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Title:Regarding rail connectivity between Karimganj and Kolkata.

श्री राधेश्याम विश्वास (करीमगंज): माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, आपने मुझे बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

In my constituency, Karimganj, there was rail connectivity between Karimganj and Kolkata *via* Mohishashan to Bangladesh, even after Independence. However, it was fully closed in the year 1965 due to War between India and Pakistan, as the present Bangladesh was part and parcel of Pakistan, namely, East Pakistan. Now, Bangladesh is an independent country and has friendly relations with India.

Except rail connectivity with the North Eastern Region, connectivity by road and waterways between both countries is in force. Railway infrastructure of the then period is still in a good condition. The previously laid railway line was very short in distance in comparison with the present connectivity to Kolkata.

Surface transport connectivity *via* Guwahati with Barak Valley of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, and Manipur is always in a disrupted condition and the carrying cost of essential commodities *via* road is very high.

The Railway Department is doing gauge conversion up to Mohishashan, that is, the last station near Bangladesh border. The connectivity to the above-mentioned region can be improved by reopening the old railway line *via* Bangladesh from Karimganj to Kolkata with very low cost budget, and people of this region also will be economically benefited.

Our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will be probably visiting Bangladesh on 6th June 2015. We hope that some new pact will be signed by both the countries. Through this august House, I would request for the immediate intervention of the Union Government in connection with the above-mentioned proposal so that the people of this region can get a dream-like project for their benefit. माननीय सांसद अहलुवालिया जी ने भी इसके बारे में कहा था।

HON. SPEAKER: Kumari Sushmita Dev is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Radheshyam Biswas.