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Title: Request government to widen the road no. NH-16 connecting Cuttack-Paradip port into four lane road and make necessary action to make this state highway No. 12 as a National Highway.

DR. RAJASHREE MALLICK (JAGATSINGHPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Paradip port is one of the major ports in my constituency. Paradip port is number one among all major ports of India in terms of rated capacity of berth. The port is having berth handling capacity of 234 million metric tonnes per annum. Presently, a number of major industries like IOCL refinery, IFFCO, Paradip Phosphates Limited, Paradip Plastic Park Limited and ESSAR steel have establishments at Paradip. These industrial units are also expanding their capacity.

The Cuttack-Paradip Road is the only State highway connecting Paradip to NH-16 at Cuttack and also providing connectivity to Bhubaneswar, the State capital and many other major cities like Puri, Khurdha, Berhampur, Rourkela, Angul, Sambalpur etc. A number of loaded vehicles from different parts of India are using this State highway to arrive at Paradip. The total length of this State Highway is 90 kilometres. The road was improved 10 years back with concrete pavement for a width of 10.5 metre carriage way, out of the State fund.

Due to rapid growth of industrial activities at Paradip, the vehicular traffic on this State Highway is increasing tremendously day by day causing frequent accidents. A number of blackspots have been identified on this State Highway.

Considering the necessity and public demand, I would request for widening of this road into a four-lane road. Sufficient land is available for such widening.

My request to the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India is to take necessary action to make this State Highway No.12 into a National Highway.