

है, जिसके कारण चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य से लेकर परिवहन, आवास एवं शौचालय जैसी सुविधाओं के लिए सरकारी इंतजाम नाकाफी साबित हुए हैं और यात्रा पर आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को रजिस्ट्रेशन, हेलीकॉप्टर बुकिंग, पार्किंग तथा ऑनलाइन बुकिंग में साइबर ठगों द्वारा लूटना तथा और भी परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ा है, जिसके कारण बहुत से श्रद्धालुओं को बिना चार धाम यात्रा पूरी किए वापस लौटना पड़ा और कई श्रद्धालुओं की मृत्यु भी हुई है।

मेरा पर्यटन मंत्री से आग्रह है कि चार धाम यात्रा पर आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधाओं से संबंधित अधिकारियों द्वारा आगामी वर्षों की चार धाम यात्रा के लिए उचित सुविधाओं के प्रबंध की समीक्षा पहले ही संपूर्ण कर ली जाए, जिससे चार धाम यात्रा में आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को कोई परेशानी न हो। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (MS. KAVITA PATIDAR): The hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), associated himself with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Dr. Sikander Kumar.

#### **Need for Reconsideration of NCTE's oversight of NIOS D.El.Ed (ODL) programme**

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): In a quest to uphold the Right to Education Act 2009, the National Council for Teacher Education issued a notification in 2010, requiring a minimum qualification of a two-year diploma in elementary education. After NCTE's 2014 regulations, the Ministry of Human Resource Development issued a letter on 03-08-2017 to all the Secretaries of States and UTs directing that all the teachers in Government Schools must possess minimum qualification as mandated under the RTE Act and a last chance was being given to all such teachers to acquire minimum qualification till 31-03-2019. In 2017, an opportunity arose for in-service untrained teachers of Government, Government Aided, Unaided Private Schools, classes I-VIII, to acquire Diploma in Elementary Education, D.El.Ed., from National Institute of Open Schooling in ODL mode in 18 months instead of two years. The Supreme Court ruling on November 28, 2023, emphasized that the entire scheme was only for the purpose of providing a window to the in-service teachers to prevent their dismissal. The delay in publishing notifications left approximately 14 lakh candidates in limbo, as the NCTE failed to publish the Gazette directed by the MHRD on September 22, 2017. States like Bihar and West Bengal have appointed teachers trained through the NIOS 18-month course.

I urge the Government to reconsider the NCTE's non-recognition of the NIOS 18-month D.El.Ed course, ensuring equal opportunities for the affected candidates at the earliest. Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (MS. KAVITA PATIDAR): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Manoj Kumar Jha: Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Abdul Wahab (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

**Demand for adequate budgetary allocation for ensuring safety of mining workers**

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Odisha has one of the highest coal reserves in the country at 48,572.58 million tonnes (measured) and 34,080.42 million tonnes (indicated), which increases the importance of ensuring the safety of the mining workers. However, in spite of the urgency of the matter, the budget for the Ministry of Coal has been declining for the past two years. It has fallen down to Rs. 547.88 crores (Revised Estimates) in 2022-23. Under-utilisation of funds is another cause of concern, reflective in how the utilisation of funds during the financial year 2021-22 was Rs. 360.97 crores (up to December, 2021) against the allocation of Rs. 644.09 crores at RE stage. Mining is an extremely hazardous profession and disasters in this area cause grave threat to human life and loss of economic resources. Inundation is a factor that is leading to a greater number of disasters in mines. Disasters occur at regular intervals. Fatalities due to roof collapse and dumpers at coal mines are major issues that need to be tackled for greater safety. Another cause of concern is the lack of detailed emergency rescue plan.

Training of personnel, implementation of Standard Operating Procedure, etc., need to be emphasized. Training is required to minimise human error. Madam, through you, I urge the Central Government to take its cognisance and provide adequate funding for research and infrastructure development among other processes and ensure proper mechanism for safety for mining workers.

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON (MS. KAVITA PATIDAR): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Niranjana Bishi: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Subhasish Khuntia (Odisha), Shri Muzibulla Khan (Odisha) and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).