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Title: Need to expedite doubling of rail link work between Madurai and Kanyakumari.

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The rail route between Chennai and Kanyakumari via Trichy and Madurai is of 738 KMs that connects all parts of Tamil Nadu . Having a huge potential of passenger and freight traffic, most part of this main line connectivity to Kanyakumari is currently a single line. Though doubling work between Kanyakumari and other parts of Tamil Nadu has been completed or in progress, the doubling work between Kanyakumari and Madurai is going on slowly.

The rail link between Madurai and Kanyakumari has important stations of Thiruparakundram, Thirumanglam, Virudhunagar, Satur which falls under my constituency. The single line connectivity between Madurai and Kanyakumari has affected the passenger and freight movement adversely. The doubling work between Madurai and Kanyakumari was announced during 2012-2013 by the Government and the feasibility study was conducted by Southern Railway. Rs. 2100 crore were estimated for the completion of doubling work. A final survey report was also submitted by Southern Railway. However, the project is pending due to want of funds.

The doubling of rail link between Kanyakumari and Madurai will help Indian Railways to operate numerous freight and passenger trains towards the Southern Tip of Tamil Nadu thereby boosting the operational efficiency of Railways in handling increased freight and passenger traffic.

Inordinate delay in execution of this project between Madurai and Kanyakumari is a matter of serious concern. It is a long pending genuine demand. I, therefore, urge Hon. Minister of Railways to ensure expediting the work relating to doubling of rail link between Madurai and Kanyakumari in the Chennai - Kanyakumari rail route immediately with allocation of adequate funds.