

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39  
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2007  
SLOW PACE OF GAUGE CONVERSION  
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the gauge conversion projects are running late across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Palghat/Pollachi and Madurai-Kollam gauge conversion works, commenced long ago, are yet to be completed;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay; and
- (e) the steps taken to expedite the work on projects?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The gauge conversion works are progressing as per availability of resources and efforts are being made to convert majority of the Meter Gauge lines into Broad Gauge during the 11th Plan Period.

(c) to (e): Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat gauge conversion was included last year only i.e. 2006-07. On Madurai to Kollam (Quilon) (267 Kms), a Broad Gauge line already exists between Madurai and Virudhunagar (43 Kms) and the gauge conversion of Virudhunagar-Kollam (Quilon) (224 Kms) has been taken up as a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli -Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion (357 Kms) project included in Budget 1997-98. Out of 224 Kms, 130 Kms from Virudhunagar to Sengottai via Tenkasi is already completed and Kollam (Quilon) to Punalur (46 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2007-08. Punalur to Sengottai (48 Kms) is a Ghat section for which feasibility of using the existing Meter Gauge alignment and tunnels for Broad Gauge operations are being examined so as to avoid large scale acquisition of forest land.