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Title :Regarding outcome of study about feasibility of two different time zones in the country.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, Shri Lawrence Liang, a Professor of Law at Ambedkar University, Delhi, has said that between the western most and the eastern most parts of India, there is approximately two hour difference of sunlight. Recently, the hon. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu demanded for a separate time zone for North-Eastern States. The Department of Science and Technology, the hon. Minister is present here, is having a study done to find out how much energy can be saved if there are two different time zones.

As of now, the country's standard time is defined by 82.5E longitude that passes through Allahabad or Prayag in Uttar Pradesh. If it were to be advanced by half-an-hour, the defining longitude would 90E near Assam-West Bengal border. Advocates of this separate time zone theory say that it will increase day light savings and efficiency. The Sun rise and the Sun set timings in the north-east region and archipelago of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are different from the main land.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the Sun rise is at around 4 a.m. and there the offices start at around 10 a.m. Changing time zone is within the jurisdiction of the Union Government alone. It is said that if the time zone is advanced by half-an-hour, India would save 2.7 billion units of electricity every year.

I would like to have a response from the Government in this regard. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to bring the outcome of the said study report in the public domain at the earliest and implement it as early as possible.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel,

Shri Sharad Tripathi and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, my hon. colleague and a very learned Member of Parliament, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji has raised a very important and a sensitive matter. I think it is one of the rare times that this august House is discussing the time zones and its implications on economy as also life of the people in India.

Therefore, the Government of India will take his suggestion with utmost seriousness. I would bring it to the attention of the concerned Minister. I would also like to tell that we will be proactively considering this issue.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : ऐसी कुछ बात हो जाए तो अच्छा भी लगता है कि कुछ कंस्ट्रक्टिव बात हो रही है।

â€”(व्यवधान)