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Title: Need to upgrade the railway station at Rajapalayam in Tamil Nadu.

***SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards certain issues in Southern Railway. Sir, Southern Railway yields more revenue to the Indian Railways. In particular, Madurai Division yields a considerable amount of revenue to the Southern Railway. Rajapalayam railway station comes under the jurisdiction of Madurai Division. Rajapalayam is in my constituency. The Indian Railways have announced that Rajapalayam railway station will be upgraded to a model railway station. Sir, many amenities have to be provided in a model railway station. Particularly, there has to be a facility of rest room. Platform facilities have to be upgraded. If such facilities are provided, then it is acceptable to call it a model railway station. But, on the contrary, no such amenities are available in Rajapalayam railway station. More than two thousand two hundred and fifty passengers make use of the station everyday. But, there is no proper platform facility. The platforms are not adequately long. Many coaches have to be boarded from outside the platform. The passengers have to bring ladders from their homes to board the train. There is no proper roof. There is no electric light. Nowadays, there is huge power crisis in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, passengers have to board the train in darkness. They have to depend upon the lights that are present in the trains. Moreover, only one platform is utilized by the passengers.

Another platform is also available which has neither a roof nor other amenities needed for a railway platform. It is not fit to be used. Moreover, proper basic amenities are absent at the platform. Sir, therefore, I request through this House that the Indian Railways which has announced the Rajapalayam railway station as a model station, have to take effective steps to provide basic amenities at the station and to upgrade the infrastructure of the station.