

Railway Minister assures to meet Mumbai Commuters

Mumbai, Monday : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Railway Minister assured Shri Ram Naik, former Petroleum Minister to come to Mumbai and listen to the woes of Mumbai commuters. He gave this assurance to Shri Naik on Sunday at New Delhi.

Shri Naik invited Railway Minister's attention to the prolonged projects of Mumbai and demanded provision of Rs. 1,000 crore in the Railway Budget of 2013-14 to complete these projects on priority. Shri Naik also told Ram Naik that he was shocked to learn that meagre amount of Rs. 20 lakh is provided in the current budget for 50 escalators in the city. The former Railway Minister had promised to complete this work in the current year itself in his budgetary speech.

Shri Naik said, "widening of tracks between Virar - Dahanu is done; DC traction is now converted in AC. Hence it is the need of the hour to introduce direct Churchgate - Dahanu locals". Shri Naik cautioned the Minister that the commuters' wrath may explode at any time due to this delay.

Shri Naik suggested that the only short term way to reduce over - crowding of trains is to convert all existing 9 coach rakes to 12 coach rakes and subsequently to 15 coach rakes. He also demanded a new timetable for the Western Railway as local trains can now run at 100 kms per hour instead of the present speed limit of 80 kms; i.e., increase by 25 % as DC is now converted into AC.

"Since considerable news are appearing in the media about the elevated railway system; it would be desirable to take the commuters organizations into confidence and have a public demand about the proposal", suggested Shri Naik. He also urged on the Railway Minister to visit Mumbai and have a dialoug which will certainly benefit the commuters as well as the Railway Administration. Shri Naik also demanded White Paper on the status of Mumbai suburban railway system at the end.

Railway Minister promised him to visit the city and also to consider all demands.

(Office Secretary)