

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3285  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023**

**RESUMPTION OF PASSENGER/EXPRESS-TYPE TRAINS**

**3285. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to resume all passenger and express-type train services in the country including those running in the State of Jharkhand as per pre-COVID-19 period and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the list of passengers and express-type train services originating or passing from Jharkhand, which are yet to resume the services after COVID-19 period;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any policy decision to increase the minimum fare in passenger trains from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the rationale behind the decision of the Government to run all the passenger trains as express specials like 13553/1355 Asansol-Varanasi, 13545/13546 Gaya-Asansol, 13503/13504 Bardhaman-Hatiya trains which are passenger trains but passengers are charged rates of express trains even after all the restrictions of COVID-19 have been lifted?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (d) With a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Railways had discontinued the operation of all regular passenger carrying trains with effect from 23rd March, 2020 and only special train services were being operated. Since November-2021, Mail/express train services are being operated as per rationalized time table and regular train numbers. Further, Indian Railways have undertaken rationalization of time table, in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay *inter-alia* to provide better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, minimise conflicts in existing time-table and rationalising train services by converting passenger services into Express services. Fare of 13553/13554 Asansol-Varanasi Express, 13545/13546 Gaya-Asansol Express and 13503/13504 Bardhaman-Hatia Express is being charged as per categorization of these services.

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