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Title: Need to take steps to open Haldia – Paradip internal waterways.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The internal water ways from Haldia port in West Bengal to Paradip in Orissa has been declared as one of the important National Water-ways of the country. The route has been identified as Talcher-Dhamra, stretch of river Brahmani, Geonkhali-Charbelia, stretch of Mahanadi Delta (623 kms.).

Geonkhali-Hijli coast canal and Orissa coast canal are the parts of this route. But till date, no work has been started in the right direction, even the map of the proposed waterways has not been published. The people and the local administration are quite in dark in this respect.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, our national poet, used this route to pay visits to his estate in Paradip. If this route is started, the cost of transportation of goods from Haldia port to Orissa and vice-versa will be minimized and also the economic activities of the adjoining areas would get a boost. The whole economic scenario would change completely.

It would be a good gesture from the Union Government to provide necessary financial allocation in this respect during current fiscal year.

I urge upon the Union Government to take up the matter without any delay.

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