

even diplomatic protocols for the violation and information regarding the detention of these people are not being provided to our Embassies situated in these countries. The families of wrongly-detained persons have to go through a very tough time in India, always being in fear about the fate of their dear ones in these countries.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to step forward for these Indians and take appropriate action to free them who are detained without any rhyme or reason. One such missing person is from my constituency, Yogesh Panchal. I request upon the hon. Minister to look into the matter as per law. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan: Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Now, Ms. Sushmita Devji on 'Need to enhance the potential of national waterways'.

### **Need to enhance the potential of National Waterways**

MS. SUSHMITA DEV (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity. Sir, I come from a State which is well known for its mighty rivers. The State of Assam takes pride in the fact that we have the Brahmaputra and the Barak Rivers, whereas we often see that these rivers are associated with floods in Assam. What we fail to appreciate is that riverways is actually one of the cheapest modes for movement of goods. If we look at history of Assam, we share a huge border with Bangladesh, Myanmar etc. Our rivers are an asset through which we should be facilitating movement of goods. I feel lucky that Sarbananda Sonowalji is present in Parliament today. And, in the 16th Lok Sabha, when I represented the Constituency of Silchar, the Barak River was declared a National Waterway. And, we were all very hopeful and aspirational that once this waterway is properly made operational with proper infrastructure, a very remote and backward area like Barak Valley will be able to enhance its economy due to movements of goods in the Barak River. Unfortunately, Sir, infrastructure till today remains incomplete. The dredging of River Barak has been abandoned due to which the people of Barak Valley are almost isolated in the State of Assam. Trains become dysfunctional due to floods and landslides because we are surrounded by Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong. Airways are beyond the affordability of common man and small traders.

In these circumstances, Sir, I urge upon the Government of India to please facilitate the dredging of Barak River. Please facilitate the movement of goods through our riverways. We need ports to be made. We need proper customs infrastructure to be there so that the otherwise isolated area of Assam can grow faster, meet the aspirations of youth, boost our economy, connect us better for international trade and we can come out from the backwardness that we have been facing for decades.

I thank the Government of India for starting the Brahmaputra Board which manages the Brahmaputra River. But, till today for the Barak river of Assam, we do not have a board that manages river properly. So, these are my demands in the greater interest of the people of Assam. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Ms. Sushmita Dev: Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Smt. Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala).

Now, Shri Saket Gokhale on 'Need to ensure optimization of blending petrol with ethanol'.

#### **Need to ensure optimization of blending Petrol with Ethanol**

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE (West Bengal): Sir, this is a very important issue that I wish to raise today because the Government recently has announced that by next year they are going to ensure 100 per cent blending of ethanol with petrol. So, they are going to get 20 per cent of ethanol into a litre of petrol. The idea behind this, the Government says, is to ensure that we meet our climate goals and we meet our emission targets. Sir, there are very simple mathematics, which has not yet been shared with the people of India that I wish to place here. The market rate of 200 ml of ethanol has been increased about five days ago. So, the new market rate is Rs.57.97 for a litre of ethanol. Twenty per cent comes to 200 ml. So, for one litre, it comes to Rs.11.5. Petrol price today is about 103 rupees. So, if I take out 20 per cent of that petrol, that will come to about 20 rupees. Now, I take away that 20 rupees worth of petrol and I substitute it with 11 rupees worth of ethanol, the price goes down by nine rupees, Sir. The question here is that you are making it mandatory to blend 20 per cent ethanol with petrol. Why is the saving from that not being passed to the average