

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to introduce new trains from Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Kerala has always been neglected by the Railways. There are no new projects. Further there is not timely implementation of the announced projects including the rail coach factory at Palakkad. The railway does not give any overriding priority be it new coaches, new trains or new lines for Kerala. The Sabari line, the Guruvayur-Thirunavaya line, the Nanjankode-Mysore line are a few cases which lack attention of the Railways.

The decisions of the recently held Time Table Committee at Mumbai are a classic example of the attitude towards Kerala. Though the Southern Railway, to which both Trivandrum and Palakkad divisions belong, did not propose any new trains or extension or increase of frequency of trains originating/terminating at these two divisions, those demanded by other zones have been diverted to Tamil Nadu. The attitude of the Southern railway authorities is clearly against the interests of the state especially when the people of the state heavily depend on railways.

I take this opportunity to request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly intervene and consider to introduce the following trains to be originated/Terminated in Kerala:

1. Jabalpur-Trivandrum (via Konkan)
2. Lalkuva- Trivandrum (ECR) (Via Konkan)
3. Extension of Pune-Emakulam to Trivandrum (via Konkan)
4. Increase of frequency of Kochuveli-Bikaner (via Konkan)
5. Convert Kochuveli-Lokmanya Tilak to daily service (via Konkan)

6. Introduce a new daily Calicut-Bangalore Express (via Palakkad)

Before concluding I also wish to suggest that in order to overcome this problem of negligence, the long pending demand for a separate Zone of Kerala is the only workable alternative.