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Title: Need to undertake renovation work of Ernakulam Railway Station in Kerala.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): The Ernakulam Railway Junction is the largest railway station in Kerala and every day thousands of passengers are using this station for their daily commute from the far and near areas as Cochin is situated close to this railway station. This station lacks the adequate basic facilities for passengers, such as proper waiting rooms and toilets. The passenger lobby is more than fifty years old and small. The ticket counter is so small that even during ordinary hours it is difficult for passengers to stand in the queue and during peak hours this area becomes congested and become unhealthy as it is not properly ventilated and not adequate for the large number of passengers.

On a memorandum from the Ernakulam Railway Passengers' Association in 2002-03, the then Railway Minister ordered for the renovation of this station and a Committee headed by the Ernakulam district collector was formed for the renovation of this station and they brought out a plan for the station but nothing concrete has happened after that. Last year again, this Association brought this matter to the attention of the hon. Minister for Railways as well as to the hon. Minister of State for Railways. As a result, in the interim Railway Budget of July, 2009, it was announced that Ernakulam Railway Junction will be renovated to world standard, but it is learnt that sufficient funds have not been allocated. Before, the Railway Budget for 2010-11, I had again brought the matter of renovation for the attention of hon. Minister for Railways and again there was mention in this year's Railway budget about the renovation of the above station.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to start the renovation work of Ernakulam Railway Station at the earliest.

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