

**Title:** Need for conversion of metre gauge rail line between Trichy and Manamadurai in Tamil Nadu into broad gauge-Laid.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (PUDUKKOTTAI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the need and urgency of the railway line conversion from metre gauge from Trichy to Manamadurai. This line goes from Trichy to Manamadurai via Pudukkottai, Siva Gangai and Ramnad districts which are socially, economically and educationally backward districts which need the attention of the Central Government for their development. This line will also connect the broad gauge line from Madurai to Rameshwaram. Rameshwaram is a holy place which attracts a lot of pilgrims, devotees and tourists from various parts of our country and abroad. This line, if converted into broad gauge, will save a lot of money, time and distance. So, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate steps to convert Trichy-Manamadurai line from metre gauge to broad gauge.