

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2384
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2021

LAYING OF NEW RAILWAY LINE TO PUDUCHERRY

2384. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of a long pending demand for a new railway line of just 62 Km between Tindivanam and Cuddalore via Kiliyanur and Puducherry which will not only shorten the distance by circumventing the circuitous route of Puducherry – Villupuram – Tindivanam but also reduce the travel time by 90 minutes;
- (b) what is the current status of laying a new railway line of just 22 Kms between Puducherry and Cuddalore; and
- (c) whether Government would take steps to execute the projects within a specific time limit in the interest of public?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2384 BY SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.12.2021 REGARDING LAYING OF NEW RAILWAY LINE TO PUDUCHERRY

(a): Survey for construction of new line from Tindivanam- Cuddalore via Puducherry (77 Km) was completed in 2004-05. The complete project could not be taken forward being financially unviable. Subsequently, part project from Puducherry to Cuddalore was sanctioned as a part of Chennai – Cuddalore new line project.

(b) and (c): Puducherry – Cuddalore section is a part of Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram (179 Km) new line project. Chennai-Cuddalore via Mamallapuram new line project (179.28 Km) is sanctioned in 2008-09. On this project, Government of Puducherry had requested for change in alignment towards northern and southern sides of Villupuram-Puducherry existing line as well as doubling of tracks between Puducherry and Cuddalore.

As aforesaid revision in alignment was based on the request from the Government of Puducherry, State Government was also requested to bear additional cost of single line due to revision in alignment and entire cost of the proposed doubling instead of only additional cost of land. However, the State Government has shown their inability to bear additional cost of the project due to revision in alignment. Railway has reviewed all the projects based on last mile connectivity, missing links, traffic potential on the project, capacity enhancement, availability of land, forest/wild-life clearance etc. and based on the review, Railway projects have been prioritized. Presently, Railway's focus is on completion of capacity enhancement projects and last mile connectivity project. It is to mention here that Puducherry- Cuddalore is a lesser priority project.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, priority of project, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project. As such, confirmed completion time of project cannot be ascertained at this stage. Nevertheless, every effort is being made to execute the project expeditiously.
