

MRTS feasibility study soon for Madurai, Tiruchy, Salem, Nellore

CHENNAI: The State government would carry out feasibility studies for Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) for Madurai, Tiruchy, Salem and Tirunelveli, Governor Banwarilal Purohit said.

In his customary address in the State legislative assembly, Purohit said the government would ensure speedy completion of the metro rail project phase II. "We urge the government of India to accord early approval for equity participation on an equal sharing basis as was done for phase I," he said.

The Governor said neces-

sary steps will be taken to expedite the Maduravoyal to Chennai Port elevated road project which was needlessly stalled. The elevated road project was initiated by the DMK regime in 2006-11 but the works were suspended after the AIADMK government alleged that the construction of pile caps on the Cooum would obstruct the free flow of water. After the demise of Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, the then AIADMK government in December 2016 relented to the union government and agreed to the revival of the project. However, the project yet to take off with the union

minister of road transport and highways suggested two-level elevated road with one section exclusively earmarked for the port traffic.

Purohit lauded the launch of free travel for women, persons with disabilities and transgenders in all ordinary town buses as a historic step that will promote greater participation of women in economic activity and increase the modal share of public transportation. "This government is also fully committed to modernise and ensure the efficient functioning of the bus transport system in the state," he said.

