STOPPAGE OF TRAINS

2567. SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that lakhs of pilgrims visit Tiruvannamalai for Darshan of Arunachaleswar Temple and Circumambulation of the Holy Hill (Girivallam);

(b) whether the nearest stoppage for Tiruvannamalai is Kathpadi and which are 80 kilometers away from the city;

(c) if so, the reasons for not halting Pudduchery-Howrah Express at Tiruvannamalai Station; and

(d) the time by when instructions will be issued to stop Pudduchery-Howrah Express at Tiruvannamalai for the benefit of pilgrims coming to Tiruvannamalai?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d) Tiruvannamalai station, which caters to pilgrims/passengers desirous of visiting the Arunachaleswar Temple, is presently being well served by 12 Mail/Express and 6 Passenger (in single) trains. Further, 12867/12868 Howrah-Puducherry Express, the only train presently not having a scheduled stoppage at Tiruvannamalai, is a long distance train with limited stoppages en-route. Proliferation of stoppages en-route this service will not only decelerate the train but also cause inconvenience to the through passengers.

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