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Title : Need to extend the implementation of National Rural Employment Guranatee Act to North Eastern States.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): Sir, the North-Eastern Region, due to decades of long deprivation and neglect by the successive Central Governments, has been facing serious problems of poverty and unemployment. The vulnerability of the people of North-Eastern States is well recognized with a vast majority of the population living below the poverty line. The poor and vulnerable section, a substantial portion of whom are tribals, have to bear the brunt of terrorist activities. It is because of low level of economic activity, the entire burden of generating employment and providing livelihood is on the State Governments. Other than Assam, the other North-Eastern States are even smaller than some of the districts of larger States in the Country. It is unfortunate that the coverage under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in North-Eastern States is only 4 per cent of the total coverage in the country. Even the expenditure is less than 4 per cent in the Region against a targeted expenditure of at least 10 per cent under Government programme.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to immediately extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to all the districts of the North-Eastern States so as to provide the much-needed safety net for the poor people living in these remotest areas of the country.