

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Moinul Hassan.

Severe drought condition in Jharkhand

SHRI KANWAR DEEP SINGH (Jharkhand): Sir, this is about the State of Jharkhand. The State of Jharkhand is in the grip of severe drought affecting the livelihood of large number of tribals and farmers from all communities. Out of all the 23 districts in the State, all have been judged short of rainfall resulting in poor cropping, which, in turn, has created a situation of anxiety among the farmers. We all are aware that the State is under the Presidential Rule due to the political instability for the last several months. As of now, there is no popular Government. There is no voice of people in the State. The entire administrative responsibility is vested in the Central Government which is exercising its administrative action through the hon. Governor.

The aspirations of the farmers are not being taken care of. Now, the Parliament is the only legislative forum, where aspirations and concerns of the people of Jharkhand can be raised. I have been recently elected to Rajya Sabha, and, it is my responsibility to request immediate intervention of the Union Government to provide relief in drought-hit areas of Jharkhand. I earnestly ask the Union Government to provide a relief of Rs.5,000 crore to the State of Jharkhand. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to visit Jharkhand to ameliorate the sufferings of the people of Jharkhand. I also request that a high-powered committee should be constituted by the Prime Minister to make immediate visit to the affected areas of Jharkhand and supervise the drought-relief operations in the State of Jharkhand.

So far, it has been reported that the State has received much less than 50 per cent of rainfall. Sir, the situation is grave and may go out of control if the Government at the Centre fails to fulfill the aspirations of the people of the State of Jharkhand. The recent Naxal violence in the State may be fuelled if the farmers are not taken care of. Two crore people of the State of Jharkhand are eagerly awaiting a response of this august House and support from the Central Government in this critical hour.

Sir, I was allotted three minutes. I spoke for the first time, and, I still have 36 seconds to go. I did not waste any time. Thank you.

Disappearance of trucks carrying explosives in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through your good office, I am inviting the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs to an explosive matter. It is reported in The Hindustan Times daily in its issue dated 15th August, 2010 that four of the sixty one trucks carrying 400-tonnes of explosives, which were missing in their course of journey from Rajasthan to Madhya Pradesh since four months, were found empty on Friday night in Rajgarh District of Madhya Pradesh. It is further reported that the people team seized the vehicles parked in front of a local trading company, B.M. Traders, at Pipala village of Beoara Tehsil of Rajgarh District, 150-kilometer north of Bhopal. The trucks were sent from Rajasthan Explosives and Chemicals Limited to Ganesh Magazine in Sagar between April and July. The incident itself is explosive involving questions as to whose hands it has reached, who is behind this miraculous escape of such big trucks carrying huge quantities of explosives, what is the motive, why did it take four months for the police to trace the trucks and seize them, and, what has happened to the huge quantity of explosives.

Sir, I appeal to the Home Ministry to realize the magnitude of the matter, find out the persons involved in it and bring them to justice. Thank you.

Opposition to the proposed Navi Mumbai International Airport site

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, my State of Maharashtra is finding itself in a very intriguing situation, where one Ministry of the Union Government proposes something and the other Ministry disposes that. The Civil Aviation Ministry has proposed a Navi Mumbai International Airport, a very ambitious project near Mumbai, and, the Environment Ministry has raised serious objections about the very validity of the airport.

Sir, I congratulate the Environment Minister for really taking the bull by horn. Somebody has to take it up. We want development, Maharashtra needs development but not at the cost of