GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4280
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

ROBs/RUBs IN VIRUDHUNAGAR

4280. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the long-pending demand for the construction of a ROB or RUB in the Virudhunagar Constituency, the time by when the local population likely to find a resolution to this critical infrastructure issue;
(b) the details of the allocation of funds required for railway infrastructure projects in the said district including the construction of ROBs, RUBs and the upgrading of existing tracks, the time when the funds are likely to be disbursed to ensure timely completion;
(c) whether Government has any plans to reconsider the addition of more stoppages for important trains at Virudhunagar and also review and adjust the current train timings to meet the present needs of commuters in the region, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government has provided update on the plans to upgrade the station to a full-fledged junction given the growing importance of Tiruparankundram railway station, if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to accommodate growing passenger demand?

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d):

Infrastructure projects

(i) Road over Bridges /Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs): Sanctioning and execution of works of Road over Bridges/ Road under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) in lieu of LCs is a continuous and ongoing process on Indian Railways. Such works are prioritized and taken up on the basis of its impact on safety and mobility in train operations and impact on road users.

No. of ROBs/RUBs constructed on Indian Railways during the period 2004-14 vis a vis 2014-25 (Feb'25) is as under:

Period	ROBs/RUBs constructed
2004-14	4,148 Nos.
2014-25 (Feb'25)	12,977 Nos.

As on 01.04.2024, 4200 Nos. Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) are sanctioned at cost of ₹ 92,692 Cr on Indian Railways including 240 Nos. ROBs/ RUBs at cost of ₹ 5108 Cr in the state of Tamil Nadu which are at various stages of planning and execution. Out of which 88 Nos. works have been delayed due to land acquisition, finalization of alignment and consent for closure etc. Expenditure of ₹ 6,074 crore has been incurred during the year 2024-25(Feb'2025) for the construction of ROB/RUB over Indian Railway.

Presently, 16 Nos. ROBs/RUBs are sanctioned in Virudhunagar district at cost of ₹ 233 crore, which are at various stages of planning and execution.

(ii) New Line/Gauge Conversion/ Doubling projects:- Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-

wise/District-wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2024, 22 projects (10 New Line, 03 Gauge Conversion and 09 Doubling) of total length 2,587 Km, costing ₹33,467 Crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu, are at various stages of planning and implementation, 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	1,223
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3,267
Doubling /Multitracking	9	967	37	2,664
Total	22	2,587	665	7,153

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)

Virudunagar is an existing railway station on Indian Railway network. For further improving the connectivity of Virudunagar, Madurai-Thoothukkudi(Tuticorin) via Maniyachi doubling project has been completed in July 2023.

(iii) Amrit Bharat Stations:- Amrit Bharat Station 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.

Development/upgradation 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. The priority for development/upgradation of stations is accorded to higher category of station over lower category of station while sanctioning and executing the works.

So far, 1337 stations have been identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, out of which 77 stations including Virudhunagar station 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 Amrit Stations	Names of Amrit Stations
Tamil Nadu	77	Ambasamudram, Ambattur, Arakkonam Jn, Ariyalur, Avadi, Bommidi, Chengalpattu Jn,

State	No. of Amrit Stations	Names of Amrit Stations
		Chennai Beach, Chennai Egmore, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinna Salem, Chrompet, Coimbatore Jn, Coimbatore North, Coonoor, Dharmapuri, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central, Dindigul, 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, Tuticorin, Udagamandalam, Vellore Cantt., Villupuram Jn, Virudhunagar, Vriddhachalam Jn

Development works at railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu have been taken up at a good pace. 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 has been completed and works of both sides multi-level car parking, GI Road side terminal building, etc. have been taken up.**
- **At Rameshwaram station in the state of Tamil Nadu, structural works of north side terminal building, electric sub-station and construction of parcel office have been completed and works of construction of east side terminal building, arrival forecourt, platform improvement, etc. have been taken up.**
- **At Virudhunagar station, works of construction of new entrance arch, compound wall, relocation of service building, improvement of platform surfacing, provision of covered parking and integrated passenger information system have been completed and works of construction of new foot over bridge, improvement of circulating area, approach road, 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 two wheeler parking area, raising of platform, construction of compound wall, etc. have been taken up.

- **At Karaikkudi Station, works of improvement of platform shelters, seating arrangement, circulating area, parking area, construction of new porch, entry and exit gates, lifts and installation of coach indication boards have been completed. The works for waiting hall, covered pathway, etc. have been taken up.**

- **At Ariyalur and Mannargudi stations, works of construction of new entry gates, entrance porch, improvement of circulating area with approach road, parking area, concourse area, booking counters, platform surface, waiting halls and platform shelters have been completed.**

Development / upgradation 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 station-wise or State-wise. The state of Tamil Nadu is covered under two zones viz. Southern Railway and South Western Railway. For these zones, an allocation of ₹ 1,909 Crores (Revised Estimate) has been made for the financial year 2024-25 under Plan Head-53.

(iv) Track Upgradation:-Upgradation and improvement of track infrastructure is a continuous and ongoing process over Indian Railways. The following measures have been taken by Indian Railways to upgrade railway tracks:

i. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Pre-stressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fan-shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges have been used while carrying out primary track renewals.

ii. The Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing have been used in turnout renewal works.

iii. Supply of 130m/260m long rail panels has been increased to avoid welding of joints, thereby improving safety.

iv. Adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e. Flash Butt Welding.

v. Adoption of mechanized system for track maintenance using high output plain tampers and points & crossing tampers for improved maintainability & reliability of track.

vi. Deployment of state-of-the-art modern machines including Rail Grinding machines manufactured in India on Railway network to further improve asset reliability.

vii. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc.

viii. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates for enhancing safety at LC gates.

ix. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.

x. Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).

Completion & commissioning of infrastructure projects including ROB/RUB works depends on various factors like cooperation of State Governments in giving consent for closure of LC, fixing of approach

alignment, approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD), land acquisition, removal of encroachment, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, law and order situation in the area of project / work sites, duration of working season in a year for the particular project / area due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the projects / works.

Virudunagar station is presently being served by 4 Passenger services and 80 Mail/Express services including 20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express. These services, which are available throughout the day, also cater to the needs of commuters. Besides, provision of stoppage/change in timings of train services is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, etc.

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