

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2339
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2025

CHENNAI TO CUDDALORE RAIL PROJECT

2339 DR. M. DHANAPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the project of Chennai to Cuddalore via East Coast Road Railway line in the State of Tamil Nadu is still pending, despite land acquisition and preliminary work completed in 2013; and
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has prepared any revised timeline or any action plan for expediting the said project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): Chennai - Cuddalore via Mamallapuram, Marakanam, Puducherry (179 Km) new line project was included in Budget 2008-09. Government of Puducherry had requested for change in alignment towards Northern and Southern side of Villupuram - Puducherry existing line as well as doubling of track between Puducherry and Cuddalore. State Government was requested to bear additional Cost due to above revision in alignment and doubling of tracks. However, the State Govt. has shown their inability to bear additional cost of the project.

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Tamil Nadu

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹879 crore/year
2025-26	₹ 6,626 crore (more than 7.5 times)

As on 01.04.2025, 15 projects (9 new line, 03 gauge conversion and 03 doubling) of 1,700 km length, costing ₹22,808 Crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu, are sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of sanctioned projects	Total Length (in km)	Length Commissioned upto Mar'25 (in km)	Expenditure upto Mar' 25 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	9	812	24	1,337
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3,471
Doubling /Multitracking	3	140	37	2,783
Total	15	1,700	665	7,591

Details of some of the recently completed projects falling fully/partly in Tamil Nadu are as under:

S.N	Project	Cost (₹in Crores)
1	Dindigal-Palani-Pollachi gauge conversion (121 km)	610
2	Pollachi-Palghat gauge conversion (56 km)	350
3	Pollachi-Podhanur gauge conversion (40 km)	400
4	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur gauge conversion (357 km)	1,122
5	Mayiladuturai-Thiruvarur-Karaikkudi gauge conversion (187 km)	1,338
6	Madurai-Bodiyakannur gauge conversion (90 km)	593
7	Chengalpattu-Villupuram doubling (102 km)	670
8	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (27 km)	83
9	Chennai Central-Basin Bridge doubling (2 km)	31
10	Thanjavur-Ponmalai doubling (48 km)	370
11	Villupuram-Dindigul doubling (273 km)	2,000
12	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (5 km)	168

13	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22 km)	293
14	Omalur-Metturdam Patch doubling (29 km)	327
15	Chengalpattu-Villupuram and Tambaram-Chengalpattu-3rd line (133 km)	1,122
16	Salem-Magnesite Junction-Omalur doubling (11 km)	115
17	Madurai- Maniyachi-Tuticorin doubling (160 km)	1,891
18	Maniyachi-Nagercoil doubling (102 km)	1,752
19	Chennai Beach-Chennai Egmore doubling (4 km)	272
20	Karaikal-Peralam new line (23 km)	373
21	Northern End Port connectivity to Karaikal Port (1 km)	18

Some of the projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu which have been taken up are as under :

S.N	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1	Tindivanam-Nagari new line (184 km)	3,631
2	Morappur-Dharmapuri new line (36 km)	359
3	Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi new line (43 km)	742
4	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari doubling (87 km)	3,785
5	Arakkonam yard 3rd & 4th line (6 km)	98

In last three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and current financial year 2025-26, 28 surveys (05 new line and 23 doubling) covering a total length of 2,493 km has been sanctioned falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu.

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 Tamil Nadu is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Tamil Nadu	4,326 ha
Land Acquired	1,052 ha (24%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3,274 ha (76%)

Support of the Government of Tamil Nadu is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

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)	276	33	243
2.	Attiputtu-Puttur new line (88 km)	189	0	189
3.	Morappur-Dharmapuri new line (36 km)	92	45	47
4.	Mannargudi-Pattukkottai new line (41 km)	196	0	196
5.	Thanjavur-Pattukkottai new line (52 km)	152	0	152

Further, Rameshwaram – Dhanushkodi new line (18 km) was sanctioned at a cost of ₹734 Cr. The Foundation Stone of the project was laid on 01.03.2019. However, the project could not be started because the land acquisition has not been undertaken by the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Sanction of any railway project depend upon many parameters/factors which include the following:

- Anticipated traffic projections and remunerativeness of the proposed route
- First and last mile connectivity provided by the project
- Connection of missing links and providing additional route
- Augmentation of congested/saturated lines
- Demands raised by State Governments/Central Ministries/Public representatives,
- Railway's operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds

Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors which include the following:

- Land acquisition by State Government
- Forest clearance
- 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 etc.

All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project/s.
