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Title: Need to declare Gopalpur and Dhamra Ports in Odisha as immigration points for the purpose of embarkation and dis-embarkation.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Gopalpur on sea has been declared as "Port" from which an unberthed passenger ship may depart or proceed or at which it may discharge unearthed passenger under provision of sections 237 and 238 of the Merchants Shipping Act, 1958. Proposal for creation of immigration check-Post at Gopalpur Port is pending with the Government for approval since 8.2.1996.

Similarly, Dhamra port has commenced commercial operation with effect from 6th May, 2011. A large number of foreign ships having foreign crew have been coming to the port. However, foreign crew cannot land at the port even for medical emergencies as no immigration facility is available.

I, therefore, would urge upon the Union Government to declare Gopalpur and Dhamra Ports as immigration points for the purpose of embarkation and disembarkation.