



Ongoing metro rail construction at Koyambedu | A RAJA CHIDAMBARAM

Infrastructure to berth Metro coaches by March next year

by C Shivakumar

Chennai: Infrastructure to berth coaches at the metro rail depot in Koyambedu is expected to be ready by the end of March 2013 and Chennai Metro Rail has begun work on lowering the parts of tunnel-boring machines through vertical shafts at Nehru Park in Chetpet, according to a Metro Rail spokesman.

The spokesman told *City Express* on Monday that the parts of the tunnel-boring machines, which would help construct the underground stations, were being lowered through a vertical shaft at Nehru Park in Chetpet.

Interestingly, the vertical shafts are also constructed in Washermenpet and Shenoy Nagar to lower the parts of

tunnel-boring machines. "The lowering of various parts of tunnel boring machines started in Nehru Park. Once they are inside then the machines will be assembled and work will begin soon this month end or in the first week of next month," the spokesman said.

Interestingly, the first train, which consists of four coaches, is expected to arrive in the depot, spread over an area of 26 hectares of land, by next March end by when the required infrastructure for the berthing of trains will be ready, the spokesman said. He said that the work on the depot would be completed by December 2013 when the first trial run is expected to take place.

Meanwhile, the area behind Koyambedu market is

abuzz with clanking of machines and buzzing of trucks laden with earth. Sources said that earth filling works are going on. A total of 2.16 lakh cubic metres of earth filling is being done as against 3.16 lakh cubic metres. Work is also going on to install pre-fabricated vertical drain to suck water and make the soil tight. Metro rail sources said work on the viaduct and ramp area is nearly over. "This will help the rail to chug down from the elevated stretch," he added.

The contract to design and construct the depot is being undertaken by L&T at a cost of ₹198.10 crore. The work includes earthwork filling and compaction with vertical drains and viaduct ramps to provide access to the depot from Koyambedu station.