

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, बोलिए।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : सर, हमारे देश में आदिवासी वर्ग की महिलाओं और बच्चों के ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : आपका विषय enrolment पर है।

श्री प्रमोद तिवारी : मान्यवर, मेरा सवाल यह है कि शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उनको क्यों रोका जा रहा है? ...(समय की घंटी)...

श्री उपसभापति : तिवारी जी, विषय enrolment पर है। अब आप बैठ जाएँ।

कौशल विकास और उद्यमशीलता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री; तथा शिक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जयंत चौधरी) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं on record इस बात को clear करना चाहता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सदस्य एक बहुत सीनियर एमपी हैं। उन्होंने एक बात कही कि हमने बजट घटा दिया। इतिहास से लेकर अब तक, बजट में एजुकेशन के लिए सबसे ज्यादा आबंटन, इस बार के बजट में हुआ है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Pramod Tiwari : Shrimati Sonia Gandhi (Rajasthan), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (Karnataka), Shri Sanjay Singh (National Capital Territory of Delhi), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi (Telangana), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Smt. Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Smt. Phulo Devi Netam, (Chhattisgarh) and Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala).

Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham. Concern over negative impact of deep-sea mineral exploration and mining along the Kerala coast.

Concern over the negative impact of deep-sea mineral exploration and mining along the Kerala coast

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I rise today to address a very grave issue. It is the survival of our fishing community, especially the fishermen of Kerala, who are under serious threat. The Central Government has announced deep-sea

sand mining and begun the tender process without even conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment. How can they move forward when the experts have warned of devastating consequences of this? A large part of Kollam, Alappuzha and other places of the coastal belt, which is India's richest fishing hub, is in the proposed mining area. Studies from the University of Kerala and the Cochin Fisheries University clearly warn that sand mining will disrupt fish breeding, destroy coral reefs and destabilise marine ecosystem. Two-thirds of Kerala's soft corals are found here which are essential for biodiversity and fisheries productivity.

The fishermen have been protesting for three long months. But instead of listening to the fishermen, the Government insists: "Tender first, and then the company that wins the tender can do and will do the Environmental Impact Assessment."

Sir, *nemo judex in sua causa* — no one can be a judge in his own cause. How can the very company that profits from mining assess its own environmental impact? First, there must be an independent Environmental Impact Assessment. Only if a green signal is received, the tender process should begin. Not the other way around.

The 2023 amendment to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act now allows private companies to extract deep-sea minerals along our coast. This is not just about sand. It is about auctioning off our ocean to corporate interest. Deep-sea mining releases toxic sediments, destroys marine life and weakens our coastal defenses against tsunamis and cyclones. Environmentalists warn it could accelerate climate change by releasing stored carbon and fishermen will be affected. Sir, I urge the Government to immediately stop the tender process and halt deep-sea activities and first initiate Environmental Impact Study. The sea is not a commodity. It is the life and lifeline of our fishermen. Let me be clear, if the Government plays with their lives, the Government will be the first one to lose this battle. And we stand with them in this fight. The fishermen of Kerala have braved storms and adversities for generations. They will not back down now. ...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham : Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi (Telangana), Shri Ramji (Uttar Pradesh), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri

Vaiko (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Smt. Phulo Devi Netam, (Chhattisgarh), Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil (Maharashtra), Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu), Shri Ritabrata Banerjee (West Bengal) and Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal).

Now, Shri Golla Baburao; Concern over less Budgetary allocation under the 'Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary and Other Organizations Working for Scheduled Castes' run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Concern over less budgetary allocation under the 'Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary and other Organizations Working for Scheduled Castes' run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

SHRI GOLLA BABURAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am raising a very important issue. The entire nation waits for the solution to this problem. It is about the need for a Socio-Economic Caste Census. I would like to highlight about the need for Socio-Economic Caste Census to be conducted alongside the upcoming Decennial Census. Conducting such a Census at the national level would allow the entire country to benefit from the policies based on accurate and detailed data. In fact, the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, led by the former Chief Minister, Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy *garu*, laid a strong foundation for this in November, 2021, by passing a resolution, requesting the Central Government to take up the Socio-Economic Caste Census. But it is not taken up so far. By simply adding two questions to the upcoming Census, we can gather crucial data which will also greatly benefit the people of Andhra Pradesh. This data will provide valuable insights which will enable the implementation of targeted welfare programmes, address inequalities and ensure equitable allocation of resources. In my last speech also, I requested the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is getting only two per cent of the total funds for the entire 80 per cent population which we have. They include the backward classes, OBCs, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, disabled welfare and senior citizens. I request the Central Government to rethink about it. First of all, they should take up the caste census. It will be very useful for them also to take up the upcoming Delimitation and allocate funds as per population in India. At the same time, Sir, it is a concern that Budget allocation for Census has been reduced, which could hinder the exercise by compromising the accuracy and effectiveness. Therefore, the Government must prioritize sufficient funding for this critical exercise and make this...(*Time-bell rings.*)...