श्री संजय सिंह (राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली)ः महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री नीरज शेखर (उत्तर प्रदेश)ः महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

Promotion in Central Secretariat Service

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार)ः सभापित महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सिववालय सेवा के विभिन्न पदों की हजारों की संख्या में रिक्तियों की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहती हूं।

आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा अगस्त, 2017 में भी केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के तीसरे काडर पुनर्गटन को मंजूरी प्रदान की गयी थी। इस केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के तीसरे काडर पुनर्गटन की मंजूरी को पहले ही डीओपीटी द्वारा विस्तार से परीक्षण कर वित्त मंत्रालय की सहमति भी ले ली गयी थी। आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के इस निर्णय में केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के 150 निदेशक/उपसचिव, 232 अवर सचिव एवं 463 अनुभाग अधिकारियों के नये पदों को सृजित करना शामिल था।

इस निर्णय के एक वर्ष बीत जाने के बाद भी इन पदों को सृजित नहीं किया गया। साथ ही, पूर्व से खाली केन्द्रीय सिचवालय सेवा के हजारों पदों को भी अब तक नहीं भरा गया है। इससे न केवल केन्द्रीय सिचवालय सेवा के अधिकारीगण में भारी रोष एवं निराशा व्याप्त है, बल्कि इससे सरकारी कार्य भी बाधित हो रहा है।

मैं सरकार से मांग करती हूं कि केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के रिक्त पदों को शीघ्र भरा जाए एवं आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के निर्णय को अविलम्ब लागू किया जाए। साथ ही, अनुभाग अधिकारियों के वर्ष 2015 से बन्द विभागीय परीक्षा को इस वर्ष से पुनः आयोजित करने के लिए संघ लोक सेवा आयोग को तत्काल निर्देश जारी किये जाएं, ताकि सेक्शन ऑफिसर एवं अन्य रिक्त पदों को जल्द से जल्द भरा जा सके।

महोदय, मैं सरकार से पुनः आग्रह करती हूं कि केन्द्रीय सचिवालय सेवा के तीसरे काडर पुनर्गठन को लागू करने एवं विभाग संबंधी सेक्शन ऑफिसर की परीक्षा को अविलम्ब प्रारम्भ करने के किए कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग को आवश्यक निर्देश दिये जाएं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya; not present. Shri Subhasish Chakraborty; not present. Dr. Santanu Sen; not present. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas.

Uranium contamination in ground water

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, States along the Ganga and Brahmaputra basin are known to have high levels of arsenic contamination in groundwater. However, a recent study has revealed that there is uranium contamination in four States, namely, parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab where uranium is being found

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in ground water. This calls for a public health emergency since prolonged exposure to uranium can lead to kidney problems. One thing is that unlike arsenic and other toxic metals, for which there is a permissible limit, which is defined as $30 \,\mu g/L$, which has been suggested by WHO, no such limit is declared for uranium contamination.

Sir, uranium is a naturally-occurring element found in several types of rocks like granite. Human activities like pumping and overuse of aquifers in these States have led to the increased dissolution of uranium, which is further induced by Nitrate pollution prevalent here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion?

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: Sir, the suggestion is, since people's access to aquifers is very limited in respect of numbers for drinking water purpose mainly in Rajasthan and Gujarat, and also alternative sources other than ground water are rare, we need to set up monitoring systems to identify high-risk areas and also to explore new ways to prevent and treat uranium contamination and provide access to safe and clean drinking water to the affected population. Thank you, Sir.

Need to restore functional autonomy of North Eastern Council (N.E.C.)

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to raise one very important matter of the North-East region. Sir, you know that the North Eastern Council was constituted by the Parliament Act of 1971 and it was in existence from 7th November, 1972. In the Act of Parliament, it was said that the Plenary Council is the higherst body of the North Eastern Council. The Act gave some functional autonomy to the North Eastern Council in the departments like irrigation, sports, power, infrastructure development, roads and others. So the N.E.C. was given functional autonomy in respect of these Departments, and the Chief Ministers of all the eight States of North Eastern Council are the members of it. This is the highest body regarding the development of North Eastern Council. But, unfortunately, what happened is that on 28th March, 2018, the Union Cabinet, without consulting the Plenary Council has taken away the autonomy of the North Eastern Council and the functional autonomy of all the Departments has been taken away. With regard to the funds, it is very surprising that during these three years, only ₹ 503 crores have been allotted to the eight States, which comes to an average of ₹ 20 crores per State. My submission to the Government of India is to restore the functional autonomy of the North Eastern Council for the development of the interest of the North Eastern States. Thank you.