

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.03
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE IN TAMIL NADU

*3. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether income through Southern Railway is being pooled back to Railway projects in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government plans for construction of new Road Over Bridges (ROB), Rail Under-Bridges (RUB), Foot Over Bridges (FOB), Escalators and other infrastructure facilities like installation of CCTVs and Digital Rail Information displays, Multi-level Parking facilities in Tamil Nadu and if so, details thereof and the total amount allocated and disbursed for the same;
- (c) whether Government has identified railway infrastructure needs of Tamil Nadu, and if so details thereof, Railway Division-wise; and
- (d) the total funds earmarked for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 03 BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 02.02.2024 REGARDING RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE IN TAMIL NADU

(a) In 2022-23, total revenue generated by Southern Railway (SR) was ₹ 9,966.69 cr. against expenditure of ₹ 15,345.69 cr., implying thereby that Ministry of Railways has supported SR's additional expenditure over its revenue by ₹ 5,379 cr. Additionally, SR's net Capital expenditure in 2022-23 from Gross Budgetary Support etc. for creation of assets like New lines, Doubling, Electrification, Station Development, Customer Amenities and other developmental works was ₹ 7,526.84 cr.

(b) to (d) Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands. Sanction of Railway infrastructure projects in areas which are not connected by Railway network including coal connectivity projects is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways. The Railway Infrastructure projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway wise and not State wise/UT wise as the Railways' projects may span across various state boundaries.

Budget allocation for Infrastructure and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu has been increased to ₹ 6,080 crore this year which is nearly seven times of the average budget allocation of ₹ 879 crore from 2009-14.

Tamil Nadu state is covered by Southern Railway (SR), South Central Railway (SCR) and South Western Railway (SWR). As on 01.04.23, 23 projects (09 new line, 03 Gauge conversion and 11 doubling) of total length of 2,848 Km and costing ₹ 35,580 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are at planning/approval/construction stage. These include: -

- I. 9 New Line projects covering total length of 871 km at a cost of ₹ 14,682 crore.
- II. 3 Gauge Conversion projects covering total length of 748 km at a cost of ₹ 5,224 crore
- III. 11 Doubling projects covering total length of 1,229 km at a cost of ₹ 15,674 crore.

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. State Government assesses the compensation amount and advises to Railway. On receipt of demand from State Government, Railway deposits compensation amount with concerned District Land Acquisition Authority. Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 624 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 1832 Ha. Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects.

Augmentation of Passenger Amenities at Railway stations is a continuous process. Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station scheme' for development of Stations on Indian Railways. So far, 1318 number of railway stations including 77 railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu have been identified for development/redevelopment under this scheme.

This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each such station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast less tracks, 'Roof Plazas' as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term. In addition to the above, since 01.04.2014 (till December 2023), 542 Road Under Bridges (RUBs) and 134 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) have been completed in Tamil Nadu. Further, a total of 129 ROBs and 100 RUBs are under planning/execution stage.
