

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding setting up a permanent Bench of High Court of Odisha in Western part of Odisha.

SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): Sir, I thank you for allowing me an opportunity to raise the demand of setting up a permanent bench of High Court of Odisha in Western part of Odisha, and the serious law and order situation arising out of it. The Law Minister has made statements in this august House, again and again, regarding its resolve to establish a permanent bench of Odisha High Court in the Western part of Odisha. He has also written, again and again, to the State Government to hold consultations with the Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, and the hon. Governor of Odisha and then, to send a composite proposal to the Ministry, including its location, its jurisdiction and its commitment to provide its infrastructure and bear the recurring expenses to enable the Government to bring a legislation in both Houses of Parliament for the establishment of a permanent bench.

In this connection, the delay and lack of commitment of the State Government in holding consultation either with the hon. Chief Justice of Odisha High Court or with the Governor has led to a serious law and order situation, and arrest of dozens of lawyers who are already behind the bars. The Bar Council of India has suspended the licences of 43 lawyers. In the meantime, I have also come to learn that the lawyers were assaulted by the police while they were in the lock-ups of the police. So, I would request the hon. Law Minister of India to intervene in the matter, to take up the matter with the State Government, the hon. High Court and the Bar Council of India to address the problem and resolve the issue as well as the deadlock arising out of it, including a direction to the National Human Rights Commission to inquire into the matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gaurav Gogoi.