

Title: Urged the Government of India to sanction the pending Raiulways projects in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raise this matter of public importance and urge upon the Government to sanction the pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu. An article was published in a Tamil daily called *Dinamalar* last week wherein it was stated that Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu had not raised their voice on the floor of the House to demand the sanction of pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu. We the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu have been raising our grievances on the floor of the House regularly. However, this vernacular daily has depicted as if we have not voiced our concerns on the floor of the House. It was also stated in the article that when the Members of Parliament from Kerala met the Railway Minister they were able to get their projects cleared.

The Government of India have stopped manufacturing metre-gauge coaches and engines as a result of which they are not able to cater to the needs of the metre-gauge lines. Conversion is imminent and it is the need of the hour. Similarly, double lines are required on many routes. From Chennai to Tambaram the distance is only 27 kilometres. From Tiruchendur to Nellai the distance is 65 kilometres. The distance between Nellai to Tenkasi is only 73 kilometres. Tanjai to Nagore the distance is 86 kilometres. The total distance that needs to be covered is only 251 kilometres. Then from Tanjai to Kollam the distance is only 225 kilometres. This whole route has to be converted. This is only to illustrate the point.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may permit me to mark this paper also as a part of this record* so that the matter can be taken up with the vernacular daily. The prestige from Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu is at stake. This daily is circulated in the whole of Tamil Nadu and it says that the Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu had not voiced their concern.

I urge upon the Government to sanction the pending projects in Tamil Nadu. When the projects were not announced by the Government, the General Secretary of All India Anna DMK protested it.