

Title: Need for early completion of new railway line between Hassan and Bangalore.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA (HASSAN): Sir, the acquisition of land for the Hassan-Bangalore new railway line had started four years ago. The total distance of this line is 167 kilometres. But only 56 kilometres of land has been acquired by the Railways till today. At this rate, the entire project may take more than a decade for its completion. The acquisition of land between Hassan and Shravanabelagola (40 kilometres) and between Bangalore and Nelamangala (16 kilometres) has been completed. The land between Nelamangala and Shravanabelagola is about 111 kilometres which has to be acquired by the Railways. The people of my constituency are very much agitated about the inordinate delay in the progress of this project which links the port city of Mangalore with the capital, Bangalore. So far, Rs.45 crore have been spend on this project. Considering the importance of the project, the amount spent is not sufficient. The people in Bangalore, Hassan and Mangalore have already started demonstrations and agitations criticising the slow speed of execution of this project.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to allocate at least Rs.100 crore for this project immediately and to complete the land acquisition work at least by 31.8.2000 so that laying of rail line can begin during the next financial year. I hope and trust that the Centre would rise to the occasion and help the people of Karnataka.
