

For favour of publicity

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**"Formulate revised time - table for WR locals,
also introduce Churchgate - Dahanu locals" - Ram Naik**

Mumbai, Sunday : "Since power supply to Western Railway Suburban Services has been now converted from Direct Current (D.C.) to Alternate Current (A.C.) traction, the locals can now run at 100 k.m. per hour instead of 80 k.m. It is now time to revise the existing time - table which has not been changed for many years. It is also time to introduce direct locals from Churchgate to Dahanu as the entire section has been now converted into A. C.," stated Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) in a statement issued to-day in Mumbai. Shri Naik was instrumental in establishing Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) which included several projects for improvement in suburban railway system, including conversion of D. C. to A. C.

Explaining the reasoning behind the two demands Shri Ram Naik said, "Western Railway had some rakes running on D. C. and some others on A. C. As a result, the time - table was formulated on the basis of running speed of 80 k.m. When MRVC was established, the time - schedule for conversion from D. C. to A. C. was June 2008. Thus there has been time - over-run of more than three years. The benefit of this conversion would reach to commuters only when the time - table is revised to utilise this additional speed. When speed would now be 100 k.m. per hour instead of 80 k.m., extra 25 percent additional rake - time would be available to enable to run more services. Hence it is now necessary to revise the existing time - table. Commuters' organisations should be taken into confidence before revising the time - table. Moreover as signal system has also been modernised, there is no technical difficulty in running the locals at 100 k.m."

About introduction of Churchgate - Dahanu locals Shri Ram Naik said, " The entire traction from Churchgate to Dahanu is now A. C. The project of widening the railway track from Virar to Dahanu has been also completed at the cost of Rs. 56.70 crore. The availability of rakes would now be increased because of 25 percent increase in speed. Hence there is no technical reason for not introducing Churchgate - Dahanu locals, the commuters' demand for several years."

" The issue of introduction of Churchgate - Dahanu locals was discussed by me with Railway Minister Shri Dinesh Trivedi on two occasions. I had also briefed him about the resolution passed by the Commuters' Conference held at Nalasopara on 15th May 2011. I had pleaded and also told him that the reasons being given by the Railway administration are lame excuses. What is needed now is the political will of the Railway Minister," stated Shri Ram Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)