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Title: Need to expedite the completion of Kumbakonam to Virudhachalam broad gauge railway line and extend doubling of railway track from Trichy to Thanjavur upto Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): In the beginning of the year 2016 in Kumbakonam which is in my Mayiladuthurai Constituency, we are going to celebrate the Great Mahamaham Festive, that comes once in 12 years like Kumbhamela in North India. The railway mode of transport was the best, used by lakhs of pilgrims who visited Kumbakonam during last mahamaham festival 2004. Around one crore pilgrims are expected to visit this place in the next Mahamaham festival in 2016. Further, huge increase of passenger traffic is also expected during the next Mahamaham. Therefore, I request the Union Government, Ministry of Railways to take immediate steps to take up the Kumbakonam to Virudhachalam broad gauge rail route in time in order to connect the western districts of Tamil Nadu with Kumbakonam. Hence to cope up with the demand, track doubling of Trichy, Thanjavur may be extended up to Kumbakonam and be completed well before the Mahamaham festival.