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Title: Need to expedite the work of Thakurli terminus to lower down the number of recurring incidents of Mumbai sub-urban rail service disruptions.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Madam, I wish to bring to the notice of this august House, a very burning issue faced by Mumbai suburban rail passengers these days. There have been recurring incidents of Mumbai suburban rail service disruptions including yesterday's incident, which led to a huge outcry of commuters at Titwala station. Commuters were angry and frustrated. They took to tracks and did rail *roko*. Similar incident took place at Diva station last year. Services of the Central Railways have been badly affected for the past many days due to various reasons such as rail fractures, fault in overhead wires and pantograph failure on Mumbai suburban section. Madam, 13 incidents have taken place in the last month. Therefore, patience of commuters are running out and unfortunately the attitude of Railway officials is one of apathy.

As mentioned above, recurring technical fault is taking place, which I can understand because of the winter season but frequency of such incidents and other consequences are something the Railways need to look into on an urgent basis. One of the major concerns is that the technical and personnel norms are common for pan India basis and they have not been updated in a while. It is also felt that considering the pressure, there have to be separate norms for Mumbai suburban railway stations and also all over India. For example, on Mumbai suburban where rail passes every four minutes, and in the case of pan India, train passes every half an hour. The number of gang men and the area they cover cannot be the same all over India. Therefore, I urge the hon. Railway Minister to look into this matter and appoint an Expert Committee to review the norms so that recurring incidents of system failure may be avoided. I would also request the Railway Minister to expedite the work of Thakurli terminus. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shri Shirang Appa Barne,

Shri Rahul Shewale are allowed to be associated with the issue raised by Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde.