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Title: Need to modernise Katpadi and Marudalam Railway stations in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government towards a very important long pending demand of the people of my Arakkonam Constituency with regard to Railways. Katpadi Junction is the name of the primary railway station of Vellore city, providing connections to virtually every city and town in India. Katpadi Railway Junction in Southern Railway needs to be modernized with all the state of art technology facilities. There is an urgent need for the construction of Railway Over Bridge at Katpadi and requires immediate financial support and execution. Katpadi is one of the important commercial centres with lots of educational institutes and major medical centre in this region. Number of commuters have increased tremendously mainly due to the Christian Medical College & Hospital (CMC), Vellore, Institute of Technology (VIT), the temple town of Tirupati and more recently the Golden temple at Sripuram, Vellore.

Katpadi Junction is important because the Chennai-Bangalore and Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express stop here and the only junction where the Shatabdi trains and all fast trains stop. More than 150 trains cross through Vellore's Katpadi Junction daily. Katpadi Junction handles more than 20,000 passengers a day and a floating population of over 25,000 people from various places. Marudalam Railway station is another important Railway Station which needs to be upgraded. Platforms are to be extended and provided with all amenities.

Therefore, I urge the Government to expedite the construction of Railway Over Bridge and modernize the Katpadi Junction and Marudalam Station with all essential facilities.