

Title : Need to establish a National Mission for Springshed Management along with National Registry of Springs-Laid

SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NAGAON): I am rising the issue of a slow-onset disaster in many hilly areas of the North East face. In recent years, several villages across the region have reported the drying up of their mountain springs. This is particularly alarming as many are wholly dependent on springs for water. For example, over half of Meghalaya's villages were dependent on springs and Sikkim too derives much of its drinking water from them. Springwater quality has been declining, according to a recent study on two springs in Tripura. Springs also contribute to the base flow of the region's great rivers, like the Brahmaputra, affecting those in the plains as well. A 2018 NITI Aayog Report stated that nearly half of the springs in the Indian Himalayas, many of which fall in the North East, had dried up or become seasonal due to development projects and climate change. I thus urge the Government to immediately establish a National Mission for Springshed Management, which can help states build capacity and integrate springshed management into development projects. A National Registry of springs must also be established to periodically monitor the health of springs and ensure a continuous supply of crucial data.