

Regarding Gopalpur-Rayagada Railway Project-laid

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BERHAMPUR): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the ambitious Gopalpur ? Rayagada railway project which has been confined to survey only. About 12 years have passed since the survey for the Gopalpur-Rayagada railway project was conducted. A private agency was awarded survey work who submitted its report to the Railway Ministry in time. About Rs 4 crore was spent for the project. The project has been stuck in a stalemate. In 2012, the Planning Commission had approved its cost estimate. The railway project was expected to pave the way for connectivity to various hot spring tourist point of South Odisha i.e. Tapta Pani and Tribal areas like Mohana, Adava, Raipanka, Digapanhandhi, Bhismagiri and so many other tribal dominated areas which have so far not seen Indian Railway since Independence. Significantly, it would provide cargo transportation to the products of Nalco, Utkal Alumina and various Industries of this area to Gopalpur port and from there these products would be exported. It would also help in commercial performance of the Gopalpur port. I request the Hon?ble Minister of Railways to reconsider Gopalpur ? Rayagada Railway Project since it will not only push economic progress but also ease movement of passengers in this region.