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Title: Need to approve five railway projects in Tamil Nadu and allocate necessary funds for the same.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, after assumption of UPA Government at the Centre, the Ministry of Railways announced a number of new railway lines to Tamil Nadu. They are Dindigul to Kumuli via Theni, Ariyaloor to Tanjore, Thiruvannamali to Solarpettai via Chengam, Morappoor to Dharampuri and Needamangalam to Mannarkudi via Pattukottai. All the lines are for rural connectivity. All the places which I have mentioned are very backward areas and there is no industrial development. For these new lines, already the survey has been completed and the report has been submitted to the Railway Board. The total length of it is 350 kilometres and the total estimated cost is Rs. 1500 crore. Instead of approving and sanctioning the projects, the Ministry of Railways requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to deposit half of the cost under the joint venture scheme. Some States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka joined in the row of sharing the estimated cost but the Government of Tamil Nadu declined the proposal. The above lines will certainly improve tourism as well as industrial development in those areas. Public will also be benefited and Southern Railway will also get good income.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate necessary funds and implement all the schemes without waiting for the State Government's participation.