

अतः आपके माध्यम से मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह प्राचीन स्मारकों और ऐतिहासिक महत्व के मंदिरों के बचाव हेतु कार्रवाई करे।

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

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri P. Wilson; not present. Dr. Amar Patnaik.

Demand to grant 60 per cent of the Clean Energy Cess to Odisha

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, in 2010, to finance clean energy the Government has established the Clean Energy Fund. Between 2010-2018, approximately 86 thousand crores were collected of which around 30 thousand were transferred to the fund and the remaining 15 thousand were left unutilized. Investments for clean energy and other infrastructural projects often went to other States leaving Odisha at an disadvantage. With the introduction of GST, the Clean Energy Cess was abolished and the cess of Rs. 400 per tonne coal was subsumed under the GST Compensation Cess. Unfortunately, today, the cess on coal has become more aligned with the idea of revenue maximization instead of addressing the issue that the coal mining districts of the State are also some of the most backward districts in the country. For years, Odisha has been a major coal producing State of the country and has contributed about 25 per cent to the country's total coal production in 2020-2021. The coal miners of these regions have powered India's economy yet live in abject poverty. Sir, the amount of 30 thousand crore rupees that the State will receive, if the Centre agrees to share 60 per cent of the cess collected on coal, will be effectively utilized for regional development and economic upliftment. Even the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha has raised this demand with the Minister of Coal earlier. To accelerate development of Odisha post the COVID-19 situation and keeping in mind the stress on rural economy, I urge the Government to fulfil Odisha's long standing demand for 60 per cent share of the Clean Energy Cess.

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

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri M. Shanmugam; not present. Now, Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan.

Demand for a special scheme for tackling the perennial problem of floods and soil erosion in Assam

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN (Assam): Sir, the perennial problem of flood and river erosion is affecting the lives of people and the economy of Assam for years. Lakhs of families got displaced due to erosion of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

According to data released by the State Government till 2020, 5 lakhs families were displaced and around 4000 sq km of land was lost due to erosion.

Majuli, the largest river island in the world, had an area of 880 square kilometers (340 sq mi) at the beginning of the 20th century, but having lost significantly to erosion, it covers 553 square kilometers (214 sq mi) as of 2014.

But, the Central Government is*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sorry; Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, you are supposed to read only the sanctioned portion. The portion which has been deleted, kindly do not read, that will not go on record.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: But the Central Government is yet to take any action for getting the State rid of this problem. In the case of Rohmoria in Dibrugarh district which is facing the acute problem of erosion, the Central Government, even after investment clearance, has not released the required amount for taking up anti-erosion measures. Rohmoria, an area most severely affected by river-borne erosion, is located about 20 kms. away from Dibrugarh town. The erosion has so far wiped out 38 revenue villages, eight schools, one police station, six tea estates, one PWD road

* Not recorded