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Title: Need to expand Coimbatore railway station in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, with the blessings of our Leader *Puratchithalavi Amma*, I raise this important issue.

Sir, Coimbatore is my constituency. Coimbatore is a major manufacturing centre in the country and also showing rapid growth in economic activities. It is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu which is called the Manchester of South India. Coimbatore Junction alone yields Rs.1095 million in a year which is the second highest revenue in Southern Railway.

Sir, my Coimbatore constituency has been totally neglected and even a single project has not been announced for this area in the Railway Budget.

A lot of people from all over the country come to Coimbatore for their business activity and at present the facility at Coimbatore Railway Station is not enough to meet the passengers' demand. The following projects/trains may be introduced for the development of Coimbatore City. So, I request the hon. Railway Minister through this House to give top priority to complete the following projects:

First, it is the expansion of Coimbatore Railway Station Platform. Sir, the NTC Mill situated adjacent to Coimbatore Junction has been closed due to some problems and all the machineries and tools have been disposed of. Now, the land is lying vacant and unused. So, the land may be acquired by the Railways to augment the infrastructure facilities for the passengers.

There is no train in the evening from Mettupalayam to Coimbatore. An additional run of passenger train running from Mettupalayam and Coimbatore between 2000 hours and 2030 hours would help. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have the names of some Members who want to raise the issues. If they agree, I will give them two minutes and they can address within that time. Then, I am agreeable to allow them.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.