

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. 230
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

STATUS OF SEMI-HIGH SPEED AND HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECTS

***230. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:
SHRI C N ANNADURAI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of semi-high speed and high-speed rail projects in the country including Tamil Nadu along with the details of the routes, expected completion dates and the progress made so far;**
- (b) whether the Government has plans to extend the said rail network to other parts of the country and if so, the details of the proposed routes under consideration alongwith the criteria adopted for selecting these routes;**
- (c) the specific benefits that the said rail projects are expected to bring to the country including Tamil Nadu in terms of reducing travel time, enhancing connectivity and promoting economic growth;**
- (d) whether International funding or collaboration has been sought for the said rail projects and if so, the details of the countries or agencies involved and the terms of the agreements entered into;**
- (e) the total funds allocated for the development of these rail projects along with the share of funding sources from the Government, State Governments and private players;**
- (f) the measures being taken to ensure timely completion of semi high speed and high speed rail projects in Tamil Nadu including any delays faced and the reasons therefor; and**
- (g) whether the Government has conducted detailed cost-benefit or feasibility studies for the said rail corridors and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.12.2024.

(a) to (g): Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

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) zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

As on 01.04.2024, Railway Infrastructure projects falling under state of Tamil Nadu fully/partly are 22 (10 New Line, 03 Gauge Conversion and 09 Doubling) of total length 2,587 Km, costing ₹ 33,467 crore, 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:-

Plan Head	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	10	872	24	1223
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3267
Doubling/ Multitracking	9	967	37	2664
Total	22	2587	665	7153

Cont..2/-

Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu is as under:-

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

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 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 the State of 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. For instance, details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

SN	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)
1.	Tindivanam –Tiruvannamalai new line (71 Km)	273	33	240
2.	Attiputtu – Puttur New Line (88 Km)	189	0	189
3.	Morappur – Dharmapuri (36 Km)	93	0	93
4.	Mannargudi – Pattukkottai (41 Km)	152	0	152
5.	Thanjavur – Pattukottai (52 Km)	196	0	196

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, 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 climate conditions etc.

Presently, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project (508 Kms) is the only sanctioned project of High Speed Rail in India under execution with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan. Entire land (1389.5 Ha) has been acquired. Till now, 368 Kms. of Pier Foundation, 346 Kms. of Pier Construction, 274 Kms. of Girder Casting and 234 Kms. of Girder Launching have been completed. The work of the under-sea tunnel (21 Kms. Approx.) has also started.

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

Further, with a view to provide better travel experience and improved safety, Indian Railways are introducing Vande Bharat trains which have enhanced safety features and modern passenger amenities. Presently, 136 Vande Bharat services, including 16 Vande Bharat trains, which on originating/terminating basis serve various stations, located in the State of Tamil Nadu. Besides, introduction of train services, including Vande Bharat 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.