

**Title:** Need to provide more railway facilities to railway passengers in Kerala especially in the Malabar area-Laid.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards the problems being faced by the railway passengers in Kerala, especially in the Malabar area.

The shortage of trains and late running of the existing trains are THE MAIN DIFFICULTIES. For the last 25 years there is no change in the situation related to train facilities in north Kerala. The difficulties increased after the starting of Konkan railway. Other trains running in Kerala are to give way to trains running through the Konkan route. Delay in the work of doubling of the Shoranur-Mangalore sector has also doubled the difficulties. The trains running in Kerala under Southern Railway are ordered to run slow. Re-scheduling of the timings of the trains has also increased the difficulties. Most of the trains are reaching Kerala at midnight.

Passengers demand the introduction of an intercity train from Ernakulam to Calicut and extension of Kannur Express up to Kasaragod. The railway authorities should give more attention to the geological aspects and passenger convenience. This will provide better railway services. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate measures to start new trains, extension of trains as already mentioned and show a positive approach towards the passenger problems. I also request the Railway Minister to take steps for the speedy completion of the ongoing doubling work between Shoranur and Mangalore.