

Regarding Need to expedite completion of track doubling project between Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu- Laid

SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH (KANYAKUMARI): I express deep concern over inordinate delay in completion of the crucial doubling project between Thiruvananthapuram and Nagercoil via Nagercoil—a lifeline for lakhs of daily commuters and a strategic route connecting Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Though the project was sanctioned way back in the Financial Year 2015-16 with an estimated cost of ₹3785 crore, less than 20 kilometers out of the 87 km stretch has been commissioned so far—after nearly a decade. As of March 2024, ₹2212 crore has already been spent, and ₹940.64 crore is allocated for 2024-25, yet, the project crawls. A major bottleneck is the sluggish land acquisition. Despite the Railways depositing ₹1312 crore with Kerala and ₹299 crore with Tamil Nadu, the land handed over remains insufficient. Kerala has done better, handing over 30.43 hectares of its 37.77 ha responsibility, while Tamil Nadu lags but still doing well on their part. This lack of pace is unacceptable. Central Government must act swiftly and responsibly. The public cannot be made to wait endlessly for basic infrastructure. I urge the Centre to hold states accountable and expedite the remaining work on war footing.