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Title: Regarding poor maintenance of railway stations.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) was introduced in Chennai, with a considerable investment by the Government of Tamil Nadu and guided by hon. Makkal Mudhalwar Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to ease the traffic congestion on the roads of Chennai city. The MRTS, which is under the direct control of the Ministry of Railways and is maintained by it, is unable to meet the expectations of the traveling public. Due to inadequate and unpredictable frequency of the train services the public tend to ignore MRTS except during peak hours when it is unmanageably over-crowded. Most of the stations have unutilized vast areas which could be better used for the futuristic and commercially viable kiosks which will remove the deserted and the desolate look. Most of the MRTS stations are left unfinished posing a hazardous environment. Security needs to be strengthened on all the stations and in the moving trains especially in the women compartment. The stations lack in cleanliness. The coaches are improperly maintained and are not disabled-friendly. Non-functioning escalators are prevalent at many stations. The link between Vellachery and St. Thomas Mount is yet to be provided and the work is progressing at a snails pace. There has been a recent incident of derailment of MRTS train on February, 2015. The Ministry of Railways should re-look it to enhance the quality of MRTS services in Chennai which needs to be totally revamped. Thank you, Sir.