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Title: Need to release payment for pending Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) bills by FCI to Arunachal Pradesh for Public Distribution System.

SHRI SANJOY TAKAM (ARUNACHAL WEST): Mr. Chairman, I rise here to draw the kind attention of the Government of India to a very important and necessary requirement and the problems that the people of Arunachal Pradesh are facing.

The Food Corporation of India and the Ministry of Food, Government of India stopped payment of hill transport subsidy bills from 2004 till today. It is already seven years that the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has not been receiving even a single penny from the Ministry of Food.

The Government of India had issued one guideline in 1999; again another guideline to push the Public Distribution System to the interior belt of Arunachal Pradesh in 2001. They made a payment of the PDS for three years according to the 2001 guidelines.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand?

SHRI SANJOY TAKAM : My demand is, there is a pending bill of Rs.600 crore for seven years. The Ministry of Food is giving a deaf ear to the problems of this sensitive border State. Almost 80 per cent of the landlocked region of Arunachal Pradesh does not have any rice production. ...(*Interruptions*) We are depending entirely on the Public Distribution System (PDS).

A very critical situation has come to this State. The State Government has written to the Government of India that they do not want to do any type of advertisement and the State Government does not want to take over the PDS. It should be the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which should reach till the destination of the Fair Price Shops in Arunachal Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, this is a very serious situation, which has come to this State, and this State has to be taken care of. It should not be taken in an isolated manner. Instead of sorting out the problems of the State Government, the FCI and the Food Ministry, Government of India has been dragging this issue before various courts of law. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, you have spoken quite well. What is your demand from the Government of India?

SHRI TAKAM SANJOY : Sir, my demand, through you, is that the Government of India should immediately sort out this critical situation to ensure that there is no food crisis imminently coming in the future. Thank you very much, Sir.