

from Trivandrum- Kottayam and Ernakulum. I am privileged that both the Union Minister of Railways and the Finance Minister are here.

I urge the Central Government to address these disparities and also to allocate sufficient and additional funds so that these issues can be addressed and also prioritise passing of the projects which are already announced. It is important to ensure adequate and sufficient funds across India, it should be made so that India progresses. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Shri Ashok Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal) and Shri Sant Balbir Singh.

Now, hon. Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, 'Demand to re-examine the Special Category State status of Assam according to the current economic situation of the State'.

Demand to re-examine the Special Category State status of Assam according to current economic situation of the State

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN (Assam): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to raise an important issue about Assam. The Special Category States came into being in 1969 upon the recommendations of the National Development Council which made the provisions of allocating 30 per cent of the total fund available under the head of normal plan assistance to State plans of three States, viz., Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir. It may be noted that normal plan assistances to the Special Category States (that is, 30 per cent of the total fund set aside for three States) were provided through 'negotiations' between the concerned State Government and the Planning Commission while the remaining 70 per cent was divided among the other 'general category' States using an objective criterion known as Gadgil-Mukherjee formula. Now, the question is, why should Assam continue to be a Special Category State? There are three fundamental reasons for this and they are the following. Assam is one of the three States to be accorded as a Special Category State in 1969 upon the recommendation of the National Development Council. The 14th Finance Commission did not and cannot revoke the status simply

because this is not within their jurisdiction. As such, the status of Special Category State continues for the State of Assam. The 14th Finance Commission has not come up with a specific recommendation regarding discontinuation of the Special Category State in their report in deciding the transfer of resources to States from the Union. The Commission, thus, did not make a distinction between Special and General Category States in determining the norms and recommendations. Therefore, in essence, there is no reason to believe that the 'Special Category State' status of Assam has come to end. Most importantly, 'Special Category State' Status is specifically related to the provisions of the grants made by the Union Government out of the Consolidated Fund of the Government of India and how the grants are to be made is governed by the provisions of the Article 275 of the Constitution...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Now Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba; demand for expediting ongoing infrastructural work for National Sports University in Manipur.

Demand to expedite the ongoing infrastructural work for National Sports University in Manipur

SHRI MAHARAJA SANAJAOBA LEISHEMBA (MANIPUR): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. The subject of my Zero Hour notice is the demand for expediting ongoing infrastructural work for National Sports University in Manipur. In recognition of Manipur's contribution in games and sports, the Government of India has taken a historic decision for the establishment of a National Sports University at world-class standard in Manipur. Sir, this will be the first of its kind in the nation. For this, the people of Manipur are very grateful to our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for introducing a Bill for National Sports University in 2017 and then, passed the Bill as an Act in 2018 in the Parliament. However, after getting adequate land for construction at Koutruk, a village in Imphal, West District Manipur, the progress of infrastructural construction and other related works are very slow. Sir, there may be many reasons for this delay, but it should be expedited at any cost in the interest of our sportspersons across the nation. So I humbly urge upon the Union Government and the concerned ministry to expedite the ongoing infrastructural work of National Sports University so that it may be fully functional at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.