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Title: Need to develop Royapuram Railway Station as third Railway Terminus of Chennai and ensure operation of trains going to southern districts from Egmore Railway Station in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): There is a large-scale apprehension among the people of Tamil Nadu that all south-bound express trains presently operating from Egmore would be moved to Tambaram. If the express trains from southern districts are stopped at Tambaram, passengers particularly women, children and elderly would experience great difficulties in reaching to Chennai Egmore/Central for commuting from South to north and vice versa. The length of the Tambaram Platform is about one km. and they have to cross foot-over bridge strenuously. Moreover, the distance from Tambaram to Chennai Egmore and Central is more than 35 kms. Autos are charging exorbitant rates.

It is a well considered opinion that Royapuram (south India's first Railway Station) which is situated just about 5 kms. from Chennai Central Railways Station has the potential to be developed as third terminal after Chennai Central and Egmore. About 16 long distance express trains bound for eastern, western and other parts of the country are currently passing through Royapuram Railway Station. This station has large stretch of land spread across 72 acres in which 16 platforms can be constructed. Presently it is lying with under-utilized platforms, having unutilized lands/buildings, shrubs, dilapidated buildings. Parking bays for both public and private vehicles can be created in north and south blocks.

Chennai Central is already over-crowded. Egmore station is also crowded due to shifting of about ten north bound trains from Chennai Central besides about the same number of trains bound for northern States are passing through Egmore. To overcome this problem, Royapuram is the ideal place for declaration of New Modern Third Rail Terminus.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to kindly take necessary steps that all trains being presently operated from Chennai Egmore and going to southern districts should continue to be operated from Egmore only. To overcome congestion at Chennai Central, Royapuram Railway Station should be developed as the Third Terminus of Chennai.