

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Dharwad-Kambarganvi (26.15km)	2	2	6	4	Commissioned.
14.	Arsikere-Birur (45.28 km)	0	5	6	14	Commissioned.

Rangiya-Murkongselek BG conversion work

1051. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rangiya-Murkongselek sector of BG conversion has become operational, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and cost escalation of the project due to such delay; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed and become operational in view of it being most strategic for national security of the country, defence movement near international border and a large population being under distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) On Rangiya-Murkongseleg (512 km) gauge conversion project, execution has been taken up in 3 phases namely:-

1. Rangiya-Rangapara North-Dekargaon : Work completed and authorization of Commissioner for Railway Safety received.

2. Rangapara North-North Lakhimpur : Track linking completed.

3. North Lakhimpur-Murkongselek : Track linking planned for completion by March, 2014 subject to availability of funds.

(b) Railway has huge throw forward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread extending period of completion. Delay in execution of project also result in cost escalation of the projects.

(c) Track linking of the remaining portion of the project is planned for completion by March, 2014 subject to availability of funds. Sections will be made operational after receiving mandatory authorization from Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Expanding the railway network in Konkan region

1052. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have further plans to expand rail network in the Konkan region of Maharashtra, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any proposal to link Kolhapur with Konkan Railway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with target set for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) Railways have no policy to sanction projects region - wise/State-wise.

(b) To link Kolhapur with Konkan Railway at Rajapur, survey is in progress. The distance between Kolhapur to Rajapur is approximately 120 kms. In past also (2001), a survey for new line between Kolhapur-Ratnagiri (Konkan Railway) *via* Talwada was carried out. However, due to unremunerative nature, the project was shelved.

(c) At present there is no sanctioned project, therefore, no target/time-frame can be given.

Railway Projects in Karnataka

1053. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by Railways for development of railway infrastructure, stations, stoppage of trains etc. in Karnataka, particularly under Shimoga Parliamentary Constituency;