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Title: Delay in regular running of link train between Balurghat and Malda, West Bengal.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Respected Chairman Sir, I would like to raise a very small matter in this august House today. Sir, though the problem is small, it may take a larger dimension in the future. Therefore, I want to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Railways the fact that since 2004 a train is running from South Dinajpur's Balurghat which starts at 5 pm and goes to Malda. It is the Balurghat-Gaur link Express. The train reaches Kolkata early morning. Similarly, the next day it reaches Balurghat at 9.30 am. This practice was going on for the last five years. The time schedule was being followed meticulously and people were satisfied. But in February a new train has been introduced which runs from Balurghat to New Jalpaiguri and back. It is no doubt helping the passengers of my area. But the problem is that the train which used to come from Kolkata to Balurghat in the morning now goes to Jalpaiguri at 10.30 am and the train which begins from Jalpaiguri at 10.30 should reach Balurghat at 4.15 pm. But actually it runs abnormally late. It never reaches Balurghat in time; it is almost always delayed by 1 ½ or 2 hours. This has been happening for last 6 months. The hapless passengers reach the station in time to catch the train but get to board it at 6.30 or 7 pm. Things have come to a pretty pass. Whenever I go the station, they try to attack me. They complain that I do nothing to help them out. They want an explanation for the erratic time schedule. The situation is extremely frightening. Thus I want to request the ministry that instead of 5 pm the time should be made 6 P.M. from Balurghat for Balurghat-Gaur Link Express and 10 P.M. instead of 9.35 p.m. for Gaur Express from Malda. If this small alteration is made in the schedule then passengers will be highly beneficial and they will not have to wait for longer duration. Otherwise situation may go out of hand in the coming days.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

With these few words I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude my humble submission. Thank you.