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Title : Piped Natural Gas line in the country.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise to raise a matter of urgent public importance regarding the supply of natural gas through pipeline to the entire country and congratulate the Government for this venture but I have certain points to make.

In some places pipelines have been laid for gas supply but those places also have adequate supply of gas cylinders. Thus the consumers get the benefit of both. This aspect should be looked into. The Government should provide gas connections to the villages or towns where there is no supply at all.

Secondly, the cost of natural gas is less than that of LPG cylinders. We often find that some consumers are using both and are also buying it at a cheap rate. This is immoral. No one should get double supply. Consequently, this results in black marketing. The Government must intervene to stem this practice.

Thirdly, I would say that Kolkata and Howrah are the two most populated cities of West Bengal. Natural gas must be supplied to these two cities also. Many other cities are already getting the supply but Kolkata is deprived of this facility. We should not forget that Kolkata was once the capital of erstwhile India. Thus I request the Government to introduce natural gas supply through pipeline in Kolkata as soon as possible.

I would mention another thing here. When we were children, we used to give oral examinations. If we were asked about the place having highest rainfall, the reply would be Cherrapunji of Assam. If we were asked about the biggest petroleum producing area, we would say Digboi. But unfortunately, even Assam's capital Guwahati does not have supply of gas through pipeline connection.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Therefore they may think that though they were pioneer in producing oil, the Government did not give them their due. People of Assam may be highly disappointed. The entire Eastern India is actually fuming. Sentiments of regionalism may gradually crop up due to this.

There are also twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad in South India. Natural gas must be supplied through pipeline to these places also along with other metropolitan cities of the country. This is my humble request to the Government of India.

With these few words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me this opportunity.