

(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;