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Title : Need to construct manned railway level crossing at Rajhansa, Cuttack district, Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, to a very important issue concerning not only my constituency and my State but also the interest of the Railways.

Connecting the mine head with the port head has become the priority for the last many years. Constructing the second line from Talcher to Paradip has been going on since the Eighth Plan. But the construction of the second bridge over the river, Mahanadi is yet to be completed, and the construction of the second line from Talcher to Paradip is going on at a snail's pace. That should be expedited.

Secondly, I urge upon the Government to expedite the construction of the second bridge over Mahanadi. At the same time, with the construction of the second line, a place in my constituency called Rajhansa, the whole village, is getting divided into two parts. Thousands of people who are on the other side of the second line will have little access to come to take the benefit of the post office, of the school and of the dispensary. Repeatedly, the State Government has drawn the attention of the Railways for the construction of a level crossing at Rajhansa but it has fallen on deaf ears.

I would like to urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, that the Railways should take up this issue with full urgency because connecting the mine head with the rail head, with the second line to Paradip has become more essential after a number of steel plants which are coming up in Paradip. We have to have a second line but to have a second line, we have to have a level crossing at Rajhansa. Under the MPLAD Scheme, I am willing to pay the cost, whichever is available but the Railways should also come up for maintaining the level crossing at Rajhansa.