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Title: Need to connect Bangladesh with Agartala-Akhaura by a railway line.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Respected Chairman Sir, we all know that the North-Eastern states of the country are highly underdeveloped. The main reason for this underdevelopment is that rail or road transport in the region is very costly as well as time consuming. We have to take a circuitous route to reach these places from other parts of the country.

The Balurghat rail line in West Bengal is being currently extended upto Hili. If it is further extended upto the Bangladesh part of Hili then it will be beneficial for both the countries. If this is made possible then it will be easier to go to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland by the Agartala – Akhaura rail track. Goods can also be transported at cheaper rate in lesser time and the entire region will prosper. Similarly export-import of goods will be possible via the Chittagong part if this rail network is completed. As a result North-Eastern India, North Bengal, North Bihar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan will develop more and more.

Through you I would like to request the Government that through discussions with other SAARC countries and at the international level, this matter should be dealt with and the rail project should be implemented at the earliest, so that there is all round development of the region.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to raise this matter of urgent public importance and conclude my speech.