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Title: Need to provide new coaches and to change scheduled time of Karaikal Express.

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Thank you, Chairman, Sir.

I would like to bring the problems being faced by the passengers traveling from Chennai Egmore to Karaikal by train no. 16175. This is the last train departing from Chennai Egmore and the scheduled time of departure is 2315 hours. People belonging to several religions are regularly visiting the famous Velankanni Church, Nagore Dargah and Saneeswaran Temple at Thirunallar. This is the only train for those people leaving to visit these places. These places are not only visited by people of our country but also by the people from other countries. Agriculturists, students, officials and senior citizens are regularly using this train service. But regularly the train is being delayed due to the non-availability of railway coaches. Every day it is departing the next day that is after 24 hours (midnight 12 P.M.) instead of 2315 hours and reaching the destination very late. This is creating lot of problems for the general public. They have to spend more time in the railway platform at Egmore where there is no sitting arrangement.

Moreover the mosquitoes are also creating huge problems for the passengers. People are facing problems at rainy and summer seasons. Moreover the railway officials are also unavailable to answer the queries raised from the public.

Now the people are demanding to provide new coaches in time and to change the schedule time of departure from 2315 hours to 2215 hours.

I, on behalf of the people, request the hon. Minister of Railways to take necessary action to meet the demands of the general public at the earliest.