

is inviolable. We all here are under oath to preserve it. Power of the Parliament of the day to act in exercise of its constituent power to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal, any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure is unqualified and supreme, not amenable to Executive attention or judicial intervention, except for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to interpretation of the Constitution envisaged in Article 145(3) of the Constitution.”

Hon. Members, parliamentary sovereignty is quintessential to democracy and is non-negotiable. Subscribing to this is not optional, if democracy has to sustain and blossom. I had then emphasized that democracy blossoms and flourishes when its three facets — Legislature, Judiciary and Executive — scrupulously adhere to their respective domains. The sublimity of Doctrine of Separation of Powers is realised when the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive optimally function in tandem and togetherness, meticulously ensuring scrupulous adherence to respective jurisdictional domain.

Further, I had indicated that this House is imminently positioned to take affirmative steps to bring out congeniality amongst three wings of governance. The statement, imparted by the hon. Chairperson of the UPA, is far distanced from my reflections. Delegitimising the Judiciary is beyond my contemplation. It is a pillar of democracy. I would urge and expect leaders, across the political spectrum, to bear in mind not to subject the high Constitutional offices to partisan stances.

Now, Shri Sant Balbir Singh. It is the maiden speech of the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... It shall be taken as maiden. The hon. Member has been very involved and very passionate with his work. The hon. Minister should be very happy that on this issue, which touches the heart of the hon. Minister, the hon. Member is making his maiden speech.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - *contd.*

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022 - *contd.*

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab): * "Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak for the second time today. I am speaking for those tribes. It is my good fortune that I am speaking for the first time for those tribes. For their uplift

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

of whom, for their dignity, this Bill has been brought. I support this Bill and thank the hon. Minister that this Bill is connected with those tribes. There are people to understand their problems and difficulties and also talking about them here. So, until now, their woes were not listened to and I wish to cite a few examples here before you. I spoke for the first time but confusion got created and they said that I have already spoken. Then with those people how much would be happening as their woes are never listened to. They have been dwelling in the forests or other places for so long and have been suffering from all those adversities. For such people, they have brought this Bill and are discussing their issues. I thank all those who brought this Bill, also all those who helped in this, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party also. But I wish to say a few things here in this regard. These people have been ignored for centuries and they live near the nature. They worship nature and do not let air, water and earth get polluted. These people do not run factories and nobody is taking away others' rights but they could not get their rights as they could not make their voices heard at the right places. It is a matter of sadness, but, today, we are discussing about giving them justice, we express our happiness on this also. When we see those castes or those poor people, then we don't think as to what their caste is, but his condition; when a person is economically poor or socially poor then he is always exploited. Who exploits them? Their exploitation is done by those who have money power. Who does the exploitation? Exploitation is done by those who have the muscle power; who exploit them? Those who have the political power. So no one fights with a strong person but only exploit these poor people and when the atrocities are committed, then regarding that, our Gurus have said that for protecting the cow and the poor, we should remain prepared to sacrifice our lives because our very life is for the poor only. We should rise above considerations of our interests and talk about others because we have to take care of people who have been a part of the nature for so long, who have lived in this nation for so long but have never asked for anything for themselves. Their rights have been snatched also but they have never agitated because they have been happy with whatever they have got, happy with whatever nature gives us and have been confined to only attending to their families, children with whatever nature has given them. I say that all these sections that have lagged behind, their children, should be given education and they should be given employment. So, these castes should be given education, employment and respect because respect is the most important; these poor people do not ask for anything from others. I know because I work among such people, I interact with them and, therefore, I know them from their roots. These people are very honest, they work hard and never idle away their time because someone who does not even ask for his own

rights, how will he snatch others' rights? So they are the real people, about whom Guru Nanak badshah said, "Chant the Holy name, do your duty and share if you can". So, practice of these three things that our Gurus have said and to work honestly is the duty of a human being. And to chant the Holy name and then, to share, is a very big thing. We would see that in Punjab, there are many areas where the people are very poor also and migrant labour from other states also comes but I wish to say that no one sleeps hungry in Punjab. Why because they get parshad (food) from Guru ghars (religious/spiritual places) as Guru Nanak badshah had organised a Langar (community meals) with 13 rupees, 20 rupees, I mean 20 Mohars at that time; what was taught by those great men, even today, that Langar continues from Guru ghars and anybody, whether rich or poor, from any community, goes and gets the parshada from there. But today, there is a big need, something that has been understood after a long time with people making huge efforts and putting their contributions in this society, we need to work for their rights, it becomes our duty and our House. This House is for what purpose? For the progress of the nation, for taking the society forward, for people who have remained behind due to various reasons. I also wish to draw your attention towards those people whose castes may be high but they are very poor, economically very poor; similarly there would be some people among these tribes also who may have all the resources, yet getting their rights also. So, now for removing the economic poverty, it is a very important that criterion for judging the needy; for such measures, it should be economic conditions. Whether they are getting all these basic facilities, whether they are getting the right to life, whether their children are getting education or not, all these things we need to understand. Then only can we show our sympathies towards them and all their due rights, they should get but until now, they have not got. For a very long time, we hear such things and we also heard 'Garibi Hatao (Remove Poverty)' slogans but how the number of poor has increased, and how our society has lived? The reason is that the laws have been enacted but the laws have not been implemented properly and the benefits that the poor in the last row of the poor should have got, have not gone to them. This way, they have remained deprived, weak and that is how, their economic growth has not happened. Right to life is our fundamental right and this right to life has been given to us by the nature, by the Constitution and our Gurus also said that. But that right will only be exercised when the laws are implemented properly. Today, a big need in our country is, especially when we are leading the world community and talking of coming to the forefront, that will happen only when these down-trodden, exploited people who have been ill-treated in the name of casteism and whose rights have been taken away, to them we should become their support, we should hold their

hands and put our contribution to bring them forward. Who is a learned/ eminent person? He is the one in whose learned company, others are also elevated. We want a friend or well-wisher, merely by being in whose exalted company the people are similarly elevated and beautified. The Almighty dwells within all; His Divine Light is present within all. We just need to understand and realise this. It is just the Maya (illusion) at work that bewilders us. I would also like to thank Hon. Modi sahab that these backward Scheduled Tribe castes who are now getting place in this constitutional reservation, support them so that their welfare is expedited. With intention with which this has been brought, and the benefits that they would get after being included in this category, surely their children will get education, will get employment and their condition of living would become better and they would also come and sit with us and feel respected. I thank you very much, Hon. Chairman, Sir, that you gave me time to speak. My respects to the Guru!"

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you and my Party, All India Trinamool Congress, for giving me the chance to speak on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022.

This Bill includes 'Betta-Kuruba' as a synonym for the 'KaduKuruba' community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. Variations in spellings and pronunciations result in people being left out of beneficiary schemes. Including Betta-Kuruba in the list has been a long-pending demand of the community. Even though this Bill could have been introduced sooner, I welcome and support this Bill now because better late than never.

Sir, I would like to repeat what some of my colleagues in this House and Lok Sabha have already said. Instead of bringing separate legislations for inclusion of communities in the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes categories, the Union Government can bring a comprehensive Bill for all States. You can think over it; the Treasury and the Government can think over it; the Department too can think over it. This will enable a more well-rounded and extended discussion on the topic.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the various issues the tribal communities around the country are facing. Despite more than seventy years of Independence, there are tribes that lack basic services like health and education. The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment seriously objected to underutilization of funds allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2020-21 and 2021-22 under the erstwhile Scheme 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan.'

This is especially concerning since there are more than one lakh tribal villages with more or equal to 25 per cent tribal population where the gap exists in various sectors of development. I urge upon the Minister to explain the reasons for such underutilization of funds, despite glaring gaps in development of villages with substantial tribal population. The Standing Committee also noted that the Union Government did not release any funds to the various States in the North-Eastern region such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. This is shocking since the North-East region is home to more than 200 tribes.

Another issue that I would like to raise is the declining population of various tribes, especially in the North-East. As per Census 2011, there are 76 ST communities in the North-East which have a population of less than 1,000, and among them, 37 ST communities have a population of less than 100. Because of the small strength of these tribes, their development is often side-lined. As per the information laid in Rajya Sabha, latest population figures are not available for these ST communities. The Minister stated that communication has been sent to the concerned States in respect of decreasing population of some ST communities. However, the steps taken to curb this trend were not listed. I would submit that merely informing the States is not enough. The Minister should share the steps that are being taken to preserve the tribes with population of less than 1,000. I also urge upon the Government to conduct the Census at the earliest. This would help the Government in assessing the current strength of tribal communities, and to design better interventions for those communities whose strength is declining because 2021 has already passed by and the Census is due already for more than one year.

The Ministry had circulated a draft National Tribal Policy in 2006, which never saw the light of the day. The Ministry had claimed that the Policy was being updated based on the recommendations of a High-Level Committee constituted in 2013. The Committee submitted its findings in 2014. Yet, no National Tribal Policy has been adopted so far. I urge upon the Minister to share the progress made on the National Tribal Policy and to address the delay in introducing it.

I would like to raise the issues regarding education of students belonging to ST communities. There has not been much variation in the number of beneficiaries and targets fixed for the Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes during the last few years. The beneficiaries or the funds released in some States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh were shown as nil for the last year. During the last five years, only 45 students have been awarded the National Overseas Scholarship. I

urge upon the Minister to explain why the Ministry could not even successfully award 20 Overseas Scholarships per year.

The Union Government announced in the 2021 Budget that 750 Eklavya Residential Schools will be built. Out of these, only 367 are functional. We need to take urgent steps to provide more scholarships and better educational opportunities to students belonging to ST communities.

My State, West Bengal, has taken several steps for the welfare of the tribals. 'Sikshashree' Scholarship has been provided to 1,80,000 ST students of Class V-VIII during 2021-22. Sir, 30,000 ST students have applied for Pre-Matric Scholarship of Class IX and X. Then, 98,000 ST students have applied for Post-Matric Scholarship during 2021-22. Six Development and Cultural Boards are functioning in our State for ensuring sustainable development of hill tribes and other ST communities of the State. During 2021-22, Rs.75 crore have been allotted for the purpose for various schemes like construction of houses, community halls, youth hostels, drinking water sources, holding of cultural festivals, etc. These are only a few of the many steps taken by Bengal for the welfare of the ST communities.

I welcome the inclusion of Betta-Kurubain in the list of Scheduled Tribes. However, I want to ask the Minister about the process of such inclusion. Many proposals for inclusion of communities to ST and SC lists from other States are pending with the Union Government. One such proposal is also from Bengal. On 28th February, 2022, Bengal had sent a proposal to the Central Government for inclusion of 11 tribal communities.

5.00P.M.

This was acknowledged by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in his reply to an Unstarred Question in Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 2022 but till date, no action has been taken.

I would urge the Minister to kindly share the progress with regard to this proposal. Once again, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022. I support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022. The State Government of Karnataka has recommended to include 'betta-kuruba' community as synonyms of 'kadu-kuruba' in

entry 16 in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka. This Bill proposes to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of State of Karnataka by amending the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

This is a very good Bill. This is a genuine and justified Bill. I welcome the Bill and I also congratulate the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda ji. Sir, I am also thankful to him as yesterday, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2022 in respect of Chhattisgarh State was passed by Lok Sabha. The tribals of Chhattisgarh are very much happy and they have welcomed hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Munda, for his great contribution for the Scheduled Tribe community of India.

Sir, similarly, in respect of State of Odisha, our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has recommended for inclusion of 169 tribes and tribal communities or parts or groups within the tribes or tribal communities in the State of Odisha. One caste is Saara, which is synonym of Savar, Sahara and Saura at serial number 59 of ST list of Odisha. Another is kandha kumbhar, which is synonym of Kandha at serial number 31 of the ST list of Odisha. Similarly, Jodia, Jhodia, Jadia and Jhadia are synonyms of Jhodia Paroja at serial number 55 of the ST list of Odisha. Sir, Chuktiya Bhunjia is also synonym of Bhunjia. Similarly, there is Mankidia tribe with a very small population. Mankidia is also a synonym of Mankirdia at serial number 47 of ST list of Odisha. Sir, Porja is also synonym of Pengu Paroja. Banda Paraja and Bonda Paraja are also synonyms of Bondo Paroja at serial number 13 of the ST list of Odisha.

Durua, Dhurua and Dhurava should also be included as phonetic variations of Dharua at serial number 17 of ST list of Odisha. Paharia as a section of Gond Tribe at serial number 22 of ST list of Odisha with area restrictions for Kalahandi, Balangir and Nuapada districts. Till date, no action has been taken for inclusion of this community in the ST list of Odisha.

Sir, there are two Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, PVTG communities, such as Chuktia Bhunjia and Paudi Bhuyan, which have not been included as yet in the ST list. Paudi Bhuyan is a sub-tribe of Bhuiya at serial number 6 in the ST list of Odisha but it is pending even after having been recommended by the Government of Odisha on 18th November, 1978. Another PVTG is Chuktia Bhunjia, which was also recommended by the State Government of Odisha for inclusion as a sub-tribe of Bhunjia.

श्री उपसभापति : एक मिनट। माननीय सदस्यगण, आप लोग आपस में बात कर रहे हैं। सदन में चर्चा हो रही है, अगर आपको आपस में बात करनी है, तो बाहर जाकर बात करिए।

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI: I request the hon. Minister to take steps to include these tribal communities in the State List of Odisha. We are including those who are the aboriginal Scheduled Tribes, those who are primitive tribes, those who are genuine tribes. But, at the same time, some non-Scheduled Tribes, by dint of fake caste certificate, are snatching reservation benefits and other constitutional rights which are meant for the Scheduled Tribes. The fake caste certificate holder employees should be removed from service. Their fake caste certificate should be confiscated. They should be arrested, and all the salary, allowances or stipend availed by them should also be recovered by constituting OPDR case. So, Sir, I once again request our hon. Tribal Affairs Minister. .. *(Time-bell rings)*.. I am the first MP from Sabar community, which is an ST community. I am the first MP in this august House from the Sabar community after 75 years of independence of India. This is because of the grace of our hon. Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik ji. I am thankful to our hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Munda ji. He is a very good Tribal Affairs Minister. He has earlier brought Amendments in respect of Chhattisgarh, U.P. and today he is bringing Amendments in respect of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Karnataka. So, inclusion of our original Scheduled Tribes in the Scheduled Tribes List is a welcome step taken by him. .. *(Time-bell rings)*.. Lastly, in conclusion, I would say that it is a laudable work done by the Union Government and our beloved Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda. This Bill must help our tribal community. With these words, my party, BJD, supports the Bill. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Niranjan ji. Now, hon. Member, Shri Subhas Chandra Pilli.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, before going to the subject, I would like to bring an important issue to your kind notice. My colleague, hon. Member, Shri Kanakmedala Ravindra Kumar made some allegations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Subhas ji, as per the rules, you have to speak on the subject only.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: He was talking some nonsense about our hon. Chief Minister. Let me give him reply. The hon. Member, Shri Kanakmedala Ravindra Kumar, made some unrespectable and irresponsible comments on our hon.

Chief Minister and also made some allegations on * This is a habitual disease in this House ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: In this context, I am asking the hon. Member, through you, to submit the proof of the allegations made by him on our hon. Chief Minister, and also request you to allow a discussion on this. We are ready to discuss any matter alleged by him. If not, I am seeking apology for his unprivileged comments on our hon. Chief Minister. I also request you to kindly delete his comments from the records.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will be examined in the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please speak on the subject now.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: Sir, I stand to share a few thoughts on the proposed Amendments to the Constitution. Let me begin by seeking to place the present Amendments into perspective. There have been many Amendments to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the List of Scheduled Tribes, and we have had multiple legislations in the past seven decades on this very important subject, considering that the tribal communities as a priority to be taken up in this Session. Recognition to Betta-Kuruba community to be included in the Scheduled Tribes category has come. They have been demanding it for 30 years. The proposed amendment will enable members of the communities, which will be listed in the revised list of Scheduled Tribes, to derive benefits under the existing schemes of the Government. A better representation would also entitle them to the benefits of reservation in services and admission to educational institutions.

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2021 states that in India, five out of six poor people belong to tribal communities. There is minimal penetration of welfare schemes among the tribal population owing to low awareness of Government programmes which is due to issues such as language or accessibility barriers.

As a significant section of tribal population still lives in extreme poverty and suffers from lack of access to basic education and health facilities, I urge the

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Government to take the requisite steps at the earliest for a wider inclusion of tribals under the welfare schemes and curb these prevailing issues.

Sir, there are problems of health and nutrition. Tribals are prone to diseases like malaria and tuberculosis and instances of iron deficiency, anaemia and high infant mortality rates. They often resort to unscientific practices, local beliefs and self-medication. The Government must take proactive measures to engage health workers from tribal communities to guide tribal patients how to take advantage of welfare schemes. They should counsel them on preventive measures. They should also promote health behaviour among them.

According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus, the Gross Enrollment Ratio of the Scheduled Tribes children has increased to 2.51 crore in 2021-22 from 2.49 crore in 2020-21. But as per the Tribal Development Report, 2022, nearly half of the total children enrolled in schools in tribal areas, 48.2 per cent drop out even before they complete class 8.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: I am concluding, Sir.

Our Andhra Pradesh Government is enacting various schemes for the upliftment of tribal population such as free power supply to ST families, financial assistance to ST women under the YSR Cheyutha Scheme and under the YSR Sampoorana Poshana Plus to supply nutritious food in the tribal mandals. (*Time-bell rings.*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: Sir, with this, I support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sandosh Kumar P. He is not present. Shri Ramji. He is not present. Shri Jaggesh to speak in Kannada. You have five minutes.

SHRI JAGGESH (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. Since it is about Karnataka, I would like to speak in my mother tongue. *After 70 years and 15 different Governments, it was only the Modi Government that took up this amazing work. Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, today I would like to discuss

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Kannada.

in this House an issue about the people of Karnataka. The Kadu-Kuruba community living in the forests of Karnataka have been left out of the development process, for the last 30 years.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition of this House is also from Karnataka and he is well aware of the challenges this community has faced. He should have been present in the House and witnessed the amazing work done by Modi Ji. Unfortunately, he chose to stay away from this very crucial discussion and staged a walkout due to some minor differences.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, extremely backward tribes live in the areas of Mysore, Chamrajnagar, Kodagu, and neighboring regions of Karnataka.

I would like to give an example of a very backward community called the Siddhi Community. People of this community came to me and asked for my help.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, they said, "We stay in the forests and we don't have electricity." As I am an actor, they are my fans, they asked for a generator. With great affection, I provided them with a generator. The agony is, after giving the generator and after installing a light, there was a snake-bite and an elder person, who lives in that family, died.

Sir, these people living in extremely challenging situations are present throughout India, be it in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu or Karnataka, or any other State. Modi Ji has decided to give justice to these communities. We should be proud of our leader Modi ji who has global stature. Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the opposition should have supported him for such an amazing Bill. The entire country would appreciate this and even God would bless him for the step he has taken. Friends, it was an amazing Bill of Modi Ji and I was very happy to listen to the entire discussion.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I being a Karnataka fellow, I myself don't know that many sub castes are there, almost 50 castes that are not even heard of like Adivana, Barada, Bavchi, Bilgarji, Dolbil, Dugribil, Bilal, Basava, Vasava live there. See we have not even heard of these names. I am so grateful to Modi Ji for this amazing, wonderful and fantastic Bill. The entire nation should stand together and applaud this work of Modi Ji.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, a leader from Karnataka, I won't take his name, he happens to be from a backward community and is also the ex-Chief Minister of Karnataka, criticized people of his own caste. See the scenario is like that.

I would like to say with profound sorrow that had Modi ji not come to power, the plight of poor and marginalized people would have worsened and they would have suffered heavily.

Today as Indians, we should be proud that Modi Ji observes each and every thing minutely and carefully tackles all the problems.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, these people are just around fifty thousand or seventy thousand in number but only Modi ji has shown his priority to help these people. I want to tell the people of Karnataka from this House because elections are due in Karnataka and Modi ji took this pro people step which is beneficial to public. These people are doing casteism and are engaged in petty politics, They have not done anything of this sort even after being in power for decades.

Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is my Maiden Speech, please allow me to speak and my suggestion on this Bill is this.

The Government has to analyze and provide the benefit to these people as per the provisions of Bill and monitor, whether these benefits reach the actual beneficiaries or not.

We have to monitor it from the Government. The second suggestion is, Sir, their higher education and also job opportunities should be taken care of. We have to see that even one lady in one family is encouraged to get education, she will give light to seven generations.

So, this is very special Bill and it should be monitored so that the children of these communities don't suffer from malnutrition as they live in hills and don't get proper food and shelter. I request the concerned Minister to take care and provide them with basic amenities. Sir, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Thank you, Sir."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Dr. M. Thambidurai.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Bill. In this Winter Session alone, three Bills related to the revising of List of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh are scheduled to be brought up for passing by the Government headed by our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. I proudly say that this is yet another example of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment to social justice.

Sir, as the State Government of Karnataka has requested to include the name of "Betta-Kuruba" community as synonym of "Kadu Kuruba" in Entry 16 in the List of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka, I welcome this. If you take reservation, when Madras Province was there, Karnataka was also part of Tamil Nadu. Andhra, Kerala and Odisha were also part of this Madras Province. In the Madras Province, if you

take the list of reservation given in Karnataka, these communities include Kuruba, Kurumans, Naik, Nayak, Valmiki and Toda. These are the reserved tribal communities in Karnataka. If you take Tamil Nadu, a part of my area is Krishnagiri taluk, Hosur, only 30 kilometres from Bengaluru. In that community, if you take 'Valmiki', here it is tribal but, in Tamil Nadu, it is still a backward class. This is the difference. If you take Baduga and Toda community, for example, they are also people with voting rights. Here, reservation is there but Tamil Nadu is not having that. Like that is "Naik" and "Nayak"; these communities are also in Tamil Nadu but they are backward classes. Therefore, this kind of confusion must not be there. That is why, if you see in the history of free India, the concept of reservation for the socially and educationally backward, deprived people in education and jobs is the greatest contribution of Dravidian Movement. In 1927, in Madras Province, when Dr. Subbarayan was there, Chief Minister of that time, he brought the reservation for these backward classes through Justice Party, that is, the Dravidian Movement at that time. In the Dravidian Movement, Karnataka was also part of that. Therefore, when these communities are included, then, why are these not included in Tamil Nadu also? Already, the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Edappadi Palaniswami also recommended inclusion of the "Valmiki" community and also the fishermen community of Tamil Nadu. The fishermen community of Tamil Nadu is also hunters. Like hunting that takes place in forest, the Tamil Nadu fishermen community is also hunting in the sea. They are precariously doing their job and there is a lot of demand for a long time. The Tamil Nadu fishermen are requesting our Central Government and the Minister. They came with a delegation, I was also part of that delegation and we met our hon. Minister. I request that the demand of the Tamil Nadu fishermen to include Valmiki, Kuruba, Kurumans and Toda communities in the Tribal list be met. All these must be included. I am once again requesting you. Justice should be given, as Shri Narendra Modi has done for the backward classes as well as Scheduled Tribe people. I appreciate that. Let them consider the request of the State Government which has already recommended to include these communities like fishermen and other communities in the Tribes' list. Thank you.

श्री लहर सिंह सिरिया (कर्नाटक) : उपसभापति महोदय, जनजातियों के कल्याण से संबंधित इस महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक पर आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, उसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ। साथ ही मैं कर्नाटक सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार का अभिनंदन करता हूँ कि वे हमारी जनजातियों के विकास के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक लाये हैं। मैं श्री अर्जुन मुंडा जी का

अभिनंदन करता हूँ और साथ ही उन्हें बधाई देता हूँ कि हम सर्वसम्मति से यह बिल पास करने वाले हैं।

महोदय, अभी श्री अरुण सिंह जी ने राजस्थान की जनजातियों के संबंध में कहा, उन्होंने मानगढ़ के संबंध में भी कहा और कर्नाटक के संबंध में भी कहा। मैं उस जीवन को जीया हूँ, क्योंकि मेरे पिता जी राजस्थान में कर्मचारी थे और उनकी पोस्टिंग कई बार ऐसी जगह हुई, जो बीहड़ इलाके हैं और घनघोर जंगल हैं - जैसे सागवाड़ा है, धरियावाद है, झडोल है, लसाडिया है, उदयपुर और उस जिले की तहसीलों में जो जंगल हैं, वहां आज भी किसी तरह के साधन नहीं हैं, ऐसी जगह पर मेरे पिता जी की पोस्टिंग हुई, तो आदिवासियों की पीड़ा को मैंने समझा है, जीया है और देखा है। वहां से जब मैं कर्नाटक गया, तो वहां की जनता ने मुझे जो प्यार और स्नेह दिया, जिस तरह से मुझे वहां रखा, मेरी भाषा पर उन्होंने एतराज नहीं किया, मेरी जाति पर एतराज नहीं किया, उस कर्नाटक प्रदेश की जनता की तरफ से भी मैं आपको धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि आज हम सर्वसम्मति से यह विधेयक पास करने वाले हैं।

महोदय, जब माननीय सदस्य, श्री अरुण सिंह जी और हमारे भाई जगेश जी सिद्दी कम्युनिटी के बारे में बता रहे थे, तो मैंने चुनाव के दौरान और अदरवाइज़ भी उन जंगलों में विचरण किया है। उन जंगलों में अफ्रीकी मूल की जो सिद्दी कम्युनिटी है, वह वहां के जंगलों में तीन-चार सौ वर्षों से रहती है। वे शारीरिक रूप से, आकार और बनावट में अफ्रीकन लोगों के जैसे ही लगते हैं, लेकिन उनकी भाषा कन्नड़ हो गई है। हमारी तब की सरकार ने सिद्दी कम्युनिटी के एक व्यक्ति श्री शांताराम सिद्दी को एमएलसी बनाया। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण काम हमारी सरकार ने किया है और इसके लिए मैं आज इस मंच से आपके माध्यम से उनका अभिनंदन करना चाहता हूँ। यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि मुझे आज इस बिल पर बोलने का मौका मिल रहा है और मैं इसका पुरजोर तरीके से समर्थन करता हूँ, लेकिन जैसे श्री जगेश जी ने कहा कि यह बड़े दुख और शर्म की बात है कि आज ऐसे बिल पर, जो कर्नाटक के आदिवासियों के संबंध में है, हमारी कांग्रेस पार्टी के कोई भी माननीय सदस्य सदन में मौजूद नहीं हैं। इसके अलावा आम आदमी पार्टी, जो बहुत बड़ी-बड़ी बातें करती है, लेकिन आदिवासियों की समस्याओं पर चिंतन करने के लिए उनका एक भी माननीय सदस्य यहां मौजूद नहीं है।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री संत बलबीर सिंह : मैं मौजूद हूँ।

श्री लहर सिंह सिराया : ठीक है, लेकिन अगर आपके सीनियर नेता यहां बोलते, श्री राघव चड्ढा बोलते, इसको आर्टिकुलेट करते, क्योंकि यह एक ऐसा विषय है, वे आदिवासियों की समस्याओं के बारे में चर्चा करते, तो हमें अच्छा लगता।

श्री उपसभापति : इसमें काँस्टीट्यूशन शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स ऑर्डर है।

श्री लहर सिंह सिराया : हमारे प्रधान मंत्री, श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की सरकार ने जिस तरह से आदिवासियों का ध्यान रखा है, जैसे श्री अरुण सिंह जी ने मानगढ़ का उदाहरण दिया, वहां 1,500

व्यक्तियों का नरसंहार हुआ है। यह अंग्रेजों के द्वारा किये गये जलियांवाला कांड से भी बड़ा कांड है। संत बलबीर सिंह जी ध्यान दें कि वहां जलियांवाला कांड से भी ज्यादा, 1,500 लोग मारे गये थे। आजादी के 70 वर्षों तक किसी ने उस जगह को याद नहीं किया। हमारे माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी वहाँ गये थे, तीन-तीन प्रदेशों के मुख्य मंत्री भी वहाँ गये थे, जो गोबिंद गुरु जी से जुड़े मानगढ़, जो कि एक बलिदान का स्थान है, उसको शीघ्र ही एक राष्ट्रीय स्मारक बनाने की घोषणा करने वाले हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सबको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि उसमें हमारे मेवाड़ की जनता को, राजस्थान की जनता को बहुत सुकून मिला है।

दूसरा, हम आदिवासियों के लिए जो चर्चा करते हैं, आदिवासियों का बहुत बड़ा इलाका नॉर्थ-ईस्ट में है, जहाँ बहुत से आदिवासी समुदाय के लोग रहते हैं। हमारे आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी नॉर्थ-ईस्ट को पिछले 8 वर्षों से लगातार देश के साथ जोड़ने का जो कार्य कर रहे हैं, इसके लिए मैं आपके माध्यम से उनका भी अभिनन्दन करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे बिप्लब कुमार देब जी पूर्व मुख्य मंत्री हैं, उनको इसका पता है। नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए कई वर्षों से हमारे आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी जो काम कर रहे हैं, मैं उनका भी धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, और ज्यादा समय नहीं लेते हुए, ये जो सारी बातें, जो-जो प्वाइंट्स नोट करके मैं लाया था, वे सारी बातें हमारे कई मित्र कह चुके हैं, इसलिए मैं उन बातों को दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूँ। आज मुझे पुनः जो सौभाग्य मिला कि आदिवासियों के हित के लिए, ...(समय की घंटी)... जिनके लिए मैं हमेशा काम करता रहा हूँ, उनके लिए मुझे आज इसका समर्थन करने का मौका मिला है। मैं इस बिल का पुरजोर तरीके से समर्थन करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती महुआ माजी (झारखंड) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, आपका धन्यवाद जो आपने मुझे इस बिल पर बोलने का अवसर दिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी द्वारा कुछ समुदायों को शेड्यूलड ट्राइब्स की सूची में शामिल किये जाने का स्वागत करती हूँ। यह एक सराहनीय कदम है कि कर्नाटक में ट्राइब्स को इसमें जोड़ा जा रहा है। मगर दूसरी ओर केन्द्र सरकार की ही लापरवाही की वजह से झारखंड में कई आदिवासी गाँवों के लोग अपनी ही धरती से उजड़ कर माइग्रेट होने को, दर-दर की ठोकें खाने को मजबूर हो रहे हैं। मैं इस पर सदन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूँ।

महोदय, सभी जानते हैं कि झारखंड की धरती के नीचे अकूत खनिज-सम्पदा है। उनमें से कोयला बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में है, जोकि पूरे देश को सप्लाई किया जाता है। जब केन्द्र सरकार की अधीनता वाली कोयला कम्पनियों द्वारा असावधानीवश बन्द खदानों के मुहानों को --

श्री उपसभापति : महुआ जी, विषय पर बोलिए।

श्रीमती महुआ माजी : महोदय, मैं विषय पर ही बोल रही हूँ। इससे वहाँ से कुछ आदिवासी उजड़ रहे हैं, इसीलिए मैं बोल रही हूँ।

उन बन्द खदानों के मुहानों को बन्द न करके खुला छोड़ दिया जाता है, तो वहाँ आग हवा के सम्पर्क में आकर तेजी से फैलती है और जमीन के अन्दर-अन्दर वह आग फैलती हुई आदिवासी बस्तियों को तबाह कर रही है। धनबाद में, झरिया में तो ऐसा वर्षों से हो रहा है। एक नया मामला सामने आया है कि झारखंड के राँची जिले के अन्तर्गत खलारी प्रखंड के करकट्टा

स्थित केडीएच की बन्द कोयला खदान में आग लगी हुई है, जिससे उस इलाके में रहने वाले लोग बहुत मुसीबत में हैं, संकट में हैं और खुली व भूमिगत खदान में बड़े पैमाने पर वह आग फैलती ही चली जा रही है। सीसीएल प्रबंधन को बार-बार जानकारी देने के बावजूद वह इसको नहीं देख रहा है, इसकी केयर नहीं कर रहा है।

श्री उपसभापति : यह बात इस विषय से अलग है। जब कोयला खदानों पर विषय आयेगा, तब आप यह बोलिएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्रीमती महुआ माजी : महोदय, हम लोग चाहते हैं कि वे आदिवासी उजड़ें नहीं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उनको अपने गाँवों में रहना चाहिए। चूँकि वहाँ जमीन के अन्दर आग लगी हुई है, इसलिए वे इससे बहुत डरे हुए हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया इस पर ध्यान दें। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री उपसभापति : धन्यवाद। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

सुश्री दोला सेन : सर, यह बहुत दुख की बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, प्लीज़। ...**(व्यवधान)**... कृपया आपस में बात न करें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...
Now hon. Minister's reply.

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन मुंडा): आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि इसके पहले तमिलनाडु पर और अब कर्नाटक राज्य के सम्बन्ध में संविधान (अनुसूचित जनजातियाँ) आदेश (चौथा संशोधन) विधेयक, 2022 पर चर्चा करने के लिए आपने अनुमति दी। इस पर सदन ने चर्चा की तथा बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने इस चर्चा में भाग लिया। मैं उन सभी सदस्यों का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, परन्तु उपसभापति महोदय, मुझे आश्चर्य है कि इस देश के सर्वोच्च सदन में आज उन आदिवासियों से सम्बन्धित चर्चा हो रही है, जो कि लिस्ट ऑफ बिज़नेस में है, कर्नाटक से सम्बन्धित, तमिलनाडु से सम्बन्धित और नीलगिरी पहाड़ियों में रहने वाले लोगों से सम्बन्धित, परन्तु हमारे प्रमुख विपक्षी दल के लोग यहाँ मौजूद नहीं हैं।

सुश्री दोला सेन : जो हैं, उनको बता दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : कृपया आपस में बात न करें। आप हैं, यह रजिस्टर्ड है, आप बोल चुकी हैं।

श्री अर्जुन मुंडा : ऐसे विरोधी दल, जिन लोगों ने देश में बहुत लंबे काल खंड तक शासन किया, बहुत सारे सपने दिखाए और इसलिए आज आदिवासी पूछता है :

"मैं जिनकी राह देखता हूँ वर्षों से जाग कर,

*वे रोशनी का सपना दिखाने वाले क्या हुए?
वे जो इधर-उधर रहने वाले लोग, जो हमारे पास रहने वाले,
वे दोस्ती के नाम पर हमें लूटने वाले क्या हुए?"*

आज वे विरोध करके निकल गए। जब लिस्ट ऑफ बिज़नेस में ट्राइबल का मामला आता है, तो ये लोग इसी तरीके से करते हैं। आज अपोज़िशन नहीं है, उनकी बात आती, तो और अच्छा लगता। कुछ माननीय सदस्य हैं, उन्होंने अपनी बात कही है। उन्होंने बिल से संबंधित और बिल से हट कर भी बातें कही हैं। अगर आपको बिल से हट कर कहना है, तो दिल से कहिए, नहीं तो बिल पर कहिए।

यह जो कर्नाटक का विषय है, इसकी भी आबादी बहुत कम है। "काडू कुरुबा, बेट्टा-कुरुबा" - इनमें 'काडू कुरुबा' लिस्टेड है और 'बेट्टा-कुरुबा' लिस्टेड नहीं था, जिसको आज इस बिल के माध्यम से इस सदन में चर्चा के लिए लाया गया, जिसके माध्यम से इस सरकार ने नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में अपनी दृढ़ इच्छा शक्ति का परिचय देते हुए उन सारे 'बेट्टा-कुरुबा' को न्याय देने का काम किया है। इस अवसर पर आज प्रमुख विपक्षी दल के लोग इस सदन में नहीं हैं। मुझे फिर एक बात याद आ गई, जिसको किसी ने लिखा है और वह इस प्रकार है:

*"तेरी मुख़ालफ़त से मेरी शख्सियत सँवरती है,
मैं अपने विरोधियों का एहताराम करता हूँ।"*

उपसभापति महोदय, चूँकि लोक सभा और राज्य सभा, दोनों सदनों में इन सारे विषयों पर गंभीरता से चर्चा हो रही है और सारे राज्यों के प्रति, उन राज्यों में रहने वाले उन लोगों के प्रति, जिन्होंने अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत को लेकर लोकतंत्र पर विश्वास करते हुए अपना जीवन जिया है, उन्हें न्याय मिले, इसका प्रयत्न जारी है और इसलिए यह राज्यवार और क्रमवार किया जा रहा है। कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने कुछ इस तरह के प्रश्न उठाए कि सारे राज्यों का मिला कर एक कॉम्प्रिहेंसिव प्रपोज़ल आना चाहिए। मैं इस संबंध में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी जी जानते हैं कि एक-एक को चुन कर कैसे संभालना चाहिए। उसी को दिखाने का काम इस सदन के माध्यम से किया गया है कि जो छूटे हुए लोग हैं, जो पीछे हैं, जो कतारों में पीछे रह गए हैं, उन्हें आगे लेकर आना है। यही संविधान की मंशा है, लोकतंत्र की मंशा है तथा हर किसी की चाहत है। इसीलिए देशवासियों ने संविधान को आत्मसात किया और यह कहा कि पंक्तियों में जो पीछे हैं, वे एक कतार में आ जाएं। उन्हें न्याय मिलना चाहिए, विशेषाधिकार मिलना चाहिए और संविधान की सुरक्षा मिलनी चाहिए, लेकिन वे पीछे से आगे नहीं आ पा रहे हैं, जबकि वे इस देश की सबसे बड़ी ताकत हैं। लोकतंत्र में जनता सबसे बड़ी ताकत होती है। वह ताकत हीरे के रूप में है, क्योंकि वह अपनी संस्कृति, विरासत और पहचान को लेकर मरने-मिटने वाली है। यदि आदिवासी इतिहास को देखा जाए, तो पता चलेगा कि आज़ादी के संघर्षों में उनकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है, जो किसी से छिपी हुई नहीं है। हालांकि, उन दिनों अंग्रेज़ जुल्म करने वाले थे, लेकिन कुछ ऐसे लेखकों ने भी कलम चुराई है, इतिहासकारों ने भी कलम चुराई है। अब वैसे लोगों को भी मान्यता देने का काम नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी के नेतृत्व में इस सरकार में हो रहा है। स्वाभिमान दिवस को देश के आदिवासी ही

नहीं, बल्कि देश मनाए, क्योंकि स्वाभिमान देश का होता है, स्वाभिमान देश के समुदाय का होता है, देश के समाज का होता है। चाहे कोई जनजाति वर्ग का हो या किसी भी वर्ग का हो, अगर वह देश के लिए मरता है, तो देश उसे सैल्यूट करता है, देश उसे सलाम करता है और यह कहने के लिए नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी ने 15 नवंबर को स्वाभिमान दिवस के रूप में, गौरव दिवस के रूप में मनाने का निश्चय किया है।

महोदय, इसी तरीके से, उन सुदूरवर्ती क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों की पहचान होनी चाहिए। मैंने तमिलनाडु के संबंध में चर्चा के क्रम में इस बात को कहा था, अब मैं फिर बल देना चाहता हूँ कि नई एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में इस देश के तमाम डायलेक्ट्स को, तमाम लैन्ग्वेजेज को मान्यता मिल रही है। आप नागालैंड के पहाड़ों में जाइए, वहाँ 16 पहाड़ों में 16 भाषाएँ हैं। वे कितने बड़े भाषा-विज्ञानी हैं, जिन्हें काँग्रेस के जमाने में महत्व नहीं मिला और अब नई एजुकेशन पॉलिसी में उन्हें मान्यता मिल रही है। देश के सरहदी इलाकों में रहने वाले तमाम जनजाति समुदायों की जो भाषाएँ हैं, वे नई एजुकेशन पॉलिसी के माध्यम से कैसे सुरक्षित, संरक्षित, संवर्धित हों, इसके लिए ट्राइबल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री, एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री के साथ मिलकर काम कर रही है। उनके मौलिक अधिकारों से लेकर, उनकी विकासात्मक योजनाओं को नीचे धरातल तक कैसे पहुंचाया जाए, इस बात का उदाहरण है कि नल का जल हर घर तक पहुंचे। आप जानते हैं कि इस देश में संपदा की बात होती है, प्रकृति की बात होती है, तो उन जंगलों की बात होती है, उन पहाड़ों की बात होती है। आज जितनी भी नदियाँ निकलती हैं, वे समतल से नहीं निकलती हैं, बल्कि उनका स्रोत पहाड़ों में है। आप जितनी भी खदानें देखते हैं, जितने भी मिनरल्स देखते हैं, वे उन पहाड़ों में मिलते हैं। जंगलों में पेड़-पौधे, प्राकृतिक संपदा, सब चीजें मिलती हैं। उन्हीं लोगों के साथ रहने वाला, उन भाइयों के साथ -- यह सरकार, खास करके ट्राइबल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री माननीय प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र भाई मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में लगातार काम कर रही है, जिससे जनजाति समुदाय स्वाभिमान के साथ, सुदूरवर्ती क्षेत्र में रहने वाले लोग न्याय के साथ, सम्मान के साथ, पुनर्जागरण के साथ आगे बढ़ें। उनके स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, रोजगार, एम्प्लॉयमेंट, भाषा, संस्कृति, परंपरा, जीवन पद्धति के लिए, जो उनकी अक्षुण्ण परंपराएँ हैं, उन्हें जीवंत बनाकर रखने के लिए हम जो भी कर सकते हैं, उसे मिलकर करेंगे। इसी कड़ी में, उन्हें न्याय देने के लिए बेट्टा-कुरुबा का प्रस्ताव इस सदन में लाया गया है। उपसभापति महोदय, मैं सदन से आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस प्रस्ताव को पारित किया जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Karnataka, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Arjun Munda to move that the Bill be passed.

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन मुंडा) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ :

कि विधेयक को पारित किया जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair.*]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need for expeditious completion of Sonamura -Daudkandi Inland waterways route

श्री बिप्लव कुमार देब (त्रिपुरा) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार के जहाजरानी मंत्रालय से आग्रह करता हूँ कि वह सोनामुरा-दाउदकंडी अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग का कार्य तेज करने के लिए बंगलादेश सरकार से बातचीत करे। मैं आपको बताना चाहूँगा कि जलमार्ग में ट्रायल रन के बाद जो कमियाँ नजर आई थीं, उन्हें जल्द दूर कर इस जलमार्ग को जल्द शुरू करने की बात थी। भारत सरकार के जहाजरानी मंत्रालय ने ट्रायल से पहले अपने यहाँ फ्लोटिंग जेट्टी लगा ली थी। अभी वर्तमान में स्थायी जेट्टी बनाने का कार्य भी तेजी पर है, मगर इस जलमार्ग के सफल संचालन के लिए बंगलादेश के हिस्से में नदी की ड्रेजिंग होनी जरूरी है। उस वक्त भारत सरकार ने बंगलादेश से आग्रह किया था कि यदि अनुमति मिले तो वह स्वयं उस हिस्से में भी ड्रेजिंग करा देंगे, तब बंगलादेश की ओर से कहा गया था कि वे स्वयं ड्रेजिंग करा लेंगे, मगर अब तक बंगलादेश के हिस्से में ड्रेजिंग का कार्य शुरू नहीं हो पाया है, जबकि बिना ड्रेजिंग के जलमार्ग का संचालन नहीं हो सकेगा।

अतः भारत सरकार के जहाजरानी मंत्रालय से आग्रह है कि वह बंगलादेश सरकार से बातचीत कर सोनामुरा-दाउदकंडी अंतर्देशीय जलमार्ग की ड्रेजिंग का कार्य शुरू कराने का प्रयास