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title: Need to upgrade and develop Royapuram railway station as the third terminus of Chennai.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

North Chennai is one of the biggest constituencies in Tamil Nadu and it largely constitutes working class population.

As this constituency falls part of Chennai metropolitan city, Railways have become their lifeline. Royapuram, south India's first railway station is just situated about five kilometres from Chennai Central Railway Station and it has the potential to be developed into a terminal after Chennai Central and Egmore.

The station has a large stretch of land spread across 72 acres in which 16 platforms can be constructed. Presently, it is lying with underutilised platforms.

There has been a long pending demand that Railways should consider developing Royapuram as the third major terminal of Chennai. Chennai Central Railway Station is already overcrowded. To overcome this problem, Royapuram is the ideal place for declaration of a new, modern third railway terminal.

Keeping in view the above, I humbly urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways that Royapuram railway station should be developed and upgraded as the third terminus of Chennai. Thank you.