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Title: Regarding passenger train service between Vellore and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (VELLORE): Thank you very much. I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to the train service that needs to be implemented in the public interest between Villupuram and Vellore, which is my constituency. Despite the completion of BG project between Vellore-Villupuram, the general public is facing hardship due to non-introduction of passenger train services. Normally for this kind of BG conversion, getting permission from the Ministry, earmarking of funds, granting funds for completion of the project, etc. are very difficult. But this Vellore-Villupuram BG conversion project was completed successfully. Even after that, passenger train services for the public have not yet started, which is regrettable.

Vellore-Villupuram route is the only possible route which will properly link all the cities of the southern part of Tamil Nadu, like Tiruchi, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Karaikudi, Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram, etc. But now, at this moment, this BG line is used only for goods train services; and only one passenger train, that is, Tirupati Express, is being operated on a bi-weekly basis in that route. That is the only one passenger train that is available, which is bi-weekly. ...(*Interruptions*) I am concluding. The matter is very important and urgent. I am giving only a short text.

My request is, when this route is being elaborately utilized for running goods trains, why does the Railway Ministry not pay proper attention to introduce passenger train services in the public interest? During the month of June Tirupati Express was introduced on bi-weekly basis but it is not sufficient to accommodate the huge public demand. There will be no real benefit to public from this train unless and until regular train services are introduced to cater to the daily passengers. Railway Department should alleviate this grievance by hastening the process of introducing a passenger service in the line Vellore and Villupuram.