

Regarding need to expedite completion of laying of new broad gauge railway line between Dindigul and Sabarimalai in Theni Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI TAMILSELVAN THANGA (THENI): Expedite completion of broad-gauge line in my Theni constituency between Dindigul and Sabarimalai. The Sabarimala temple is situated on a hilltop in Pathanamthitta district Kerala which is unique. It is the most famous and prominent among all Sastha temples in Kerala. The temple is open to people belonging to all religions. It is said that the pilgrims have to observe celibacy for 41 days before going Sabarimala. Pilgrims take the traditional forest routes as well as the one from Pamba which is less physically challenging to reach the temple. Every year more than 1 crore pilgrims are travelling to Sabarimala from various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu through Dindigul-Theni routes. In 2014, the Railway Board had done the survey for a new broad-gauge line from Dindigul to Sabarimalai. No further action has been taken by Railway Board till now. If this railway line is constructed, lakhs of pilgrimage from Tamil Nadu will be benefitted and lot of money and time will be saved. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps for completion of this new line without further delay.