

an>

Title: Need to set up a separate Railway Division in Balasore.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an issue which has been the long-pending demand of our people for the last several decades.

I come from Balasore which is in the Northern part of Odisha. While most part of Odisha is coming under East Coast Railway which is a very well performing Railway Zone in the country, certain Northern parts of Odisha come under South East Railway. Though the South East Railway has got only four per cent of road kilometer, yet it contributes 14 per cent of originating freight to the whole country. We contribute a significant part of that. But the unfortunate part is that we have become a victim of that growth. We have never seen that growth. So far, not even a good project has been declared. If at all a project has been declared, it has almost remained on the paper. Our demand has been pending with the Government for the last 30 years. We have been requesting that we should be taken out from the South Eastern Railway and be made a part of the East Coast Railway. I would also request that a separate Railway Division be set up in Balasore which has got all the facilities that are required for setting up a Railway Division.