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Title: Need to undertake development of Jasidih railway station, Jharkhand.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA) : The Jasidih railway station on the Delhi-Howrah via Patna main line is of paramount and strategic significance on a number of counts. As many as Five railway lines are proposed to meet here. These are:

- Doogarh-Dumka
- Pirpainti-Jasidih
- Bhagalpur-Jasidih via Banka
- Sultanganj-Jasidih via Banka
- Sultanganj-Jasidih via Asarganj

Over 50 million people visit Deogarh Jyotirling every year for darshan. Thus, the Jasidih Station is perhaps as important as the Jammu and Katra Railway stations for Mata Vaishno Devi darshan. Unless, measures are taken for management of flow of huge number of passenger at this station, the yatra of these devotees will be hampered. Imagine, the situation that will be created when the five new railway lines are commissioned and the number of yatris increases manifold in the years ahead.

Not only this, this station has other strategic significance, including for the movement of security forces and also for transportation of coal which is extremely important for power-generation. The Eastern Coalfield Company has already said that it wants to produce and transport 30 million tonnes of coal over five years but does not have Railway infrastructure to do so in this region. I would like to quote the Railway Minister "Second, we will partner with PSUs to ensure that sufficient capacity is built to transport critical commodities like coal, iron, ore, and cement, etc., from where they are extracted or imported to where they are consumed or processed." In the absence of infrastructure, railway line for Godda-Pakur (survey yet to be carried out) and Pirpainti to Naugachia via Bateshwarsthan is not possible.

Accordingly, I would draw your kind attention towards this matter and a direction to the concerned authority for the laying of above said railway lines.

The mineral rich state of Jharkhand is the single largest revenue contributor to the Indian Railways and yet has been at the receiving end of a step-motherly treatment all long. The state is afflicted with Naxalism. In contrast, relatively more developed regions in the adjoining states have taken a lion's share of the projects, without any cost sharing.

