

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1705
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

**DOUBLING AND CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT WORKS OF RAILWAY TRACKS IN
KERALA**

1705 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of doubling and capacity enhancement works on the Kasaragod– Mangaluru, Shoranur–Ernakulam, and Ernakulam–Kayamkulam railway sections in Kerala;
- (b) the section-wise timelines fixed for completion of these works, along with the year of sanction and original target dates;
- (c) the reasons for delay, if any, in each of the above sections; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure time-bound completion of these projects, considering the severe congestion on Kerala's railway network?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Kasaragod–Mangaluru and Shoranur–Ernakulam are already a double line section. Ernakulam and Kayamkulam are connected through two routes, first via Kottayam and second via Ambalapuzha.

The first route via Kottayam is already a double-line section. While the second route via Ambalapuzha is partly double line and partly single line at present. The status of doubling of Ernakulam to Kayamkulam via Ambalapuzha is tabulated below:

S.N	Section	Status
1	Ernakulam – Kumbalam – Thuravur (23 Km)	Doubling Sanctioned. Work taken up
2	Thuravur – Mararikulam (21 Km)	DPR prepared
3	Mararikulam – Alappuzha (12 Km)	Field Survey completed. DPR preparation taken up
4	Alappuzha- Ambalapuzha (13 Km)	Work sanctioned recently
5	Ambalapuzha-Kayamkulam (31 Km)	Already double line

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:-

SN	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

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

After preparation 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.

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.N	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.

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 depends on various factors which include the following:

- Land acquisition by State Government
- Forest clearance
- 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.
