

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Demand to take steps to modernise Ernakulam Railway Junction Station, Kerala.

**SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM):** Sir, through you, I would like to raise an important issue which relates to the Ministry of Railways. It is regarding the Ernakulam Junction Railway Station which is one of the most important railways stations in the State of Kerala.

The redevelopment of 26 stations was announced by the Ministry of Railways a few years back in which Ernakulam Junction Railway Station was also included. The estimates of about Rs. 450 crore is pending with the Railway Board and the Zonal Railways. They have still not called for the tenders. I would like to urge the Central Government to take up the redevelopment of this station at a very fast pace as it has been pending for a long time. We want this station to be developed as one of the most modern stations in the State.

Sir, there has been a demand for the extension of Trivandrum Madurai Amrita Express to Rameswaram since long. Also, there is a long pending demand for the introduction of a new train between Ernakulam and Vellankanni via Kollam. Both these demands are yet to be addressed. The Zonal Railways says that they are waiting for the final orders from the Board. So, I would urge the Government to look into this matter.

Sir, the Ernakulam Marshalling Yard project has been handed over to the construction department. Even now, the Railways is not taking keen interest as regards the DPR. This may be provided to the KRDC and necessary instructions may be given to the Zonal Railways for the Detailed Project Report preparation. This is going to be one of the biggest railway stations in the State. This needs to be done so that new trains can be operated. Also, there is no need for land acquisition. It is because about 100 acres of land worth Rs. 5,000 crore is with the Indian Railways. So, I urge the Government to take up these matters with immediate intervention.

Thank you.