

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024**

NEW/UPGRADED PASSENGER SERVICES IN TAMIL NADU

***132. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of new or upgraded passenger services introduced by Indian Railways in Tamil Nadu during the last year;**
- (b) whether additional trains or increased service frequencies have been introduced to meet the demand in said State especially in high-traffic routes and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether any improvements have been made to passenger amenities at major railway stations in said State as part of the modernization initiative;**
- (d) the details of facilities introduced to improve accessibility for differently-abled and elderly passengers at said stations in Tamil Nadu;**
- (e) whether there are any plans to introduce escalators, lifts and special assistance services at all major stations in the State; and**
- (f) the details of other future projects aimed at further improving passenger services and facilities in the said State?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 132 BY SHRI C N ANNADURAI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.12.2024 REGARDING NEW/UPGRADED PASSENGER SERVICES IN TAMIL NADU

(a) to (f) To cater to the needs of passengers and as a part of the greater objective to provide better travel experience and improved Safety, 136 Vande Bharat services have been introduced on the Indian Railways(IR) network, which includes 16 Vande Bharat trains serving various stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu. During 2023-2024, IR, on originating/terminating basis, have introduced 22 new train services(including 10 Vande Bharat train services), extended 14 train services and increased the frequency of 6 train services catering the stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides, introduction/extension/increase in frequency of train services is an on-going process on Indian Railways, subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. However, as the Railway network straddles across State boundaries trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries.

The provision/upgradation of railway stations, including stations located in Tamil Nadu, and provision of amenities for passengers including Divyangjans and elderly passengers, is a continuous and on-going process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. At present, Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' for development of Railway 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 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 ballastless tracks etc., as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far 1337 stations have been identified under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, out of which 77 stations are located in the state of Tamil Nadu. The names of stations identified for development under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu are as following:

State	No. of Stations	Name of Stations
Tamil Nadu	77	Ambasamudram, Ambattur, Arakkonam Jn, Ariyalur, Avadi, Bommidi, Chengalpattu Jn, Chennai Beach, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinna Salem, Chrompet, Coimbatore Jn, Coimbatore North, Coonoor, Dharmapuri, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central, Erode Jn., Guduvancheri, Guindy, Gummidipundi, Hosur, Jolarpettai Jn, Kanniyakumari, Karaikkudi, Karur Jn., Katpadi, Kovilpatti, Kulitturai, Kumbakonam, Lalgudi, Madurai Jn, Mambalam, Manaparai, Mannargudi, Mayiladuturai Jn., Mettupalayam, Morappur, Nagercoil Jn., Namakkal, Palani, Paramakkudi, Perambur, Podanur Jn., Pollachi, Polur, Pudukkottai, Rajapalayam, Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram, Salem, Samalpatti, Sholavandan, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St.Thomas Mount, Tambaram, Tenkasi, Thanjavur Jn, Thiruvarur Jn., Tiruchendur, Tirunelveli Jn, Tirupadripulyur, Tirupattur, Tiruppur, Tirusulam, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Udagamandalam, Vellore Cantt., Villupuram Jn., Virudhunagar, Vriddhachalam Jn., Dindigul, Tuticorin.

The details of allocation of funds for development and maintenance of stations are maintained Zonal Railway-wise under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The state of Tamil Nadu is covered by two zones viz. Southern Railway and South Western Railway. The allocation for the financial year 2024-25 for these zones is ₹ 2344.46 Crores.

To facilitate easy movement of elderly, sick passengers and for smooth access to platforms, escalators are provided at Railway stations across the Indian Railways (IR). Further, as part of 'Sugamya Bharat Abhiyaan' for differently abled passengers, lifts at railway stations are being provided depending upon relative priority of various stations and the availability of resources and feasibility for provision of lifts.

Accordingly, so far 185 lifts at 83 stations and 96 escalators at 30 railway stations have been provided in the State of Tamil Nadu. In addition to this, 37 escalators and 107 lifts have also been further sanctioned in the State of Tamil Nadu.

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. Zone-wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain.

As on 01.04.2024, 22 projects (10 new lines, 03 Gauge conversions and 09 Doubling) of total length of 2,587 Km, costing ₹ 33,467 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which 665 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 7,153 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New line	10	872	24	1,223
Gauge Conversion	03	748	604	3,267
Doubling/ Multitracking	09	967	37	2,664
Total	22	2,587	665	7,153

Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in Tamil Nadu is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 879 crore/year
2024-25	₹ 6,362 crore (more than 7 times)

Railway acquires the land through State Government and the completion of a railway projects is dependent of land acquisition. However, 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	3389 Ha
Land Acquired	866 Ha (26%)
Balance Land to be acquired	2523 Ha (74%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Tamil Nadu.