

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2557
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024**

IMPLEMENTATION AND DETAILS OF THE SABARI RAIL PROJECT

2557 SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the implementation of the Sabari Rail Project;**
- (b) the specific locations through which the Sabari Rail Project will pass;**
- (c) whether the Government has provided a detailed list of the railway stations that will be established as part of the Sabari Rail Project;**
- (d) the expected timelines for the completion of each phase of the Sabari Rail Project;**
- (e) the details of the plan of the Government to address any environmental or social concerns related to the areas through which the Sabari Rail Project will pass; and**
- (f) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure minimal disturbance to local communities during the construction of the said Project?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2557 BY SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.08.2024 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION AND DETAILS OF THE SABARI RAIL PROJECT

(a) to (f): Angamali-Sabarimala via Erumeli new line project was sanctioned in 1997-98. Work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) was 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.

The proposed alignment of the project is passing through Kaladi, Perumbavoor, Odakkali, Kothamangalam, Muvattupuzha, Thodupuzha, Karimkunnam, Ramapuram, Bharananganam, Chemmalamattom, Kanjirappilly.

The Estimated cost of the project has been updated by M/s Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL) at ₹3726.95 crore and submitted to Government of Kerala on 15.12.2023 for the acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share cost of the project.

However, Government of Kerala has not communicated their views so far.

Meanwhile, a public demand has been received for exploring new railway line from Chengannur to Pamba which is a shorter route for Sabarimala Shrine. Pamba is situated about 4 Km away from Sabarimala shrine. Final Location Survey for Chengannur - Pamba (75 Km) new line has been sanctioned. The survey of said work has been taken up for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

All Railway Infrastructure project's alignment is finalized keeping in mind least disturbance to environment, minimal disturbance to local people, Socia-economic consideration, Remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, augmentation of congested/saturated lines etc. Sanctioning of Railway projects is continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railways.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forestry clearance by officials of forest department, 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 due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project. With above constraints, every effort is being made to execute the project(s) expeditiously.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in fund allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects in State of Kerala as under:-

| Period | Average Outlay | Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14 |
|----------------|------------------------|--|
| 2009-14 | ₹372 crore/year | - |
| 2023-24 | ₹2,033 crore | more than 5 times |
| 2024-25 | ₹3,011 crore | more than 8 times |

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but pace of execution of project is dependent on expeditious land acquisition.

Railway acquires the land through State Government. State Government assesses the compensation amount and advises to Railway. On receipt of demand from State Government, Railway deposits compensation amount with concerned District Land acquisition Authority.

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 62.83 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 459.54 Ha.

Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects though Railway has paid ₹2125.61 Crore to Government of Kerala for land acquisition.

Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition.