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Title : Need to extend tax exemption period for 2 years to Kutch district, Gujarat in view of heavy damages due to devastating earthquake.

SHRIP.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be permitted to lay my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you can. Thank you very much.

*SHRIP.S. GADHAVI : I may kindly be permitted to raise the following an important issue during "ZERO HOUR" :-

Due to devastative earthquake in January 2001, my Constituency i.e. Kutch District has suffered heavy damages and in which we have lost more than 18,000 precious human lives. My Constituency is otherwise also victimized of almost all types of natural calamities i.e. cyclones, droughts etc. There was no industry worth name in my Constituency. Only due to tax concession, some industries have come in my Constituency but its time limit is going to expire on 31.12.2005. Almost, all people from Kutch including people representatives and other persons interested in development of industries have made demand for extension of further period of two years i.e. upto 31.12.2007. Government of Gujarat have also made similar submissions in this regard. If such extension is given, there is likelihood of further investment to the tune of Rs. 5,000 to 10,000 crores.

Similar calamities affected districts viz Himachal Pradesh and other States have also been given tax exemption for the period of ten years, while Kutch has been given only for five years and starting time limit is expiring on 31.12.2005, which requires to be extended for further period of two years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to kindly extend the time limit upto 31.12.2007.