

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1048
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
GAUGE CONVERSION IN KERALA
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan;Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of gauge conversion on Palakkad-Pollachi and Punalur-Shenkottai sections;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and spent thereon, project-wise;
- (c) the time frame set for the completion of these projects along with the steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Railways propose to introduce special trains on Punalur-Shenkottai section in view of huge tourism potential, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1048 BY SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN AND SHRI P.K. BIJU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.07.2014 REGARDING GAUGE CONVERSION IN KERALA.

(a): Gauge conversion of Pollachi-Palghat (58 Km) has been sanctioned as a part of Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore gauge conversion project (225 Km). Work on Pollachi-Muthalamada (26 Km) has already been completed. Work on balance portion i.e. Muthalamada-Palghat section (32 Km) has also been taken up.

Gauge conversion of Punalur-Sengottai section (49 Km) is sanctioned as a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project (357 Km). Work on Sengottai-Bagavathipuram (7 Km) and Punalur-Edamann (9 Km) sections have already been completed and the balance portion has also been taken up.

(b): Expenditures of Rs. 744.56 crore and Rs. 834.61 crore have been incurred on Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore and Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion projects upto March, 2014 and outlays of Rs. 80 crore and Rs. 35 crore respectively have been provided for these projects during 2014-15.

(c): Due to huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited availability of funds, time frame for completion of these projects has not been fixed.

(d): At present there is no proposal to run special trains on Punalur-Shengotai section.