

**Railway Minister continues
step - motherly treatment to Mumbaites: Ram Naik**

Mumbai, Friday: Shri Ram Naik, former Minister of State for Railways criticized Railway Minister Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav for continuing his step-motherly treatment to Mumbaites even while presenting his last Railway Budget. Shri Naik quipped, "Mumbaites are anguished as Shri Laloo Prasad did not even mention a word about 90 lakh (i.e. 78% of total) suburban commuters including 65 lakh Mumbai Suburban commuters."

While reacting on the interim Railway Budget Shri Naik said," Though the Railway Minister reduced passenger fares by 2%; this year also he excluded suburban commuters from the category. Last year he lured Mumbaites by announcing MUTP-II of Rs. 5,300 crore and made paltry provision of Rs. one lakh. However, this time he preferred not to say a word about it. Moreover he was silent on why MUTP-I of Rs. 4, 500 crore is not yet complete."

Shri Naik pointed out that as per the constitution and parliamentary conventions no new announcements be there in the interim budget. Yet the Railway Minister not only announced new and extended trains but he also announced formation of two new divisions. Shri Ram Naik hoped that the Lok Sabha Speaker would take an appropriate action.

(Office Secretary)