

Title: Need to chalkout a centrally sponsored programme to save Paradeep Port, Hukitola Island and Lamp House in Orissa from sea erosion-Laid.

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Tidal onslaughts from the Bay of Bengal and growing destruction of mangrove forest are fast eroding Orissa's Northern Coast line and posing a grave threat to the Paradip Port. The Nehru Guest House and its nearby residential flats and particularly the Hukitola island has been facing the greatest danger.

The Lamp House may lose its existence if remedial measures are not taken. The Lamp House was established in 1821 during British period at Hukitola of Jombu island near the Bay of Bengal. This island is in a dilapidated condition.

The mouth of Mahanadi is also silting day by day. The soil erosion has also been increasing every year. The findings of the Remote Sensing Application Centre through satellite picture reveals that the tidal bores started devouring the coast line about four decades ago. The break waters built to protect the port on its southern side have affected the movement of sea waters. As a result, sand and other materials carried by the sea currents are deposited in the southern area of the break water and not carried northwards where the tidal bores continue to break the shore.

Unless some suitable measures are adopted, the tidal bores will continue to pose a threat to the port. As such, I urge the Government to prepare a centrally sponsored programme to save Paradeep Port and Hukitola island as well as the Lamp House there from sea erosion and tidal wave. The desilting of Mahanadi river bed should also be included under that centrally sponsored programme.