

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1127
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
SALEM-CUDDALORE GAUGE CONVERSION
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress so far made in gauge conversion work of Salem-Cuddalore:
- (b) the latest position of the Cuddalore-Vridhachalome-Attur railway lines;
- (c) the present status of Salem-Karur project; and
- (d) the progress of work on Omalur overbridge?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Vridhachalam-Cuddalore section (52 kms) has already been completed and commissioned. In Vridhachalam-Attur (81 kms) section, works are in various stages of progress and section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
- (c): On this project, earthwork and bridge works are in progress. However, litigations regarding land acquisition had affected the progress of the work.
- (d): Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 9 at km 8/6-7 between Salem-Mettur near Omalur Yard has been sanctioned in 2000-01 on cost sharing basis with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Due to failure of previous tenderer for execution of Railway portion of the work i.e. bridge proper, tender was terminated at risk and cost. Re-tendering was delayed due to stay order obtained by previous contractor. However, now stay has been vacated and fresh tender has been called. This has resulted in slowing down the progress of work. Efforts are being made for early finalisation of fresh tender. Work on approaches is in progress.