

### **Need for CBI investigation into death of workers due to alleged illegal rat-hole mining in Dima Hasao, Assam-Laid**

**MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN (DHUBRI):** I want to bring to the urgent attention of the Government the shocking and tragic incident of illegal rat-hole mining in Dima Hasao, Assam, which has resulted in the death of innocent workers and the entrapment of several others. This incident is not just a natural disaster but a direct result of the Assam Government's abject failure to enforce the ban on illegal coal mining. Despite the 2014 Supreme Court ban on rat-hole mining, such dangerous and illegal operations continue under the watch of the state machinery. The Assam Government claims to have identified and intends to fill up 220 such mines, yet this horrific tragedy proves that these mining operations are being made by illegal operations. Investigation should be initiated to find those allowing these mines to operate in blatant disregard of the law. As rat-hole mining has been 'banned', hence, it should not be used in mining operations. I urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to direct an immediate CBI probe into the incident. We owe it to the victims, their families, and to every honest citizen who believes in the rule of law. The people of Assam, and indeed the entire nation, deserve answers.