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Title: Large scale illegal mining and crushing of stone resulting in increasing silicosis and pneumoconiosis in the country.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and this House to a really urgent matter of national concern.

Mining is an important economic activity in various parts of our country, especially, in the areas dominated by the tribals who usually reside in hilly and forest areas. These days, illegal mining is going on in various parts of the country defying the existing set of rules, particularly, for major and minor minerals like granites, coal, etc. In a way, this is damaging the topography and on the other hand, hundreds and thousands of dwellers and owners of land are getting alienated -- directly or indirectly -- from the ownership of land thereby depriving them of their livelihood as a result of illegal mining and crushing. Health hazards like silicosis -- originating from the dust produced by this sort of crushing and mining -- and pneumoconiosis is really creating an impediment to their normal healthy life by spreading respiratory diseases, Tuberculosis, etc. and cutting short their life span. Further, these activities are going on without the help of any medical aid. Hence, I urge upon the Government, through you, to look into this problem and stringently bring a legislation to control this sort of illegal mining. The Government should take necessary action to prevent diseases like silicosis, pneumoconiosis, etc., and save the lives of hundreds and thousands of our tribal people and protect their land and forest rights.

I urge, through you, to the Government to take appropriate action regarding this issue, and I am sure that the Government will take necessary steps on this issue. Thank you.