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Title: Need to provide double rail lines between Madurai & Nagercoil and Trivandrum & Kanyakumari.

SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON (KANYAKUMARI): I urge upon the Government to announce the projects for doubling of rail-lines between Madurai-Nagercoil and Trivandrum-Kanyakumari in the forthcoming budget.

Kanyakumari, the southernmost point of India is one of the most important tourist spots and pilgrimage centres. More than twenty lakhs tourists including foreigners from all over the world and India are visiting Kanyakumari, which is being developed as one of the prominent tourist destinations. Also, there is a movement of large number of people from Kanyakumari Constituency to various parts of our country for employment opportunity. But transportation has become an inconvenience to the passengers due to lack of double lines between Madurai-Nagercoil and Trivandrum-Kanyakumari sections.

During the past years, the Indian Railways in different phases announced doubling of rail lines between Chennai, Egmore and Madurai. But beyond Madurai, the fate of doubling work is not known. Though Southern Railway had endorsed and acknowledged that the Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil stretch is the highest revenue earning sector of the Southern Railway, the Indian Railway has not come out with any plan to make the Madurai-Nagercoil a double line. Moreover, the above said stretch is highly saturated single line section with line capacity of 103.8% as on 2008-2009. Doubling of rail line between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari was announced in the Railway budget 2004-05 to reduce the existing traffic congestion on the sector. I am concerned about the present situation and delay in implementation of the project and urge the Government to take up the projects at the earliest.