

**Step-motherly treatment to
Mumbai Commuters continues: Ram Naik**

Mumbai, Friday: "Sixty five lakhs Mumbaites i.e. more than 50 % of the country's railway commuters are anguished as Railway Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee did not even mention them in her budget speech. Mumbaites therefore feel that she would continue her predecessor Shri Laloo Prasad's step-motherly treatment to Mumbai commuters," said Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways (Independent Charges) while giving his reaction on the Railway Budget.

"Ms. Banerjee did not utter a word about the provisions made for MUTP - I and II. Neither she fulfilled expectations of announcing 12 coach rakes as well as fast trains on harbour line. Passenger fares were reduced two times. Hence, Mumbai suburban commuters were too demanding fare reduction. Though Ladies Special trains are given to Chennai and Kolkata, demand of Mumbai's women commuters to give one additional train each on Central and Western Railway during peak hours met deaf ears. All this has angered Mumbai commuters," said Shri Ram Naik.

Shri Naik demanded that fare for actual journey should be charged under 'Tatkal' scheme. "If demands of Mumbai suburban commuters are not met during budget deliberations, we will launch an agitation", warned Shri Naik at the end.

(Office Secretary)