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Title: Need to implement Sabari Rail Project as a Central Government scheme.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I request the Government to take urgent action to implement Sabari Rail Project. As per the design, Sabari Rail is a Rs. 1600 crore project and half of the amount should be borne by the State Government of Kerala. As the State Government is not in a position to bear its share, implementation of Sabari Rail Project is being delayed for this reason.

Sabarimala Pilgrimage is unique in the country for many reasons. Around four crore devotees of Lord Ayyappa undertake pilgrimage to the Sabarimala Shrine every year. Overwhelming majority of devotees is coming from outside Kerala including North Indian States. Another reason behind the pilgrimage to Sabarimala is its promotion of communal harmony. At present, there is no railway line to connect devotees with the Sabarimala Shrine.

Therefore, I request the Government to implement Sabari Rail Project as a special case as Central Government's fully funded Scheme.