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Title: Regarding setting up a Bamboo Board.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of importance. India is the second richest country in the world next to China in bamboo resources. Out of these bamboo resources, China is making a trade benefit to the tune of 20 billion US dollar per annum, whereas India's share is only 4.5 per cent. It is because it is still not clear to which Ministry this particular resource belongs to. Just before the 'Zero Hour' began there was a discussion on Skill Development. I would like to suggest if some initiative could be taken on skill development with regard to bamboo.

The other point is about the constitution of a Bamboo Board on the lines of the Rubber Board, Spices Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board in India and could be attached to the Ministry of Commerce. In that case the bamboo industry can expand and will be in a position to give employment to lakhs of people, particularly the tribals and the *adivasis*. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce that one Bamboo Board should be constituted.