

Angamaly-Erumeli-Sabari railway line

290. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility for funding Angamaly-Erumeli-Sabari railway line is being shifted to the newly-formed Kerala Rail Development Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the precautions to ensure smooth continuance of the project are being taken by Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Government of Kerala had consented to share 50% of the project cost of Angamali-Sabarimala new line project in 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Kerala in January, 2016 for formation of Joint Venture (JV) company. JV company "Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd." has been incorporated on 03.01.2017 to take up mutually identified viable projects and/or projects with viability gap funding. So far, no communication for taking up of Angamali-Sabarimala new line project through the JV company has been received from Government of Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Availability of updated information regarding late arrival
and departure of trains**

†291. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers had to wait for hours at stations between December, 2016 and January, 2017 as updated information about delayed arrival and departure of trains from Delhi was not being made available;

(b) the details of such trains that were running late by more than six hours;

(c) whether any case, regarding negligence by employees for not updating information about late arrival or departure of trains, has come to the notice of the Ministry; and

(d) whether Railways will make arrangements for sending details of late running trains to mobiles of the passengers, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) This year dense fog enveloped Northern Railway as early as 23rd November 2016, and this adversely affected running of trains. Due to late running of trains, their pairing trains were being rescheduled. In order to reduce passenger inconvenience due to late running of trains, their rescheduling was done after closely monitoring movement of their pairing trains. Information of late running of trains is made available through National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and on Phone No. 139. The non furnishing of accurate information has been primarily on account of various factors affecting train movement such as terminal congestion, signal failure, accident, alarm chain pulling etc., which cannot be anticipated in advance.

Information disseminated through 139 is extracted from the data based on National Train Enquiry System (NTES). National Train Enquiry System has been completely integrated with Control Office Application (COA) distributed over all the divisions of Indian Railways to capture trains actual arrival/departure information at each station which is then updated in NTES. It computes Expected Time of Arrival (ETA) at next and subsequent stopping station by adding delay and subtracting recoveries. The System also propagates delay till next operator marked ETA station or destination. With this integration it has become feasible to give information regarding train running, on near real-time basis.

(b) The Mail/Express trains running more than 6 hrs late during last three months are as under:

November, 2016	December, 2016	January, 2017
66	386	214

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present there is no provision to send details of late running of trains to mobile of the passengers. However, provision of facilities to the passengers and their upgradation is a continuous and ongoing exercise.

Safety-related vacancies in Railways

292. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of staff in safety category in Railways, Zone-wise;

(b) whether it is fact that nearly 1.3 lakh vacancies relating to safety are lying vacant in various Zones of Railways, if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise;