

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 641
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023**

MADURAI-THOOTHUKUDI RAILWAY LINE

641. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Southern Railways had recommended the freezing of the Madurai-Thoothukudi 143.5 Km railway line project;**
- (b) if so, the reasons for freezing the project, if any;**
- (c) the time by which this project is likely to be resumed;**
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilised for this project; and**
- (e) the progress that has been made in this project till now?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 641 BY SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.12.2023 REGARDING MADURAI-THOOTHUKUDI RAILWAY LINE

(a) to (e): No proposal for freezing new line project between Madurai and Thoothukodi via Aruppukottai (143 Km) is under consideration in Railway. Madurai is already connected with Thoothukodi (Tuticorin) via Virudunagar and Vanchi Maniyachchi. The project for connecting Madurai and Thoothukodi via Aruppukottai is under progress. Milavittan – Melamarudur (18 Km) section has been commissioned in March, 2022. The detailed estimate for the remaining stretch from Melmarudur to Madurai via Aruppukottai is under preparation. Approximately 870.98 Ha. land is required, out of which 74.87 Ha land has been acquired. Land acquisition is in progress.

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) 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(s).

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 in Tamil Nadu has been enhanced to highest at ₹6,080 crore this year which is nearly seven times of the budget allocation of ₹922 crore in 2013-14.

Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and safety works, falling fully/ partly in State of Tamil Nadu, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹1,979 crore per year which is 125% more than average annual budget outlay of ₹879 crore per year during 2009-14. These allocations have been increased to ₹2,410 crore for Financial Year 2019-20 (174% more than average annual allocation of 2009-14), ₹2,812 crore for Financial Year 2020-21 (220% more than average annual budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹3,730 crore for Financial Year 2021-22 (324% more than average annual allocation of 2009-14) and ₹3,865 in FY 2022-23 (340% more than average annual allocation of 2009-14). For FY 2023-24, highest ever Budget Outlay ₹6,080 crore has been provided for these works, which is 559% more than allocation of 2013-14 (₹922 crore).
