

***Regarding need for rail connectivity between Kalyana-Karnataka and Northern StatesLaid**

SHRI G. KUMAR NAIK (RAICHUR): There have been longstanding gaps in railway connectivity between Northern States and Hyderabad-Karnataka, leaving major districts underserved for decades. Raichur, Kalaburagi and the surrounding regions urgently require services with respect to a fast passenger service from Kalaburagi to Bengaluru via Raichur, daily fast passenger trains to Hyderabad, and a direct train from Raichur to Visakhapatnam. These routes are not a matter of convenience but a crucial link for the labour, students and patients which connect to all of South India and is severely restricting mobility of people. This local demand must be viewed against the backdrop of Karnatakas historically low railway density which ranks poorly on both railway density per population and per area. Between 2014-24, Karnataka saw an average of just 163 km of railway tracks commissioned per year, well behind states with already higher density of railways. Despite hosting four major railway zones, Karnataka lacks a unified institutional framework to address its needs. I urge the Ministry to address these gaps urgently and fulfil the long-pending connectivity demands of the people of Kalyana-Karnataka.