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Title: Need to provide funds to Railways for modernization of safety and security mechanism.

SHRI M. RAJAMOHAN REDDY (NELLORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with deep sorrow I am mentioning the tragic incident of fire that broke out in a coach of Chennai bound Tamil Nadu Express near Nellore in Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of 30/07/2012, where 30 innocent persons including women and children were charred to death. Nellore, being my Parliamentary Constituency, I personally visited the site immediately after the accident. The scene was so pathetic and horrible that Railway Authorities could not identify and furnish the details of all the dead.

Hon. Railway Minister along with Minister of State and top Railway officials also visited the spot and ordered an enquiry. Though the exact cause of the fire will be known only after the Committee Report is received, there are apprehensions of the cause like overcrowding of unauthorized and unreserved passengers in the ill-fated reserved coach carrying inflammable material.

Every time any mishap occurs, an inquiry is ordered, recommendations are made and Railway raise the question of paucity of funds to update the safety measures. It is pertinent to mention here that Government has already a set of recommendations in its possession, submitted by early Inquiry Committees dealing with each and every possible aspect of said mishaps. But, the Railway could not carry out the reforms because of insufficient funds and requirement of budgetary support from the Planning Commission.

Since the matter concerns the lives of passengers' safety and protection of Railway property, I would appeal to the Government to provide liberal funds enabling Railways to carryout up-dating safety measures by modernization, maximizing the security mechanism and gradual withdrawal of flammable material used in bogies for safety and security of passengers.