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Title: Need to take up Delhi- Chennai Freight Corridor for implementation with a view to encouraging investment in the region.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): The Hon'ble Minister for Railways, had announced in the Lok Sabha that a separate Freight Corridor will be set up to connect all the four metropolitan cities to ease traffic congestion.

To have a freight corridor only between Delhi and Mumbai and between Delhi and Kolkata was announced in the joint declaration signed between India and Japan during Japanese Prime Minister's visit earlier this month. According to my information Japan will fund the project between these three cities alone in the first phase. Accordingly to my information a sum of Rs. 10 thousand crores will be provided for the freight corridor between Mumbai and Delhi and Rs. 12,000 crores for the project between Delhi and Kolkata.

There is an imperative need to give an impetus to the traditional Delhi-Chennai Corridor considering the industrial growth in southern districts of Tamil Nadu with Koodankulam atomic power project to become operative soon. The commencement of Sedhu Samuthiram Project will also pep up trade and commerce activities generating employment opportunities thereby increasing production of goods. Apart from IT parks in Noida, Bangalore, Hydrabad, tidal part in Chennai, the upcoming Nanguneri Free Economic Zone with a tidal park will all need a dedicated and modernized freight movement by Railways.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Railway Ministry to include Delhi-Chennai corridor to begin with before taking up Chennai- Tuticorin corridor which is a must in the near future with the ongoing modernisation of container terminals at Tuticorin Ports.