

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 285
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2023

RAMESWARAM-DHANUSHKODI RAIL LINE PROJECT

285 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) details of the steps taken in pursuance of the Rameswaram-Dhanushkodi rail line project, year-wise;
- (b) details of the funds released for the project, year-wise;
- (c) whether land acquiring process for the project is completed, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) expected revenue and the projected time-frame to recover the cost of the project; and
- (e) steps taken by Government to improve railway connectivity during the last five years?

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. 285 BY SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 21.07.2023 REGARDING RAMESWARAM-DHANUSHKODI RAIL LINE PROJECT

(a) to (e) Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi New BG line (17.2 Km) was included in Pink Book 2018-19 under Umbrella Work of New line at a cost of ₹208.30 crore on socio-economic ground. Latest sanctioned cost of the project is ₹733.91crore. An outlay of ₹385.90 crore has been provided for Financial Year 2023-24.

Land acquisition process was initiated in 2021-22. Government of Tamil Nadu vide letter dated 21.04.2023 has submitted that the project region is ecologically very sensitive and requested to drop this project.

For improving the Railway connectivity, total 221 Km sections of various Railway projects has been commissioned in Tamil Nadu during the last 5 years.

During 2014-23, 1227 Km sections (18 Km New Line, 456 Km of Gauge conversion and 753 Km of Doubling projects) falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been commissioned at an average rate 136.33 Km per year.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget outlay for infrastructure projects and safety works and commensurate commissioning. Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and Safety works, falling fully/ partly in State of Tamil Nadu, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹1,979 crore per year from ₹879 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 125% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14. Annual budget allocation for these projects has been increased to ₹2,410 crore for financial year 2019-20 (174% more than average annual allocation of 2009-14), ₹2,812 crore for financial year 2020-21 (220% more than average annual budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹3,730 crore for financial year 2021-22, (324% more than average annual budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹3,865 crore in Financial year 2022 - 23 (340% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14). For Financial Year 2023-24, the highest ever budget outlay of ₹6,080 crore has been provided for these projects, which is 592% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14.
