were 8 passengers in the coach, and because of mere luck they saved themselves without any injury. In the latest event Amritha express from Trivandrum to Palghat derailed near Changanassery. These incidents point to the bad state of coaches attached to the trains running through Kerala. It is said that most of the coaches attached to passenger trains are even old by 25 years. Increasing of the interval period of maintenance of the coaches and the reduction of the number of staff engaged for checking and maintenance of coaches has also worsened the state of coaches. At present the two railway divisions in Kerala, ie. Palakkad and Trivandrum divisions depend on 3 workshops in Tamil Nadu for maintenance of coaches. There is no workshop at present in Kerala for the maintenance of 2500 coaches owned by Palakkad and Trivandrum divisions. It is very difficult to send the coaches to workshops in Tamil Nadu and to wait indefinitely for bringing it back after maintenance. The MEMU services announced in the budget are also not fully operational due to scarcity of rakes and also due to the incompleteness of MEMU shed at Kollam. There are two daily train services to and from New Delhi to Kerala. These are 12625/12626 Kerala Express and 12617/12618 Mangala Lakshadweep Express on which thousands of passengers from Kerala largely rely. However, all coaches of these trains are old and the toilets, doors and windows, fans, lights all are damaged and the passengers face difficulties while travelling in these trains. Hence, it is requested that immediate steps may be taken for the proper and timely maintenance of the coaches of all the trains running to and from Kerala. The immediate solution is to start railway workshop in Kerala. Besides, the rail coach factory sanctioned for Kerala at Kanchikode in Palakkad may be completed as early as possible.