

[श्री मोतीलाल वोरा]

भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण की ताजा रिपोर्ट के अनुसार पूर्वोत्तर के सिक्किम में 9, मिजोरम में 531, नागालैंड में 450, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में 190, त्रिपुरा में 164 और मेघालय में 116 वर्ग कि.मी. वन क्षेत्र कम हो गया है। इसके अलावा छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह, पुदुच्चेरी और चंडीगढ़ में भी वन क्षेत्र में कमी आई है। प्रत्येक राज्य में कम से कम 33 प्रतिशत वन होना चाहिए। वन क्षेत्र कम होने पर पर्यावरण बिगड़ने के साथ ही प्रदूषण की समस्या उत्पन्न होती है। वनों पर निर्भर लोगों के लिए रोजगार के साधनों पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है। कुल मिलाकर राष्ट्र की प्रगति पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ता है।

जंगल बेरहमी के साथ जंगल माफिया द्वारा काटे जा रहे हैं। कभी सड़क बनाने के नाम पर, कभी बड़े प्रोजेक्ट के लिए जमीन उपलब्ध कराने के लिए। वन विभाग की जंगल माफिया से मिलीभगत के कारण जंगल के जंगल साफ हो चुके हैं। घने जंगलों के समीप आरा मशीनें धड़ल्ले से काम कर रही हैं। घने जंगलों में आए दिन आग लगने के कारण जंगल समाप्त हो रहे हैं, जिसका पर्यावरण पर विपरीत असर पड़ा है।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह राज्यों से विचार-विमर्श कर यह सुनिश्चित करे कि सभी राज्यों और केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में वन क्षेत्र 33 प्रतिशत से कम न हो और इसके लिए सभी संभव प्रयास किये जाएं। धन्यवाद।

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

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

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

Need to forgo cancellation charges in Railways/Airlines in wake of COVID-19

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, Coronavirus has become a pandemic one. The entire humanity is desperately battling against its catastrophic impact globally. India also has its own vulnerability and impact. So far, two deaths are reported, and quarantining them is also on war footing. Thus, it has heavily disturbed the normal course of daily life. Many State Governments have declared that the educational and other institutions would remain closed till March-end and extension of this period is also uncertain. Similarly, some companies and manufacturing establishments have also rescheduled their manufacturing plan. On the apprehension of its rapid spreading and

as precaution, many State Governments have proclaimed virtual ban on locomotion of people from one place to other. Accordingly, people are cancelling their travel plans. Avoiding contact with the infected people and staying isolated, following the health advisories, are precautionary measures that we can take to fight against this virus. Most of the public gatherings and programmes are being cancelled during this period. But the airlines as well as Indian Railways are still levying cancellation charges from the passengers who have cancelled their tickets due to the Covid-19 threat. I urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter urgently and instruct the airlines as well as the Indian Railways to forgo the cancellation charges in this scenario. I would humbly appeal to the hon. Chairman to intervene in this matter.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ASHOK SIDDHARTH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

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

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Leader of the House, this suggestion is worth consideration. Because of the sudden closure of schools and other schedules, people are forced to cancel their programmes. So, let the airlines and the Railways take note of this situation and see to it that no cancellation charges are collected. That is a suggestion by the Members. Please get it examined by the concerned Minister.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijayasai Reddy; not present. Shri Prasanna Acharya.

Financial loss to coal bearing states due to non-revision of royalty on coal

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, there are a few coal-bearing States in the country like Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, etc., that contribute around 80 per cent of the TOTAL coal production of the country.

Sir, as you know, the coal-bearing States bear the brunt of adverse effects of such mining on their environment. Also, coal mines put a strain on the water resources. It has an impact on the water resources and water is depleting there. It also tells upon