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Title: Need to amend the clause of MMDR Act, 2015 for compulsory auctioning of coal and limestone in Meghalaya.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Madam Speaker, in my constituency of Shillong in Meghalaya, the people continue to suffer for the last 2 ½ years due to the banning of mining of coal and limestone. The main problem is that as per the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015, mining of coal and limestone have to be auctioned whereas as per the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the minerals in the Sixth Schedule areas cannot be auctioned. So there is a clash.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring an amendment to the MMDR Act so that the auctioning of coal and limestone in Shillong can be exempted. Then only this problem can be solved and people can apply for the mining plan and mining lease and go ahead with mining of coal and limestone scientifically as per the law.