

3rd June, 2008

PRESS NOTE

KONKAN RLY GEARS UP FOR THE MONSOON

Special Monsoon Time Table to come into effect from 10th June

Konkan Railway has completed all its planned safety works on its route before the onset of monsoon with special attention to flattening of slopes and shotcreting works inside tunnels. More than 50 lakh Vetiver saplings were planted on the soil cuttings along the route in the last monsoon, while planting of about 28 lakh saplings is planned to be undertaken in this monsoon to make the soil cuttings more stable.

The geo-safety works done on the route include earthwork for flattening of cutting slope and provision of berms, catchwater drain lining, RCC retaining walls, gabion walls, shotcreting, rock bolting, etc. Extensive works of this nature had ensured uninterrupted and safe train operations on the route in the last three monsoons.

Apart from this, 24X7 monsoon patrolling will be conducted and footplating will be done by officials in the night to ensure safety along the track. About 300 patrolmen will patrol the railway line. Instructions have also been issued to the loco drivers to impose speed of 40 kmph in case of heavy rainfall impairing visibility. A Special Monsoon Time Table will also come into effect from 10th of June reducing the maximum sectional speed of trains to 75 kmph between Veer-Udupi section (645 km) during monsoon. The special monsoon time-table is being implemented by KRCL since 2005 and has been found to be very effective.

As many as 658 Cell One mobile phones of BSNL have been provided to train drivers, station masters and other field officials. Both drivers and guards of trains have been provided with Walkie-talkie sets as well as every station on Konkan Railway is equipped with 25 Watt VHF base station. This enables wireless communication between the train crew as well as train crew and station master. Emergency communication sockets have been provided at a distance of average one Km along the Konkan Railway route (spacing reduced to 500 metres inside tunnels), that enables the patrolmen, watchmen and other field maintenance staff to contact station master and train controllers during any emergency situations in train operations. Satellite phone communication has been provided in ARMV (Accident Relief Medical Van) situated at Ratnagiri and Verna stations for contacting headquarter control when ARMV is pressed in service.

With these measures, Konkan Railway aims to ensure providing a safe travel to its passengers in the coming monsoon and all the year round. Passengers may monitor their train online during monsoon by visiting www.konkanrailway.com

Chief Public Relations Officer