

हैं। मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि संविधान में उल्लिखित ब्रिकमी संवत् का वर्षारंभ दिन अर्थात् चैत्र शुक्ल प्रतिपदा को भारतीय नववर्षारंभ का दिन मान कर इस दिन सभी देशवासियों को नव वर्ष की शुभकामनाएँ दी जायें। धन्यवाद।

Demand to expand road connectivity in North-Eastern States

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, development in infrastructure of the North-Eastern States is on the main focus. The entire region is surrounded by countries, namely, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Only a narrow corridor of 22 kilometres is connecting the region with the other parts of the country. In area, it occupies nine per cent of the whole country. Its population is about 3.9 crores, with 30 per cent as the tribal component. As regards economy, the region possesses oil and natural gas, forest wealth, tea, rubber, agriculture, horticulture, mineral wealth, and a good bulk of educated youth. Rainfall is in abundance in the region. All of these ingredients culminate to indicate that the region has intrinsic potential to prosper and develop.

The main hurdle in the infrastructural sector is the lack in connectivity. As compared to nine per cent area of the country, the region registers only six per cent road and three per cent rail connectivity. This deficiency refers to both the inter-State connectivities, connectivities within the respective States and also with the neighbouring countries coming under 'Look East' Policy. Particularly, the road connectivity may not admit of any excuse in respect of nature of terrains, barring selected areas. It is lamentable that industry cannot develop despite immense possibilities.

I urge upon the Central Government to undertake the task of road connectivity extensively in the region on a war-footing basis to expedite the progress.

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, this is a very important issue. I also associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

[27 April, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Concern over eviction notice served to Tribal people in Assam

SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA (Assam): Sir, after the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Bill, 2007 was passed, it was an impression that no tribe would be harassed and evicted from the forest land. But, recently, some 30 to 40 tribal families in the district of Morigaon, Assam have been noticed to leave their ancestral land within forest and partially evicted too, which is a violation of the spirit of the newly enacted Act. The Government is urged upon to ensure the security of the tribal people living in the forest land. On the other hand, fresh encroachment over the forest land within the district of Kokrajhar and Chirang is taking place by some non-tribal people, which is creating tension in the area. The Government is urged upon to check further infiltration in the forest land within B TAD area of Assam.

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

Demand for Stoppage of Construction of Dam on River Palar in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the River Palar, flowing through the northern districts of Tamil Nadu, is the lifeline of the people of Vellore, Kancheepuram and Chennai. An ayacut of nearly one lakh acres of land in the northern districts of Tamil Nadu is getting irrigation facility from Palar. The Palar, with its sand strata, is the only major source for providing drinking water to several towns and villages in the above-mentioned three districts. Any diminution of supplies in the river would cause severe problems affecting the people living along the banks of Palar. Now, Andhra Pradesh Government is planning to construct a reservoir across the River Palar in the Kuppam area and the work would be taken up shortly. This will cause serious problems to farmers and people of Tamil Nadu. The unilateral action of Andhra Pradesh in proceeding with the construction of the dam without furnishing information and without taking the concurrence of Tamil Nadu is totally illegal. I would urge the Central Government to intervene in the matter and take concrete steps to stop the construction of the dam across the Palar River.