

Title: Need to sanction adequate funds for doubling the Shoranur-Mangalore railway line in Kerala -laid.

SHRIT. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the difficult situation being faced by passengers in Kerala. Almost, all the trains are running very late. Sometimes, some trains are taking four to five hours to come. The track accidents are also happening frequently.

Now, because of the commencement of Konkan Railway, a number of trains running through Kerala have increased. Unmanned railway crossings are causing accidents which lead to loss of life of passengers too. For the last ten years, the Railways have not appointed lower grade workers and staff. It affects maintenance work of track, cleaning and other work at the railway stations and services in compartments. The only remedy is to complete the ongoing doubling work of Shoranur-Mangalore line immediately on a war footing. In 1996-97 and 1997-98 Budgets, only meagre amounts were allotted for this work. It is surprising to note that the very amount allotted for this purpose could not be utilised and Rs. 10 crore lapsed during 1997-98 financial year itself. According to the present condition, it will take four to five years to complete the work. It will aggravate the difficulties. In Kerala, passengers and the quantity of freights are increasing day by day.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India to sanction Rs. 500 crore for doubling the Shoranur-Mangalore line and other construction work of Railways in Kerala.