

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Demand to approve Gunupur-Therubali railway line project and to restart the trains from Koraput to Raigada in Odisha.

**SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue of my Constituency regarding railways. The Gunupur-Therubali rail line has been pending for a long time because of disagreement between the State and the Central Governments over its financing. I would request that this project be approved at the earliest and a Committee be set up in which representatives of the State Government, the Railway Ministry and the Member of Parliament concerned be involved and the project be revived. In addition to this, the Raigada Railway Division work is pending for a long time. This was announced before the elections but this has not been taken up.

Sir, the Vistadome coaches are currently put into service on Visakhapatnam-Araku line. We would request that this facility be extended to Koraput also. The Koraput-Raigada rail line is full of scenic beauty with lush green trees and lovely water falls and so on. We request the Railways to restart the trains from Koraput to Raigada and to make available Vistadome coaches on that line to promote tourism. The Rajya Rani Express in Gunupur runs thrice a week and we request that it be run daily. We request that Bhubaneswar-Palasa MEMU train be extended to Gunupur. In addition to this, stoppage of the train should resume in Jimidipeta, Therubali and Lakshmipur stations. The train stoppage at these stations was cancelled in the post-Covid times. These are some of the very genuine demands of the people of Odisha. I would

request the Minister or Railways to kindly consider all the demands and do the needful and send a response back to us. Thank you.