

Regarding the creation of Salem Railway Division in Salem

SHRI S. R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Salem is an important commercial hub of Tamil Nadu. Thanthai Periyar at a conference held in Sooramangalam way back in 1952 put forth the demand for creation of a separate Railway Division in Salem for the economic development of this region. Our departed leader Late Shri Veerapandiyaar also organised several demonstrations for the creation of Salem Railway Division.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, have you changed your subject? You are not speaking on the subject which you have mentioned in the list.

SHRI S. R. PARTHIBAN: Sir, it is the same subject which I submitted.

In the year 2006, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar inaugurated the new Salem Railway Division. This Railway Division is part of Southern Railways and it was separated from Palakkad in 2006 to be created as a separate division. It covers 15 districts of Tamil Nadu spreading over an area of 795 kms. Coimbatore Junction is a famous railway station. A pit line, which is necessary in every Division should be set up in Salem Railway Division so as to cater to the maintenance of railway coaches. There is no engine turn around facility in the Salem Division. I urge that the pit line facility should be set up facilitating maintenance of railway coaches and to operate trains in new routes. Salem town railway station, which was in operation near Ponnammappet, should be made functional as Salem East railway station. Trains like Salem-Chennai Egmore Express, which stand unattended in Salem Junction during day time, may be attended for maintenance if pit line is set up here, besides operating it between Salem and Coimbatore or Salem and Trichy. I urge that a second railway terminal should be set up at Ayodhyapattinam. Salem-Mayiladuthurai Express train, Salem-Coimbatore passenger train, Salem-Katpadi passenger train can be operated from this terminal benefitting the people living in and around Salem Sevvaipettai and Salem Town railway stations. I urge the Government for providing escalator facilities on Platforms 1 and 2 of the Salem railway station which can benefit aged and differently-abled persons. Even though Salem is a Railway Division, EQ is not being released from this Division. We have to approach Bengaluru, Trivandrum and Palakkad Divisions for getting EQ cleared. Therefore, I urge that EQ for all the trains plying through Salem should be released

from Salem Division itself. A railway level crossing between Omalur and Mettur is always seen crowded and there is heavy traffic jam due to closure of gates. Thousands of vehicles ply on this route and there are more than 150 industries situated in this area. Thousands of tourist vehicles also use this road. I, therefore, urge that a railway overbridge be constructed across the level crossing between Omalur and Mettur. The Chennai-Salem Express (No. 22153) now departs from Chennai in the middle of the night at 1155. Passengers face several difficulties because of this. I request the Railway Ministry that this Train be made to depart from Chennai at 1040 pm or 11 pm as was the practice before Corona pandemic. Thank you.

माननीय सभापति : आपने पूरा चार्टर आफ डिमांड पेश कर दिया है।