

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026**

NEW TRAIN SERVICES IN TAMIL NADU

6154. SHRI SELVAM G:

SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the railway network and introduce new train services in various regions of Tamil Nadu to improve connectivity particularly in rapidly developing districts and tourist destinations;**
- (b) if so, the details of the new railway lines, doubling, electrification and passenger train services proposed or under consideration in the State;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce additional Vande Bharat Express services connecting major cities of Tamil Nadu or include more stations in the existing routes;**
- (d) if so, the project-wise details of funds allocated, released and utilised for railway infrastructure development in Tamil Nadu during the last five years and the current year; and**
- (e) whether the Government proposes to improve rail connectivity to underserved districts of Tamil Nadu and enhance direct train services from the State to major metropolitan cities including Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e):

Railway Budget:-

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. 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
2025-26	₹ 6,626 crore (more than 7.5 times)

Projects sanctioned:-

As on 01.04.2025, 15 projects (09 new line, 03 gauge conversion and 03 doubling) of 1,700 km length, costing ₹22,808 Crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu, are sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of sanctioned projects	Total Length (in km)	Length Commissioned upto Mar'25 (in km)	Expenditure upto Mar' 25 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	9	812	24	1,337
Gauge Conversion	3	748	604	3,471
Doubling /Multitracking	3	140	37	2,783
Total	15	1,700	665	7,591

Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

Recently Completed Projects:-

Details of some of the recently completed projects falling fully/partly in Tamil Nadu are as under :

S. N.	Project	Cost (₹in Crores)
1	Dindigul-Palani-Pollachi gauge conversion (121 km)	610
2	Pollachi-Palghat gauge conversion (56 km)	350
3	Pollachi-Podhanur gauge conversion (40 km)	400
4	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur gauge conversion (357 km)	1,122

5	Mayiladuturai - Thiruvarur - Karaikkudi gauge conversion (187 km)	1,338
6	Madurai-Bodiyakannur gauge conversion (90 km)	593
7	Chengalpattu-Villupuram doubling (102 km)	670
8	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (27 km)	83
9	Chennai Central-Basin Bridge doubling (2 km)	31
10	Thanjavur-Ponmalai doubling (48 km)	370
11	Villupuram-Dindigul doubling (273 km)	2,000
12	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (5 km)	168
13	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22 km)	293
14	Omalur-Metturdam Patch doubling (29 km)	327
15	Chengalpattu - Villupuram and Tambaram - Chengalpattu - 3rd line (133 km)	1,122
16	Salem-Magnesite Junction-Omalur doubling (11 km)	115
17	Madurai- Maniyachi-Tuticorin doubling (160 km)	1,891
18	Maniyachi-Nagercoil doubling (102 km)	1,752
19	Chennai Beach-Chennai Egmore doubling (4 km)	272
20	Karaikal-Peralam new line (23 km)	373
21	Northern End Port connectivity to Karaikal Port (1 km)	18

Ongoing Projects:-

Some of the projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu which have been taken up are as under :

S.N	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1	Tindivanam-Nagari new line (184 km)	3,631
2	Morappur-Dharmapuri new line (36 km)	359
3	Nagapattinam - Tiruturaipundi new line (43 km)	742
4	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari doubling (87 km)	3,785
5	Arakkonam yard 3rd & 4th line (6 km)	98
6	Perambur - Ambattur 5th & 6th lines (6 km)	178
7	Irugur - Podanur doubling (11 km)	277
8	Tambaram-Chengalpattu 4th Line (30 km)	757
9	Attipattu - Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line (23 km)	375
10	Tirupati - Pakala - Katpadi doubling (105 km)	1,332

11	Tindivanam – Gingee - Tiruvannamalai new line (71 km)	1,400
12	Atipattu – Puttur new line (88 km)	1,700
13	Chennai – Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram new line (179 km)	2,670

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	4,326 ha
Land Acquired	1,052 ha (24%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3,274 ha (76%)

Support of the Government of Tamil Nadu is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

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)	276	33	243
2.	Attiputtu-Puttur new line (88 km)	189	0	189
3.	Morappur-Dharmapuri new line (36 km)	92	45	47
4.	Mannargudi-Pattukkottai new line (41 km)	196	0	196
5.	Thanjavur-Pattukottai new line (52 km)	152	0	152

Further, Rameshwaram – Dhanushkodi new line (18 km) was sanctioned at a cost of ₹734 Cr. The Foundation Stone of the project was laid on 01.03.2019. However, the project could not be started because the land acquisition has not been undertaken by the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

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

In last three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and current financial year 2025-26, 29 surveys (06 new line and 23 doubling) covering a total length of 2,478 km has been sanctioned falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors which include the following:

- **Land acquisition by State Government**
- **Forest clearance**
- **Shifting of infringing utilities**
- **Statutory clearances from various authorities**
- **Geological and topographical conditions of area**
- **Law and order situation in the area of project site**
- **Number of working months in a year for particular project site etc.**

All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project/s.

Railway Electrification:

Electrification of railway network on Indian Railways has been taken up in mission mode. So far, about 99.4% of Broad Gauge (BG) network has been electrified. The electrification in remaining network has been taken up. Electrification carried out during 2014-25 and before 2014 is as under:-

Period	Route Kilometer
Before 2014 (about 60 years)	21,801
2014-25	46,900

In Tamil Nadu, 97% of BG network has been electrified and electrification in remaining network has been taken up.

Train services:-

As the Railway network straddles across state boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. However, on originating/terminating basis, Indian Railways have introduced 8 pairs of Vande Bharat train services catering to the needs of various stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu. These are listed below:

SN	Train Number and Name
1	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express
2	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express
3	20607/20608 Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
4	20671/20672 Madurai- Bengaluru Cantonment Vande Bharat Express
5	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantonment - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
6	20643/20644 Chennai Central - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
7	20663/20664 Mysuru - Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express
8	20677/20678 Chennai Central - Narsapur Vande Bharat Express

Further, during 01.04.2021 to 25.03.2026, following 34 pairs of new train services (including 8 pairs of Vande Bharat train services and 8 pairs Amrit Bharat), on originating/terminating basis, have also been introduced, serving various stations located in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Sl.	Train No. and Name
1	20609/20610 Tiruchchirappalli - New Jalpaiguri Amrit Bharat Express
2	16121/16122 Tambaram - Trivandrum central Amrit Bharat

	Express
3	16329/16330 Nagercoil - Mangaluru Junction Amrit Bharat Express
4	20603/20604 Nagercoil - New jalpaiguri Amrit Bharat Express
5	16107/16108 Tambaram - Santragachi Amrit Bharat Express
6	16357/16358 Nagercoil - Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express
7	16619/16620 Podanur - Dhanbad Amrit Bharat Express
8	16601/16602 Erode - Jogbani Amrit Bharat Express
9	20671/20672 Madurai - Bangalore Cantt. Vande Bharat Express
10	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express
11	20663/20664 Mysuru - MGR Chennai Central Vande Bharat Express
12	20641/20642 Bengaluru Cantt. - Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
13	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Triunelveli Vande Bharat Express
14	20677/20678 MGR Chennai Central - Vijayawada Vande Bharat Express
15	20643/20644 MGR Chennai Central Chennai-Coimbatore Vande Bharat Express
16	20607/20608 MGR Chennai Central - Mysuru Vande Bharat Express
17	16363/16364 Ernakulam - Velankanni Express
18	16807/16808 Tambaram - Tiruchchirappalli Express
19	16621/16622 Rameswaram - Mangaluru Central Express
20	16707/16708 Mangaluru Jn - Tirunelveli Express
21	56835/56836 Mayiladuthurai - Karaikkudi Passenger
22	66623/66624 Palakkad - Pollachi MEMU
23	66621/66622 Salem - Erode MEMU
24	20625/20626 MGR Chennai Central - Bhagat Ki Kothi Express
25	16103/16104 Tambaram - Rameswaram Express
26	66563/66564 Yesvantpur- Hosur MEMU
27	16765/16766 Mettupalaiyam - Tuticorin Express
28	16367/16368 Kanniyakumari - Banaras Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express
29	56113/56114 (Old no. 06421/06422) Coimbatore - Pollachi Passenger
30	16361/16362 Ernakulam - Velankanni Express
31	20683/20684 Tambaram - Sengottai Express
32	76627/76628 Agastiampalli - Tiruturaipundi DEMU
33	76629/76630 Agastiampalli - Tiruturaipundi DEMU

These services inter-alia provide additional connectivity to various cities located in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Besides, introduction of train services, including Vande Bharat services, on any route/section, which is an on-going process, depends on various factors which include:

- **Capacity of that section.**
- **Availability of path.**
- **Availability of required rolling stock.**
- **Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock.**
- **Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets.**

Amrit Bharat Stations:

Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for redevelopment of stations with a long-term approach.

The scheme involves preparation of master plans and their implementation in phases to improve the stations. The master planning includes:

- **Improvement of access to station and circulating areas**
- **Integration of station with both sides of city**
- **Improvement of station building**
- **Improvement of waiting halls, toilets, sitting arrangement, water booths**
- **Provision of wider foot over bridge/air concourse commensurate with passenger traffic**
- **Provision of lift/escalators/ramp**

- **Improvement /Provision of platform surface and cover over platforms**
- **Provision of kiosks for local products through schemes like ‘One Station One Product’**
- **Parking areas, Multimodal integration**
- **Amenities for Divyangjans**
- **Better passenger information systems**
- **Provision of executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.**

The scheme also envisages 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 railway station has a positive impact on tourism in the surrounding areas.

So far, 1,338 stations have been identified for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Out of these, 77 stations are located in Tamil Nadu. The name of stations identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in 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, Dindigul, Erode

State	No. of Stations	Name of Stations
		Jn., Guduvancheri, Guindy, Gummidipundi, Hosur, Jolarpettai Jn, Kanniyakumari Terminus, Karaikkudi Jn, KarurJn, Katpadi Jn, Kovilpatti, Kulitturai, Kumbakonam, Lalgudi, Madurai Jn, Mambalam, Manaparai, Mannargudi, MayiladuturaiJn, Mettupalayam, Morappur, Nagercoil Jn, Namakkal, Palani, Paramakkudi, Perambur, Podanur Jn., Pollachi Jn, Polur, Pudukkottai, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central, 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.

Completed stations:

Development works at railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Tamil Nadu have been taken up at a good pace. Till now, works of 23 stations have been completed. The name of stations

completed in Tamil Nadu are as following:

State	No. of stations	Name of stations
Tamil Nadu	23	Bommidi, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinna Salem, Coonoor, Karaikkudi Jn, Kulitturai, Mambalam, Manaparai, Mannargudi, Morappur, Namakkal, Pollachi Jn, Polur, Samalpatti, Sholavandan, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, St. Thomas Mount, Thiruvarur Jn., Tiruvannamalai, Udagamandalam, Vriddhachalam Jn.

The activities for development at other stations have also been taken up at good pace and progress of some of the above stations is as given below:

- **Palani station: The works of improvement of station building, platform shelter, waiting hall, toilet, circulating area, parking, entry/exit arch, lift at existing Foot Over Bridge, coach indication board and train indication board have been completed. The works of Divyangjan facilities and 6 m Foot Over Bridge have been taken up.**
- **Virudhunagar Junction station: The works of circulating area, parking, entry/exit arch, Divyangjan facilities, coach indication board and train indication board have been completed. The works of improvement of station building and 6 m Foot Over Bridge have been taken up.**

- **Thanjavur Junction station:** The works of portico, improvement of concourse, platform shelter, improvement of booking office, circulating area, exit arch and signages have been completed. The works of parking, lift, escalator, coach indication board and train indication board have been taken up.
- **Villupuram Junction station:** The works of new arrival building, platform shelter, improvement of platform surface, booking counter, parcel office, improvement of parking and signages have been completed. The works of improvement of concourse, circulating area, parking, entrance arch, coach indication board, train indication board, escalator and 6 m Foot Over Bridge have been taken up.

Development / Upgradation of stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, airport 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.

Development / Upgradation / Modernization of stations including Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The details of allocation and expenditure under Plan Head-53 are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not work-wise or station-wise or state-wise. Tamil Nadu is covered under the jurisdiction of two railway

zones, namely, Southern Railway and South Western Railway. For these zones, an allocation of ₹ 5,575 crore (Revised Estimate) has been made for the last four years and current year 2025-26, out of which an expenditure of ₹ 5,054 crore (up to February, 2026) has been incurred so far.
