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**Looting and misleading Railway Budget: Ram Naik**

**Mumbai, Wednesday:** "This misleading railway budget will loot the commuters", said Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) while criticizing the Railway Budget.

"Though the Railway Minister has tried to tone down the increase in fare by saying it is just 2 paise per km; the reality is harsh. The commuter will have to pay Rs. 2.40 daily and Rs. 48 monthly for commuting between Virar - Churchgate. This hike is too much," said Shri Naik. He also questioned that why we are still waiting for direct train between Dahanu - Churchgate as the Railway Minister informed the Parliament that MUTP - I is complete?

Shri Naik said, " There are many projects enlisted for study in the Railway Budget. But they are of no use till they are proposed. He drew attention to the fact that the speed of rakes on the Western Railway is increased from 80 to 100 Km per hour due to AC to DC conversion and 25 % increase in number of services is possible due to this conversion. BJP had put up this demand to the Railway Minister. Shri Naik said, "The demand is not fulfilled and commuters have to content with the current increased number of services."

"On the national level this Railway Budget gave nothing but the burden of fare increase," criticized Shri Naik at the end.

**(Office Secretary)**