

>

Title: Need to run Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar via Keonjhar.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Bhubaneswar, the State Capital of Orissa is connected by Rajdhani Express from New Delhi for only five days in a week. The train no. 2421-2422 goes on Kharagpur-Adra route and train no. 2443-2444 go via Kharagpur and Tatanagar route. Both these Rajdhani Express trains join on separate days at Gaya and then go to New Delhi. There is no Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar on the remaining two days.

Since the completion of Banspani-Daitari line now there is a direct rail route from Tatanagar and Jajpur Road via Banspani and Keonjhar. This line touches upon major portion of Singhbhum and Keonjhar districts which are abundant with mineral resources besides large number of steel plants/sponge iron plants and other mining industries are located in these districts. The people of these two districts also visit New Delhi for some vocation or the other. So there is a justification for connecting Rajdhani Express from these districts. If the Rajdhani Express diverts from Tatanagar for Keonjhar and joins at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and from there goes to Bhubaneswar, two backward districts of Orissa and Jharkhand will have a direct train to New Delhi. A large number of people will be benefited thereby and this will generate a good amount of revenue for Railways as it is in the case of freight.

As such, I demand that Bhubaneswar and New Delhi may be connected by Rajdhani Express on the remaining two days via Keonjhar without any further delay.