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Title: Need to lay new railway line from Dindigul to Devadanapatti, Kodaikanal base and Periyakulam in Theni Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (THENI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity. I have already requested the hon. Railway Minister for a railway line from Dindigul to Devadanapatti, Kodaikanal base and Periyakulam joining at Theni. From Theni to Gudalur, an existing line is there. The work in the line is going very slow. The Madurai-Bodi gauge conversion work is going very slow. It has become a big train for the traders of the Theni district. There are about 25 lakh tonne spices. Tea, cardamom and all other things have been exported to various parts of India from Theni. The work has been pending for about 3 years. If this new line comes, then this work has to be speeded up. If the new line from Dindigul *via* Theni, from Bodi to Gudalur, if it goes to the base camp, a lot of Ayappan devotees will be benefited. Every day, minimum 10 accidents are happening. Through RTI, if you ask, really it will become a pathetic condition. Every day, Theni Government Hospital is filled with accident casualties. As they do not have much equipments, they are sending all the patients to Madurai Rajaji Hospital.

My request is that the gauge conversion work should be speeded up and the work should be finished within 2013-14. They say, it will be done in 2014-15. Sir, the work should be finished within this year on war-footing.

The other new line from Dindigul to Devadanapatti, Theni, Bodi, Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur, Kambam and Gudalur should also be taken into consideration.