

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Demand for extension of railway line from Jajpur-Keonjhar road station to Dhamra port station in Jajpur Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

**SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI (JAJPUR):** Sir, first of all, I would like to wish a happy '*Rath Yatra*' to all the hon. Members present here.

Sir, I would like to raise an important issue of my constituency of Jajpur, Odisha. There is a long pending demand for construction of a railway line from Jajpur-Keonjhar Road to Dhamra Port via Jajpur and Aradi with a total distance of 95 km.

It is worthwhile to mention here that Biraja Kshetra in Jajpur District is one of the most important Shakti Kshetras and pilgrimages in India like Dwarka and Kashi in Varanasi. Sir, a large number of pilgrims visit this area throughout the year. The construction of a railway line will help in developing religious eco-tourism projects also. Further, it will help create a financial source to the people in Jajpur through linking of Kalinganagar with Dhamra Port as a part of fourth generation of industrialisation. Though a demand has been made by the State Government, including several memorandums and railway budget proposals made by the hon. Chief Minister emphasising the importance of this railway line project, no progress has been made so far.

Through you, Sir, I request the Minister of Railways for commencement and completion of the proposed extension of railway line from Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Station to Dhamra Port Station.