

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2183
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

UPGRADATION OF EXISTING RAILWAY STATIONS

2183 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to upgrade the existing railway stations throughout the country to provide airport like facilities, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of railway stations identified to be upgraded as smart stations in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized to upgrade all such stations during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether Government has set up any target for the said redevelopment works; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) 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.

It 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, platform surfacing and cover over platform, 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 and creation of city centre at the station in the long term.

So far, 1337 stations have been identified under this scheme, out of which 77 stations are located in the state of Tamil Nadu. The names of stations identified for development under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu are as following:

State	No. of Amrit Stations	Names of Stations
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
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Out of 77 Amrit stations located in the state of Tamil Nadu, tenders for development works have been awarded for 71 stations and works have been taken up. The projects have exhibited good pace of execution. For example,

- At Rameshwaram station, MFC building and parcel office have been completed. Structural works of north side terminal building and substation have been completed and works of east side terminal building, arrival forecourt, platform improvement, etc. have been taken up.
- At Madurai station, structural works of east side multi-level two-wheeler parking and electric substation have been completed and works of east side terminal building, both sides multi-level car parking, air concourse, parcel Foot Over Bridge, subway, etc. have been taken up.
- At Chennai Egmore station, structural work of parcel building have been completed and works of both sides multi-level car parking, GI Road side terminal building, etc. have been taken up.
- At Samalpatti station, works of construction of new main terminal building and main entry side circulating area have been completed and works of second entry parking area, raising of platform, construction of compound wall, etc. have been taken up.
- At Karaikkudi Station, works of improvement of platform shelters, seating arrangement, parking area, construction of new porch, lifts and installation of coach indication boards have been completed. Structural works for waiting hall, entry and exit gates have been completed and works of circulating area, covered pathway, etc. have been taken up.
- At Ariyalur and Mannargudi stations, works of construction of new entry gates, entrance porch, improvement of circulating area with approach road, parking area, concourse area, booking counters, platform surface, waiting halls and platform shelters have been completed.

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, air-port clearance etc. The progress also gets affected

due to brownfield related challenges such as shifting of utilities, (involving water/sewage lines, optical fibre cables, gas pipe lines, power/signal cables etc.), infringements, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, speed restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of tracks and high voltage power lines, etc. and these factors affect the completion time. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations on Indian Railways is a continuous and ongoing process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. However, priority for upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations is accorded to higher category of station over lower category of station while sanctioning and executing the works.

Provision / upgradation of passenger amenities and development of stations including under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The details of allocation under Plan Head-53 are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not work-wise or Station-wise or State-wise. The state of Tamil Nadu is covered by two zones viz. Southern Railway and South Western Railway. During the last three financial years and in the current financial year, allocation of Rs 4,313 Crores has been made for these zones. Expenditure of Rs 2,506 Crores has been incurred during the last three financial years and in the current financial year i.e. 2024-25 (up to October, 2024) for these zones.
