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Title : Need to operate Subramanya-Sakleshpur passenger train on Mangalore-Hassan section.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (MANGALORE): Sir, I would like to raise before this august House an important issue concerning the railway connectivity in Karnataka. The Mangalore-Hasan railway gauge conversion work in Karnataka took 10 years to complete. I think that it is an unusual record time for a gauge conversion work to complete. However, finally the gauge conversion is completed as early as in March 2006. Of course, the track was opened for goods trains but unfortunately till today it is not open for passenger trains. The Commissioner of Railway Safety has to certify or give clearance in this regard. I do not know why this inordinate delay is taking place. The General Manager of South Western Railway has said that papers have already been submitted to the Commissioner for statutory inspection. But we fail to understand why the Railway Safety Commissioner is delaying the issuance of certificate since last six months. Practically the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Velu, who came there, gave three or four dates for commissioning of all the passenger trains, but nothing has been done so far.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Sir, I am coming to that. Every day about 350 buses are plying between Mangalore and Bangalore. I think, there is an underhand dealing between Railway Department and the bus owners and hence there is this delay.

I urge upon the Government to direct the Railway Ministry and the Railway Safety Commissioner to issue clearance immediately to facilitate the opening of track for passenger trains.