

## **Regarding fencing of Railway Track of Salem Railway Division**

**SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI (SALEM):** Hon. Chairperson, I am fortunate that the hon. Railway Minister is here in this House to appreciate the point that I have been raising.

Madam Chairperson, there are thousands of farmers living on either side of the railway track of Salem Railway Division. There are large number of farmers carrying out farming activities for their livelihood. There are thousands of children going to school. Also, in cases of emergency, patients are taken along the routes that have been there from time immemorial. They have been using the route along the railway track for hundreds of years. Now, the Indian Railways has a proposal to fence their property. In the name of fencing and protecting their property, they are fencing the livelihood of the people who are living on either side of the railway track. Thousands of acres go waste. They are unable to move out. Let them be humane. They are not taking care of the people. Even we, the public representatives make representations to the Indian Railways. They have a scant respect for the humans who have been passing through the railway tracks, roads or pathways.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to instruct the Salem Railway Division to leave space, wherever necessary, for the people moving around. Even the patients are unable to go to the hospitals for proper treatment. This is deplorable. The Indian Railways should be practical. We are all for the public, for the people. They should leave a pathway or passage wherever it is necessary. So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to respond to this very important issue concerning the Salem Railway Division. Thousands of farmers are affected because of that. ?  
*(Interruptions)* I urge upon the Railway Minister to please intervene and ensure that a passage is left for all those who are living on either side of the track.