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Title: Regarding food Plaza at Chennai Central Railway Station .

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

The Chennai Central Railway Station, as of now, has no Food Plaza where travelers, particularly, traveling long distance can sit and have quality food and beverages with variety of options.

The issue of closure of old Food Plaza in February, 2015 and non-opening of a new one on the main concourse of the busy Chennai Central causing inconvenience to traveling public despite passing of seven months apparently due to a difference of opinion between Southern Railway and IRCTC over the award of a contract, requires an urgent attention.

The reopening of new Food Plaza was stuck as the Southern Railway wanted to shift it to another location inside Chennai Central as according to them, the present location hindered free passenger movement but the IRCTC zonal officials did not agree with the Southern Railway on relocation as the tender had already been awarded. A new service provider, who won a tender floated by the IRCTC, is still waiting for space to be provided by the Southern Railway; and it is learnt that they have accepted as viable one of the two alternate sites offered by the Southern Railway.

Madam, I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to sort out the issue and facilitate opening of the Food Plaza soon. Thank you.