

Title: Need to absorb all the retrenched workers engaged in the construction work of Railways in Kanyakumari district in the Trivendrum Division of the Railways.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Hundreds of workers were employed for several years during the construction work of Railways in Kanyakumari District. These workers were terminated, when the Railways started commissioning in 1989. This is in violation of Labour Laws and principles of Natural justice. Some of them appealed in the Supreme Court and the Hon'ble Court ordered the Railway authorities to empanel them and absorb them against the future vacancies as 'Grade D' irrespective of age limit. Some of them registered their name with the panel. Some of them were refused registration. A very few of the registered workmen were provided employment. Many of them are awaiting their names in the Panel. Those who could not register their names are also awaiting, employment in Railways. They are languishing in poverty and most of them have become aged. They are denied reemployment on the ground of age-bar under the pretext of the Railway Board letter No. E (NG)II/CL/19 dated 28.02.2001. The Government should come forward to amend the said Railway Board letter in consonance with court judgments to absorb all the retrenched workmen in the Trivendrum Division of the Railways.