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Title: Regarding alleged unjustifiable expenditure of Rs. 400 crore by Southern Railway on Palakkad-Pollachi-Dindigal broad gauge line.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Thank you Chairman, Sir. Two years have passed since the gauge conversion work of Palakkad-Pollachi-Dindigal railway line has been completed. It took seven years and Rs.400 crore to complete the work of this gauge conversion. Sir, after spending this much time and resources, the Railways now says that the line is not profitable. They have not even reinstated the previously existed services and this is in complete violation of Railways prevailing norms and conventions. In effect the Railways are penalizing thousands of passengers.

Sir, this line connects all the major pilgrimage centres in South India like Rameshwaram, Palani, Madurai and Guruvayur.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please tell your demand now.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : I am coming to my demand, Sir. This is an important issue.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Everything is important.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Sir, after spending Rs.400 crore Railways say that it is not profitable. My point is, this line can save 300 kms. in distance from southern Tamil Nadu to Delhi. If this line is properly utilized it can not only be made profitable but it can also be of great use for thousands of passengers.

So, my demand is that more trains should be allowed in this line and it should be utilized properly. With these words I conclude.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: S/Shri

P.K. Biju,

Innocent,

Joice George,

Jose K. Mani and

Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M.B. Rajesh.