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Title: Need to upgrade Calicut railway station in Kerala so as to bring it at par with world class stations under Public-Private Partnership mode.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the Budget presentation by the then Railway Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, while announcing the elevation of railway stations to world class standard Kozhikode was also included in the list of fifty odd stations.

It is understood that the standard principle drawn for the project is the PPP mode. So far the Railways have been concentrating on implementing the project in Tier-I cities like New Delhi, Mumbai etc. With multiple interventions including heritage status, none of these are expected to begin immediately. Moreover, active participation of private players is also essential. However, to make it a successful project, it is suggested that these projects may commence from Tier-II and Tier-III cities like Kozhikode.

I represent Kozhikode in the Lok Sabha. The city is linked to the rail network since 1907. The city is an educational hub with several institutions like the IIM, NIT, medical colleges, etc., and is well connected by air, rail and road. A good percentage of the population is Gulf based and foreign remittance is quite high in the region. The people are also happy to participate in the projects in collaboration with the Government institutions. Railways have sufficient land at Calicut railway station. The excess land on the western side could be adequately developed under the world class standard for which local private participation need not be a hindrance.

I, therefore, suggest that the Railways may consider elevating the Calicut railway station under the scheme. A visit by a team of officials from the Railway Board could set the ball rolling and could be implemented as a test run.

I would, therefore, request that a technical study team may be sent to Calicut to study the feasibility of the project and for interaction with the private players, etc.