

[श्री राजमणि पटेल]

चचाई को अभ्यारण्य बनाए जाने से वह एक विश्व पर्यटक स्थल के रूप में विकसित होगा और ग्रामीण क्षेत्र की विश्व धरोहर के रूप में उसकी पहचान होगी। इससे स्थानीय लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा और क्षेत्र का विकास होगा। इससे किसी प्रकार से कृषि भूमि का नुकसान नहीं होगा, जंगलों की भी सुरक्षा होगी और पर्यावरण का संतुलन बना रहेगा।

माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय सदन, माननीय मंत्री जी और माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि प्राथमिकता के आधार पर चचाई जलप्रपात, जिला रीवा को अभ्यारण्य के रूप में बनाने की कार्यवाही की जाए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy; absent. Now, Shri Sasmit Patra.

Demand to raise the coal royalty from 14 per cent to 20 per cent in Odisha and get the dues cleared from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

SHRI SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, Odisha produces one-fifth of total coal produced in India, but the rate of coal royalty has not been revised from 14 per cent to 20 per cent over the past six years despite repeated demands. On the other hand, the Union Government has raised clean energy cess rate from ₹ 50/- per tonne to ₹ 400/- per tonne during this period, and collected ₹ 17,300 crores upto March, 2018. But, Odisha, facing all pollution and displacement of people, does not benefit at all. The Odisha Government has been requesting for a share of, at least, 60 per cent of such funds to deal with negative externalities but the Centre has not considered this very just and fair demand. Similarly, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd., a Coal India subsidiary operating in Odisha, has increased its profit before tax from ₹ 5,314.24 crores in 2014-15 to ₹ 7,339.66 crores in 2017-18, with a robust growth of over 38 per cent. The MCL has contributed Rs. 2,021 crores to Central Exchequer during 2014-15, which has now increased more than three times, to about ₹ 6,163 crores during 2017-18. But, the MCL has failed to pay compensation amount of ₹ 8,297.77 crores towards cost of about 180 million tonnes of coal extracted in excess of permissible limits under environmental clearance. I demand that the Union Government revise the coal royalty from 14 per cent to 20 per cent immediately so that the people of Odisha get their rightful share for development, especially, of those regions that are facing pollution and displacement due to coal mining and also for the MCL to pay the outstanding ₹ 8,297.77 crores, at the earliest, to the Odisha Government.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Demand for granting constitutional status to the National
Commission for Minorities**

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Hon. Chairman, Sir, various commissions were set up by different Governments with the aim to address the needs of a particular group of people. Granting constitutional status to such commissions did a world of good to these bodies as now it made them effective. Recently, the National Commission for Backward Classes, NCBC was awarded the constitutional status. Now, the time has come to do the same for the National Commission for Minorities, that is, the NCM. Granting them the constitutional status will give them the powers to act against errant officials, who do not attend hearings, follow its order or are found guilty of dereliction of duty. In its present form, the Commission has powers to summon officials but has to rely on departments concerned for action against erring officials. Giving them the constitutional status would ensure the safeguarding of the rights of minorities in a better manner as people will take them seriously and it will lead to the quick disposal of cases, which is not happening currently. This has become even more important with an alarming rise in incidents against the minorities over the last few years. It is therefore imperative that the National Commission for Minorities gets constitutional status. I would like to urge the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Husain Dalwai; not there. Shri Ram Nath Thakur.

Demand to improve the functioning of AIIMS at Patna

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, 26 जुलाई, 2019 के 'हिन्दुस्तान' अखबार में छपा था कि बिहार के बेगूसराय की एक बच्ची दिल्ली, एम्स में इलाज करवाने पटना से दिल्ली आ रही थी, जिसकी मृत्यु विमान में ही हो गयी। बच्ची को बहुत बड़ी बीमारी नहीं थी, केवल उसके दिल में छोटा-सा छेद था, जिसका इलाज पटना के एम्स में भी हो सकता था, शायद बच्ची की जान भी बच सकती थी।