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Title:Request to retain the services of "Kamban Express" train running between Chennai and Rameswaram.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (NAGAPPATTINAM): People of my constituency, Nagore, District Tiruvarur, are very much agitated because the Southern Railway sudden stopped Kamban Express. The Kamban Express (6714) used to run between Chennai and Rameswaram, and the Nagore Express (6156) used to run between Chennai and Nagore. From 20.4.1999, the Kamban Express was stopped. Instead of that, they are running a fast passenger between Karaikudi and Thiruvarur, and then attaching six bogies of the fast passenger to the Nagore Express at Thiruvarur. Thereby, the two services have been merged. These are the only two Express trains connecting people from three districts, namely, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam. This move has caused a lot of inconvenience to the common people in my constituency and they are agitated over this issue.

I request both the Cabinet Minister and the State Minister for Railways to retain the services of Kamban Express.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already made your request.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Sir, the Railway Minister is sitting there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : People are agitated over this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding. But I think, he has noted your point.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : In the people's interest, I have raised this issue. The Minister is sitting there.

सभापति महोदय : आपने जो कहा है, रेलवे मिनिस्टर ने नोट कर लिया है। उनको जो करना है वह करेंगे। मैं उनको जवाब देने के लिए बाध्य नहीं कर सकता।

... (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : आप रेलवे बजट पर भी बोलेंगे। उस समय भी अपनी बात कह सकते हैं।

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I suggest that the hon. Member can meet the Railway Minister.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Sir, I have already written a letter to the Minister.