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Title: Need to open passenger reservation system counter at Nannilam railway station in Nagapattinam Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. The matter is regarding the need to increase the speed of implementation of the pending railway projects in my constituency, Nagapattinam. There is a major railway line from Tiruvarur to Karaikudi. The running of trains was stopped in 2006 for broad gauge conversion. Up to 2006, the metre gauge trains were running successfully. After that, this route came under broad gauge conversion. After 2006 the tender was called for. The amount sanctioned every year is less than Rs. 10 crore. Because of this amount, the work execution is very slow.

Now, the work has to start from Karaikudi to Tiruvarur. I urge that the conversion process should take place from Tiruvarur itself. In a similar way, the gauge conversion from Thiruthuraiipundi to Agasthiapalli near Vedaranyam line is in process for the last thirty years. They have completed only the culverts along the railway line.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to start the gauge conversion work from Agasthiapalli to Thiruthuraiipundi immediately because it will help the salt production in our State, Tamil Nadu, which is in second place. So, the conversion should take place immediately. Long distance trains should cater to the people who are living in and around the line, who have to travel more than 720 miles.

Another long pending work is at level crossing level 48 at Nagapattinam and Karaikal line near Akkaraipatti area. The Akkaraipettai area is a sea-food export zone in my constituency. The export process is on continuously 24 x 7. The gate is almost closed. So, the vans and lorries are stranded both sides in long queues. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : You have to raise only one issue during the 'Zero Hour' and not so many issues. What is your demand?

DR. K. GOPAL : For the convenience of the people, the State Government and the Central Government agreed to construct the over-bridge. The Central Government should sanction the amount and also give permission for the early completion of the over-bridge.