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Title: Need to provide adequate budgetary allocations for speeding up the execution of the doubling of railway line from Sonapur to Canning in Sealdah Division, West Bengal.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Upon recognizing the economic as well as tourism potential of the Sundarbans region, the work of doubling of the railway line between Sonarpur and Canning in the South Section under Sealdah Division (West Bengal) had been taken up. But the progress of work is very slow. The first phase of the project (Sonarpur to Ghotiarisheriff) is over and the second phase (Ghotiarisheriff to Canning) is yet to start.

Sundarbans is a more backward area. In the absence of double line, a lot of hardships being experienced in the transportation of a huge volume of sea food, vegetables, dairy products, etc., produced there in Sundarbans. Secondly, canning is the gateway of Sundarbans having tourism potential of hundreds of inland as well as foreign tourists since October of every year. However, the budgetary allocations being made every year are very meagre in comparison to the revenue potential of the line. Therefore, adequate and necessary budgetary allocations are to be made for this purpose for speeding up the execution of the doubling work of Phase II (Ghotiarisheriff to Canning) to avoid any further delay.

Likewise, it is understood that the on-going doubling project between Baruipur and Dakin Barasat (Phase I) is very slow due to meagre budgetary allocations.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to enhance the budgetary allocations for speedy completion of the doubling projects, in view of the tourism potential and economic development of Sundarbans.