

**Need to re-name the clean energy cess as Environment and Rehabilitation
Cess and earmark 60 percent thereof to coal-bearing States**

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am so happy that the hon. Finance Minister is also here. I am going to raise a point relating to her department. This is relating to Coal Cess or Clean Energy Cess. This was introduced by the Government of India in 2010, basically, to compensate for extraction of coal which causes a lot of environmental issues relating to air quality, water quality, pollution at top soil level, transportation, drainage systems, etc. But, subsequently, in 2017, after decision of the GST Council, this was subsumed into the GST Compensation Cess. Now that GST Compensation Cess has been withdrawn, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the position of this Cess is.

Sir, hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, had made a suggestion that this should be converted into Environment and Rehabilitation Cess and given back to the States once again, particularly, the coal-bearing States. Odisha, for example, is the second largest producer of coal in the country after Chhattisgarh. The amount of environmental pollution caused due to coal extraction — India's dependence on coal will continue — is huge. Since we are committed to net zero emission transition, I think, a good idea would be to convert this into the Environmental Rehabilitation Cess and distribute among coal-bearing States, so that for extraction of coal the amount of environmental pollution cost can be compensated to the extent through afforestation and other measures. And, we will be, actually, having a situation in which States would be having incentive to go in for clean energy procedures. Thank you.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SULATA DEO (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the submission made by the hon. Member.

श्री उपसभापति: आपका धन्यवाद। राघव चड्ढा जी, आप बोलिए।

Need to provide flight connectivity from Punjab to various international destinations

श्री राघव चड्ढा (पंजाब): उपसभापति जी, आज मैं पंजाब और पंजाबियों से जुड़ी एक बेहद महत्वपूर्ण समस्या इस सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। महोदय, पूरी दुनिया में पंजाबी रहते हैं, वे दुनिया के बड़े-बड़े देशों में बसते हैं, वह चाहे कनाडा हो, युनाइटेड स्टेट्स ऑफ अमेरिका हो, न्यूजीलैंड हो या ऑस्ट्रेलिया हो। आज पंजाब से इन देशों की जो इंटरनेशनल कनेक्टिविटी है, वह बहुत खराब है। पंजाब में दो अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे हैं। उनमें से एक मोहाली में है और दूसरा अमृतसर में है। ये दोनों अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे सिर्फ नाम के अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरलाइन्स यहाँ न के बराबर ऑपरेट करती हैं और अंतरराष्ट्रीय फ्लाइट्स भी न के बराबर ही उड़ती हैं। अगर वहाँ से एकाध किसी छोटे देश की फ्लाइट जाती भी है, तो उसकी फ्रिक्वेंसी इतनी कम है कि उसकी कोई सुविधा लोगों को नहीं मिलती है। आज पंजाबी बड़े-बड़े देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था चला रहे हैं। आज पंजाबी भाषा को, यह हमारा सौभाग्य है...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, it is time for Question Hour.

श्री राघव चड्ढा: सर, मुझे खत्म करने दीजिए।