

Need to address the crisis of Plastic Pollution across the country

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA (ANDHRA PRADESH): Sir, this is a very, very important issue that not just India but the entire world is facing. Coming to our country, we are generating almost 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, as per CPCB estimates. However, the waste generated from other sources is more than 9-10 million tonnes every year. Unfortunately, only 60 per cent of that is collected. Out of that, only 40 per cent is recycled. So, where is the balance going? It is just ending up in landfills, rivers and oceans. This is a very sad and unfortunate situation. Now, what is seen is that most of this is being handled by the unorganized sector. We now need to think of a real solution to this problem. We must also involve the organized sector in tackling the menace of plastic. There are environmental challenges that we are facing because of this pollution. Most important is micro-plastic pollution. This is found in water, soil and in human bodies. Also, it is found in oceans. 0.6 million tonnes of waste every year is entering into ocean around India. Air pollution is another major problem. Burning of plastics releases toxins and they are contributing to a lot of air pollution, respiratory diseases, soil and water contamination. Unfortunately, these chemicals reach into water and also soil, which is making it really very infertile, and water is really contaminated for which treatments are also very costly. It is economic and resources loss. Unfortunately, in India, we are importing more than 80 per cent of our crude, and plastic is nothing but crude. We have to see that plastics are properly recycled and with that we can save, at least, Rs.50,000 crores per annum by recycling these plastics. Also, can it be banned? No, it is not possible. It is very essential for our economy. So, we have to see alternatives. But when we see alternatives, the cost effectiveness is not coming. Bio-degradable or paper-based alternatives are more expensive, less durable and also need more resources. So, we, certainly, have to put some research around this to bring control on this. We also need to bring in a circular-economy approach instead of banning it. So, some of the solutions are highest focus on IEC, segregation at source, scaling the recycling, chemical recycling, resource recovery, market linkages for plastics, etc.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your allotted time is over.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla: Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala).

Now Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque -- Issue of automatic deactivation of SIM Card after non-usage for 90 days; not present. Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi - Demand to include the Musi River in Hyderabad as part of the country's major river rejuvenation project; not present. Dr. Bhim Singh -- Concern over poor enrolment of girl students in Joint Entrance Examination for admission in Indian Institute of Technology.

Concern over poor enrolment of girl students in Joint Entrance Examination for admission in Indian Institutes of Technology

डा. भीम सिंह (बिहार): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं girl students की समस्या की ओर सदन का और सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ।

प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में हमारा देश बहुत ही अग्रणी है और निरंतर आगे बढ़ता जा रहा है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी का भी इस पर बहुत ज्यादा जोर है। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' का अभियान भी चलाया। यानी गर्ल छात्राओं और प्रौद्योगिकी, दोनों का महत्व है। ऐसी स्थिति में, हमारे जो राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैं या Indian Institutes of Technology हैं, जब हम इन पर नजर डालते हैं, तो girl students की समस्या पर हमारा ध्यान जाता है। जब हम वहाँ का नामांकन देखते हैं, तो पाते हैं कि अभी भी वहाँ छात्राओं का नामांकन 15 से 20 प्रतिशत के बीच vary करता रहता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसमें सुधार की आवश्यकता है। इसलिए सरकार को कुछ विशेष उपबंध करना चाहिए ताकि अधिक से अधिक छात्राओं का, girl students का नामांकन वहाँ हो सके।

महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी कोई विशेष योजना चलाई जाए, ताकि जो छात्राएँ पढ़ रही हैं, जो उसका entrance exam देना चाहती हैं, वे अधिक से अधिक संख्या में qualify कर सकें, ऐसा कोई इंतजाम हो। बस मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति: धन्यवाद, माननीय भीम सिंह जी। Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy -- Demand for setting up directorate of census operations in Andhra Pradesh; not present. Shri Sanjeev Arora -- Need to address the problems faced by bicycle manufacturing sectors; not present. Shri Samik Bhattacharya -- Demand to operationalise Ashok Nagar Oil Field in West Bengal.

Demand to operationalize Ashoknagar Oil Field in West Bengal

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, after 65 years of relentless efforts from geophysicists, scientists and the oilfield workers, finally, the ONGC and the Oil India Limited discovered oil in Ashoknagar North 24 Parganas district. It was