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Title: Issue regarding Izzat pass for demonstration in Railways.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Sir, I want to bring a matter of great importance to the notice of the Government and the Railway Minister. As is known to the hon. Members, Izzat pass is issued to serve the downtrodden and economically weaker sections of society and also city vendors by the Railways on the authorization of the concerned MP. With this Izzat pass, these deprived sections of the society can travel within a range of 100 kms. In this year's Railway Budget, this distance has been increased to 150 kms.

Sir, now I come to my parliamentary constituency, Tiruvallur. It has come to my knowledge that suddenly, without any information to the concerned MP, the Railway authorities and the Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) started asking for income certificate and the residential proof in the declaration form to issue Izzat passes to these people. My contention is, when an MP has been authorized by the Railways to sign the form for issuance of Izzat passes to these deprived sections of people, how can they take away this privilege given to the MPs without even informing them in advance? This is highly objectionable and completely condemnable.

In my parliamentary constituency, the TTEs have gone to the extent of tearing Izzat passes, which is an insult to the Members of Parliament. I want the hon. Railway Minister to step in and set right the situation by ordering an enquiry to find out who were these TTEs who torn the Izzat passes. I would further urge upon him to find out on whose directions the Railway authorities in my parliamentary constituency, Tiruvallur of Tamil Nadu, decided to change the formalities to be filled up for issuance of Izzat passes overruling the earlier procedure which gives the privilege to MPs to sign the form endorsing the genuineness of the persons from the concerned parliamentary constituency availing this facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri M. Anandan and

Shri R. Thamarai Selven are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. P. Venugopal.