

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Semi High Speed Rail line Corridor connecting north and south ends of Kerala-laid.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): The Semi High Speed Rail line corridor (Silver Line) connecting north and south ends of Kerala is the flagship project of K-Rail, a joint-venture of Government of Kerala and Ministry of Railways designed for the Infrastructure Development of Railways in Kerala. The State Cabinet has approved the line's Detailed Project Report. The estimated cost is Rs. 66,000 crore. The project is economically unviable as it will involve displacement of 20,000 families and having disastrous environmental impacts. The Railway Board has not yet approved the project. Hence, the project may be restructured as a two-tier fly-over project over existing coastal line. The first tier should be an 8-liner road and second tier, a 2-liner Semi High Speed Rail Line. The cost would be much lower than the present project and there would be no eviction or negative environmental impacts. In future, the line may be extended to Mumbai and Vizhinjam International seaports.