

Developmental activities at railway stations

883. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in addressing the situation of crowding in Thiruvananthapuram railway station;
- (b) the status of developmental activities in Kochuveli station; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in completion of a satellite station and yard in Nemom station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) At Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station, there is no permanent overcrowding except during peak hours/festival seasons such as Attukal Pongala etc. In order to handle such overcrowding and to avoid any untoward incident, elaborate security scheme has been made. It is implemented during festival season by Railway Protection Force in coordination with Government Railway Police/Local Police and other sister departments of the Railways. The following measures are in place to prevent overcrowding at Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station:-

1. Entries are regulated and multiple entry/exit is introduced during peak hours/festival seasons.
2. Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) are covered under CCTV surveillance and free flow of passengers in the FOB is ensured.
3. Additional manpower is mobilized during festival season for crowd control, bandobust duty etc. Frequent security announcement is also made through Public Address System.
4. Effective coordination is being maintained between different departments of the Railways and civil authorities.
5. E-ticket booking system, automatic ticket vending machines, mobile app etc. have been provided at important stations/cities for convenience of passengers and to reduce rush at passenger reservation systems and booking office at Thiruvananthapuram station.
6. In order to decongest the platforms, the rate of platform tickets has been increased from ₹05 to ₹10 from 01.04.2015. Further, the power has been delegated to Divisional Railway Managers to increase the rate of platform tickets beyond ₹10 to regulate rush at platforms during specific requirements like mela, rally etc.

(b) Second Terminal Work sanctioned under Phase-I and Phase-II at Kochuveli Station has been completed.

(c) Development of new Coaching Terminal at Nemom has been included under Umbrella Works for Traffic Facilities Plan Head for the year 2018-19 at cost of ₹77.30 crore. Detailed Project Report including estimate amounting to ₹118.53 crore for this work has been processed for requisite approvals.

Massage services in trains

884. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Zonal railway authorities have proposed to provide massage services to passengers in reserved coaches on trains starting from Indore;

(b) whether Railways have the wherewithal to empanel trained masseurs with proven professional antecedents and to monitor their work; and

(c) whether such services are better rendered in privacy as it would cause discomfiture and inconvenience to fellow travellers including women passengers in reserved coaches?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) To enhance non-fare revenue, Ratlam Division of Western Railway had initiated a proposal to introduce “head and foot massage” on 39 Mail Express trains originating from Indore. However, the proposal has now been withdrawn.

Civic amenities in Kharagpur railway town

885. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways did not allow any development works including supply of drinking water, construction of road, drainage and latrine in rail colonies and rail basti in Kharagpur railway town in Kharagpur Division under South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether a MoU would be signed by Kharagpur Divisional authority with Kharagpur Municipality for taking up development works?