

Title: Need for early construction of broad gauge railway line between Ankola and Hubli in Karnataka-Laid.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE): There has been an inordinate delay in the construction of the 160 km. broad gauge line from Ankola to Hubli. This is an important line for the State of Karnataka as this would open the vast hinterland to the port of Karwar and Belikere. This will go a long way in felicitating the export of the State's iron ore deposits through these ports on the western coast instead of moving the same to the ports in the neighbouring States in a circuitous route. Besides reducing the congestion problem of those States, this would also enable the State to get the raw material to the power and steel plants coming up in the Hospet areas. The State Government has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Ltd. in the regard.

Keeping in view, the need of the completion of the project, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction adequate funds to expedite the construction of the Ankola-Hubli line without any further delay.