

Title: Need to run an Express train between Sealdah and Lalbagh on the Lalgola-Sealdah section of the Eastern Railway.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, Murshidabad is a district replete with history and tradition. During the 18th Century, the provincial capital of the Mughal rule was set up in Murshidabad, now more popularly known as Lalbagh. Indeed, the provincial rulers of Bengal fought the last battle against the British from Murshidabad before the province, or for that matter the whole of India, passed under the British rule. The town of Murshidabad, according to the European travellers of the 18th Century, was more populous than the city of London in those days. The walled city of Murshidabad, with its majestic and sprawling palace, fondly called 'Hazarduari', the Imambara and other relics along the river Ganga, is a great attraction for tourists all over the country. About 15 lakh tourists visit the place every year from all corners of our country. Efforts are being made, both by the State Government and the Central Government, to restore and maintain the heritage buildings of this historical place. But it is essential that an Express train should be introduced immediately to enable this large number of tourists to visit the place with comfort and ease. The proposed Express train would run between Sealdah and Lalbagh on the Lalgola-Sealdah section of the Eastern Railway. It would leave Sealdah in the morning, reaching Lalbagh in four hours time, and leave Lalbagh in the afternoon. The train, once introduced, would not only promote tourism but would be a fitting compliment to the great tradition and heritage of the place. It is hoped, the Government would take immediate steps to translate the proposal into reality.