

However, with a view to meet the additional demand, Railways take various measures from time to time some of which are listed below:—

- (i) Waiting list position of trains is monitored on regular basis and wherever feasible as well as required, load of the trains is augmented, special trains are run, new trains are introduced subject to operational feasibility, commercial justification, etc.
- (ii) To facilitate those passengers who have to undertake journey at short notice and to save such passengers from the clutches of unscrupulous elements, Tatkal scheme of reservation is available where the accommodation becomes available for booking on the previous day of journey from train originating station.
- (iii) Further, with a view to provide confirmed accommodation to waiting list passengers and to ensure optimal utilisation of available accommodation, a scheme known as Alternate Train Accommodation (ATAS) known as “VIKALP” has been introduced. For this facility, waiting list passenger has to give an option at the time of booking of ticket and passengers with waiting list status at the time of preparation of first reservation charts are shifted to other trains, subject to availability of vacant accommodation.

Taking such measures to facilitate passengers in getting confirmed reserved accommodation is a continuous and ongoing measure.

#### **Steps to maintain punctuality of trains in Southern Railway**

757. SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the situation regarding maintaining punctuality by the trains especially in Southern Railway;
- (b) whether Government has received complaints of late running of trains in Kerala; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for that and the steps that have been initiated to find a solution to this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The improved punctuality (%) performance of Southern Railway for the last three months and comparison with corresponding period of last year is as under:—

Month	2017-18	2018-19
Nov.	75.62	82.80
Dec.	75.09	80.68
Jan.	74.63	82.82

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Complaints of late running of trains in Kerala are received at various levels *i.e.* Station, Division, Zonal Railway and Railway Board. In order to improve punctuality on Southern Railways, numerous steps have been taken:—

- (i) Timings of certain Mail/Express trains have been rearranged and rationalized, which has improved punctuality of trains to some extent.
- (ii) Twenty pairs of Express trains in Thiruvananthapuram division are provided with WAP7 locomotives which have better acceleration/deceleration characteristics.
- (iii) Shadow corridor blocks are being used to grant maximum corridor blocks to avoid repeated blocks.
- (iv) Continuous efforts are being made to improve asset reliability to reduce failures to bare minimum level, so that detentions to trains are minimized.

#### **Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh**

†758. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state details of expansion of new passenger train services and rail tracks, electrification work and details of significant passenger services introduced in Madhya Pradesh during last four years as well as details of forthcoming special railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Indian Railways is administratively divided into Zonal Railways whose jurisdiction straddles across State boundaries. However, details of train services introduced serving station located in Madhya Pradesh, railway electrification projects and new lines falling partially/fully in the State of Madhya Pradesh, during last four years (*i.e.* 2014-15 to 2017-18) and in the current year (*i.e.* 2018-19), are as under:—

(i) New services:—

Year	Number of trains (in single)
2014-15	18
2015-16	03
2016-17	24

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.