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Title: Need to start new train on Karaikal, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Tiruchipalli railway line.

**SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM):** Thank you very much, Sir. Tiruchirappalli-Nagapattinam railway line is one of the historic lines. It was the second line constructed by the British after the Kolkata line. The line was used to connect the Nagapattinam Port with Tharangambadi Port. It covers five districts – Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Tiruchirappalli.

The towns, Karaikal, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Velankanni are tourist as well as religious places. The Shrine of Andavar in Nagore and the Velankanni Church are famous pilgrim places. People from all over India visit the places round the year. Nearly one crore people from this area are relying on railways only but the Southern Railway is neglecting this area.

There is only one train on Nagore-Tiruchirappalli line. There is no other train throughout the day. Since there is a lot of commuters, the line is always overcrowded. The Railways should consider starting more trains on this line. It will earn more revenues to the Railways.

After the gauge conversion of Thiruvarur-Karaikudi line, only the demo train is plying. Earlier, there were many trains like Kamban Express etc. Now all the trains have been stopped. Please restart the earlier trains. Thank you, Sir.

