

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding connecting Deoghar with Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor -laid.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA) : As per the announcement, the inter-ministerial group was to examine the feasibility of setting up the Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor along with the structural and financing arrangements that would be required.

The Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor will use the Eastern dedicated freight corridor as the backbone. The Eastern DFC extends from Ludhiana in Punjab to Dankuni near Kolkata. Therefore, the Amritsar-Delhi-Kolkata Industrial Corridor will be structured around the Eastern DFC and also the highway network that exists on this route. It will also leverage the Inland Waterway System being developed along National Watenvay-I, which extends from Allahabad to Haldia.

It will cover Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. This is one of the most densely populated regions in the world and houses about 40% of India's population.

Interestingly, the corridor is to cover the cities of Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Ambala, Saharanpur, Delhi, Roorkee, Moradabad, Bareilly, Aligarh, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Hazaribagh, Dhanbad, Asansol, Durgapur and Kolkata.

While originally, the alignment was being considered differently, changes seem to have been suggested. These changes would result in this vital corridor bypassing the Santhal Pargana region and that too by just 100-odd Kilometers. While the Corridor is proposed to link Patna, I would urge the Government to consider connecting DEOGHAR in Jharkhand, which is less than 100

Kilometers to the proposed alignment. The area is in extreme need of infrastructure and just a slight change in alignment would make a huge difference to the lives of the poor tribals of the region. The tribals of Santhal Pargana will forever thank the Government of India for this.