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Title:Need to expedite the Chinnasalem to Kalkundi railway line project in Tamil Nadu.

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Chinnasalem to Kallakurichi Railway line Project was sanctioned in the year 2006 as a part of material modification of Cuddalore to Salem broad gauge conversion project. The initial cost of the project was Rs. 39.91 crore which has escalated to about Rs. 128 crore. The cost of this project was shared by the Railways and the Tamil Nadu Government on 50:50 ratio basis.

As promised by our hon. leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the election speech at Kallakurichi, the Tamil Nadu Government has released Rs. 64.5 crore, that is 50 per cent cost of the total Rs. 129 crore project, exclusively for Chinnasalem to Kallakurichi Project, and Rs. 59.30 crore for the completed Cuddalore to Salem broad gauge conversion project. The Railway Minister has also allocated Rs. 1 crore in this current year's Budget for the Cuddalore-Virudhachalam Project. A sum of Rs. 124 crore is lying with the Railways for the said project.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to approve the detailed project report and execute this Project at the earliest.