

For Favour of Publicity

27th April, 2011

A statement circulated by Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) in a Press Conference held on 27th April, 2011 at Vasai

Dahanu - Virar - Borivli Suburban Commuters' Conference at Nallasopara

Vasai, Wednesday: A conference of railway suburban commuters of Dahanu - Virar - Borivli sector of Western Railway will be held on Sunday, 15th May to voice their demands viz. Dahanu - Churchgate locals, Virar Car-shed, Dahanu - Panvel & Dahanu - Thane locals, all rakes with 12 coaches, etc. This information was given by Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) in a press conference held on Wednesday at Vasai. He will preside over the Conference.

While giving detailed information about the proposed Conference Shri Naik said, "Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) was established during the regime of Vajpayee government when I was the Minister of State for Railways. MRVC had undertaken various projects of Rs. 3,125 crore which were to be completed by 2007. However, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's Railway Ministers, firstly Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and now Ms. Mamata Banerjee have neglected these projects. This has resulted into time over-run and cost over-run. Not only the cost of these projects escalated by Rs.1,376 crore and reached upto Rs.4,501 crore, they are still incomplete in spite of lapse of four years."

"Dahanu - Virar - Borivli suburban railway commuters are the worst sufferers by the cost and time over-run. The original cost of widening of Virar - Dahanu tracks so that locals can run from Churchgate to Dahanu was Rs. 29 crore; which rose by Rs.21 crore and is now Rs.50 crore. The cost of Virar Car-shed work steeped up by Rs. 153 crore and will now need Rs.226 crore. What is more annoying is the fact that though the work of Virar - Dahanu Road track widening is complete, Churchgate - Dahanu locals are not yet introduced." commented Shri Naik. He also informed that he had discussion with Shri Vivek Sahai, Chairman of the Railway Board and Shri Kulbhushan, General Manager of Western Railway about people's sentiments in personal meetings on 18th March and 10th April respectively. However, they failed to give any concrete promise. Moreover though 106 new services were recently introduced on 14th April for Churchgate - Borivli, Churchgate - Andheri and Churchgate - Bandra, not even one local was for Churchgate - Bhayander or Churchgate - Virar. "The commuters of Dahanu - Virar - Borivli segment feel that the railway administration have rubbed salt on their wounds", said Shri Naik.

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Shri Naik also informed that the commuters have several other demands e.g., new trains between Dahanu - Panvel, Dahanu - Thane, completion of Virar Flyover on war-footing, new flyovers at Naigaon, Saphala, Vangaon, provision of clean toilets and drinking water, uniformity in platform levels, roofing of platforms, additional ticket windows, etc. on all stations between Mira-Bhayander to Dahanu.

Shri Naik appealed the commuters to join the Conference in big number and make it a grand success. He informed that the Conference would prepare a Charter of Demands and also chalk out a programme for effective follow up. Shri Naik said that the suggestions from the commuters are most welcome in the Conference.

The Commuters' Conference will be held on Sunday, 15th May on the ground adjoining to Bus Depot at Nallasopara West Railway Station. The Conference will be inaugurated by the former Dahanu M.P. and presently MLA of Adv. Chintaman Vanga. Shri Vishnu Sawara, MLA, Shri Sanjay Kelkar, MLC and Smt Manisha Choudhary will be the guests of honour. The conveners of the Conference are S/Shri Bhavik Sorathi (Dahanu), Madhukar Patil (Boisar), Mithalal Jain (Palghar), Raghunath Patil (Saphale), Amol Pimple (Virar), Shekhar Dhuri (Vasai Road), Rajan Naik (Nallasopara), Kedarnath Mhatre (Naigaon), Narendra Mehta and Hemant Mhatre (Mira-Bhayander) and Babaji Kathole (Thane rural). The office address of the Conference is c/o Shri Rajan Naik, Councilor, Chandresh Gaurav, Opp ST Depot, Nallasopara Railway Station West, Mobile: 9225147335.

(Office Secretary)