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Title: Need for doubling of railway line between Villupuram and Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): It is a known fact that South Tamil Nadu has no major industry and it has got meager irrigational potential. It is disturbing to note that unemployment is rampant in the area even though there are lakhs of educated youths without reasonable employment. The above factors at times lead to class conflict resulting in social tension, loss to properties and human lives.

The main reason for industrial backwardness in the region is the lack of infrastructure especially transport facilities. This part of Tamil Nadu is situated thousands of miles away from the consuming market. As the Railway facilities are inadequate, industrialists do not want to set up their plants.

I came to understand that very recently Planning Commission has rejected the proposal of doubling between Viliupuram and Dindigul, approved and sent by the Railway Board on the grounds of inadequate return (that is ROR is 6%). This project is our genuine long pending demand for laying a parallel Broad Gauge Line (doubling) and electrifying it from Viliupuram to Dindigul. The section between Viliupuram and Dindigul has got a distance of 220 Kms. Its is estimated that a cost of Rs. 850 crores would be involved if the project is implemented. I also understand that Railways Board had once again taken up the matter with Planning Commission stating that ROR works out more than 11%.

Taking into consideration of the above facts, I urge upon the Government of India to take urgent and needy steps to implement this most and long awaited project.

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.