

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 771
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025

**RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY FOR TOURIST AND CULTURAL AREAS IN TAMIL
NADU**

771 SHRI I.S. INBADURAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has examined improving connectivity to Tamil Nadu's tourist and cultural centres, including establishing a new railway line via Tisayanvilai and reviving the old station to link Kanyakumari, Tiruchendur and Rameswaram;
- (b) whether new train services are being planned between Chennai, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari to address the absence of direct links to Tiruchendur and Rameswaram;
- (c) whether funds have been allocated for capacity enhancement on these key tourism corridors; and
- (d) whether the Ministry will assess the revival of the pre-independence Tisayanvilai route and its commercial viability for improving regional connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): The Kulasekharapatnam Light Railway (private narrow gauge railway), in Tisayanvilai-Kulasekharapatnam-Tiruchendur (43 km) section, had been operational till 1940 on private land. Thereafter, it was closed.

Kanniyakumari is connected to Tiruchendur with existing railway network via Nagercoil. Further, Tiruchendur is connected to Rameswaram with existing railway network via Tirunelveli and Madurai.

To augment the connectivity to tourist & cultural centers in Tamil Nadu, following works/survey have been completed/taken up:-

S.N	Project	Cost	Status
1	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur Gauge Conversion (357 Km)	₹ 1,122 Cr.	Project Completed
2	Madurai-Maniyachi-Tuticorin Doubling (160 Km)	₹ 1,891 Cr.	Project Completed
3	Maniyachi-Nagercoil Doubling (102 Km)	₹ 1,752 Cr.	Project Completed
4	Manmadurai-Rameshwaram – Reconstruction of Pamban bridge	₹ 705 Cr.	Project Completed
5	Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari Doubling (87 Km)	₹ 3,785 Cr.	Works Taken up
6	Tambaram-Chengalpattu 4th line (30 Km)	-	Recently Sanctioned
7	Attipattu-Minjur- Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line (23 Km)	-	Recently Sanctioned
8	Thanjavur-Nidamangalam-Thiruvarur-Karaikal Doubling (96 Km)	-	DPR prepared
9	Tiruchchirappalli-Karur Doubling (76 Km)	-	DPR prepared
10	Sriperumbudur–Guduvancheri-Irungattukottai new line (34 Km)	-	DPR prepared
11	Salem-Karur-Dindigul Doubling (160 Km)	-	DPR prepared
12	Arakkonam-Renigunta 3rd & 4th line (77 Km)	-	DPR prepared
13	Sullurupeta-Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line (90 Km)	-	DPR prepared
14	Trivandrum-Nagercoil 3rd Line (71 Km)	-	Survey sanctioned
15	Arakkonam-Jolarpettai 3rd& 4th line (282 Km)	-	Survey sanctioned
16	Jolarpettai-Coimbatore–Podanur 3rd& 4th line (145 Km)	-	Survey sanctioned

Introduction of train services on any route/section depends on various factors which include:

- Capacity of that section,
- Availability of path,
- Availability of required rolling stock,
- Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock,
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets

Chennai and Tirunelveli is connected to Kanniyakumari via Madurai by 11 pairs of train services including 20627/20628 Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express introduced w.e.f 31.08.2024. Further, Madurai-Rameswaram and Tirunelveli -Tiruchendur sectors each are served by 7 pairs of train services.

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 ₹22,808Crore, 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	Mayiladuturai-Thiruvavur-Karaikkudi Gauge Conversion (187 Km)	1,338
5	Madurai-Bodiyakannur Gauge Conversion (90 Km)	593
6	Chengalpattu-Villupuram Doubling (102 Km)	670
7	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (27 Km)	83
8	Chennai Central-Basin Bridge Doubling (2 Km)	31
9	Thanjavur-Ponmalai Doubling (48 Km)	370
10	Villupuram-Dindigul Doubling (273 Km)	2,000
11	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (5 Km)	168
12	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22 Km)	293
13	Omalur-Metturdam Patch Doubling (29 Km)	327
14	Chengalpattu-Villupuram and Tambaram-Chengalpattu-3rd line (133 Km)	1,122

15	Salem-Magnesite Junction-Omalur Doubling (11 Km)	115
16	Chennai Beach-Chennai Egmore Doubling (4 Km)	272
17	Karaikal-Peralam New line (23 Km)	373
18	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	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-Pattukottai 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 own operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds
- Connectivity to tourist and cultural centres

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.
