

For Favour of Publicity

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What is the hurdle in way of Churchgate - Dahanu Local? Ram Naik questions Railway Board Chairman

Mumbai, March 20th : "Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) claims that Virar - Dahanu Road track centering work is complete and they have procured EMU rakes as per MUTP - I; then what is the hurdle now in starting Churchgate - Dahanu Road locals"; Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charge) questioned Shri Vivek Sahai, Chairman, Railway Board. He also warned that if the Chairman does not reply in a month then the agitated commuters may resort to agitation.

Shri Ram Naik called on the Railway Board Chairman on Friday at New Delhi to apprise him about the grievances of suburban railway commuters. Shri Sumant Ghaisas, former President of BJP Mumbai North West District also accompanied. Shri Naik said, "MRVC claims that the track centering work of Dahanu - Virar section is complete and the entire 75/12 car and 1/9 car EMU rakes under MUPT - I have been received. It means now there is no hurdle in the way of Dahanu - Churchgate local. Commuters have expressed their resentment on slow work on number of occasions and now if the local services do not run with the immediate effect then agitated commuters would resort to serious agitation." Shri Naik further informed, "Under MUTP - I, the Vajpayee Government had proposed Rs 29 crore for this work and the work was expected to be completed by June 2007. However, there is cost overrun and time overrun. Rs. 50 crore is already spent on the project and it is yet to start. The government owes an explanation to commuters for this delay."

Shri Naik also invited the Chairman's attention to the incomplete work of new Oshiwara Railway Station. MUTP - I had proposed Rs. 6 crore for this station and the target date was March 2008. In spite of the delay of three years, work is still incomplete. Moreover the cost of the project has escalated five times and is now revised at Rs. 32 crore. Shri Naik commented that the Railway's stand to complete the work of Oshiwara Station after the completion of ROB at Jogeshwari is ridiculous. The work should be completed with priority. Shri Naik also apprised the Railway Board Chairman of other difficulties being faced by the commuters.

The Railway Board Chairman Shri Vivek Sahai assured Shri Ram Naik to look into these issues personally.

(Office Secretary)