

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 55
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025**

DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY

***55 SMT. JUNE MALIAH:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO world heritage site passes through several congested areas along National Highway-10;**
- (b) if so, the names of such congested areas or stretches where that alignment overlaps with or runs parallel to NH-10;**
- (c) the approximate length (in kilometres) of the DHR route that runs along NH-10; and**
- (d) the total length of NH-10 (Darjeeling-Siliguri Road) and the percentage of this highway alignment that is occupied or overlapped by the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway track?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 55 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025.

(a) to (d) The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is a 88 km long Narrow Gauge (2 feet wide) railway line which connects New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling. This line was constructed in 1881. About 55 km of line was constructed on same formation as that of NH-110.

Due to its unique nature, this railway line was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 5th December 1999. It was the first hill railway in India to get this recognition.

During the peak season, 15 services are operated daily on this line. These include 13 joy rides between Darjeeling and Ghum and 2 full-service trains.

The sectional speed of the line is 15/20 kmph. However, at locations where the line passes through dense areas, speed restriction of 5 km/h has been imposed from safety considerations. The details of such locations are as under:

- Kurseong station to Tourist Lodge (200 meters)**
- Rangbull Ropeway to Rangbull Phatak (264 meters)**
- Jorebunglow to Pasang Building (400 meters)**
- Dali to Meri Resort (100 meters)**
- SBI ATM to Darjeeling Station (100 meters)**

At above locations, the trains are piloted manually. One railway staff walks ahead of trains and carries flags and whistles to warn people. Signboards are also placed at crossings to alert the public.

Awareness drives to make locals, vendors, and tourists aware about railway safety are also held throughout the year.
