

Regarding need to upgrade railway infrastructure in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country to ensure safety of railway passengers and property-Laid

SHRI SASIKANTH SENTHIL (TIRUVALLUR): The recent train accident and derailment that occurred on July 13, 2025, in Tiruvallur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu where a freight Train carrying crude oil derailed near Tiruvallur railway station, resulted in a massive fire that disrupted train services on the vital Chennai-Arakkonam section. While there were no immediate reports of casualties, the incident endangered lives, severely affecting public transport, and highlighted grave lapses in railway safety, emergency preparedness, and track maintenance. Just weeks before this, another serious incident was narrowly averted at Kavarapettai railway station in Tamil Nadu, where a passenger train collided with a stationary goods train. The alertness of the loco pilot minimised the impact and prevented a major tragedy, but the collision caused panic and injuries. These two incidents, occurring within a short span and in close proximity, underscore the growing vulnerability of Tamil Nadu's railway infrastructure. This is not an isolated case, India has witnessed a series of such derailments and accidents in recent months, raising nationwide concern over the deteriorating condition of railway systems, shortage of manual gangmen, and delayed inspections. The Tiruvallur and Kavarapettai incidents, occurring in densely populated and strategically significant corridors, reveal how underinvestment in safety protocols continue to jeopardise train operations.