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Title: Regarding consideration of Sonepur as Shipping Port in Odisha-laid.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BERHAMPUR): Shipping, the most economical means of transport for the transportation of raw materials, finished products, in terms of volume, attracts big industries giving impetus to the promotion of industry, trade and commerce.

There were regular coastal shipments from Sonepur up to 1768. It is estimated that out of 200 cargo ships in all the ports of Ganjam, only 20 ships came calling for freight in 1787. One of the hindrances for the growth of Sonepur Port was restriction on trade. Heavy duty was levied on goods and grains. Another cause of the decadence of the Port was that the Bahuda river which falls into the Sea, creates sandy bars which obstructed shipping.

Over a period of time and current globalization scenario all these issues have no meaning. I, therefore, request the Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to consider Sonepur as Shipping Port. This will lead to the development of Sonepur and create employment, business opportunities among the people.