

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : To include Angamaly-Erumeli railway line with the Prime Minister Gati Shakti project

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Thank you, hon. Chairman Sir. My submission is regarding Sabarimala railway line project. Angamaly-Erumeli railway line will provide connectivity to the national pilgrim centre, Sabarimala with many other pilgrim centres including Kalady, the birth place of Adi Shankaracharya, Bharanaganam, the shrine church of St. Alphonsa and Erumeli the centre of religious fraternity.

This railway line will connect 14 commercial and industrial centres of Kerala. It will have a great impact on the pilgrim tourism potential of the State and the overall development of Ernakulum, Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala.

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji directed them to include this railway line project with PRAGATI platform on 26th October, 2016. However, due to various reasons, the project did not make any progress and it led to the freezing of the project by the Railways in September, 2019.

Sir, the Government of Kerala has expressed its willingness to the Railway Board to share 50 per cent of the cost of Angamaly-Erumeli Railway project. Considering the importance of the project and overall development of the State, boosting the pilgrim tourism industry, commerce, urbanization, public transport etc. and the fact that the Government of Kerala has agreed to bear 50 per cent of the cost of the project, I urge upon the government to include Angamali-Erumeli railway line with the Prime Minister Gati Shakti project and approve the revised estimates with the facility of Vande Bharat train service.