

Gauge conversion work on Kollam-Punalur-Shencottah rail line

4741. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of Kollam-Punalur-Shencottah railway line gauge conversion work;
- (b) the time frame to complete Punalur-Shencottah section; and
- (c) the details of the spending and percentage of work completed till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Quilon-Punalur-Sengottai metre gauge section is a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project. Work on Quilon-Punalur (45 km) has already been completed. On Punalur-Sengottai (49 km) Ghat section, final location survey has been completed and tenders for civil engineering works have been processed. Works on this section would be completed as per availability of resources.

An anticipated expenditure of Rs. 543.55 crore has been incurred on the entire project upto March, 2010.

Railway projects in Bihar

4742. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several railway projects for Bihar which were announced by the predecessor Minister has been stalled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Bihar Government has recently urged the Union Government to revive such pending projects and complete them in a time bound manner; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Traffic between Visakhapatnam and Raipur

4743. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any survey of the traffic potential between Visakhapatnam and Raipur;
- (b) the present traffic in this sector, giving figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively;
- (c) the number of trains which originate from Visakhapatnam to Raipur daily; and