



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

1

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF MARCH 2026 / 27TH PHALGUNA, 1947

WP(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

PETITIONER:

JIJO JOSEPH,
S/O.P.C.JOSEPH, SECRETARY, SABARI RAILWAY CENTRAL
ACTION COUNCIL, PANACHINANICKAL(H), KODIKULAM P.O.,
THODUPUZA, IDUKKI DISTRICT-685582.

BY ADV SRI.JIJO JOSEPH

RESPONDENTS:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695001.
- 2 DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
IDUKKI DISTRICT, CIVIL STATION, PAINAVE, IDUKKI.
- 3 RAILWAY BOARD,
REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY, RAIL BHAVAN, RAISINA HILL,
NEW DELHI-110001.
- 4 THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY,
REPRESENTED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, SOUTHERN RAILWAY
HEADQUARTER, PARK TOWN, EGMORE, CHENNAI.
- 5 THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER-CONSTRUCTION,
SOUTHERN RAILWAY, GCDA COMPLEX, ERNAKULAM JUNCTION,
ERNAKULAM-682016.



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

2

*** ADDL.6 THE UNION OF INDIA,
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS,
RAIL BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-100001.**

*** ADDL.7 THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 001.**

***ADDL. R6 & R7 ARE IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED
04/02/2026 IN WP(C).NO.5316/2019.**

**SRI.A.DINESH RAO, SC, RAILWAYS
SRI.JAISHANKAR V.NAIR, SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL
SMT.MAHESWARY.G., SENIOR PANEL COUNSEL**

SMT. VINITHA B., SR.G.P.

**THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD ON
18.03.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:**



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

3

JUDGMENT

(Dated this the 18th day of March, 2026)

Soumen Sen, C.J.

Mr.Jaishankar V.Nair, learned Senior Panel Counsel appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Railways, has submitted that the project has been defreezed and in the meeting held on 18 February, 2026, it was decided that the Government of Kerala is willing to bear an amount of ₹1,900 Crore (Rupees One Thousand Nine Hundred Crore only), inclusive of land acquisition cost, being 50% of the total project cost of ₹3,800.9 Crore, with financial assistance from KIIFB, towards the Angamaly-Sabari Railway Project. For acquiring the required land, the proposal for creating Land Acquisition (LA) units is underway at the concerned District Administration level.



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

4

2. The communication made by the Government of Kerala to the Chairman of the Railway Board, New Delhi, the General Manager of the Southern Railway, Chennai and the Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), Ernakulam, is placed before us. The communication dated 18 February, 2026, is taken on record.

3. In view of the above, we dispose of this Writ Petition. We hope and trust that all stakeholders shall make all earnest efforts to ensure that the project is completed within a reasonable time.

Sd/-

**Soumen Sen
Chief Justice**

Sd/-

**Syam Kumar V.M.
Judge**

MMG



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

5

APPENDIX OF WP(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT P1

A TRUE COPY OF THE PINK BOOK OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS FOR THE PERIOD 1997-98 SANCTIONING ANGAMALI-SABARIMALA NEW BG RAILWAY LINE PROJECT.

EXHIBIT P2

A TRUE COPY OF THE GOVERNMENT ORDER PASSED BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT DATED 27.11.2015 AND DECISION TO SHARE THE 50% OF SABARI RAIL PROJECT COST.

EXHIBIT P3

A TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER SENT BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT TO 3RD RESPONDENT DATED 23.02.2017.

EXHIBIT P4

A TRUE COPY OF THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SABARI RAILWAY PROJECT DATED 14.09.2017 SENT BY THE 5TH RESPONDENT TO THE 3RD RESPONDENT.

EXHIBIT P5

A TRUE COPY ISSUED UNDER RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT THE BUDGET OUTLAY OF RS.655.60 CRORES FOR THE SABARI RAILWAY PROJECT.

EXHIBIT P6

A TRUE COPY OF REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER TO THE HON'BLE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS DATED 12.06.2017.

EXHIBIT P7

A TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA RAILWAYS DATED 12.06.2017.



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

6

EXHIBIT P8

**A TRUE COPY PUBLISHED KERALA GAZETTE NOTIFICATION
DATED 17.1.18 TO CONDUCT A SOCIAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT STUDY (SIAS) IN ERNAKULAM DISTRICT.**

RESPONDENT EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT R1(A)	A TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION NO.D.O.D2/480/2018-TRANS DATED 10.09.2024 OF SECRETARY TRANSPORT (AVIATION,METRO RAILWAYS)DEPARTMENT TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,SOUTHERN RAILWAY
EXHIBIT R1(B)	A TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION NO.D.O.D2/480/2018-TRANS DATED 29.08.2024 OF SECRETARY TRANSPORT (AVIATION,METRO RAILWAYS)DEPARTMENT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RAILWAY BOARD,RAIL BHAVAN,NEW DELHI.
ANNEXURE R2(A)	TRUE COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONVENED BY THE CHIEF PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER ON 07-01-2026
ANNEXURE R2(B)	TRUE COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION NO.DCIDK/3651/2018-C7 DATED 16-01-2026 ISSUED FROM THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,IDUKKI TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER,SOUTHERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ,ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT R3(A)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER DATED 27.01.2026 BEARING NO.93/W-1/SURVEY/SR/11 (E- 3022927)
EXHIBIT R3(B)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO.D2/480/2018- TRANS DATED 18.02.2026 ISSUED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO THE PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RAILWAY BOARD
EXHIBIT R3(C)	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO.D2/480/2018- TRANS DATED 18.02.2026 ISSUED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO R3 TO R5.
EXHIBIT R3(D)	TRUE COPY OF THE G.O.(RT)NO.89/2026/TRANS DATED 04.03.2026



2026:KER:24385

W.P.(C) NO. 5316 OF 2019

7

ANNEXURE R5(B)

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 11.06.25
PREPARED BY RAILWAY**

ANNEXURE R5(C)

**TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER DTD
5.8.25**