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Title: Need for resumption of train services between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai and Chennai and Tirupathur.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVNNAMALAI): In my Tiruvannamalai constituency, there was rail connectivity between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai prior to gauge conversion. After the broad gauge conversion, all the train services were stopped. Tiruvannamalai is a district headquarters and a spiritual centre. To visit Annamalaiyar temple of Tiruvannamalai and for circumambulation during full-moon day, Tamil New Year, English New Year and festival days like Karthgai Deepam, lakhs of pilgrim from Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu 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 5 minutes at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Moreover, ticket reservation is done only during morning hours and I urge that it should be extended till evening. A parcel office should function at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Basic amenities like drinking water facilities, rest room, latrine facilities, etc. in the railway station should be improved. Chennai-Tirupathur train service was in operation for so many years. This train departs from Tirupathur at 4.30 A.M. and reaches Chennai and on the other side reaches Tirupathur at 10 P.M. But in the last four months, this train service is terminated at Jolarpet. I therefore, urge the Hon'ble Railway Minister that the train service may be restored up to Tirupathur as it was before. Also a new railway line between Tiruvannamalai to Jolarpettai via Chengam be laid.