

Title: Need to lay a new railway line between Tindivanam and Cuddalore via Pondicherry.

SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN (CUDDALORE): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a long pending demand for connecting Cuddalore with Tindivanam by rail through Pondicherry. Cuddalore is a junction and also district headquarters in Tamil Nadu. It also has a port around which seafood industries are engaged in export of seafood.

Tindivanam is yet another ancient town which is the nerve centre of transport network in the northern Tamil Nadu. Pondicherry, unique in its own way, bordering Cuddalore, lies isolated without a proper rail link. Pondicherry is a well known tourist centre and is visited by native and foreign tourists, who come to see Shri Arobindo Ashram, the beautiful coastal line and beach and so on. Generally, tourists come to Tamil Nadu first and after visiting various tourist and pilgrim centres there, they proceed to Pondicherry. The proposed rail link will prove very useful for them.

Connecting Tindivanam and Cuddalore with Pondicherry will also serve the additional purpose of reducing road traffic in the region. People of Pondicherry and the adjoining districts of Tamil Nadu will be able to use this line to great advantage. The proposed line will reduce the distance between Tindivanam and Cuddalore by 20 kilometres. The distance of the proposed line is only around 65 kilometres. Lot of new railway line projects are being taken up by the Government together with the unigauge conversion. This particular line has been in demand for a long time.

In view of the utility and the necessity felt by the people of the region I come from, I appeal to the Government to take up this project for execution in the current financial year itself.