

Railway Projects in Kerala

148. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item "LDF to seek loan waiver, railway zone" as appeared in the media recently;

(b) whether necessary steps will be taken to create a separate railway zone for Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any delay in clearance of the Nilambar-Nanjangud railway line and other pending railway projects for Kerala; and

(f) if so, the details of various pending railway projects for Kerala, present status thereof and action taken, if any, to avoid the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The demand for creation of a separate Railway Zone for Kerala, when examined in the light of these considerations, has not been found feasible.

(e) The survey for new line from Nilambar to Nanjangud has been completed recently. The proposal could not be considered because of unremunerative nature of the line, heavy throwforward and constraint of resources. The pending projects are those projects which have been included in the budget but clearance is awaited. No such project is pending in the State of Kerala.

(f) Does not arise.