

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1727  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023**

**TRACK EXPANSION**

**1727. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the new projects proposed or underway for track expansion in Tamil Nadu and the details of funds allocated, scope of work and timelines for the various projects;**
- (b) the manner in which the doubling of tracks on the Chengalpattu-Arakkonam section is likely to impact existing suburban train services, especially beyond Thirumalpur;**
- (c) whether there are any plans to enhance suburban passenger services in the light of these track-doubling projects and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether track-doubling projects align with the broader vision and future plans of the Railways for the Southern Railway region;**
- (e) if so, whether there are considerations for seamless integration with other ongoing or upcoming railway projects in the vicinity; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1727 BY SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.12.2023 REGARDING TRACK EXPANSION**

**(a): Railway projects are sanctioned and taken up Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as the Indian Railway's projects may span across various State boundaries. Survey of total 20 projects (04 new line and 16 doubling) of total length 1803 Km falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned during last three year (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and current Financial Years 2023-24).**

**Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are covered under Southern Railway (SR), South Central Railway (SCR) and South Western Railway (SWR) zone of Indian Railways.**

**Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in Budget allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects. Budget allocation for infrastructure and safety projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Tamil Nadu has been enhanced to highest at ₹6,080 crore in current financial year (2023-24), which is nearly seven times of the budget allocation of ₹922 crore in 2013-14.**

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

**As on 01.04.23, 23 projects (09 new line, 03 Gauge conversion and 11 doubling) of total length 2,848 Km costing ₹35,580 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in planning/approval/construction stage. Out of which, 839 km length has been commissioned. These include:-**

- 9 New Line projects covering total length of 871 km at a cost of ₹14,682 crore, out of which 18 km length has been commissioned.**
- 3 Gauge Conversion projects covering total length of 748 km at a cost of ₹5,224 crore, out of which 583 km length has been commissioned.**
- 11 Doubling projects covering total length of 1,229 km at a cost of ₹15,674 crore, out of which 238 km length has been commissioned.**

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

**The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, 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 due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project. With above constraints, every effort is being made to execute the project(s) expeditiously.**

**(b) to (f): Survey of Chengalpattu – Arakkonam doubling (68 Km) work has been sanctioned. Doubling enhances throughput of the section and it is as per the broader plan of Indian Railways to enhance railway network capacity in high traffic areas.**

**Introduction of trains including EMU services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic pattern, availability of resources etc.**

**All projects are planned with careful consideration of the comprehensive development requirements of the region. Additionally, there is careful planning for smooth integration with nearby ongoing or upcoming railway projects.**