

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:322  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002  
GAUGE CONVERSION  
K. MALAISAMY

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the criteria for taking up railway lines and Gauge conversion works;
- (b) the cases of deviations, if nay, with reasons;
- (c) the reasons for regional imbalance in the matter of allocation of funds and taking up projects particularly those of gauge conversion;
- (d) Meter Gauge lines yet to be converted in Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the regional imbalance in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS ( a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.322 BY SHRI K. MALAISAMY BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.12.2002 REGARDING IMBALANCE IN GAUGE CONVERSION WORK.

(a) to (e): As per the policy enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee (1980), new line projects have been taken up as project oriented lines, missing links, lines required for strategic reasons and lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas. In addition, gauge conversion of existing Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge has been taken up in a big way under Project Uni-gauge from 1992 to develop alternative Broad Gauge routes, establish new Broad Gauge links, minimize transshipment points and establish connections to ports, industrial centers and those required on strategic considerations.

Keeping in view the above, a number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up for the development of backward, under developed and remote areas.

In order to have equitable distribution of funds about which concerns have been frequently voiced inside and outside the House, funds during 2002-2003 for projects under plan heads. New Lines, Gauge Conversions, Doublings, Electrification in different states have been allotted based on a clear and transparent formula as mentioned in the budget speech. The funds have been allocated on the basis of area of the state, the population and the throw-forward of projects in the state.

The details of meter gauge lines yet to be converted falling partly/fully in Tamil Nadu as on 1.04.2002, is given in Annexure.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Starred Question No.322 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 12.12.2002 regarding Regional Imbalance in Gauge Conversion Work.

Details of Metre Gauge Lines yet to be converted falling aprtly/fully in Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2002.

Metre gauge lines where gauge conversion works are in progress:

1. Katpadi-Villupuram
2. Trichy-Manamadurai
3. Villupuram-Thanjavur
4. Madurai-Rameshwaram

5. Quilon-Tenkasi-Tiruchandur & Tenkasi-Virudunagar
6. Trichy-Nagore

7 Villupuram-Pondicherry

8. Salem-Cuddalore

9. Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati

10. Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu (under MTP)

Other metre gauge lines

1. manamadurai-Virudunagar

2. Dindigul-Madurai

3. Dindigul-Pollachi

4. Pollachi-Palghat

5. Tambaram-Villupuram

6. Mayiladuturai-Karaikkudi

7 madurai-Bodinayakkanur

8. Mettupalayam-Udagamandalam

9. Pollachi-Coimbatore

10. Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli