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Title: Need to extend Tripura-Manu-Agartala railway line upto Subroom, with a view to promote trade and commerce in the North-Eastern region of the country.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): The Railway line linking Tripura has come upto Manu. Construction of Railway line from Manu to Agartala is in progress. This Project has been given the status of a 'National Project' and the target date has been fixed on March, 2007 for completion of the project. The State Government and the people of the State strongly demand extension of Railway line upto Subroom. The updated survey report of this sector was sent to Railway Board in early 2005. The project is extremely important for the State as also the North-East Region. Once Subroom is connected, it would be easier to connect Chittagong Port, at a distance of 75 km. through Bangladesh Railway network. It would provide Tripura and other N-E States the much-needed access to a sea port. With this link in position, Tripura can be the Gateway for trade and commerce to a host of South East Asian countries. The expansion of rail network in the region is imperative for socio-economic development apart from strategic relevance. I would, therefore, strongly demand that material modification of the National Project should be approved so that the Railway line is extended upto Subroom as a part of National Project and a token provision be made in the supplementary Railway Budget.