

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Prasanta Chatterjee.

Need for holding Panchayat elections in Pondicherry

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Thank you, Madam. Pondicherry people have been crying hoarse for Panchayat elections for the past 35 years. The dream of Shri Rajiv Gandhi was that Panchayats and Municipalities should exist and the elected representatives should rule the gross root of Government machineries. So, in 1992, the Constitution was amended by the 73rd and 74th Amendments. By virtue of the Amendments, it is mandatory that the States and Union Territories should conduct elections once in five years. In spite of the amendments, there is a silence about the civic elections to be held in Pondicherry.

Even though several demands have been made in this House by me, no action has been taken to conduct the elections. The Government has not issued any notice to the Government of Pondicherry, as per the Constitution, to conduct the elections. This amounts to dereliction of duty on the part of the Union as well as the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

About 1148 persons are deprived of their political offices as Presidents, Chairmen and Ward Counsellors of these civic bodies. Sixteen per cent of them are Scheduled Castes. After elections, these persons would attend to needs of the people and welfare of the people and it would be implemented properly through various schemes.

So, I request the Government to issue a direction, as per Article 256 of the Constitution, to the Union Territory of Pondicherry to conduct elections to the civic bodies immediately. These have not been conducted for the last 35 years. Thank you.

Building of homes for homeless families in Bihar

डा. रमेन्द्र कुमार यादव "रवि" (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदया, बिहार राज्य में 20 लाख आवास-विहीन परिवार हैं जो पूरे देश में आवास-विहीन परिवारों का 11 प्रतिशत हैं। परंतु केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा बिहार राज्य को प्रति वर्ष 1.75 लाख आवासों का लक्ष्य दिया जाता है जिसके कारण आवास-विहीन परिवारों को आवास मुहैया कराने में 10 वर्षों से भी अधिक समय लग सकता है।