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Title: Need to expedite laying of Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line in Karnataka.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): Madam, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Railway Minister regarding Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line. After great persuasion by the Karnataka State, the Railway Ministry had provided Rs. 10 crore during the Rail Budget for 2000-01 and the then Railway Minister had also laid the foundation for this line. During the year, it was reported that only about Rs. Three crore was spent out of the allotted funds, which shows that the work on this project is lagging behind and the amount allotted for the completion of this project have not been fully utilised. Again, during the year 2002-03, an allotment of Rs. 15 crore has been earmarked for construction of this Railway Line.

Presently, there is only one train running between Bangalore and New Delhi via Gulbarga and Pune. If this railway line is completed, this will reduce the journey time by at least five hours between Bangalore and New Delhi and will be convenient to the people of Hyderabad and Karnataka region.

I, once again, urge the Railway Minister to kindly instruct the authorities concerned to utilise the money allotted so far and provide more funds for early completion of Gulbarga-Bidar Railway Line.

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