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Title: Need to reinstate contract-degree and diploma engineers in Paradip Port.

DR. KULAMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): I would like to mention that Paradip Port Trust through its open advertisement in newspapers, website and Gazette of Paradip Port recruited site supervisors and site Engineers in different disciplines on contractual basis. In the process of recruitment, all the criteria of eligibility *viz*, qualification, experience, age limit, reservation rule, performance in interview, etc. were taken into consideration. As per the order of the Paradip Port Trust Authority, the selected candidates joined in 2008 in respective departments of Paradip Port on contractual basis and since then have been working with devotion. However, in September 2011, the Paradip Port Trust Authority abruptly stopped the Degree and Diploma Engineers to work in the field without providing any reason or serving any prior notice. Having been demoralized by the decision of Paradip Port Trust Authority, the aggrieved contract Degree and Diploma Engineers filed a petition in the High Court of Odisha. Taking all the issues into consideration, Hon'ble High Court observed that all the petitioners shall be allowed to continue in their respective posts, as was before, till the said posts are filled up on regular basis. The entire exercise shall be completed within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of this order. However, the Paradip Port Trust Authority challenged the decision of Hon'ble High Court and obtained stay order from Supreme Court on the plea thereby aggravating the miserable condition of the said contract Engineers.

It is a matter of concern that these contract Engineers fulfilled all the criteria to get recruited to the advertised posts of Paradip Port. Further, after their appointment in 2008 on contractual basis, , almost all of them by now have crossed age limit. Which is most crucial eligible criterion to apply for recruitment in state or Central Government and Government Undertaking Organisation. Hence, they will be rendered unemployed because of such a step of Paradip Port Trust Authority.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and take necessary steps to reinstate the contract degree and diploma Engineers appointed in 2008 in different disciplines in Paradip Port in order to save the career and livelihood of the said contract Degree and Diploma Engineers and their families and to expedite the construction work in various sites in Paradip Port as well.