

Gomti and Revati rivers amongst others. The removal of minerals from the riverbeds is causing serious threat to the flow of the river, forests on river banks and most seriously to the environment of these areas. Similarly, the illegal beach sand mining from the coastal areas is also creating a lot of environment problems. This should be checked and the Government is requested to take strong action for protecting the environment. The mining mafia who are very powerful must be controlled through stringent measures.

But, at the same time, the Government have to ensure regulated mining of river sand and beach sand for the developmental purposes. The principle of sustainable growth is to be followed in deciding policies related to mining. The Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal have directed the States to ensure regulated mining. Sand is an important ingredient for all kinds of construction in the country. Lakhs of workers are engaged in sand mining and in construction activities. The beach sand in the coast of Kerala and Tamil Nadu contains lakhs of tonnes of rare earth which cost thousands of crores of rupees. Even rare metals like titanium, zircon and products like thorium, monosite, etc., are coming from the sand. Employment and economy-wise this sector is very important.

But, recently, the National Green Tribunal has banned the river sand and beach sand mining. It directed for new clearances from environmental authorities. Through this order, almost all mining activities in the country have come to a standstill. In the case of Kerala, the authorities are not allowing the ongoing regulated mining which resulted in the job loss of lakhs of workers both in mining sector and construction sector. The IRE unit in Kollam district is also compelled to stop its production. Hence, the urgent intervention from the Environment Ministry and other Departments is needed to protect the regulated sand mining in the country.

**Demand to provide reasonable relief to compensate destruction caused by
wild elephants in several districts of Assam**

SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR (Assam): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the attacks by wild elephants which continue in villages along the India-Bhutan border in Assam's Udalguri district.

Sir, almost every day, elephant herds are entering from multiple locations to the villages, human settlements and tea garden estates from hills and adjoining forests damaging houses and crops. People are scared and worried. The population of the affected area has to pass sleepless nights and to live in panic all the time. The villagers

are being attacked and killed by the animals in their desperate attempt to chase away the herds. One elephant was also killed in June, 2013 in a tea garden in Udalguri District.

Sir, due to the depletion of natural habitat through encroachment and destruction of forests, most of the population of wild elephants in the North Eastern region is forced to migrate in search of food and shelter. The forest officials, without adequate staff, are left with little resources. The 'kunkis' (trained elephants) and firecrackers are not sufficient to effectively drive out elephants from villages and farmlands.

Sir, the amount of relief granted by the Ministry of Environment to Assam Government annually fails to provide adequate relief to the affected people. The *ex-gratia* grant per death, fully damaged houses and crop damage is hardly compensated due to severe financial crises of Assam Government. There is a wide gap between the compensation given to the families of persons killed by extremists in the country and the persons killed by elephants.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately take action to save life and property of the inhabitants or else problem would only aggravate in future. The Government should also adopt the policy of reasonable relief by ensuring reimbursement of the actual expenditure made for such activities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Renubala Pradhan, not present. Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar will lay his Special Mention tomorrow.

Demand to expedite the work of four lanning of Gwalior-Devas stretch and start work on other sanctioned projects on National Highway No.3

श्री थावर चंद गहलोत (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग क्रमांक 3, जो आगरा से मुंबई जाता है, उसे ग्वालियर से देवास, मध्य प्रदेश के हिस्से में अभी तक फोर लेन नहीं बनाया गया है। ग्वालियर से देवास फोर लेन बनाने की स्वीकृति सैद्धांतिक तौर पर बहुत पहले से मिल चुकी है, किंतु लंबे समय से फोर लेन के काम की मूल स्वीकृति निर्माण कार्य हेतु नहीं दी गई है। इसी मार्ग पर शाजापुर पर बाइपास की स्वीकृति हुए लंबा समय हो गया है, किसानों की जमीन भी अधिगृहीत की जा चुकी है, किसानों को उनकी भूमि का पैसा भी दिया जा चुका है। इसी प्रकार, इसी मार्ग पर मक्सी रेल लाइन पर रेलवे ओवर ब्रिज की स्वीकृति बहुत पहले हो चुकी है, टेंडर की प्रक्रिया भी हुई, किंतु पांच-छः वर्ष की अवधि बीत जाने के बाद भी उस आर.ओ.बी. का काम प्रारंभ नहीं हुआ है।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि इस राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग क्रमांक 3 को ग्वालियर से देवास के बीच शीघ्र फोर लेन बनाने, शाजापुर पर बाइपास बनाने तथा मक्सी रेल लाइन पर आर.ओ.बी. का निर्माण कार्य शीघ्र प्रारंभ करने हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही एवं आदेश प्रदान किया जाए।