

Need for stoppage of Vande Bharat Express at Arakkonam Railway Junction in Tamil Nadu-Laid

SHRI S. JAGATHRATCHAKAN (ARAKKONAM): Arakkonam is one of the busiest and most strategic railway junctions in South India, connecting Chennai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, and Tirupati routes. It serves more than 50,000 passengers daily, including industrial workers, defence personnel, and students from nearby districts like Ranipet, Tiruvallur, and Tiruttani. The town houses major industries such as MRF Tyres, Ramco Cements, L&T, and TVS, along with the INS Rajali Naval Air Station, one of Asia's largest. Despite this importance, Arakkonam lacks a Vande Bharat stoppage, forcing passengers to travel long distances to Katpadi or Chennai for boarding. Moreover, frequent signal failures at Arakkonam Junction often result in long delays and overcrowding on platforms. A Vande Bharat stoppage of the 20607 MGR CHENNAI CENTRAL -MYSURU VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS here would help decongest traffic and improve commuter convenience. The Vande Bharat Express, running at speeds up to 160 km/h, reduces travel time between Chennai and Bengaluru (500 km) to under 6 hours. A stop at Arakkonam would therefore directly benefit thousands who travel between these cities daily. I urge the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to consider this long-pending and genuine public demand for a Vande Bharat stoppage at Arakkonam Junction.