

Amount Spent on Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam Project

3039. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam railway project so far;

(b) the amount earmarked for the above work in 1998-99 Budget as well as the total amount required for the completion of project; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) The work of gauge conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension upto Mettupalayam has been included in the Budget with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. A token amount of Rs. 10,000/- has been provided for this work during 1998-99, since the requisite clearances are not yet available. Anticipated cost of this work is Rs. 175 crores. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained. This work will be progressed as per its priority in the priority list approved by the Cabinet, subject to availability of resources.

Railway Projects

3040. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken/proposed and present status regarding pending projects in Vidarbha region such as 260 km. Wardha-Pusad-Nanded rail line, Jalna-Khamgaon rail route with extension upto Shagaon, survey and follow up of Warora-Umred-Chimur rail line, provision of adequate funds for execution of Amraoti-Narkhed rail line, laying of 185 km. Yeotmal-Mutizapur-Achalpur line, broad gauge conversion of 120 km. Nagpur-Nagbhid rail line;

(b) whether all these projects have been lingering for a long resulting in high cost escalation; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed for completion of these projects on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The details are given as under :

(i) Wardha-Pusad-Nanded Rail Line.

A Survey for the above line is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

(ii) Jalna-Khamgaon new line with extension upto Shegaon.

An updating of survey for Jalna-Khamgaon new line was carried out in 1994. The results of the survey revealed the cost of the 155 kms. long line as Rs. 228 crores at the then prevailing price level with a negative Rate of Return. The present day cost of the project will not be less than Rs. 325 crores. Since the line was primarily meant for the development of a backward area, the project was referred to the Planning Commission for conveying approval, who, however, deferred the proposal due to its unremunerative nature. In view of the unremunerative nature of the line and the severe resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider taking up the project.

Regarding extension of this line to Shegaon, the suggested line will be about 20 kms. Long and will cost not less than Rs. 50 crores at current day prices, as the line traverses through difficult terrain. In view of the heavy throw forward of ongoing new line projects coupled with the severe resource constraints, consideration of the suggested line would be difficult at present. However, Shegaon can be reached from Khamgaon via Akola which is connected by a Broad gauge link.

(iii) Warora-Umred-Chimur Rail line

A survey for the above line carried out in 1995-96 has revealed the cost of the 106 kms. long line as Rs.97.3 crores, with diesel traction, with a negative rate of return and with electric traction as Rs. 184.78 crores, again with negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the project and severe resource constraints, the project could not be taken up for consideration.

(iv) Provision of adequate funds for Amravati-Narkhed rail line :

70% of land acquisition for the project has been completed. Earthwork is in progress on 18 out of 27 sections in the entire length. Work on Amravati station building is in progress. This project will be funded and progressed as per its priority in the Priority List of the Railway Projects as approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs subject to availability of resources.

(v) Gauge conversion of Yeotmal-Murtizapur-Achalpur rail line :

The option to purchase the above line - a private line owned by the Central Provinces Railway Company Limited by the Government was examined at the time of the last ten yearly review in March, 1996 but it was decided not