

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2977
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011
PUNALUR SENGOTTAI GAUGE CONVERSION
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the progress made on gauge conversion work on Punalur-Sengottai line;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and released for the purpose so far;
- (c) whether any change in alignment of the said line has been proposed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to complete the said project in a time-bound manner?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2977 BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.08.2011 REGARDING PUNALUR-SENGOTTAI GAUGE CONVERSION.

(a): Mega block for gauge conversion of Punalur-Sengottai Ghat section has already been taken and works are in progress.

(b): Gauge conversion of Punalur-Sengottai section is a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project. On this project, an expenditure of Rs. 653.18 crore has been incurred upto March, 2011 and an outlay of Rs. 75 crore has been provided during 2011-12.

(c) & (d): At present, no change in alignment is proposed.

(e): Regular meetings are being held with State Government Authorities to expedite land availability and to sort out other issues for expeditious completion of the project. A dedicated team has also been posted for the project and works have been taken up from both Sengottai-Punalur ends simultaneously. This work is expected to be completed by March, 2015.