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Title: Need to make railway stoppages at Mangalagiri and Pedakani in Guntur Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh as permanent stoppages.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Experimental stoppages help people in that area and two such stoppages – Mangalagiri and Pedakani stations in my Constituency under Guntur Railway Division have been identified.

Train No. 17201/17202, Golkonda Express which runs between Guntur-Vijayawada, is serving a large number of seasonal commuters and Circar Express (Train No.17643/17644) is the only train that connects Chennai and Mangalagiri, the nearest railway station to the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

I agree that some experimental stoppages are not commercially viable and Railways is proposing to remove them if they are not as per norms. Railways cannot think everything on commercial considerations. As far as Mangalagiri and Pedakani stations are concerned, they do not fall in this category. For these stations, the second part of the norm is applicable. It says, ".. if there are any additional criteria like new developments taking place in and around the station..."

Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated and State Government finally selected its new capital and both Stations fall in and around new capital of Andhra Pradesh. So, new developments not only in State but also in and around stations have taken place. As these stations fall inside and periphery of capital, there will be huge rush in these stations. Secondly, forthcoming AP Assembly Session is going to be held in Acharya Nagarjuna University, which is just few kilometers from these two stations. So, these two stations will serve as nerve centres between Guntur and Vijayawada and nearest railway stations to the capital.

Hence, there is a need to continue these stoppages as permanent stoppages in view of changed demography of the State.