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**Commuters Conference demands
Churchgate - Dahanu Local**

Nallasopara, Monday : Hundreds of commuters gathered for Dahanu. Virar - Borivli Railway Commuters Conference at Nallasopara yesterday warned Western Railway that they would welcome the new Railway Minister with an agitation if it fails to launch Churchgate - Dahanu Local immediately. The conference was presided over by Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways and was inaugurated by Adv. Chintaman Wanga, MLA. Shri Sanjay Kelkar, MLC, Smt. Manisha Chaudhary, Vice President, BJP Maharashtra & Shri Rohidas Patil were distinguished guests of the Conference,

Adv. Wanga in his inaugural speech recalled that with the initiative of Shri Ram Naik MRVC was formed and budgetary provisions for Churchgate - Dahanu local were made during Vajpayee regime. He also condemned the present government for its inordinate delay in implementing the scheme.

Shri Ram Naik in his presidential speech informed the commuters that project worth Rs. 3,215 crores were proposed under the umbrella of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) during the tenure of the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These projects were to complete by year 2007. However, not only projects are still incomplete but Rs. 1,049 crores are spent more. While holding the Railway Ministry and the State Government responsible for cost over-run and time over-run Shri Naik also criticized MPs representing suburban commuters of the Western Railway viz. Shri Baliram Jadhav and Shri Sanjay Nirupam for their silence during the railway budget debate in the Lok Sabha.

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The commuters present were shocked when Shri Naik informed them that the work related to Churchgate - Dahanu local is complete and even new rakes have arrived and there is not a single valid reason for not launching the services. The commuters passed resolution and prepared a Charter of Demands. The topmost demand is of course of immediately launching Churchgate - Dahanu locals. Besides this the Charter of Demands include completion of Virar Car shed and Yard by 30th June, additional services between Churchgate - Virar sector, to convert all 9 coach rakes into 12 coach rakes, Dahanu - Panvel and Dahanu - Thane trains, completion of Virar Flyover on war footing, sanction of flyovers at Naigaon, Saphale and Wangaon, sufficient ticket windows, coupon vending machines, foot over bridges, drinking water, toilets, fans, benches, etc on all stations, sheltering of all platforms, uniformly raising platform heights, more security from pick pocketers, etc., appointment of new General Manager of Western Railway and Managing Director of MRVC, etc.

Shri Sanjay Kelkar, MLC, Smt. Manisha Choudhary, Shri Rajan Naik, Municipal Councilor and several commuters spoke on the occasion. The Conference constituted Action Committee comprising of the conveners and S/Shri Ram Naik, Sanjay Kelkar, Chintaman Wanga, Vishnu Sawara and Smt. Manisha Choudhary. The Action Committee is entrusted with the responsibility of presenting Charter of Demands to the new Railway Minister and the Chairman, Railway Board. It will also do the follow - up.

Shri Kedarnath Mhatre was the compere and Shri Madhukar Patil proposed vote of thanks.

(Office Secretary)