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Title: Regarding need to strengthen the railway infrastructure in Thiruvananthapuram.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the need to strengthen the railway infrastructure in Thiruvananthapuram. There has been a relatively low allotment of funds to Kerala by the Railway Board along with the slack base of utilisation of such funds leading to very little improvement in our infrastructure.

The Railway Ministry should install CCTV cameras in coaches for enhancing security and safety of passengers to track down criminals in general. We have just seen today's newspaper that they have decided to remove wi-fi facility on trains. The trains from Thiruvananthapuram, which is the end of the country, have to run very long distances such as the New Delhi-Kerala Express, from Kanyakumari to Mumbai - the Jayanti-Janata Express, the Thiruvananthapuram-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express. They should be allowed to have wi-fi facility so that people can do some work if they are sitting for one and a half or two days on the train.

Railway stations in the city also need to be upgraded. I once again reiterate my request to the Minister to provide drinking water facilities, toilets, parking facilities, re-roofing of platforms at stations such as Neyyattinkara in our rural area, setting up of unreserved and reserved ticketing services at Parassala Railway Station. Given the massive

demand, I also urge the Minister to increase the frequency of trains from Thiruvananthapuram to Mumbai and Howrah.

I also request the Minister to expedite the doubling of works in the Thiruvananthapuram-Kottayam-Alappuzha route which has been promised for many years and implement the automatic signalling system in the Thiruvananthapuram-Thrissur Section.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : एडवोकेट ए.एम. आरिफ को डॉ. शशि थरूर द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।