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Title: Need to restart Hyderabad-Cochi Express via Guntakal and also to introduce a new train between Guntakal and Trivendrum via Bangalore.

1504 hours. (Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya *in the Chair*)

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Sir, it is unbelievable that the impact of Konkan railway is being felt in the far away Andhra Pradesh's district of Anantapur. Hitherto Anantapur enjoyed a place of pride in the railway map of India. In fact, the district is the gateway to South and North. All trains from Mumbai to Kerala used to pass through Guntakal junction and Anantapur town stations of the district. At least ten to fifteen trains were being operated on this route. Puttaparthi, the abode of Bhagwan Sathya Sai Baba is the special attraction of the district. Devotees from four corners of India visit Puttaparthi throughout the year. Apart from this, Sathya Sai Trust in Puttaparthi also set up a super speciality hospital in the holy town. Being first of its kind in offering ultra modern treatment for all serious ailments free of cost, it is attracting thousands of patients from all neighbouring States. For a common man who wants to visit Puttaparthi, the only access is the train.

So far the trains running between the State of Kerala and Mumbai used to cater to the needs of travellers to visit Anantapur. But after the inauguration of Konkan railway, the trains between Kerala and Mumbai, and Kerala and other North Indian destinations were diverted to newly established railway line. This snapped the direct relations developed between the district of Anantapur and the State of Kerala. Now the people of Kerala who are living in the district are finding it difficult to go to their motherland. So, I request the Railway Minister to re-route the Hyderabad-Cochi Express via Guntakal and Dharmavaram. It would be of great help if the hon. Minister introduces a new train between Guntakal and Trivendrum via Bangalore.