

NT>

Title: Need to upgrade Dhanuvachapuram railway halt in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala into a Departmental Railway Station.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I would like to raise an important matter regarding the upgradation of Dhanuvachapuram railway halt in Thiruvananthapuram into Departmental Railway Station.

Sir, at present, Dhanuvachapuram railway halt is functioning on contract basis and is situated beyond 24 kilometres from the Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station, which comes under Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari Sector.

This halt was inaugurated on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1980 and thereby fulfilled the long-cherished dreams of railway commuters of this area.

Even after completion of 22 years, no steps are being taken by the railway authorities to upgrade this halt into a departmental station. This halt is now functioning in a temporary asbestos shed without any basic amenities.

So far as number of passengers and earnings are concerned, this halt stands first compared to that of any other station under Thiruvananthapuram-Nagercoil sector. So many esteemed educational institutions, including newly approved medical college, and Government offices are functioning around this station.

In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to upgrade the Dhanuvachapuram halt into a full-fledged departmental station, and also necessary budgetary provision on account of this proposal may kindly be included in the next year's Railway Budget.