

**Regarding need to sanction the new Railway Line Project from Bilaspur to Shipki La Pass through Rampur Bushahar in Himachal Pradesh- laid**

**SUSHRI KANGNA RANAUT (MANDI):** Railway Network in Himachal Pradesh has been extended only in Plains i.e. adjoining states of Punjab and Haryana. No step has been yet initiated to develop Railway Network in core Hills in upper and interior reaches of Himachal Pradesh to connect Kullu, Shimla and Kinnaur districts with main-lines of Indian Railway Network. The trains running on existing narrow gauge lines (Kalka- Shimla & Pathankot Joginder Nagar) have speed limitations. Therefore, There is a need of broad gauge lines in the State of Himachal Pradesh that withstands higher speed with higher load capacities which is essential not only for uplifting social-economic status of its people by way of tourism and employment but also from strategic point of views to cater for defence needs and safeguards. Towards Northeast of State, Bilaspur- Manali Broad gauge lines survey work is in progress and Manali-Leh survey has been already completed but sanction is awaited. Survey for New Line from Bilaspur to Rampur Bushahar ( 134.33 Km) was done in 2012. This line is strategically very important as it's further extension to the Kinnaur upto Shipki La pass on Indo- China Boarder will safeguard Country's strategic interest. I urge the Minister of Railways to consider sanctioning of Railway Line from Bilaspur to Rampur Bushahar ? Shipki La.