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Title: Regarding construction of Skywalks and foot over bridges with escalators as well as ramps for pedestrians and Physically Challenged people.

DR. T. SUMATHY (A.) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Thank you very much, hon. Speaker, Sir, for having allowed me to raise an issue of public importance, especially, regarding the pedestrians of my South Chennai Constituency.

The Chennai metropolitan city is already bursting with a population of one crore people. Leave alone the floating population, it is bursting at the seams. Today, being the World Disabled Day, there is a need for the construction of skywalks and foot-over-bridges with travellers as well as ramps, which is the need of the hour. Now, according to a data with the Regional Transport Office, an average of 3,000 new vehicles are hitting the city roads every month. My South Chennai constituency forms the major part of the metro city but it is very badly affected with traffic congestion, aging infrastructure and pedestrian-vehicular conflicts. So, I would like the Union Government to give a thrust on taking up the Smart City Project and to construct several skywalks and foot-over-bridges so as to make life easier for the pedestrians as well as for the physically challenged people.

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is all set to draw up a Third Master Plan for the Chennai metropolitan area whose size would increase seven-folds. In these circumstances, I urge the Union Government to take necessary steps to expedite the sanction and construction of skywalks and foot-over-bridges with escalators as well

as ramps which would ease the life of the physically challenged people.

Thank you very much.