

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.33
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024**

RAILWAY PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

***33. SHRI SELVAM G:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified any railway projects in Tamil Nadu that are currently running behind schedule;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken specific steps to ensure timely completion of railway projects in Tamil Nadu;**
- (d) whether the Government plans to accelerate the commissioning of pending projects to improve connectivity and operational efficiency across the State; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 BY SHRI SELVAM G TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2024 REGARDING RAILWAY PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

(a) to (e): Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as Indian Railways projects may span across various state boundaries.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 Railways 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.**

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Railway 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.

Railway is making all efforts to complete the Railway projects in targeted time. 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.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in Budget allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects. Budget allocation for infrastructure and safety projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Tamil Nadu has been enhanced to highest at ₹6,362 crore this year which is nearly seven times of the budget allocation of ₹922 crore in 2013-14.

Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and safety works, falling fully/ partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:-

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹879 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹6,080 crore	nearly 7 times

In 2014-24, 1302 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.

Execution of following projects, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are pending mainly due to delay in handing over of land by State Government of Tamil Nadu:-

SN	Name of Project	Length
1.	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari doubling	87 Km
2.	Tindivanam – Nagari New line	184 Km
3.	Morappur – Dharmapuri New Line	36 Km

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land execution by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of State share by state Government in cost sharing projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) 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(s). As such no confirm time-line for completion of the project(s) can be given.
