

**Churchgate - Dahanu local commissioning still uncertain  
Admits Western Railway GM**

**Mumbai, Sunday:** Though Virar - Dahanu Road track widening has been completed by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) the local trains from Churchgate to Dahanu Road will be commissioned only after arrival of new EMU coaches. While Western Railway will give priority for the commissioning, it is difficult to indicate expected date of commissioning, informed Shri Kul Bhushan, General Manager (Additional Charge), Western Railway to Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) on Friday. He also stated that Rs. 226 crore project of Virar Car Shed and Yard would be completed by June 2011.

Shri Ram Naik led the delegation of Western Railway suburban commuters which included Shri Chintaman Vanga and Shri Vishnu Sawara, both MLAs, Shri Rajan Naik, Municipal Councilor (Nallasopara), S/Shri Kedarnath Mhatre (Naigaon), Shekhar Dhuri (Vasai Road), Hansraj Patil (Bhayander), Mithalal Jain (Palghar) and Shri Bhaurao Deshmukh & Manmohan Sachdev of Dahanu. Top brass of Western and Central Railway was also present.

Giving further details about the discussion Shri Naik said, "When Vajpayee Government sanctioned MUTP -I the anticipated expenditure was Rs. 3,125 crore with completion deadline of 2007. However, when Dr. Manmohan Singh took over as the Prime Minister, the Railway Ministers viz. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and subsequently Miss Mamata Banerjee totally neglected problems of Mumbai commuters. As a result, the cost has been over-run and reached up to Rs. 4,501 crore. Some important projects are yet to be completed. The initial estimate of Rs. 73 crore for Virar Car Shed and Yard has now reached to Rs. 226 crore with the revised completion date of June, 2011. Similarly, Virar - Dahanu Road track widening estimate has increased from Rs. 29 crore to Rs. 50 crore now. The time over-run and the cost over- run has exhausted the patience of the commuters who may resort to serious agitation if further delay continues. The delegation apprised the General Manager about the mood of the commuters."

The proposed Oshiwara Station between Jogeshwari and Goregaon was also discussed. The original estimate of Rs. 6 crore has reached to Rs. 32 crore, i.e. more than five times. While the original schedule of completion was March 2008 the railway administration is now not in a position to indicate the date of completion. When the delegation strongly expressed its displeasure the General Manager assured to have a fresh assessment of the project and also to discuss it again.

Though the railway budget for 2011-2012 has been passed by the Parliament, the Western and Central Railways failed to communicate project- wise details demanded by the delegation. The General Manager assured Shri Ram Naik to give the details within seven days and to have further discussion.

**(Office Secretary)**