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Title: Using the government to manufacture 'Train 18' at Integral Coach Factory (ICF) under the made-in-india project and not to procure through import.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

‘Train 18’, popularly known as ‘Vande Bharat Express’, is completely designed, developed and manufactured at ICF, Chennai, which lies in my constituency. Two trains, operating from Varanasi and Katra to Delhi, are high-speed trains which are travelling in eight hours’ time.

This is the first major made-in-India achievement by ICF. This Government, which claims the promotion of Make-in-India, has decided to import 60 trains at a cost of Rs. 15,000 crore, at a time when we have the capacity to manufacture it in-house at ICF at Rs. 6000 crore. It is causing a loss of Rs. 9000 crore to the country and we are also losing foreign exchange.

To add insult to the injury, false claims of irregularities have been levelled against the Mechanical Engineers involved in the design and manufacture of these trains and action has also been taken against these people, who have helped in developing these trains.

13.00 hrs

They have been able to achieve this within a cost of Rs.100 crore but now Rs.250 crore are being spent for these trains. I would request the Government to drop its import and finish this inquiry on these engineers. I urge upon the Government to make sure that these are manufactured in ICF, Chennai itself and not procured through some import.