

**Title: Request the Government to allocate special fund to replace the old bridges and complete the Shoranur-Mangalore doubling work.**

**SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD):** Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

This is regarding the dangerous situation of the railway lines in Kerala. Almost all the bridges in the Shoranur-Mangalore sector are 100-120 years old. According to the railway-engineering experts, the life span of bridges would be 80-90 years. When the British constructed the lines and bridges only a few passenger trains and goods trains were running. Since the Konkan Railway opened, the number of passenger trains and goods trains has immensely increased. It is a truth that the single Shoranur-Mangalore track is overloaded. For the last 10-15 years, the people and passengers have been crying for the doubling of this line but the Railways started doubling very late and the yearly sanctioning of funds were very meagre. This is why the doubling work is dragging on. The present position is causing doubts regarding the completion of the work before 2003. This means, the weak track and bridges should bear the entire load.

In these circumstances, I would request the railway authorities to allot special funds to replace the old bridges and complete the Shoranur-Mangalore doubling works on a war footing.

Thank you very much.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House now stands adjourned to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

1342 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes*

*past Fourteen of the Clock.*

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*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-eight minutes*

*past Fourteen of the Clock.*