

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5435
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023**

DOUBLING OF AMBALAPPUZHA- ERNAKULAM RAIL LINE

5435. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to expedite the doubling of Ambalappuzha-Ernakulam railway line in Kerala, which has been included in the pink book, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the tentative time by which the tender for the above doubling work is likely to be floated;**
- (c) whether the Government has decided to lay the second line in the Ambalappuzha-Ernakulam stretch so as to run the trains at a speed of 160 kms per hour, if so, the modalities thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government intends to construct a third railway line in the Ernakulam-Shornur stretch in Kerala, if so, the estimated time of completion of the same; and**
- (e) the details of amount sanctioned for the doubling of various stretches of railway lines in the State of Kerala from the FY 2019-20 till 2021-22?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5435 BY ADV. A.M. ARIFF TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2023 REGARDING DOUBLING OF AMBALAPPUZHA – ERNAKULAM RAIL LINE

(a) to (c): Doubling of Ernakulam to Ambalappuzha has been divided in three parts viz Ernakulam-Kumbalam (7.7 Km), Kumbalam-Turavur (15.59 Km) and Turavur- Ambalappuzha (45.86 Km). All three projects were included in Budget 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2015-16 respectively. The present anticipated cost of the projects has been assessed as ₹595 crore, ₹803 crore and ₹1262 crore respectively. Initially, Government of Kerala was requested to provide land free of cost and to share cost of the projects. However, Government of Kerala has not agreed for the same. Considering the importance of the project, it has been decided to take up the work with 100% Railway funding. The detailed Estimate of doubling projects Ernakulam – Kumbalam (7.71 Km) and Kumbalam-Thuravur (15.59 Km) has been sanctioned and Detailed Project Report (DPR) of doubling of Turavur-Ambalappuzha (45.86 Km) has been prepared.

Ernakulam – Kumbalam (7.71 Km) and Kumbalam-Thuravur (15.59 Km) doubling projects involve acquisition of 4.20 ha and 10.30 ha respectively in Kerala. Land acquisition for the project has been taken up. Tenders for projects are taken up depending upon the progress of the land acquisition and handing over of land to Railways by the State Government.

All doubling projects are almost parallel to existing alignment passing through cities and speed depends on curvature of track which is affected by land availability.

(d): Ernakulam – Shoranur 3rd line (107 Km) doubling project has been included in Budget in 2018-19. Final Location Survey (FLS) has been Sanctioned. Further decision on the project is possible once survey is completed and result thereon, including traffic requirement, are firmed up.

(e): Railway projects are sanctioned and taken up Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as the Railway's projects may span across State boundaries. Railway infrastructure projects in Kerala are covered under Southern Railway zone of Indian Railway.

Zone-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website, i.e., www.indianrailways.gov.in > Ministry of Railways >Railway Board >About Indian Railways >Railway Board Directorates >Finance (Budget) >Rail Budget/Pink Book (Year)> Railway wise Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget allotment and commensurate commissioning of infrastructure projects. Average Annual Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹950 crore per year from ₹372 crore per year during 2009 – 14 (155% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14). The Annual Budget allocation for these projects increased to ₹667 crore for Financial Year 2019-20 (79% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14), ₹688 crore for Financial Year 2020-21 (85% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation during 2009 - 14), ₹1,866 crore for Financial year 2021-22 (402% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14) and ₹1,085 crore for Financial Year 2022-23 (192% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14). For financial year 2023-24, highest ever budget outlay of ₹2,033 crore has been allocated for these works, which is 446% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14.