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Title : Regarding need to conduct a survey for laying a new railway line linking Arni town in Vellore Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (VELLORE): Respected Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to an important issue in my Vellore constituency. Arni town and its surroundings in my constituency are very famous for manufacture of silk saris and agricultural products consisting of varieties of rice. Arni pattusaris and Arni seeraga chamba rice remain the precious commodities that always attract international markets. Moreover, a number of temples of architectural beauty claiming ancestry from Ramayana period are attractions for plenty of tourists. In order to encourage weavers, agriculturists and tourism, a long standing demand of the people of this region is that Arni should be brought on the Railway map of the country. The Railway Ministry was good enough to consider this request favourably and included it in the Budget. "A new railway line will be laid and it will connect Tindivanam, Vanda Vasi, Arni, Seyyar, Arcot and Vellore Katpadi." The people of the region were very much pleased with the announcement and felt very happy about it. But, Sir, since the announcement about two years have elapsed and until now there is no sign of any survey for the new railway line. This is very much disappointing for the people of Arni.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to pay attention to this long standing demand of Arni people of my constituency and help to fulfil their long standing dream making it, at the earliest, a reality.