

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding commencement of full train service from Thiruvarur to Karaikudi and reintroduction of train operations in Chennai-Karaikudi section-laid.

**SHRI M SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM):** I would like to bring to your kind notice that my Parliamentary Constituency comprises of large number of farmers and the average low income group. Transportation plays a major role in rural development. Railways being no exemption. Thiruvarur-Karaikudi Railway Gauge Conversion Project work was completed in 2017 and Train trial was conducted in 2019 successfully. However, till date Southern Railways has not commenced full services in the renewed section. This project has incurred more than Rs. 1000 crore but due to its non-utilization it has resulted in absolutely waste. It was stated that 72 railway gates in this route have not been assigned to gate keepers. The process for appointment of ex-servicemen as gate keeper is progressing very slowly.

I request that Government should take positive measures for commencement of full train service from Thiruvarur to Karaikudi rail route and also reintroduce earlier operated trains Chennai Karaikudi section in the name of Kamban Express and Ramesharam Express at the earliest.