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Title: Need to terminate Bagha Jatin Express at Howrah instead of Santragachi.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an issue of public importance.

The livelihood of more than four lakh people in my area is getting seriously affected by some arbitrary decision of the Railways. There is a train " Baghajatin Express" which runs from my constituency, Balasore, in the northern part of Odisha, which is about 250 kilometres from the nearest metropolis of Kolkata. This train was introduced almost 15 years back with three basic objectives. The first objective was that the farmers, traders and fishermen who belong to my constituency would take the locally produced fruits and vegetables to the nearest market in Kolkata. The second objective was that the train would leave early in the morning at six o' clock; the people would be able to travel in that train to reach Kolkata and would be able to sell their produce over there and then buy items that are sold cheaply in Kolkata and bring back the stuff to their home towns. The third objective was that they had to pay a very nominal fare of just Rs.50 for commuting the distance of 250 kilometres. With these three objectives, this train was introduced.

Unfortunately, on 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the Railways took a decision to terminate this train at one station before Howrah i.e. at Santragachi. What is the implication of this decision? The implication is that people have to get down over there, spend another Rs.100 to reach the destination, and they are not able to finish their work because the time available to them for completing their job and come back in the evening is not there, and hence they have to stay at hotel, etc. Their whole earning in the entire process is not more than Rs.300 or Rs.400 a day. How can they afford to spend so much of money to stay in hotel? Further, they have to spend a few hundred rupees from Santragachi to Kolkata.

So, my submission to the hon. Railway Minister, through you, that this decision may immediately be reversed. Otherwise, this decision will be termed as anti-farmers, anti-poor, anti-traders and anti-fishermen, and more than four lakh people who are commuting in this train will be directly affected and their livelihood will be in question. This is what my submission is.