

**Need for more trains from Chennai to Thanjavur Junction in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Thanjavur is an ancient town located in the heart of Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu. The town is famous for the Brihadeeswara temple which is a World Heritage Site and the Navagraha temple that are thronged by pilgrims from all parts of the country. It is also famous for its traditional handicrafts such as Thanjavur art plates and paintings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vaithilingam ji, you have to speak and not read. Just see the text and speak.

SHRI R. VITHILINGAM: Thanjavur has a railway junction located on the main line of the railway system in the Coromandel Coast connecting Chennai with Tiruchirappalli via Viluppuram, Cuddalore and Kumbakonam. Although the main line and Thanjavur Railway Station came into existence in the year 1881, trains operating through Thanjavur junction are still a few. This poses great inconvenience to the commuters of the region and the domestic and foreign tourists. Pilgrims and tourists coming to Thanjavur from other States and also foreign tourists have to take trains from Chennai. But, unfortunately, there is just one exclusive train, the Uzhavan Express between Chennai and Thanjavur. Other trains operating from Chennai to places like Rameswaram, Tirunelveli, Madurai and Trichy make only a brief stopover at Thanjavur. As few berths and seats are assigned to passengers alighting at Thanjavur, most commuters of Thanjavur region and also the tourists and pilgrims face great hardship in reaching Thanjavur. I appeal to the Government to introduce exclusive superfast trains between Chennai and Thanjavur in greater frequencies to cater to the increasing number of commuters on the route. In the same way, exclusive trains may be introduced from Thanjavur to destinations like Trichy, Madurai, Pattukottai and Thiruvarur enabling the local commuters and alighting tourists to visit those important towns.

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

**Bringing Maharaja Duleep Singh's ashes to Amritsar**

श्री प्रताप सिंह बाजवा (पंजाब): सर, आज जो इश्यू मैं आपके सामने लेकर आया हूँ,