

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Regarding speedy implementation of Sabari Rail Project and its extension from Erumely to Thiruvananthapuram.**

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like to invite the attention of this House and the Government to a long-pending dream of the people of Kerala, the Sabari Rail Project. The proposed project was announced in this House 25 years ago, but it remained unfinished.

The Government has already spent Rs.500 crore for the implementation of this project. However, only the construction of the railway track stretching a distance of seven kilometres and the construction of a railway station at Kalady have been completed so far. Land acquisition and fixing the alignment of the proposed railway line have not been completed so far. The State Government of Kerala has recently submitted a revised budget estimate to the Railway Board regarding the proposed project. I request the Government to take a proactive step on this proposal and make the Sabari Rail Project a reality.

Sir, I request the Government to take urgent steps to conduct a new survey again for the extension of Sabari railway line from Erumely to Thiruvananthapuram via Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Konni and Punalur. Once this line is extended from Erumely to Thiruvananthapuram, in addition to serving Sabarimala pilgrims, it will also act as a third railway line parallel to Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram via Kottayam. The people of Idukki district, especially the farmers of hilly regions of Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts, will be benefited to a large extent. Thank you.