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Title: Need to rejuvenate Railway Engineering Workshop in Arakkonam Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would thank our hon. Leader Paratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Sir, the Railway Engineering Workshop set up in 1905 in Arakkonam has provided a place for this town in the railway map of India. This workshop had been manufacturing and producing railway equipment required in points and crossing, permanent way materials like lifting barrier gates, girders and material needed for platform shelters and railway over-bridges.

There was a time when more than 5,000 men were working in this workshop. Now, the employees' strength has come down to 800. Just 41 engineering trade activities are being carried out now. Every other engineering work is being shifted to contract system. Recently, the foundry shop has also been closed rendering 120 workers jobless. This engineering workshop that provided job opportunities and livelihood to a large number of workers is facing closure. The technical excellence of the railway workers was such that the famous Pamban Bridge was supplied with required girders and materials manufactured from this workshop.

19.00 hrs.

It is shocking that no fresh recruitment has been made right from 1983. The economic activity of Arakkonam town is dependent on this workshop. Considering both the human and economic factors, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to rejuvenate the engineering workshop which has a vast potential still with about 20 hectares of land to set up a modern engineering workshop.