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Title: Modernisaion of Chennai Central and Egmore Railway stations in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): The Railway Ministry has announced that Chennai Central Railway Station is one of the 23 stations that will be developed in the first phase of the redevelopment of Indian stations as world-class stations on PrivatePublic Partnership at a cost of Rs.350 crore.

About 1.5 acres of prime land at Central will be made available for commercial exploitation to provide better facilities to passengers at the same time helping railways earn revenue by leasing out land for development.

Some of the amenities proposed are digital signage, escalators, self-ticketing counters, walkways, WiFi, and executive lounges. The revamped station will be leased for retail development, office spaces beside hospitality sector.

Both Central and Egmore Railway Stations are strategically important in the sub-urban railway EMU line connecting Chennai with several stations in Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore Districts. There is an urgent need to have a skywalk connecting Central and Egmore Stations.

The prevailing commercial rates at Chennai Central and Egmore will fetch Rs.1000 crores. This is sufficient for redevelopment and modernization of both Central and Egmore railway stations and all stations in the sub-urban EMU line along the Chennai Central — Arakkonam and Chennai Beach — Chengalpattu.

Many important bridges and railway crossings near Central and Egmore Stations and in Chennai particularly the Elephant Gate Bridge need to be renovated and strengthened.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take up the redevelopment and modernization of railway stations at Chennai Central and Egmore in one go and also provide much needed fillip for development of all the railway stations.