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Title: Need to develop and upgrade Royapuram railway station, Tamil Nadu as a railway terminus.

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** In my North Chennai Lok Sabha Constituency, south India's first Railway station Royapuram is located just about 5 kms. from Chennai Central Railway Station. It has the potential to be developed into a third terminal after Chennai Central and Egmore. The station has large stretch of land spread across 72 acres, in which 16 platforms can be constructed and presently it is lying with under-utilised platforms, unutilized lands/buildings, shrubs and dilapidated buildings. Parking bays for both public and private vehicles can also be created in north and south blocks of Royapuram. At present, 16 long distance express trains bound for eastern and western parts of the country are passing through Royapuram Railway Station. People from all walks of life, passenger organizations, Chambers and various Associations have since long been demanding that Railways should consider developing Royapuram as the third major terminal of Chennai.

Chennai Central Railway Station is already over-crowded. Congestion at Chennai Egmore station is due to shifting of departure of about ten north bound trains from Chennai Central besides about the same number of trains bound for northern States are passing through Egmore. To overcome this problem, Royapuram is the ideal place for declaration as New Modern Third Rail Terminus. Hon'ble Madras High Court has also suggested that the Railways expand the Royapuram Railway Station by preserving its heritage portion and such expansion is always possible even while preserving the heritage portion, the Bench said.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways that Royapuram Railway Station should be developed and upgraded as the Third Terminus of Chennai.