

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding restoration of passenger train services in Tamil Nadu.

**\*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE):** In the Southern Railway, under the Salem Division, there are cities like Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Salem with so many industries situated around them. The labourers and other commuters working as employees in middle level capacities in various organizations travel for work every day through the trains from Erode to Tiruppur and Coimbatore.

Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamata Banerjee, when she was the hon. Railway Minister of the Union announced IZZAT Scheme which ensured 100 km travel at a cost of Rs. 25. I was the Member of Parliament representing Erode during that time also. Through this IZZAT Scheme, I was instrumental in getting 6000 monthly season passes for the labourers who went from Erode to Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Salem. There was a large number of labourers and employees who commuted to work from Erode to Tiruppur and Coimbatore during that period.

Now there is more number of labourers who use trains to commute from Erode to Tiruppur, Coimbatore and Salem. Before the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, trains were operated in these routes. 1) Train No 66600-66601-Erode-Coimbatore-Erode passenger; 2) Train No 66608-66609-Erode-Palakkad town - Erode passenger; and 3) Train No 66602-66603-Erode-Salem-Erode passenger.

These train services which were stopped should be operated again so as to benefit thousands of commuters of this area. If possible, I urge

that the IZZAT Scheme should also be made functional. The issuance of season ticket to passengers should be continued as it was before the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. To facilitate the passengers with unreserved tickets, there should be unreserved compartments attached to all the express trains passing through Erode.

Thank you.