

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1551
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2022

ANGAMALI-ERUMELY SABARI RAILWAY PROJECT

1551 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when Angamali-Erumely Sabari railway project would be commissioned;
- (b) whether Government of Kerala has deposited its share of investment in the project;
- (c) if so, the amount deposited by Government of Kerala; and
- (d) the total cost of the Sabari railway project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1551 BY SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 29.07.2022 REGARDING ANGAMALI-ERUMELY SABARI RAILWAY PROJECT

(a) to (d): Angamali-Sabarimala new rail line was sanctioned in 1997-98 at a cost of ₹550 crore. Total length of the project is 116 Km.

5 km section of this project was passing through Periyar Tiger Reserve Forest. On the request of State Government, the project was terminated at Erumeli due to reserve forest area. Alignment of the project passes through three Districts i.e. Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam districts. Final location survey (FLS) for Angamali-Kaladi-Ramapuram section (70 Km) was completed in 2002 and further survey in the Kottayam district was stopped by local people in 2007 due to objections on alignment. The final project report can be prepared only after Final Location Survey is completed.

Consequently, in this project, work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) have been 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 response from the State Government of Kerala.

Government of Kerala vide their letter dated 27.11.2015 agreed to share 50% cost of the project. Government of Kerala had also identified this project for execution under Joint Venture Scheme with Ministry of Railways and therefore, an MoU was also signed on 01.09.2016. Unfortunately, within a year, the State Government vide letter dated 15.11.2016 withdrew their own consent to share 50% cost of the project. Government Kerala has not deposited any cost share for the project. Project is held up on this account.

After long persuasion, recently Government of Kerala vide letter dated 07.01.2021 has conveyed their decision to share 50% of the total project cost of Angamali - Sabarimala Railway project through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), subject to the condition that operation and maintenance of the track shall be done by Ministry of Railways while the stations

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along the route will be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) (through public private partnership route) and the net revenue realized by the SPV will be shared on a 50:50 basis between State Government and Ministry of Railways, after offsetting the cost of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) as agreed to by Railways. M/S KRDCCL was advised to complete Final Location Survey and to update the project cost.

Accordingly, M/S KRDCCL completed the Final Location Survey (FLS) and submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Estimate (DE) of the full project to Southern Railways on 23.06.2022. The DPR and DE is under examination. Updated detailed estimate submitted by M/s KRDCCL is approx ₹ 3448 crore.
