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Title: Regarding taking necessary steps to accord clearance for the establishment and development of Astarang Port Odisha.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change through you to expedite approval of clearance for establishment of an all weather port at Astarang on the mouth of the River Devi in Puri District of Odisha.

This port project is being taken up at a cost of Rs. 6500 crore but, over a period of four years, I am sorry to say that only Rs. 50 crore has been spent till now. The initial capacity of the port will be 25 million tonnes per annum which will be eventually scaled upto 70 million tonnes per annum.

Keeping in view the importance of this proposed port, the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Road Transport, Highways and the Ministry of Shipping have already included it under the Sagarmala project.

So, I urge upon the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to take necessary steps to accord clearance for the establishment and development of Astarang Port in Odisha.