

Shri Ritabrata Banerjee. 'Demand to consult the Government of West Bengal regarding release of Teesta River water through Bangladesh'.

**Demand to consult Government of West Bengal regarding release of Teesta River water to Bangladesh**

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, the Teesta River is a 414 km long river rising in the Eastern Himalayas, flowing through Sikkim and West Bengal and subsequently entering into Bangladesh to flow into the Bay of Bengal. The Teesta is the second largest river in our State and traverses through our districts of Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar before entering Bangladesh.

The health of the Teesta River is suffering due to construction of a series of hydro-power projects in Sikkim, deforestation at the upper catchment area, and climate change. The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, had conveyed her strong reservation that no discussion regarding sharing of water and Farakka Treaty should be taken up with Bangladesh without the involvement of the West Bengal Government. The people of West Bengal would be the worst sufferers due to the impact of Agreements on water sharing between India and Bangladesh. The Government of India is in the process of renewing the Indo-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty, 1996, which is to expire in 2026. It has huge implications for the people of our State as far as their livelihoods are concerned and the water which is diverted at the Farakka Barrage is creating navigability problems for the Kolkata port.

Sir, it is highly necessary to bring to the notice of the Union Government that river morphology has changed in the eastern part of India and Bangladesh over many years which has deprived West Bengal and negatively impacted the water availability in the State. Lakhs of our people have been displaced from their habitations, rendering them homeless and leading to loss of livelihood. The reduced silt load in the Hooghly River has impeded the nourishment of our Sundarbans Delta also.

Now, our hon. Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, has written to the hon. Prime Minister thrice, highlighting that the Farakka Barrage has caused flooding and erosion in the State of West Bengal in a very big way. Water flow in the Teesta River has gone down over the years and it is estimated that if any water is shared with Bangladesh, lakhs of people in the northern part of our State will get severely impacted due to inadequate availability of irrigation water. Teesta water is also for meeting drinking water requirements of the residents in the northern part of Bengal. It is, therefore, not feasible to share Teesta water with Bangladesh. An Indo-Bhutan River Commission is also an urgent need of the hour, as flash floods from trans-boundary rivers in Bhutan are having devastating impacts on the northern districts of

West Bengal.

Sir, through you, I would urge upon and request the Union Government that the Government of West Bengal needs to be consulted regarding release of Teesta water to Bangladesh and also about the renewable clauses of the Indo-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty. These renewable clauses are very important. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Ritabrata Banerjee: Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Smt. Mausam B Noor (West Bengal), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal).

Now, Dr. Kalpana Saini -- Demand to Reserve Seats for Doctors on Flights to Help Tackle Emergency Situations.

#### **Demand to reserve seats for Doctors on flights to help tackle emergency situations**

**डा. कल्पना सैनी** (उत्तराखण्ड): उपसभापति जी, आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं आज सदन के समक्ष एक अत्यंत आवश्यक विषय प्रस्तुत करना चाहती हूं। पिछले एक दशक में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में विमानन क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व सुधार हुए हैं। 'उड़ान योजना (उड़े देश का आम नागरिक)' के तहत छोटे शहरों से भी हवाई यात्रा को किफायती और सहज बनाया गया है। महोदय, इस प्रगति के साथ ही यात्रियों की सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता है तथा उड़ान के दौरान उत्पन्न होने वाली चिकित्सीय आपात स्थितियों के लिए हमारी तैयारी को और मजबूत करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं सदन के माध्यम से यह सुझाव रखना चाहती हूं कि हर उड़ान में कम से कम एक सीट किसी योग्य चिकित्सक के लिए आरक्षित की जाए, जो आपात स्थितियों में सहायता देने के लिए तैयार हो।

महोदय, हवाई यात्रा के दौरान कई बार ऐसे आपातकालीन चिकित्सीय हालात उत्पन्न हो जाते हैं, जहाँ पर त्वरित और विशेषज्ञ उपचार की आवश्यकता होती है। इसमें प्रसव जैसे आपात मामले, हृदयाघात, श्वसन संबंधी जटिलताएं, रक्तचाप संबंधी गंभीर समस्याएं और अन्य आकस्मिक चिकित्सीय स्थितियाँ शामिल हैं। महोदय, प्रत्येक उड़ान में कम से कम एक सीट योग्य डाक्टर के लिए आरक्षित की जाए, जिसे रियायती दर पर या प्राथमिकता के आधार पर उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है। यदि उड़ान से एक निश्चित समय पहले यह सीट बुक न हो, तो इसे अन्य यात्रियों के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है, जिससे एयरलाइन्स को कोई आर्थिक नुकसान न हो। इसके अलावा सभी विमानों में उन्नत मेडिकल किट, ऑक्सीजन सिलेंडर और अन्य आवश्यक चिकित्सा उपकरणों की अनिवार्यता, उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जाए। हर वर्ष उड़ान के दौरान हजारों यात्रियों को चिकित्सा सहायता की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, ऐसे में डॉक्टर