

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1247
ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022

KRDCL's SEMI OR HIGH SPEED RAIL PROJECT

1247 SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) has submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) on Semi or High Speed Rail Project, if so, the details of action taken on that;
- (b) whether any objection and complaint has been received from any political party/organisation or from any individual so far against the project, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the techno-economic viability of the Semi or High Speed Rail Project has been finalised, if so the details thereof and; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Semi High Speed Rail Project (530.6 Km) from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargod has been submitted by Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), to the Ministry of Railways for approval. Cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 63,941 Cr. by KRDCL. 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 for detailed examination of the project and to arrive at conclusion about feasibility of project. Financial viability will also be examined and firmed up after finalisation of technical parameters as debt servicing with mainly passenger traffic is difficult to achieve. Further, consideration of the project depends upon techno-economic viability of the project.

Many representations are being received in this Ministry. Major issues raised are :- (i) thousands of hectares of cultivable land, 20,000 thousand houses, shops and business establishments will be ruined (ii) Angamaly railway station operates railway sidings for Food Corporation of India. Silver line will

be an obstacle for expansion (iii) Proposed alignment will demolish many religious structures (iv) Proposed track being built on standard gauge so it cannot be integrated with the existing railway track network (v) Proposed route is prepared in such a way that the same is adversely affecting the life and property of the residents of Poundukadavu who have been residing there for the past 70 years. (vi) Kerala Govt. having a big amount of debt. Even for giving salary and pension Govt is borrowing a big amount. This project will be a heavy loss so kindly not sanction this project. (vii) Kindly adjust the proposed plans so that the land is not acquired for the purpose of the silver line project.
