

Title: Need to reconsider the decision to cancel/divert express trains passing through Raichur Railway station, Karnataka.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (RAICHUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, people of Raichur and Gulbarga Districts of Karnataka face a lot of difficulties in reaching Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore due to cancellation/diversion of more than 10 high utility, very important express trains passing through Raichur railway station. The specific trains which have been cancelled or proposed to be cancelled due to diversion of their routes are 6635/ 6636 (Kurla-Mangalore- Kurla), 7685/7686(Kacheguda-Bangalore-Kacheguda), 6333/6334 (Rajkot-Thiruvananthapuram-Rajkot), 6337/6338 (Rajkot-Cochin-Rajkot), 6335/ 6336 (Gandhidham- Trivandrum-Gandhidham) and 7429/7430 (Rayalasima-Hyderabad-Tirupati). Most of the trains have been diverted to run via Konkan Railway. The net result of the diversion is non-availability of trains at Raichur railway station.

Raichur is a very important commercial centre lying in between Chennai and Mumbai on the broad gauge line connecting the East and West Coasts. Having been identified as one of the most backward districts in the State of Karnataka, an Industrial Growth Centre has been sanctioned for Raichur. Raichur is a big cotton market and large quantities of cotton are exported to cloth mills in South India. All the above trains have been serving travel needs of the people of the area. The sudden cancellation/diversion of trains away from Raichur has caused a lot of inconvenience to the travelling public of this region.