

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:470
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Pakistan threatened to discontinue the service of Samjhauta Express between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the reasons stated by Pakistan;
- (c) the details of the agreement made between the two countries at the time of introduction of this train;
- (d) the number of times Pakistan violated the agreement; and
- (e) the latest position about the running of this train?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE)

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan Railways had indicated that a rake of Pakistan Railways coaches has been crossing the international borders between Attari and Wagha, a distance of 2.5 kms for quite some time and for the next six months Indian Railways should contribute a rake of Indian Railways coaches.

(c) The basic features of the original Bilateral Agreements are as under:-

- (i) a daily Express train to run between Amritsar-Lahore to cater to through international traffic only.
 - (ii) Train service to be managed by two rakes, each country contributing one rake. No hire charges to be paid to any country therefore, no financial adjustments required in respect of running of the train services.
 - (iii) Primary maintenance to be done by the owning country and the Secondary maintenance by the other country on a manual basis.
 - (iv) Time Table and the composition of the trains to be decided through mutual consultation by the two railways.
 - (v) Trains to be worked by Pakistani Railway locomotive, crew and guards between Lahore-Attari and by Indian locomotive, crew and guards between Amritsar-Attari.
 - (vi) Custom, immigration and health checks to be conducted on Indian side at Attari and on Pakistani side at Lahore/Wagha.
 - (vii) Each country to collect fares and other charges from the passengers on its respective system upto international border except for certain nominated stations in each country for which through booking system is agreed to.
 - (viii) So far as the freight trains are concerned, for six months, Indian Railways locos and crew work the train upto Wagha (Pakistan) for the next six months Pakistan Railways locos and crew work the train upto Attari(India).
- (d) Two times. For a short duration from 8 December,1992 to 10 December, 1992 and from 28 September, 1994 to 10 November, 1994 running of Samjhauta Express was stopped by the Pakistani Railways.
- (e) Meeting between Indian Railways (IR) and Pakistani Railways (PR) officials were held on April 14, 2000 and April 26, 2000 at Wagha border. Following decision were taken:-

1. Indian Railways will provide a rake for next six months. This rake will work between Attari and Lahore.

2. Indian Railways rake lying at Lahore will be kept guarded so that anti-social elements do not misuse it.

3. Pakistani Railways will provide the locomotive, crew and guard of this train.

With this arrangements, the Samjhauta Express service will continue uninterrupted.