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Title: Need to frame the new North-East Industrial policy.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on this very important issue touching the North-East, particularly, Assam. There is a 17 per cent rise in unemployment in Assam but there is no big industry. Even the small and cottage industries are not there.

The Government of India should do something, so that the entire North Eastern Region should get benefited. The resources are there. We have got mining, petroleum products, coal, cement, etc. But industrialization is not there. Also the North-East Industrial Policy has elapsed. I would request the Government of India to frame the new North-East Industrial Policy so that small and cottage industries including organic industries get a boost in the North-East and also the North-East can be developed as an organic hub of India.