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Title: Need to discuss the draft National Mineral Policy with mineral bearing states.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that the subject of mines as well as the development of different mines comes under the State List. Now, the Draft National Mineral Policy is going to be approved by the Central Cabinet. In this regard, the mineral bearing States like Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhad, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Rajasthan etc. have requested the hon. Prime Minister to give them an audience so that they can have a discussion and highlight the points in which their interests are involved. Unless their views are taken into consideration, the finances of State Governments will be in jeopardy. So, about 20 to 25 hon. Members of Lok Sabha from different States, met the hon. Prime Minister day before yesterday and impressed upon him to give an audience to the Chief Ministers of these States so that they can highlight the points of their interests. Before the Central Cabinet approves the Draft National Mineral Policy, they should be heard and their points of view should be taken into consideration. If they do not take those points into consideration, the federal structure of the Constitution will be affected because this subject is in the State List.

Sir, we are living in a democracy and it is open for all of us to hear everybody's view point. So, they should at least hear the views of the Chief Ministers of mineral bearing States before approving the Draft National Mineral Policy. Therefore, I would request you to please direct the Government to give an opportunity to these Chief Ministers to explain their points of view before the Prime Minister.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can only associate. You cannot give any speech.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I associate myself with this matter. But you should also allow a debate on this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस समय इस पर डिबेट नहीं होगा। आप नोटिस दीजिये, हम देखेंगे।

Shrimati Archana Nayak's name also will be associated with this matter.

Shri P.C. Thomas, you have to choose one of your subjects.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ice creams are sweet and palatable.

MR. SPEAKER: Really?