

an>

Title: Need to permit stone quarrying activity in Nilgiri area in Balasore Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the plight of almost 15000-20000 people in Nilagiri, a forested Block in my constituency, Balasore, who have lost their only source of employment with the closing of the stone quarries in the area. The stone quarries, which provide stone chips, crucial for construction and developmental work in my constituency, were shut down with the extension of wildlife sanctuaries into the quarry areas. Not only has it thus rendered people jobless, but it has also caused all development works to come to a standstill. While environmental concerns are of primary importance, it is significant in this case that the area to which the sanctuaries have been extended are being inhabited by people since decades. I urge the Government to take the remedial steps in this regard so as to restart stone quarrying while keeping in mind environmental concerns.