

Steel Ministry plans to plug infra gaps in 38 projects

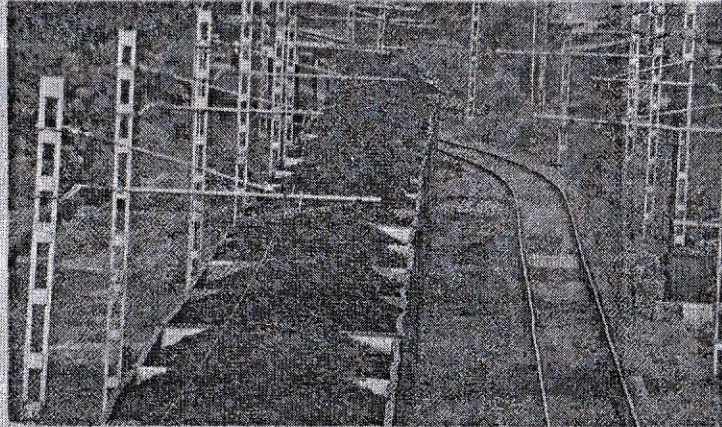
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The Union Steel Ministry has identified 38 projects with infrastructure gaps and the action needed on these. The projects span railways; shipping, ports, and waterways; civil aviation; and petroleum and natural gas.

In all, there are 10 projects of railways; nine of shipping, ports and waterways; six each of national highways and civil aviation; and seven of petroleum and natural gas.

LINKAGE PROJECTS

Connecting Paradip Port to the Dedicated Freight Corridor via the Paradip-Haridaspur line (a SPV of the Railway) and linking of Banspani-Jakhapura line to Paradip port are some of the



MISSING LINK. Linkage project Connecting Paradip Port to the Dedicated Freight Corridor is also the project with infra gaps

important projects that the Steel Ministry has identified.

Also mentioned for action in the report are the Jharsuguda-Sambalpur-Titlagarh-Vijaynagar and the Raipur-Titlagarh-Vijaynagar lines, both of which are required for bet-

ter linkages for coal and iron-ore traffic. The Ministry report also points out that action is required in the Haldia-Sahibganj-Patna-Varanasi waterways (or National Waterways 1); on the Brahmani River connecting Talcher, Angul, and Kalinganagar; and also on

the Amba River (NW 10) routes.

Incidentally, the Union Steel Ministry has been writing to mills and the Ministry of Shipping, Ports, and Waterways to push the waterways as an alternative and cost-effective route to transport coal, steel, and other offerings.

Decongestion of Paradip port by enhancing capacity (to 12.5 million tonne per annum by 2022 and 25 mtpa by 2025) and the creation of deep draught captive berths for steel plants are some of the major projects in the infrastructure gap report.

OTHER MINISTRIES

The report mentions the need for four lanes on the NH53 stretch between Duburi and Paradip, two additional lanes on SH20 (Duburi-Panikolli), NH720

(Duburi-Bamnipal-Keonjhar) between Nagarnar and Visakhapatnam, and the NHAI widening of the NH2 stretch between Burnpur and Kolkata.

Similarly, airstrip creation and expansion and airport expansion projects in Nagarnar, Angul, Raurkela, Jamshedpur, Jharsuguda, and Raipur also found mention.

The steel ministry has also called for the operationalisation of pipelines like Kanai Chatta-Shrimapur; Mallavaram-Bhilwara-Bhopal Vijaipur; Jagdishpur, Haldia, and Bokaro Dhamra phases 2 and 3; Barauni-Guwahati; and Srikakulam-Angul, among others. "The operationalisation will help supply of cheaper and green fuel, that is gas for steel production," the report said.