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Title: Need to expedite railway projects in Jharkhand.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Left Wing Extremism (LWE) problem is one of the most serious internal security challenges facing the country. Jharkhand is amongst the States worst affected by this problem. The state has remote and inaccessible areas which need significant improvement in connectivity for providing the necessary impetus for economic development. Poor railway connectivity is affecting the fight against Left Wing Extremism.

Therefore, I urge the railways and national highway authorities to expedite the sanctioned project (2016-17) from Vikramshila to Kateriah via Bateswar Sthan (Ganga Bridge), Godda-Pakur and Basukinath-Chitra, under joint venture initiatives in the Santhal Pargana and Anga region. A Railway Line under the latest funding policy of the Ministry of Railways with government of Jharkhand has already been sanctioned from Pirpainti to Jasidih via Godda. However, the pace of work is slow.

These extension lines would help off-take of large quantities of coal from three incoming projects like Simlomg Expansion, Hura "C" and Chupervita and existing mines of Chitara of ECL. In the absence of this line there will be problem for dispatch of coal.

Mineral rich state of Jharkhand is the single largest revenue contributor to the Coal India and yet has been receiving step motherly treatment all along. These lines will connect five major lines:-

- (a) Delhi to Guwahati via Kateriah, Bateswar Sthan.
- (b) Bhagalpur to Howrah via Pirpainti, Pakur.
- (c) Bhagalpur to Rampurhat via Hansdiha.
- (d) Delhi to Howrah and Kharagpur via Jasidih.
- (e) Howrah to Delhi via Dhanbad.

These railway lines will also connect ports like Haldia and Paradip via Sahibganj terminal or inland waterways.

The deprived Tribals of the region and the state of Jharkhand would benefit from this. I, therefore, urge the Government to take suitable steps in this regard.