

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5554
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022**

NEW PAMBAN BRIDGE

5554. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Bridge at Pamban in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu is malfunctioning quite often resulting in frequent suspension of freight and passenger traffic to Rameswaram;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of occasions wherein train services were suspended during the last three years, year-wise and the amount incurred on its maintenance and the loss incurred by the Railways as a result of frequent stoppage of services;**
- (c) whether the construction of the new Pamban Bridge has been unduly delayed;**
- (d) if so, the details along with the features thereof and the estimated cost of the project; and**
- (e) the time by which the new Pamban Bridge is likely to be made operational?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5554 BY SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR (ALIAS) VIJAY VASANTH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.04.2022 REGARDING NEW PAMBAN BRIDGE

(a) & (b): In order to undertake major repair works on navigation span (Scherzer Span), the train traffic on Pamban Bridge was suspended on 03 occasions. The existing Pamban Bridge No. 346 was commissioned during the year 1914 and presently the steel structure of bridge has been in corroded condition. During the traffic suspension period, repair works were carried out to ensure safety of train traffic.

For the repairs carried out on these three occasions, total amount of ₹ 3.61 crore has been spent towards repairing/maintenance work of bridge. Railway has refunded total amount of ₹ 1.09 crore on account of cancellation of train tickets and for making the arrangement for transportation of passengers from Mandapam to Rameswaram Railway Station due to cancellation/short termination of train services.

(c) & (d): The work for construction of New Pamban Bridge is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). There has been slight delay in completion of work for construction of New Pamban Bridge due to COVID-19 pandemic causing considerable number of workers getting infected and entire bridge construction site declared as Containment Zone by the District Administration. Oxygen supply was diverted to Hospitals due to pandemic and thus the supply of industrial Oxygen to bridge construction site was disrupted. The progress of work depends upon weather and sea conditions as the bridge spans across sea.

Latest anticipated cost of the bridge is ₹ 380 crore.

(e): The New Pamban Bridge is likely to be made operational in 2022-23.
