

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR (Jharkhand): Jharkhand State which was carved out in the year 2000 has not received necessary attention and continued to lag behind other States of the Union. Jharkhand's backwardness has been compounded by the fact that its tribal population which constitutes 27 per cent of the State has faced untold hardships for centuries. I would like to focus on a tribal dominated area

within Jharkhand, Santhal Pargana, which consists of six districts, Godda, Deoghar, Dumka, Jamtara, Sahibganj and Pakur. Santhal Pargana has over decades witnessed exploitation of its natural resources. Coal mining projects, other mines, etc., have had a pernicious effect of polluting the environment, rivers, air and ground water. Large swathes of open cast mines and millions of tonnes of coal transported in trucks have taken a toll on the health, particularly of the poor. Tuberculosis, asthma and cancer have become common afflictions of the poor who are bearing the brunt of skewed and asymmetric development that Santhal Pargana has been witnessing. Over six decades of independence, Santhal Pargana has no medical college. Given the abject state of health indicators and serious level of environmental pollution, it is indeed the necessity of the day that this most backward area of Jharkhand receives due attention.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider creating a super-specialty medical hospital. The Government is creating six AIIMS like hospitals in the country. A suitable location in Santhal Paragana may be selected for a similar hospital.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Vivek Gupta; not present. Dr. C.P. Thakur; not present.

Demand to declare Vidisha a tourist place

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