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Title: Need to extend the existing railway line from Agartala to Sabroom in North East, with a view to promote trade and commerce with South Asian Countries - laid.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): The Indian Railways is a symbol of National integration. Despite the priority attached to the development of the North-Eastern region by UPA Government, no plans have been announced to improve the Railway network in the North-East. There has been a long standing demand of the people of Tripura for extension of Railway line beyond Agartala upto Sabroom. This project is extremely important not only for the State but also for the entire North-East Region. It would facilitate connection of the North-East region with Chittagong Port of Bangladesh with a distance of only 75 k.m. With this link in position, Tripura can also be Gateway for Trade and Commerce to a host of South Asian countries. North-East Region including Tripura has been confronting with the anti-national insurgency problem for the last three decades. It is admitted fact that backwardness and under-development is one of the root causes of this insurgency problem. Speedy development of modern system of connectivity can bring a sea change in this region. I would, therefore, urge upon Government of India to immediately take up the extension of the Railway line up to Sa broom for implementing it as a component of the ongoing National Project 'Kumarghat-Agartala Railway line' under the 'Look East Policy' of the Government.