

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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Regarding implementation of proposed Koyilandy-Mysuru Rail Link

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Sir, a proposal is pending with the Ministry of Railways to introduce a railway line from Koyilandy in Kozhikode district via Kalpetta to Kadakola, a suburb of Mysuru. This was the only viable proposal for rail connectivity between Wayanad and Mysuru districts without disturbing wildlife habitats much. If the proposed rail line comes to fruition, the distance from Kozhikode to Mysuru will be considerably reduced by 230 kms as against the existing distance of 715 kms via Bengaluru and 507 kms via Mangaluru. The new routes would reduce the travel distance from Bengaluru to Thiruvananthapuram by almost 120 kms and from Mysuru to Thiruvananthapuram by about 330 kms, thus benefiting travellers from south Kerala also. Regarding environmental clearance, the procedures included the consent of Kerala and Karnataka Forest Departments, State Wildlife Boards, National Wildlife Board, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Central Empowered Committee, and finally the Supreme Court.

Incidentally, the Karnataka Government, citing ecological concerns, has not entertained the two main projects of Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL), the special purpose vehicle set up for Nilambur-Nanjangud and Thalassery-Wayanad-Mysuru projects.

Hence, I request the Government of India to take immediate necessary steps to implement the proposed Koyilandy-Mysuru Rail Link.