

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4797
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023**

ANGAMALY-SABARI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT

4797. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of approval for the revised estimate of Angamaly-Erumeli, Sabari railway line project in Kerala;**
- (b) whether the Railways proposes to defreeze the project since Kerala Government has informed to share the cost of the said project, allocated fund in the State budget and KRDCL has submitted the revised estimate;**
- (c) if so, whether KRDCL, a Joint Venture Company of Ministry of Railways and Government of Kerala is likely to implement Angamaly-Sabari railway line project;**
- (d) if so, the time by which Railways is likely to inform the State Government about the implementing agency of this project;**
- (e) whether the Railways is likely to include this project in PM Gati Shakti and extend this line up to Thiruvananthapuram, if so, the details thereof;**
- (f) whether the Railways has given letter to the State Government to restart land acquisition for the project, if so, the details in this regard; and**
- (g) whether the said railway line is likely to have the necessary infrastructure to run the Vande Bharat express trains, if so, the details in this regard?**

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. 4797 BY SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN, SHRI ANTO ANTONY, ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE AND SHRI HIBI EDEN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 29.03.2023 REGARDING ANGAMALI-SABARI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT

(a) to (g): Angamali-Sabarimala new line (116 Km) was sanctioned in 1997-98. 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 KRDCCL completed the Final Location Survey (FLS) and has prepared the Detailed Estimate (DE) of the full project. Land acquisition process will restart after Detailed Estimate is sanctioned.

Presently, this project is not included under PM Gati Shakti. It has already been reviewed on PRAGATI platform. Survey for a new line between Erumeli and Thiruvananthapuram via Pathanamthitta and Punalur was completed in 2013-14. The project could not be taken forward due to low traffic projections as per survey report.

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