

The above changes have been implemented with effect from 15-03-2019.

In view of above rationalisation in certain trains fare shall be lower and in addition, the graded discount shall also benefit the passengers.

Antyodaya Express on Chennai Egmore Kanyakumari route

1405. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey regarding the operation of 'Antyodaya Express' across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to introduce more Antyodaya Express trains on Chennai-Egmore-Kanyakumari route which is one of the busiest/heavy traffic routes in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there are 10 pairs of Antyodaya Express trains which are being operated in different zones. The total number of passengers travelled on Antyodaya Express trains in the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 (upto November, 2018) was approximately 0.56 million and 1.57 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Chennai-Kanniyakumari sector is presently being served by 3 pairs of train services. Besides, major portion of the Chennai-Kanniyakumari sector is being served by 16191/16192 Tambaram-Tirunelveli Antyodaya Express. At present, there is no proposal for introduction of Antyodaya Express train between Chennai Egmore and Kanniyakumari owing to operational/resource constraints.

Doubling of railway lines in Jharkhand

1406. Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the current status of the works relating to the doubling of railway lines of 1241 kilometres in Jharkhand which are likely to be completed in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): At present Railways have taken up 18 doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand aggregating 1241 kilometres and costing ₹ 15236 crore. Details of these projects alongwith status thereof are as under:—