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Title: Need to restore and renew the railway line which connects North East to other parts via Bangladesh.

**SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY (COOCHBEHAR):** Madam, before Partition of India in 1947, there was a rail link through Gitaldaha and Mogalhat to Lalmonirhat Junction, which is now situated in Bangladesh. Till 1955, the railway link existed when there were talks between India and Pakistan for resumption. Later this route has been disbanded by the Governments as the talks were not successful. In 1972, Bangladesh has been formed. As India maintains a good diplomatic relationship with the neighbouring country, we have a passenger train service - Maitree Express (Friendship Express) - between Bangladesh and India.

I, therefore, sincerely request the Government to renew and restore the railway link which connects North East India to other parts of India *via* Bangladesh. The proposed route will be the shortest route for people traveling from Gitaldah, Alipur, Duar (Cooch Behar) to Kolkata via Lalmonirhat (Bangladesh). The travel time spent through this new route would be less than half of the time spent currently. This would be hassle-free for people of North Bengal and other North East India for travel.