

the States undergo if money does not reach them in time. That is why, since 2020 — I am standing here myself as evidence — at least, five times, I have asked the Ministry to release funds in advance. So, where they were supposed to get one installment, two installments were paid in advance and not waiting for due time, so that States don't suffer. So, a Chief Minister becoming a Prime Minister has actually kept in favour of all the States and has never discriminated against any State. In fact, he repeatedly says that until and unless all States grow equally, India cannot grow. So, somebody who believes in that is never going to discriminate against any State.

Sir, I have largely covered all the issues. I would not go on talking about internet connectivity and issues like that, which many Members raised. But, I suppose, the concerned Ministers would also have their time to speak about them.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is already 5.30 PM. We have allocated three hours for a combined discussion on the Bills mentioned at serial Nos. 8(a) and 8(b); and, two hours for item 8(c) in the List of Business.

If you all agree, we may now take up Special Mentions, instead of the Bills. These Bills will be taken up at a later date.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Special Mentions. Shri K.R.N. Rajesh Kumar -not present. Next is Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa.

Demand for empowering Tea garden educated youths through skill development schemes

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the lush landscapes of our tea gardens of Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, a unique challenge presents itself — educated youths with no land and no income. No land no income — this problem is seen especially in Assam, Tripura, and

West Bengal. Recognizing the potential of this demographic and understanding the need for inclusive growth, special skill development schemes have to be designed to empower these individuals and catalyze positive change in their lives. Tea garden educated youths often face limited opportunities due to the absence of tangible assets.

To address this, skill development initiatives must be strategically crafted to offer a diverse range of training programs, equipping them with practical skills that extend beyond traditional agricultural practices. These schemes must focus on vocational training, entrepreneurship development, and technology adoption.

Vocational training must enable the youths to acquire skills in demand, opening avenues for gainful employment. Entrepreneurship development programs have to nurture their ability to create and manage small enterprises, fostering a spirit of self-reliance. Moreover, integrating technology into these initiatives will ensure the youths are well-versed in modern practices, enhancing their competitiveness in the contemporary job market.

Digital literacy, e-commerce training, and exposure to emerging technologies will equip them to navigate the evolving economic landscape.

By providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in diverse fields, these initiatives will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the unique demography, fostering sustainable development in the tea garden communities.

I urge upon the Government, through you, to take necessary steps in the matter and, in the larger public interest, provide skill development scheme to the educated and semi-educated youths of the concerned States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Ms. Indu Bala Goswami (Himachal Pradesh), Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak (Nagaland), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha) and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal).

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA) *in the Chair.*]

Demand to protect railway printing presses

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Railway Board had decided to close down its five printing presses by March, 2023. These include the