

Need to improve rail connectivity in Jharkhand

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Left Wing Extremism (LWE) problem is one of the most serious internal security challenges faced by the country. Jharkhand is amongst the worst affected states in this regard. The state has remote and inaccessible areas which need significant improvement in rail connectivity for providing the necessary impetus for economic development. Poor railway connectivity is also hampering fight against Left Wing Extremism.

I request for setting up of the following rail lines:-

1. Rail link of 65 kms between Godda and Pakur
2. Pirpainti to Naughachia via Bateshwarsthan
3. KasiyaTand (Jamtara) to Basukinath via Chitra – Palojori

As part of PPP initiatives in the Santhal Pargana regions, it may be stated that a Railway Line under the latest committed funding policy of the Ministry of Railways with Government of Jharkhand has already been sanctioned for Pirpainti to Jasidih via Godda, Hansdiah and second line from Bhagalpur to Rampurhat via Hansdiha and Dumka.

These extension lines would be of help in transporting a large quantities of coal from three incoming projects like Simlomg Expansion, Hura "C" and Chupertvita and existing mines of chitara of ECL.

The mineral rich state of Jharkhand is the single largest revenue contributor to the coal India. However, the state received step-motherly treatment all along. The above said rail lines will connect five major lines as follows:-.

- A) Delhi to Guwahati via Naugachia, Bateshwarsthan
- B) Bhagalpur to Howrah via Pirpainti, Pakur

- C) Bhagalpur to Rampurhat via Hansdiha
- D) Delhi to Howrah and Kharagpur via Jasidih
- F) Howrah to Delhi via Dhanbad

These railways will also connect ports like Haldia and Paradip.

The deprived Tribals of the region and the state of Jharkhand would benefit from the above mentioned lines. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.