

Regarding extension of the route of Train No. 17219 link express-Laid

SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISSETTI (VIZIANAGARAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the recurring cancellations and disruptions of Train No. 17219, the Link Express, on the pretext of safety works in the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway since last September. The Link Express runs in two segments: one part originates from Machilipatnam and the other from Narsapuram. These segments converge at Bhimavaram and then proceed together to Visakhapatnam. This train is a lifeline for passengers from the Krishna Western districts to Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, and Vijayanagara, including pilgrims to Annavaram Devasthanam. It is essential for 90% of passengers in the Vijayawada division, offering affordable sleeper class fares as low as ₹100, compared to ₹800-₹1000 by bus. This fare difference makes the train indispensable for economically weaker sections who rely on it for daily commutes and essential travel. Given the high demand and the critical nature of this train service, it is imperative to restore the Link Express immediately. Additionally, I propose extending its route beyond Visakhapatnam to Cheepurupalli or Palasa. This extension would alleviate platform congestion at Visakhapatnam during peak hours and enhance connectivity for passengers traveling beyond Visakhapatnam.