

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

REDEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

592 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status and progress works of the redevelopment of five railway stations in Tamil Nadu including Chennai Egmore, Rameswaram, Madurai, Katpadi and Kanyakumari announced 18 months back;
- (b) the steps taken by Government towards boosting infrastructure development, enhancing connectivity and giving an impetus to ease of living in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the funds allocated, disbursed and utilized in the last five years, year-wise and project-wise; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to introduce new Vande Bharat trains connecting Chennai with tier-2 cities in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 592 BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING REDEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

(a) to (d): Ministry of Railways has launched ‘Amrit Bharat Station Scheme’ for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.

This scheme involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like ‘One Station One Product’, better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility, identification of areas for property development and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far, 1324 stations have been identified for redevelopment under this scheme including 77 stations in the State of Tamil Nadu. A list of these 77 Stations in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under;

State	No. of Stations	Name of Station
Tamil Nadu	77	Ambasamudram, Ambattur, Arakkonam Jn, Ariyalur, Avadi, Bommidi, Chengalpattu Jn, Chennai Beach, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinna Salem, Chrompet, Coimbatore Jn, Coimbatore North, Coonoor, Dharmapuri, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central, Erode Jn., Guduvancheri, Guindy, Gummidipundi, Hosur, Jolarpettai Jn, Kanniyakumari, Karaikkudi, Karur Jn., Katpadi, Kovilpatti, Kulitturai, Kumbakonam, Lalgudi, Madurai Jn, Mambalam, Manaparai, Mannargudi, Mayiladuturai Jn., Mettupalayam, Morappur, Nagercoil Jn., Namakkal, Palani, Paramakkudi, Perambur, Podanur Jn., Pollachi, Polur, Pudukkottai, Rajapalayam, Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram, Salem, Samalpatti, Sholavandan, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St.Thomas Mount, Tambaram, Tenkasi, Thanjavur Jn, Thiruvarur Jn., Tiruchendur, Tirunelveli Jn, Tirupadripuliyur, Tirupattur, Tiruppur, Tirusulam, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Udagamandalam, Vellore Cantt., Villupuram Jn., Virudhunagar, Vriddhachalam Jn., Dindigul, Tuticorin

Redevelopment works of Chennai Egmore, Rameswaram, Madurai, Katpadi and Kanyakumari stations have been sanctioned, tenders have been awarded and the works of these stations have already started

Further, development/redevelopment/upgradation of Railway Stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, airport clearance etc. The progress also gets affected due to brown field related challenges such as shifting of utilities, (involving water/sewage lines, optical fiber cables, gas pipe lines, power/signal cables etc.,) infringements, encroachments, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, speed restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of high voltage power lines etc .and these factors affect the completion time .Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as Indian Railways projects may span across various state boundaries. Various steps have been taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of rail projects. These includes:- (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units; (ii) prioritisation of projects; (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects; (iv) delegation of powers at field level; (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 Railways infrastructures projects (10 new line, 03 Gauge conversion and 09 doubling) of total length 2,587 Km, costing ₹ 33,467 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in different stages of planning/sanctioning/ execution, out of which 665 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 7,153 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. These include:-

- 10 New Line Projects of total length 872 Km, costing ₹ 14,669 crore, out of which 24 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 1,223 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.
- 03 Gauge Conversion Projects of total length 748 Km, costing ₹ 5,417 crore, out of which 604 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 3,267 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.
- 09 Doubling Projects of total length 967 Km, costing ₹ 13,381 crore, out of which 37 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 2,664 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are covered under Southern Railway (SR), South Central Railway (SCR) and South Western Railway (SWR) zone of Indian Railways. Zone-wise and Year-wise details of all Railway projects including latest sanctioned cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in fund allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects in State of Tamil Nadu as under:-

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹ 879 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹ 6,080 crore	6.92 times
2024-25	₹ 6,362 crore	7.23 times

In 2014-24, 1,302 Km section (39 Km New Line, 456 Km of Gauge Conversion and 807 km of Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State the Tamil Nadu have been commissioned at an average rate of 130.2 Km per year.

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but pace of execution of project is dependent on expeditious land acquisition. Railway acquires the land through State Government. State Government assesses the compensation amount and advises to Railway. On receipt of demand from State Government, Railway deposits compensation amount with concerned District Land acquisition Authority. Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 807 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 2749 Ha. Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects. Support of the Government of Tamil Nadu is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

As the Railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. As on 19th July, 2024, 102 Vande Bharat train services are operating across the Indian Railways including 12 Vande Bharat trains, serving the stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides, introduction of Vande Bharat services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, resource availability, etc.
