

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 581**  
**ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024**

**PRIORITY TO ANGAMALY-ERUMELI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT**

581 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any letter from Government of Kerala requesting to give priority to Angamaly - Erumeli railway line project over Chengannur - Pamba; and
- (b) whether Government has received the revised estimate of Angamaly- Erumeli new railway line project, from Southern Railway after the approval of the same by Chief Administrative Officer -Finance?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 581 BY SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING PRIORITY TO ANGAMALY-ERUMELI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT**

(a) and (b): Proposals/requests/ suggestions/ representations, both formal and informal for Railway projects/ Works across the country are received on the basis of demands raised by State Governments, Members of Parliament, Ministries of Central Government, elected representatives, Railways' own requirements, organizations/ rail users etc., at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc. As receipt of such Proposals requests/ suggestions/ representations is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, these are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time.

Angamali-Sabarimala via Erumeli new line project was sanctioned in 1997-98. Work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) was 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.

The Estimated cost of the project has been updated by M/s Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL) at ₹3726.95 crore and submitted to Government of Kerala on 15.12.2023 for the acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share cost of the project. However, Government of Kerala has not communicated their views so far.

Meanwhile on public demand, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of new alignment from Chengannur to Pamba which is a shorter route for Sabarimala Shrine, has been taken up.

Railway projects are taken up on the basis of Remunerativeness, Railway's own operational and commercial requirement, techno-economic feasibility, terrain, obligatory points, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throw forward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds which is a continuous and ongoing process.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in fund allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects in State of Kerala as under:-

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹372 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹2,033 crore	5.5 times
2024-25	₹3,011 crore	8.1 times

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but pace of execution of project is dependent on expeditious land acquisition. Railway acquires the land through State Government. State Government assesses the compensation amount and advises to Railway. On receipt of demand from State Government, Railway deposits compensation amount with concerned District Land acquisition Authority. Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 62.83 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 459.54 Ha. Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects though Railway has paid ₹2125.61 Crore to Government of Kerala for land acquisition. Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

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