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Title: Need to lift the ban imposed on coal mining and timber activity in Meghalaya.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Madam, the entire Meghalaya is a tribal area covered under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. The President of India has powers to exempt or modify the application of Acts of Parliament to the autonomous areas under the Sixth Schedule. In order to emancipate the tribals of Meghalaya from the deep economic distress caused by the ban on timber and coal mining, I would request the Government of India to immediately issue a Presidential notification under paragraph 12A(b) of the Sixth Schedule so that these tribal areas in Meghalaya are exempted from parliamentary enactment on environment, mining and mineral development. This would ensure the resumption of timber and coal-mining activities by the tribals of Meghalaya in accordance with the tribal acts and customary practices.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo – Not present.