

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.07.2019**

DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAYS

2937. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to develop the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR), which is a UNESCO World Heritage site and everything that is associated with DHR as a World Heritage property and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the reasons for shutting down Kurseong Railway Press, which is an integral part of the UNESCO World Heritage;**
- (c) whether the Government is likely to reconsider the decision and help in reviving a very important part of one of Darjeeling's and World's heritage; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

- (a) A Fund-in-Trust (FiT) agreement has been signed with UNESCO on 20.01.2017 to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for Darjeeling Himalayan Railways (DHR).**
- (b) With the digitization of several activities on Indian Railways such as the introduction of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) for ticketing and extensive use of e-tickets and online forms, etc., the need for printing of card tickets and general forms in the printing presses has diminished rendering nine printing presses including the one at Kurseong economically unviable.**
- (c) & (d) There is no proposal for re-starting any of the closed printing presses.**
