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Title: Need to expedite the gauge conversion of the Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Mhow-Khandwa-Amalakhurd-Akot-Akola Section.

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA): The Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad- Indore-Mhow-Khandwa- Amalakhurd-Akot-Akola section was sanctioned in the year 2008-09. However, the Railway Board has not accorded their approval to the proposed new diverted alignment between Amlakhurd and Akot till date despite the fact that the Rate of Return of this new North-South Link is 25.02 per cent which is considered highest in the country.

The Gauge conversion on the said section will not only reduce the distance of various routes connected with the new North-South Link such as Jaipur to Secunderabad, Jaipur to Bangalore etc. between the range of 200-500 Kms. but also bring the Railways out of the financial crisis over a period of time by generating additional revenues on account of savings in the running/maintenance cost of trains/tracks and retaining the existing fare of the said routes.

The Industry in the Northern and Southern States can improve their profitability by quick and cheap/affordable access to the market in each other's periphery once the said section is operational on Broad Gauge Line. As this project involves public interests on a large scale, I like to draw the attention of the Railways through this August House towards the Gauge conversion work of the said section which needs to be completed at the earliest to serve the said purposes.