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Title: Regarding need to take Orissa Govt. into confidence before undertaking transloading operations in Kanika Islands off the Orissa Coast.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, through you, I would like to draw an important issue for the consideration of the Government.

Haldia Port Authorities have floated a global tender for starting transloading operations in Kanika Islands off the Orissa coast without the consent of the Orissa Government. Recently the West Bengal Government has also sought the intervention of the Union Shipping Ministry in this connection. The Union Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary in the Shipping Ministry to examine the feasibility of undertaking bulk cargo handling operation. The Haldia Port authorities are trying several options to tackle the acute capacity constraints.

But the problem is Kanika Islands are under Orissa State jurisdiction and without informing Orissa, Haldia Port authorities have floated global tender and the Union Government is examining the feasibility of undertaking bulk cargo handling operation.

This is grossly unfair and illegal. I urge upon the Government to take the Orissa Government into confidence before proceeding in the matter and not to allow transloading in Kanika Island. We are not opposed to the development of Haldia and Kolkata Ports, but not at the cost of Orissa. It is bounden duty of the Union Government to protect the interest of Orissa.