

“Provide minimum Rs.1,000 crore for Mumbai suburban railway system in the budget for 2012-13, introduce Churchgate – Dahanu local service without further delay, prepare a new time-table for suburban railways in view of conversion of DC to AC traction which enables to run locals at 100km per hour instead of 80km and issue a White Paper on suburban railway system” were the four major demands put forth by the delegation of Bharatiya Janata party, Mumbai today before Railway Minister Shri Dinesh Trivedi. The delegation led by former Railway State Minister (Independent Charge) included Shri Ramesh Medhekar, former Deputy Mayor and Smt. Manisha Choudhari, former President, Dahanu Municipality and newly elected Councillor of Mumbai. Shri Muniappa, Minister of State for Railways, Railway Board Chairman, General Managers of Western Railway and Central Railway, Managing Director, Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation and State Chief Secretary Shri Ratnakar Gaikwad were also present alongwith other senior officers.

Giving further details about the discussion with the Railway Minister, Shri Ram Naik said that the Railway Minister has visited Mumbai after eight years to know the problems of suburban commuters. While the number of suburban commuters has increased to 72 lakhs during the eight years, the average daily death rate of commuters has reached an alarming figure of 10. In this period Mumbai also witnessed the heaviest rainfall in July 2005 and series of bomb blasts in running trains. However the Congress UPA Government totally neglected Mumbai commuters. Shri. Naik requested the Railway Minister to handle the problems with humane touch; Shri Trivedi responded positively.

In addition to the four demands, the demands of converting all 9 coach rakes to 12, one additional ladies special train on Western Railway and two additional ladies special trains on Central Railway, speedy execution of time over run projects of MUTP, I and II, special seat provision for senior citizens and pregnant women were also discussed.

Responding to the demands by the BJP delegation, Railway Minister Shri Dinesh Tiwari assured that these demands will receive proper attention as they are based on practical experience.



(Niranjana Shetty)
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