

[श्री अजय प्रताप सिंह]

इसके लिए 414 हेक्टेयर भूमि आवंटित कराई जाए ताकि कोल उत्पादन प्रभावित होने से, इस परियोजना से प्रदेश को प्राप्त हो रही विद्युत की उपलब्धता प्रभावित न हो, धन्यवाद।

Demand to expedite the doubling of the railway line between Thanjavur and Villupuram section in Tiruchirapalli division of Southern Railway

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Thanjavur-Kumbakonam-Villupuram section in Tiruchirapalli Division of Southern Railway is the busiest section catering to the travel needs of high density of rail passengers. Three important 'A' category stations, namely, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai are found in this section.

Thanjavur, Papanasam, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai, Chidambaram and many more towns in this line enshrine important ancient temples of Hindu Pantheon. Kumbakonam known as temple city has several big temples of both Saivite and Vaishnavite traditions. The world-renowned big Temple at Thanjavur, Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram and Mayiladuthurai acts as a hub among temples of planetary nucleus located in cluster attracts tourists and pilgrims throughout the year from India and world over. Thus the Thanjavur-Villupuram section has the glory of rich cultural, religious and traditional heritage with great tourist potential. No wonder all the trains operated in this section attract huge patronage and fetch high revenue.

Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai have regular outward goods consignments of sugar and rice and inward consignments of fertilizer and cement. This section has over 50 passenger trains and goods train traffic resulting in delay in operation of trains and the traffic capacity has already reached the saturation level. The doubling of Thanjavur-Villupuram section can alone cater to the growing demand for operation of more trains on this route.

Therefore, I urge the Government to provide top priority for the doubling of the Thanjavur-Villupuram section and expedite the same to cater to the railway needs of the people.

Concern over compromising sovereignty of the country by signing agreements viz., C.O.M.C.A.S.A., B.E.C.A., and L.E.M.O.A. with U.S.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, progress cannot be made at the cost of sovereignty of the nation. It lies with the people of India. One hundred and twenty-five crore sovereign people rule the country through their elected representative. The C.O.M.C.A.S.A., the B.E.C.A., L.E.M.O.A. may lead to sharing the utmost military secrets. All attempts made by the U.S. Government on so-called foundational military

agreements were foiled by the U.P.A. Government, without having any affect on mutual relations. Since 2016, the L.E.M.O.A. is already allowing access to military bases. Now, the C.O.M.C.A.S.A. will open another window for them to track Indian warships/ aircrafts equipped with such high-end communication systems. Further, the B.E.C.A. for geo-spatial cooperation will be positioned on Indian soil for sharing topographical data for long range navigation and missile targeting. In addition to it, a physical inspection by them will affect our military organization.

Assurances on their part for no leakage of information intend me to say on proven theory that if you can't keep your secrets don't expect others to keep it as well. The Government should never forget the quote of an elite American writer, Mr. Frost, that good fences make good neighbours and, by signing on these pacts, you may spoil future relations with an important nation by involving too much in each others' spaces. It is also a matter of compromising the constitutional values and sovereignty and also a matter of defect our military structure. I, therefore, request the Government to clarify the position in this regard.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member Shri B.K. Hariprasad has said.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member Shri B.K. Hariprasad has said.

SHRI SAYED NASIR HUSSAIN (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member Shri B.K. Hariprasad has said.

**Demand to restore the post-matric scholarship scheme for SC/ST students
and also expedite the release of arrears under the scheme
to the State Government of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the revision of guidelines for the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for the SC/ST students could cause serious resentment among the community. As per the revised guidelines, fees claimed against management quota/spot admission seat in any institutions/universities will not be reimbursed with effect from April, 2018. Non-reimbursement of fees for management quota seats under new guidelines will create huge setback in achieving goal of social equity and social justice, as it will deny opportunities to the poor SC/ST students in the fields of higher and technical education. A large number of SC/ST students, who were unable to get admission in Government quota on merit, have been availing of this benefit in the Scheme under management quota seats in self-financing colleges. The Scheme has largely benefited Tamil Nadu in achieving a higher Gross Enrolment