

There has been a long pending demand from socio-cultural organisations in the State to secure an independent and full-fledged status for the Centre's only Agricultural University in the State. I urge upon the Centre to redeem its commitment and accord an independent and full-fledged autonomous status to CAU at Kyrdemkulai, Meghalaya, early.

**Demand to protect forest rights given to the forest dwellers under
Forest Rights Act, 2006**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, the Parliament passed the historic Forest Rights Act thirteen years ago. Since then over 16 lakh individual rights have been settled. But a very large number of claims have also been rejected and lakhs of tribal and other traditional forest-dwelling families are now under the threat of eviction. It is incumbent upon the Central and State Governments to ensure that the due process of examination and verification of claims as stipulated in the legislation is followed strictly and transparently. There are widespread reports that such a process has not been followed and rejection has been done summarily. This only compounds historical injustices.

In addition, while the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has achieved much by way of recognizing individual forest rights, it has failed miserably in recognizing and settling community forest rights which is an essential pillar of the law. It is incumbent upon the Central and State Governments to now bring a sharp focus on the issue of community forest rights. This will also help financially empower the Gram Sabha.

It is also a matter of grave concern that there have been reports of amendments being proposed to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 that will completely destroy the pith and substance of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. I would urge that there be widespread and meaningful consultations on these changes not just with State Governments but also with various civil society organizations and activist networks. These amendments not only undercut the Forest Rights Act but are also possibly in conflict with PESA, that was passed by Parliament in 1996, and indeed the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution itself.

**Demand to take necessary action for funding the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project
by declaring it a National project**

डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा (राजस्थान): महोदय, पूर्वी राजस्थान के 13 जिलों यथा-झालावाड़, कोटा, बूंदी, बारां, सवाई माधोपुर, टोंक, अजमेर, जयपुर, करौली, अलवर, भरतपुर, दौसा एवं धौलपुर के क्षेत्र को पूर्वी राजस्थान नहर परियोजना से पेयजल एवं सिंचाई हेतु पानी उपलब्ध कराने के प्रावधान हैं। इस परियोजना की विस्तृत अभियांत्रिकी तैयार कर दिनांक 19-11-2017 को केन्द्रीय जल आयोग को प्रस्तुत कर दी गयी है। इस योजना से राजस्थान के पूर्वी क्षेत्रों में करीबन 2 लाख 10 हेक्टेयर अतिरिक्त खेती की सिंचाई की जा सकेगी तथा करीबन 13 जिलों के अधिकतर गांवों को पेयजल प्राप्त हो सकेगा। परियोजना की प्रथम फेज़ की अनुमानित लागत करीबन 37 हजार करोड़ है, जिसमें से 1436.22 MCM

[डा. किरोड़ी लाल मीणा]

जल हेतु करीबन 17 हजार करोड़ केवल पेयजल परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन के लिए है। इस दृष्टि से भारत सरकार के पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मंत्रालय को दिनांक 6.12.2017 को परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ब्राह्म सहायता वित्त पोषण के प्रस्ताव राज्य सरकार की ओर से केन्द्र सरकार को भेजे जा चुके हैं। यह पूर्वी राजस्थान नहर परियोजना (ERCP) पूर्वी राजस्थान के 13 जिलों की जीवनदायनी योजना है।

अतः राज्य में पेयजल की भीषण समस्या एवं सिंचित क्षेत्र बढ़ाये जाने की दृष्टि से व्यापक जनहित में केन्द्र सरकार इसे राष्ट्रीय परियोजना घोषित कर बाह्य सहायता वित्त पोषित कराने हेतु आवश्यक कार्यवाही अमल में लाये।

**Demand to take steps for the conservation, preservation and safety
of Konark Sun Temple in Odisha**

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, the Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha is a world heritage monument which was built in 13th century A.D. by King Narasingh Deva I of the Ganga dynasty. It was dedicated to the Sun God Surya and is famous in the world for its sculptural and ornamental work. Presently, what remains of the temple complex has the appearance of a 100 feet chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone. The main temple has collapsed, but, the “Jagamohan” is intact. The structures and elements that have survived are famed for their intricate work, iconography and themes. It is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of architecture. It has been declared as World Heritage Monument by UNESCO in 1984.

The ASI is the custodian of the monument since 1939. In the meantime, there has been lot of uproar on issue of ASI replacing old ornate stone with plain stone and also the preservation of the stone carvings is far from satisfactory. It is alleged that forty per cent of the carved stone have been replaced with plain stone.

I would like to know from the Union Government the follow up action taken by ASI on the recommendations of international seminars held in the year 1997 and 2010, for conservation, preservation and safety of the world heritage Sun Temple at Konark.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Culture to take concerted efforts through the ASI to prevent further destruction of the temple and save this World Heritage Monument. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you Acharyaji. Now, the House stands adjourned till 11:00 hours on Monday, the 24th June, 2019.

*The House then adjourned at eight minutes past five of
the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday,
the 24th June, 2019.*