

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3932
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2026**

LACK OF TRAIN SERVICES TO TIRUVANNAMALAI

3932. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that even after 15 years since the gauge conversion, Tiruvannamalai (a major pilgrimage and spiritual destination in India and the second-largest district in Tamil Nadu) lacks essential daily train services to Chennai, Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Puducherry and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the measures taken to restore the Chennai-Tiruvannamalai train service via Tambaram, Tindivanam and Villupuram which is urgently required for the people of this region and pilgrims visiting Tiruvannamalai;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the existing train services like 66064 Puducherry-Villupuram MEMU up to Tiruvannamalai and a new Vande Bharat Express from Tiruvannamalai to Bengaluru to establish essential daily connectivity with these cities for the very first time;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the present status of these proposals; and**
- (e) the details of the expected timeline to bridge these long pending connectivity gaps?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (e) Indian Railways, have introduced 17069/17070 Hyderabad - Kanniyakumari Express (w.e.f. 01.04.2026) and 17615/17616 Kacheguda - Tuticorin Express (w.e.f. 06.04.2026) both having scheduled stoppage at Tiruvannamalai station, thereby facilitating the passengers of the said**

station. Accordingly, Tiruvannamalai station is presently served by the following 28 train services:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	11005 Dadar - Puducherry Express
2	11006 Puducherry - Dadar Express
3	12867 Howrah - Puducherry Express
4	12868 Puducherry - Howrah Express
5	16779 Tirupati - Rameswaram Express
6	16780 Rameswaram - Tirupati Express
7	16853 Tirupati - Villupuram Express
8	16854 Villupuram - Tirupati Express
9	16870 Villupuram - Tirupati Express
10	17069 Hyderabad - Kanniyakumari Express
11	17070 Kanniyakumari - Hyderabad Express
12	17077 Charlapalli - Tiruchchirappalli Express
13	17078 Tiruchchirappalli - Charlapalli Express
14	17291 Narasapur - Tiruvannamalai Express
15	17292 Tiruvannamalai - Narasapur Express
16	17407 Tirupati - Mannargudi Express
17	17408 Mannargudi - Tirupati Express
18	17615 Kacheguda - Tuticorin Express
19	17616 Tuticorin - Kacheguda Express
20	22603 Kharagpur - Villupuram Express
21	22604 Villupuram - Kharagpur Express
22	22605 Purulia - Tirunelveli Express
23	22606 Tirunelveli - Purulia Express
24	66025 Katpadi - Villupuram MEMU
25	66026 Villupuram - Katpadi MEMU
26	66027 Katpadi - Villupuram MEMU

27	66033 Chennai Beach - Tiruvannamalai MEMU
28	66034 Tiruvannamalai - Tambaram MEMU

The above train services include 3 pairs of trains connecting Tiruvannamalai with Chennai, 02 pairs providing connectivity to Puducherry and 1 pair of trains providing connectivity to Bengaluru. The sector-wise trains are listed below:

Tiruvannamalai - Chennai sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	22603/22604 Kharagpur - Villupuram Express
2	22605/22606 Purulia - Tirunelveli Express
3	66033/66034 Chennai Beach - Tiruvannamalai MEMU (daily)

Tiruvannamalai - Puducherry sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	12867/12868 Howrah - Puducherry Express
2	11005/11006 Dadar - Puducherry Express

Tiruvannamalai - Bengaluru sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	11005/11006 Dadar - Puducherry Express

Further, Chennai is connected to Villupuram by 53 pair of Mail/Express trains while Villupuram - Tiruvannamalai sector is served by 10 pairs of Mail/Express trains as listed below:

Trains serving Chennai- Villupuram sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	11017/11018 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Karaikal Express
2	12605/12606 Chennai Egmore - Karaikkudi Express
3	12631/12632 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Express
4	12633/12634 Chennai Egmore - Kanniyakumari Express
5	12635/12636 Chennai Egmore - Madurai Express

6	12637/12638 Chennai Egmore - Madurai Express
7	12641/12642 Kanniyakumari - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express
8	12651/12652 Madurai - Hazrat Nizamuddin Express
9	12653/12654 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchchirappalli Express
10	12661/12662 Chennai Egmore - Sengottai Express
11	12663/12664 Howrah - Tiruchchirappalli Express
12	12665/12666 Howrah - Kanniyakumari Express
13	12667/12668 Tambaram - Kanniyakumari Express
14	12693/12694 Chennai Egmore - Tuticorin Express
15	16101/16102 Tambaram - Kollam Express
16	16103/16104 Tambaram - Rameswaram Express
17	16115/16116 Chennai Egmore - Puducherry Express
18	16121/16122 Tambaram - Thiruvananthapuram Central Amrit Bharat Express
19	16127/16128 Chennai Egmore - Guruvayur Express
20	16159/16160 Chennai Egmore - Mangalore Central Express
21	16175/16176 Chennai Egmore - Velankanni Express
22	16179/16180 Chennai Egmore - Mannargudi Express
23	16357/16358 Nagercoil Junction - Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express
24	16367/16368 Kanniyakumari - Banaras Express
25	16751/16752 Chennai Egmore - Rameswaram Express
26	16807/16808 Tambaram - Tiruchchirappalli Express
27	16865/16866 Chennai Egmore - Thanjavur Express
28	17653/17654 Kacheguda - Puducherry Express
29	17655/17656 Kakinada Port - Puducherry Express
30	20481/20482 Jodhpur - Tiruchchirappalli Express
31	20497/20498 Rameswaram - Firozpur Cantt. Express
32	20605/20606 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchendur Express

33	20609/20610 New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express
34	20627/20628 Chennai Egmore - Nagercoil Junction Vande Bharat Express
35	20635/20636 Chennai Egmore - Kollam Express
36	20665/20666 Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli Vande Bharat Express
37	20681/20682 Tambaram - Sengottai Express
38	20683/20684 Tambaram - Sengottai Express
39	20691/20692 Tambaram - Nagercoil Junction Express
40	20849/20850 Bhubaneswar - Rameswaram Express
41	20851/20852 Bhubaneswar - Puducherry Express
42	22153/22154 Chennai Egmore - Salem Express
43	22403/22404 Puducherry - New Delhi Express
44	22535/22536 Rameswaram - Banaras Express
45	22603/22604 Kharagpur - Villupuram Express
46	22605/22606 Purulia - Tirunelveli Express
47	22613/22614 Rameswaram - Ayodhya Cantt Express
48	22623/22624 Tambaram - Madurai Express
49	22631/22632 Madurai - Bikaner Express
50	22657/22658 Tambaram - Kanniyakumari Express
51	22661/22662 Chennai Egmore - Rameswaram Express
52	22673/22674 Jodhpur - Mannargudi Express
53	22675/22676 Chennai Egmore - Tiruchchirappalli Express

Trains serving Villupuram - Tiruvannamalai sector:

SN	Train No. and Name
1	11005/11006 Dadar - Puducherry Express
2	12867/12868 Howrah - Puducherry Express
3	16779/16780 Tirupati - Rameswaram Express
4	16853/16854 Tirupati - Villupuram Express

5	17069/17070 Hyderabad - Kanniyakumari Express
6	17077/17078 Charlapalli - Tiruchchirappalli Express
7	17407/17408 Tirupati - Mannargudi Express
8	17615/17616 Kacheguda - Tuticorin Express
9	22603/22604 Kharagpur - Villupuram Express
10	22605/22606 Purulia - Tirunelveli Express

Besides, introduction/extension of train services including Vande Bharat train services and its variants, 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
- Occupancy and the traffic requirement of the section

Railway Budget:

Budget allocation in 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
2026-27	₹ 7,611 crore (more than 8 times)

Track Construction:

The details of constructing new track falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:

Period	New track Commissioned
2009-14	923 Km
2014-26	1,356 Km

Projects sanctioned:

As on 01.04.2026, 19 projects (08 new line, 03 gauge conversion and 08 doubling) of total length of 1,874 km, costing ₹27,282 Crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in km)	Length Commissioned upto March, 2026 (in Km)	Total Exp. upto March, 2026 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	8	811	24	1,514
Gauge Conversion	3	748	631	3,605
Doubling /Multitracking	8	314	54	3,693
Total	19	1,874	709	8,811

Recently Completed Projects:

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

S.N.	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1	Dindigul- Pollachi gauge conversion (121 km)	610
2	Pollachi-Palghat gauge conversion (56 km)	350
3	Pollachi-Podhanur gauge conversion (40 km)	400
4	Quilon- Tiruchendur gauge conversion (357 km)	1,122
5	Mayiladuturai - Karaikkudi gauge conversion (187 km)	1,338
6	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur gauge conversion (90 km)	593
7	Chengalpattu-Villupuram doubling (102 km)	670
8	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (27 km)	83

9	Thanjavur-Ponmalai doubling (48 km)	370
10	Villupuram-Dindigul doubling (273 km)	2,000
11	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22 km)	293
12	Omalur-Metturdam Patch doubling (29 km)	327
13	Chengalpattu - Villupuram and Tambaram - Chengalpattu-3rd line (133 km)	1,122
14	Salem- Omalur doubling (11 km)	115
15	Madurai- Tuticorin doubling (160 km)	1,891
16	Maniyachi-Nagercoil doubling (102 km)	1,752
17	Chennai Beach-Chennai Egmore doubling (4 km)	272

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	Trivandrum-Kanyakumari doubling (87 km)	4,494
4	Irugur-Podanur doubling (11 km)	277
5	Tambaram-Chengalpattu 4th line (30 km)	757
6	Attipattu-Gummidipundi 3rd & 4th line (23 km)	365
7	Tirupati- Katpadi doubling (105 km)	1,216
8	Tindivanam- Tiruvannamalai new line (71 km)	1,400
9	Atipattu – Puttur new line (88 km)	1,700
10	Baiyapannahalli to Hosur doubling (48 km)	1,160
11	Arakkonam-Chengalpattu doubling (68 km)	993
12	Erode- Karur doubling (67 km)	986

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

Total Land required for Projects in Tamil Nadu	4,612 ha
Land Acquired	1,178 ha (26%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3,434 ha (74%)

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)	93	47	46
4.	Mannargudi - Pattukkottai new line (41 km)	204	0	204
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.

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

Sanction of any railway project depends upon many parameters/factors which include the following:

- **Anticipated traffic projections and remunerativeness of the proposed route**
- **First and last mile connectivity provided by the project**
- **Connection of missing links and providing additional route**
- **Augmentation of congested/saturated lines**
- **Demands raised by State Governments/Central Ministries/Public representatives**
- **Railway's own operational requirements**
- **Socio-economic considerations**
- **Overall availability of funds**

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 a particular project site etc.**

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