

[Shri Paul Manoj Pandian]

existence 25 years ago, the people are left with three express trains to Chennai, Mysore and Coimbatore, Guruvayur Express to Chennai and one passenger train to Tirunelveli. The repeated demands have not yet been fulfilled by the railway authorities and the general public of the Southern region is very much aggrieved.

As per Vision 2023 of our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Tuticorin-Madurai Industrial Corridor has been proposed, which would attract a lot of industrial investment, settlement of work forces, for which Tuticorin needs adequate transport infrastructure.

As such, considering the huge population in Tuticorin, the below-mentioned additional train is essentially required for Tuticorin —

One additional express train connecting Tuticorin to Chennai and *vice versa*.

I, therefore, request the hon. Union Minister for Railways to sanction one additional express train connecting Tuticorin to Chennai and *vice versa* in public interest.

**Demand for financial assistance for Athikadavu-Avinashi
Food Canal Scheme in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu Government has been taking all possible steps to harness surface water to meet the ever increasing water requirement in the State. Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme is one such scheme aimed at channelising the surplus water during rainy season. There is continuous surplus rain water at Pilloor dam during the monsoon seasons because of the excessive rainfall in the upper reaches of the Nilgiris region. After crossing Bhavanisagar, excess water gets drained into the ocean. Because of this, ground water table in this area has receded. Water is not available at 600 ft. to 700 ft. in these areas and in some areas water is available only at 1,000 ft. Drawing water from such depth using motor pumps also results in huge consumption of electricity. This long-pending scheme envisages filling up of 85 ponds and a large number of tanks in this region with the excess water from Bhavani River. These ponds will recharge the groundwater table, benefiting the public and farmers. Water table of the region will rise phenomenally. If this scheme is implemented, it will be useful to over 50 lakh people in areas like Tirupur North, Tirupur South, Kangayam, Avinashi, Gobichettipalayam, Mettupalayam, Annur, Karamadai, Oothumuli, Palladam and Perunthurai. The Government of Tamil Nadu had sought assistance from the Government of India for implementing the scheme at an estimated

cost of Rs.1862 crores. As this scheme is very vital for the western region of Tamil Nadu, I urge upon the Centre to sanction Rs.1,862 crores at the earliest.

**Demand for issuance of digital addressable system licence to
Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd.**

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Tamil Nadu Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister revived the defunct Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV), a Government of Tamil Nadu Public Section Undertaking in the year 2011. This Corporation provides cable television services to poor and middle class customers in the State. TACTV provides a package of 100 channels to subscribers at a cost of Rs. 70 per month, and this is the lowest rate anywhere in the country. The Chief Minister's initiative of rejuvenation of TACTV has freed the people of Tamil Nadu from the clutches of the erstwhile Multi System Operators who were consistently fleecing customers by charging Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per month for just 30 to 70 channels. The Government of India had issued a Conditional Addressable System licence covering Chennai City to TACTV on 2.4.2008. Subsequently, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, was amended and the 'Conditional Access System' area was modified to 'Digital Addressable System' (DAS) area. Accordingly, TACTV has taken all the necessary steps to commence operations in the Digital Mode in Chennai City. TACTV promptly applied to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the Digital Addressable System licence on 5.7.2012 for operating in the Chennai Metro Area and on 23.11.2012 for operating in the rest of Tamil Nadu. Even as TACTV's applications for licences were kept pending, the previous Government issued licences to nine other Multi System Operators in Tamil Nadu, including those who applied after TACTV. When my Chief Minister met the hon. Prime Minister, on 3.6.2014, she requested him to intervene and expedite. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to issue the 'Digital Addressable System' licence to the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. at the earliest. Thank you.

**Demand for tabling the Second Schedule Areas and Scheduled
Tribes Commission Report in Parliament**

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): The NDA Government had appointed the Second Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission under Article 339 (1) of the Constitution on 18th July, 2002. Under this Article, the President may appoint a commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled Areas and the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the States at any time, as he may deem fit. The appointment of a Commission under this Article "at the time of expiration of ten years from the commencement of this