

**Re: Construction of Angamali ? Sabari railway line in Kerala - laid**

**ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI):** 11 KMs long Angamali ? Sabari rail project is the 1st phase of Angamali-Erumeli-Pathanamthitta-Punaloor-Thiruvananthapuram parallel railway line. Angamali - Erumeli railway line will provide connectivity to the national Pilgrim Centre, Sabarimala with many other Pilgrim Centres including Kalady, the birth place of Aadi Shankaracharya, Bharananganam the Shrine church of St. Alphonsa, famous Christian Pilgrim Centre and Erumeli the centre of religious fraternity. This Railway line will connect 14 commercial and industrial centres of Kerala. Moreover, Idukki district will get railway connectivity through this ambitious railway line project. It will have a great impact on the pilgrim tourism potential of state and overall development of Ernakulum, Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala. The work was sanctioned 25 years ago, and some construction started. But it was stalled and the project was lying dormant for a long time. The state government has agreed to contribute 50% of the project cost. INR 100 crores was allocated in the last Union budget. However, progress is happening at snail's pace. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps so that the true potential of central Kerala and districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta is unlocked.