

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 325
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

EXPANSION OF RAIL NETWORK IN SOUTHERN RAILWAY

***325. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:
SHRI SELVAM G:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for the expansion of the rail network;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, State/UT-wise;**
- (c) the action taken/planned by the Government on these proposals;**
- (d) the details of proposals for expanding the rail network across the country including new routes planned or under consideration;**
- (e) the criteria used by the Government to identify areas or routes for rail network expansion and to address the regional connectivity gaps in the process;**
- (f) whether there is any plan to extend rail connectivity to rural and remote areas that currently lack access in the State of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to expand the rail network in Southern Railways?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 325 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024

(a) to (g): Proposals/requests/suggestions/representations, both formal and informal for Railway projects/Works are received on the basis of demands raised by State Governments, Members of Parliament, Ministries of Central Government, elected representatives, Railways' own requirements, organizations/rail users etc. at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/complaints/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, these are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time.

Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations, regional connectivity gaps etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds. Sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stake-holders including State Governments and necessary approvals viz. appraisal of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance etc.

As on 01.04.2024, across Indian Railways, 488 Railway infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. Rs.7.44 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. Rs.2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (in Km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (in Km)	Total Exp upto Mar'24 (Rs. in Cr)
New Lines	187	20,199	2,855	1,60,022
Gauge Conversion	40	4,719	2,972	18,706
Doubling / Multitracking	261	19,570	6,218	1,13,742
Total	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

The details of commissioning/laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below:-

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-24	31,180 Km	8.54 Km/day (more than 2 times)

Zone-wise/year-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

During the last 05 years i.e. FY 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and in current FY 2024-25, 232 projects (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) of total length 9,430 Km costing approx. Rs.1,71,646 Crore have been sanctioned across Indian Railways. Furthermore, during this period, 991 surveys (307 New Line, 15 Gauge Conversion & 669 Doubling) of total length 64,928 Km have been sanctioned.

The launch of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) has brought transformative approach in planning and execution of infrastructural transportation projects. The NMP, spanning across the entire country has brought in synergy between the infrastructural sectors such as railways, shipping, roadways, telecommunications, pipelines, etc. through collaboration amongst concerned Ministries/State Governments/Departments, speeding up the clearances needed for the project completion as well as planning at a faster pace.

Indian Railways has imbibed the principles of Gati Shakti in its project planning process and now survey of all New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects are taken up under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) for the development of multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Economic Zones with an objective to have integrated planning, enhanced logistics efficiency and remove gaps for seamless movement of people, goods/ commodities i.e. agricultural products, fertilizers, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc. and services including connectivity to places

of strategic importance, border areas, industrial clusters, ports, mines, power plants, villages etc.

Tamil Nadu

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) zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 Railways projects (10 new line, 03 Gauge conversion and 09 doubling) of total length 2,587 Km, costing Rs. 33,467 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 665 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs. 7,153 crore has been incurred upto March' 2024. The status of work is summarized as under:-

Plan Head	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (Rs. in Cr.)
New Line	10	872	24	1223
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3267
Doubling /Multitracking	9	967	37	2663
Total	22	2587	665	7153

Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	Rs.879 crore/year
2024-25	Rs.6,362 crore (more than 7 times)

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 and the completion of a railway project is dependent on land acquisition. However, execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Tamil Nadu	3389 Ha
Land Acquired	866 Ha (26%)
Balance Land to be acquired	2523 Ha (74%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Tamil Nadu. For instance, details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

SN	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)
1.	Tindivanam –Tiruvannamalai New line (71 km)	273	33	240
2.	Attiputtu – Puttur New Line (88 km)	189	0	189
3.	Morappur – Dharmapuri (36 km)	93	0	93
4.	Mannargudi – Pattukkottai (41 km)	152	0	152
5.	Thanjavur – Pattukottai (52 Km)	196	0	196

During last five years i.e. FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-2022, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and current Financial Year 2024-25, total 04 projects (01 New Line and 03 Doubling) of a total length of 75 Km, costing Rs.932 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned. These projects will inter-alia enhance connectivity to remote and rural areas.

Survey of total 26 projects (04 New Line & 22 Doubling) of total length 2252 km falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned during last five years i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and current Financial Year 2024-25.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of 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.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (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. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.
