

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2293  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013  
RAILWAY LINES IN DARJEELING AND RANGIYA  
Singh Smt. Meena;Toppo Shri Joseph

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

- (a) whether the world heritage railway line in Darjeeling is not in good condition due to poor maintenance by the Railways;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Railways for proper maintenance of the said line;
- (c) whether the train services on Rangiya-Murkongselek railway line have not been started yet despite completion of the line long ago;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the train services on the said line are likely to be started?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) Darjeeling Himalayan World Heritage Railway Line has been breached at Tindharia and Paglajhora, due to washing away of National Highway 55 disrupting the train operations.

This was due to repeated landslides / earthquake between 2010 and 2012 and not due to poor maintenance by the Railways.

(b) National Highway 55 is being restored by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and West Bengal State Public Works Department. The Railway line will be re-built on the National Highway 55 after it is repaired. Routine maintenance of Railway track, bridges, stations and other assets in stretches other than those affected by land slide is being done regularly.

(c) to (e): Train services between Rangiya-Tezpur will be introduced after completion of gauge conversion works in Rangiya-Tezpur section of Northeast Frontier Railway. Infrastructural work for running of passenger train in Rangiya-Rangapara-Dekargaon section has been completed. However, new trains can be introduced only after mandatory clearance from Commissioner for Railway Safety (CRS) is received.