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Title : Need to establish separate railway zone for Kerala and commencement of triangular railway stations at Shoranur.

lagging far behind in the development of railways which is hindering the industrial and economic development of the State. Although the people of the State and their representatives, time and again, have been bringing this issue to the notice of the Government, the authorities concerned have always overlooked the aspirations of the people of the State. The demand for a railway zone to be established in Kerala for its overall development has not been conceded on the plea that the Planning Commission did not give the necessary approval<sup>[k79]</sup>.

But it is astonishing that there are no prior approval needed for the setting up of the Salem Railway Division. The people of Kerala are not against the development of any region, but our plea is that there should not be step-motherly treatment towards the State. It is a fact that with the commencement of the Salem Division, there would be steep cut in the revenue earnings of the Palakkad Division, making the Division unviable. In this situation, I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to establish a separate Railway Zone in Kerala comprising of Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Salem Divisions. A triangular Railway Station at Shornur was a long-pending demand and the proposal was included in the Railway Budget, a few years ago. But so far, no step has been taken to put this proposal into practice. I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to concede the above demands. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we would like to associate with this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, Shri Chengara Surendran, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shri P. Karunakaran and Shrimati P. Satheedevi can associate with this issue.