

Railway line between Tanakpur to Dharchula

†4181. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways intend to lay a railway line from Tanakpur to Dharchula in Uttarakhand on the line of China;
- (b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and
- (c) if so, by when the survey work of this railway line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) At present, there is no such proposal to lay a railway from Tanakpur to Dharchula in Uttarakhand on the line of China.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Duronto Express Trains

†4182. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Duronto Express Trains running in the country along with the details of their originating and destination stations;
- (b) whether operation of Duronto Express trains is causing financial loss to Railways and a proposal of halting Duronto at major stations to compensate the loss is under consideration;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check this loss; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) At present, 31 pairs of Duronto Express trains are running on Indian Railway network. Details of Duronto trains, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) In order to improve the patronization of Duronto Express trains, which are having less than optimum utilization, action is taken to convert them into superfast trains by providing additional stoppages where potential for tapping extra revenue exists. This is an ongoing exercise. Till now (i) 12241/12242 Chandigarh-Amritsar Duronto Express and (ii) 12278/12277 Howrah-Puri Duronto Express, have already been converted into Superfast Express train and Shatabdi Express train respectively by providing additional commercial stoppages.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.