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 imporve 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 बेगुसराय 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।

[श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर]

महोदय, पटना में एम्स खुल जाने के बावजूद वहां इलाज की उचित व्यवस्था न होने के कारण लोगों को दिल्ली, एम्स ही आना पड़ता है। यह एक दुःखद पहलू है, क्योंकि सरकारी दस्तावेज में पटना में एम्स तो खुल गया, परंतु वहां पर न तो सभी तरह के टेक्नीशियंस हैं, न ही सभी तरह की जांच की व्यवस्था है, न सभी विभागों के डाक्टर्स उपलब्ध हैं। अगर यह सब व्यवस्था पटना, एम्स में होती, तो दिल्ली, एम्स आने की आवश्यकता ही नहीं पड़ती।

महोदय, मेरा अनुरोध है कि पटना, एम्स को पूरी तरह कार्यरत बनाने की दिशा में उचित कदम उठाएं, ताकि बिहार के लोगों को यह परेशानी झेल कर दिल्ली, एम्स न आना पड़े।

बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूं।

محترمہ کہکشاں پروین (بہار) : مہودے، میں معزّز ممبر کے ذریعے اٹھانے گئے موضوع سے خود کو سمبدّھ کرتی ہوں۔†

Demand to urgently release the scholarships of students belonging to *Dalits*, OBCs and Minorities

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding delay in providing scholarships to students belonging to *dalits,* OBCs and minorities.

Sir, the fellowships under Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme and Maulana Azad National Fellowship Scheme entitled to research scholars who belong to *dalits,* OBCs and minorities have not been given to them for the last academic year.

UGC had invited for the application in December, 2018 but the follow up action in this regard has not been taken as yet even after seven months. This is an injustice to the research scholars coming from these deprived sections.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent necessary action to release the scholarships immediately. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to take up the Bill. Is Mr. Derek there in town, Nadimulji? Is Mr. Derek O'Brien in town? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (West Bengal): He is in town. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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†Transliteration in Urdu Script.