

02.09.2009 21:38

SOURCE: [www.anspress.com](http://www.anspress.com) ANS TV

## **Why does the construction of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway have a hitch?**

The construction companies explained the underlying reasons

Construction of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway encounters hitches. According to builders, the underlying reason of such hitches is the technical problems. As a result, completion of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway shall delay for one year. This information was given by Bidzina Breqadze, General Manager of the contractor Marabda-Karsahi Railways LLC.. For Georgia, such hitches arise from malpractice of the project geologically. According to the official statement of Tbilisi, the railway line will be put into service in 2012 at best.

Deputy Manager of the Project Cemil Gasimov said “There are some geological difficulties. In the second phase, geological works continue on the 15 km railway as well. We made a decision on the execution of geological works again. Geological works should be completed within approximately 10-15 days”.

It should be noted that the problem occurred regarding the construction of the 2 km tunnel at the border of Georgia-Turkey. The project did not verify itself since the land where the bridge runs through is a sliding zone. Thus, a decision was taken about changing the railway. Those in Azerinsaatservis LCC, which carries out the construction, reached the conclusion that a delay was inevitable even if the works had not been suspended.

According to the Deputy General Manager of Azerinsaatservis LCC Vusal Aslanov, if the construction had continued a larger amount of investment would have been needed. “For the purpose of avoiding a bigger expense and ensuring safety, changing the tunnel route was suggested. 4 different alternatives were determined. And now, one of those alternatives have been implemented”. Azerinsaatservis LLC. informs that hitches cause damage to all parties in spite of all efforts even if it is just a technical problem.

According to Aslanov, geological exploration works have been commenced. Due to the fact that it is impossible to construct in winter, construction will start next season.

Another technical problem encountered is that it will be the first project to be executed in compliance with the European standards. It gave rise to the need for including the independent engineering companies which would supervise the quality of works in the progress.