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Assembling of steel bridge over Oliphant railway bridge soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD: Decks have been cleared for the assembling of the pre-fabricated steel bridge of the elevated metro rail viaduct over the existing Oliphanta railway bridge near the Secunderabad railway station.

The bridge will be completed by January with the South Central Railway (SCR) handing over an acre of its land at Chilkaiguda on a temporary lease for the purpose.

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) will soon bring the steel bridge weighing about 1,100 tonnes from an engineering firm in Ghaziabad near Delhi where it was manufactured. The bridge was made with high precision and high strength steel plates joined by 'friction grip bolts' to withstand the different types of pressures exerted on the large span crossing over the railway bridge.

The bridge has been assembled in the factory, it will be now dismantled and brought to the site here piece by piece and mounted and assembled, explained HMR Managing Director N.V.S. Reddy here on Sunday. Out of the eight railway crossovers the metro rail viaduct will have, Oliphant Bridge span poses the toughest engineering



AWAITED: The bridge over the Oliphant railway bridge will be completed in January next year.

challenge.

It's because the main obligatory has been designed for a length of 275 ft without any support and with a height of 60 ft or six floors high from road level as the railway authorities conditioned that no pier or pillar can be allowed in between the railway tracks. They also wanted a minimum of 28 ft height be maintained above the Oliphant Bridge tracks for accommodating future double-decker trains.

Compounding the issue is the sharp 128 metre radi-

us road curvature which has to be maintained by the viaduct on which metro rails will be fixed for trains to run. To help in assembling the special steel pre-fabricated bridge, a temporary multi-pillar support structure called 'trestle structure' for a length of about 500 ft is to be assembled on the leased railway land to support the work.

Launch girders of the bridge will start from the Chilkaiguda side with parallel construction of the metro station. Originally it was planned to start work

from the Lekha Bhavan/Gopalapuram Police station side.

"But, it would have lead to delay of an year at least because it was dependent upon completion of 'Secunderabad East' Metro station (of Corridor-III Nagole to Shilparamam-Raidurg) in front of Lekha Bhavan," said Mr. Reddy.

The HMR authorities have thanked the SCR General Manager Ravinder Gupta for sparing the railway land and for giving approval for the Metro RoB construction.