

Need to review the decision to close Railway Printing Press at Royapuram, Chennai -? laid

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): The Railway Board have communicated the decision to close down five Railway Printing Presses including the Royapuram Printing Press of Chennai which is functioning since 1890. In course of time, the printing press has developed from composing to DTP technology and now functioning with ROTATEK machine imported from Spain in 2015 at a cost of more than Rs. 15 crore. This Press has been printing Passenger Reservation System Tickets, Unreserved Ticketing System, Passenger Time Table and Working Time Table, Reservation forms and various books & forms and Service Registers essentially required by the Railways. If Royapuram Press is closed now, the valuable assets worth several crores and printing materials purchased recently will have to be disposed of at scrap value. The employees who are well trained in printing work will also have to be redeployed to do unrelated work. Moreover, if these printing jobs are outsourced, there are possibilities for occurrences of fraudulent practices as being frequently reported in the media, and increased price of printing which could ultimately burden the fare paying passengers. I request the Union Government to do the needful to stop the closure of Railway Printing Press at Royapuram, Chennai.