

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to address railway related problems faced by people of Kerala.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the decision of the Southern Railways to deny sanction of new trains for Kerala, citing capacity constraints. Instead of remedying this capacity related issue, this ground has been used to deny the State its legitimate interests. The Lalkuva-Trivandrum Express, the extension of Pune-Ernakulam Express to Thiruvananthapuram and the proposal to increase the frequency of the Kochuveli-Bikaner Express to thrice a week and the Kochuveli-Lokamanya Tilak Express to daily basis, as recommended by the Central Railways, have all been denied by the Southern Railways.

The people who depend heavily on the railways for long distance travel will now be inconvenienced by infrequent train services. Therefore, I urge the Government to intervene and take immediate steps to prevent the neglect of Kerala's railway infrastructure and to enhance the development of the State's railways.