

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 155
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

NEW HIGH-SPEED/SEMI-HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT IN KERALA

*155 DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a new high-speed/semi high-speed rail line project in Kerala instead of the Silver Line Project (Semi High-Speed Rail from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod);
- (b) whether the Ministry is planning to prepare a new Detailed Project Report (DPR) for such a new high-speed/semi high-speed rail line;
- (c) if so, the details and status thereof; and
- (d) the details and current status of the Silver Line Project in Kerala?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.155 BY DR. JOHN BRITTAS ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING NEW HIGH-SPEED/SEMI-HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT IN KERALA.

(a) to (d): To augment & improve the railway network in Kerala, the following surveys have been sanctioned for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for higher speed potential of 160 kmph:

S. No.	Route	Length (Km)
1	Shoranur-Mangalore 3rd & 4th Line	307
2	Coimbatore-Shoranur 3 rd & 4 th line	99
3	Shoranur – Ernakulam 3 rd Line	106
4	Ernakulam-Kayankulam 3rd line (via Kottayam)	115
5	Kayankulam-Thiruvananthapuram 3rd Line	105
6	Thiruvananthapuram-Nagercoil 3rd Line	71
7	Turavur-Ambalappuzha Doubling	46

After firming up of Detailed Project Report (DPR), sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stake-holders including State Governments and necessary approvals viz. appraisal of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance etc. As sanctioning of projects is a continuous and dynamic process, exact timelines cannot be fixed.

Government of Kerala is currently working on a semi-high speed line named a Silver Line. The DPR of Silver Line (Thiruvananthapuram–Kasaragod) project was prepared by Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), a Joint Venture Company of State Government of Kerala and Ministry of Railways. KRDCL has been advised to revise the DPR in line with latest technical standards, such as adoption of broad gauge for integration with the Indian Railways network, flatter ruling gradient, proper drainage scheme for yards and sections, provision of Kavach, 2×25 kV electrification and taking environmental safeguards during construction & operation and integration with existing rail network etc.

However, Govt. of Kerala is insisting to consider Silver Line Project as stand alone project.

Kerala:-

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 372 crore/year
2025-26	₹3,042 crore (more than 8 times)

As on 01.04.2025, 06 projects (02 new line and 04 doubling) of 266 km length, costing ₹9,415 crore falling fully/partly in Kerala are sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length	Length Commissioned	Balance to complete	Expenditure upto March 2025 (₹in Crore)
New line	02	146 km	0 km	146 km	309
Doubling /multitracking	04	120 km	26 km	94 km	2,941
Total	06	266 km	26 km	240 km	3,250

Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

Details of some of the recently completed projects falling fully/partly in Kerala are as under :

S. No.	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore gauge conversion (217 km)	1,360
2.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur gauge conversion (357 km)	1,122
3.	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara doubling (24 km)	303
4.	Chenganur-Chingavanam doubling (27 km)	436
5.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad doubling (18 km)	346
6.	Kurruppanthara-Chingavanam doubling (27 km)	749

Some of the projects falling fully/partly in Kerala which have been taken up are as under:

S. No.	Project	Cost (₹ in Crores)
1.	Tirunnavaya –Guruvayur new line (35 Km)	138
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala new line (111 km)	3,801
3.	Ernakulam-Kumbalam doubling (8 km)	595
4.	Kumbalam-Thuravur Patch doubling (16 km)	803
5.	Trivandrum- Kanyakumari doubling (87 km)	3,786
6.	Shoranur - Vallathol doubling (10 km)	367
7.	Palakkad Town – Parli bypass line (2 Km)	164
8.	Alappuzha- Ambalapuzha doubling (13 Km)	324

In last three years (i.e. 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-25 and current financial year i.e. 2025-26), total 09 Nos. of Surveys (03 new line and 06 doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala having a total length of 1,124 km have been sanctioned and survey work has been taken up.

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in the State of Kerala is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Kerala	476 ha
Land Acquired	65 ha (14%)
Balance Land to be acquired	411 ha (86%)

Railway had deposited ₹1,975 crore for land acquisition to Government of Kerala. Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition. For instance, details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

S. No.	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)
1.	Angamali - Sabarimala new line (111 km)	416	24	392
2.	Ernakulam – Kumbalam Patch doubling (8 km)	4	3	1
3.	Kumbalam – Turavur Patch doubling (16 km)	10	9	1
4.	Shoranur - Vallathol doubling (10 km)	5	0	5

ROBs/RUBs in Kerala

To improve safety in train operations and mobility for road users, Indian Railways have taken up construction of Road Over Bridge (ROBs)/ Road Under Bridges (RUBs) across tracks in accelerated manner.

The number of ROBs/RUBs constructed across tracks on Indian Railways during the period 2004-14 vis a vis 2014-25 (upto Dec'25) is as under:

Period	ROBs/RUBs constructed
2004-14	4,148 Nos.
2014-25 (upto Dec'25)	13,882 Nos. (including 121 Nos. In the State of Kerala)

As on 01.01.2026, 139 Nos. Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROBs/RUBs) across railways tracks have been sanctioned at the cost of ₹ 4,932 crore in the State of Kerala which are at various

stages of planning and execution. Out of these, 105 Nos. ROBs are delayed on account of the State Govt. The details are as under:

S. No.	Reason	ROBs (in No.)
1.	Delay in Land Acquisition by State Govt.	37
2.	Finalization of Alignment by State Govt.	63
3.	Law & order/ Public Protest/Court cases etc.	2
4.	Agency yet to be fixed	3

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Kerala.

Sanctioning of any railway project depends upon many parameters/factors which include the following:

- Anticipated traffic projections and remunerativeness of the proposed route
- First and last mile connectivity provided by the project
- Connection of missing links and providing additional route
- Augmentation of congested/saturated lines
- Demands raised by State Governments/Central Ministries/Public representatives
- Railway's own operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds

Completion of Railway project/s including ROBs/RUBs depends on various factors which include the following:

- Land acquisition by State Government
- Forest clearance
- State Governments' consent for closure of LC, fixing of approach alignment and approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) for ROBs/RUBs
- Removal of encroachments
- Shifting of infringing utilities
- Statutory clearances from various authorities
- Geological and topographical conditions of area
- Law and order situation in the area of project site
- Number of working months in a year for particular project site etc.

All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project/s.
