

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding Nemom Coaching/Satellite Terminal Project. -laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the Honourable Railway Minister's attention towards the shocking decision of the Railway Board to drop the Nemom Coaching/Satellite Terminal Project in my constituency of Thiruvananthapuram, which is imperative for the decongestion and functional extension of the Trivandrum Central Station and the development of the Kochuveli Station.

Though announced in the 2011-12 Railway Budget, the Nemom project's inclusion in the Railways' plan of work and the laying of its foundation stone by the former Hon'ble Railways Minister happened only in 2018-19. In 2019-20, a Detailed Project Report for approximately 117 crores was prepared and submitted to the Railway Board for approval. Despite several interventions within and outside Parliament, no tangible progress has been made.

Unfortunately, the recent decision to not take forward work at the Nemom terminal is uncalled-for as the memorandum for the announcement simply refers to the terminal as being "not justified" but fails to provide any reasons for dropping the project.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Government to reconsider its decision and expedite developmental work at the Nemon coaching terminal so that it can contribute to--in the words of the former Hon'ble Railway Minister at the foundation stone laying ceremony--"decongesting the already overloaded current coaching terminals".