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Title: Need to run a daily train between Bengaluru and Nagercoil and operate the weekly express Train No. 16537/16538 as a daily train.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): The Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Kanyakumari railway line was opened in April 1979 and was a part of Madurai division. This broad gauge line was transferred to Trivandrum Division in October 1979. Ever since merger with Trivandrum division, Kanyakumari district has been neglected by the division, be it in providing Railway infrastructure, providing the required train services, passenger amenities etc. Kanyakumari district lacks the required Railway infrastructure. Request for more train services are always turned down citing this as a reason. Trivandrum division pays no attention to develop the Railway infrastructure at Kanyakumari, but utilizes the existing infrastructure for Kerala's benefits by operating more train services via Trivandrum, while the public demand is to operate more train services via Madurai.

There has been a long pending demand for a daily train between Bangalore and Nagercoil, but the Government has not heard the demand of public during past years. But announced a weekly Express (16537/16538) in the 2010-11 Budget and was operated as weekly against our expectation. The timings and days of arrival and departure of this train are not convenient to the passengers. All pilgrims go to Velanganni from Trivandrum and Kanyakumari districts throughout the year. As of now the public and pilgrims are finding extremely difficult to travel by road to Velanganni. The places like Thanjavur, Nagappattinam and Velanganni are well associated with three major religions of our Nations. If an overnight express train is operated between Velanganni and Trivandrum via Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Trichy, Dindigul, Madurai Tirunelveli Nagercoil and Trivandrum, many pilgrims will be benefitted. I urge the Government to provide daily overnight express train service.

I request the Government to operate the weekly Express (16537/16538) as a daily train with the timings of its arrival in Bangalore and Nagercoil by 10.30 a.m. in both directions to facilitate the public of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu or else make necessary arrangements for merging the Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Kanyakumari-Tirunelveli line with Madurai Division in order to improve the infrastructure facilities, train services and passenger amenities in the railway stations of Kanyakumari district.