

I would request the Government to accede to the request of the State Government and take action to release funds for the purchase of latest equipments at the earliest. Thank you.

### **Use of Nepali Language**

SHRI PALDEN TSERING GYAMTSO (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while moving the Constitution Seventy-eighth (Amendment) Bill, 1992 to include the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, the erstwhile Union Home Minister had said in this august House on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1992, "The Government has taken a number of steps to develop the cultural and literary heritage of all languages irrespective of their being included in the Eighth Schedule or not". He had further stated, "Steps to promote the literary and cultural heritage of various linguistic groups are also taken by the All India Radio and Doordarshan by relay programmes in various languages which are even colloquial languages". With these words, the Bill was passed on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1992 and the Nepali language was included in the Eighth Schedule. Unfortunately, the Central Government has yet to arrange for the simultaneous translation of Nepali language into other languages and vice-versa, even after ten years of its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. The gallant Gorkha soldiers defending the country are deprived of the Nepali channel on Doordarshan. More than one crore Nepali children of Indian origin do not get an opportunity to opt for the Nepali language in any competitive examination.

On behalf of the Nepali speaking people of India, I urge upon the Government to take the following effective steps: (1) Use of Nepali as vernacular in all competitive examinations; (2) Telecasting of Nepali News Bulletin, and (3) Launching of a separate Nepali channel by Doordarshan. Thank you.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with this issue. It is the most vital issue and the Government should take steps in this regard.

### **Use of Coal Bed Methane in Gujarat**

श्रीमती सविता शारदा (गुजरात) : महोदय, श्री ललित भाई मेहता के स्थान पर मैं बोलूंगी।

महोदय, गुजरात के बनासकांठा और खेड़ा जिले के बीच जमीन में संग्रहित कोल बैड मिथेइन के उत्खनन के गुजरात के अधिकार को मान्य किया जाए।