

Rail projects in Tamil Nadu

597. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Tamil Nadu has urged on many occasions, speeding up the doubling project and electrification of line between Chennai to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, whether any project for doubling and electrification between these lines was planned earlier by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the timeframe fixed by Government to complete the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Section-wise position on sanctioned doubling and electrification of Chennai Kanyakumari route is given as under:—

A. Doubling:

Section	Status
Chennai-Chengalpattu (60 km.)	Doubling completed.
Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 km.)	Works on bridges, platform, level crossings, etc. have been taken up.
Villupuram-Dindigul (273 km.)	This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for execution. Final location survey has been completed and tenders for civil, electrical and other works have been processed.
Dindigul-Madurai (62 km.)	Doubling completed.

In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and operational constraints, doubling of Madurai-Vanchi Maniyachchi-Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari (245 km.) section is not sanctioned.

B. Electrification:

Chennai-Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli rail line has been electrified. Electrification work is in progress on Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai-Nagercoil-Kanyakumari rail line (432 RKM) and this work is planned for completion by March, 2012.

(d) Does not arise.