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Title : Participation of Members of Parliament in Public hearings pertaining to environmental issues-Laid

KUMARI CHANDRANI MURMU (KEONJHAR): Public hearing plays an important part towards the development of local areas where industries and mines are located or about to be set up to address environmental issues. People have their own concerns especially when business and environment become the point of contention. Health and wealth are directly associated with environment.

My point is that during such public hearings, I as a public representative is not allowed to participate. Public representatives can be the voice of locals especially tribals, as they are not valued in such public hearings meant to preserve forest, environment and local interest. The public, many a time look forward to their elected representatives for support or lead them during such hearings. If local elected representatives are not allowed to participate in such proceedings, who else can do so? It is really sad that such a formula has been designed to keep public representatives at bay allowing various stake holders, at times to arm twist the public for their self-gain.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change to look into the matter and make necessary changes so that public representatives like me, a Member of Parliament may take part in public hearing.