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Title: Need to upgrade Royapuram Railway Station in Chennai, Tamil Nadu as a Model Railway Station.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Royapuram Railway Station established in the year 1856 in the city of Chennai is the second Railway Station set up in India and first in South India. It has a platform with no access. It is just 4 kms. away from Central Railway Station. The 100 year old Royapuram Bridge on the western side of the Royapuram Railway Station could be replaced by a Road Subway. Royapuram Station will get 72 acres of land at its disposal. Now this station is just used as a yard for stationing empty coaches.

Royapuram is between Central Station and Egmore Station connecting North via Arakonam, East via Gummidipoondi and towards South via Tambaram. More than 25 lakhs of middle class and lower middle class people live around Royapuram Station. People coming from Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Chennai Harbour will have easy access to Royapuram Station because it is just at a walking distance. If this station is converted into a Terminal, the North bound trains from Central Station can be diverted to this station. It is well connected to the city with already existing roads on all four sides of this station.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to consider and allot sufficient funds to convert the Royapuram Railway Station into a most modern and model Rail Terminal. This will ease traffic congestion at Central and Egmore Railway Stations.