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Title : Need to take up gauge conversion work on Thanjavur-Thiruvavur-Nagore route in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): In 1993 the Railways announced the project pertaining to gauge conversion between Thanjavur and Nagore section that comes under the Southern Railway. Every year a token sum is earmarked but the project is still pending. Nagore, Nagapattinam and Velankanni near Nagapattinam are important and famous pilgrim centres that attract pilgrims across the globe. Even the Velankanni Basillica Church Management Committee has given an undertaking to pay Rs.2 crore to the Railways to lay railway lines between Velankanni and Nagapattinam. Even after announcements and promises, the Railways are yet to fulfil the announcement made in this august House of the People in this regard. Hence, I urge upon the Railways to take up the prioritized gauge conversion project between Thanjavur and Thiruvavur and further up to Nagore at the earliest within this financial year. Southern Railway has proved its capability to complete projects on time. This is necessary to provide a boost to economic activity and promotion of pilgrim tourism.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Renge Patil – Not present