

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1819
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.07.2019**

SABARI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT

1819. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Sabari Railway Line Project in Kerala; and**
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for completion of the project without any further delay?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1819 BY ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.07.2019 REGARDING SABARI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT

(a) and (b): Angamali-Sabarimala new rail line (116 Km) was sanctioned in 1997-98 at a cost of ₹ 550 crore. The 5 km section of this project was passing through Periyar Tiger Reserve Forest. On the request of State Government, the project was terminated at Erumeli due to reserve forest area.

Alignment of the project passes through three Districts i.e. Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam districts. Final location survey(FLS) for Angamali-Kaladi-Ramapuram section (70 Km) has been completed in 2002 and further survey in the Kottayam district was stopped by local people in 2007 due to objections on alignment.

To resolve the issue, State Government proposed a revised alignment from Ramapuram to Erumeli (41 km). Revised alignment has been approved.

For this project, Government of Kerala had consented for sharing 50% of above project cost in November, 2015. However, the State Government requested in November, 2016 to execute this project with Railway funds.

Due to alignment issues as stated above and abnormal increase in land cost, the project cost has increased from ₹ 550 crore to ₹ 2815 crore. Land Cost has been increased from ₹ 22.82 crore (in original estimate) to ₹ 965 crore. Due to this, State Government has again been

requested in January 2018 to continue to share 50% cost of the project.

Even though Government of Kerala has approved alignment in 2013, local people are not permitting survey work in Kottayam District. FLS for Ramapuram-Erumeli (41 Km) has been taken up with police protection and the progress is very slow due to continuous protest; despite this, 10 Km FLS has been completed so far.

The project is presently held up as Government of Kerala is neither arranging the land nor agreeing to share 50% cost as agreed by them earlier and also due to resistance created by the local people. These issues have been brought to the notice of Government of Kerala by various letters dated 06.02.2018, 01.03.2018, 26.03.2018 & 08.08.2018.
