

Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi — Concern over poor implementation of Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN⁹; not present. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal — Need for insurance sector reforms to ensure fairness and accessibility; not present.

Concern over the problems faced by ASHA Workers appointed under National Health Mission

श्री महेंद्र भट्ट (उत्तराखंड): महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान सरकार के 'राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन' द्वारा ग्रामीण एवं शहरी आबादी को स्वास्थ्य तथा सामाजिक निर्धारकों के बारे में जागरूकता अभियान चलाने सहित बच्चा-जच्चा को स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएँ प्रदान करने के लिए कार्यरत आशा कार्यकर्ताओं की समस्याओं की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, जब से इस मिशन को प्रारंभ किया गया है, तब से जहाँ ग्रामीणों को स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जानकारी प्राप्त हो रही है, वहीं आशा कार्यकर्ताओं के द्वारा कोरोना काल से लेकर आज तक लगातार स्वास्थ्य जागरूकता के कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जा रहे हैं। महोदय, इनके कार्यों को देखते हुए भी आज तक इन्हें न्यूनतम वेतनमान से वंचित रखा गया है। इन्हें मात्र 4,500 रुपये की मासिक प्रोत्साहन राशि ही दी जाती है, जो इनके कार्यों को देखते हुए काफी कम प्रतीत होती है। अनेक राज्यों में इन्हें वार्षिक प्रोत्साहन राशि भी दी जा रही है। उनमें भी केवल उत्तराखंड ऐसा राज्य है, जहाँ इन्हें 5,000 रुपए वार्षिक प्रोत्साहन राशि दी जा रही है।

अतः मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से माँग करता हूँ कि इनके द्वारा स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में किए जा रहे कार्यों के महत्व को समझते हुए इन्हें न्यूनतम वेतन अधिनियम की परिधि में सम्मिलित किया जाए, जिसमें राज्य सरकार का अंश भी सम्मिलित हो, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Mahendra Bhatt: Shri Naresh Bansal (Uttarakhand) and Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand).

Proposed mega power project by China on the Brahmaputra River

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to raise a very important issue relating to the people of North-Eastern Region in general and Assam in particular. River Brahmaputra is our lifeline and the Brahmaputra Valley Civilization is one of the ancient civilizations of the world. Now, we are very much concerned because of the proposed/initiative taken by China to build world's largest mega power generation projects on the River Brahmaputra. It will be a great threat to our Brahmaputra Valley Civilization. It will be a great threat to

our culture and it will be a great threat to the socio-economic life of the people of Assam.

Sir, source of river Brahmaputra starts from China, and China has now decided to construct world's largest electricity power project on river Brahmaputra. If they are really going to do it, they will try to divert flow of the river Brahmaputra towards their side. If they divert the water flows of Assam to the China side, there will be no water in the river Brahmaputra on our side. It means we will be losing everything because Brahmaputra is our lifeline, and our culture, our economy, our society; everything depends upon the river Brahmaputra. So, it is a very important issue in the interest of the people of the North-Eastern Region and of the country as well. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to take up the matter immediately and seriously, and stop this project. Otherwise, future of Assam, future of the North-Eastern Region people will be very black.

So, it is our request to take up this issue very seriously with the Government of China. If necessary, take up the issue at international platforms because this project is related to the crores of people of Assam. Our identity is going to be finished, our culture is going to be finished, our economy is going to be finished. (*Time-bell rings*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri P. Wilson on 'Urgent Need for Strengthening Education and Health Care Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu', not present. Shri Muzibulla Khan, not present. Shri Debashish Samantaray, not present. Shri Beedha Masthan Rao, not present. Shri Kartikeya Sharma on 'Need to Regulate Private Coaching Institutes and Protect the Rights of Students and Parents', not present. Now, Shrimati Sudha Murty on 'Old Age Problems and Hospitals'.

Concern over lack of geriatric facilities in the country to deal with old age problems

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY (Nominated): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to talk about this. 'जन्म-मृत्यु, जरा-व्याधि', these are the four things which one cannot escape. Old age is a part of our life. When you grow old, there are many problems which we come across. These are my few suggestions to the Government. I know the Government has taken care of old people in many ways. But my suggestion is that every district in India should have a geriatric ward, or, a part of the hospital should have geriatric department because geriatrics is different from normal medicine department. The doses are different. The quantity is different. They are always accompanied by someone along with them. So, the space constraint is also