

Demand for completion of coastal highway project in Odisha

SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir Odisha has a coastline of about 480 kilometres which makes the infrastructural development of the coastal districts all the more important for the economy of the region.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The Central Government announced a coastal highway project spanning 346 kilometres in 2015 connecting seven coastal districts of Odisha. The project would have proved to be an important development in terms of promotion of trade, tourism, communication and industry. However, there have been undefined delays in the development of the project. It comprised two parts- one connecting Rameshwar to Ratanpur and the other one connecting Ratanpur to Digha. It was to be developed under four packages. Initially, the first two packages were cancelled without any defined reason on the part of the Central Government. After the clearance for these two packages, the project was stalled due to unavailability of environmental clearance from the Environment Ministry. However, the clearance for the same has been provided since August, 2023. But, there has been no headway made in the project yet by the Central Government.

Thus, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Central Government to come up with a Detailed Project Report (DPR) highlighting the status of implementation of the project. The Central Government needs to work towards completion of the coastal highway project as soon as possible because eight years have already passed since the announcement of the same and no significant development has been made as of now. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the issue raised by the hon. Member, Shri Manas Ranjan Mangaraj: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Now, Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki; Need for addressing the problem of preparing Aadhaar Card for differently-abled citizens.