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Title: Need for speedy construction of Tharangampadi-Mayiladuthurai railway line in Tamil Nadu.

*SHRI R.K.BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I wish to raise an important issue. The rail route between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi functioned on profit from 1926 to 1991. During that period since road facilities were not upgraded, the rail connectivity remained as the lifeline of this people. In 1991 the metre gauge operations were stopped and remain so till date. People staged so many demonstrations pressing this issue. But the demand is still pending. Between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi this rail route had railways stations at the following places: (i) Mayiladuthurai Town (3.82 kms); (ii) Mannampanthai (8.35 kms); (iii) Sembanaarkovil (12.35 kms); (iv) Aakoor (18 kms); (v) Thirukkadaiyur (21.89 kms); Thillaiyadi (25.33 kms); Poraiyaar (28.13 kms); and Tharangambadi (29.35 kms). Important schools, Arts colleges like AVCC and TBML, AVCC Engg. College, Teacher Training Institute, and other professional institutions are functioning in this area. Poor people and people below poverty line, students do not find a transport system in this area which can suit their needs. Tharangambadi is an area full of fishermen and fishing activities. Fishermen do not have proper transport facility for exporting to other countries.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Moreover they do not have adequate storage facilities. Livelihood of fishermen is affected. Hindu pilgrim centres like Thirukkadaiyur (DharumapuramAatheenam), Thirunallaru (Saturn) and Nagoor Mosque, Vailankanni temple, Tharangambadi Holy Church, Danish Fort are some of the tourist attractions.

If this route is extended by 9 km and connected with Karaikkal, you can get a big rail network in southern Tamil Nadu. Around 30 km long land between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi is already with the Railway Department. Only 9 kilo meter stretch of land between Tharangambadi and Karaikkal has to be acquired. This project can be completed at a cost of Rs.100 Crore. Only when this rail route is extended and connected, people of Tharangambadi can have rail connectivity to go to Chennai for medical treatment and technological benefits.