

Regarding need to re-evaluate the Madurai Metro Rail Project in Tamil Nadu-laid

SHRI S. VENKATESAN (MADURAI): I request the Honble Minister to reconsider the approval of the Madurai Metro Rail Project, which was recently returned citing population criteria based on the 2011 Census and ridership concerns. An urgent review is necessary. Madurai is the Cultural Capital of Tamil Nadu, a world-renowned pilgrimage destination, and a rapidly growing hub for healthcare, education, and industry. The city's infrastructure and mobility demands have grown far beyond what was recorded over a decade ago. The 2011 population figure of 20 lakhs does not reflect today's reality. The current population of the Madurai Urban Agglomeration is significantly higher, and the large daily floating population of devotees, tourists, and students puts tremendous pressure on the city's transport systems. The proposed 32-km Phase-1 corridor from Tirumangalam to Othakadai connects crucial locations such as the Airport, AIIMS, the High Court Bench, major hospitals, universities, and the Meenakshi Amman Temple, making it essential for decongestion and pollution reduction. Cities like Kochi, Guwahati, Nagpur, Agra, and Meerut have been granted Metro projects with similar or lower population levels. Madurai deserves similar consideration. I request to re-evaluate the project with updated demographic and mobility data, allow CMRL to resubmit the DPR, and grant priority status to Madurai.