

Subject- Reconsidering the Decision to extend Farakka Express to Balurghat

Dear Sir,

Hello sir I am Diptargha Bhattacharjee , a 18 year old student studying in class 12th . In this letter I want to state how the decision to extend farakka express upto Balurghat taken up by Railway Board is actually not a good decision. I hope you will find this letter useful.

I am a resident of Malda district in West Bengal, India which is famous for Mangoes. Farakka Express was inaugurated in the year 1963 at that time this train was upto Farakka Railway station which is a abandoned site today. After the completion of Farakka Barrage in 1971 the whole of North Bengal & North East India got connected to Kolkata the 4th largest city in India & a Economic hub in eastern India. Since then People of districts in North Bengal Like Malda, uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri , CoochBehar, Alipurduar used to come at Kolkata for Employment opportunities. In 1973 when the people were not getting jobs in Kolkata, they started going to other cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai etc but still most of the people can't go due to connectivity issues. In 1974 Train no 15657 Brahmaputra Mail was introduced to provide a good connectivity to Delhi. It was the only train to Delhi back then for Malda, Murshidabad in West Bengal, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Bhagalpur, Munger in Bihar. Till 1991 there was only one train to Delhi i.e the Brahmaputra mail. After a lot of Demand by the common people & various letters sent by our then MP Ganikhan Chaudhary to the Parliament, Railway minister etc in 1991 Train no 13483 Malda Town Delhi Farakka Express was introduced. Upon introduction this train became a massive success as most people went to Delhi the national Capital for employment, business, trading etc. Initially started as a weekly train by 2010 it was made to run daily. Since then this train is running via two routes one is via Sultanpur & another one via Ayodhya cant. So I hope you liked the short history of this train.

Now, I would like to request the members of Railway Board to reconsider extension of farakka express upto Balurghat because of following reasons-

- 1) Preserving the popularity-** The farakka express is currently the most popular train in Malda, Farakka, Sahibganj, Bhagalpur, Munger people. In fact it is the first choice to Delhi for the people in the respected regions. So if

Farakka Express is extended then it will be a problem for the people to board as the train will have a 10 min halt which is a short time for the crowd to settle.

- 2) **First train to Delhi-** The Farakka express was the first train to Delhi. When NFR did not run trains to Delhi via Malda Town, Bhagalpur Farakka Express emerged as the ultimate solution for the people. If a new train is introduced from balurghat instead of Farakka Express extension then it would be better for the people as people have havituated boarding it from Malda Town railway station

- 3) **Others –** The Farakka express was the train only through which Malda Mangoes got recognized all over India. It was only because of this train that people of several regions got chance to visit the Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirling in Banaras. Furthermore if this train did not existed today then there could be a lot of passengers on famous trains from Howrah the Netaji express , Poorva Express otherwise they could have witnessed a lot of passengers which was impossible to Handle everyday

So , I hope you find this letter useful. I hope you will act upon it immediately & prevent extension of Farakka Express

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully ,

Diptargha Bhattacharjee