

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5849
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
MAHARAJA EXPRESS
Bhoi Shri Sanjay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have launched a special train called ``Maharaja Express Classical India`` to boost tourism;
- (b) if so, whether any request has been received to extend this train service to Bhubaneswar to give boost to Buddhist Tourism; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Railways and the steps taken in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(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. 5849 BY SHRI SANJAY BHOI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.09.2011 REGARDING MAHARAJA EXPRESS

(a) Yes, Madam. IRCTC was running a "classical India itinerary" on their Maharajas' Express Luxury Tourist train.

(b) & (c) A request has been received by IRCTC on 19/08/2011 from Chief Secretary, Govt. of Orissa to work out options for launching a similar train service in Orissa. There is presently inadequate demand from the region, which has not justified this request. The destinations covered in the itinerary of Maharajas' Express tourist train are decided by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) based on market demand and potential for attracting traffic. In view of inadequate demand, IRCTC has not recommended including Bhubaneswar in the itinerary of Maharajas' Express at present.