

Grievances of People on the Borders with Assam and Bangladesh

माननीय अध्यक्ष : अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषयों को उठाने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है । सभी माननीय सदस्यों से आग्रह है कि वे कृपया एक या दो मिनट में अपनी बात को खत्म करें ।

डॉ. रिकी एंड्रयू जे. सिंगकोन ।

DR. RICKY A. J. SYNGKON (SHILLONG): Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir. I would begin by saying that "Land is life". But, what is life without land?

12.23 hrs (Shri Dilip Saikia *in the Chair*)

Sir, through you and through this august House, I want to draw the attention of the concerned Ministry towards the plight of my People who are living on the borders with Assam and Bangladesh. For many years, my people, living in the border areas, have been facing persistent threat to their lands and even to their lives. Time and again groups of miscreants from neighbouring Assam and Bangladesh have been intimidating and threatening the lives of my people. Many a times, they have forcefully taken away the agricultural produce and even the household belongings of my people.

Sir, through you, I would like to mention here that my people are living in constant fear, and many of them have lost their livelihood because their lands have been encroached upon. Their lands have been forcefully taken away by these people.

Mr. Chairperson, I am afraid at this very moment while I am speaking. I am quite sure that there are people like those living in a village called Mukroh in West Jaintia Hills who, during the recent district council elections, have been stopped from exercising their franchise. This is a very serious matter. These people are in deep despair, living a life of hopelessness and uncertainty. I, therefore, strongly urge the Government at the Centre and also the two State Governments, to take up this matter very seriously. I am sure that if there is a will, there is a way.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson Sir, I always believe that nothing is impossible if we are sincere, honest, and have a sense of responsibility to the people we serve. I want to remind this House that we are all here not to be served, but to serve. The people have put their faith and trust in us. Therefore, I urge the Government, through you, to ensure that our people's lives are taken care of and that their lives

are secured, especially given the problems across the border, particularly in our neighbouring country, Bangladesh. Therefore, I urge the Government, through you, to ensure that the people living on the border, especially on the Bangladesh border, are protected. Our forces, who are supposed to man the border, must take utmost care to be vigilant and to be on their toes to protect the lives and interests of our people.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you very much.