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Title: Need to operate Rock Fort Express from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai.

SHRI P. KUMAR: Thank you, Chairman, Sir. The Rockfort Express was originally operated from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai and Chennai to Tiruchirappalli. Due to the gauge conversion in the main line, the Rockfort Express was extended up to Tanjavur in the year 2000 and up to Kumbakonam in the year 2004. Now the gauge conversion has been completed and the train services have been resumed in the main line between Chennai-Tanjavur. After resuming the services in the main line the Rockfort Express, which was extended up to Kumbakonam, has to be resumed as per the original schedule that is from Tiruchirappalli–Chennai-Tiruchirappalli. But till now the Rock Fort Express is being operated from Chennai-Kumbakonam-Chennai, thus creating huge problems for the train passengers as well as the public of my constituency in getting reservation. They are demanding for the restoration of Rock Fort Express from Trichirapalli-Chennai-Trichirapalli, as per the original schedule. I have already raised the same matter several times in this House, since the year 2009.

The people of my constituency and some other social welfare organizations are organizing agitations demanding to restore the service of Rock Fort Express from Trichirapalli. A signature campaign was held and a memorandum was submitted to me which was signed by more than one lakh people.

To fulfil the demand of the people of my constituency, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways through this House to take immediate action to restore the service of Rock Fort Express from Trichirapalli-Chennai- Trichirapalli.