

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 316
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

REDEVELOPMENT OF DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY STATIONS

316. **SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways is aware that there is an urgent need for re-development and upgradations of the Himalayan Railway Stations in Darjeeling Hills;
- (b) whether Railways is aware that Himalayan railways is essential for boosting tourism in the region it being a World Heritage Site; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 316 BY SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.02.2023 REGARDING REDEVELOPMENT OF DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY STATIONS.

(a): Modernisation/upgradation of stations on Indian Railways is an ongoing process subject to volume of traffic inter-se-priority of work and availability of funds. The stations of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) are maintained and upkept as per an approved Comprehensive Conservation & Maintenance Plan (CCMP) formulated with help of UNESCO keeping in view of the heritage value of DHR

(b) & (c): Yes Sir. The following actions have been taken for boosting tourism in DHR:-

- (i) Annual Ghum festival has been started from 2021-22.
- (ii) Summer festival was also organized in Summer 2022.
- (iii) Vistadome coaches in Joyride between Darjeeling and Ghum Stations have been introduced.
- (iv) Permission for shooting films and documentaries in DHR facilitated by dedicated web portal.
- (v) Ticketing is made online.
- (vi) DHR logo as trade mark of DHR has been made.
- (vii) Regular meeting with hoteliers, tour operators is conducted.
- (viii) Improvement in façade and concourse area of Darjeeling Station. New Clock Tower has been constructed and 'I LOVE DHR' logo has been installed at Darjeeling station to attract tourists.
- (ix) Renovation of Ghum Station and outdoor Heritage Park has been taken up.
- (x) Sonada and Gaybari stations of DHR burnt during Civil unrest have been restored to its original heritage value.
