

(d) Yes, Sir. Instructions have already been issued to complete the work timely and to monitor and review Railway projects at different levels starting from field units, Zonal Railways, Ministry of Railways etc. Also, regular coordination meeting are held with State Government officials to sort out various issues arising during construction.

Disruption of train service in lockdown

†1564. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to lockdown across the country, all the train services on Delhi-Howrah main route have been put on hold on account of which the people of Santhal Pargana, including the people of Jamtara district, are facing a lot of difficulties; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express and Patna-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express are not stopping at the designated stations like before and if so, whether Government proposes to start the said trains immediately and ensure the stopping of these trains at railway stations like before?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) With a view to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Railways discontinued all passenger services *w.e.f.* 23.03.2020. Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic, at present, only 356 Special trains, with limited stoppages, are being operated. This is also keeping in view the concerns and suggestions of the State Governments.

These services include three pairs of Special train services which are running between New Delhi and Howrah. Of these, train New Delhi-Howrah Special (02303/02304) has a stoppage at Jasidih and train Patna-Howrah Janshabdi Special (02023/24) has stoppages at Jasidih and Jamtara which are in Santhal Pargana. In addition to the above, train Anand Vihar (T)-Madhupur Special (02465/02466), with stoppage at Jasidih, is also being operated *w.e.f.* 24th September, 2020.

Representation against privatisation

1565. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has received representations from Railway employees and representative bodies objecting to the move to allow the private sector to operate 151 trains; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.