

(xi) Need to transfer of Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur section from South Central to Central Railway.

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that at present the section between Kolhapur to Pune is in Hubli Division (Karnataka) and Zonal Head Quarter is at Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Sir, it has become very difficult for the people of Maharashtra in view of the fact that the distance to Secunderabad is much more as compared to Mumbai. In addition the language problem is also there. They are required to converse either in Telugu or Kannada, which is very difficult task. The people in my area have been demanding to attach this section to Mumbai (Central Railway) instead of with South Central Railway. This demand has been pending since 1971, the year in which meter gauge was converted into broad gauge. It is understood, that the decision to bring Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur under the jurisdiction of Pune Division was taken long back. But actual implementation of the decision has not started yet. I have been pursuing the matter from the very day since I entered the Parliament during the 12th Lok Sabha. The people in the area have welcomed the decision wholeheartedly but they are feeling the delay caused in the process of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation warrants immediate action and I demand from the Union Government that Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur section be transferred from South Central to Central Railway without any further delay.