

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 206
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOURTH RAILWAY TERMINAL IN CHENNAI

*206 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to establish a fourth railway terminal in Chennai to ease rail service and also to increase number of train services to and from Chennai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the paucity of platforms at both Chennai Central and Egmore Railway Stations hampers more train services to and from Chennai; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase train services to and from Chennai?

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 STARRED QUESTION NO. 206 BY DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.08.2024 REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF FOURTH RAILWAY TERMINAL IN CHENNAI

(a) to (d) Chennai is a very important city on Indian Railways (IR) network. Indian Railways is making continuous efforts to increase capacity of railway network in Chennai area by construction of new railway tracks, doubling/multitracking of existing sections, upgrading of stations, construction of RoBs/RUBs, introduction of modern coaches, introduction of new train services etc.

Further, a feasibility study has been taken up for establishment of a new coaching terminal at Perambur station.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 Railways infrastructure projects (10 new line, 03 gauge conversion and 09 doubling projects) of total length 2,587 km, costing ₹33,467 Cr, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu including the Chennai area, are in different stages of planning/sanctioning/ execution. Out of total, 665 km has been commissioned and ₹7,153 Cr expenditure has been incurred up to March 2024.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in the fund allocation for railway projects and commensurate commissioning in the State, which are indicated below -

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation in FY 09-14
2009-14	₹ 879 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹6,080 crore	more than 6 times
2024-25	₹ 6,362crore	more than 7 times

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but the 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 2,749 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.

Under the “Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”, 77 stations, including three major railway terminals in Chennai area viz. MGR Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore and Tambaram stations have been identified for upgradation/modernisation in the State of Tamil Nadu.

This scheme envisages development of stations with a long-term approach by improving amenities, 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. in local and regional flavour.

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 ballast-less tracks, ‘Roof Plazas’ as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

To order to improve mobility and safety of train operation and road-users, level crossing is eliminated by construction of Road-over-bridges (ROBs) and Road-under-bridges (RUBs). During 2014-24, 687 No. of ROBs/RUBs were constructed in Tamil Nadu including Chennai area. Presently, 239 No. of ROBs/RUBs are sanctioned in Tamil Nadu including Chennai area which are in various stages of planning and execution.

Introduction of new train is an ongoing process on Indian Railways, subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, land/spaces etc.

The details of train facilities available at MGR Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore and Tambaram stations are as under:

Name of terminal	No. of platforms	No. of pit lines	No. of stabling lines	Average No. of trains handled
MGR Chennai Central	12	18	08	158
Chennai Egmore	11	03	07	108
Tambaram	09	02	02	93
