

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3894
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

SABARI RAILWAY LINE PROJECT IN KERALA

3894. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any decision of implementation of Sabari Railway Line Project in Kerala;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (c) whether the Government had given any assurance to the State to implement the project;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;**
- (e) whether the Government has given any direction regarding funding for implementation of the said project, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) whether the Government is providing interest free loan for implementation of the said project, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

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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 estimated cost of the project has been updated by M/s Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (KRDCL) at ₹3801 crore and submitted to Government of Kerala in December, 2023 for the acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share cost of the project. The Government of Kerala has communicated their willingness to share the cost of project with certain conditions in August, 2024. Government of Kerala has been requested by Railway to submit unconditional consent for sharing the Cost. The Government of Kerala has also been requested to enter into tripartite MoU among State Government of Kerala, Ministry of Railways and RBI for the Project.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, 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 site due to climate conditions etc.

Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹372 crore/year
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 and the completion of a railway projects is dependent of land acquisition. Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala are held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in the State of Kerala is as under:

Total Land required for Projects in Kerala	475 Ha
Land Acquired	64 Ha (13%)
Balance Land to be acquired	411 Ha (87%)

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of Kerala. Railway had deposited ₹2111.83 crore for land acquisition to Government of Kerala.

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