

(Jharkhand), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha) and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Demand for new railway line between Manamadurai to Vilathikulam in Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. DHARMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the distance of the existing railway line from Chennai to Thoothukudi via Trichy, Madurai, Kovilpatti is 652 km, and the distance of the new railway project to be laid from Aruppukkottai Vilathikulam to Thoothukudi is 660 km. Both these routes pass through the busy Madurai and Trichy junctions and the distance is not short. But instead of going through Madurai Junction, an alternative railway line can be made from Chennai to Tuticorin which is very much less than 587 km, i.e. 65 km less. For this, a new railway line of only 83 km from Manamadurai to Vilathikulam via Pasumbon, Kamudi, Perunali is enough. The new Thoothukudi-Aruppukkottai link up to Vilathikulam is nearing completion. Apart from Manamadurai Junction, Karaikudi Junction will also be connected to this route, so there will be another connection from Chennai to Thoothukudi via Pattukottai, Trivarur. So, if a small new railway line of 83 kilometres is built, Chennai to Tuticorin can get two more rail links apart from the existing Madurai-Kovilpatti route -- one via Trichy-Pudukkottai-Manamadurai-Kamudi-Vilathikulam and one via Viluppuram-Tiruvavur-Pattukottai-Karaikudi-Manamadurai. You can also get Pondicherry link. The benefits of this programme are numerous. This route will become an alternative to the costly East Coast route due to the availability of a railway connecting the districts along the East Coast. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri R. Dharmar: Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri S. Selvaganabathy (Puducherry), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Demand to convert Yavatmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur railway line in Maharashtra into a broad gauge

डा.अनिल सुखदेवराव बोंडे (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदय, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं आपके समक्ष बहुप्रतीक्षित यवतमाल-मूर्तिजापुर-अचलपुर नैरो गेज शकुंतला एक्सप्रेस का रूपांतर ब्रॉड गेज में करने की बाबत जीरो ऑवर में बोल रहा हूँ।