

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 127
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

RAILWAY FACILITIES TO KAPILAVASTU

127. #SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kapilavastu (district Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh) is the birthplace of Lord Buddha where followers of Buddha from all over the world pay obeisance;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are no means of transport there, due to which the place has not been developed into a “Buddha Circuit”;
- (c) whether Kapilavastu-Basti railway line project (via Bansi), Pink Book Item No. 6 is already approved; and
- (d) by when the construction of the said railway line project would begin, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 127 BY SHRI BRIJLAL ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 30.07.2021 REGARDING RAILWAY FACILITIES TO KAPILAVASTU

(a) & (b): Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh and its Headquarter Naugarh is already connected on railway network.

Indian Railways through Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is operating Buddhist Circuit Special Train which covers all major Buddhist pilgrimage destinations connected with the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. The trains covers Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Varanasi (Sarnath), Lumbini (Nepal), Kushinagar and Shrawasti. Lumbini in Nepal is accessible by Road from Nautanwa Railway Station in India. The Buddhist Circuit special train offers a holistic travel package which includes transport, accommodation, meals and sightseeing.

(c) & (d): Basti to Kapilvastu via Bansi New Line (90.3 Km) was included in Railway Budget 2013-14 subject to requisite approvals. Planning Commission was approached to accord In-Principle Approval (IPA) for the project in May 2012. IPA was granted by Planning Commission subject to the condition that State Government provides land free of cost and also share construction cost to extent of 50%. Government of Uttar Pradesh was approached to provide land free of cost and share 50% cost of construction, however, consent of same was not received. Project being financially unviable [Rate of Return (-) 1.16%] could not be taken forward.
