

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding an inter-city train between Shirdi, Ahmednagar and Pune.

**DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in 'Zero Hour' on a very important issue which has been pending for the last few years.

Sir, I represent the Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituency and my district has got an immense religious tourism potential due to holy places, such as Shirdi Sai Baba Temple and Shani Shingnapur Temple. Both these places draw a lot of devotees from across the world, the number of which has been increasing since the temples have been opened for worship post-COVID.

The increase in the number of tourists has resulted in demand for providing better transport connectivity to Shirdi through an intercity train between Shirdi, Ahmednagar and Pune. The demand for an intercity express has been pending for a long time because due to limited connectivity by train, the commuters and the tourists have to travel *via* road which usually takes five to six hours and due to heavy traffic on this route, there is a lot of inconvenience as well.

**13.00 hrs**

Sir, I would like to request the Government, through you, to start an inter-city train between Shirdi, Ahmednagar and Pune, which will not only benefit tourists travelling to Shirdi but also provide relief to thousands of working professionals, students, businessmen, and citizens who travel on this route frequently for work or educational purposes.