

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012  
GAUGE CONVERSION IN TAMIL NADU  
Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) the present status of gauge conversion work on Shenkottai-Punalur and Madurai-Manamadurai sections;
- (b) the reasons for delay in completion of the said projects;
- (c) the details of fund allocated/spent thereon; and
- (d) the time frame set for completion of the said projects?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Gauge conversion of Punalur-Sengottai is a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project. Punalur-Edamann-Bhagavathipuram-Sengottai is a Ghat section with difficult terrain where works are planned for completion by March, 2015, subject to availability of resources.

Metre Gauge traffic has already been closed and various works are in progress. Gauge conversion of Punalur-Edamann and Sengottai-Bhagavathipuram sections are targeted for completion during 2012-13.

An expenditure of Rs. 731.78 crore has been incurred on above project upto March, 2012 and an outlay of Rs. 52 crore has been provided for this project during 2012-13.

Madurai- Manamadurai/Rameswaram is already a Broad Gauge line.