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Title: Need to provide rail connectivity to the upcoming ports at Kirtania, Astaranga, Inchudi, Bahuda Muhana, Chudamani from Howrah-Chennai rail route and extend the Ludhiana – Dankuni Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor upto Haridaspur in Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Orissa is progressively emerging as the mining, metals and manufacturing hub of the country with addition of energy generation capacity. Recent additions to the industrial horizon are shipbuilding projects, oil rig manufacturing and repair units and auto parts manufacturing facilities. In the next five years, it is expected that additional rail borne traffic generation will be in excess of a staggering 250 MTPA. The present rail infrastructure in the State is completely inadequate to handle the future growth of traffic. Therefore, there is an urgent need to provide substantial investment from Ministry of Railways for completion of ongoing projects within a period of five years.

Survey work for providing rail connectivity to the upcoming ports at Kirtania, Astaranga, Inchudi, Bahuda Muhana and Chudamani from the mainline i.e. Howrah-Chennai rail route needs to be taken up. It is also important that the Ludhiana-Dankuni Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is extended from Dankuni to Haridaspur so that upcoming ports at Kirtania and Dhamra and the major port of Paradeep are linked to the vast northern and central hinterland of India.