

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

SABARI RAIL PROJECT

437 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Angamali – Sabari Rail Project was submitted to Railways on 18.06.2022;
- (b) whether the DPR and estimate have been approved by Government;
- (c) whether this project has been included in the Pink Book of Southern Railway for 2022- 23;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not allocating sufficient amount for the project;
- (e) whether this project will be included under PM Gati Shakti;
- (f) whether facility for operating Vande Bharat Express along this route be considered; and
- (g) whether Government will agree to connect this rail line with Tamil Nadu by connecting the same with Kollam – Sengottai line through Pathanamthitta?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437 BY DR. JOHN BRITTAS ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING SABARI RAIL PROJECT

(a) to (f): Angamali-Sabarimala new line (116 Km) was sanctioned in 1997-98 at a cost of ₹ 550 crore. Work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) have been taken up. However, further works on this project could not be taken forward due to protests by local people against land acquisition and fixing of alignment of the line, court cases filed against the project and inadequate support from the State Government of Kerala.

After long persuasion, Government of Kerala vide letter dated 07.01.2021 has conveyed their decision to share 50% of the total project cost (₹ 2815 crore) of Angamali - Sabarimala Railway project through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), subject to the condition that operation and maintenance of the track shall be done by Ministry of Railways while the stations along the route will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) (through public private partnership route) and the net revenue realized by the SPV will be shared on a 50:50 basis between State Government and Ministry of Railways, after offsetting the cost of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) as agreed to by Railways. M/s Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) has been advised on 20.07.2021 to complete Final Location Survey and to update the project cost.

Accordingly, M/s KRDCL completed the Final Location Survey (FLS) and has prepared the Detailed Estimate of the full project. The Final decision will be taken once the estimate is examined.

Angamali - Sabarimala new Line project has been included in Pink Book, 2022-23. Presently, Angamali-Sabarimala project is not included under PM Gati Shakti. This Project has been reviewed on PRAGATI platform.

All newly sanctioned projects are designed with track infrastructure capable of running all existing trains of Indian Railway network including Vande Bharat Express train.

(g): No proposal is under consideration for connecting the Angamali-Sabarimala Railway line with Kollam –Senkottai via Pathanamthitta. However, survey for a new line between Erumeli and Thiruvananthapuram via Pathanamthitta and Punalur was completed in 2013. The project could not be taken forward due to low traffic projections as per survey reports.