

#### **Demand for timely completion of railway line in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K. V. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Palani is the second largest pilgrim centre of the south, next to Tirupati. Erode is a great industrial town of Tamil Nadu. Inordinate delay in acquisition of land for the new Erode-Palani railway line via Daharapuram and Kangeyam in Tiruppur district, despite allocation of funds, is causing great concern to beneficiaries of this project. The State Government is very lethargic in expediting the land acquisition. Since, about 25 per cent of the land alongside 91 km stretch connecting Erode with Palani falls under Poramboke category, the District Collectors of Tiruppur, Erode and Dindigul should be directed by the State Government to ensure its smooth transfer to the Railways. The rest should be acquired on war-footing from private parties to facilitate the construction of six road overbridges, 42 small bridges and 24 level-crossings planned under the project. Though the preliminary surveys were completed a few years back, the lack of fund allotment had delayed the land acquisition in the subsequent Railway Budgets. Providing a ray of hope, our hon. Railway Minister is generous enough to allocate Rs. 40 crores towards land acquisition and commencement of work in its Budget for 2010-11 (fiscal).

The project once commissioned is going to be a big boon for industrial clusters of Dharapuram and Kangeyam, besides providing better connectivity to pilgrim centres like Palani and Chennimalai for tourists coming from the northern regions of the country.

Hence, I request our hon. Railway Minister to kindly pay special attention so that this important railway route is completed at the earliest.

#### **Demand to take steps to prevent sale of spurious and expired medicines in country**

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about mountains of spurious and expired medicines on sale in the State of Tamil Nadu leading dangerous threat to the life of people. It was informed by Drug Controller General of India in the month of January 2010 that according to the survey made by DCGI, only 0.4% are spurious drugs. But, the present situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu has proved that the statement is incorrect. Our country's pharmaceutical industry's turnover is Rs.90,000 crores and out of which 40 per cent is exported. The sale of spurious and expired drugs not only affect the health of citizens but also the prestige of the country's pharmaceutical trade interests. Also, consumption of expired drugs can be dangerous and may cause death. The miscreants are using a chemical to erase the manufacturing and expiry dates from the tablet strips, syrup bottles and print new dates. Even the medical shop staff would not know that they are selling expired drugs. Although only some of the cases of this multi-crore trade of expired medicines have come to the light, but it is only a particle and major portion of this dangerous trade are under dark.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take immediate steps to survey all other States about the sale of spurious and expired drugs lest it threatens the health of the people of this country.