

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1400**  
**ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021**

**SURVEY FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY LINE**

1400. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted for East Coast railway line connecting Chennai to Kanyakumari;
- (b) if so, the amount allocated and the time-frame for completion of the project;
- (c) whether there are many long pending projects, especially in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame for completion of the projects?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1400 BY SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 12.02.2021 REGARDING SURVEY FOR EAST COAST RAILWAY LINE**

(a): Chennai to Kanniyakumari is already connected via Madurai on Broad Gauge rail network. Chennai to Madurai is double line Broad Gauge route and from Madurai to Kanniyakumari, doubling work has been taken up. In addition, along the east coast, one new line work from Chennai to Cuddalore has been taken up. Broad Gauge rail line from Cuddalore to Karaikudi already exists along the east coast. Survey for new line from Karaikudi to Tutikorin via Ramanathapuram (215 km) was completed in 2011-12 but project could not be taken forward being financially unviable. Presently, there is no proposal for any new line from Karaikudi to Kanniyakumari along the east coast.

(b): The details of all ongoing projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) >Ministry of Railways >Railway Board >About Indian Railways >Railway Board Directorates >Finance (Budget)> Rail Budget/Pink Book (year)>Railway-wise Works Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

(c) and (d): Railway projects are sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise, as Indian Railway's network spans across various State boundaries. As on 01.04.2020, total 27 projects (09 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 14 Doublings), covering a length of 3,128 Km, costing ₹30,961 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in different stages of planning/sanctioning/execution, out of which commissioning of 706 Km length has been done and an expenditure of ₹30,961 crore has been incurred upto March, 2020. These include:-

- (i) 09 New Line projects of total length 871 Km, costing ₹11,988 crore and an expenditure of ₹509 crore has been incurred upto March, 2020.
- (ii) 04 Gauge Conversion projects of total length 839 Km, costing ₹4,799 crore, out of which commissioning of 583 Km length has been achieved and an expenditure of ₹2,714 crore has been incurred upto March, 2020.
- (iii) 14 Doubling projects of total length 1,418 Km, costing ₹14,174 crore, out of which commissioning of 123 Km length has been done and an expenditure of ₹2,686 crore has been incurred upto March, 2020.

The completion of Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors vary from project to project and site to site and affect the completion time of the project.

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