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Title: Regarding eviction of people from Government land by Andaman and Nicobar Administration following a direction from the Supreme Court.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, on behalf of the Congress Party, I would like to bring, through you, a very important matter to the notice of the Government. I am not bringing forward this issue on my own. I have been advised by my party to do so.

The history of India knows how the Britishers used Andamans as a centre for cruel punishment to our freedom fighters. The Cellular Jail is the witness. Andamans is a sacred place where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the Tricolour. When we witnessed the partition of India followed by several Indo-Pak conflicts, millions of refugees came from the then Pakistan or East Pakistan and settled in this country at various places. A bulk of them settled in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A public interest case to evict the people went to the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Kirpal gave a direction in this regard following which a disastrous situation took place. The people from Tamil Nadu, Chhatisgarh, West Bengal and the erstwhile Bangladesh had settled there for the last so many years. Now they are being evicted in such a manner that in the name of evicting the encroachers, staying for the last 20-25 years on Government land, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has destroyed thousands and thousands of fruit-bearing trees and have also destroyed the standing paddy crops by deploying the elephants. As a result about 50,000 people are going to be homeless. There is no scheme yet known for their rehabilitation or for compensation. Livelihood of one lakh people, which constitutes 25 per cent of total population, is badly affected.

Andaman and Nicobar Forest Development Corporation having direct and indirect employment of more than 10,000 people is proposed to be closed down.

Sir, the entire situation is so critical that the people who are there from various parts of India are now suffocated.

I would like to submit to you that our distinguished colleague, who had been in this House seven times returned from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, made a petition to the President of India. (Interruptions) My appeal to the Government is that let the Government make an appeal to the Supreme Court for a review of the direction. Otherwise the entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be destroyed and the people who are homeless, we will not be able to provide them home elsewhere... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The proposal was that in the evening today at 5.30 p.m. the hon. Home Minister was to give a reply on the Discussion regarding political situation in U.P. initiated by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. It is proposed by both of them, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and the hon. Minister that the reply of the Minister may take place at 2.15 p.m. If the House has no objection, I will convey this to the hon. Minister.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

**13.16 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

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