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Title: Need to expedite the construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir railway line in Orissa.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (PHULBANI): Khurda Road - Bolangir 289 Kms Railway line was sanctioned during 1994-95 but the work on the said project is progressing very slow. The expenditure incurred on the project till March 2006 was only Rs. 45.01 crores against the estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crores. Land acquisition for 36 Kms. from Khurda Road end has been completed long back but due to low allocation of funds by the Ministry of Railways this section of the project is progressing very slow.

The villagers and businessmen of my constituency are demanding that there should be a link line from Madhopur to Phulbani for their benefit. Tribal and Schedule Castes of the area have to visit Districts Headquarters only by road because they are still deprived to avail the services of the India Railways. This missing link will establish emotional attachment between the coastal Orissa and Western Orissa.

I, therefore, urge the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to kindly complete the Khurda Road- Bolangir new rail line project within a stipulated period so that there is no cost escalation and time overrun. I may also be apprised the time by which the Railways will be able to complete the said project.