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Title: Need to rehabilitate the porters facing eviction from railway land at Kharagpur, West Bengal.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Sir, now Kharagpur Town is at the stage of serious threat due to the eviction programme carried out by the Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railway. Century-old, this town is largely populated by the migrant people coming from different parts of the country. Since its formation, thousands of working people had been coming and getting settled in this Railway Junction town. They had come mainly for construction of railway and related works. So, they had found no other way but to settle in railway lands for decades together. The migrant licensed railway porters largely came from Bihar, have been residing at Porters' Kholi and other areas in ordinary railway quarters for more than 50 years. But, those quarters had been declared condemned. Presently, without making any alternate arrangement or rehabilitation, the drive of eviction and demolition of quarters is carried out, which has caused serious insecurity to the 275 porters and their family members. They can be protected by providing alternate quarters or to lease them the unused railway lands for construction of their dwellings.

I urge upon the Minister for Railways to take necessary useful steps so that the poor porters of Kharagpur are not rendered shelterless.