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Title: Need to provide rail services between Berhampur-Phulbani via Ashaka and Bhanjanagar in Orissa.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (PHULBANI): Sir, there are two tribal dominated districts of Orissa in which Indian Railways have not been able to provide their services even after the 60 long years of our Independence. One of them is Kandhamal which is in my Parliamentary Constituency. In the past the Railways has made survey for Railway line between Berhampur-Phulbani via Ashaka and Bhanjanagar but the said survey has not materialized so far. The proposal is still pending with the Ministry of Railways.

More than 30 Revenue villages and more than 10 lakh persons most of them belonging to either Schedule Castes or Schedule Tribes, are facing great difficulty in the absence of train services. The businessmen of this area are also facing difficulties, as they have to depend only on road transport as they do not have any other option. The people of my constituency are compelled to use road transport and traveling by road is neither comfortable nor safe as compared to rail transport. Sir, Indian Railways, which is world's largest rail, should consider some social obligations. In my opinion, sometimes issue of economic viability can be ignored.

Sir, I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to kindly consider the survey already conducted for Berhampur-Phulbani via Ashaka and Bhanjanagar rail line and allocate funds for the said project at the earliest in the 60<sup>th</sup> year of our Independence.