

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2416

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2006

GAUGE CONVERSION BETWEEN QUITON TO VIRUDUNAGAR

Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps proposed to be taken by Railways to complete the broad gauge work between Quiton to Virudunagar;
- (b) the reasons for such inordinate delay in executing the conversion work even after necessary funds were allotted by the Government; and
- (c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2416 BY SHRI M. APPADURAI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.12.2006 REGARDING GAUGE CONVERSION BETWEEN QUITON TO VIRUDUNAGAR

(a) to (c): Gauge conversion of Quilon-Tenkasi, Tenkasi-Tirunelveli and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur sections have been taken up as part of Quilon- Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project (357 Kms). On this project, gauge conversion of Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (122 Kms) has already been completed and commissioned. Gauge conversion of Quilon-Punalur (45 Kms), Tenkasi-Sengottai (8 Kms) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Kms) sections have been targeted for completion during 2006-07. However, progress on Quilon-Punalur is affected because of land disputes and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur due to slow progress and failure of contractors. These sections are expected to be completed during 2007-08.

On Tenkasi-Tirunelveli (72 Kms) section, bridge works have been taken up and is planned for completion in next 2-3 years. The balance portion of this project from Punalur to Sengottai is a Ghat section where final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate is under process. No target has been fixed for completion of gauge conversion of this section.