

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 86
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022
PILGRIM SPECIAL TRAIN**

†86. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government operates Deluxe Trains, Special Tourist Trains and Luxury Tourist Trains for the convenience of the pilgrims;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government is planning to link Kurukshetra with the newly declared pilgrimage site of Soron to facilitate the pilgrims and boost transport connectivity;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether there is need of running more trains keeping in view the heavy rush of pilgrims in Geeta Gyan Sthali area in Haryana State; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) and (b) Indian Railways have issued the 'Bharat Gaurav Trains' policy on 23.11.2021 with an objective to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places through theme based tourist circuit trains.

In addition, Luxury Tourist Trains are being run by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) / State Tourism Development Corporations.

(c) and (d) Kurukshetra is already connected with Soron Shukar Kshetra by Rail link via Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh and Kasganj.

(e) and (f) To cater to the need of travelling passengers of Geeta Gyan Sthali area (Kurukshetra) in Haryana, 50 no. of Mail/Express trains are running presently.

Introduction of train services, inter-alia to promote pilgrimage is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and resource availability, etc.