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Title: Regarding the need to have a railway stoppage at the Kodai Road railway junction to promote tourism at Kodaikenal, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to raise an important matter in this House.

I would request that all the express trains should have a stoppage at the Kodai Road railway junction, which is the gateway of Kodaikanal Tourism.

In Tamil Nadu, our hon. People's former Chief Minister, Amma has facilitated road transport in such a dynamic way that the public finds very easy to travel throughout the clock and throughout the nook and corner of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, Railway also should function for the convenience of the people and not for any profitable business.

Tourists are finding extremely difficult to reach Kodaikanal, the Princess of the Hills because of non-stoppage of express trains like Vaigai, Nellai, Pothigai, Guruvayur express trains at this station.

I live close to this railway station. Since there is no stoppage of express trains here, it is very difficult for me too to move anywhere on time.

If there is a stoppage of all the express trains here, there will be a possibility to increase the number of tourists. If it is not possible for all the express trains to have a stoppage at this station, at least Vaigai and Guruvayur express trains should have a stoppage at this station.

I have written a letter to the hon. Railway Minister six months back and till today nothing has happened. The General Manager of the Southern Railway had conducted a meeting last month at Tiruchi in which he had explained that the exclusive power of stoppage of trains remains only with the decision of Parliament.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to take speedy action to have the stoppage at the Kodai Road railway junction. Thank you.