

RAIL BUS PROJECT



Scope of the Project: Based on the request of the Government of Sri Lanka and the Eastern Provincial Council, Government of India approved the Project so supply 10 buses for the Rail Bus Project to connect Batticaloa with Trincomalee. The Project aims to provide a quick and affordable means of transport between the Batticaloa and Trincomalee by converting conventional buses to enable them to run on rail tracks.

Project Cost: SLR 72 Million (INR 2.9 Crore)

Project Status: Completed (2008-09)

Partners:

1. Ministry of Transport, GoSL
2. Eastern Provincial Council
3. Ministry of Railways, GoSL
4. Lanka Ashok Leyland (supplier)

Modality of implementation: 10 buses were converted into 5 Rail Buses each comprising of 2 buses connected together. The wheels, gear and brake system of these buses were converted for movement on rails. The fully finished Rail buses were handed over to the Ministry of Railways for operating services between Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

Beneficiaries: People of the Eastern Province particularly those living in interior areas along the rail tracks, who do not have other forms of connectivity.

Impact: The Rail Bus is a huge hit among the people of the Eastern Province. The main advantage of the Rail Bus is that the vehicle can be stopped at any time to pick up passengers along the rail track. The Project has significantly improved the transport infrastructure between Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

