

Gill wants Rlys' North Zone bifurcated

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Former CEC and Punjab MP M.S. Gill today demanded a separate North-West Zone of Railways

with headquarters at Amritsar by bifurcating the Northern Zone for better administration and efficient management.

Participating in the general discussion on the Rail-

way Budget in the Rajya Sabha, he said the creation of the new zone would help in running trains in the region more effectively.

He said the Northern Zone controlled a rail network of about 7000 km, whereas the average jurisdiction of other zones extended to roughly about 3,000 km.

He said in the last half a century the country had added only 10,000-km rail network from 53,000 km in 1953. Mr Gill said this was no great achievement.

Mr Gill said raising Rs 40,000 crore resources for the improving the rail network should not be a major problem as the government could tap the FDI or bond market.

Considering the important role the Railways played in transporting commodities, he called for establishment of a dedicated goods line between different metros and trading centres.

