

Title : Regarding need to release adequate funds for early completion of Luni-Munabao gauge conversion work in Rajasthan – Laid.

COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHAUDHARY (BARMER) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards gauge conversion of Luni-Munabao (297 KM) rail line. Munabao is just on the border with Pakistan and this work is strategically very vital for the country from defence point of view. It is over 4 years now when this Project was sanctioned with an anticipated expenditure of Rs.240 crores but the progress is very slow. During 1997-98 and 1998-99 about Rs.40 crores were sanctioned but during both these financial years funds were withdrawn except token amount of Rs.1.00 crore.

Again during the last financial year only Rs.25 crore were earmarked but Rs.10 crore were withdrawn. This project is very important not only for development of backward desert districts of Western Rajasthan but for defence preparedness of the country as well.

Therefore, the allotment of Rs.25.40 crore for the financial year 2001-2002 is very meager and I request that it should be enhanced to minimum of Rs.100 crores.

(ends)