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Title: Regarding allocation of funds for the development of Changrabandha Land Port Check Post on Indo-Bangladesh Border.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me permission to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a problem pertaining to the Changrabandha Land Port Check Post in my constituency, Jalpaiguri. It is a very important and viable one out of the seven Check Posts on the Indo-Bangladesh border. At the request of the Central Government, M/s RITES paid a site visit at Changrabandha in the year 2007 to start the process of land acquisition and reported it to the authorities concerned. Shri Mohan Kumar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India issued a letter on 26.3.2007 and this raised the hopes for the development of this Dry Port to be declared as one of the seven Integrated Check Posts. In the year 2008, the then Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jairam Ramesh paid a visit to Changrabandha and announced a sanction of Rs. 64 crore for the development of the port. But no fund has been released so far. There is a need to build a Central Warehouse, an essential incentive in export-import business. There is an urgent need to open a Visa Office at Siliguri with the facility of Multi Visa System to be issued to exporters, importers and tourists.

In spite of discrepancies and procedural snags, the turn over of the port is rising every year and it is placed in the second highest position this year among the ports in West Bengal.

This is the most peaceful land customs station for export-import trade with Bangladesh among any other ports. My earnest appeal to the Government of India is for resuming a railway line from Siliguri to Changrabandha and New Mainaguri to Jogiyuba broad gauge railway line which would vitalise this port and rejuvenate the people of this area.

Sir, I am in dark about the sanction of Rs. 64 crore by the Central Government, So I would earnestly request the Government of India to take necessary action in this respect. Thank you.