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Title: Need to take necessary measures to give impetus to flagging industrial sector in Kandi and border areas of Punjab.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Major reason for declining industrialization in Punjab is geographical disadvantage. The state has only those industries that rely on raw materials imported from other states. There is stiff competition from industries in other states having abundant natural resources or which are located close to ports.

Division of the country, the era of terrorism, Post independence Indo-Pak wars and Tax breaks given by New Delhi to industrial units in the nearby hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have resulted in flight of industry from Punjab into the hill states.

Trade between India and Pakistan has been blocked or banned since the war of 1965 and existing trade is limited to relatively few items. This has deprived Punjab of the usual gains of international trade.

The only way to revive this industry is to introduce freight equalization.

I pray for tax incentives, subsidies and benefits in Kandi areas and border areas of Punjab on the pattern provided in the neighbouring hill states.