

via Rourkela, (ii) 18516/18515 Visakhapatnam-Tatanagar (weekly) via Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and (iii) 18407/18408 Puri-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express (weekly) via Manmad announced in Parliament and Railway Budget 2013-14 have been introduced.

Introduction of Duronto Express trains

3090. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Ministry would consider the proposal of State Government of Odisha for introduction of Duronto Express trains between Puri-Mumbai, Puri-Jaipur/Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar-Puri, Bhubaneswar-Bengaluru and Puri-Surat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Introduction of new train service including Duronto Express trains is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. However, at present, there is no proposal for introduction of Duronto Express between Puri-Mumbai, Puri-Jaipur/Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar-Puri, Bhubaneswar-Bengaluru and Puri-Surat.

Rail Tariff Authority

†3091. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved setting up of Rail Tariff Authority which will give suggestion on train fare, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether suggestions of this Authority would be binding on Railway Board or it will depend on the Railway Board what to accept and what not;
- (c) if so, whether it would be a suggestive regulator instead of an empowered one; and
- (d) if so, the justification of its establishment and whether it would not further increase the expenditure, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved setting up of Rail Tariff Authority as an interim body who will advise the Ministry of Railways on all matters related to fixation of tariffs. A Government resolution to this effect has been issued on 27.01.2014.

(b) The recommendation shall ordinarily be accepted by the Central Government (Ministry of Railways). However, if at any time the Central Government is of the opinion that circumstances exist, which render it necessary to revise the tariff proposed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.