

Need for bifurcation and creation of new districts in Odisha

SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): Thank you, Sir. As we all know, there were as many as 471 districts in India in 1992 as against a total number of 300 districts in India in 1952. This means that there was a rise of 57 per cent of districts at all-India level within a span of 40 years, as against absolutely no rise in Odisha. Former Chief Minister of Odisha, Late Shri Biju Patnaik did it in Odisha during 1993-94. He reorganised the districts in order to make administration transparent and bring it closer to the people, and converted 13 districts into 30 districts. Since then, no further district reorganisation has been done, though there have been agitations in different parts of Odisha demanding creation of new districts including a new district of Padampur in the Bargarh district of my parliamentary constituency.

Apart from that, there are 58 subdivisions in Odisha which need to be further bifurcated including the formation of a subdivision in Brajrajnagar Assembly constituency in the district of Jharsuguda which is also part of my parliamentary constituency.

Similarly, the Odisha government has not reorganised the blocks in the State for the last four decades. The last one was made in 1984, putting the number of blocks at 314 only. Now, the time has come for the bifurcation of large blocks and the formation of new blocks in Odisha including the bifurcation of Lakhanpur block in Jharsuguda district having 33 gram panchayats into three blocks, and the formation of a new Melchhamunda block in the district of Bargarh.

Though the formation of districts/subdivisions/blocks is a State Subject under the federal system, I request the Union Government to impress upon the Government of Odisha for bifurcation and formation of new Districts, including Padampur, new subdivisions including one in Brajrajnagar of Jharsuguda District and new blocks in Odisha including two in Lakhanpur Block of Jharsuguda District and one in Melchamunda area in Bargarh District to make the administration more efficient and transparent and to ensure that Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana reaches the poorest of the poor perfectly and quickly. Thank you.