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Title: Need to establish a modern Dry port at Dhubri, Assam.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI): It is a matter of concern that for the benefit of our country's trade and industries the Government has yet to exploit river Brahmaputra and establish a modern port at Dhubri. During the British rule, a port was established in 1883 on the Brahmaputra at strategically located Dhubri. Railways were also extended up to Dhubri as an important business centre of North East India and it contributed to the development of large area like North Bengal, Sikkim and Bhutan. Later air transport system was also introduced in the area as a result of intensive commercial activity and economic development. The economy of North Bengal was immensely benefited by the infrastructure facilities available at Dhubri. But this water transport system was closed due to acrimonious relationship between India and Pakistan and as a result the activities of Dhubri port were halted and with this economic and commercial activities were also adversely affected. It had a far-reaching effect on the economy of Assam and North Bengal. The recession ultimately made the Railways defunct and Air Transport system was stopped. Although after much dilly dallying the Government sent a high-power team for investigation and on the spot assessment. It is learnt that the team has submitted a favourable report.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make an announcement to the effect that a port with all modern facilities will be established at Dhubri for which the construction work of the port terminus will have to be completed within two years.