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Title: Need to introduce additional trains and flights to Kerala on the eve of Onam and Ramzan.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in regard to the miseries of Non-Resident Keralites due to lack of adequate travel facilities in this season of Onam and Ramzan.

Thousands of families of Non-Resident Keralites are worried that their kith and kin would not be able to join them in the festival celebrations due to the utter neglect of the Indian Railways and the Air India.

Sir, I can cite a number of examples of the discrimination done by the Railways towards Kerala. In this festive season, the Railways have not introduced a single special train between Chennai and Trivendrum. Further, compared to last year, 10 special trains from Chennai to other parts of Kerala have been cancelled. From Mumbai, where lakhs of Keralites are working to earn their livelihood, no special train has been announced till date. In the past though there were some special trains from Delhi yet all those trains were stopped in the recent years. Similarly, Bangalore is another city from where additional trains are desperately needed.

Sir, Southern and Western Railway Authorities have not yet announced any special trains in this festive season.

Moreover, there has not been a slightest of improvement in the services of the Air India between Gulf countries and Kerala. The condition is pathetic. Abrupt cancellations, indefinite delays, callousness and negligence have become the normal feature of the Air India's services between Gulf countries and Kerala.

Although there has always been a demand for additional flights during the festive season, yet the Air India never responded to it. Instead, they always charged exorbitant fares from passengers. The Air India Authorities see the festive season as an opportunity to exploit passengers. They are not even ready to operate A-321 aircraft on this route, which could carry more passengers.

Therefore, in these circumstances, I would request the Government to intervene and ensure that adequate additional trains and flights are provided to Kerala in this festive season.