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Title: Need to initiate necessary steps for setting up of Rail Coach Factory in Palakkad, Kerala.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to an important issue related to Palakkad Coach Factory. The Coach Factory was promised to Palakkad in Kerala long back in 1980. We have been waiting for the fulfilment of this dream for the last three decades. However, recently the Government made announcement that Coach Factory would be set up in Palakkad and the project has found a mention in the last Rail Budget. The Government of Kerala has made the land available for the project almost a year back. This is the first Railway Coach Factory for which the railway has demanded land free of cost from the concerned State Government. All the other Coach Factories have been set up in land purchased by the Railway itself. In Palakkad though 430 acres of land has been made available, Railway has not taken any step to take over the land and initiate the project. Honourable Minister for Railways had given assurances several times in the Parliament that Coach Factory will be set up soon. On 19th September 2011 the Honourable Minister for Railways, in a meeting of Chief Minister, all State Ministers, and Members of Parliament from Kerala had announced that the foundation stone of the Palakkad Coach Factory will be laid on 22nd October 2011. Though one month has passed since the announced date but the Railway has not taken any step to lay the foundation stone of the Coach Factory. This indefinite delay and inaction on the part of railway has caused serious concerns among the people of Kerala. I urge upon the Government to take serious note of the situation and initiate immediate steps to lay foundation stone of the Palakkad Coach Factory. I also demand proper monitoring to ensure that the project will be completed without delay and in a time bound manner.