

>

Title : Need to undertake the construction of Kollengode-Thrissur railway project and expedite the gauge conversion work from Madurai to Kollengode via Pollachi.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Kollengode-Thrissur railway project was finalized nearly 70 years ago. But construction of the line was not taken up due to unknown reasons. Kollengode and Thrissur are important railway stations and, therefore, connecting these two stations by a short route through Alathur and Vadakkencherry, may facilitate much convenience, benefits and income is expected. The completion of such a railway route will give easy access to many tourist places in Alathur constituency like Nelliampathi, Parambikulam, Mangalam Dam, Pothundi Dam and Peechi Dam and more importantly to pilgrim places like Guruvayoor, Palani, Rameshwaram and Madurai. This railway line will be a boon to pilgrims and an excellent trade route connecting Tamil Nadu and Kerala. At Present the passengers reaching Thrissur have to travel 86 Kms through Palakkad to reach Kollengode and there from to Pazhani-Dindugal, Madurai and other important places. If the proposed route is constructed, more than 30 Kms can be saved for travelling to the above mentioned places and money and time can be saved to a considerable extent. Moreover, the expenses of railway can also be reduced to much extent. The gauge conversion work from Madurai-Kollengode via Pollachi has been much delayed and it is requested to complete this project at the earliest. I, therefore, urge the Government to materialize this important project and also to complete the ongoing gauge conversion work from Madurai to Kollengode via Pollachi at the earliest.