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Title: Need to augment road and rail services to Naavi Gaya, a place of religious importance at Jajpur, Orissa.

SHRI MOHAN JENA (JAJPUR): The Naavi Gaya, situated on the bank of river Baitarini at Jajpur in the Jajpur district of Orissa is very important from the religious point of view. The Naavi Gaya is the first of the three places for 'Pitru Shraadha'. The next places being 'Mastaka Gaya' at Gaya, Bihar and Paada Gaya at Rajmahindri in Andhra Pradesh. While Gaya and Rajmahindri are well connected, the Naavi Gaya remains to be connected by both rail and National Highway link. Jajpur was the most ancient capital of the then Kalinga. This tirtha belongs to pre-Mahabhaarata era and most probably, more ancient than both the Jagannath Temple at Puri and Surya Temple at Konark. Numerous Puraanas and the Mahaabhaarata has mentioned the importance of this place which needs its existence proved and certified by the Archaeological Survey of India. Prominent people like veteran freedom fighters and Chief Ministers of Orissa, Late Biswanath Das, Late H.N. Bahuguna and Late Surendranath Dwivedi had demanded recognition of this place. I, therefore, demand that the Government should take immediate steps for the overall development of the "Naavi Gaya" alongwith the "Dwaadasamedha Ghata" on the river Baitarini. This place should also be connected with a 12 KM National Highway link from Sathipur on NH 5 and also by a rail" link from the Jajpur-Kendujhar Road railway station.

* Treated as laid on the Table.