

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875

ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS TO KALKA -SHIMLA RAILWAY LINK

Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recognized Kalka-Shimla Railway as a world heritage and called it as a wonder of 19th century engineering;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are contemplating to start a rapid rail car or similar services to facilitate travel of foreign and domestic tourists from Delhi to Kalka and thereafter from Kalka to Shimla through linked rail services in minimum time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Rail Motor Service has already been introduced and this completes the journey in 4 hours and 05 minutes. In addition, the possibility of increasing the speed of trains is also being examined to reduce the journey time.

(d) Does not arise.