

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. At Kantabanji, total 540.56 acres of land is with Railway. Out of which approximately only 68.42 acres of land is presently vacant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The vacant railway land is meant for execution of various infrastructural works for future expansion of Railways.

Expansion and upgradation of railway station

2324. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to make expansion of platform at Mettupalayam railway station and laying of a pit line for maintenance of engine and coaches at the same station;

(b) whether Railways are considering upgradation of Singanallur and Peelamedu railway stations;

(c) whether expansion plans of Podanur railway station is under process; and

(d) whether Railways are considering expansion and redevelopment of Irugur railway station falling in between Coimbatore and Tirupur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A work for extension of platform at Mettupalayam railway station to hold 24 coaches has been sanctioned in 2014-15. However, laying of pit line at Mettupalayam station is not a sanctioned work.

(b) Pilamedu is an 'E' category and Singanallur is a 'F' category (halt) station. All amenities as per norms of Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) are available at these stations. Upgradation/augmentation of amenities at station is a continuous process. However, Pilamedu railway station has been identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme.

(c) and (d) Podanur is a 'D' category and Irugur is a 'F' category (halt) station. All amenities as per norms of MEA are available at these stations. Upgradation/augmentation of amenities at station is a continuous process. However, at present, there is no proposal for expansion/redevelopment of these stations.