

**Starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand**

†\*75. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will consider starting a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur in Uttarakhand in future;

(b) if so, whether the Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar railway line will be connected to this railway route;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Railways to remove the hurdles coming in the construction of above railway route, till date; and

(d) whether linking this part of the State with the railway route is not in the interest of the country and if not, the reasons for this delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Introduction of a direct train from Delhi to Tanakpur is operationally not feasible, at present, due to change of gauge, as Delhi is on broad gauge section while Tanakpur is on metre gauge section. Also, introduction of trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the operational feasibility, traffic demand, resource availability etc.

(b) to (d) On Delhi-Hapur-Moradabad-Bareilly-Pilibhit-Tanakpur route, there is already an existing broad gauge line upto Bhojipura. Further, gauge conversion of Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur (101.79 Km) has been taken up. On this section, earthwork, blanketing, bridges work, ballast supply, S&T work, etc. are in different stages of progress. As regards rail connectivity from Tanakpur to Ghat-Bageshwar, a survey has been completed. As per survey report, the cost of construction of 155 Km long line has been assessed as ₹ 2791 crore with negative rate of return 1.16%. Railway is unable to take up the work due to its unremunerative nature, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of funds.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Suicide by farmers**

641. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers committing suicide in the country in last one and half year (May, 2014 to October, 2015), State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.