DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN (Rajast'han): Madam, I associate.

SHRi SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam, 1 want to submit that I associate myself with the ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Your association will also be included in , your special mention...

STfEPT sjTC't SI.....it will be included in your special mention. Just say that you support.

Conversion of Marathwada Meter Guage Railway Line into Broad Gauge

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, thank very much for giving me the opportunity to raise this very important issue of the Marathwada region, that is, creation of a corporation for the Marathwada railway line conversion from the meter gauge to broad gauge on the lines of the Konkq_n railway within the jurisdiction of the Railways Board for mobilisation of additional funds.

Madam, the hon. Minister of Railways, Mr. George Fernandes, has *>> •

[Shri Vithalrao Madhaurao Jadhav]

cently declare[^] t'hat there would be a corporation to complete the Konkan railway within a period of four years. He hag created a corporation for which Rs. 830 crores have been mobilised. Its work will be completed with-For would years. that like to congratulate the hon. Railway Minister. It does not mean because Mr. George Pernandese comes from Manbolre and Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the Finance Minibfrom Konkan, they have ter, comes formulated the corporation to complete the Konkan Railway Project. The Marathwada region also belongs to Maharashtra and it is equally backward like the Konkan region. would request the hon. Railway Miinster to create some corporation on the lines of the Konkan Railway Project.

Madam conversion of this railway line consists of two parts:

One, the Manmad-Aurangabad-Parbani-Parali Vaijanath line which is 354 km.

The other is Parbani-Mukhand. Adilabad which is 248 km.

So, the total railway line is 602 km.

The initial project cost was Rs. 98 crores. Due meagre financial allocation the of construction progress work was very slow and the project cost was increased to Rs. 197 crores of 1988-89 The cumulative price line. expenditure incurred March, upto 1989 was Rs. 15. 25 crores and during 1989-90 budget the allocation was Rs. 15 crores.

As the question of conversion of this line is related to the economic development of Marathwada region due to constraint of resources, and State Government was prepared completion of participate in the this project. From that point of view CIDCO and RITES together conduct, ed the survey and submitted a draft report in August, 1989. It was suggested to float debentures to raise funds and levy surcharge, etc. If the Rail-Board were to complete this project with financial allocation at the rate of Rs. 15 crores per year from 1990 onwards, then, the project would be completed in 20-21 years and the total project cost to the Railways would be Rs. 350 crores at 8 per cent escalation per year. In case of 6 per cent escalation the project would be completed in 2034-35 with a total project cost of about Rs. 695 crores.

The second scenario was worked out according to which the Railways would continue to allocate the funds at Rs.. 15 crores per year for three year_s and the balance project and the entire debt redemption liability is assumed by the State Government. The cost of project increases to about Rs. 561 crores on account of higher bond amount and interest capitalisation of this cost is only Rs. 45 crores which would be shared by the Railways and the entire balance amount will be borne by the State Government. The ratio of sharing ween the Centre and the State would be 8. 92 which is highly lojisded. On the principle of sharing the total cost, two different scenarios have been

worked out. (1)'The share between the Centre'and the State is 60: 40. (2) share between the Centre and the State is 50: 50. From the detailed exercise in this behalf it was. found that sharing of the cost by the Railways on 60: 40 basis is the most viable alternative where the total cost of the balance project will be Rs. 387 The share of the Railways would be Rs. 232 crores and surcharge is kept at the lowest around Rs. 8. 50 per tonne.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Please conclude now. I have got many names.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: After taking count the above position the propo: was sent to the Government of on the 13th September, 1989 at the level of the Chief Minister to participate in the project. Today I a talk with the Chief Minister Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar. He said that the proposal to form a Corporation for the Marathwada railproject has been recommended way submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to the Ministry of Rail: ways and by this time the proposal must have reached the Railways Minister. He also appealed and I also appeal to the hon. Railway Minister, through you, not to show partiality but impartiality. This is the demand Of the Marathwada regOn for'the last years. If on the line of Konkan this corporation is formed and within project is completed four years then the expenditure-will be

and the long-standing demand of backward region of Marathwada will be fulfilled. I appeal, through you, to the hon. Railway Minister, to form the corporation for the Marathwadh railway project without further delay and complete this project with, in four years. The Government of Maharashtra is fully prepared to cooperate with you in this matter and whatever share comes, the Maharashtra State will bear it as has been asby the Chief Minister sured Maharashtra.

Ecological problem in coal-mines areas

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY (West Bengal): Madam Deputy man, I wish to bring to the notice of our hon. Energy Minister burning problem of Jharia. As you know, Madams in Jharia an area of 17. 32 sq kilometres with 1864 million tonnes of prime coking Coal is burning out.

It is burning for long. There were 70 fires since 1916 in Jharia coal-field area and it is still going on at a depth of 30 metres. The value of this, coal is about Rs. 55, 000 crores.. Unless, it salvaged, unless crash programme is taken up to salvage this coal, our nation will lose* a valuable quality of coal. Jharia is burning but even if we extinguish the' fire, the heat will continue up to 86 years. That is the estimate of the scientists. So that