

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to expedite the work relating to the Chinnasalem-Kallakurichi Railway Line Project.

***SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON (KALLAKURICHI):** Hon Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. In my Kallakurichi parliamentary constituency, the new broad gauge railway line project between Chinnasalem and Kallakurichi for a 16 km stretch was started during the year 2016.

Chinnasalem railway station is situated on the Virudhachalam-Salem rail route. There are several rice mills, sugar mills, sago mill,s and cotton mills in and around this area. Various educational institutions are also situated, as a result of which. Chinnasalem area is the hub of commercial activities. Kallakurichi remains an important town for marketing agricultural produce. Agricultural products are transported from Kallakurichi to different parts of the country. More than 10000 people have gone to several States of the country seeking employment.

The foundation stone for this railway project was laid by the then Union Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu. As many as 22 small bridges and 2 major bridges are part of this project besides two level crossings, two road over-bridges and one underpass. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 116.61 Crore. But the work has not been started as permission was not granted by the railway administration.

I urge upon the hon Railway Minister through this august House that the work relating to the long pending Chinnasalem-Kallakurichi Railway line project should be expedited. Thank you Sir.