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Title: Need to expedite the work of various railway projects in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI M. ANANDAN (VILUPPURAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to the demands of the people of my constituency to be placed before and considered by the Ministry of Railways.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to take suitable action to speed up the doubling work between Chengalpet and Viluppuram Section, and also between Viluppuram and Trichy to extend undelayed benefits to the passengers traveling between Chennai and Kanyakumari and other southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

Ulundurpet Railway Station situated in my constituency in the district of Viluppuram is one of the oldest stations. The station needs to be improved with adequate infrastructural facilities. Even the basic amenities like toilet facilities are not available. Hence I urge upon the Railway Minister to go in for modernizing this station.

There is a long-felt need and demand to lay a new railway line between Ulundurpet and Kallakurichi. The people of my constituency have been raising this issue for very long. If this connection is provided, Ulundurpet will be directly connected with Salem and Coimbatore thereby benefiting the traveling public and also the people in this region to expand both the industrial and commercial activities.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Ulundurpet is situated right in the middle of Tamil Nadu. As it is, all the Express Trains passing through this station do not have a stoppage there. I would like to point out that there is an old airstrip near Ulundurpet Railway Station. Soon a military training facility is to be established over there. Considering the emerging importance of this place, the Railway authorities must come forward to provide stoppage at Ulundurpet to all the Express Trains passing by.

Kallakurichi-Chinnasalem Railway line laying work is going on at a snail's pace for want of funds. I urge upon the Railway Ministry to release adequate funds at the earliest to see that this work is expedited. With these words, I conclude.