

**Railway projects in Kerala**

1680. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many assurances given by Railway Ministers through budgets during the last three years to people of Kerala have not been implemented;

(b) whether assurances like Railway Medical College, packaged water units, repair workshops at Kottayam and Nemom, etc. belong to the long list; and

(c) whether Railways would take steps to improve the Kazhakuttom, a suburban railway station of Thiruvananthapuram, where Techno Park and numerous other production centres are fast growing, to cater the growing needs of over a lakh of population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Assurances are construed by the Committee on Government Assurances of the concerned House. During the last three years *i.e.* 2011 to 2013, there are no such assurances construed by the Committee on Government Assurances, Rajya Sabha from the Railway Budgets.

(c) Kazhakuttom station is an 'E' category station. All the essential amenities as per norms have been provided at this station which are considered adequate for the present level of passenger traffic. Kazhakuttom station has been identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme during Railway Budget, 2013-14. Further, upgradation of stations and augmentation/improvement of passenger amenities at railway station is a continuous process. In order to provide facilities, recently the works of raising and paving of platform No. 1, provision of unreserved ticket system, provision of PRS facilities and 20 nos. of platform benches have been completed at this station.

**Train fare for children**

†1681. DR, YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether full fare would be charged even for the children henceforth in all the trains;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the rationale of charging fare from the children who do not require a seat;

(c) whether this would also apply to Mumbai local trains; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Children under five years of age are carried free of charge. Children of the age of five and under twelve years of age are charged half the adult fares subject to the minimum charge laid down according to the minimum chargeable distance for different classes, which are as follows:

Class	Minimum distance for charging (kms)
Second ordinary (suburban)/(Non-suburban)	10
First Ordinary	10
Second (Mail/Express)	50
Sleeper	200
AC Chair Car	150
AC 3 Tier/AC 2 Tier/ AC First	300
First (Mail/Express)	100

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The above rules are also applicable to Mumbai local trains.

#### **Revised refund rules**

1682. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have revised the refund rules;