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Title: Need to provide adequate railway services and passenger facilities at Kumbakonam railway Station in Tamil Nadu in view of the Mahamaham Festival in 2016.

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): To deal with the pilgrim inflow during next Mahamaham festival in 2016 at Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu and to cater to the needs of transportation facilities to ever increasing tourist and pilgrim population to Kumbakonam, the following infrastructure needs to be developed at Kumbakonam by the Ministry of Railways:

- (1) Basic amenities need to be provided at Kumbakonam railway station;
- (2) All the three platforms should be extended suitably to accommodate 24 train coaches;
- (3) Roofing in Platform No. 2 and 3 should cover entire platform area;
- (4) Foot over bridge should be extended to Platform No. 3. Presently Platform No. 1 alone accommodates lengthy trains;
- (5) Rail Yatris Niwas may be opened;
- (6) Doubling work between Thanjavur and Kumbakonam may be completed before Mahamaham Festival;
- (7) Passenger and express trains are to be operated during Mahmaham festival;
- (8) A full-fledged information counter need to be established at Kumbakonam to cater to the train-related enquiries by the pilgrims and travelling public;
- (9) Opening of PRS counter at Papanasam and Aduthurai;
- (10) Construction of new railway line between Kumbakonam and Vridhachalam; and
- (11) Doubling of Thanjavur-Villupuram Section

Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister of railways to allocate necessary funds in this regard.