Urgent release of funds under BRGF

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, today, I want to say that the State of West Bengal has been neglected in the release of various funds. Under MNREGA, the Centre owes us ₹ 1,546.87 crore, under Swachh Bharat Mission, ₹ 1,514 crore, under the BRGF, ₹ 2,330 crore, towards food subsidy for 2015-16 and 2016-17, ₹ 1,584 crore, under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, ₹ 1,372 crore, and others. In all, the State of West Bengal is owed around ₹ 10,469 crore.

Sir, it is a matter of great concern that these funds are not being released. The BRGF scheme covers 250 districts in 27 States. It is a unique Central Fund as it puts the panchayats and municipalities at the forefront of planning and implementation. In rural areas, it benefits 56 per cent of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 40 per cent OBCs. In urban areas, the figures are 47 per cent and nine per cent, respectively. We have used the amount granted under this Fund in developing the backward districts in Bengal in myriad ways, some of which include setting up of schools, multi-super specialty clinics, ITI Polytechnics, *kisan mandis*, girls' hostels and electrification of villages. Out of the six towns sanctioned for the water supply scheme, four have already been completed and two are pending as the funds are yet to be released.

Sir, we have even started innovative programmes like the National Fibre Mission, a rural livelihood generation programme that helps leverage natural fibres, which are common throughout the State. One of the biggest success stories of the Trinamool Congress in the implementation of this scheme has been to ease Left Wing Extremism in the Jangalmahal area in Bengal where people have progressed from violence to welfare. Numerous schools and hospitals have been built. New blood banks, sick newborn care units and nutrition rehabilitation centres have been established. However, the release of the BRGF funds has been stopped by the Centre and an amount of ₹ 2,330 crore is owed to the State of Bengal. The reason being given is that the Twelfth Five Year Plan has ended and so, all payments under it have been stopped.

Sir, it is clear that the Trinamool Congress Government attaches serious importance to improving the lives of people from the backward districts, and the money that is owed to the State of West Bengal is absolutely essential for various critical welfare schemes.

Sir, I demand the immediate release of funds, which I have already mentioned, so that there can be progress in the State of West Bengal.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूं।

श्री किरनमय नन्दा (उत्तर प्रदेश)ः सर, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार)ः सर, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री विवेक गुप्ता (पश्चिमी बंगाल)ः सर, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश)ः सर, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश)ः सर, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we too associate ourselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Narendra Budania. ...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, what about my Zero Hour mention? ...(*Interruptions*)...

Misreporting in social media regarding para-military forces

श्री नरेंद्र बुढानिया (राजस्थान)ः उपसभापति जी, मैं एक बहुत ही संवेदनशील मुद्दा सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। 23 मार्च, 2017 को पाकिस्तान में, सोशल मीडिया के अंदर और विदेशों में अन्य स्थानों पर एक ऐसी फोटो छापी गई जिसमें एक सैनिक को मृत बताया गया है। वह मृत सैनिक कौन है? वह मृत सैनिक वही है, जिसने इस देश में खाने को लेकर मामला उठाया था। इस मामले को इस प्रकार से प्रचारित किया गया है कि भारत सरकार के द्वारा भारतीय फौजों और अर्धसैनिक बलों को इस प्रकार का खाना दिया है और इस प्रकार से दुर्व्यवहार किया जाता है। ऐसी खबरें बराबर मीडिया में प्रचारित की जा रही हैं।

उपसभापति महोदय, यह एक बहुत ही गंभीर मुद्दा है कि हमारे देश को इस प्रकार से बदनाम किया जाए। महोदय, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे सैनिक और अर्धसैनिक बलों में भर्ती जवान हमारे देश की सीमाओं के ऊपर हर परिस्थिति में दुश्मन की गोली खाने के लिए अपना सीना ताने रहते हैं। यदि उनके बारे में इस प्रकार की बातें सामने आती हैं, तो बड़ी तकलीफ होती है।