

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding resumption of regular train services on Thiruvarur-Karaikudi Section and manning of level crossings in Southern Railways.

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): The broad gauge conversion of Thiruvarur-Karaikudi Section of Southern Railway was completed in 2019. However, the train services have not yet resumed because

of the pandemic and non-deployment of gatekeepers at level crossings. Nearly Rs. 1,000 crore was spent for this project. Unnecessary delay is causing hardships to about one crore people of seven districts along this route. Railways have planned to engage ex-servicemen on contract basis to man the level crossings. However, due to demands from various quarters, Trichy Division has invited applicants from retired para-military also. It is learnt that during medical test, they were not entertained stating that only ex-servicemen will be considered for posting. The paramilitary personnel have contended that they had all the courage and valour to guard all frontiers of the country. I wonder whether they do not have the capabilities to guard the railway gates. They normally do not get opportunities in getting employment in civil duties and they deserve due consideration. Moreover, it is not a hi-tech job. Local unemployed youths with necessary training can also be recruited. I shall, therefore, humbly urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to resume regular train services on Thiruvarur-Karaikudi Section immediately and engage paramilitary personnel and local jobless youths in guarding the unmanned level crossings.