

Regarding need to provide stoppage to Mangalore - Coimbatore Intercity Express and Ernakulam-Karaikal Express at Podanur Junction- laid

SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI): Built by the British in 1861, Podanur railway station is the third railway station in South India. It houses the Railway Signal and Telecommunication Factory, Railway Hospital, Railway School, Railway Signal Training Centre, Railway Engineering Office and several railway offices belonging to the Railways. Podanur railway station with five platforms is a major junction railway station. Similarly, the work of converting the metre gauge line from Podanur to Dindigul to broad gauge was started in 2008 and completed in 2017. Southern Railway said that once this line is converted to broad gauge, the trains operated in the metre gauge will resume, but even after all these years, the trains stopped have not been operated. Trains should be operated in areas Tirunelveli, and Mangalore - Coimbatore Intercity Express (22609 / 22610), Ernakulam - Karaikal (16187 / 16188) Express should be stopped at Podanur Junction. Similarly, the people of Coimbatore have been continuously demanding that the Chennai Central to Palakkad train number (22651/22652) stop at Madathukulam in the morning and evening. I request the Railway Ministry to consider the demands of the public and start the above trains at the earliest.