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Title: Need to lay railway line between Cuddalore and Puducherry in the first phase of implementation of East Coast railway project.

\*SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. The East Coast rail project proposed along the east coast of Tamil Nadu, from Cuddalore to Chennai via Puducherry, Marakkanam, Mahabalipuram, and Velachery, has been kept pending for long. Keeping in view of the increasing passenger traffic in this route this ECR Railway Project should hence be expedited. Particularly, Cuddalore is an ancient town which has high density of population. There is heavy traffic between Cuddalore and Puducherry. Puducherry railway station is 23 kilometres east from Cuddalore. In the east coast railway project, in the first phase, this 23 kilometer stretch of rail route between Cuddalore and Puducherry should be laid immediately. Puducherry-Kanniyakumari Express (Train No 16861) passes from Puducherry to Cuddalore *via* Villuppuram. If this 23 kilometer stretch of railway line is laid, it could save rail travel time up to a distance of almost 80 kilometers besides saving money. Therefore I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to issue orders for laying railway line between Cuddalore and Puducherry in the first phase of implementation of east coast railway project, besides expediting the extension of same line up to Chennai via Marakkanam, Mahabalipuram and Velachery. Thank you.