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Title: Request the government to send a fact finding committee to find and protect the rainforest in Assam from illegal coal mining.

**SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NOWGONG):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise here today to draw your attention as to how a priceless natural wealth is being destroyed and plundered in the State of Assam. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, the hon Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India asserted, referring to the natural wealth that I am mentioning, that this natural wealth is classified as Assam Valley Tropical Evergreen Forests. In other parlance, this is the Rainforest.

Sir, it is a matter of great shame that the last remnants of Asiatic Rainforest that we have in the Upper Assam Area, has been systematically destroyed and plundered by a coal mafia. The hon. Minister admitted here that in the Reserve Forests of Assam, in the Upper Assam, especially in the District of Tinsukia and Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, the rat-hole coal mining is going on. Sir, whatever the hon. Minister has admitted here is just a tip of the iceberg. There has been a massive cover up of all these plunderings. The whole rainforest is being destroyed.

So, Sir, I would request the Government of India to depute a Fact Finding Team because the entire racket is being covered up by the Government of Assam and the respective Departments. It is very important that the Government of India interferes, and the concerned Ministry should send a Fact Finding Committee to find and protect the rainforest of Assam. Thank you.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्री प्रद्युत बोरदोलोई द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।