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Title: Need to lay down new railway line in Dharmapuri Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue pertaining to laying of new railway line in my Parliamentary Constituency.

Sir, Morappur-Dharmapuri, a 36 kilometre rail line project, which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency requires a meagre sum of Rs. 146 crore compared to other big projects. This is a long pending demand of the people of my Constituency. If this project is implemented, people from two districts, namely Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri, and the surrounding towns will be greatly benefited. This would also generate a lot of resources for the Railways as these routes are highly economically viable because of the geographical structures connecting places of importance with regard to religion, commerce and tourism. If this rail line is laid, two neighbouring States, namely, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka will also be benefited as this will help easy movement of freights and passengers.

In this connection, I would like to bring it to the kind notice of the Government that the rail services were existing during the British regime on this demanded sector, but the same was abandoned over the years. The land is already with the Railways. So, no land acquisition is required by the Railways. We need to lay only the track.

Sir, I had raised this issue many times in this august House. I would once again plead for the same to consider and implement this important rail link falling in my Parliamentary constituency.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to take up this Morappur-Dharmapuri Railway Project in the ensuing Railway Budget under 100 per cent budgetary provisions. By doing this, more than 20 lakh people would be benefited and the Railways would also earn more revenue.