

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1562
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026

**IDENTIFYING NEW RAILWAY NETWORKS TO CONNECT RURAL AREAS IN TAMIL
NADU**

1562 SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to identify and develop new railway lines to connect rural areas in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof and criteria adopted for selection of such routes;
- (b) whether surveys have been conducted to identify unconnected rural regions in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof and findings regarding feasibility of new railway network expansion; and
- (c) whether Government has received proposals from State authorities for new railway lines in rural Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof and status of approvals and implementation?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c):

Tamil Nadu:

Railway Budget:

Budget allocation in 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
2026-27	₹ 7,611 crore (more than 8 times)

Track Construction:

The details of constructing new track falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu including those connecting rural areas are as under:

Period	New track Commissioned
2009-14	923 Km
2014-26	1,356 Km

Projects sanctioned:

As on 01.04.2026, 19 projects (08 new line, 03 gauge conversion and 08 doubling) of total length of 1,874 km, costing ₹27,282 Crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned.

The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned upto March, 2026 (in Km)	Total Exp. upto March, 2026 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	8	811	24	1,514
Gauge Conversion	3	748	631	3,605
Doubling /Multitracking	8	314	54	3,693
Total	19	1,874	709	8,811

Recently Completed Projects:

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

S.N.	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1	Dindigul- Pollachi gauge conversion (121 km)	610
2	Pollachi-Palghat gauge conversion (56 km)	350
3	Pollachi-Podhanur gauge conversion (40 km)	400
4	Quilon- Tiruchendur gauge conversion (357 km)	1,122
5	Mayiladuturai - 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	Thanjavur-Ponmalai doubling (48 km)	370
10	Villupuram-Dindigul doubling (273 km)	2,000
11	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22 km)	293
12	Omalur-Metturdam Patch doubling (29 km)	327
13	Chengalpattu - Villupuram and Tambaram -Chengalpattu-3rd line (133 km)	1,122
14	Salem- Omalur doubling (11 km)	115
15	Madurai- Tuticorin doubling (160 km)	1,891
16	Maniyachi-Nagercoil doubling (102 km)	1,752
17	Chennai Beach-Chennai Egmore doubling (4 km)	272

Ongoing Projects:

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

S.N.	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
2	Morappur-Dharmapuri new line (36 km)	359
3	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari doubling (87 km)	4,494
4	Irugur-Podanur doubling (11 km)	277
5	Tambaram-Chengalpattu 4th line (30 km)	757
6	Attipattu-Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line (23 km)	365
7	Tirupati- Katpadi doubling (105 km)	1,216
8	Tindivanam- Tiruvannamalai new line (71 km)	1,400
9	Atipattu – Puttur new line (88 km)	1,700
10	Chennai – Cuddalore new line (179 km)	2,670
11	Baiyapannahalli to Hosur doubling (48 km)	1,160
12	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu doubling (68 km)	993
13	Erode- Karur doubling (67 km)	986

In last three years i.e. 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and current financial year 2026-27, 29 surveys (04 new line and 25 doubling) covering a total length of 3,517 km falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu has been sanctioned.

Moreover, to improve further connectivity in the State of Tamil Nadu following major surveys have been taken up:-

S. No.	Project	Length (in Km)
1	Tindivanam-Sedarapet New Line	38
2	Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli-Nagercoil 3rd & 4th line	565
3	Arakkonam-Jolarpettai 3rd & 4th Line	407
4	Coimbatore-Shoranur 3rd & 4th Line	99
5	Jolarpettai-Coimbatore 3rd & 4th Line	282
6	Thanjavur-Thiruvavur - Karaikal doubling	96
7	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu Doubling	68
8	Villupuram-Mayiladuthurai-Thanjavur Doubling	193
9	Arakkonam-Renigunta 3rd & 4th Line	77
10	Gummidipoondi-Sullurupeta 3rd & 4th Line	90
11	Bangarpete - Jolarpettai 3rd & 4th Line	73
12	Ariyalur-Namakkal via Perambalur New Line	116

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	4,612 ha
Land Acquired	1,178 ha (26%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3,434 ha (74%)

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)	93	47	46
4.	Mannargudi-Pattukkottai new line (41 km)	204	0	204
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 depends 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

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.
