

an>

Title: Need for a new railway line between Karaikudi and Dindigul via Natham in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Tamil Nadu under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi* Amma, the Dindigul-Karaikudi road was upgraded under the Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project. The Madurai division of Southern Railway recorded a growth of 10 per cent in overall earnings and 15 per cent in passenger earnings as compared to the previous fiscal year. The Southern Railway had proposed new lines between Dindigul and Karaikudi. The route passes via Natham-Singampunari-Tirupattur-Karaikkudi.

We already have Karaikudi-Manamadurai-Madurai-Dindigul railway line which is a longer route. Dindigul-Karaikudi is very useful to connect Chettinad with Dindigul.

Sir, Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic Survey for a new line between Karaikudi and Dindigul via Natham for 105 kilometres is under progress. It is moving at a snail's pace. Only 10 per cent of the survey was over. LOA has already been issued. Though the due date was 31.01.2015, it is still in progress. The same demand was raised by our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the previous Railway Budget itself.

I urge upon the Railway Minister to speed up the survey and lay a new line between Dindigul and Karaikudi. Thank you.