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Title: Need to address the problem of length of railway platform at Arakkonam Junction, Tamil Nadu and also provide a stoppage for all the express trains at the railway station.

**SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** Arakkonam is an important Railway Junction having many issues which need to be addressed immediately. From Arakkonam and its surrounding areas 20-30 thousand people are commuting to and from Chennai every day.

The existing platform at Arakkonam railway station is inadequate for express trains connected with a large number of bogies. When these trains stop at Arakkonam junction, most of the bogies go beyond the length of the platform which causes a problem for passengers. Passengers cannot alight or board the train and for old and women it is absolutely impossible. During nights the problems goes from bad to worse. As a result of this problem, on many occasions, women and old-aged people fell down from trains and get hurt with serious injuries. Even loss of life is reported every now and then. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to address this serious issue immediately and expand the platform length and increase the level appropriately.

Holy shrines like Tirupati, Tirutani, Kanjeeputm will be well served by giving a facelift to Arakkonam junction as these pilgrim centres are connected by Arakkonam. Also, the Naval Air Station INS RAJALI is situated in Arakkonam. So there is frequent visit of Defence personnel from different parts of the country. Hence expanding and improving Arakkonam junction with modern amenities is very important. I have also requested the Minister for Railways to consider our another long pending demand of making Arakkonam a stop for all the Express Trains.