

Title: Need to provide more railway facilities at Haldia railway station, West Bengal.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Azad Express, an inter city service, with one AC Coach was introduced in 1999 between Salimar and Haldia with stipulation of two hour journey time. The present line from Panskura to Haldia is inadequate to tackle goods traffic and passengers traffic. In the Budget of 1998-99 and also in the Budget for the current financial year certain announcements were made which have not been implemented.

I shall request the Government to take the following measures:

1. Azad Express be operated from Howrah Station instead of Salimar.
2. AC Coach in Azad Express, an inter city service, be restored.
3. Journey hour be limited to two hours.
4. Manufacturing of parcel vans be resumed in order to facilitate transportation of betel leaves and flowers.
5. New line from Mechada to Rajagoda Station on Panskura-Haldia line and Nandakumar to Haldia Station be installed.
6. Development of Kolaghat, Mechada, Tamluk and Haldia Station as model station be expedited.
7. Stoppage of Coromondal Express, Gitanjali Express, Bombay Mail, Madras Mail, Bhubaneswar Rajdhani, Vivekananda Express, Ahmedabad Express and Falaknama Express at Mechada Station be accorded approval.
8. As per approval of budge, Haldia-Asansol Express via Howrah be introduced with immediate effect.