

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5392
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023**

SABARI RAIL PROJECT

5392. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a budget allocation for Sabari Rail Project, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether there is a timeline for the completion of various phases of the Sabari Rail Project;**
- (c) if so, whether the railway board has sanctioned revised estimates of this project;**
- (d) whether the project implementation will be done by the Indian Railways or by the K-Rail, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the project implementation by the K-Rail is objected to by the engineering department of Indian Railways, if so, the reasons therefor;**
- (f) whether the Government has noticed inordinate delay of the railway board in sanctioning the revised estimates, if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (g) whether the Government will speed up the entire process for time-bound and effective implementation of the project, 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. 5392 BY SHRI HIBI EDEN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2023 REGARDING SABARI RAIL PROJECT

(a) to (g): Railway infrastructure projects in Kerala are covered by Southern Railway. Zone-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in > Ministry of Railways > Railway Board > About Indian Railways > Railway Board Directorates > Finance (Budget) > Rail Budget/Pink Book (Year) > Railway wise Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme.

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by cost sharing authority in cost sharing project(s), shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project.

Various steps being taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti Directorate in Ministry of Railways and Gati Shakti Units in divisions (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

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 KRDCL (K-Rail) completed the Final Location Survey (FLS) and has prepared the Detailed Estimate (DE) of the full project. Further decision on the project including its implementation is possible once Detailed Estimate is examined and result thereon, are firmed up.