

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5149
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN CHENNAI AND THOOTHUKUDI

5149. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to address the issue of increasing passenger traffic between Chennai and Thoothukudi by introducing a new express train preferably following the old Janata Express route via Thanjavur and Kumbakonam to alleviate the overcrowding on the existing Pearl City Express;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government has restored the earlier Connecting Link Trains from Thoothukudi to the Guruvayur Express and Nagercoil Express which helped passengers travel to Chennai during the daytime, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning to introduce the Vande Bharat Express train between Chennai and Thoothukudi; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) Chennai – Tuticorin sector is presently being served by daily service of 12693/12694 Chennai Egmore - Tuticorin Pearl City Express. Further, to facilitate the passengers, connecting trains are being operated viz.**
 - (i) 56724/56723 Vanchi Maniyachchi - Tuticorin Passenger connected with 16127/16128 Chennai Egmore - Guruvayur Express.**
 - (ii) 56725/56726 Tuticorin - Vanchi Maniyachchi Passenger connected with 22667/22668 Nagercoil - Coimbatore Express.**

Besides, introduction of train services, including Vande Bharat train services, is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc.
