

***SPECIAL MENTION**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Special Mentions. Today, time is very less. So, one has to just stand up and say, 'I lay my Special Mention.' Shrimati Mausam Noor. मौसम नूर जी कहां हैं?

Demand to restore the names of freedom fighters on Cellular Jail plaques

SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR (West Bengal): The Cellular Jail, known to many as Kala Pani, has been an enduring symbol of India's colonial past since 1906. Hundreds of freedom fighters have been incarcerated there and tortured during the British regime. According to the Ministry of Culture, between 1909 and 1938, 585 revolutionaries were jailed here.

Recently, reports have emerged that the Government has removed the names of over 400 political prisoners from the plaques in Central Jail. The entire list of freedom fighters, who were lodged there between 1906 and 1909, has been removed. They have also removed the exact year in which each freedom fighter was incarcerated there. Instead, they have chosen to divide them in groups of ten years at a time. This has given rise to multiple problems. Historians, scholars, tourists and students visit the Cellular Jail to remember all those who gave up their lives for their country. Removing the year of incarceration and dropping these names is an insult to the memories and sacrifices of our brave revolutionaries. Among these, as per the Ministry of Culture, undivided Bengal had the highest number of revolutionaries at 398 followed by Punjab at 95. Bengal's contribution to the Indian struggle for Independence has been documented widely all over the world. Therefore, such neglect of history is very unfortunate.

I would like to pose a question to the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism as to why. Bengal's contribution has been forgotten. I urge them to correct this grave mistake at the earliest.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

* Laid on the Table.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahesh Poddar. He is not there. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya. ...*(Interruptions)*... 'Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee recommendations and implementation of the Assam Accord.' That is the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir. It is 'Implementation of Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee recommendations to implement Assam Accord.' ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*... Right. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand to accept the recommendations of the Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma
Committee and implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord**

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): The Assam Accord was signed between representatives of Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15th August, 1985. Clause 6 of the Assam Accord is the heart of the Accord. The Assam Accord will have no meaning if Clause 6 of the Accord is not implemented. But after 35 long years, the Government failed to implement Clause 6 which provides constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people. The Union Home Ministry had constituted a Committee headed by retired High Court Judge, Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma, to recommend on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. Hon. Home Minister assured the people of Assam on the floor of the Parliament that the Government will accept all the recommendations, in total, given by Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee and implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. Although the Committee had submitted the Report on 25th February, 2020 and more than six months have passed, we see no progress so far in this regard. So, I would like to request the Union Home Ministry to consider the recommendations of Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma Committee and implement the Clause 6 of the Assam Accord at the earliest to protect the Assamese people, Assamese culture and the Assamese language. I would also like to request the Government to implement the Assam Accord in letter and spirit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa.