

Title: Need to expedite the construction of the second rail bridge over river Mahanadi in Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Chairperson, the rail line between Talcher and Paradeep is a vital link between the mine-head and the sea port earning a large revenue for the East Coast Railway Zone. Due to heavy traffic, the Railways have invested a large sum of money to build a second rail line connecting Talcher with Paradeep. But the progress of this second line is getting delayed year after year thereby not only escalating the cost of construction but also loss of traffic due to congestion.

The second rail line from Talcher to Nirgundi is complete and the second rail bridge over river Birupa is nearing completion. The second rail line from Paradeep to Rajhans is also nearly completed. But the construction of the major second rail bridge over river Mahanadi is yet to start. Unless the rail bridge over Mahanadi is constructed, the whole investment of hundreds of crores of rupees on this second rail line is of little use.

I urge upon the Government to take up the construction of the second rail bridge over Mahanadi expeditiously and to clear the bottleneck and congestion that occurs everyday between Nirgundi and Barang railway stations of Cuttack.