

NT>

Title: Need to expedite construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Sir, Madurai is an ancient and second populous city in Tamil Nadu. This has become one of the major tourist centres in India. There are many worth seeing places around Madurai. As tourism is getting recognition as an industry, many players have entered into this field.

Last year, Railways' earning was Rs. 60 crore, inclusive of Rs. 4 crore earned through 30 chartered trains that carried tourists. Of the total revenue, seven per cent comes from tourist trains.

So, to promote tourism, the foundation stone for 'Yatri Niwas' was laid by the Hon'ble Nitish Kumarji in 1998 Minister of Railways a couple of years ago at Madurai Junction. This was found entered in the Pink Book of the Railways.

However, this was suddenly deleted and the entire construction was entrusted to the newly created Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation in the year 2000. Thereafter no action seems to have been taken.

This is a 'passenger amenities year'. In consonance with this declaration, the construction of Yatri Niwas at Madurai may please be taken up and completed expeditiously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, have you got anything to reply? I think, no.