

Concern over the navigational clearance in the Brahmaputra River

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN (Assam): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important issue about Assam. I am a representative of the State of Assam through which the mighty river Brahmaputra is flowing, dissecting the State from Sadiya to Dhubri, Bangladesh border. Traversing a distance of 891 km, the Ministry of Shipping and Waterways has declared the above waterway as National Waterway No. 2.

As per the Inland Waterways of Authority of India Act, 1985, IWAI is responsible for developing the waterway for navigation. The IWAI is carrying out various development works on the waterway to improve its navigability as laid down in the IWAI Act, 1985. At present, the waterway is being used by vessels of the Government of Assam, the Army, Border Security Force, tourism organizations and other private operators. Long cruise tourist vessels are making voyages between Pandu and Majuli Islands. From October to May, our dimensional cargo is also transported through the waterway from time to time.

Now, Sir, a new bridge over the river Brahmaputra between Bharalumukh, Guwahati and North Guwahati is under construction, obviously, which has many utilities. However, the navigational clearance that is essential to run over-dimensional cargo may be a concern if the required clearance has not been maintained for the same. Since it is a declared National Waterway clearance, no objection must be essential before construction of a bridge is taken up. Through this mention, I urge upon the Minister concerned, who incidentally is also an elected representative of Assam, to come up with a detailed note or statement to allay any misgivings in the minds of the people for apparent less navigational clearance in comparison to Saraighat Bridge, which is majestically standing closely to the new bridge under construction. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik, (West Bengal), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi, (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Thank you, Ajitji. Now, Shrimati Dharmshila Gupta; demand to expedite the work related to the establishment of AIIMS at Darbhanga, Bihar.