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Title: Need to undertake doubling of railway line between Chennai and Madurai and allocate funds for doubling of railway line between Villupuram and Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Railway is the lifeline of the people. Regarding the new Railway Project, Tamil Nadu is being neglected for the past so many years. From the time of Britishers there is only one railway line between Chennai and Tuticorin. Though there are small stretches of double lines between Chennai and Chengleput, Dindigul and Madurai these do not fully meet the needs of rail traffic between Chennai and Madurai. If doubling of railway line is completed between Chennai and Madurai, the passengers movement would considerably ease the traffic congestion.

Doubling of the railway line between Villupuram and Dindigul was sanctioned 5 years back. The total distance will be nearly 350 kms. So far Rs. 120 crore have been sanctioned. This year only Rs.60 crored were allotted. As the project is progressing at snail's pace it will take nearly 10 years to complete and by that time the expenditure would be more than Rs.1200 crore. South Tamil Nadu is economically backward and there is no second line for the movement of goods traffic and passengers movement is badly affected. Tuticorin is developing to be ideal port of Tamil Nadu and the goods movement will be substantial if second line is provided.

Considering the above fact, I urge upon the Hon'ble Railway Minister to kindly arrange to allot at least Rs. 300 crore in the ensuing Railway budget as a token amount for the doubling of railway line between Villuppuram and Dindigul.