

Need to construct overbridges or underpasses in Vellore Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Hon Chairperson Madam, Vanakkam. I wish to raise an important issue pertaining to Vellore Parliamentary Constituency. All the trains and railway track between Chennai and Bengaluru go *via* Vellore Constituency. This Union Government has introduced superfast Vande Bharat trains. Those trains are the need of the hour. I do not deny. But in our area, they say a proverb. It goes like this, "Although the building is strong, the base is so weak". This Government, which has introduced superfast trains, has forgotten to expand these railways tracks. All those trains from Chennai to Arakkonam *via* Vellore and Jolarpet should use this Vellore route besides all the trains going to Bengaluru and north India. Almost 200 trains pass through the Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Gudiyatham, Pernambut railway stations. If the people want to cross the railway track to go on both sides, they have to wait for at least one hour at the Level Crossings. When the people cross through the railway tracks due to the closure of Level Crossings for long time, accidents take place and every day at least one precious life is lost. I urge that in order to rectify this, at LC- 81 at Vaniyambadi New Town, an over-bridge should be constructed. We need an over-bridge at Latteri, at LC-57 besides another over- bridge at LC-58 at Rangampettai Railway Gate. We also need over-bridges at Katpadi VIT Gate at LC-53 and Katpadi Vanjur Gate, at LC-129 respectively. In all these places, these Level Crossings should be removed and overrides or underpass should be provided to ease the movement of people on both sides of the railway route. When I was MP of 17th Lok Sabha, I raised this issue several times in the Lok Sabha but nothing has happened. When I took this issue to the Divisional Railway Officer at Chennai, they said since elections were around the corner and he promised to complete this after the elections are over. Even elections are over now and we have won in our constituencies and we are now in Parliament, but over-bridges are not constructed in these places. I urge, through you, in order to stop people dying in accidents every day, all these LCs should be either converted as over-bridges or underpasses. Thank you for this opportunity.

