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Title: Need to start work on construction of Haldia Port-II at Salukhali in East Midnapore, West Bengal.

SHRI SUVENDU ADHIKARI (TAMLUK): I would like to bring it to the kind attention of Hon'ble Minister of Shipping, Govt. of India that a project for construction of Haldia Port â€"II at Salukhali in Haldia, East Midnapore, West Bengal was announced by the then Minister of Shipping, Government of India, at a cost of Rs. 1700 crore. But it is very sad to note that only the foundation stone has been laid so far in this regard. Allocation of fund to implement the project has not been sanctioned. India being the largest peninsular country in the world, we cannot deny the importance of Indian sea ports in Indian economy in its inclusive growth of trade and commerce. In fact, they are the important gateways for international trade by contributing over 90% of foreign trade.

So, we can realize how important the newly announced Haldia project is in Indian economy and it goes without saying that the project will create enormous job opportunities. But the Union Ministry of Shipping is showing go-slow attitude towards the project. I don't know the reason behind it though the project will grow as a commercially viable wing of our country.

So, this is my humble request to Hon'ble Union Minister of Shipping through your sublimity to please allot the required fund immediately for the project so that the work can be started and commissioned at the earliest.