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Title : Need to sanction a new rail line between Berhampur and Phulbani in Odisha.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (KANDHAMAL): The Planning Commission in its report comparing the development status of economic infrastructures of Odisha vis- a -vis in the country says "However it is most unfortunate that in poor and backward state like Odisha, development of rail networks has received much less attention of the Central Govt, in the post independence period."

Kandhamal district in Odisha is the most backward district in the state as per the economic parameters. The people of Kandhamal district are yet to see a rail line. The Government of Odisha has been demanding to sanction a new train line from Berhampur to Phulbani (169.8 K.m.). A preliminary engineering cum traffic survey was conducted in 2003 and the detailed survey has been completed in the year 2010. Kandhamal is one of the extremely backward districts of Odisha though the district is endowed with huge deposit of granite, graphite, quartz, manganese & Bauxite.

The district has huge amount of forest produces like Kenduleaves, Bamboo, Tamarind etc. The projected rail link shall connect Phulbani with coastal Ganjam district and then to Gopalpur port, which shall lead to increase trade, commerce & Tourism.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to accord sanction of this new Rail line on priority i.e. Berhampur- Phulbani during the year 2012-13.