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Title : Need to take a realistic approach to fulfil Railway Budget proposals instead of taxing passengers with indirect extra charges.

SHRIA.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Railways have a vast reach benefiting the masses in a big way as it is still cost effective. But now, rail passengers have been made to pay more for their journey, though no hike was announced in this year's Railway Budget. Enhancement of charges have been effected without formal proposal or announcement. Even cancellation of reserved tickets have become costly now. Long distance passengers are being denied telescopic fares and they are made to pay to different or more reservation charges and super-fast charges.

Number of super-fast trains have increased without modifying the stoppages or running time or the coaches. Catering services are also going in for an increase with rail passengers caught as the captives. There is a tendency on the part of the Railways to ignore duly announced Budget proposals like laying off railway line between Velankanni and Nagapattinam for which the pilgrimage shrine has paid to the Railways more than a crore of rupees. The gauge conversion between Nagoor and Thanjavur is still incomplete beyond Thiruvarur. I urge upon the Union Railway Minister to take a realistic approach to fulfill Budget proposals and not to fleece passengers without Budget proposals and Parliament's approval.