

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to extend DEMU train upto Madurai via Manamadurai and operat it on a daily basis in Sivaganga Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Thank you, Speaker, Madam. In my Constituency, the work regarding Karaikudi to Pattukottai broad-gauge conversion was finished, and the Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) service was operated by the Railway authorities.

The DEMU from Karaikudi to Pattukottai, the bi-weekly passenger train, was being operated. This passenger train takes over six hours in both directions to travel just a distance of 80 kms. due to shortage of manpower for manning the level-crossing gates falling along this stretch. There are about 35 such gates in this route.

The DEMU train is being run with Travelling Gatekeepers on-board in both directions, and they have to get down at every level-crossing to close and open the gates. This process is pathetic and really time-consuming. This inordinate time delay could only be avoided if the Railways appoint regular gatekeepers for the same.

The DEMU train has seven stoppages. This train must be extended up to Madurai *via* Manamadurai, and should be operated on a daily basis instead of weekly basis. Thank you, Madam.