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Title: Need to provide a rail link between Dindigul in Tamil Nadu and Kumuli in Kerala.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Dindigul in Tamil Nadu is the hub of textile industries having nearly 130 spinning mills. Dindigul is the gateway of Kerala. But there is no rail connectivity between Dindigul and Kumuli, the border of Kerala. The places like Vathlakundu, Periakulam, Theni, Bodi, Chinnamanoor, Uthamapalaym, Cumbam, Goodaloor, Lower Camp all are important towns and famous for cardamom, pepper, coconut, paddy, beetle leaf, beetle nut, grapes, tea and all types of grains. All these items are exported from here through lorries and wagons.

HIGH VAIVISH Tea Estate is connecting the Munnar Tea Estate. Moreover, tourist places like Thekkadi, Munnar, Kumaraham, Kottayam, Kodaikanal are nearer to this area. Large number of devotees after visiting Palani Hill Temple and visiting Sabarimalai prefer this route only. The people of this region have preferred to board train through Dindigul Railway Station since it is nearer than Madurai. There is a proposal to connect Dindigul - Kumuli by train which is long pending. If this route is sanctioned, it will yield rich dividends to the Railways and more convenient to the general public and tourists. This line connects both the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction this Dindigul -Kumuli railway project an priority basis.