

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. If it is a question of National Highway, then, Naqviji, ask the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to look into it and see what the reason is.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Okay, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please tell the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to inform the House as to what the position is. Now, Shri K. C. Ramamurthy.

Need to restore bi-annual examination of National Eligibility Test (NET)

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, eligibility test is conducted for the people who want to join as lecturers, assistant professors in the country. Earlier, two exams used to be conducted every year, one in July and another examination in December. Sir, from the last year, they have decided to conduct only one examination whereby depriving the opportunity for a large number of graduates, post-graduates who want to get into teaching profession and the examination is not conducted. This is becoming a serious issue. When there are a lot of vacancies available in all the institutions, the Government is not allowing the conduct of the National Eligibility Test. The entrance to the teaching profession itself is becoming a problem. I would like the Government to look into this issue because the examination that was scheduled for 17th July has been suddenly adjourned. So, we want them to have the examinations as it used to be there for the past so many decades. The change is unwanted, unwarranted and is not yielding any results. Thank you.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue expressed by Shri K. C. Ramamurthy.

Need for Central Government's intervention in the demand for a separate Gorkhaland

SHRI MAJEED MEMON (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the agitation for a separate Gorkhaland raised by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha has taken a violent turn and has prolonged for the past almost eight weeks. A beautiful hill station like Darjeeling is burning for the last almost two months. The life is totally paralysed. The people are suffering for want of supply of essential commodities like water, food, milk, newspapers

and all other things and there is complete abnormality with regard to the common people. It is felt that the agitation that is going on for whatever demand, maybe justified or may not be justified. The ruling party in West Bengal probably is not in good terms with the Centre and it is because of the hostility between the two, the Centre and the State, the people are sandwiched and are suffering. Our request to the Government would be — well, you may accept their demand, you may not accept their demand — to call the agitators and have a discussion with them so that we can ask the agitators to suspend their agitation and let life resume. I am sorry to say that in the history of Darjeeling, for the past 150 years, Darjeeling tea is one of the most sought after commodity all over the world. This year is the first year after 150 years that Darjeeling tea is not coming for auction. What a shocking result of this agitation! So, I appeal to the Government to please invite the agitators and have a talk so that normalcy is restored. Thank you.

श्री आलोक तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री अशोक सिद्धार्थ (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jaya Bachchan. I would request the hon. Members to follow Shri Ramamurthy and Shri Majeed Memon because they presented their case briefly and did not utilise their entire three minutes. Some people think that the entire three minutes should be utilised. It is not necessary. You present your case within the time. Shrimati Jaya Bachchan.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, out of my three minutes you have taken one minute.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can take three minutes, but I tell you Shrimati Jayaji, today I fought only for Members like you who repeatedly give notice and are not getting a chance. So, even if I take one minute from your time, there is no harm.