

an>

Title: Need to allocate funds and take some safety measures for honey collectors known as mouli in Sunderbans forest.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Sunderbans is the world's largest continuous mangrove forest. It is known for its Royal Bengal tiger. Sunderbans is also famous for its honey. It is produced in large cluster of natural beehives. The honey collectors locally known as *mouli* are mostly living in Gosaba, Hingalgunge and Basanti blocks of Sunderbans. They collect honey from the dense forest by putting their lives at risk. For collecting honey, they have to spend huge amount of money. As they are economically unsound, they take money from moneylenders, locally known as *mahajans* by paying high rates of interest. The moneylenders take a good share of honey which was collected by them. They are forced to sell the honey to the moneylenders at a low rate, which is painful.

If the Government allots funds and take some safety measures, then they can save their lives and reduce their hardships. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Come to the point straightaway. Do not elaborate it.

Dr. Satya Pal Singh. Please complete within a minute.