

Regarding need to review the decision to grant approval to Madurai and Coimbatore Metro Rail Projects in Tamil Nadu-Laid

DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P. (COIMBATORE): The Tamil Nadu Government has submitted a detailed project report through Chennai Metro Rail Corporation in February, 2014 to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of metro rail projects 'Temple City' Madurai and 'Manchester of South India Coimbatore. In Madurai, it has been decided to implement a distance of 31.93 km between Thirumangalam Othakadai at a cost of Rs 11,360 crore and in Coimbatore, from Avinashi Road to Karumathampatti, and from Ukkadam to Valiyampalayam section on Sathyamangalam Road, for a distance of 39 km, at a cost of Rs 10,740 crore. Hoping to receive the Central Government's approval soon, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank officials have completed the survey in Madurai and Coimbatore for speedy implementation of metro rail projects in these cities Later, as requested by the Union Government a revised report with additional documents was also submitted by the Tamil Nadu Government 10 months ago. In this situation, the Union Ministry has returned the project reports of the above two metro rail projects to the Tamil Nadu government citing not enough population as per the 2011 census, and according to the 2017 rules, the metro rail project will be implemented only in cities with a population of more than 20 lakhs. It is pertinent to mention here that the Central Government has given approval for metro rail projects in cities including Kanpur and Agra in Uttar Pradesh and Nagpur in Maharashtra, which have a population of less than 2 million, but has denied it to Tamil Nadu, Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to reconsider the decision and grant approval at the earliest as approved for Kanpur, Agra and Nagpur to implement the metro rail projects in Temple City Madurai and 'Manchester of South India' Coimbatore which is essential for future development to Madurai and Coimbatore.