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Title: Issue regarding the creation of a separate railway division in Jajpur, Odisha.

**SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI (JAJPUR):** Sir, I rise to speak on a very important issue pertaining to my constituency of Jajpur in the State of Odisha. The issue is regarding the creation of a separate railway division in Jajpur, Odisha.

Sir, Odisha has the maximum resources of almost all minerals from coal to iron and from bauxite to manganese. Odisha is also the highest producer of steel and aluminium in the country. Ninety-eight per cent of chromite in India comes from Jajpur. The Central Government has also declared Kalinga Nagar of Jajpur District, which is one of the largest industrial hubs in Asia, as a National Investment Zone. Thanks to the economic development of the State and the thrust for industrialization by our able State Government. We have significant footprints of noted industries and foreign companies. Besides, the District has also a vast potential for tourism.

Jajpur District has four railway junctions, six goods train sheds and twenty-one stations. The centrality of the District can be understood from the fact that, on the one hand, it is around 100km from the capital city of Bhubaneshwar and, on the other hand, the distance from Paradip and Dhamra port is also more or less same.

Considering the importance, our hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik ji, has also requested for the same. Sir, Odisha Government has always been supportive of the railway projects and

development of railway infrastructure in terms of providing land and other logistics. The commitment of our Government to railway projects stands in excess of Rs. 5000 crore which speaks of our priority to this sector.

Sir, I have elaborated in detail why we need and why we deserve a separate railway division in Jajpur. Through you, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to positively consider our case on priority basis.