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Centre mulls Rs 10k cr package for Belekere

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Karwar: Union ministry of road transport, highways and shipping is planning to develop the Belekere port into a world class port by investing Rs 10,000 crore, said Prahlad Joshi, Dharwad MP and former state BJP president.

Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Joshi said the ministry will spell out a detailed plan in this regard soon. Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari has already spoken to Jawadekar, minister for environment and forests with regard to getting necessary environmental clearances for the expansion of Belekere port.

"However, it is important to set up the long pending Hubballi-Ankola railway line to get the full benefit of the port development plans. Efforts are being made for the speedy implementation of the rail projects are on by both state and the Centre," he added.

Joshi said, the Green Tribunal has opined that the railway line would not cause any harm to the eco-system of the Western Ghats provided all recommendations of the TV Ramachandra committee are followed. Among others, the committee has suggested pruning of the length of the line and both the state and the Centre have agreed for the same, he added.

Joshi said, chief minister Siddaramaiah in his May 13 meeting with the state MPs has agreed speed up the process of providing required land for laying the new railway line.

"Both these projects will open up a great business opportunity for North Karnataka and the coastal region," he said.