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Title: Need to take immediate steps to establish Mangalore Division under the control of Konkan Railway.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Sir, Konkan Railway is considered to be the lifeline of West-Coast Region of the nation. Konkan Railway is consistently making operational losses every year, and the accumulated loss is more than Rs. 3,500 crore. One of the reasons for the poor financial health of Konkan Railway is because of the non-connectivity of this project with any of the major ports under its jurisdiction. Mangalore Railway network from Thokur to Mangalore inclusive of Panambur Port come under the jurisdiction of the Southern Railway.

Establishment of Mangalore Division will provide more facilities and benefits to the passengers and goods traffic, and will boost the economic and social development of the entire West-Coast area. Establishment of the Mangalore Division is possible by bringing together the existing areas of Mangalore Central, Mangalore Junction, New Mangalore Port, Palaghat stretch and Konkan Railway jurisdiction and by giving control to the Konkan Railway.

The Panambur Port connectivity with Konkan Railway will boost its financial conditions to such an extent that doubling and electrification of the entire section can be taken care of without raising much funds from the market. The construction and operation of Konkan Railway line has provided substantial boost to the industrial, agricultural, economic and social development of the entire Konkan Region.

Through you, Sir, I would urge the Railway Ministry to take immediate decisions to establish Mangalore Division under the control of Konkan Railway. Thank you, Sir.