

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Request to give up the proposed K-Rail project and strengthen the existing high-speed railway project in Kerala.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Sir, I would like to raise a matter regarding the proposed Silver Line project, a semi-high speed railway project in Kerala which would tear the State geographically.

A 557-km line which is to be protected on either side by 4 to 10 m walls would bifurcate the State and it would impede the natural flow of water and act as a dam in the event of a flood or mud slip. The freight movement is not conceived under the project. Seventy per cent of railway income is derived from freight. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 64,000 crore. It is financially not viable and lead the State into a debt trap. As per the NITI Aayog, the cost of the project will be Rs. 1,20,000 crore.

The land acquisition scheme is not clear. The Kerala Government has conducted no environmental or social impact study. People were in the dark as to whether the Silver Line would cut across their properties. The project required the acquisition of 1,500 hectares of land and displacement of an estimated 20,000 families, 50,000 shops and 153 hectares of farmland.

The Centre has sanctioned a stand-alone elevated high speed railway system. However, K-rail hugged the terrain and required the construction of more than 1,000 over and under passes. It could carry only a minimal number of passengers. Silver Line would be one more white elephant in Kerala. Hence, the Union Government should advise

the State of Kerala to give up the K-Rail Project. Instead, the Government should go in for a network of small airports and strengthen the existing railway system of high-speed traffic. Thank you.

माननीय सभापति : जो माननीय सदस्य असोसिएट करना चाहते हैं, वे स्लिप भेज दीजिए ।