

Title: Regarding the decision of bringing the Bangalore and Mysore divisions of Southern Railway under the South-Western Railway Zone.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue in my constituency as well as in Tamil Nadu. Bangalore and Mysore Divisions will be taken away from the Southern Railway. These will form part of the South-Western Railway with effect from 1st April, 2003. This has been inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister at a function held recently

The sections from Bangalore to Omalur and Patchur to Jolarpettai are at present with Bangalore Division of Southern Railway and with the formation of South-Western Railway, these sections will go to the South-Western Railway.

My constituents are very much agitated by this move. The Railway employees working on the Hosur-Omalur and Patchur-Jolarpettai Sections will now have to run to Hubli for sorting out their problems.

At present they have easy access to Bangalore being the Divisional Headquarters and Chennai being the Zonal Headquarters. When these sections are merged with South Western Railway, the employees will also be subjected to transfer to Karnataka and they will face immense problems of educating their children.

The Railway users also feel that they will not get a fair deal from the South-Western Railway and for all the problems, which have to be sorted out at the Zonal level, they will have to go to Hubli for which there is no easy access by train...*(Interruptions)* No, that is not true. There is no train from Jolarpettai to Hubli.

Sir, there is already some animosity against the Tamil people as far as Karnataka State is concerned for various reasons. It may not be out of place to mention that during the Kaveri water agitation even vehicles with Tamil number plates were the target of the fury unleashed by antisocial elements.

I, on my part, even though tempers were inflamed, ensured that my constituents did not resort to any violence against the Kannada speaking people. Nevertheless, the feeling persists that if the Omalur-Hosur and Patchur-Jolarpettai sections remain with Bangalore Division and thereby get merged with South-Western Railway, the railway users as well as Railway employees will be treated as "Outsiders." Such ill feeling will degenerate into a serious industrial relations problems.

I therefore, strongly urge that the Omalur-Hosur and Jolarpettai-Patchur Sections are retained with Southern Railway. As a temporary measure, it can be merged with Palghat Division and in due course it will form part of the Salem Division for which all the MPs of Tamil Nadu have demanded in one voice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. I have called Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आपकी बात पूरी हो गई है। मैं इतना समय नहीं दे सकता हूँ।

श्री पुन्नू लाल मोहले (बिलासपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत सरकार ने छत्तीसगढ़ में फसल बीमा योजना को लागू किया। *â€*! *(व्यवधान)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Mohale's statement will go on record.

(Interruptions) *â€*!*

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मोहले जी, आप बोलिए। आपका रिकॉर्ड में जा रहा है।