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Title: Regarding late running of train in Trivandrum Division of Southern Railway.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): I would like to seek the intervention of the Ministry of Railways to address an urgent issue of chronic delay in running of the regular trains in Trivandrum Division of Southern Railways causing much hardship to a large number of daily commuters including women who travel between Kollam and Ernakulam via Kottayam to attend their offices.

Initially, the travelling public had taken it in their stride presuming track maintenance and upgradation of signalling systems were the reasons for the holdup of trains. The delay has become so chronic, that it now transpires that the real cause is the shortage of loco drivers and traffic controllers. The All India Loco Running Staff Association has alleged that there are more than 100 posts of loco-drivers and traffic controllers lying vacant in the division and the Railways is apathetic to absorb loco-drivers from other divisions of Southern Railways seeking transfer to their home division Trivandrum. The Confederation of All India Rail Users Association local chapter has appealed to regular travellers to bide for restoration and not to resort to violent agitations and blockade of traffic and destruction of railway property.

The situation has been compounded by the on-going Sabrimala Pilgrimage season which is at its peak. The festive season (Christmas) is nearing, it is imperative that the zonal railway authorities at Chennai take remedial measures on war footing to restore normalcy in the running of regular trains.

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