

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1822
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2025**

CHENNAI MASS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM

1822. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to transfer the operation and management of the Chennai Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) from Indian Railways to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the reasons for the delay in the full transfer of MRTS services and infrastructure to CMRL;**
- (c) whether the Government is considering any financial, operational, or legal restructuring to enable a smooth transition and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the expected timeline for the complete transfer of the MRTS network to CMRL and the benefits envisaged for commuters through this integration?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (d): On request of Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Railways (MoR) had agreed for a study to be undertaken by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)**

Cntd...2/-

through a consultant and final report was submitted in Feb, 2018. During a meeting held on the issue with the officials of GoTN, CMRL & MoHUA, it was decided that the proposed taking over of Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS), Chennai by CMRL can only start after completion of construction of 4th line between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore (4 Km).

Work of 4th line between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore has been sanctioned in March, 2022 with a cost of Rs. 279.80 Crore. The work has been completed and commissioned in March, 2025.

To finalize the framework/principles before finalizing the detailed MoU for handing over of MRTS to GoTN, a meeting was held between Railway and Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) and special committee was formed, consisting of Officers from Railways and GoTN. The committee has prepared the broad framework/principles for preparing a detailed MoU. Merger is a complex process involving issues of train operation, maintenance of assets & safety and timeline cannot be stated at this stage.

Handing over of MRTS to GoTN is likely to bring better synergy amongst various modes of transport in Chennai which will benefit commuters through this integration.
