

[Dr. Amar Patnaik]

The hon. Chief Minister of Odisha had written to the Ministry of HRD regarding this shocking and abnormal fee hike and the consequent hardship to the underprivileged.

I demand that the arbitrary fee increase be rolled back in the interest of our students.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Somaprasad. Just read the title and lay it.

***Demand to expedite the process of conducting of examination by the
Bharat Scouts and Guides Organisation**

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, the Bharat Scouts and Guides Organisation (BSG) is a voluntary non-political and educational movement working globally. It was established in 1950 and presently, around 60,00,000 members are actively engaged. BSG plays an important role in the character formation, discipline and overall physical and mental development of young teenagers. During their period as a scout or guide, one has to appear in many tests, training and camps. They are awarded by different Government agencies. The most important of them is the Rashtrapathi Award. The winners are eligible for 10 per cent grace marks for their meritorious services. In Kerala, weightage is also given in the Medical and Engineering admission. More than 6,000 scouts and guides participate in this test. The BSG Headquarters is the authority to conduct the examination and publish the result. But the examination has not been conducted properly. In 2015-16, winners from only Kerala were given the certificates. During 2016-17, certificates were issued to all candidates except in Kerala. More than 5,000 students are still waiting. In 2017-18, tests were conducted, but the result has not been declared; 5,857 students from Kerala appeared that year. The pre-test for 2018-19 Rashtrapati Award exams was conducted in May, 2018. But the BSA Headquarters have not initiated any steps for conducting final exam timely. Hence, I appeal to the Government and the Minister to intervene in the matter to expedite the process of conducting the test and issue certificates at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Jairam Ramesh.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I repeatedly requested you that Members should be allowed to read.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have always allowed you.

*Laid on the Table.

6.00 P.M.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I don't want to lay it. If you permit me to read it, I will go ahead. I don't want to only lay it. If you want me to read it, I will read it. If you want me to lay it, I won't. I will sit down.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Read it.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: At least, Sir, you could allow the Members to read.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please read it.

Demand for ecological revival and restoration of the Eastern Ghats

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka) : Sir, the ecological sensitivity of the Western Ghats is well recognized nationally even though precious little is being done to address those concerns. The country is also worried and rightly so, about the health of the Himalayas. But far less appreciated and understood is the importance of preserving and protecting the Eastern Ghats ecosystem also known as the Malaydris that covers parts of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Eastern Ghats are, in fact, older than the Himalayas and the Western Ghats. This is a region richly bestowed with biodiversity, geological formations and is home to different tribal communities. Major peninsular rivers like the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Penna and Cauvery pass through the Eastern Ghats, which is also a catchment to several streams. But the Eastern Ghats has lost its prime deciduous forest canopy. Half of the vegetative forest cover has been lost and three-fold increase of fragmented patches shows the alarming loss of forest. Grasslands have disappeared. Many floral and faunal species have been endangered.

श्री उपसभापति: माननीय जयराम रमेश जी, एक मिनट। माननीय सदस्यगण, छः बज चुके हैं। स्पेशल मेंशंस lay होने तक we are sitting. I think, यह हाउस का consent है।

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I draw the attention of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to the pioneering efforts of the Hyderabad-based Greens' Alliance for Conservation of Eastern Ghats which has very recently, for the very first time, prepared a detailed report on the environmental outlook for the Eastern Ghats. This is both an incisive analysis of the threats and vulnerabilities and also a specific plan of action for the ecological revival and restoration of the Eastern Ghats. I urge the Ministry to initiate a dialogue with this Alliance.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.