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Title: Need for gauge conversion between Tiruvarur and Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. In Tamil Nadu, Kamban Express Train No. 16175 runs from Chennai to Karaikal. In the broad gauge conversion between Chennai and Karaikudi via Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Tirutharaipoondi, Athirampattinam Pattukotai and Karaikudi, work has been completed between Chennai and Villupuram in the first phase. The work was to start from Villupuram to Mayiladuthurai in the second phase; and Mayiladuthurai to Tiruvarur in the third phase.

Now, as per the Budgetary Grants, the work has begun between Karaikudi to Pattukotai instead of continuation of work between Tiruvarur and Karaikudi. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why this work has not been continued in the same stretch between Tiruvarur and Karaikudi. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to continue the work between Tiruvarur and Karaikudi.