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Title: Need to introduce a direct daily train from Vijayawada to Velankanni.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): I present all issues raised by the Christian community in my constituency. Thousands of pilgrims travel to the sacred Velankanni Church every day from Vijayawada. Since there is no direct train from Vijayawada to Velankanni, the pilgrims have to wait for nearly ten hours at the Chennai station to catch the earliest train. Besides, finding a seat in the train has become difficult due to heavy traffic from Chennai.

Vijayawada has the largest railway junction in South India. It is connected to most of the important holy destinations such as Varanasi, Shiridi, Tirupathi, Ajmer, etc. However, Velankanni is the exception despite the large volume of traffic between Vijayawada and Velankanni. The introduction of direct train between the two cities would greatly benefit a huge number of people who undertake this pilgrimage.

I, therefore, urge the Government to introduce a direct daily train to Velankanni to Vijayawada.