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**September 1, 2005**

**'Rly link to boost growth, tourism'**

Thursday September 1 2005 14:36 IST

BARIPADA: People of tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district have urged Railway Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav to link Budamara railhead on the Rupsa-Bangiriposi section of the South Eastern Railway with Chakulia on the Howrah-Mumbai broad gauge section.

According to recorded history, the first section between Rupsa and Baripada in the erstwhile state railway was opened for traffic on January 20, 1905.

In a memorandum addressed to the Railway Minister, the people have suggested that the linkage of Budamara with Chakulia would help accelerate economic growth in the backward regions of the district and Singhbhum of neighbouring Jharkhand.

Referring to the feasibility of the demand, the memorandum stated that the distance between Budamara and Chakulia is less than 50 KM. Only one bridge has to be constructed at Jamsola over river Subarnarekha to provide this linkage.

It further mentioned that if this proposal were accepted, the distance between Paradip and mineral belts of Jharkhand would be considerably reduced.

The immense tourism potential of Similipal tiger reserve and the historic Khiching temple hitherto under-exploited would receive a major boost with the proposed railway linkage, it added.

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