

Details of the ongoing/new surveys falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:-

Sl.No.	Survey	Length (in Km)
New Line		
1	Rameswaram-Tuticorin-Kanniyakumari	240
2.	Chidambaram-Attur <i>via</i> Ariyalur, Perumbalur	140
3.	Karaikudi-Tuticorin <i>via</i> Ramanathapuram	200
4.	Madurai-Tuticorin <i>via</i> Arupukottai	159
Gauge Conversion		
1.	Tambaram - Chengalpattu gauge conversion of existing MG line	30
Doubling		
1.	Renigunta-Arakkonam 3rd line	72
2.	Jolarpettai-Katpadi-Arakkonam 3 line	145
3.	Chennai-Villivakkam 5th & 6th line and Villivakkam-Katpadi new line	163
4.	Attipattu -Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line	26
5.	Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari	82

Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai, Madurai-Rameshwaram and Salem-Cuddalore gauge conversion projects have been fully completed. In addition, some of the projects have been partly completed.

(c) The projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

New railway projects in Tamil Nadu

2140.SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned five new railway projects in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 1500 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the railway projects; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of six new projects included in the Railway Budget 2008-09 alongwith their anticipated cost are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)		
Sl. No.	Project	Anticipated cost
1	2	3
1.	Attipattu-Puttur new line (88.3 km)	446.87
2.	Erode-Palani new line (91.05 km)	288.87

1	2	3
3.	Chennai-Cuddalore <i>via</i> Mahabalipuram new line (179.28km)	523.52
4.	Madurai-Bodinayakanur gauge conversion (90.41 km)	164.41
5.	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (26.83 kms)	78.92
6.	Villupuram-Dindigul doubling with electrification (273 km)	822.39
TOTAL		2324.98

(c) Work on these new projects would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Goods trains with bullet proof engines

2141. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to run goods trains with bullet proof engines on terror-hit stretches of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the idea and to what extent this would help Railways in sending goods, particularly essential commodities to terror-hit areas of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that guard cabin is not made bullet proof and is only provided with sandbags; and

(d) if so, how his Ministry provide security to guard as has been planned for driver of the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Running of goods train with bullet proof locomotives is being done selectively based on threat perception. In this process, eight MG diesel locomotives of Northeast Frontier Railway have been modified and provided with bullet proof cab. It is planned to modify further 29 metre gauge diesel locomotives in a phased manner. This is intended as a confidence building measure for engine crew.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to make guard cabin as bullet proof. Wherever required, armed police personnel travel in the brake van for the security of guard and train.

Medical assistance in long distance trains

2142. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical assistance is not available in long running train journeys in case of emergency;

(b) if so, whether Government would propose to take necessary action to make available doctors or first aid facility in case of emergency in long running trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) All long distance Passenger carrying trains are provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs and