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Title: Need to run important trains to and from Kerala through double track railway line between Coimbatore and Irugur in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Coimbatore city in Salem Railway Division (Southern Railway) is an important city having major Industrial, Educational, Health and Textile institutions. It gives highest revenue next only to Chennai in Southern Railway. Considering the increasing traffic flow and revenue, Coimbatore Junction has been given A1 status in the recent past. An electrical double track line from Chennai-Shoranur Junction via Salem-Erode-Tirupur-Coimbatore Junction Podanur Junction is available. Moreover, a double track line from Erode Junction Shoranur Junction via Irugur, North Coimbatore, Coimbatore Junction and Podanur Junction is also available.

Even after a lapse of two years since the formation of double track line between Coimbatore Junction and Irugur, some of the Kerala bound important Super Fast Express Trains are skipping this Coimbatore Junction Station and running via Podanur-Irugur single track line. Reasons for this is said to be the Irugur- Coimbatore –Podanur double track line (23 Kms) is treated as branch line and Podanur-Irugur single track line as main line according to the distance indicator of the railway track.

The stand of the Railways is totally unacceptable to the general public, railway commuters, various political parties and several organizations being unhappy have resorted to various forms of democratic struggles.

I, therefore, request that Irugur-Coimbatore double track line may be declared as the railway main trunk line by changing the distance indicator from Irugur to Coimbatore as 479 Km from Irugur via Singanallur, Peelamedu, North Coimbatore and Coimbatore Junction as 480, 481 and 496 instead of KM. 1 from Irugur and Km 17 at Coimbatore Junction.

I, therefore, request the honourable Minister of Railways to give serious thought on this and take necessary early steps to resolve this issue as suggested above.