

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.

Statement*Details of Duronto trains*

Sl. No.	From	To	Nature	Nature
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sealdah	New Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
2.	Chennai	New Delhi (NZM)	Duronto Non-stop	Express
3.	Howrah	Mumbai	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
4.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Pune	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
5.	Howrah	Yesvantpur	Duronto Non-stop	Express
6.	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	Duronto Non-stop (AC)	Express
7.	New Delhi	Lucknow	Duronto Non-stop	Express
8.	New Delhi	Allahabad	Duronto Non-stop	Express
9.	New Delhi (DEE)	Jammu Tawi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
10.	Howrah	Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
11.	Bhubaneswar	Delhi	Duronto Non-stop	Express
12.	Ernakulam	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Duronto Non-stop	Express
13.	Nagpur	Mumbai	Duronto Non-stop	Express
14.	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Secunderabad	Duronto Non-stop	Express
15.	Mumbai	Ernakulam	Duronto AC	Express
16.	Mumbai	Secunderabad	Duronto AC	Express
17.	Pune	Howrah	Duronto AC	Express
18.	Yeswantpur	Delhi (DEE)	Duronto AC	Express
19.	Indore	Mumbai	Duronto AC	Express
20.	Jaipur	Mumbai	Duronto AC	Express
21.	Howrah	Digha	Duronto Non-stop	Express
22.	Chennai	Coimbatore	Duronto Non-stop	Express
23.	Allahabad	Mumbai	AC Duronto	Express

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Pune	Ahmedabad	AC Durgam	Express
25.	Sealdah	Puri	Non-AC Durgam	Express
26.	Mumbai Central	New Delhi	AC Durgam	Express
27.	Nizamuddin	Ajmer	Non-AC Durgam	Express
28.	Shalimar	Patna	Durgam	Express
29.	Secunderabad	Visakhapatnam	AC Durgam	Express
30.	Madurai	Chennai	AC Durgam	Express
31.	Chennai	Thiruvananthapuram	AC Durgam	Express

Concessions to physically challenged persons

4183. SHRI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend concessions for travel to physically challenged persons to Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains also; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) 25% concession in AC Chair Car and AC-3 tier classes of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express is already admissible to following categories of Physically Challenged persons:—

- (i) Orthopaedically Handicapped/Paraplegic persons who cannot travel without an escort.
- (ii) Mentally retarded persons who cannot travel without an escort.
- (iii) Completely blind persons traveling alone or with an escort.

Delay in infrastructure projects

4184. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of infrastructure projects in several sectors are running behind schedule leading to cost and time overruns;