

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, West Bengal is a State whose Utkarsh Bangla and Sabuj Sathi project got award from the United Nations. But, unfortunately, West Bengal is not...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Time is over. Next is Dr. Sasmit Patra. Hon. Members, when you make out your case for your State, my appeal to you is, please do not drag the names of other States. They will unnecessarily get hurt. Please sit down, Dr. Santanu Sen.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to protect rocket/satellite launch sites in India from rising sea levels

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, this is a matter relating to national security. We have been speaking in the House about the impact of rising sea levels on the cities of our country. Sir, last week itself, we discussed the issue of Mumbai. Sir, I would like to extend the discussion further specifically about the rising sea levels and its impact on launch sites for missiles and satellites in India.

Sir, as we are aware, there are three launch sites in India for missiles and satellites. One is the integrated test range at Balasore, Chandipur, which is the wheeler island, now, renamed by hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, as Dr. Abdul Kalam Island. The second is at Sriharikota, which is the Satish Dhawan Space Centre and the third one is at Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station at Thiruvananthapuram.

Sir, the site in Odisha is an island; the site in Andhra Pradesh is a barrier island and the Thumba is on the sea coast. As the hon. Government has been talking about

that every year, approximately 1.7 mm of sea level has increased over the last fifty years, which has resulted in an increase of 8.5 cm increase in the sea level. During the last decade, the sea level has risen at 6.1 mm per year. Considering this rapid rise over a period of time, and considering the topographical and geographical situation of three satellite launch sites, rocket launch sites — these are sensitive installations and they cannot be overnight moved to other locations — through you, I would like to bring to the knowledge of the Government so that they must take due notice of it and ensure that these sensitive installations are taken care of because if we do not take pro-active steps now, it will be very difficult to take such a decision when the sea-level would have already risen to that extent. Thank you.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SONAL MANSINGH (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Expeditious construction of the Ramayyapatnam port

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Central Government for construction and development of port at Ramayapatnam. Initially in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, the Government of India has originally proposed to construct a port in Dugarajapatnam. Due to non-feasibility of Dugarajapatnam port, later, a decision was taken to shift it from Dugarajapatnam to Ramayapatnam.

Sir, the Ramayapatnam port, apart from being of importance for the State also has international relevance. Sir, two days' seminar of BIMSTEC international conference on the development of ports with the countries adjoining Bay of Bengal had extensively spoken about Port of Ramayapatnam and its implications on trade with the BIMSTEC countries.