

**Direct train connectivity from Ranchi to
Ahmedabad and Mumbai**

882. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of trains directly connecting Ranchi in Jharkhand to Ahmedabad/ Surat in Gujarat and Mumbai in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any proposal/representation to start direct trains between Ranchi and Ahmedabad/ Surat and Ranchi and Mumbai;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Railways have carried out any survey to ascertain the potential to start a new train between these stations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Representations/ proposals for introduction of train services including between Ranchi and Ahmedabad/ Surat/Mumbai are received from various quarters including State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, elected representatives, passenger organizations etc. at various levels of Railway Administration including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Divisions, etc. A centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

However, regular analysis of passenger traffic over different sectors is carried out by Indian Railways and the review of waiting list position, occupancy and quota utilization of trains is undertaken, which is an ongoing and continuous process.

As regards, train services for Surat/Mumbai/Ahmedabad from Ranchi, it is stated that while there is no direct connectivity between Ranchi and Ahmedabad, Ranchi is presently connected to Surat by one pair of train services viz. 13425/13426 Malda Town-Surat Express (Weekly) and to Mumbai by two pairs of train services viz. 12811/12812 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Hatia Express (Bi-weekly) and 18609/18610 Ranchi-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express (Weekly). Further, passengers of Ranchi desirous of traveling to Ahmedabad may do so by change over at Tatanagar, Rourkela etc., which are well connected to Ahmedabad. Besides, introduction of trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view traffic justification, operational feasible, resource availability, competing demands, etc.