

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O. letter dated 11.2.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

“Tamil Nadu is one of the leading industrialized States in India. Recognizing that world class infrastructure is a pre-requisite for rapid industrialization, I had launched the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document which aims at creating and upgrading the existing infrastructure to world standards. Rail Transportation is a very important element of such infrastructure and has played an important integrating role in the social and economic development of the State.

The Railway Budget for 2016-17 is to be presented shortly. Tamil Nadu has certain specific proposals and suggestions for the Railway Budget which I am sure you would be able to consider positively.

In the **Vision Tamil Nadu 2023** document, ten important Railway Projects have been included which are crucial for the development of Rail Transport and for the development of infrastructure projects in the State of Tamil Nadu:-

S.No.	Project Name
1.	Complete doubling for Chennai – Kanniyakumari line
2.	Sriperumbudur - Guindy freight line
3.	Chennai – Thoothukudi freight corridor
4.	High speed passenger rail link – Chennai – Madurai – Kanniyakumari
5.	High speed passenger rail link – Madurai to Coimbatore
6.	High speed passenger rail link – Coimbatore to Chennai
7.	Chennai – Bengaluru high speed rail link
8.	Chennai – Bengaluru freight corridor
9.	Avadi – Guduvancheri rail link
10.	Avadi / Thiruvallur– Ennore port link

The State has also prioritized the following three projects for implementation through the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the participation of the State and Ministry of Railways:-

- i) Chennai – Thoothukudi Freight corridor
- ii) High speed passenger rail link – Chennai – Madurai – Kanniyakumari
- iii) High speed passenger rail link – Madurai to Coimbatore

Given the importance of these three projects, the Government of Tamil Nadu has already indicated that it would be willing in principle to enter into an MoU with the Indian Railways to set up an SPV to promote these projects, which are also part of the Madurai Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor. We had also indicated some specific conditions for the establishment of the SPV.

- ❖ Since the land is typically provided by the State Government, this should be treated as part of the State Government's equity contribution to the SPV at market value.
- ❖ Matching equity contributions from the Ministry of Railways could be in cash or in the form of land owned by the Railways or other Central Government departments.
- ❖ In the case of equity contributions in cash, there should be assurances that these contributions by both sides would be made in time to ensure that projects do not suffer delays due to lack of adequate funding.
- ❖ The governance structure should be well-balanced, with adequate participation by the State Government.

In the draft MoU circulated by the Ministry of Railways, these concerns are not adequately reflected. The Draft MoU would require revision before it becomes acceptable to the

Government of Tamil Nadu. I request you to kindly direct the concerned officials of the Ministry of Railways to engage in constructive discussions on evolving a fair, balanced and acceptable draft of the MoU.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice that a number of Railway Projects announced for Tamil Nadu in the earlier Railway Budgets have not been commenced so far due to want of sufficient fund allocations. A list of the above projects is annexed for your kind reference. Considering the expectation from the travelling public, I request you to expedite these Railway Projects and allocate sufficient funds in the budget for completion of the projects early.

I hope that the ensuing Railway Budget will fulfill the long pending expectations of the travelling public of Tamil Nadu.”

### **ANNEXURE**

#### **Railway Projects Announced in successive Railway Budgets and work yet to commence**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1.	New line from Morappur - Dharmapuri
2.	(a) 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> line on Chennai to Villivakkam and (b) New line for Villivakkam and Katpadi Sections
3.	New line from Chidambaram to Attur Via Ariyalur
4.	Doubling from Tindivanam to Kanniyakumari
5.	New line from Bodinayakanur to Kottayam
6.	Doubling from Renigunta to Arakkonam
7.	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> lines from Attippattu - Gummidipoondi
8.	New line from Jolarpettai to Hosur via Krishnagiri
9.	New line between Mayiladuthurai -Thirukadaiyur - Tharangambadi - Tirunallar - Karaikal
10.	New line from Ramanathapuram - Kanniyakumari via Thoothukudi - Tiruchendur
11.	New line between Karaikudi - Thoothukudi via Ramanathapuram
12.	New line from Karaikal to Sirkazhi
13.	New line from Salem (Namakkal) - Karaikal via Perambalur, Ariyalur

14.	Doubling from Thiruvananthapuram to Kanniyakumari via Nagercoil
15.	Gauge Conversion between Madurai and Bodinayakanur and New line from Bodinayakanur to Ernakulam (Cochin)
16.	New line between Dindigul to Kumuli via Bodi and Theni
17.	Doubling and Electrification of Madurai-Kanniyakumari via Tirunelveli including Nagercoil Junction Terminal facilities.
18.	New BG line between Chennai and Sriperumbudur via Saidapet
19.	New line between Thanjavur and Ariyalur
20.	New line from Madurai – Karaikudi via Melur

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Issued by : Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai – 9.  
Date : 11.2.2016