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Title: Need to introduce new train between Theni and Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am constrained to say that although Dindigul is industrially and commercially a much-developed district in the State of Tamil Nadu. But, as far as railways are concerned, it is a backward and neglected one, resulting into inconvenience to rail users of Dindigul and Theni Districts who are dependent on Dindigul Railway Station. It has been a demand to have direct train between Dindigul and Chennai and a train for Tirunelveli from here in day time. The Chennai bound passengers from Dindigul are not able to board trains from Dindigul as the trains coming from Southern districts of Tamil Nadu are already overcrowded. So, it has been a demand to attach two unreserved coaches in trains bound for Chennai from Dindigul.

Kodaikanal and Palani are two important places in Tamil Nadu attracting tourists and devotees from all over the country and abroad. Therefore, through you, Madam Speaker, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to implement these genuine demands of the people of Theni and Dindigul districts for commencement of new trains and addition of unreserved coaches in trains at the earliest.

Moreover, the long pending demand and scheme of two States-Kerala and Tamil Nadu is the Sabarimala Scheme. This Scheme has been announced by the hon. Minister of Railways for the new railway line

between Dindigul and Sabarimala. A meagre amount of Rs. 30 lakh has been allocated for conducting the feasibility inspection survey.

So, I would request the Ministry of Railways to give special attention to this scheme and allocate more funds for conducting the Feasibility Survey. I would also request the Railway Ministry to expedite the scheme and complete it at the earliest.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. A. Sampath and Shri P.R. Sundaram are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M. Udhayakumar.