

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1172  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004  
GAUGE CONVERSION WORK IN KERALA  
Surendran Shri Chengara

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

- (a) whether the gauge conversion work in Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Tiruchchendur-Tirunelveli-Quilon is going on;
- (b) whether the work for the portion that falls in Tamil Nadu is almost completed and the work for the portion in Kerala is going very slowly as very little sum has been allocated on it in the several previous budgets;
- (c) whether the Government is actively considering to increase the funds for early completion of this project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI R. VELU )

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The work of conversion of Virudhunagar-Tenkasi has only been completed in Tamil Nadu. The balance portion in Tamil Nadu between Tenkasi-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur is still in progress. The work on Quilon-Punalur in Kerala is also in progress. The earthwork and bridges have been taken up. Land acquisition has also been processed. Punalur-Sengottai is a Ghat section and final location survey in this portion has been completed.

(c) to (e): An outlay of Rs. 21.06 crore has been proposed for this project during 2004-05. The project will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.