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Title: Need to expedite completion of Angamaly-Sabari rail project in Kerala and ensure payment of compensation to the owners of land acquired for said project.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): In the Railway budget 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 83 crores was allocated for the Angamaly -Sabari Rail project in Kerala, but only Rs. 4 crore could be availed for the project. At the same time in the Budget 2012-13 the fund allocated for the project is only Rs. 15 crores. In the Budget 2013-14 the amount allocated for the project again reduced to Rs 10 crores. This continuous reduction in the Budget allocation will adversely affect the timely completion of this dream project of Kerala which is considered as the alternative rail route from Angamaly to Thiruvananthapuram. The opening of the new Angamaly- Sabari rail line will be a solution to the heavy traffic congestion and increase frequently of train services for Kerala. At present construction works of the rail line up to Kalady including Kalady railway bridge and Kalady railway station is at the threshold of completion. The finalization of the alignment of the line in Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts are also in progress. An amount of Rs. 153.91 crore is required for paying compensation to the land owners in the 1st phase of land acquisition process for 21.6403 acres of land acquired by Railways in Kunnathunadu and Aluva Taluks of Ernakulam District. The land owners in Ernakulam district have been waiting for their compensation for more than 7 years. In Kalady area, there are still a number of land owners still not paid the compensation for their land acquired by Railways. The proposal of Railways that 50% of the cost of the Project should be borne by State of Kerala is not acceptable on account of the poor financial condition of the State.

I request that sufficient fund may be allocated for the payment of compensation to land owners and timely completion of the project in a time bound manner.