

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding allocation of Shatabdi and Vande Bharat trains for Kerala.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of this august House about the negligence of the Central Government and Indian Railways towards Kerala. I highly doubt if Kerala is even a part of the Indian Railway map. Kerala holds the maximum share in passenger ticket income. However, it is sad that Kerala is the least developed in the Railway sector. The total amount allocated to Kerala during this Budget is only Rs. 1,085 crore. This is very less when compared to the other States. Further, the budget allowed for doubling of lines, automatic signal system, curve and bent straightening, etc. is also very less.

Kerala had already requested for a third line, but unfortunately this Budget does not even mention anything about the same. It is also disappointing to see that Kerala's prime requirements, that is, Sabari Railway and Palakkad Coach Factory have only been allocated a token of Rs. 1,000. Till today, Kerala does not have a Shatabdi train. So, I would request allocation of Shatabdi and Vande Bharat trains, which are mentioned in this Budget. By providing these trains, we can save Kerala from a big threat, that is, K-Rail.

Thus, I would humbly request, through you, the House to consider all these Railway requirements. Thank you, Sir.