

Title: Requested the Government not to stop funding the programme for supplying safe drinking water to the arsenic and other heavy matters-affected areas.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an urgent matter of public importance through you.

Sir, recently the Central Government has taken an important decision though in my perception it is anti-people because they have decided to discontinue the Central assistance in the programme for the supply of safe drinking water to the arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters contaminated affected areas. Many States are facing this problem of contamination of arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters. In my State, hundreds and thousands of people are affected because of arsenic and fluoride. A project was going on with a matching grant from both the Centre and State. Seventy-five per cent of the Central assistance goes to the State under this programme. But recently the Central Government has decided to discontinue the Central assistance in this programme. We will be affected badly. There is a public health problem in different States in this country.

So, I urge upon the Government to review the decision and continue the Central assistance to supply safe drinking water to those arsenic, fluoride and other heavy matters contaminated affected areas throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.