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Title : Regarding building up of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) between Kharaghpur (West Bengal) and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh -laid.

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM): As you are aware, the Dedicated Freight Corridors will play an important role in realizing Prime Minister's vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat by providing enhanced connectivity of Railway Network, reducing logistics cost as well as increasing freight speed.

As a part of Rs. 1,01,055 crore budget for the railway infrastructure allocated in the Union budget 2021, accepting Indian Railways Proposal (proposed in 2014-2015), Finance Minister has announced in her budget speech that the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) of length 1115 KM on the east-coast between West Bengal's Kharaghpur and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh will be completed by June 2022 and electrification of all the freight corridors will be completed by 2023. Unfortunately, due to unknown reasons, it has not yet materialized.

The proposed DFC will connect industrial areas in the eastern and western parts of the country to southern India through major ports like Paradeep, Dhamra, Gopalpur ports in Odisha and Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Krishnapatnam and Machilipatnam ports in Andhra Pradesh ensuring faster movement of goods and capacity enhancement in the over-saturated sections of the railway network and would give a major boost to development of Odisha as well as AP. This will also help in reducing the cost of freight transport as the fuel consumption is reduced and bigger and larger trains can travel on these

routes. With four ports being in development in AP, officials previously estimated the DFC would help in handling 300-350 Metric Tonnes of Cargo by 2024-25.

I, therefore, have the honour to put the matter before the Central Government urging it to take steps for speeding up the process of preparing feasibility reports, and the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) regarding the alignment, land requirement, traffic projections and complete it as soon as possible.