

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.121
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024**

NEW TRAIN SERVICES AND STATION DEVELOPMENT

***121. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals submitted for introduction of new train services connecting various routes via Visakhapatnam including specifics such as origin and destination stations, scheduled timings, and the current status of each proposal;**
- (b) the details of proposals submitted specifically for new train services originating from Visakhapatnam to other destinations along with the status of each proposal and any anticipated timelines for approval or implementation;**
- (c) whether any proposals have been submitted to increase the number of train stoppages at stations within Visakhapatnam district, including requests for Vande Bharat train halts;**
- (d) if so, the status of each proposal, train-wise and reasons for any delays in approval; and**
- (e) the current status of development projects at Duvvada and Vishakhapatnam railway station including details on approved projects, funds allocated and released, as well as the progress achieved under each project?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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 STARRED QUESTION NO.121 BY SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.12.2024 REGARDING NEW TRAIN SERVICES AND STATION DEVELOPMENT

(a) to (e) Receipt of Proposals from Zonal Railways, inter alia, pertaining to introduction of new trains and provision of stoppages of train services, including Vande Bharat services, their examination and decision(s) of the Competent Authority thereon is an ongoing process. Accordingly, during 2023-2024, to cater to the need of passengers of Visakhapatnam area, the following 04 pairs of Vande Bharat services, namely 20833/20834 Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express (w.e.f. 26.11.2023), 20841/20842 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (w.e.f. 17.03.2024), 20707/20708 Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (w.e.f. 25.08.2024), and 20829/20830 Durg-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express (w.e.f. 20.09.2024), have been introduced. Further, Amrit Bharat Express, namely 13433/13434 Malda Town-SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express also operates, w.e.f. 30.12.2023 via Visakhapatnam. In addition to these introductions, extension of 18311/18312 Banaras-Sambalpur Express upto Visakhapatnam w.e.f. 22.11.2023, 22701/22702 Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Udaya Express upto Guntur, w.e.f. 13.01.2024, 08531/08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger upto Brahmapur, w.e.f. 03.03.2024 and 08503/08504 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger upto Bhawanipatna, w.e.f. 27.12.2023, have also been done to serve the passenger of Visakhapatnam. At present, all train services passing through Visakhapatnam Station has scheduled stoppage at Visakhapatnam. Besides, introduction of trains and provision of stoppage of train

services on Indian Railways is an ongoing process, subject to competing demand, operational feasibility, commercial viability, etc.

Further, Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station scheme for development of Stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each such station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast less tracks, etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far, 1337 Railway stations including 73 stations in the state of Andhra Pradesh have been identified for development under this scheme. The stations identified for development under this scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh are Adoni, Anakapalle, Anantapur, Anaparthi, Araku, Bapatla , Bhimavaram Town, Bobbili Jn, Chipurupalli, Chirala, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Cumbum, Dharmavaram, Dhone, Donakonda, Duvvada, Elamanchili , Eluru, Giddalur, Gooty, Gudivada, Gudur, Gunadala, Guntur, Hindupur, Ichchapuram, Kadiri, Kakinada Town, Kottavalasa, Kuppam, Kurnool city, Macherla, Machilipatnam,

Madanapalli Road, Mangalagiri, Markapuram Road, Mantralayam Road, Nadikude Jn, Nandyal, Narasaraopet, Narsapur, Naupada Jn, Nellore, Nidadavolu, Ongole, Pakala, Palasa, Parvatipuram, Piduguralla, Piler, Rajampet, Rajamundry, Rayanapadu , Renigunta, Repalle, Samalkot, Sattenapalle, Satya Sai Prashati Nilayam, Simhachalam, Singaraykonda, Sri Kalahasti, Srikakulam Road, Sullurpeta, Tadepalligudem, Tadipatri, Tenali, Tirupati, Tuni, Vijayawada, Vinukonda, Vishakhapatnam, and Vizianagaram Jn.

Visakhapatnam and Duvvada Railway Stations falling in the state of Andhra Pradesh have also been identified under this scheme. Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) contract awarded earlier was terminated and retendering has been taken up for the redevelopment of Visakhapatnam Railway Station. The construction of new station building with waiting halls, foundation work of 12m Foot Over Bridge (FOB), platform surfacing work, improvement to circulating area, waiting hall, toilets, etc. have started at Duvvada station.

The details of allocation of funds for development and maintenance of stations are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not Work-wise or Station-wise. Passenger amenities are generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. Visakhapatnam and Duvvada Railway Stations falling in the state of Andhra Pradesh come under East Coast Railway Zone and the fund allocation to East Coast Railway for development and maintenance of stations under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities', for the year (BE 2024-25) is ₹ 671.40 Cr.
