

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4777

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN OMANTHAI AND PALLAI

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Government and Sri Lanka have signed a commercial agreement for construction of railway line between Omanthai and Pallai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the date of commencement of the project;
- (c) whether the Indian Government has promised financial assistance of \$ 185 million for the said project, which is a part of the larger package of assistance of railway infrastructure in north eastern province of Sri Lanka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) to (d) Government of India is assisting Sri Lanka in the construction of Railway lines in Northern Sri Lanka. In this regard, India has offered nearly US \$ 800 million to Sri Lanka as Lines of Credit.

The track-laying on the Omanthai-Pallai Railway Sector will be implemented by IRCON & RITES at an estimated cost of US \$ 185.35 million. The agreement between IRCON and Sri Lanka Railways was signed on 11 January 2010. The time required for the execution of the project is 30 months from the commencement date.