

M.S. Gill: take up work on Morinda-Ludhiana rail link

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With no indication of work on the second phase of the Chandigarh-Ludhiana rail link — the Morinda-Ludhiana section — starting in the near future, Punjab Rajya Sabha member Manohar Singh Gill has sought the immediate intervention of the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, to set the ball rolling.

“I met the Prime Minister a few days ago to urge him to get various ongoing and languishing projects in Punjab taken up expeditiously,” says Dr Gill, revealing that he discussed the expansion of Amritsar international airport and the commissioning of the Goindwal Sahib-Tarn Taran rail link besides other

development projects with Dr Manmohan Singh.

While work on the Chandigarh-Morinda rail section was completed more than a year ago, little has been done to complete the second and bigger part of the project.

“It is only after the Morinda-Ludhiana rail link is completed that Punjab’s agro-economy will start looking up. Once linked to the rest of Punjab, it will open new areas for the export of foodgrains and agro products to other parts of the country through the rail network,” says Dr Gill. “I emphasised all these points during my discussion with the Prime Minister as the communication network has to respond to the growing demand of both agriculture and industry of the state.”

Dr Gill maintains that only

Rs 80 crore has been sanctioned for improving the infrastructure at Amritsar airport. With just one arrival hall completed, Amritsar airport needs rapid and massive expansion to meet the growing demands of the aviation industry. Dr Gill urged the Prime Minister to sanction a one-time grant of Rs 500 crore for the expansion of Amritsar airport.

“I have requested the Prime Minister that if he is going to Tarn Taran or Amritsar on June 14 in connection with the 400th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, he must lay the foundation stone of the second phase of the upgradation and expansion of Amritsar airport besides getting the Goindwal Sahib-Tarn Taran rail link commissioned.