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**ORISSA**

**Oct 1, 2005**

**More railway lines for N Orissa**

Saturday October 1 2005 14:04 IST

BALASORE: Here's good news for the people of North Orissa. The region will soon get more railway lines under the expansion plan of South Eastern (SE) Railway.

Sources said the SE railway is planning three rail links in the region. These lines include, Buramara-Chakulia, Gorumohisani-Bangiriposhi in Mayurbhanj district and Jaleswar-Digha in Balasore district.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of South Eastern Railway, Animesh Ganguly, who was at Rupsa, recently to inspect the work of non-interlocking signal of Rupsa station and expansion of yard for passenger trains and goods trains, informed, "The projects for all these links have received survey sanctions from the Railway board. Meanwhile survey is on to assess the economic viability, volume of traffic and feasibility for both Bangiriposhi-Gorumohisani and Chakulia-Buramara rail lines with Mayurbhanj district.

"After going through the detailed report of Reconnaissance Engineering and Traffic Survey (RETS), the SE Railway would take up either of the two or both the projects. These links were under survey predicting an increase in the transportation after the commissioning of Dhamra port in Bhadrak district.

This would serve as a vital link up to Tata while the Jaleswar-Digha line has already received permission for survey" Ganguly said.

A three-member team led by Ganguly also inspected the railway lines of Rupsa-Baripada link near Baisinga and Baripada. Though the conversion work of Rupsa-Bangiriposhi narrow gauge line was

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taken up with an estimate of Rs 58 crore in 1998, the project was reportedly shelved, as later it was found economically unviable.

However, it was later decided to be carried out with an escalated estimate of Rs 112 crore. With this the long cherished dream of the people of North Orissa, particularly Mayurbhanj for boarding passenger trains on the broad gauge lines is likely to come true.

The train services between Rupsa-Baripada could start any day as the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has issued a fitness certificate recently, informed Ganguly.

"Trains on the route can run at a speed of 70 km per hour," said the CAO adding that the speed is likely to be enhanced and it would take one hour 45 minutes to reach one station to another with four stoppages.

The second phase work from Baripada to Bangiriposhi has been awaiting estimate approval. "The work for the conversion of narrow gauge line on this route would be taken up after receiving the estimate sanction of the Railway board, he informed. Chief engineer R.P. Dibakar, deputy chief engineer B.K. Jain and divisional engineer Gourishankar Rao accompanied the CAO.

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