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Title: Need to provide a stoppage of Howrah Express at Tiruvannamalai railway station, Tamil Nadu and resume train service between Tirupaththur and Jolarpet besides augmenting passenger facilities at Tiruvannamalai railway station.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in my Tiruvannamalai Constituency before broad gauge conversion, there was rail connectivity between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai. After the broad gauge conversion, all the train services were stopped. Tiruvannamalai is a district headquarters and a temple town. It is a spiritual centre. To visit Annamalaiyar temple of Tiruvannamalai and for circumambulation during full-moon days, Tamil New year, English New year and festival days like Karthigai Deepam, lakhs of pilgrims from Chennai and other parts of the State come to Tiruvannamalai. There is heavy vehicular traffic during these occasions and it becomes difficult to control the traffic. There should be adequate rail services to Tiruvannamalai. Howrah Express between Puducherry and Howrah does not stop at Tiruvannamalai. This train should stop, at least, for five minutes at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Pilgrims and passengers would be benefited by this. Ticket booking is done only during morning hours. I urge that it should be extended in the evening hours also. A parcel office should function at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Basic amenities like drinking water facilities, rest rooms, toilet facilities, etc. in the railway station should be improved. Chennai-Tirupaththur train service has been in operation for so many years. This train departs from Tirupaththur for Chennai at 4.30 a.m. and from Chennai it reaches Tirupaththur at 10 p.m. But for the last four months, this train halts at Jolarpet, Therefore the rail link between Jolarpet and Tirupaththur has been lost. People of this area have to depend on other modes of transport for onward journey to Tirupaththur.

I, therefore, urge the hon. Railway Minister through this august House that the train service must be resumed up to Tirupaththur as it was before.

Thank you.