

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 205
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022**

APPROVAL FOR K-RAIL PROJECT

***205. SHRI HIBI EDEN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted new documents/clarifications for the K-Rail (Silver Line) project for approval and permission, on or after 02 February, 2022 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Union Government has re-examined the project on or after 02 February, 2022 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the grant of approval/permission/NOC by the Government for the project is likely to depend on the technological/economic/financial viability of the said project and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that the State Government is moving ahead with the project without conducting proper environmental impact studies and if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard; and**
- (e) the measures taken by Government to increase the speed of existing trains passing through the State?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 205 BY SHRI HIBI EDEN AND SHRI BENNY BEHANAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.03.2022 REGARDING APPROVAL FOR K-RAIL PROJECT

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Project of Semi High Speed Rail from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargod (530.6 Km) in Kerala has been identified by Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), a Joint Venture company of State Government of Kerala (51%) and Ministry of Railways (49%) for development. In- Principle approval (IPA) for taking up pre-investment activities has been conveyed by Ministry of Railways. After survey, KRDCL has submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Semi High Speed Rail Project to the Ministry of Railways for approval. Cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 63941 Cr. DPR is under examination by Ministry of Railways. Sufficient details for technical feasibility are not available in the DPR. Therefore, KRDCL has been advised to provide detailed technical documents such as alignment plan, particulars of railway land and private land, crossings over existing railway network, duly depicting affected railway asset through Zonal Railway after site verification for detailed examination of the project and to arrive at conclusion about feasibility of project. Financial viability will be examined and firmed up thereon. Consideration of the project will depend upon techno-economic viability of the project. Project is not yet sanctioned. Approval of Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs will be required as project is costing more than ₹ 1000 Cr.

(d) No, Sir. Project is not yet sanctioned.

(e) Indian Railways do not operate train services on State-wise basis as Railway network straddle across State boundaries. During 2020-21, 179 Express train services and 17 passenger services have been speeded over Southern Railway, which inter alia caters to the stations located in the State of Kerala. Besides, speeding up of train services is a constant endeavour and continuous exercise on Indian Railways.