

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

RAILWAY PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN RAILWAY ZONE

3751. SHRI MANI A:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of major railway projects undertaken in the Southern Railway zone during the last five years;**
- (b) the project-wise funds released for the same;**
- (c) the status of each project and the expected timelines for completion;**
- (d) whether funds have been released specifically for the modernization of infrastructure in the Southern Railway zone;**
- (e) if so, the details of modernization works, including electrification, station upgrades, and signaling systems;**
- (f) the quantum of funds utilized for these purposes; and**
- (g) the comparative details of development funds allocated to all railway zones including said Railways, during the last three years?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (g): Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing

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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.

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, across Indian Railways, 488 Railway infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. ₹7.44 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Plan Head	No of Projects	Total Length (Km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (Km)	Balance length on 01.04.2024 (Km)
New Lines	187	20,199	2,855	1,60,022
Gauge Conversion	40	4,719	2,972	18,706
Doubling/Multitracking	261	19,570	6,218	1,13,742
Total	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

As on 01.04.2024, 27 Railways projects (12 New Line, 03 Gauge Conversion and 12 Doubling) of total length 2,436 Km, costing ₹36,710

Crore, falling fully/partly in Southern Railway zone, are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 655 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹7,758 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	12	1018	24	1526
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3267
Doubling /Multitracking	12	670	27	2965
Total	27	2436	655	7758

Tamil Nadu:-

Major portion of Southern Railway zone falls in the State of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. 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. 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

Kerala:-

Major portion of Southern Railway zone falls in the State of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹372 crore/year
2024-25	₹3,011 crore (more than 8 times)

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in the State of Kerala is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Kerala	475 Ha
Land Acquired	64 Ha (13%)
Balance Land to be acquired	411 Ha (87%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Kerala. Railway had deposited ₹2111.83 crore for land acquisition to Government of Kerala. Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition. 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.	Angamali - Sabarimala new line (111 Km)	416	24.4	391.6
2.	Ernakulam - Kumbalam Patch Doubling (8 Km)	4.2	1.59	2.61
3.	Kumbalam - Turavur Patch Doubling (16 Km)	10.3	5.30	5
4.	Trivandrum - Kanyakumari Doubling (87 Km)	40.15	32.69	7.46
5.	Shoranur - Vallathol Doubling (10 Km)	4.77	0	4.77

During last five years i.e. FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-2022, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and current Financial Year 2024-25, total 04 projects (01 New Line and 03 Doubling) of a total length of 75 Km, costing ₹932 Crore falling fully/partly in Southern Railway zone have been sanctioned.

However, Survey of total 30 projects (6 New Line and 24 Doubling) of total length 2802 Km falling fully/partly in Southern Railway zone have been sanctioned during last five year i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and current financial year 2024-25.

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.

Out of total 5,040 Rkm of Broad Gauge lines in the Southern Railway, 4,801 Rkm have already been electrified and balance sections of 239 Rkm, has been taken up for electrification.

During the last five years including current Financial Year 2024-25 ₹1822.51 crore have been allocated to Southern Railway for Signal & Telecommunication works of which ₹1598.75 crore have been utilized till 30.11.2024.

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, platform surfacing and cover over platform, 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 centre at the station in the long term.

So far, 1337 stations have been identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, out of which 116 stations fall under Southern Railway. The names of stations identified for development under this Scheme in the Southern Railway are as following:

Zonal railway	No. of Amrit Stations	Names of Amrit Stations
Southern Railway	116	Alappuzha, Ambasamudram, Ambattur, Angadippuram, Angamali For Kaladi, Arakkonam Jn, Ariyalur, Avadi, Bommidi, Chalakudi,

	<p>Changanassery, Chengalpattu Jn, Chengannur, Chennai Beach, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinna Salem, Chirayinikil, Chrompet, Coimbatore Jn, Coimbatore North, Coonoor, Dindigul, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central, Ernakulam, Ernakulam Town, Erode Jn, Ettumanur, Ferok, Guduvancheri, Guindy, Gummidipundi, Guruvayur, Jolarpettai Jn, Kanniyakumari Terminus, Kannur, Karaikal, Karaikkudi Jn, Karur Jn, Kasargod, Katpadi Jn, Kayankulam Jn, Kollam Jn (Quilon), Kovilpatti, Kozhikode Main (Calicut), Kulitturai, Kumbakonam, Kuttippuram, Lalgudi, Madurai Jn, Mahe, Mambalam, Manaparai, Mangalore Central, Mangalore Jn, Mannargudi, Mavelikara, Mayiladuturai Jn, Mettupalayam, Morappur, Nagercoil Jn, Namakkal, Neyyattinkara, Nilambur Road, Ottappalam, Palani, Paramakkudi, Parappanangadi, Payyanur, Perambur, Podanur Jn, Pollachi Jn, Polur, Puducherry, Pudukkottai, Punalur, Rajapalayam, Ramanathapuram, Rameswaram, Salem, Samalpatti, Sholavandan, Shoranur Jn, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St.Thomas Mount, Sullurpeta, Tambaram, Tenkasi, Thalassery, Thanjavur Jn, Thiruvananthapuram,</p>
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		Thiruvarur Jn, Thrisur, Tiruchendur, Tirunelveli Jn, Tirupadripulyur, Tirupattur, Tiruppur, Tirur, Tirusulam, Tiruttani, Tiruvalla, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tripunithura, Tuticorin, Udagamandalam, Vadakara, Varkala, Vellore Cantt., Villupuram Jn, Virudhunagar, Vriddhachalam Jn, Wadakancheri
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Out of 116 Amrit stations identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Southern Railway, tenders have been awarded and works have been taken up for 107 stations. The projects have exhibited good pace of execution. For example,

At Madurai station, structural works of east side multi-level two-wheeler parking and electric substation have been completed and works of east side terminal building, both sides multi-level car parking, air concourse, parcel Foot Over Bridge, subway, etc. have been taken up.

At Chennai Egmore station, structural work of parcel building have been completed and works of both sides multi-level car parking, GI Road side terminal building, etc. have been taken up.

At Samalpatti station, works of construction of new main terminal building and main entry side circulating area have been completed and works of second entry parking area, raising of platform, construction of compound wall, etc. have been taken up.

At Kollam station, service building work has been completed. Structural works of multi-level car parking, south side terminal building (Block-A&B) and parcel building have been completed and works of south side terminal building (Block-C), air concourse, Foot Over Bridge, platform improvement, platform shelters, etc. have been taken up.

At Kuttippuram station, works of improvement of circulating area, parking area, waiting hall, construction of new platform shelters, new porch and entry ramp have been completed and work of improvement of booking office has been taken up.

At Thalassery station, works of improvement of concourse area, booking office, parking areas, construction of new platform shelters, porch and covered walkway have been completed and work of circulating area has been taken up.

Further, development/redevelopment/upgradation of Railway Stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, air-port clearance etc. The progress also gets affected due to brownfield related challenges such as shifting of utilities, (involving water/sewage lines, optical fibre cables, gas pipe lines, power/signal cables etc.), infringements, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, speed restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of tracks and high voltage power lines, etc. and these factors affect the completion time. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations on Indian Railways is a continuous and ongoing process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds. However, priority for upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations is accorded to higher category of station over lower category of station while sanctioning and executing the works.

Development/upgradation/modernization of stations including under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The details of allocation under Plan Head-53 are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not work-wise or project-wise. During last three financial years and in the current financial year, allocation of Rs 2,595 Crores has been made for Southern Railway under Plan Head-53 and expenditure of Rs 1,635 Crores has been incurred during the last three financial years and in current financial year i.e. 2024-25 (up to October, 2024).
