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

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The internal water ways from Haldia port in West Bengal to Paradip port 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 Mahandi Delta (623 kms).

The Geonkhali-Hijli coast canal and Orissa coast canal are the very part of this route. But till date no work has been started thereon. Even the Map of the proposed waterways has not been published publicly. The people and the local administration are quite in dark in this respect.

Gurudev Rebindranath 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 along with the tremendous boost in the economic activities in the adjoining areas. The whole economic scenario would be changed completely.

It would be good gesture from the end of 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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