

>

Title: Need for doubling and electrification of Madurai Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Railway line.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, Tamil Nadu is lagging behind in the development of railway network in the country and we need adequate attention for the development of railway lines. Various railway works like gauge conversion, doubling, electrification and new lines pertaining to the State are running much behind schedule.

One of the important projects is the doubling and electrification of Madurai-Virudhunagar-Kovilpatti-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari section. Madurai, Tirunelveli, Courtalam, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari and Rameswaram are important places of tourist attraction in southern Tamil Nadu. A large number of people from within the country and abroad visit these places throughout the year. There is heavy traffic on this route. People going to Rameswaram and Trivandrum also use this route.

(j5/1940/vp/skb)

Presently, doubling is sanctioned for Villupuram-Dindigul section. Ongoing doubling work between Dindigul-Madurai is likely to be completed shortly. Hence, doubling between Madurai-Kanyakumari via Tirunelveli should be taken up on priority. If doubling is done, the people residing at Virudhunagar, Kovilpatti and Maniyachi will also be benefited as it will open connectivity to those places. There is also simultaneous demand from Kerala for doubling of Nagercoil-Kanyakumari-Trivandrum section. This will facilitate large number of tourists visiting both the States. Many of the trains which were running up to Madurai earlier were extended to Tirunelveli in the recent years. If the doubling and electrification of Madurai-Virudhunagar-Kovilpatti-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari came into reality, it will facilitate large number of people from all parts of the country visiting Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I shall urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to take up the doubling and electrification of Madurai-Virudhunagar-Kovilpatti-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari on priority and allocate adequate funds without delay.