

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4403
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022**

INTRODUCING HIGH SPEED BULLET TRAINS

4403. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plans to introduce high-speed bullet trains between the IT power centers of India-Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad and if so, the detail thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry also has plans and proposals to enhance rail connectivity between the aforesaid locations and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the stations in Tamil Nadu have Wi-fi amenities and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the stations in Tamil Nadu have implemented any thermal screening and contactless payment solutions and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a): At present, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project is the only sanctioned project of High Speed Rail in India which is under execution with technical and financial assistance from Govt. of Japan.

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Further, the Ministry of Railways has undertaken the work for the survey/Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the following seven High Speed Rail (HSR) Corridor/Project:

- **Delhi - Varanasi**
- **Delhi - Ahmedabad**
- **Delhi - Amritsar**
- **Mumbai - Nagpur**
- **Mumbai - Pune - Hyderabad**
- **Chennai - Bangalore - Mysore**
- **Varanasi - Howrah**

Being highly capital intensive projects, the decision to sanction any HSR Corridor/Project depends on many factors such as outcome of DPR, techno-economic feasibility, availability of resources and financing options.

(b): Introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways, subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of resources, etc. Works of doubling on certain patches connecting Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad are under various stages of execution.

(c): Yes, Sir. Wi-fi amenities have been provided in total 416 stations in the State of Tamil Nadu (403 in Southern Railway and 13 in South Western Railway).

(d): Yes, Sir. On account of the pandemic situation prevalent in the country all major stations where mail/ express having stoppages are provided with equipment for thermal screening of passengers willing to gain entry into the platforms.

Thermal Scanners at 25 Stations under Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu have been provided. The details are as under:-

1. **Chennai Division - 7**
2. **Tiruchchirappalli Division - 1**
3. **Madurai Division - 11**

- 4. Salem Division - 5**
- 5. Trivandrum Division - 1**

Presently, due to relaxation in the covid protocol, this facility has been withdrawn.

As regard to contactless payment, the following options are provided for contactless payment solutions over this Railway viz,:

- 1. Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on Mobile application.**
- 2. Automatic Ticket Vending Machine (ATVM) (QR code based payment)**
- 3. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment at Passenger Reservation System (PRS)/UTS counters.**
- 4. Online tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).**
- 5. Digital payment option using Point of Sale (POS) machine is also implemented.**

ATVMs at 44 Stations under Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu have been provided. The details are as under:-

- 1. Chennai Division - 19**
- 2. Tiruchchirappalli Division - 5**
- 3. Madurai Division - 14**
- 4. Salem Division - 6**
