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Title: Need to allocate a special grant for speedy completion of broad-gauge conversion work on Chennai-Kollam rail route.

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): The Chennai-Kollam Railway line which passes through my Tenkasi constituency is important for many reasons. This railway line is well known for its income generation and famous for political reasons too. The broad gauge conversion of this railway line was initiated in 1991. As on date the work relating to gauge conversion is pending between Sengottai and Panalur in this route. Out of the required amount of Rs. 300 crore, only an amount of Rs. 20 crore was allotted during the year 2012-13. AS a result of that the people of my constituency are more concerned to know whether this work would be completed or kept pending. It is worth to mention that the world famous Courtallam waterfalls are in this rail route besides connecting important towns like Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Thiruththangal, Sriviliputhur, Rajapalayam, Sankarankovil, Kadayanallur, Tenkasi and Sengottai.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to allocate Rs. 300 crore as a special grant so as to enable speedy completion of broad gauge conversion work in Chennai-Kollam rail route.