

Regarding East Coast Rail Project in Tamil Nadu ? laid

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): During the year 2007, one of Tamil Nadu's dream project called the "East Coast Rail Project" was laid out and it was decided to build a rail line starting from Chennai Perungudi passing through Mamallapuram, Kalpakkam and Puducherry to Cuddalore. To implement the project, a survey and feasibility of the project has already been completed. The objective of this project is to build a rail line starting from Chennai to Cuddalore through the entire area along the Bay of Bengal. Now for almost 16 years the project has been under active consideration to change/deviate the earlier plan/route and re-route to start from Chenkalpattu instead of Chennai Perungudi. Any changes to the East Coast Rail Link Project will defeat the very purpose of the project. Further, the cost of all building materials has increased. Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary action and give instructions immediately to Southern Railways not to change/deviate the earlier approved route which was decided in the year 2007 so as to build "East Coast Rail Project" from Chennai Perungudi to Cuddalore through the entire area along the Bay of Bengal. I also request to increase the budget to meet the increased cost to execute this project and complete the project as early as possible.