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Title: Need for setting up of a Railway Reservation Centre at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (KANCHEEPURAM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me a chance to speak during 'Zero Hour'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kalpakkam is not a small town in Kancheepuram District after the establishment of the Atomic Power Station. It comprises a group of two villages, that is, Puduppattinam and Sadurangappattinam, and the Department of Atomic Energy Township, which is about 55 kilometres from Thiruvannamiyur.

Kalpakkam Unit I was inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Unit II was inaugurated by our lovable leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Kalpakkam is mostly famous for its nuclear plants and affiliated research installations. These include (1) the Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), one of India's nuclear power plants; (2) IGCAR (Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research), an affiliate of the Department of Atomic Energy. And third is BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyadut Nigam Ltd). The security of these organisations is under the CISF control. Approximately 6000 Central Government employees from various parts of India are working in Kalpakkam. The approximate population of Kalpakkam is around 25,000 people. Sixty per cent of the Kalpakkam population comprise of people from North India.

Due to increasing crowd in Kalpakkam arising from the need to accommodate more employees, a new township of Anupum/Amaipakkam, eight kilometres from Kalpakkam, was inaugurated in 1998. Kalpakkam is also having two Kendriya Vidyalaya schools.

The town panchayats of Mahabalipuram, Tirukalukundram and Tiruporur are a few kilometres away from Kalpakkam where the tourism is the biggest attraction both at national and international levels. Most of the Government employees are spread across India.

Most of the Central Government employees and the floating population to the nearby Mahabalipuram and Tirukalukundram are facing difficulties in getting Railway reservations since there are no facilities at Kalpakkam.

But till date Kalpakkam is not having any Railway reservation centre. I request the Railway Ministry to look into the matter and provide a Railway Reservation Centre for the Government servants working in atomic establishment and also for the general public.

Kalpakkam town is also coming up as a satellite town with Metropolitan Chennai, expanding on the East Coast Road ECR. There is also a proposal to bring Metro rail from Chennai to that place *via* Mahabalipuram.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to sanction one Railway Reservation Centre for the convenience of the general public, Government servants and floating population in and around Kalpakkam town.