

**Title:** Need for creation of a separate Vidarbha State-Laid.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the formation of three new States is appreciated, on the other the people of Vidarbha feel dissatisfaction and sense of injustice due to ignoring the long pending claim of restoration of State of Vidarbha which assumes special significance, as the case of Vidarbha is much stronger which was unanimously recommended by the State Reorganisation Commission 45 years back.

Sir, on the solemn assurances by then National Leaders, the people of Vidarbha joined the State of Maharashtra. They were assured that all efforts will be taken to ensure all round development and also additional weightage will be given, not only that the famous Nagpur Accord will be fully implemented. The experiment of merger with Maharashtra miserably failed as the Vidarbha continues to remain backward and neglected in spite of rich endowment of natural resources of minerals, fertile soil and water potential.

The people of Vidarbha particularly younger generations are convinced that their economic progress is possible only in separate Vidarbha. All the people's representatives from Parliament to down below Panchayat *Samitis*, have supported the demand in a democratic and peaceful manner so far.

Now, time has come that Government should take initiative to accord statehood for Vidarbha which will not be any different from these newly formed States in terms of area, population, economic potential and performance, resources and financial capacity, which will certainly able to meet the aspirations and needs of the people of Vidarbha.

The people of Vidarbha are agitated and have already decided to launch agitation for demand of separate State of Vidarbha, as they have lost their patience for not accepting their demand.