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Title: Need to accord National Festival status to Baliyatra' celebrated in Cuttuck district, Odisha.

***SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL):** Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue in Zero Hour. Sir, Utkal (erstwhile Odisha) was well-known for its maritime trade in ancient times. We used to have trade links with Java, Sumatra, Bali etc. To commemorate this rich tradition of trade & business, a festival called 'Balijatra' is celebrated in Odisha with great fervour. It's a nine-day fair of fun & frolic, that symbolizes our cultural heritage. Despite being very popular, it is yet to be recognized as a National Fair. Our Prime Minister promotes goodwill & harmony by extensively travelling to different parts of the world. Through you I demand that 'Balijatra' should be declared as a National Festival by the Central Government.