

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Demand to reverse the excess fares on Sabarimala season special trains scheduled by the Railways.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): The Railway Ministry is cruelly exploiting the Lord Ayyappa devotees proceeding to Sabarimala from various parts of the country, especially from southern States including Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. It is a fact that there are special trains deployed for the purpose of facilitating easy access to devotees of Sabarimala, but the trains are few, the ticket charges are very high, and the Railways has no moral concerns when it comes to exploiting the Lord Ayyappa devotees even during the most important festive season of Mandala Makaravilakku Kalam, where Ayyappa devotees prepare themselves several months before for the pilgrimage. I request and urge the Government to intervene immediately and reverse the excess fares on Sabarimala season special trains scheduled by the Railways in order to provide Ayyappa devotees with a pleasant journey. Profiteering by the Railways must not be done at the expense of Ayyappa devotees.