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Fourteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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Annexure-I

Wednesday, February 7, 2018/Magha 18, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: It is not in Question Hour. Question Hour is Question Hour.

Yes, Question No. 61, Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Subscribers of BSNL and MTNL

*61. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any new scheme to increase the number of subscribers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and to enable these companies to have a professional competition with private telephone companies and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government is considering to provide any funds for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are independent CPSEs (Central Public Sector Enterprises) which have their own Board. BSNL and MTNL are taking various steps towards increasing their customer base and to have a professional competition with private companies as detailed at Annexure-I.

(b) Government has assigned various works/projects to BSNL and MTNL on nomination basis. The details of such works is at Annexure-II.

Steps taken by BSNL to increase its customer base:

1. Augmentation of GSM Mobile network capacity

Phase VIII: Formulation of next GSM expansion project

- (a) Phase VIII.1: Induction and integration of Wi-Fi Hotspot/LTE (4G) with existing GSM/UMTS network.
- (b) Phase VIII.2: Strengthening of Data Network has been done and sufficient IPs are available to support the data network.
- (c) Phase VIII.3 Intra circle roaming testing has been launched for M/s. Aircel a seeker in Rajasthan Telecom circle and the testing has been initiated in other circles of BSNL. The Inter circle Roaming with M/s. Vodafone in Delhi for "BSNL as a Seeker" is working fine to provide roaming options to BSNL's pre-paid customers. Inter circle Roaming has also been launched with M/s. Vodafone in MP and CG Circles for Vodafone as a seeker.
- (d) Phase-VIII.4: GSM expansion project named Phase VIII.4 has been finalised for the following:
 - Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost and AMC.
 - Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprint.
 - Introduction of 4G services.
 - The project is presently envisaged to provide about 20881 2G BTSs, 22517, 3G Node Bs and 10000 4G E-Node Bs.

For West and South zone, project is likely to be completed by December, 2018 and for North and East zone by March, 2019.

2. Replacement of legacy Wireline exchanges by Next Generation Network (NGN) Switches:-

- Phase I: Total capacity of 1 million line equipment has been commissioned in Phase -I class-5 based New Generation Network (NGN). Implementation of phase-II of 3 million line equipment is in progress. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2018.
- With migration to Next Generation Network (NGN) system, the customer will get better communication and Enhanced Value Added

Services like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Multi Media Video Conferencing and IP Centrex etc.

3. Augmentation of Broadband network for meeting data growth: - BSNL has commissioned Multiprotocol Label Switching - Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) based Next Generation Packet Aggregation Network (MNG-PAN).

4. Setup of Network Monitoring system (NMS) for Wire-line, Wireless and Broadband network: Purchase Order (PO) for the procurement and implementation of Broadband Network Management System covering BB P2.2, Multiplayand Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Networks has been placed. The equipment is in advanced stage of commissioning.

5. Roll-out of Wi-Fi Service: BSNL has so far installed and radiated 17320 Wi-Fi Hotspots under various Wi-Fi Hotspot projects.

6. BSNL-ECR CONE (Enhanced Capacity & resilience of Core Network):

- Expansion of Provider Edge (PE) Network of BSNL: Out of planned 232 PE Routers, BSNL has commissioned 232 PE Routers along with their integration with Core Routers. This has resulted in the expansion of IPMPLS Network from 106 cities to 205 cities providing connectivity for broadband, NGN, 2G/ 3G requirements apart from increased connectivity to enterprise customer.
- In respect of creation of a Super Express Highway across the country and Super Express Transport Network with 200 Gbps (Gigabits per second) line capacity connecting 47 state Capitals and important cities. The work in 45 cities has already been completed. Installation and commissioning of Optical Transport Network (OTN) equipment has been completed in two cities Silliguri and Guwahati.
- For procurement of Converged Packet Access Network (CPAN), Purchase Order (PO) has been issued. Supply in respect of B1 & B2 switch has been completed and A1 and A2 switch is in progress.

7. Customer Centric Initiatives:

- BSNL has focused on customer care services by installing exclusive call centres for GSM services, Wire- line and Broadband services.
- Unlimited free night calling from landline to any network between 2230 Hrs to 0600 Hrs in India to its landline customers.

- BSNL introduced unlimited free calling during day and night on all Sundays on pan-India (except HP Circle) to its landline customers.
- Minimum 512 Kbps broadband speed upgraded to 2 Mbps.
- The new plan "Experience LL 49" which also allows free calling facility during night hours from Monday to Saturday of the week and 24 hours free calling on Sunday. The scheme has been extended in all circles (except J&K, NE-I & NE-II) & is applicable up to 31.03.2018.
- BSNL has waived off installation charges for New Landline. The same is applicable up to 17.07.2018.
- BSNL has introduced new LL Plan "LL-299" with Fixed Monthly Charges (FMC) Rs. 299. In this plan, 250 free calls are allowed to any network within India.
- BSNL has revised the existing landline plans w.e.f. 01.08.2017 and now customer will get free calls on BSNL Network equal to FMC.
- BSNL has introduced new annual landline tariff plans "LL 1200" and "LL 1500" which allows free calling facility during night hours from Monday to Saturday of the week and 24 hours free calling on Sunday. The tariff plans are applicable w.e.f. 01.12.2017 up to 28.02.2018.
- BSNL has introduced Virtual landline Connection under plan "ASEEM" in which customer can get a Virtual Landline number and get diverted all calls received on that number to a mobile number of his/her choice. This plan can also be provided in Technically Not Feasible (TNF) areas.
- BSNL has introduced replacement of Instrument Free of cost for existing customers, who have paid last six months bill for Landline/ Combo connection with total amount of Rs.3600/- or above and having Landline for last three years.
- BSNL Landline may be booked through Facebook/Twitter. One month Fixed Monthly Charge on landline booked through Facebook/ Twitter is being waived off. The scheme is applicable for one year w.e.f. 30.10.2017.
- Rs 249 unlimited Broadband plan (upto 2 Mbps till 1 GB & up to 1Mbps beyond).
- Introduction of a scheme to waive off Installation charges for new Landline/Digital Subscriber

Line/Fiber to the Home connections (voice/Broadband/combo) in all the Circles, for a period of One Year-w.e.f. 18-07-2017.

- Introduction of a scheme for sale of Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Wi-Fi Modem @ Rs. 1500/- with 100% Cash back @ Rs. 50/- per month for maximum 30 month or till the Broadband connection remain active to the Broadband customers who subscribe under any Broadband plan with Fixed Monthly Charge (FMC) Rs.675/- & above.
- Introduction of new Broadband plan 'BBG Combo UL 599' with 'Flat 2 Mbps Speed' and reformulation of certain pan-India DSL Broadband plans, which are currently being offered to the customers in pan-India basis - w.e.f. 10-07-2017.
- Tariff Plan for 2Mbps FTTH/ILL Backhaul @ Rs. 17820/- for Wi-Fi Hotspots under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in all the circles-w.e.f. 20-07-2017.
- Reformulation of Broadband plans; offering 'Upto 10 Mbps' & upto 8 Mbps' initial download speed (subject to technical feasibility) across all the DSL/FTTH Broadband plans [pan-India (except A&N circle)] with FMC? Rs. 675/- & FMC<Rs.675 respectively, on pan-India basis-w.e.f. 01-11-2017.
- BSNL has introduced unlimited local/STD BSNL to BSNL with 300 Mb data for only Rs.99 with validity of 28 days for its prepaid mobile customers in Kolkata Telecom District, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Gujarat, MP, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra and Rajasthan. In other circles, it varies from Rs.119 to Rs. 149.
- BSNL has introduced Special Tariff Voucher (STV) of Rs 339 for 28 days with unlimited Local/STD BSNL to BSNL + Local/STD BSNL to others + Unlimited data (With FUP (Fair Usage Policy) of 2GB/day with no speed restriction and thereafter with speed restriction of 80 KBPS).
- BSNL has introduced new STV plan "BSNL CHAUKKA" '444' Unlimited data (Speed reduced to 80 Kbps after 4GB/day) offer under prepaid mobile service. BSNL has introduced new plan BSNL SIXER 666 Unlimited data (Speed reduced to 80 Kbps after 2GB/day) & Unlimited free voice (Local/STD) for 60 days any net in Home Public Land Mobile Network (HPLMN) under prepaid mobile service.

- BSNL has introduced the new plan of Rs.429 only which is giving free voice (Local/STD) on any network and 90 GB data @ 1GB per day) for 81 days on pan-India basis (except Kerala Circle).

8. Twitter Seva:

- BSNL has devised an efficient customer centric social media redressal program that has helped its customers to raise their grievances for efficient resolutions.
- Until now, BSNL has received 71,314 grievances on the Twitter Seva platform and resolved 71,145 grievances with a resolution rate of 99.76%.

Measures taken by MTNL to increase its customer base:

MTNL has taken following steps to improve its network capabilities, provide better quality of service to its customers and improve market share.

- **Expansion of GSM/3G Radio Frequency (RF) network in MTNL Delhi:** MTNL is in the process of expansion of 3G mobile network by adding 1080 nos. of 3G sites, 800 nos. of hybrid microwave to meet the backhaul capacity and data handling capacity to 10 Gbps.
- **Upgradation/replacement of 3G RF network in MTNL Delhi:** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) and 754 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.
- **3G Network Up-gradation in Mumbai:** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) and 497 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.
- **Redeployment of DSLAMs (Digital Subscriber Line Asynchronous Mode) of existing Broadband Network:** MTNL has launched a special program to progressively increase the fibre length by redeploying the broadband nodes (DSLAMS) near to the subscriber premises in Delhi and Mumbai thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service. 186 DSLAMs in Delhi and approx.169 in Mumbai have been redeployed thereby reducing copper length and

enhancing the quality of Broadband service. This has improved customer experience and reduced the number of complaints.

- **Fibre to the Home (FTTH):** FTTH revenue share policy was modified to make it more flexible to attract new partners with enhanced revenue share to encourage partners to rollout more connections; 10 Partners each in Delhi and Mumbai have already started operations. Active monitoring is being done to ensure achievement of the envisaged targets of the policy. Regular advisories are being issued to field units. In the calendar year 2017, total 699 connections have been provisioned in Mumbai while 188 connections were provisioned in Delhi.
- **Steps taken to further improve quality and Quantity of services:**
 - Tariff of Wireless services has been rationalized significantly in view of the cut throat competition. MTNL now offers three times more data at the same price.
 - To give boost to customer experience, download speed of broadband subscribers is being upgraded to 8 Mbps progressively without any additional cost depending upon feasibility and line parameters. This year, 24,332 connections have been upgraded as on 31.12.2017 in Delhi while 3,86,882 numbers have been upgraded in Mumbai.
 - Tariff re-balancing of Broadband service has been done for giving more competitive and attractive tariff package to the customers.
 - Training is being given to line staff to improve maintenance and installation practices.
 - Refurbishing of 20% pillars and DPs every year, is planned in a phased manner. 1236 Pillar and 7199 DP have been refurbished by MTNL this year as on 31.12.2017
 - To improve copper pair quality, 81,492 existing drop wires have been replaced with twisted drop wires or thermo sleeves have been put at open joints at DPs by MTNL this year, as on 31.12.2017.
 - Proactive Monitoring of Broadband Faults through radius attempt.

Annexure-II

Government Support to BSNL and MTNL BSNL:

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.
- Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS) Project has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs.13,334 crore.
- Laying of 2,54,813 Km. OFC to connect 1,01,792 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet project out of which, 91,001 GPs are connected with OFC with the laying of 2,20,510 Kms of OFC. For execution of BharatNet project, Government has provided Rs.5744 crore in Phase-I and earmarked Rs.6500 crore in Phase-II to BSNL.
- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of Rs. 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of Rs. 295.97 crore on 10.9.2014.
- Submarine Optical Fiber Cable Project at the cost of Rs.1900 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis for providing connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Work of setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs.940 crore.
- The work of setting up of Satellite Gateway at the cost of Rs.54 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis.

MTNL:

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in two service areas held by MTNL and in 6 service areas

held by BSNL. Under this head, Rs. 4533.97 crore has been refunded to MTNL through bonds and Rs. 6724.51 crore has been refunded to BSNL through budgetary resources.

- The pension liability of MTNL staff who were absorbed from DoT, has been taken over by the Government. Notional loan of Rs. 1411 crore to BSNL which was due to be paid to the Government was waived-off.
- Financial support of Rs. 492.26 crore has been given to MTNL on account of liability arising from levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Refund of Rs. 458.04 crore to MTNL and Rs. 169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Provision of High Speed Internet on FTTH and Wi-Fi at the Hon'ble M.Ps residences. The Project cost of about Rs 43.2 Crore was funded by DoT.

SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL: Hon. Speaker, will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Government has introduced any new scheme to increase the subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and to make these companies capable to compete with private telecom companies? If so, the details thereof?

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, a detailed statement of new programmes introduced by BSNL and MTNL has been given. The Government proposes to change old equipments, increase 3-G capacity and introduce 4-G in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Government is likely to install around 20,881 2-G BTS and 22,517 3-G Node BTS as well as 10,000 4-G GB Node. Definitely, the market share of BSNL will increase as a result thereof and after launch of 4-G, I expect that market share of BSNL will definitely increase *...(Interruptions)*

I would like to bring to the notice of the House that number of subscribers of most mobile operators has reported a decline since the introduction of internet in this sector, but BSNL is one such service provider where number of subscribers reported an increase. It shows that BSNL has made efforts in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

As far as question of MTNL is concerned, this company is providing services in two metro cities *i.e.* Delhi and Mumbai, MTNL has made several efforts and invested Rs. 450 crore during the current year to improve 3-G services and ensure easy access to broadband services *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL: Hon. Speaker, there are various locations in my parliamentary constituency where mobile network is not available. There are various locations where mobile towers are to be installed. There is a need to install mobile towers in adjoining areas of my parliamentary constituency like Satara and Sholapur will the Government Will make efforts to install these towers at these locations *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, the hon'ble Member has raised a genuine concern, but as I have said the market share of BSNL is around ten percent. However, it is the intention of common subscribers that towers of BSNL should be installed across the country *...(Interruptions)*

So far, around ten thousand towers have been installed in Maharashtra 233 towers are functioning in Sangli. It is proposed to install 27 more towers in Sangli during the current financial year 2017-18. If the hon'ble Members give suggestion then the number of towers could be increased a little more. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Madam, there is a commendable development in the telecommunication system in the country thanks to the initiative taken by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi *...(Interruptions)* I got my first landline telephone in 1984 when I came to this House as a Member of Parliament. Now every nook and corner of the country has been connected but still there are certain very serious issues *...(Interruptions)*... One is call-drops. Every day we hear that call drops are going on. Second is the objection of the people to the erection of towers. So, these are the issues on which the Government has to find a solution. And, third is the private telecommunication companies are very often cheating the people because they initiate new projects and they suddenly withdraw it *...(Interruptions)* ...What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, the hon'ble Member has raised concern about the problem of call drop, but I can say with reference to the parameters of TRAI that the problem or call drop has significantly improved. The Ministry receive feedback from people and subscribers regarding the service introduced by the Ministry. I can say on the basis or the same that significant improvement has been reported during the last one year.

I would like to draw attention or the House that around eight lakh BTS were installed before the year 2014 and there are around 16.5 lakh BTS during the year 2017 at present. The Government has installed around three lakh BTS in the country during the last one year. The Government is making efforts to increase the number of BTS ...(*Interruptions*)...

It is true as hon'ble Member has said that misconception has been spread in the country that radiation from mobile towers is causing in adverse effects on health. The Government and the Ministry has conducted an awareness programme across the country in this regard. The Government has conducted seminars in various cities and introduced 'Tarang Sanchar Portal' recently wherein any citizen or the country can obtain information about the radiation released by these towers, and in case a person seeks specific information about the radiation from any specific tower then the Term Field Unit can provide authenticated report after depositing the requisite fee amount in this regard. Some misconceptions have been spread. I would like to assure the House on the basis of study conducted by world health Organisation (WHO) that radiation from mobile towers does not cause any adverse effect on human health. The Government has framed rules which are ten times stricter than the global standards ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Madam Speaker, we all are aware about the issue of call drop. If you want to assess the manner in which services of MTNL are getting deteriorated then you must visit an airport and experience the number of times your mobile network is available. My friend Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil ji has asked a similar question wherein the main issue is about mobile network. The Minister has replied that BSNL is likely to introduce 4G services, but MTNL has submitted in this regard that 3G services will be continued. Is the Government paying attention towards this aspect? Amalgamation of an insurance company has been made in the budget. The financial status of this company is poor for which neither any employee nor the management but policies of the Government are responsible. Both these companies are incurring losses due to policies of the Government. Does

the Government propose merger or both these companies? I have gone through the report which you have presented in the House. wherein the issue or merger of both BSNL and MTNL has been raised so as to provide 4G services across the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

On the other hand, you have set up a separate company for installation of towers. Employees in large numbers have staged protest against the said decision. Similarly, you are disintegrating the company and the company will suffer losses as a result thereof. Is the Government considering to take any decision in this regard? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, the Hon'ble Member has asked a question and I have not said that we are not going to start 4G Service in MTNL ...(*Interruptions*) The Government is seriously pondering over to start 4G Service in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and MTNL as well. Today, around 80% of the total data consumption in the country is downloaded through 4G ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, it would be difficult for BSNL and MTNL to compete in the market without 4G service. The Government is considering it very seriously and I will definitely apprise the House if any decision is taken in this regard in the coming days ...(*interruptions*)

So far as merger is concerned. I think the Hon'ble Member is more informed about BSNL than me. therefore. I am not questioning his vast knowledge. However, we are not considering merger as of now, rather we are seriously considering the revival of MTNL ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Hon'ble Speaker Madam, the internet connectivity/mobile services being provided by the BSNL is not good and the general public suffers a lot due to this issue. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether BSNL would ensure continuous internet/mobile services to at least all banks situated in my Chidambaram constituency to help the public utilize banking services.

[*Trnaslation*]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker as far as the question is concerned, BSNL never claimed 100% connectivity in the country ...(*Interruptions*) We have provided connectivity at district level, tehsil level and at block headquarters and upto 70% at village level. Our intention is to enhance connectivity across the country ...(*Interruptions*). The Hon'ble Member has urged to provide internet service to all the banks especially in his constituency. I would definitely look into it and furnish a written reply to him in this regard ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGAT ROY: Hon'ble Speaker BSNL and MTNL are the only two public sector undertakings in the field of telecom sector, However, the influence of private operators is so much that the market share of BSNL was only 9.85% in 2011 and the share of MTNL was 7.12% ...*(Interruptions)* and the losses suffered by BSNL in 2016-17 were Rs. 4786 crores, whereas MTNL suffered a loss of Rs. 2970 rores ...*(Interruptions)* [English] Both the PSUs have been declared 'Incipient Sick' as per the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister about the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry to increase the market share and for the revival of the companies on the verge of closure so that the losses could be reduced ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, the figures given by the Hon'ble Member supporting the question raised by him are correct, but I would like to draw your attention towards a fact that BSNL is making operating profit for the last three years. However, it is impossible to compensate the losses suffered earlier just in three years. The Government has allotted many projects to BSNL during the last few days ...*(Interruptions)* e.g. BSNL has been assigned the work to install towers in left, wing extremist area ...*(Interruptions)* I think 90% work under Bharatnet phase-I through which we have provided connectivity to one lakh villages has been done by BSNL ...*(Interruptions)* BSNL is also a part of the comprehensive plan formulated to include approximately 8700 villages in North-Eastern states ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of India has assigned a number of words to BSNL for providing connectivity to Lakshadweep Island on nomination basis so that BSNL's financial condition could be improved and it may emerge as one of the good companies in the country ...*(Interruptions)*.

Similarly, we have formulated a plan for the revival of MTNL also. As I have stated in my reply to the questions asked by some other Member. it has become essential for both these companies to provide 4G service to compete in the market. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government is making serious efforts in this regard and any decision taken in this regard will be intimated to hon'ble Members and this House.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: BSNL Kerala Circle is in profits and people prefer BSNL more than any other private telecom service provider.

As far as call drops, internet facility and signal are concerned, they are very poor, especially, in interior areas. Therefore, BSNL should provide 4G facility also. I would like to ask a question, through you. Madam, as to what action will be taken by the hon. Minister to provide better service to the common people, especially, in interior areas or Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member and the House that BSNL has provided network in the places where no other company has reached yet because other companies only want to make profit ...*(Interruptions)*. The Hon'ble Member should understand this fact also. So far as Kerala is concerned. BSNL has provided the best communications services in Kerala. Moreover, in the present era people are not ready to accept the poor quality services ...*(Interruptions)*. Our market share in Kerala is very good and I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that Kerala would be the first state where we are going to launch 4G service. Therefore, be need not to be worried ...*(Interruptions)*.

HON. SPEAKER: Many Members may like to speak about BSNL, but I would not be able to allot time to all of them ...*(Interruptions)*.

Advance Estimates of GDP

[English]

*62. † SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has released first advance estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recently, if so, the details and the outcome thereof, sector-wise;

(b) the statistical/econometric model used for calculation of GDP growth for calculation of first advance estimates;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the national income and the per capita income of the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details of percentage increase in per capita income during the said period, State/UT-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Madam. The First Advance Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have been released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on 05.01.2018. It contained GDP estimates for the year 2017-18 for the total economy. The GDP growth for the year 2017-18 was estimated to be 6.5%. Sector wise details measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) are given below:

Industry	Gross Value Added (GVA)	Growth rate	Gross Value Added (GVA)	Growth rate
	2017-18	2017-18	2017-18	2017-18
	Current Prices Rs. Crore		Constant (2011-12) prices Rs. Crore	
1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2438546	2.8	1732371	2.1
2. Mining & quarrying	341843	13.2	339972	2.9
3. Manufacturing	2422101	7.3	2112345	4.6
4. Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services	368269	7.5	258672	7.5
5. Construction	1109608	6.6	927085	3.6
6. Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting	2825708	12.1	2329801	8.7
7. Financial, real estate & professional services	3186115	10.3	2606602	7.3
8. Public administration, defence and Other Services	2205463	13.4	1564473	9.4
GVA (Sum of 1 to 8 above)	14897653	9.0	11871320	6.1

(b) GDP growth rate for the year 2017-18 is calculated as percentage change in the GDP of that year over the GDP of the previous year.

(c) The National Income, measured as Net National Income (NNI) at market prices and Per Capita Income, measured as Per Capita Net National Income at market prices of the country during the last three years and current year at current prices have increased. NNI and Per Capita NNI at constant (2011-12) and current prices along with their growth rates for the years 2014-15 to 2017-18 are given below:

	Estimates at Current prices			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NNI (Rs. crore)	10953761	12076882	13408211	14710563
Per Capita NNI (Rs.)	86454	94130	103219	111782
	Estimates at Constant prices			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NNI(Rs. crore)	9231556	9982112	10686776	11404413
Per Capita NNI (Rs.)	72862	77803	82269	86660

	Growth Rates at Current prices (%)				Growth Rates at Constant prices (%)			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NNI	10.7	10.3	11.0	9.7	7.6	8.1	7.1	6.7
Per Capita NNI	9.3	8.9	9.7	8.3	6.3	6.8	5.7	5.3

(d) The latest State/UT-wise details available with the CSO, of percentage increase in per capita income, measured in terms of Net State Domestic Product at Constant Prices (base year 2011-12), up to the year 2015-16 are given in the Statement at Annexure.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

ANNEXRE-I

Percentage increase in per capita net state domestic product at constant prices; base year 2011-12

S.No.	State\Ut	(% Growth Over Previous Year)	
		2014-15	2015-16
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.0	10.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.2	14.1
3.	Assam	4.2	8.2
4.	Bihar	2.0	5.8
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.8	3.6
6.	Goa	28.0	10.9
7.	Gujarat	8.6	10.0
8.	Haryana	4.0	7.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.2	8.9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	-2.8	14.4
11.	Jharkhand	11.4	4.2
12.	Karnataka	4.2	6.8
13.	Kerala	4.3	6.5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3.4	6.1
15.	Maharashtra	3.9	6.9
16.	Manipur	6.4	3.5
17.	Meghalaya	-4.7	7.2
18.	Mizoram	25.8	8.1

1	2	3	4
19.	Nagaland	3.0	1.6
20.	Odisha	4.5	4.9
21.	Punjab	2.5	4.0
22.	Rajasthan	4.7	5.1
23.	Sikkim	7.0	7.1
24.	Tamil Nadu	4.5	5.0
25.	Telangana	5.7	7.6
26.	Tripura	6.6	10.6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1.6	6.7
28.	Uttarakhand	5.3	6.5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.5	7.1
30.	Chandigarh	0.2	6.4
31.	Delhi	5.5	6.6
32.	Puducherry	-9.3	8.7

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Thank you hon'ble Speaker for giving me an opportunity to put a very important question ...(*Interruptions*).

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Hon'ble Minister for giving the reply in details. Nevertheless, I need some clarification regarding certain things on this important issue ...(*Interruptions*) the norms of economic prosperity of the country in terms of total production and assessment of India is called GDP ...(*Interruptions*). Its correct assessment is essential because it helps in formulation of policy, fixation of tax rate, interest rate, etc....(*Interruptions*). According to IMF, the rank of India in terms of GDP in the year 2017 is third ...(*Interruptions*).

The assessment of GDP is an important process. In this regard, I, through you, would like to know the expected GDP growth rate as per the Government in the

coming year. It is known as advance estimate, what is it, what does it imply and what kind of conclusions can be drawn from it?...(*Interruptions*). Is the advance estimate of GDP prepared from any model? Has GDP registered any increase during the last three years taking the year 2001-11 as the base year? If so, the details thereof? ...(*Interruptions*).

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Speaker, the GDP is estimated by summing up the gross value of different kind of activities plus tax on products minus subsidies on these products. ...(*Interruptions*). Annual estimate of GDP are compiled using the procedure laid down by the Systems of National Accounts 2008. The System of National Accounts is the internationally agreed standard set of recommendations by the United Nations on how to compile measures of economic activity. The compilation of the first advance estimates of GDP is based on the benchmark indicator method. In this method, for each of the industry-groups, estimates of GVA are compiled by extrapolating value of output or value added at constant prices of the previous year with relevant volume and physical indicators. Previously, they used to release the advance estimates of GDP on February 7th. With the pre-announcement of Budget to February 1st, the CSO has revised the calendar accordingly to release the first advance estimates in the first week of January. The second advance estimates will be released on 28th of February. So, we are following the norms and the internationally agreed standards and, on that basis, we are calculating the GDP. There is, practically, no manipulation. We are collecting data from various departments like agriculture, etc. So, MCA21 is one of the latest data that we are collecting at present.

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Hon'ble Speaker, if GDP has registered an increase in the last three years, what is its distribution in all the states, including Union territories in India. Concrete steps taken by the Government to improve the economic sector during the last three years is showing results at the ground level. As per GDP advance estimate, 2017, if the rate of GDP has registered some decline, what initiatives are being taken by the government to improve it? I want to ask a question to hon'ble Minister as to what is the ranking of our country at world level in respect of gross domestic product.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I would like to place on record—yes, of course, there is a small decline in the GDP ratio—the First Revised Estimates of National

Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for the financial year 2016-17 was released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on January 31, 2018. The growth of Domestic Product at constant market prices was 8.2 per cent in 2015-16 and 7.1 per cent in 2016-17. On January 5. We have released the Advance Estimates and the GDP at constant prices was 6.5 per cent in 2017-18. The decline in growth in 2017-18 is on account of lower growth in agriculture and allied sector and industry sector. The Economic Surveyor 2017-18 indicates that the lower industrial growth could be on account of slow credit growth or probably due to the problem of non-performing assets that might have led the banks to be more cautious on lending.

As far as agriculture sector is concerned, as per the 4th Advance Estimates released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the country has achieved a record production of food grains estimated at 257.7 million tonnes in 2016-17. But, as per the 1st Advance Estimates, the food grains production in Kharif season during 2017-18 is estimated at 134.7 million tonnes, lower by 3.9 million tonnes. Of course, we have taken several initiatives to improve the growth. The Government undertook various measures to improve the ease of doing business, concrete measures for transport and power sectors as well as other measures in urban and rural infrastructure. Bharatmala Pariyojana has been launched for highway development. Comprehensive reforms in the Foreign Direct Investment Policy and the introduction of GST have provided a significant opportunity to improve the growth momentum by reducing the barriers of trade, business and related economic activities. The Government has launched a phased programme to bank recapitalisation. This entails infusion of capital in the public banks which is expected to encourage the banks to go for enhanced lending. The Budget 2018-19 has also included various measures to provide impetus to the economic growth, focusing on strength, focusing on agriculture and rural economy, housing and infrastructure. Reduction of corporate tax to 25 per cent for companies with a turnover upto Rs. 250 crore will certainly boost the growth in the coming days.

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Hon'ble Speaker, our country is making all round development under the rule of our Government led by hon'ble Prime Minister. Our Government has done what the previous government could never even think of, be it the attack on black money through demonetization or check on hoarding, our government aims to turn the farmers into entrepreneurs in agricultural sector the government has taken steps to double the income of farmers by the year 2022, which are commendable. The decision to

increase the minimum support price of crops by one and a half times will increase the income of farmers....(Interruptions).

Hon. Speaker, our country will develop only when our farmers develop and their standard of life shows quality improvement. Our government works on the line of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. It is committed to the development of all classes of the society. Per capital income has registered increase vis-a-vis previous years, I want to thank hon'ble Minister for this ...(Interruptions).

I want to ask the Hon'ble Minister the reasons for less than average per capital income of certain states and has any steps being taken to improve it? ...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam, as per the estimates compiled by the States, Goa and Delhi are on the top whereas Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are at the bottom in terms of the per capital income at current prices for 2015-16 ...(Interruptions).

The per capital income of Goa is Rs. 3,27,059. The per capital income of Delhi, which stands second, is Rs. 2,73,618. The per capital income of Uttar Pradesh, which is last but one, is at Rs. 46,299 and the same for Bihar is Rs. 31,454...(Interruptions).

Practically, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of State Governments look after all these calculations. They verify it once in a year. We, time and again, give all assistance to the State Governments to update all the momentums as far as per capital income is concerned.

[Translation]

Evaluation of prominent/major schemes

*63. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated or proposes to do any evaluation of prominent/major schemes/programmes implemented in the country including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the funds allocated for various schemes/programmes during last three years;

(c) whether the funds allocated have been utilized properly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Ministries/Departments of Government of India conduct evaluation studies for their schemes/programmes. Arrangements are also in place for concurrent evaluation of GOI funded schemes by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog. Besides this, in States, including Madhya Pradesh, the State evaluation offices conduct evaluations of the prominent schemes/programmes. Further, third party evaluation is required to be done for continuation of schemes from one period to another.

(b) to (d) The funds are allocated in the Expenditure Budget to the different Ministries/Departments in a scheme-wise manner and the Ministries/Departments monitor the release and utilization of funds as per the specific scheme guidelines. Most of the ministries and departments are using the Direct Benefit Transfer platform for seamless and expeditious flow of benefits to the last mile beneficiaries. Details of the funds allocated and utilized for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes for the last three years are available at Statement 4A and Statement 4B of Expenditure Profile of the Budget documents 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. However, the overall expenditure profile of the Budget documents of the financial years 2015-16 (Actual), 2016-17 (Actual) and 2017-18 (RE) are as below:

Fund Allocation	(In Rs Crores)		
	2015-16 (Actual)	2016-17 (Actual)	2017-18 (R.E.)
Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS)	203740.42	241295.55	285581.44
Central Sector Scheme (CS)	521373.98	589470.61	634318.08

SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: Hon'ble Speaker, a lot of schemes are being implemented in the country under the leadership of our Government and Hon. Modiji. However, the common people are unable to reap its benefits due to slow pace of implementation of these schemes in several states and several districts. Very sadly, I have to state that only 133 gram panchayats out of 703 in Morena, Sheopur Lok Sabha Constituency have become open defecation free (ODE) under Swachh Bharat Mission. On the one hand, we are talking about the dignity of our mothers and sisters. On the one hand, we are talking about the dignity of our mothers and sisters, and on the other, the work in this regard is going on at a snail's pace. If we talk about supplying electricity to the villages, Hon. Prime Minister has taken a decision to implement Pundit Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Vidyutikaran Yojna and provided funds to the states under it. But tendering process has not started even in Morena district till today. So when and how will the electricity reach there? ...*(Interruptions)*...

Talking further, I would like to say that Hon. Prime Minister has started JanDhan Yojna. Popular Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singhji took a decision to deposit 1000 rupees in the bank account of each mother belonging to Saharia tribe to light malnutrition. Five crore rupees were to reach in Sheopur district but due to non-existence of their bank accounts, merely one and a half crore rupees are reaching in a month ...*(Interruptions)*...

If I talk about AMRUT Yojna in Gwalior, its tender was invited in August but the pace with which the work should have been extended on the ground, has not happened. There are a lot of such schemes facing this situation. I had asked the Hon. Minister a very direct question. If, there is any provision of monitoring these schemes. I could not understand his reply. In this regard, a committee was formed under my chairmanship. The Collector is the Secretary and he calls the meeting. And that meeting, as per his wish is called in five months or six months in place of three months and the date or meeting is fixed, when Chief Secretary is on Video Conferencing or the Chief Minister is doing Video Conferencing or TL sitting is scheduled or there is some other work. And even the discussion on review of works, evaluation of quality and further action plan does not take place. I have only one question for the hon. Minister. Will any action be taken against the concerned officer or the department for becoming an obstacle or causing a delay in the way of benefits being provided by the government to the common people?

RAO INDERJET SINGH: Hon. Speaker, hon. Member has asked a question about centrally sponsored schemes or central schemes ...*(Interruptions)*. He asked

if there has any provision for the evaluation and monitoring of these schemes and I have given its reply. It contains these provisions. First, the Department or the Ministry to which a scheme belongs, monitors itself the funds and carries out evaluation and tries to address the shortcomings, if any. This is from the Department side.

The Government of India has given jurisdiction concurrently to NITI Aayog also which has a department under it known as Development Monitoring and Evaluation office which evaluates and monitors the schemes of the Government of India ...*(Interruptions)*. After monitoring, it sends reports to the concerned department. Third evaluation is done at the level of the State Government. The funds of the regional government is also included in the Central Government funds. So, it has provisions for both and the State Government monitors it in its own way.

I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the problems coming in respect of these schemes should first be traced at the level of the State Government. If the Deputy Commissioner or any Chairman or Mayor or the Urban local bodies is unable to deliver it properly ...*(Interruptions)*... to those for whom the scheme has been formulated then its complaint should be lodged there. If you feel that the problem is not getting solved there, write to us. We will take appropriate decision in this regard after due consideration.

SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: I have read and listened to the reply given by Hon. Minister. I would like to know whether someone's responsibility will be fixed or not by the State Government or by the Union Government. Schemes are always good. Some officers, who are accountable for implementing these schemes on the ground level, are doing good work and good work is going on in some states, Shivpuri district is at 50th position in the entire state in case of Swachhta Abhiyan, whereas there are a total of 51 districts. Singrauli is at 51st rank. Who is responsible? ... *(Interruptions)* Accountability should be fixed in this regard. If accountability is not fixed, whatever dreams Modiji may have whatever good schemes the Ministers of the Government may bring. the benefits will not percolate down to the common people if the schemes are not implemented on the ground. Each scheme should have accountability fixed with it. ...*(Interruptions)*. MPLAD funds are not getting released for three years, so who will be held accountable? I want an answer in this regard.

RAO INDERJET SINGH: Hon. Speaker, evaluation is done for fixing the responsibility. If evaluation is done and any person is found committing irregularities, each department takes action against him ...*(Interruptions)*.

The schemes of the Government of India is not only evaluated by the concerned department only, but also by the Planning Commission. Evaluation is done by third party and whatever shortcomings are found, the concerned department works on it and accountability is also involved ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask a question.

India consists of nearly 700 districts and in each district, there are nearly, ten municipalities or nagar palikas. There are villages also. There are various programmes of the Government—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, AMRUT and rural electrification programme, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government is planning these programmes as time bound programmes to be completed in a specified time and with quality work.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: I could not understand his question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I will explain it. Planning is to make programmes and these programmes have to be implemented in a time-bound manner. Planning Department has the responsibility to implement these programmes and to give a direction in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is time-bound planning in respect of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, AMRUT, rural electrification scheme, drinking water scheme and other important schemes. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to when he is going to complete these schemes in all the 700 districts.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Each scheme has a period within which it has to be finished. To make things urgent or to ensure that it is finished in the time that is given to that scheme, the Government has some schemes in a mission mode, like the Swachh Bharat Mission or the Housing for All Mission, NITI Aayog also monitors some of the schemes to ensure that the timeframe. For which the scheme has been set up, it is completed within that period. If there is a spillover effect, then Third Party evaluation is done and through an outsource, it is found why and where it was lacking. Thereafter, if the scheme is to continue for the next period, it is only after a Third Party evaluation that the scheme is allowed to be continued for the next period.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Madam, you allowed me to ask question, I thank you for this. I, particularly, want to congratulate Shri Anoop Mishra Ji, who has expressed the feelings of all the Members of Parliament in this House. I want to tell the hon. Minister that we have read and you have answered. The money comes from the Central Government; officers get the work done and send reports. The Prime Minister raised the basic question related to drinking water, toilets, etc. Will the State Governments allocate the same amount of money as the Central Government does or will the Prime Minister do more on his own? Did the Central Government ever try to ask about it? We talk about federalism. We pass our time while discussing it, the Central Government should take initiative to provide basic infrastructure to the State Governments, Will the hon. Minister make any new effort?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Hon. Speaker, the percentage of Central Government in various schemes various. It is different for the North East, somewhere it is 50-50, somewhere it is 80-20. Whatever decisions are taken are taken by the Government of India as per the law. As far as the issue of allocating more funds to the States is concerned to fully implement these schemes, I want to inform the hon. Member that the Government of India has accepted all the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. In the Centrally Visible Tax, state's share which was earlier fixed at 32 percent, has been fixed now at 42 percent, a 10 percent increase after the acceptance of the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission. This is done with view that the State has adequate fund to implement the initiated schemes.

[*English*]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Madam, through you, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) Has the Minister taken any course correction post evaluation of prominent and major schemes? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I can give the details. The Niti Aayog has got evaluations done in the last three years. It has done evaluations at eight places itself and it has got some evaluations done by some outside agencies. Today, I can give details of the Niti Aayog only. As of now, I don't have the details of the results of monitoring by different departments, but I have the details of studied evaluation of the Niti Aayog which consists of monitoring of Direct Benefit Transfer in Food ...(*Interruption*) Quick Evaluation Study on Nai Roshni,

Efficacy of Minimum Support Price to Agriculture Farmers, Command Area Development and Water Management, Border Area Development Program, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, Backward Region Grant Fund, Quick Evaluation Study on Anganwadi Under ICDS, role of Public Distribution System in Shaping Household and nutritional security. These are done by the Niti Aayog only and I have provided the details; many ministries, departments would have also done such evaluations or better than these. I believe that the Government is conducting evaluations in a smooth manner ...*(Interruption)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please I am requesting all of you to go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You are behaving in an unruly manner and now you are trying to disrupt the House. I cannot say that you are behaving like a child because a child also does not behave like this. You should keep in mind the fact that the way you are protesting, you cannot inculcate discipline in your children. You are holding placard in front of people's face. [English] You are not doing good. Please understand this.

...*(Interruptions)*

Breach of Aadhaar Data

*64. SHRI NINONG ERING:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of incidents/cases where Aadhaar data was leaked/breached;

(b) whether any investigation has been conducted against the agencies which were responsible for the breach/leakage of Aadhaar data;

(c) if so; the details thereof along with the action taken against them;

(d) the extent to which the database of Aadhaar is secured along with the steps taken by the Government to ensure the privacy/security of Aadhaar data; and

(e) the mechanism put in place for usage of Aadhaar Data by the Government agencies and the accountability

of officials in case of negligence on their part in handling of such data?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As on date, no incident of data breach has been reported from Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place and the same is being constantly upgraded to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity. UIDAI has adequate legal, organizational and technological measures in place for the security of the data stored with UIDAI. Data Protection measures have also been mandated for the requesting entities and ecosystem partners to ensure the security of data. Government is fully alive to the need to maintain highest level of data security, privacy and is deploying the necessary technology and infrastructure. The architecture of Aadhaar ecosystem has been designed to ensure non-duplication, data integrity and other related management aspects of security & privacy in Aadhaar database. Additionally, various policies and procedures have been defined clearly which are reviewed and updated periodically, thereby, appropriately controlling and monitoring security of data. Some of the security measures adopted by UIDAI are as under:

- Information security policy has been established based on the ISO 27001:2013 standard. The policy covers all areas of Information Security such as Organization of Information Security, Asset management, Access control, Technical vulnerability management, Change management, Patch management, Encryption, Service continuity, Operations security, Communications security, Supplier security, Human resources security etc.
- Chief Information Security officer has been appointed to drive Information security measures in UIDAI along with a dedicated security team to implement the various security processes and technology to ensure security of CIDR.
- UIDAI-CIDR is ISO 27001:2013 certified since 2015 and since then undergoes through yearly surveillance audits from STQC.

- GRCP-SP (Governance, Risk, Compliance, Performance service provider) has been appointed to perform periodic monitoring of the security of internal and external ecosystem.
- The security audit of UIDAI is conducted by three separate entity viz. Internal, External (GRCP) and STQC on a periodic basis.
- Periodic assessments are conducted for the ecosystem partners to ensure compliance on the Information Security policy.

There are multiple layers of security at physical level in UIDAI Data Centres and is being managed by armed CISO personnel round the clock. Strengthening of security of data is an ongoing process and all possible steps are being taken in this regard. Further, Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("The Aadhaar Act") and the Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 framed there under, have been specifically drafted keeping in account the various security requirements in respect of data collected by UIDAI.

(e) The Aadhaar Act, 2016 and subsequent regulations framed thereunder, have adequate safeguards. Sharing of information or seeding of Aadhaar information with the authorised agencies is governed as per the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016. Section 29 (1) of the Aadhaar Act 2016 read together with Regulation 3(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 categorically states that no core biometric information, collected or created under the Aadhaar Act, shall be shared with anyone for any reason whatsoever; or used for any purpose other than generation of Aadhaar numbers and authentication under the Act. Also, Regulation 4(1) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that core biometric information collected or captured by a requesting entity from Aadhaar number holder at the time of authentication shall not be shared for any reason whatsoever.

Regulation 4(2) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 provides that identity information available with a requesting entity shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified to the Aadhaar number holder at the time of submitting identity information for authentication and shall not be disclosed further without the prior consent of the Aadhaar number holder. Further, Regulation (5) of the Aadhaar (Sharing of information) Regulations, 2016 ensures the responsibility of any agency or entity other than requesting entity with respect to Aadhaar number and subsequent Regulation (7) states that any contravention of the abovementioned regulations shall constitute a violation of subsection (2) of Section 29 of the Act.

Section 30 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 applies the rigours of the IT Act, 2000 and the rules thereunder whereby 'Biometric information' is deemed to be 'sensitive personal information'. Additionally, Chapter VII of the Act lays down monetary penalties and imprisonment for unauthorized sharing of residents' identity information. Any violation to the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016 is a criminal offence.

[English]

SHRI NINONG ERING: Speaker, though you, I would like to state that I am pleased with the hon. Minister's reply ...*(Interruptions)*. It seems that there will be no lacunae or flaw, but in his reply to '(b)' and '(c)' I would like to have a clarification from him where he has said that: "UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system with highest level of data security and integrity" ...*(Interruptions)*.

Now, I would like to give you a reference of a recent issue of 3rd January where one of our very esteemed colleagues from the other House has said that: "The Aadhaar Card would be a threat to the national security" ...*(Interruptions)*. The reason was and the hon. Minister must also be knowing that an FIR had been registered against a Tribune Reporter regarding the data breach story of Aadhaar...*(Interruptions)*. The Joint Commissioner of Policing (Crime Branch) confirmed registration of a case with the Cyber Cell where it was stated that if you pay Rs. 500 through Paytm, then you could get Aadhaar data with the help of login and password provided by them...*(Interruptions)*.

This is a very serious threat, as a colleague from the other House has said, who is of your own Party...*(Interruptions)*. Instead of being proactive to secure the data, the Government has become reactive...*(Interruptions)*.

Now, I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister in the light of the few recent cases of detention of journalists reporting data breach...*(Interruptions)*. Why is the Government not taking proactive steps to prevent data breach and detaining people reporting it or exposing it? ...*(Interruptions)*. Thank you. Madam ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, basically, two questions have been asked by the hon. Member ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to convey to the hon. Member that in India today there are 120 crore Aadhaar Cards, and the total number of bank accounts linked with Aadhaar is 57.62 crore ...*(Interruptions)*.

Per day authentication is six crores and the Government has saved Rs. 57,000 crore which used to

be pocketed by middlemen in pro-poor measures because of Aadhaar. I would like the hon. Member to know that there was a comment by a former Prime Minister of India that if he sends Rs. 100 from Delhi, only Rs. 15 reaches. In the present Government, if Rs. 1000 is sent for the poor Rs. 1000 goes to the bank account because of Aadhaar, Mobile and Jan Dhan Account.

The hon. Member has asked another question. It was not a case of data breach. Grievance redressal agencies have been there. From one grievance redressal agency, some passwords were purchased. Therefore, we have filed an FIR no journalist has been named, police is investigating and I also tweeted that we respect Press freedom, let the journalists cooperate with the police to find the real culprit. But I would like to convey to this House that the data of the UIDAI is completely safe. We do six crore authentications every day and till now, hon. Speaker Madam, we have done 1500 crore authentications of Aadhaar. Therefore, from every point of view, Aadhaar is becoming a game changer.

SHRI NINONG ERING: My second supplementary question is regarding my own State of Arunachal Pradesh where most of the people, not only in Arunachal Pradesh but also in other parts of villages, people do not have Aadhaar Card. So, what are we going to do about the people taking benefit of the Government schemes? The distribution system also has to be monitored. In Arunachal Pradesh, Aadhaar Cards are just thrown all around the post offices and you will see that outside the post offices also, these Aadhaar Cards are just lying around. There has to be a mechanism so that the Aadhaar Card, at least, reaches the people who are the actual beneficiaries.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, I had just gone to the State of the hon. Member three days also. I have monitored the entire scheme myself. I want to convey to the hon. Member through you hon. Speaker Madam that there is a proper website of the Aadhaar whereby you can download your Aadhaar yourself, I have got a copy of that also.

As regards post office, if you bring any specific problem of a particular post office to my notice, I will look into it. But regarding service delivery, the Government circular is very clear. No one shall deny the benefit to the poor because of absence of Aadhaar. If Aadhaar is not there, by alternative mechanism, they will be given all the entitlements.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Madam Speaker, likely misuse of Aadhaar data is not the subject. It is under consideration even before the apex court and there were arguments strongly indicating that misuse of personal data is not a mere possibility but it has already begun. Aadhaar linkage makes personal data available even to private operators like mobile outlets etc. and in

view of the genuine fear in the minds of the general public on the reality of misuse of data, I want to know whether the Government will consider inviting opinions and suggestions from a wider spectrum of experts and public and whether the Government will consider amending the Aadhaar Act.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to very respectfully remind the hon. Member through you that what is being argued in the court should not be used here. This House is sovereign to take its own view.

As regards improvement we are always open to suggestions but as regards the present framework is concerned, there is a proper salutary law passed by the Parliament which has due consideration for safeguard and security and if any company misuses the data, it may go to jail for 3 to 7 years including a fine of Rs. 10 lakh. Therefore, wholesome salutary provisions are there in the Aadhaar Act.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, it is very nice that the Minister on behalf of the Government is threatening the citizens of jail and fine. That is good; very good. He can threaten everybody.

HON. SPEAKER: He did not say something like that No.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: But what I would like to know, Madam, is this. Why is Aadhaar being made a coercive instrument by the Government? Why is there no opt-out option? Is the Government considering an opt-out option in Aadhaar? Madam this is a question that I am asking because private parties are collecting Aadhaar data. My question is, why should private parties be allowed to collect Aadhaar data if it is exclusively meant for welfare benefit? If you want to give welfare benefits it is good; we have no objections. Our objection is, if somebody is not receiving welfare benefits, why are you making it coercive? And leakages of personal data, it is not one instance, Madam, many instances have come out. And who are they threatening? Are they threatening the citizens of this country? That is the question. Will there be an opt-out option? Will the Government pledge here in the House that private parties cannot collect Aadhaar and those who get benefit would not be deprived of their benefit even if they do not have Aadhaar? Will the Government make a commitment?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, I want to clarify one thing. He is a very senior Member. I never threatened anyone. I only said that in the Aadhaar Act, which is a proper law passed by this House, if any corporate body misuses Aadhaar data beyond the permissible limit, action can be taken. I never threatened anybody. That is completely wrong. That is one part

...(Interruptions). Please let us not argue now.

Secondly, Madam, we have to ask a question to ourselves. If 120 crore Indians today are having Aadhaar, if poor people are not having any problem, if 57 crore people have linked their Aadhaar to their bank accounts, it shows that majority of the people of the country are trusting the mechanism of Aadhaar. Public money is being saved. Now, the hon. Member is asking a question if I will give a commitment that nobody can be denied benefit because of absence of Aadhaar. I have already said that you must take a step to come on Aadhaar, but absence of Aadhaar will not deny you all the pro-poor entitlements.

As regards for him to opt-out, today under Section 139AA of the Finance Act and the Money-laundering Rules a change has been made that you need to link your bank account with Aadhaar so that smugglers, corrupt people, terrorists, money-launderers are properly tracked. Therefore, there should not be any issue. We all respect the hon. Member. Today Aadhaar is being appreciated by the World Bank, by the IMF. It is a very low-cost technology of India. My friends from the other side started it; we have given it more importance and more benefit. You should appreciate it.

Laboratories for Study of Earthquakes

[Translation]

*65. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a policy for setting up of laboratories for studying earthquakes across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such laboratories are expected to become operational?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences has the mandate of monitoring earthquakes in the country through its policy of establishing Seismological observatories spread over the country. National Centre for Seismology (NCS), Ministry of Earth Sciences maintains a national seismological network consisting of 102 seismological

observatories which are operational and are being used for monitoring seismic/earth quake activity in the country and its neighbourhood. In addition, 14 more observatories will be made operational by the end of 2018. The ground motion data generated by the network is also used for studying earthquakes by different scientists.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Madam Speaker, Northeast India which is in earthquake-prone zone has experienced many major earthquakes in the past years that have led to severe damages. Even a few days ago, a strong earthquake measuring six on Richter Scale hit the Indian North-eastern State of Manipur. The epicentre of that earthquake was at Myanmar-Manipur border according to the Indian Meteorological Department. Natural disasters never strike with prior warning. Nepal earthquake is a testimony to that fact. But we can take some measures to ensure that the damage caused is minimum. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Earth Sciences whether the Government has formulated any precautionary measures to minimise the damages and if so, the details thereof.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon'ble Speaker I think in the answer that has been given by me, I have already informed the hon. Member that we have set up about 102 seismological observation centres all over the country ...(Interruptions). In the next couple of months, we are going to set up another 14 in the country. As of today, earthquakes cannot be predicted but we are putting the best efforts in science to make observations through different types of mechanisms...(Interruptions).

Apart from these 114 observation centres-existing 102 and proposed 14-in the North-East in Shillong, we have a centre set up by our Institute of Geomagnetism at Mumbai, which has a branch in Shillong, where we are making further observations in the atmosphere, in the ionosphere, and in the magnetosphere by assessing the temporary density as well as the ionic changes and the electro-magnetic changes...(Interruptions).

Similarly, at some places where there are frequent earthquakes like Koyna in Maharashtra's Karad district, we have drilled inside the earth up to three kilometres and put up sensors at different locations within the earth to have observations. As I have said, all over the world, this is one of the 20 important questions on which the world is putting its best efforts in science to find out whether we can really predict earthquakes but till now nothing has been successfully done in terms of prediction of earthquakes. By these observations we are trying to find out which are the more prone areas ...(Interruptions).

Apart from that, our Department has also done micro zonation studies of various cities. We have already completed it in half a dozen cities and we are going to

complete in for another 30 cities where we intend to develop plans and tell people about the possible dangers and remedial measures which could be incorporated in the urban laws and also retrofitting etc. which could be done for the buildings...*(Interruptions)*.

As of today, whatever is scientifically possible, we are doing it. Apart from these Government observation centres. I have to inform the hon. Member, we are also helping a number of other institutions in the States, academic institutions, universities, and various other laboratories like NGRI at Hyderabad and the Institute of Geomagnetism at Mumbai ...*(Interruptions)*. There are another 50 laboratories where the observations are done for earthquakes. So, whatever best is possible in terms of scientific research is being done...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RADHEYSHYAM BISWAS: My second supplementary question is whether the Union Government has allocated any fund for earthquake prone areas for public awareness, and if so, the details thereof....*(Interruptions)*.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: I think, probably what he means is what has been done for the various areas as far as public awareness is concerned. All these observation centres collect all the information ...*(Interruptions)*. There is a mechanism whereby immediately all the information collected from different places in the country are simultaneously transferred to Delhi and converted into various programmes through which we inform the people of India ...*(Interruptions)*.

Of course, all these studies I have mentioned are in fact basically to forewarn the people of India about what the potential dangers are what precautions they should take, and which are the more prone areas in the country ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Hon. Speaker, as it has been stated in the reply to the question that there are 102 seismological observation centres for study of earthquake and climate change, and 14 more observation centres will be set by the year 2018. It has increased the possibility of the Government to take immediate and effective steps to check the loss caused by earthquake and provide assistance on time. Hon. Speaker, as per my knowledge, India Meteorological Department has started weather advisory services at district level in 130 districts with the help of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. 1,38,78,276 farmers have also connected to India Meteorological Department through 107 agriculture science centres.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister through you whether the Minister is likely to execute the work of connecting observation centres operated by National Seismic Network to weather advisory committees operated by India Meteorological Department and Indian Council of Agricultural Research in order to connect more and more places without any new network or effort.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Speaker, I would like to tell the Hon. Member through you that the Cabinet had passed National Monsoon Mission last year. After this, we will try to provide information regarding monsoon not only in 130 districts but in all the 650 districts, and also in 6500 blocks within 10-12 kilometers during the next year. Today, we provide weather information to 24 million farmers through SMS on the basis of which the farmers of our country plan for agriculture. According to National Council for Applied Economic Research, the GDP of the country increases by Rs. 50 thousand crores through the information we provide to these 24 million farmers. We are going to increase the number of such farmers from 24 million to 46 million till coming July and we target to provide full weather forecast facility to 93 million farmers of the country at block level in the next one or two years. The network of earth observation system of our Ministry, be it regarding earthquake or weather, is connected to each other and gives complementary information to one another so that the entire society could make best possible use of it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Coaches in Trains

[Translation]

*66. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Railways is considering to increase the number of coaches in trains by removing the cap of 24 coaches in passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways has high capacity locomotive engines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government/Railways is also considering to improve the present infrastructure for the above purpose and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) At present, trains having coaches with screw coupling are permitted to run up to 24 coaches and trains having coaches with Center Buffer Coupler (CBC) are technically permitted to run up to 26 coaches.

(c) Yes, Madam. High Capacity Locomotives are available over Indian Railways.

(d) The details of High Capacity Locomotives available are as under:

(i) Diesel Locomotives:

Type	Horse Power	Max. Speed
WDP-4	4000 HP	160 KMPH
WDP4-B	4500 HP	140 KMPH
WDP4-D	4500 HP	140 KMPH

(ii) Electrical Locomotives:

Type	Horse Power	Max. Speed
WAP-5	5440 HP	160 KMPH
WAP-7	6120 HP	140 KMPH

At present, in the fleet of Indian Railways, there are 528 Electric Locomotives and 638 Diesel Locomotives capable of hauling longer length passenger trains. If required, enhanced powering can be provided through multiple locomotive operation.

(e) Improvement in Infrastructure is an ongoing process which is undertaken as per operational requirement, commercial justification and technical feasibility. The works for increase in the length of platform/maintenance sidings, loop length and commensurate signaling are undertaken depending upon the commercial justification and technical feasibility of upgrading ground resources.

Coastal Security

*67. SHRIMATI BHAVANA GAWALI (PATIL): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether external threat to the country through sea routes has increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the system in place for coastal security and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to acquire modern equipments including radar for coastal security/monitoring and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the coastal/maritime security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (e) Since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008, inputs from various intelligence agencies indicate the continued likelihood of such attacks. However, presently, there is no specific input pertaining to an increased threat to the country from the sea routes.

The National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS) is a national-level forum and an apex review mechanism for maritime and coastal security, in which all concerned ministries and government agencies are represented. The last meeting of NCSMCS was held on 20th October 2017.

Electronic surveillance mechanism has been augmented by provisioning of an electronic/radar chain called Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN) comprising of Chain of Static Sensors having radar, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), day/night cameras, communication systems. These measures assist in developing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through interconnecting 51 Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard stations, which has been established to develop a Common Operational Picture. Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) radars in ports also facilitate surveillance of port areas.

The Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and State Marine Police, as a three tiered cover, along with other agencies such as Customs and Port Trusts, patrol the Maritime Zones of India, islands and adjacent seas, using ships and aircraft to detect and check infiltration through the sea-routes. Since '26/11' the Government has taken a number of measures to strengthen coastal, offshore and maritime security. Broadly, these measures include

capacity augmentation of maritime security agencies for surveillance and patrol of the nation's maritime zones; enhanced technical surveillance of coastal and offshore areas; establishment of mechanisms for inter-agency coordination; increased regulation of activities in the maritime zones; as also integration of the fishing and coastal communities. Besides, State-wise Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for coordination among various agencies on coastal security issues have been formulated. Coastal Security Exercises are being conducted regularly by Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and to address gaps.

[English]

Beggar Free Nation

68*. SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any action plan along with the States to make India a beggar free nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for the same;

(c) the action taken against the culprits who force the children to beg at railway stations and other public places; and

(d) the steps taken to educate and provide job opportunities to the beggars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) 1. The Government is implementing a large number of programmes targeting vulnerable social groups like poor, destitutes, aged, persons with disabilities, widows, orphans, abandoned children, victims of alcoholism and substance abuse, persons affected by leprosy, nomadic and de-notified tribes engaged in performing arts etc., so as to prevent them from getting into begging. The details of some central programmes/schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Similar programmes/schemes are also implemented by the State Governments.

2. Although there is no specific central legislation to deal with beggary, Section 363-A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides that kidnapping or maiming a minor or a lawful guardian using a minor for purposes of begging is a criminal and punishable offense. Under section 76 (1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 employing or using any child for the

purpose of begging or causing any child to beg; and amputating or maiming a child for the purpose of begging, is a punishable offense. The Railways Act, 1989 (Section 144) also provides for prohibition of hawking etc. and begging and violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.

3. Details of number of cases reported under Section 363A of IPC regarding kidnapping & abduction of children for the purpose of begging (children upto 18 years) during 2014, 2015 & 2016 and number of persons prosecuted, convicted and amount realised for hawking and begging under section 144 of Railways Act, 1989, during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

4. 'Police' and 'Public Order' being state subjects, 20 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs) have enacted their own anti-beggary legislations. In addition, Rajasthan and Puduchery have been implementing the anti-beggary measures through executive orders. List of States/UTs with State Legislations is given Statement-III.

5. So far as education of beggars is concerned, free and compulsory education to all children of six to fourteen years age is a fundamental right under Article 21(a) of the constitution. Article 45 of the constitution also provides that state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, has further made it mandatory on the part of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children of India in the 6 to 14 age group including children belonging to disadvantage groups.

6. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) now "Child Protection Services" with the objective of creating a safe and secure environment for children in need of care and protection including those children who are found begging. Under ICPS, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for undertaking, *inter-alia*, situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances and setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The Scheme provides institutional care through CCIs. As a rehabilitative measure in these CCIs, children are provided age appropriate education either within the institution or outside in a formal education system through convergence with other schemes and programs of the Government or Civil Society.

Statement-I*Details of schemes/programmes*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Ministry	Objective
1	2	3
1.	Integrated Program for Older Persons, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	The main objective of the Scheme is to improve the quality of life of the Older Persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing through providing support for capacity building through Government/NonGovernmental Organizations/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies and the Community at large.
2.	Scheme of Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP), M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	The main objectives of the Scheme is to assist the needy disabled persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances that can promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, by reducing the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential. Target Group: needy disabled persons.
3.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	(i) To create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice and empowerment of persons with disabilities. (ii) To encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the People with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights) Act of 1995 Target Group: persons with disabilities
4.	Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary organisations for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	(i) To create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of alcoholism and substance abuse on the individual, the family, the workplace and society at large; (ii) To provide for the whole range of community based services for the identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, after care and rehabilitation for Whole Person Recovery (WPR) of addicts to make a person drug free, crime free and gainfully employed. (iii) To alleviate the consequences of drug and alcohol dependence amongst the individual, the family and society at large; Target Groups: All victims of alcohol and substance (drugs) abuse with a special focus on children including street children, both in and out of school; adolescents/Youth; dependent women and young girls, affected by substance abuse; high risk groups such as sex workers, Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), drivers etc. and prison inmates in detention facilities including children in juvenile homes addicted to drugs.
5.	Dr. Ambedkar Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	The scheme is basically to encourage and spread education amongst the children of DNTs by providing them pre-matric (IX) and post-matric (XI onwards) scholarship. Target Group: Children of DNTs(Notified & De notified Tribes).

1	2	3
6.	Scheme for Transgender Persons M/o Social Justice and Empowerment (M/o SJE)	<p>The Umbrella Scheme will have the following five components:</p> <p>(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric scholarship for Transgender students from class VII to X.</p> <p>(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric scholarship for Transgender students (XI and above)</p> <p>(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance for skill development of Transgender persons.</p> <p>(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pension for Transgender persons above 40 years up to 60 years.</p> <p>(v) Central Sector Scheme of Financial support to the Parents of Transgender Children.</p> <p>Target Group: Transgender persons and their children.</p>
7.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	<p>(i) Decentralized integrated leprosy services through General Health Care system.</p> <p>(ii) Early detection and complete treatment of new leprosy cases.</p> <p>(iii) Carrying out house hold contact survey in detection of Multibacillary (MB) and child cases.</p> <p>(iv) Early diagnosis and prompt MDT, through routine and special efforts</p> <p>(v) Involvement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in the detection and complete treatment of Leprosy cases for leprosy work</p> <p>(vi) Strengthening of Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) services.</p> <p>(vii) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the community to improve self reporting to Primary Health Centre (PHC) and reduction of stigma.</p> <p>(viii) Intensive monitoring and supervision at Primary Health Centre/Community Health Centre.</p>
8.	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAYNULM) M/o Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	<p>To reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self employment and skilled wage employment opportunities mainly by providing skill training and credit facilities.</p> <p>Target Groups: Urban Poor living below poverty line with special attention to women, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes, disabled person.</p>
9.	Integrated Child Development Programme (ICDS) M/o Women and Child Development (M/o WCD)	<p>The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition and health education, Immunization, Health check-up and, Referral services</p> <p>Target Groups: children below six years, pregnant women and nursing mothers.</p>

1	2	3
10.	Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) M/o Women and Child Development (M/o WCD)	<p>(i) To institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures for emergency outreach, institutional care, family and community based care, counselling and support services at the national, regional, state and district levels;</p> <p>(ii) To enhance capacities at all levels, of all functionaries including, administrators and service providers, local bodies, police, judiciary and other concerned departments of State Governments to undertake responsibilities under the ICPS;</p> <p>(iii) To create database and knowledge base for child protection services;</p> <p>(iv) To ensure appropriate inter-sectoral response at all levels, coordinate and network with all allied systems;</p> <p>(v) To raise public awareness, educate public on child rights and protection;</p> <p>Target Groups: (i) The ICPS will focus its activities on children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. ii) Vulnerable children including, but not limited, to: children of potentially vulnerable families and families at risk, children of socially excluded groups like migrant families, families living in extreme poverty, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, families subjected to or affected by discrimination, minorities, children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, orphans, child drug abusers, children of substance abusers, child beggars, trafficked or sexually exploited children, children of prisoners, and street and working children.</p>
11.	SWADHAR Greh M/o Women and Child Development (M/o WCD)	<p>(i) To cater to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any social and economic support.</p> <p>(ii) To enable them to regain their emotional strength that gets hampered due to their encounter with unfortunate circumstances.</p> <p>(iii) To provide them with legal aid and guidance to enable them to take steps for their readjustment in family/society.</p> <p>(iv) To rehabilitate them economically and emotionally.</p> <p>(v) To enable them to start their life afresh with dignity and conviction.</p> <p>Target Group: women in distress above 18 years of age of the following categories:</p> <p>(ii) Women who are deserted and are without any social and economic support;</p> <p>(iii) Women survivors of natural disasters who are homeless and are without any social and economic support;</p> <p>(iv) Women prisoners released from jail and are without family, social and economic support;</p>

1	2	3
		(v) Women victims of domestic violence, family tension or discord, who are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and have no special protection from exploitation and/or facing litigation on account of marital disputes; and (vi) Trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or Women affected by HIV/AIDS who do not have any social or economic support.
12.	Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAYNRLM). M/o Rural Development (M/o RD)	To reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots institutions of the poor. Target Group: Poor families living below poverty line in rural areas.
13.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA) M/o Rural Development (M/o RD)	The objective of the Act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Target Group: adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
14.	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) M/o Rural Development (M/o RD)	To provide public assistance to its citizens in the case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement. Target Group: the scheme targets the destitutes, defined as any person who has little or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own source of income or through financial support from family members or other sources, to be identified by the States and UTs, with the objective of providing a basic level of financial support.
14.(a)	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	The eligible age for IGNOAPS is 60 years. The pension is Rs.200 p.m. for persons between 60 years and 79 years. For persons who are 80 years and above the pension is Rs.500/- per month.
14.(b)	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	The eligible age is 40 years and the pension is Rs.300 per month. After attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs.500/- per month.
14.(c)	Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)	The eligible age for the pensioner is 18 years and above and the disability level has to be 80%. The amount is Rs.300 per month and after attaining the age of 80 years, the beneficiary will get Rs.500/- per month. Dwarfs will also be an eligible category for this pension.
14.(d)	National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)	Rs. 20000/- will be given as a lumpsum assistance to the bereaved household in the event of death of the bread-winner. It is clarified that any event of death (natural or otherwise) would make the family eligible for assistance.
14.(e)	Annapurna Scheme	Under the scheme, 10 kg of food grains per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under NOAPS.

Statement-II

A. Number of cases reported under Section 363A of IPC: Kidnapping & Abduction of Children for the purpose of Begging (Children upto 18 Years) during 2014-2016

State/UT	2014			2015			2016		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
ALL INDIA	10	6	16	30	22	52	29	15	44

Source: Crime in India, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

B. No. of persons prosecuted, convicted and amount realised for Hawking and begging under Railways Act 1989 (section 144)

Period	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Amount of Fine (in Rs. crore)
2015-16	204867	172747	9.28
2016-17	226442	195842	10.12
2017-18 (upto December, 2017)	184703	163478	10.12

Source: Ministry of Railways.

Statement-III*List of States/UTs having their own anti-begging legislations*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Legislation in Force
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Prevention of Beggary Act, 1977
2.	Assam	The Assam Prevention of Begging Act, 1964
3.	Bihar	The Bihar Prevention of Begging Act, 1951
4.	Chhattisgarh	Adopted the Madhya Pradesh Bikshavirty Nivaran Adhiniyam, 1973
5.	Goa	The Goa, Daman & Diu Prevention of Begging Act, 1972
6.	Gujarat	Adopted the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959
7.	Haryana	The Haryana Prevention of Begging Act, 1971
8.	Himachal Pradesh	The Himachal Pradesh Prevention of Begging Act, 1979
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	The J&K Prevention of Begging Act, 1960
10.	Jharkhand	Adopted the Bihar Prevention of Begging Act, 1951
11.	Karnataka	The Karnataka Prevention of Begging Act, 1975
12.	Kerala	The Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945, the Travancore Prevention of Begging Act, 1120 and the Cochin Vagrancy Act, 1120 are in force in different areas of the State.

1	2	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	The Madhya Pradesh Bikshavirty Nivaran Adhiniyam, 1973
14.	Maharashtra	The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959
15.	Punjab	The Punjab Prevention of Begging Act, 1971
16.	Sikkim	The Sikkim Prohibition of Beggary Act, 2004
17.	Tamil Nadu	The Madras Prevention of Begging Act, 1945
18.	Uttar Pradesh	The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Begging Act, 1972
19.	Uttarakhand	Adopted the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Begging Act, 1972
20.	West Bengal	The West Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943
21.	Daman and Diu	The Goa, Daman and Diu Prevention of Begging Act, 1972
22.	Delhi	Adopted the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959
23.	Rajasthan	No Act. Anti-Beggary measures are being implemented through executive order
24.	Puduchery	No Act. Anti-Beggary measures are being implemented through executive order

[Translation]

Kalwa-airoli Rail Link

*69. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Kalwa-Airoli railway link has not started till date despite carrying out 'bhumi-pujan' in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has provided any assistance for the said project and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the State Government is likely to extend its support in the above project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The work for new elevated rail corridor between Airoli and Kalwa under MUTP-III has already been taken up by Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. The Engineering survey has been completed. Field work for Baseline Socio Economic Survey for Project Affected Persons (PAP) has also been completed. Tender for construction of 1.20 km length including proposed Dighe station, subway and bridges, where work can be done on available Railway land, at an approximate cost of 107.20 crore has been opened on 19.12.2017.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railway and Government of Maharashtra will share the cost of this project on 50:50 basis. The land acquisition shall be done by Collector, Thane for Railways and Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of project affected persons shall be done by Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority.

[English]

Integrated Development Plan for MBDs

*70. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government's ambitious integrated development plan for 115 Most Backward Districts (MBDs) in the country has taken up the momentum;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with progress made so far with special reference to Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government has planned to spend Rs. 6,021 crore to improve coverage of water supply and sewerage in the identified districts under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far in this regards, State-wise; and

(d) whether under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 249 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) out of the total 517 in these districts have bagged the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and if so, the details thereof, state wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Government of India in partnership with State Governments has launched a programme of rapid transformation of 115 identified districts where progress, especially in terms of social sector has been relatively low. Districts have been selected in a transparent manner on the basis of a composite index comprised of published data in Health and Nutrition, education, per cent of household depended on manual labour enumerated on the basis of Socio-Economic Caste Census and basic infrastructure including rural household electrification, access to roads, access to potable water and individual household toilet. These 115 districts also include 35 districts which have been identified on the basis of their being affected by left wing extremism. The programme lay emphasis on making rapid transformation in sectors under focus that include Health and Nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development. The main strategy of the programme is to bring convergence between the efforts of the State and Central Governments and to institute a real time monitoring mechanism so that interventions by Government are fine tuned for their impact.

(b) In this programme, two districts of Karnataka and eight districts of Uttar Pradesh are included. They are as follows:

- (i) Karnataka (2 Districts): Yadgir and Raichur
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh (8 Districts): Chitrakoot, Balrampur, Bahraich, Sonbhadra, Shrawasti, Chandauli, Siddharthnagar, Fatehpur

Focus areas of the programme has been discussed with District Magistrates and Concerned State

Governments. Senior level officials from Government of India have been appointed as Prabhari officers for each of these districts. They are helping the district administration to draft an action plan for rapid progress in the sectors under focus.

(c) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is being implemented in 500 cities across the country. Under AMRUT, the Government of India approves the State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs) submitted by the States/UTs and releases the central assistance as per Mission guidelines. Selection, appraisal and implementation of individual projects are done by the States/UTs. Out of the total 500 Mission cities in the country, 50 cities are from the 115 identified Most backward Districts (MBD) now termed as Aspirational Districts). In these 50 cities, 143 projects, costing Rs. 5,578 crore (including State share), have been taken up in water supply and sewerage and septage management sector. In water supply sector, 91 projects worth Rs. 4,190 crore have been taken up in 36 cities. Out of these 91 projects, contracts have been awarded for 58 projects amounting to Rs. 2,941 crore, Notice Inviting Tender (NITs) have been issued for 8 projects costing Rs. 607 crore, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been approved for 16 projects costing Rs. 387 crore and for remaining projects DPRs are under preparation.

In sewerage and septage management sector, 52 projects worth Rs. 1,388 crore have been taken up in 28 cities that fall under these 115 districts. Out of these 52 projects, contracts have been awarded for 30 projects costing to Rs.567 crore, NITs have been issued for 5 projects costing Rs. 92 crore, DPRs have been approved for 5 projects costing Rs.189 crore and for remaining projects DPRs are under preparation.

(d) At present, under Swachh Bharat Mission, the ODF status of a municipal body is verified by a third party. As on 29.01.2018, the total number of ODF achieved ULBs in this country are 1707. Of these, 166 ULBs fall under these 115 districts. Their list is attached in Statement.

Statement

List of Urban Local Bodies falling under 115 aspirational districts which have been declared Open Defecation Free

S.No.	State	District	ULB
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	y.s.r. kadapa	Badvel
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Bobbili
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Greater Visakhapatnam Mpl.Cor.

1	2	3	4
4.	Andhra Pradesh	y.s.r. kadapa	Jammalamadugu
5.	Andhra Pradesh	y.s.r. kadapa	Kadapa Mpl.Cor.
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Mydukur
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Narsipatnam
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Nellimarla
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Parvathipuram
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Proddatur
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Pulivendula
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Rajampet
13.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Rayachoti
14.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Salur
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram Mpl.Cor.
16.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Yelamanchili
17.	Andhra Pradesh	Kadapa	Yerraguntla
18.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Ambagarh Chowki
19.	Chhattisgarh	Kanker	Antagarh
20.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	BadaBacheli
21.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Bagbahara
22.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	Barsoor
23.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Basna
24.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Bastar
25.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Chhuikhadan
26.	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Chhurikala
27.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Chhuriya
28.	Chhattisgarh	Basatar	Dhantewada
29.	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Dipka
30.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	Dornapal
31.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Dungargarh
32.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Gandai
33.	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada	Geedam

1	2	3	4
34.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Kanker
35.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Keskal
36.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar Dantewada	Kirandul
37.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Kondagaon
38.	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Korba
39.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Kusmi
40.	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur	Narayanpur
41.	Chhattisgarh	Korba	Pali_C
42.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Pharasgaon
43.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Pithora
44.	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon
45.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Saraipali
46.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar	Sukama
47.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	Tumgaon
48.	Gujarat	Dahod	Dahod
49.	Gujarat	Narmada	Rajpipla
50.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	Bakloh Cantt
51.	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	Dalhousie Cantt
52.	Jammu and Kashmir	Baramula	Gulmarg
53.	Jharkhand	Palamu	Bishrampur Nagar Parishad
54.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Bundu Nagar
55.	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum	Chaibasa
56.	Jharkhand	Bokaro	Chas
57.	Jharkhand	Chatra	Chatra
58.	Jharkhand	Garhwa	Garhwa
59.	Jharkhand	Giridih	Giridih
60.	Jharkhand	Godda	Godda
61.	Jharkhand	Gumla	Gumla
62.	Jharkhand	Giridih	Jamshedpur
63.	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum	Jugsalai

1	2	3	4
64.	Jharkhand	Khunti	Khunti
65.	Jharkhand	Latehar	Latehar
66.	Jharkhand	Lohardaga	Lohardaga
67.	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum	Mango
68.	Jharkhand	Garwha	Mazhion Nagar Panchayat
69.	Jharkhand	Palamu	Medininagar
70.	Jharkhand	Pakur	Pakur Nagar Parishad
71.	Jharkhand	Bokaro	Phusro Nagar Parishad
72.	Jharkhand	Sahinganj	Rajmahal Nagar
73.	Jharkhand	Sahibganj	Sahibganj Muncipal Corp.
74.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Anjad
75.	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Aron
76.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Badalmalhera
77.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Barigarh
78.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Biaora
79.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Bijawar
80.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Boda
81.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Buxwaha
82.	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Chachodabinaganj
83.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Chandala
84.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Chhanera
85.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Chhapiheda
86.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur
87.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Damoh
88.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Gadimalhara
89.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Ganjbasoda
90.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhattarpur	Ghuwara
91.	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Guna
92.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Harpalpur
93.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Hatta

1	2	3	4
94.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Hindoriya
95.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Jeerapur
96.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Khajurao
97.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Khandwa
98.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Khetia
99.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Khilchipur
100.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Khujner
101.	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	Kumbhraj
102.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Kurawar
103.	Madhya Pradesh	Vadisha	Kurwai
104.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Lateri
105.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Lavkush Nagar
106.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Machalpur
107.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Maharajpur
108.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Mundi
109.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Narsinghgarh
110.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Nogaon
111.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Omkareshwar
112.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Pachore
113.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	Pandhana
114.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Pansemal
115.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Patera
116.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Pathariya
117.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Rajgarh_R
118.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Rajnagar
119.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Sarangpur
120.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	Satai
121.	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	Sendhwa
122.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Shamshabad
123.	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli	Singrauli

1	2	3	4
124.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Sironj
125.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Suthalia
126.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	Talen
127.	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	Tendukheda_D
128.	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	Vidisha
129.	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Aheri (NP)
130.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Bhum
131.	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Desaiganj (M CI)
132.	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Gadchiroli (M CI)
133.	Maharashtra	Washim	Kaharanj
134.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Kalamb (M CI)
135.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Lohara B. (NP)
136.	Maharashtra	Washim	Maglurpeer
137.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Murum
138.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Naldurg (M CI)
139.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Nandurbar
140.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Nawapur
141.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Osmanabad
142.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Paranda
143.	Maharashtra	Washim	Risod
144.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Shahada
145.	Maharashtra	Nandurbar	Talode (M CI)
146.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Tuljapur (M CI)
147.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	Umarga
148.	Maharashtra	Washim	Washim
149.	Mizoram	Mamit	Lengpui
150.	Mizoram	Mamit	Mamit
151.	Mizoram	Mamit	Zawlnuam
152.	Punjab	Ferozepur	Ferozepur Cantt
153.	Rajasthan	Baran	Chhabra
154.	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram	Abiramam
155.	Tamil Nadu	Virundhunagar	Aruppukottai

1	2	3	4
156.	Telangana	Acharya Jayashankar	Bhupalpally
157.	Telangana	Warangal	Greater Warangal
158.	Telangana	Khammam	Madhira
159.	Telangana	Warangal	Narsampet
160.	Telangana	warangal	Parakala
161.	Telangana	Khammam	Sathupally
162.	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Jhabrera
163.	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Roorkee Cantt
164.	Uttarakhand	Haridwar	Roorkee (NN)
165.	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar	Rudrapur
166.	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar	Bazpur

Coal Royalty

*71. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise the royalty on coal which was due for revision in April, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Section 9(3) of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, provides that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule (which specifies rates of royalty) so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years.

As such, there is no mandatory provision in the Act to revise the rates of royalty every three year.

The rates of royalty on coal and lignite were last revised vide notification no G.S.R. 349(E) dated 10.05.2012. Pursuant to this notification, the rates of royalty on coal were made ad valorem on price of coal, except for the State of West Bengal.

As regards revision of the rates of royalty on coal, a Study Group was constituted on 21.07.2014 for the purpose of examining the issue of revision of present royalty rates on coal and lignite. The Study Group had earlier submitted its recommendation on 27.04.2016. However, pursuant to the change in scenario due to implementation of GST and other factors, the matter was again referred to the Study Group. The final recommendation of the Study Group is awaited.

Corruption in Railways

*72. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of illegal acts of violation of procedures, conduct rules, acts of impropriety, demanding and accepting illegal gratification and accumulation of assets disproportionate to known sources of income, which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Railways so far, in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that action taken so far, is not much effective to check the corruption in the Railways and if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(d) the details of the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As a result of preventive checks, decoy checks and investigations of

complaints involving cases of irregularities, violation of procedures and other acts of impropriety and misdemeanours, the officials booked in corruption cases are taken up under the Railway Servants (Discipline &

Appeal) Rules 1968, as applicable and those found guilty, are punished commensurate with the gravity of misconduct(s). Zone-wise details of officials taken up under D&AR action during last 3 years are stated below:

Zonal Railways	2015	2016	2017
Central	482	335	437
Eastern	161	229	196
East Central	410	416	392
East Coast	205	106	150
Northern	2248	2195	1678
North Central	251	260	204
North Eastern	551	402	449
Northeast Frontier	273	180	262
North Western	501	149	102
Southern	606	696	653
South Central	244	207	254
South Eastern	124	169	109
South East Central	113	132	139
South Western	9	122	227
Western	401	350	527
West Central	137	122	79
Total	6716	6070	5858

(c) and (d) Railways have well established systems, rules and procedures which guide its various functions. The Railways also have a vigilance organization, spread over the entire railway system which conducts preventive, decoy and surprise checks. It also investigates complaints of corruption received. If any irregularity is detected, suitable disciplinary action is taken, depending upon the gravity of the charges and in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission for cases involving Group 'A' officers.

Corrective measures for system improvement and increasing transparency are taken regularly. Some of the recent initiatives include e-tendering of Works contract, procurements through e-tendering, e-auctions, changes in Tatkal reservation processes, registering of indents through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), on line allotment of rakes etc. Regular training and

seminars are also organized to educate the officials and enhance their knowledge and awareness.

Bharatnet Project

*73. SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BharatNet Project has been launched to connect all Gram Panchayats to provide high speed internet services in the country and if so, the details including the salient features thereof;

(b) whether the Government has completed the phase-I of the said project and if so, the details thereof

including the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) under the said phase during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked/allocated and spent by the Government under phase-I of the said project, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has launched the second phase of the BharatNet Project and if so, the details thereof including the number of Gram Panchayats that have been connected through OFC in this phase, State/UT-wise and the timeline fixed for the completion of the said phase along with the time by which all the Gram Panchayats are proposed to be provided with high speed internet services; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide digital board and internet connectivity in all schools through the aforementioned project and if so, the details thereof along with the internet penetration rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Madam. BharatNet Project (initially National Optical Fibre Network) has been launched to connect all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) by broadband in the country. The salient features of the project are as follows:

- i. The infrastructure created by BharatNet is a national asset and nondiscriminatory access to Service Providers is to be provided under the project.
- ii. The project is being implemented in a phased manner. The implementation of Phase I to connect 1,00,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs) is through three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Powergrid. BharatNet Phase II approved by the Cabinet on July 19, 2017 to connect remaining (approx. 1,50,000) GPs is being implemented.
- iii. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was setup to establish, manage and operate the BharatNet infrastructure.
- iv. The total cost of BharatNet to connect all GPs (approx. 2,50,000) approved by the Cabinet on July 19, 2017 is Rs 42,068 crore.

(b) Yes, Madam. BharatNet Phase I to connect 1,00,000 GPs has been completed. In Phase I, as on 28.01.2018 a total of 1,11,084 GPs have been connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and 1,02,326 GPs are Service Ready. The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise status of GPs connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) An amount of Rs 11,148 crore was approved for BharatNet Phase I, out of this Rs 10,286 crore has been allocated to BBNL. Implementation of Phase I is being done through three CPSUs, to whom the funds are provided in accordance with their spending; upto January, 2017, a sum of Rs 9,027 crore has been spent in the BharatNet Phase I. The State/ UT-wise funds spent is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Yes, Madam. The Government has launched the second phase of the BharatNet Project. On 19.07.2017, the Union Cabinet approved a modified strategy for implementing BharatNet under which, the remaining 1,50,000 (approx.) Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country are to be provided broadband connectivity in Phase-II of the project. Telecom Commission on 08.09.2017, 29.09.2017 and 21.12.2017 has approved the implementation plans for States. BharatNet Phase II, which includes providing broadband connectivity to all GPs is to be completed by March 2019. The salient features of the BharatNet Phase-II are as follows:

- i. The implementation is to be done through State Model, Private Sector Model and CPSU Model.
- ii. Optimal mix of media (OFC, Radio and satellite) to be used to connect GPs.
- iii. Service delivery mechanism by providing last mile connectivity, through WiFi or any other suitable broadband technology to all GPs has been made an integral part of the project.

(e) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to the Gram Panchayats. Under the project model, the service delivery is proposed through Service Providers. The State Government and/or the Departments of Central Government are to provide connectivity to the Government institutions, including connectivity for digital board and internet connectivity at GP level. However, all necessary facilitation for such connectivity is to be made by BBNL/ USOF/ DOT.

The internet penetration in the country, as on 30th September, 2017, is 33.22 subscribers per 100 population.

Statement-I*State/UT-wise number of GPs connected through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)*

State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (As on 28.01.2018)
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	193	489	568	185
Bihar	412	1956	1845	993
Chhattisgarh	422	1123	317	1972
Haryana	997	2111	1918	931
Jammu and Kashmir	0	82	111	56
Karnataka	2098	2905	726	342
Kerala	1022	107	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	547	4459	6077	904
Maharashtra	669	3969	6307	2768
Punjab	234	2743	2989	1447
Rajasthan	1347	2321	2528	1934
Uttar Pradesh	1441	6992	13364	4850
Uttarakhand	204	434	809	21
West Bengal	159	563	723	628
Sikkim	0	0	0	12
Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	11	1	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	18	77	328
Nagaland	0	142	216	198
Manipur	0	24	28	217
Mizoram	0	0	50	44
Tripura	75	417	268	56
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	52	87	128
Gujarat	343	1791	1889	1347
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	5

1	2	3	4	5
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	86	12	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	283
Telangana	84	1301	570	87
Odisha	441	973	1222	644
Jharkhand	170	664	609	598
Himachal Pradesh	0	19	106	79
Total	10955	35668	43404	21057

Statement-II

Details of funds spent under Phase-I of the BharatNet project, State/ UT-wise

S. No.	State	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22219868
2.	Assam	1364168154
3.	Bihar	3563995444
4.	Chhattisgarh	4122179521
5.	Haryana	2011858509
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	533431796
7.	Karnataka	3182063333
8.	Kerala	597060814
9.	Maharashtra	9989139273
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10176592366
11.	Punjab	3136390927
12.	Rajasthan	5147077233
13.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	7674297319
14.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3583095001
15.	Uttarakhand	1789319347
16.	West Bengal	2503787459

1	2	3
17.	Sikkim	440268500
18.	Puducherry	42621150
19.	North East	2161200130
20.	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	2664618993
21.	Lakshadweep	1034134
22.	Telangana	1792989383
23.	Odisha	3345163106
24.	Jharkhand	1316156479
25.	Himachal Pradesh	768763301
26.	Andhra Pradesh	965616954
27.	Tamil Nadu	108055326
Total		73003163823
*Equipment and Others		17268571923
Total		90271735746

Note:*Since procurement of equipment has been made by BBNL and three implementing CPSUs, this amount could not be bifurcated into States.

On-going/Pending Railway Projects

*74. SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY:
SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various on-going and pending railway projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh, project-wise and their present status;

(b) the number of railway projects lagging behind the scheduled completion along with the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kadapa-Bengaluru railway line is one of the railway lines that is getting delayed and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the sanctioned/on-going projects of the State which are likely to be completed or undertaken during 2018-19; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for the expeditious completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) 18 new line projects costing Rs. 20,301 crore having length of 2213 Km and 14 doubling projects costing Rs. 27,688 crore having length 2803 Km falling fully/partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh are in different stages of execution. The details of these Railway projects are as under:

Sl. No.	Project	Year of Sanction	Latest Anticipated Cost (Rs. in cr.)	Exp as on 31.03. 2017 (Rs.in cr.)	Outlay 2017-18 (Rs. in cr.)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Nandyal Yerraguntla (123 Km)	1996-97	966.43	934.30	100	Yerraguntla (123 Km) -Kundu (120 Km) commissioned. Work in balance 3 Km has been taken up.
2.	Macherlaa Nalgond (92 Km)	1997-98	815	3.5	0.5	Financial viability is under reconsideration.
3.	Kakinada Pithapuram (22 Km)	1999-2000	220	25.01	100.50	There is an existing parallel double line between Kakinada to Smalkot.
4.	KotipalliNarsapur (57 Km)	2000-01	2125	238	430	Work of land acquisition taken up.
5.	Obulavaripalle Krishnapatnam (113 Km)	2006-07	839	645	100.01	Ph.I Venkatachalam - Krishnapatnam (20km): Commissioned. Ph.II: ObulavaripalleVenkatchalam (93 km): Work has been taken up.
6.	Tindivanam Nagari (179 Km)	2006-07	1080	196	47	Land acquisition has been taken up.
7.	Rayadurg Tumkur (207 Km)	2007-08	2000	465	182	(i) RayadurgaKadarideverapalli (63km): Commissioned. (iii) KadiridevarapalliDoddahalli (16 km): Earthwork, minor/major bridge and ROB/RUB have been taken up. (iv) Doddahalli-Tumkur (136 km): Land acquisition taken up.
8.	Kadapa (Cuddapah)-Bangalore (Bangarapet) (255 Km)	2008-09	2473	340	240	Kadapa-Pendlimari (21.3km): Commissioned. In balance section, land acquisition taken up.
9.	Attipattu-Puttur (88 Km)	2008-09	528	3.42	0.05	Initially the project was taken up under 50:50 cost sharing with Ennore port Trust (EPT), Ministry of Shipping. EPT advised in November, 2012 that they would not share the cost of project.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Nadikude Srikalahasti (309 Km)	2011-12	2299	198	340	New PidugurallaSavalyapuram (46 km): Earthwork and minor/major bridge taken up. In balance section, land acquisition has been taken up.
11.	Gudur Durgarajapatnam (42 Km)	2011-12	500	0.51	0.10	Ministry of Shipping has been requested to take up this project as port connectivity project due to financial viability constraint.
12.	Marikuppam Kuppam (23.70 Km)	2011-12	313	0.03	15	Land acquisition has been taken up.
13.	Bhadrachalam Kovvur (151 Km)	2012-13	923	7	7	State Government of Andhra Pradesh has given consent for cost sharing in Dec 2017. State Government of Telangana has requested to do revised survey for the project falling in their State. Revised survey has been taken up.
14.	Cumbam Proddutur (142 Km)	2013-14	830	0.5	1.00	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to obtaining requisite approvals. However, NITI Aayog has not approved the project.
15.	Kondapalli	2013-14	723	0	0.010	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to obtaining requisite approvals. Project length pruned down from 125 km to 81.57 km between Kondapalli-Penuballi. State Govt. of Telangana has been requested to share the cost and consent for common alignment from Kothagudum to Penuballi.
16.	Chikballapur Puttaparthi-Sri Satya Sai Nilyam (103 Km)	2013-14	692	0	0.1	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to obtaining requisite approvals. However, NITI Aayog has not accorded approval for the project.
17.	Srinivasapura Madanapalli (75 Km)	2013-14	296	0	0.1	Work included in Budget 2013-14 subject to obtaining requisite approvals. However, NITI Aayog has not accorded approval for the project.
18.	Vijayawada Guntur via Amravati (106 Km)	2017-18	2679.6	0	1	New project included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite Government clearances. DPR report has been prepared. DOUBLING
19.	Vijaywada Gudivada Bhimavaram Narsapur, Gudivada Machlipatnam & Bhimavaram Nidadavolu DL with Electrification (221 Km)	2011-12	1503	304.18	121.87	Earthwork, minor and major bridges have been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Guntur-Tenali Doubling with electrification (24 Km)	2011-12	168	140.76	36	Earthwork, minor and major bridges have been taken up.
21.	Kazipet Vijaywada 3rd line with electrification (220 Km)	2012-13	2200	142.34	100	Ph.I: VijayawadaRayanapaduKondapalli (17.49 km): Work in block sections completed. Yard works in progress. Ph.II KondapalliKazipet (202 km): Land acquisition proposals submitted to State Government
22.	Duvvada Vijaywada 3rd line (335 Km)	2015-16	3873.1	0.04	7.5	Project kept in abeyance in view of East Coast DFC.
23.	Gooty Dharmavarm (90 Km)	2015-16	636.38	130.6	75	Earthwork, major and minor bridges has been taken up.
24.	Kalluru Guntakal (41 Km)	2015-16	323	32.68	52	Land acquisition has been taken up.
25.	Byepass at Renigunta, Dharmavaram, Wadi (21 Km)	2015-16	273.05	5	10	Renigunta Bye-pass (6.6 Km): Agency finalised. Gooty Bye-pass (308 Km): Land acquisition has been taken up. Wadi Bye-pass (10.60 Km, DL): General Arrangement drawing has been taken up.
26.	Byepass at Vijayawada, Kazipet (30 Km)	2015-16	499.29	79.97	125	Land acquisition has been taken up.
27.	Vijaywada Gudur 3rd line (288 Km)	2015-16	3246	51.5	100	Tenders for earthwork, minor and misc works have been invited.
28.	Doubling of Yelahanka Penukonda (121 Km)	2015-16	860.43	205.92	120	Earthwork, minor and major bridges have been taken up.
29.	Vizianagram Sambalpur (Titlagarh) 3rd line (255 Km)	2015-16	2336	250	90	Agency for Titlagarh to Langigarh (47 km) and construction of substructure of important bridge No. 343 finalised.
30.	3rd line in balance section bet. Bhadrak Vizianagram (525 Km)	2015-16	5250	313.57	150	Project kept in abeyance in view of East-Coast DFC.
31.	Guntur Guntakal (443 Km)	2016-17	4000	0.01	124	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the project in May' 2017. In 159 Km (Diguvametta Santamaguluru): Earth work and minor bridges taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	Kottavalasa Jagdalpur (Koraput) (189 Km)	2015-16	2500	240	250	Earthwork, minor bridges and major bridges have been taken.

(c) Kadapa-Bangalore New BG line (255.4km) was sanctioned in 2008-09 with 50% cost sharing by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Out of 255.40 Km, 209.09 Km falls in Andhra Pradesh and 46.31 Km falls in Karnataka. The alignment takes off at Kadapa and joins at Kolar and Kolar to Bangarapet (Bangalore), 17.16 Km, the existing route is being utilized. Latest anticipated cost of the project is ? 2473 crore. The status of the project:

- (i) Kadapa — Pendlimarri (21.30 km): section Commissioned in April 2017.
- (ii) Pendlimarri-Rayachoti-Vayalpadu (133.13 km): Requisition for land (1989 Acre) submitted to State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in May' 2015 and Nov' 2016. No land has been acquired by State Government.
- (iii) Madanapalli Rd – Madagatta (54.56 km): Detailed estimate under process.
- (iv) Madagatta - Mulbagal (8.65 km): Final location survey work has been taken up.
- (v) Mulbagal - Kolar (36.28 km): About 341.85 Acres of land is to be acquired in the State of Karnataka and requisition has been submitted to Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) on 07.07.17 for acquiring the land.

(d) Till 2013-14, due to overall limited availability of funds, most of the projects were not progressing satisfactorily. Since 2014-15, based on physical progress of projects, last mile connectivity projects and projects for decongesting the existing routes have been given sufficient funds. Accordingly, land acquisition details are being submitted to state Government. However, the completion of railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, NOC from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations, law & order issues etc., which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of these projects.

(e) Indian Railways have taken various initiatives to increase pace of execution of projects. This includes:

- Indian Railway has sanctioned about 12,690 Km of Doubling/3rd & 4 th line to overcome the problem of Congestion over high density network in last three years *i.e.* 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Making higher fund allotment for projects. The capital expenditure for railways has been increased from Rs. 58,718 Cr in 2014-15 to around Rs. 93,795 Cr in 2015-16 to Rs. 1,11,661 crore in 2016-17 and a plan size of Rs. 1,31,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.
- Ministry of Railways have embarked upon cooperative federalism by giving active representation to States in planning, development, financing and implementation of Railway projects through formation of State Joint Ventures (State JVs). Joint Venture agreement has already been signed with nine states (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand). The Joint Venture agreement with State Government of Karnataka already exists.
- Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Colour of Passports

- *75. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to change the colour of passports under the Emigration Check Required (ECR) and non-ECR categories, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the impact of change in colour of passports for the migrant Indians and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to remove the information furnished in the last page of the passport and if so, the details thereof along with evaluation/study, if any, conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has sought opinion of migrant Indians and Indians working abroad with regard to change in colour of passports and avoidance of the information in the last page of the passport and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the decisions taken in the matter on the basis of the opinion of the migrant Indians and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) A decision was taken by the Ministry on the recommendations of a three-member Committee comprising officials of the Ministry and the Ministry of Women and Child Development not to print the last page of the Passport Booklet. The Ministry also took the decision to issue a passport with orange colour jacket to passport holders with Emigration Check Required (ECR) status, with a view to help and assist them on priority basis.

The Ministry received several individual and collective representations requesting to reconsider these two decisions.

The Ministry reviewed both these decisions in the light of these representations. After comprehensive discussions with the various stakeholders, the Ministry decided on 29 January, 2017 to continue with the current practice of printing the last page of the passport and not to issue a separate passport with orange colour jacket to ECR passport holders.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

*76. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocated for gauge conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge of Udaipur-Ahmedabad rail section and the amount spent so far;

(b) the time by which the said work of gauge conversion is likely to be completed; and

(c) the total length of gauge conversion along with the length up to which the said work has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion project (297.24 km) has been sanctioned in the Budget 2008-09. Latest cost of gauge conversion project is Rs. 1449.43 crore. An expenditure of Rs. 381.46 crore has been incurred upto March, 2017 and an outlay of Rs. 422 crore has been provided for the year 2017-18.

Out of 297.24 km alignment of the project, 153.54 km falls in Gujarat and 143.70 km falls in Rajasthan.

Due to limited availability of funds in the earlier years, there has been little progress on this gauge conversion project. Since 2014-15, the Budget allotment of this project has been improved and the work on this project has been expedited. The status of the project is as under:

1. Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar (87.25 Km):. Status of works taken up on this stretch are as under:

- (i) Ahmedabad-Asarva (1.87 km): Already an existing broad gauge line.
- (ii) Asarva-Himmatnagar (85.38 km): Earthwork, bridges work, etc. are in different stages of execution.

2. Himmatnagar-Udaipur (209.65 Km):

All contracts (except tunnel) for earthwork, bridges work ballast supply, track linking, etc. have been awarded and works taken up.

Out of 295.32 Km gauge conversion to be done, 205.83 km gauge conversion is targeted to be completed by March, 2019 and remaining 89.49 km gauge conversion is targeted to be completed by December, 2019.

[English]

Acute Staff Crunch

*77. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways is facing acute staff crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been no recruitment drive in the Railways since 2014; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since 2014, 79,600 candidates in Group 'C' categories and 90,534 candidates in Group 'D' categories were empanelled by Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs), respectively.

Manufacturing of Small ARMS and Ammunition

*78. SHRI PR. SENTHILNATHAN:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had conducted company validation procedure through Defence Attache in Slovakia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposed project for the manufacture of small arms and ammunition under the 'Make in India' programme;

(c) whether the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has given any reply to the Government in this regard and to expedite the process of approval and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is delay in according approval to any such company which was given approval/recommendation by the OFB particularly for the manufacture of small arms and ammunition under the 'Make in India' programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to accord approval to such company/project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) In the last three years, no verification of firms was conducted for manufacture of Small Arms through our Defence Attache in Slovakia.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had floated a Request for Information (RFI) to identify Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for selection of a technological partner for manufacture of small arms, under 'Make in India' programme. Based on the above, OFB forwarded a proposal for approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed with an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for co-operation. At present, OFB does not have any Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) for selection of a technological partner. Therefore, Ministry of Defence has returned the proposal to OFB to finalise a SOP for selection of a technological partner.

Development/Preservation of Traditional Skills

*79. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Ministry in skill development and preservation of traditional skills in the North Eastern Region;

(b) whether the Ministry provides for livelihood generation through its schemes in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, through its various organizations, supports the development and preservation of traditional handloom and handicrafts skills. The North Eastern Council (NEC) has also supported some State Governments and agencies for promotion of preservation and development of some traditional crafts.

The Ministry supports the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) for promoting activities pertaining to awareness generation and marketing about the products *inter alia* associated with traditional crafts. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is now implementing Capacity Building Scheme (CB Scheme) for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The scheme aims to provide funding for skill development, enhancing of employability and competencies and promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship. Rs.25 crore was sanctioned to MSDE for training approximately 8153 candidates by March 2018. This also includes bamboo, handicrafts, weaving to enhance traditional skills.

(b) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region also supplements the efforts of various Ministries who are engaged in livelihood through the projects of North

Eastern Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) and North Eastern Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP). These projects are enhancing the income and livelihood in selected districts in the North East.

(c) NERCORMP has reached out to 89449 households in 2041 villages across 10 districts as on 1st January, 2018. NERLP covers 1645 villages for 11 districts and is working with about three lakh members of Self-Help Groups.

Under North East Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, 9000 youths and SHG members have been provided vocational trainings, out of which 4600 youths have got job placement and 2000 youths and SHG members are self-employed, including pursuit of traditional products.

The North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi) Guwahati during the last 3 years has provided capacity building support to 5178 beneficiaries while 1932 beneficiaries were provided assistance for marketing of their handloom and handicraft products under its CSR initiatives.

[Translation]

Tatkal Booking

*80. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/Railways is aware of the use of illegal software for Tatkal booking and the said illegal software is available on-line on payment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government/Railways against those using illegal software for Tatkal booking system and those using the illegal software available for sale on-line;

(d) whether the Government/Railways proposes to adopt some technique to make the present Tatkal booking system foolproof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The issue of misuse of automation software on www.irctc.co.in for booking Tatkal tickets has been reported from time to time. Indian Railway Catering and

Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had reported that several websites viz., www.tatkalikts.com, www.tatkalsoft.co.in, www.tatkalaap.com, www.tatkalsoftservice.com, www.tatkalsoftwareall.com, www.tatkalsoftware.co.in, www.ixotrip.com, www.sparkindia.net, www.tsystem.in, www.tatkalsoft.blogspot.in, www.tatkalikt.com, myrailinfo.in, tatkalguru.in, irctc-pro.soft112.com, freetatkalsoftware.com, ctrlq.org/irctc, www.sparkindia.co.in, tatkalworld.wc.it and www.blackts.software.com were providing the illegal software for Tatkal booking.

Recently, Central Bureau of Investigation has also filed an FIR (First Information Report) against its own staff and others on the allegation of unauthorised carrying out of business of procuring and supplying of railway tickets using illegal software.

(c) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India was requested to block the above websites. IRCTC has also lodged complaints at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur and Lucknow with respective Cyber Crime Cells.

The issue has also been brought to the notice of Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) by Railway Board Vigilance for further investigation as the people involved in such activities were beyond the jurisdiction of Railway Vigilance, being non-Railway persons. CBI/Bengaluru to whom such a complaint was forwarded by Railway Board Vigilance has informed that they arrested one person in the matter and charge-sheet has also been filed against this person by them. Railway Vigilance also conducts regular preventive checks in mass contact areas to prevent malpractices in e-ticketing including Tatkal.

(d) and (e) The technical teams of Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have investigated the matter and informed that none of the system checks have been bypassed by use of these softwares. The softwares only facilitate quick data entry as compared to the time taken by an individual. In order to negate advantage of quick data entry by these softwares, following checks have been implemented:

1. Form filling time check: These checks ensure that the time taken in online filling of reservation form by software is comparable to that of an individual filling the form manually. The system does not accept submission of form before the stipulated time check.
2. Restriction on number of tickets: There are restrictions on number of tickets that can be booked in Tatkal opening time by a user from one user ID and also the number of tickets

that can be booked from an IP address.

3. Technical checks to prevent automation softwares have also been implemented. Some of these checks include CAPTCHA, One Time Password for Net-banking and Dynamic form fields.
4. Regular security audit by Standardization, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate of Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology, Government of India is also being got conducted for e-ticketing website. Real Time feed of internet traffic on the e-ticketing system is forwarded to CERT-IN for security monitoring and alerts.

Several additional checks and procedures as under have also been implemented:

1. Standard Form Filling time of passenger details in Passenger Detail Form is set at 25 seconds irrespective of number of passengers.
2. Minimum time check of 10 seconds for users to carry out payments.
3. Minimum input time for CAPTCHA on Passenger Details Page and Payment Page is set to 5 seconds.
4. CAPTCHA is provided at Login page, Passenger detail page and Payment page.
5. Only two Tatkal tickets can be booked for single user ID in Opening Tatkal from 10:00-12:00 hrs.
6. Maximum six tickets in a month can be booked by a user from one user ID, however, 12 tickets can be booked by a user in a month if the user ID is Aadhaar verified and one of the passengers is Aadhaar verified.
7. Only one Tatkal ticket in single session is allowed (except return journey).
8. Only two Tatkal tickets per IP Address between 10:00-12:00 hrs. are allowed.
9. One user can have only one login session active at one point of time.
10. Quick book functionality (single page for booking tickets) is not allowed between 08:00-12:00 hrs.
11. Only two tickets of Opening Advance Reservation Period can be booked by a user between 08:00-10:00 hrs.

12. One user can do only one login at one point of time either from multiple windows of same browser or different browsers.
13. Implementation of Dynamic Field name on Passenger page.
14. One Time Password is mandatory for all Banks for Net Banking.
15. QR Barcodes are being printed on Electronic Reservation Slip.
16. Additional security question is asked from user randomly after passenger input page related to user personal information, e.g. user name, email, mobile number, check box etc.
17. Agents are not allowed to book tickets between 08:00 AM to 08:30 AM, 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM to prevent cornering of tickets at the time of opening of Tatkal and Advance Reservation Period bookings.
18. Aadhaar Card is mandatory for Agents registration.
19. Exception Reports are generated for suspicious IDs and time check violation attempts and for bookings done in first second of opening of ARP and tatkal bookings. Such user IDs are deactivated manually after analysis.
20. Multilayer security with Deep Defence is implemented in the e-ticketing system. It comprises of Frontend and Backend Firewall, Network Intrusion Prevention System, Web Application Firewall, Security Information Event management, Host Intrusion Prevention System, Operating System Hardening on all servers, Web/Application server Hardening, Database Server Hardening and Spring Security Framework in the Application Software.

Consultations have been held with National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) for further strengthening the security of the system.

[English]

Monsoon Deficit Districts

691. SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry that almost 235 districts in the country's 630 districts face monsoon deficit of 20 per cent or more;

(b) if so, the details of districts so affected, State-wise; and

(c) the factors that are responsible for deficit rainfall and the manner in which the Government is planning to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes Madam. However, the number of districts which faced deficient rainfall during the 2017 monsoon season are 215 out of a total number of 660 districts.

(b) A list of State-wise districts with deficient rainfall (-20% to -99%) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The rainfall activity during the monsoon season depends upon the formation of weather systems within the monsoon current. The monsoon flow pattern had been comparatively weaker in the second half of the monsoon season 2017 and the number of low pressure areas formed during August and September, 2017 had been less than the normal number expected. This has contributed towards the less than Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall for the country as a whole during August & September (87% of the LPA only) which has reflected in the district rainfall scenario also. However, IMD is issuing five days weather based district level agromet advisories to about 24 million registered farmers twice in a week to help farmers in their day to day farming operations.

Statement

List of districts with rainfall departures: -20% to -99%

Period: (June 1 To September 30), 2017

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	% Dep.	States
1	2	3	4
1.	Nicobar	-24%	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)
2.	North and Middle Andaman	-21%	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)
3.	Changlang	-39%	Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Dibang Valley	-40%	Arunachal Pradesh
5.	East Kameng	-42%	Arunachal Pradesh
6.	Tirap	-44%	Arunachal Pradesh
7.	West Kameng	-54%	Arunachal Pradesh
8.	Tawang	-74%	Arunachal Pradesh
9.	Baksa	-42%	Assam
10.	Dhubri	-21%	Assam
11.	Dibrugarh	-22%	Assam
12.	Morigaon	-22%	Assam
13.	Nagaon	-22%	Assam
14.	Nalbari	-21%	Assam
15.	Ri-bhoi	-41%	Meghalaya
16.	West Garo Hills	-34%	Meghalaya

1	2	3	4
17.	Phek	-46%	Nagaland
18.	Wokha	-75%	Nagaland
19.	Senapati	-42%	Manipur
20.	Thoubal	-38%	Manipur
21.	South Dinajpur	-23%	West Bengal
22.	Murshidabad	-21%	West Bengal
23.	South 24 Parganas	-25%	West Bengal
24.	Angul	-30%	Odisha
25.	Bargarh	-24%	Odisha
26.	Bhadrak	-24%	Odisha
27.	Bolangir	-34%	Odisha
28.	Dhenkanal	-28%	Odisha
29.	Jajpur	-30%	Odisha
30.	Kandhamal	-22%	Odisha
31.	Nayagarh	-20%	Odisha
32.	Sonepur	-25%	Odisha
33.	Chatra	-32%	Jharkhand
34.	Garhwa	-56%	Jharkhand
35.	Giridih	-29%	Jharkhand
36.	Godda	-28%	Jharkhand
37.	Jamtara	-23%	Jharkhand
38.	Khunti	-26%	Jharkhand
39.	Palamu	-21%	Jharkhand
40.	West Singhbhum	-28%	Jharkhand
41.	Arwal	-33%	Bihar
42.	Bhojpur	-41%	Bihar
43.	East Champaran	-22%	Bihar
44.	Jamui	-22%	Bihar
45.	Khagaria	-30%	Bihar
46.	Lakhisarai	-25%	Bihar

1	2	3	4
47.	Madhepura	-20%	Bihar
48.	Monghyr	-26%	Bihar
49.	Muzaffarpur	-24%	Bihar
50.	Nalanda	-24%	Bihar
51.	Nawada	-30%	Bihar
52.	Patna	-30%	Bihar
53.	Saharsa	-28%	Bihar
54.	Sheikhpura	-27%	Bihar
55.	Siwan	-43%	Bihar
56.	Vaishali	-28%	Bihar
57.	Ambedkar Nagar	-20%	Uttar Pradesh
58.	Amethi	-56%	Uttar Pradesh
59.	Ballia	-35%	Uttar Pradesh
60.	Balrampur	-43%	Uttar Pradesh
61.	Banda	-41%	Uttar Pradesh
62.	Chandauli	-47%	Uttar Pradesh
63.	Deoria	-43%	Uttar Pradesh
64.	Faizabad	-40%	Uttar Pradesh
65.	Fatehpur	-42%	Uttar Pradesh
66.	Ghazipur	-26%	Uttar Pradesh
67.	Gonda	-40%	Uttar Pradesh
68.	Gorakhpur	-20%	Uttar Pradesh
69.	Hardoi	-34%	Uttar Pradesh
70.	Jaunpur	-54%	Uttar Pradesh
71.	Kanpur City	-34%	Uttar Pradesh
72.	Kanpur Dehat	-56%	Uttar Pradesh
73.	Kaushambi	-26%	Uttar Pradesh
74.	Maharajganj	-29%	Uttar Pradesh
75.	Mirzapur	-39%	Uttar Pradesh
76.	Rae Bareilly	-44%	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3	4
77.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	-49%	Uttar Pradesh
78.	Sitapur	-33%	Uttar Pradesh
79.	Sonbhadra	-23%	Uttar Pradesh
80.	Sultanpur	-38%	Uttar Pradesh
81.	Unnao	-46%	Uttar Pradesh
82.	Auraiya	-56%	Uttar Pradesh
83.	Badaun	-27%	Uttar Pradesh
84.	Bulandshahar	-25%	Uttar Pradesh
85.	Etah	-22%	Uttar Pradesh
86.	Etawah	-48%	Uttar Pradesh
87.	Gautam Buddha Nagar	-49%	Uttar Pradesh
88.	Ghaziabad	-46%	Uttar Pradesh
89.	Hamirpur	-58%	Uttar Pradesh
90.	Jalaun	-59%	Uttar Pradesh
91.	Jhansi	-46%	Uttar Pradesh
92.	Kanshiram Nagar	-28%	Uttar Pradesh
93.	Lalitpur	-30%	Uttar Pradesh
94.	Mahoba	-41%	Uttar Pradesh
95.	Mathura	-55%	Uttar Pradesh
96.	Meerut	-35%	Uttar Pradesh
97.	Muzaffarnagar	-35%	Uttar Pradesh
98.	Pilibhit	-55%	Uttar Pradesh
99.	Rampur	-47%	Uttar Pradesh
100.	Shahjahanpur	-41%	Uttar Pradesh
101.	Kushi Nagar	-64%	Uttar Pradesh
102.	Mau	-62%	Uttar Pradesh
103.	Agra	-60%	Uttar Pradesh
104.	Mahamaya Nagar	-60%	Uttar Pradesh
105.	Garhwal Pauri	-26%	Uttarakhand
106.	Garhwal Tehri	-25%	Uttarakhand

1	2	3	4
107.	Ambala	-40%	Haryana
108.	Bhiwani	-35%	Haryana
109.	Fatehabad	-51%	Haryana
110.	Gurgaon	-49%	Haryana
111.	Hisar	-24%	Haryana
112.	Jind	-21%	Haryana
113.	Kurukshetra	-27%	Haryana
114.	Mahendragarh	-22%	Haryana
115.	North East Delhi	-59%	Delhi
116.	North West Delhi	-34%	Delhi
117.	Palwal	-36%	Haryana
118.	Panchkula	-57%	Haryana
119.	Panipat	-40%	Haryana
120.	Rohtak	-50%	Haryana
121.	Sirsa	-37%	Haryana
122.	Sonepat	-29%	Haryana
123.	South Delhi	-28%	Delhi
124.	South West Delhi	-33%	Delhi
125.	West Delhi	-21%	Delhi
126.	Barnala	-22%	Punjab
127.	Fatehgarh Sahib	-31%	Punjab
128.	Hoshiarpur	-46%	Punjab
129.	Jalandhar	-39%	Punjab
130.	Mansa	-34%	Punjab
131.	Patiala	-30%	Punjab
132.	Sangrur	-52%	Punjab
133.	Sas Nagar (Mohali)	-23%	Punjab
134.	Tarn Taran	-50%	Punjab
135.	Ferozepur	-83%	Punjab
136.	Lahaul & Spiti	-70%	Himachal Pradesh

1	2	3	4
137.	Chamba	-50%	Himachal Pradesh
138.	Kinnaur	-32%	Himachal Pradesh
139.	Badgam	-28%	Jammu and Kashmir
140.	Kupwara	-36%	Jammu and Kashmir
141.	Rajouri	-23%	Jammu and Kashmir
142.	Samba	-32%	Jammu and Kashmir
143.	Udhampur	-44%	Jammu and Kashmir
144.	Sri Ganganagar	-27%	Rajasthan
145.	Alwar	-46%	Rajasthan
146.	Baran	-33%	Rajasthan
147.	Bharatpur	-42%	Rajasthan
148.	Bundi	-31%	Rajasthan
149.	Dausa	-47%	Rajasthan
150.	Dholpur	-47%	Rajasthan
151.	Jaipur	-35%	Rajasthan
152.	Jhunjhunu	-38%	Rajasthan
153.	Karauli	-50%	Rajasthan
154.	Kota	-39%	Rajasthan
155.	Sawai Madhopur	-41%	Rajasthan
156.	Sikar	-26%	Rajasthan
157.	Tonk	-26%	Rajasthan
158.	Betul	-21%	Madhya Pradesh
159.	Bhind	-35%	Madhya Pradesh
160.	Bhopal	-22%	Madhya Pradesh
161.	Datia	-32%	Madhya Pradesh
162.	Gwalior	-28%	Madhya Pradesh
163.	Harda	-37%	Madhya Pradesh
164.	Hoshangabad	-22%	Madhya Pradesh
165.	Morena	-37%	Madhya Pradesh
166.	Raisen	-21%	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4
167.	Shajapur	-26%	Madhya Pradesh
168.	Sheopur	-44%	Madhya Pradesh
169.	Shivpuri	-36%	Madhya Pradesh
170.	Vidisha	-21%	Madhya Pradesh
171.	Anuppur	-24%	Madhya Pradesh
172.	Balaghat	-37%	Madhya Pradesh
173.	Chhatarpur	-32%	Madhya Pradesh
174.	Damoh	-34%	Madhya Pradesh
175.	Dindori	-30%	Madhya Pradesh
176.	Jabalpur	-23%	Madhya Pradesh
177.	Mandla	-27%	Madhya Pradesh
178.	Narsinghpur	-32%	Madhya Pradesh
179.	Panna	-21%	Madhya Pradesh
180.	Sagar	-22%	Madhya Pradesh
181.	Satna	-24%	Madhya Pradesh
182.	Shahdol	-30%	Madhya Pradesh
183.	Sidhi	-29%	Madhya Pradesh
184.	Tikamgarh	-31%	Madhya Pradesh
185.	Umariya	-40%	Madhya Pradesh
186.	Chhota Udepur	-22%	Gujarat
187.	Dahod	-24%	Gujarat
188.	Tapi	-35%	Gujarat
189.	Vadodara	-37%	Gujarat
190.	Hingoli	-28%	Maharashtra
191.	Nanded	-22%	Maharashtra
192.	Parbhani	-21%	Maharashtra
193.	Akola	-22%	Maharashtra
194.	Amraoti	-30%	Maharashtra
195.	Bhandara	-27%	Maharashtra
196.	Chandrapur	-32%	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4
197.	Gadchiroli	-22%	Maharashtra
198.	Gondia	-37%	Maharashtra
199.	Washim	-28%	Maharashtra
200.	Yeotmal	-34%	Maharashtra
201.	Baloda Bazar	-35%	Chhattisgarh
202.	Durg	-27%	Chhattisgarh
203.	Janjgir	-22%	Chhattisgarh
204.	Koriya	-36%	Chhattisgarh
205.	Mungeli	-28%	Chhattisgarh
206.	Narayanpur	-22%	Chhattisgarh
207.	Raipur	-25%	Chhattisgarh
208.	Rajnandgaon	-30%	Chhattisgarh
209.	Adilabad	-28%	Telangana
210.	Karimnagar	-25%	Telangana
211.	Nizamabad	-25%	Telangana
212.	Dakshina Kannada	-21%	Karnataka
213.	Dharwad	-21%	Karnataka
214.	Chikkamagaluru	-27%	Karnataka
215.	Wynad	-37%	Kerala

[*Translation*]

IAS Officers

692. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the shortfall in the number of officers in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS);

(b) the sanctioned strength of IAS officers against the actual number of officers in the cadre at present, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to make up the shortfall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of sanctioned strength and in-position of IAS officers as on 01.01.2017 is enclosed herewith as Statement. Officers in position as on 01.01.2017 is 5004 against the total authorised strength of 6500.

(c) and (d) The Government has increased annual intake of direct recruit IAS officers to 180 during last six years. Further, in promotion quota prompt action has been taken for holding Selection Committee meetings for appointment by promotion/selection of State Service officers in IAS.

Statement*Details of sanctioned strength of IAS officers and in-position as on 01.01.2017*

No. of Officers In Position

Sl.No.	Cadre	Direct Recruit	Promotion Posts	Total Authorized Strength	Direct Recruit	Promotion Posts	Total Authorized Strength
1.	Andhra Pradesh	147	64	211	116	54	170
2.	AGMUT	235	102	337	198	81	279
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	183	80	263	153	68	221
4.	Bihar	238	104	342	192	51	243
5.	Chhattisgarh	135	58	193	106	48	154
6.	Gujarat	207	90	297	164	77	241
7.	Haryana	143	62	205	126	29	155
8.	Himachal Pradesh	103	44	147	77	38	115
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	75	62	137	63	28	91
10.	Jharkhand	150	65	215	111	33	144
11.	Karnataka	219	95	314	170	45	215
12.	Kerala	161	70	231	121	29	150
13.	Madhya Pradesh	306	133	439	240	101	341
14.	Maharashtra	252	109	361	219	94	313
15.	Manipur	80	35	115	60	31	91
16.	Nagaland	66	28	94	40	27	67
17.	Odisha	165	72	237	139	39	178
18.	Punjab	154	67	221	134	48	182
19.	Rajasthan	218	95	313	165	78	243
20.	Sikkim	34	14	48	26	11	37
21.	Tamil Nadu	262	114	376	202	87	289
22.	Telangana	145	63	208	88	42	130
23.	Tripura	67	29	96	50	26	76
24.	Uttarakhand	84	36	120	66	21	87
25.	Uttar Pradesh	433	188	621	348	167	515
26.	West Bengal	250	109	359	180	97	277
	Total	4512	1988	6500	3554	1450	5004

*[English]***Security of VIPs in Trains**

693. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that VIPs during their train journey, face security problem due to non-allotment of berths to escort parties near the berths of VIPs; and

(b) if so, the details of future planning of Railways regarding allotment of berths for the security personnel near the berths of VIPs in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) All efforts are made to allot berths to the escort parties of VIPs near the berths of VIPs. Further, instructions already exist that the Security personnel (not exceeding one in each coach) accompanying the State Ministers, Union Ministers and Governors may be allowed to travel in the corridor of the First Class coach in which the Minister/Governor travels after obtaining a proper identification from the personal staff of the Minister/Governor in advance.

*[Translation]***Women Joining Army**

694. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage women from rural areas in country especially in Maharashtra to join Army; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The induction of women in Indian Army is based on the organizational requirements, fighting efficiency, combat effectiveness and functionality. Presently, women are recruited in Indian Army in the Military Nursing Service and as Officers through Short Service Commission (SSC) on all India merit basis in specific branches like Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General, Signals, Intelligence and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering branches.

Government has taken a number of measures to encourage both men and women from all parts of the country including Maharashtra to join the defence forces, viz. (i) sustained image projection; (ii) publicity campaign

to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career; (iii) participation in career fairs and exhibitions; (iv) motivational lectures in schools and colleges etc.

*[English]***Purchase of Defence Equipment**

695. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of contracts/cases where Life Cycle Cost method were initiated/used for purchase of defence equipments during the last three years and the current year so far, year and equipment-wise including approximate cost of equipments;

(b) the number of contracts/cases completed along with the time taken for completion of each contract/case;

(c) the total number of pending contracts/cases along with the reasons for noncompletion of pending contracts/cases;

(d) the instances where the contracts were aborted/cancelled at final stages along with the reasons for its cancellation; and

(e) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard and if so, the details and its status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Life Cycle Cost (LCC) method is used for Capital Acquisition on case to case basis as approved by Competent Authority.

Two Capital procurement contracts have been signed for Indian Air Force (IAF) in the last three years where LCC method was involved. No contract using LCC method has been aborted/cancelled.

Supply of Coal

696. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispatch of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) to its consumers in various sectors including power through road in April-October went up by 12 million tonnes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Coal India had also offered to supply the fuel to plants located at shorter distance by road from the available pit head stock and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had launched Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitran App in a bid to benefit customers of CIL lifting coal through road; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Till October 2017, the movement of coal through road mode was about 93 Million Tonne (MT), which was about 29% of the total coal dispatch of 317 MT. The road dispatch during the current fiscal till October, 2017 increased by more than 12 MT as compared to same period of last fiscal. In the last fiscal, till October 2016, about 81 MT of coal was dispatched through road Mode which was about 28% of the total coal dispatch by CIL.

(b) In order to meet the coal requirement of power houses, different subsidiary Companies of Coal India Limited have offered coal through road mode from available pithead stock to those Plants located within 50 Kms to 60 Kms from the nearest mines.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited has launched the 'Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitran App' on 01.11.2017 aimed at benefiting customers that are being supplied coal by road. It is a tool to monitor that the dispatches are made on the fair principle of 'First in First Out' and keeps track of all the activities from issuance of Sale Order to physical delivery of coal by road. This shall help to achieve transparency in dispatch operations.

The main benefits of the App for the customers include easy accessibility of the information at the click of the button, apart from transparency in the system of loading programme and dispatch. The app also helps in logistics planning for lifting of coal in tune with the loading programmes. It further helps in improved planning of procurement, production and stock management by the customers. It also provides date-wise, truck-wise quantity of coal delivered against the Sale Orders and information related to Scheme-wise, Colliery-wise, Grade-wise, customer-wise details of Sale Orders issued during a period. In terms of loading, it provides allotment verses lifting status in details from different sources by truck and summary of the coal dispatch.

[Translation]

Shortage of Ammunition

697. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report, armed forces are likely to face a shortfall of ammunition in the event of any war;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to deal with this situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE) : (a) to (c) The authorization and holding of ammunition is as per operational requirement of the Indian Army. Adequate reserves have been authorized to cater for contingencies. There is adequate stock of ammunition with the Indian Army and it is well equipped for meeting any operational requirements. Building up of stock of ammunition to desired level is a continuous process, the requirements for which are identified every year and procurements are undertaken accordingly.

[English]

H1B Visa Curbs by USA

698. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trump Administration has put on hold its policy under which it proposed to impose curbs and restrictions on the entry of skilled foreign professionals and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the implementation of such a curb would result in the self-deportation of 5,00,000 to 7,50,000 qualified Indian Diaspora and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a move would also hurt the US business interests as there is huge dearth of skilled professional among the local population and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has taken up this issue of self-deportation of huge Indian population once the H1B Visa curbs are introduced with the US authorities and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD))]: (a) to (d) There are proposals under consideration in the U.S. to reform the H-1B and L-1 visa programmes. However, so far, no comprehensive changes have been made.

In the current (115th) Congress, seven Bills relating to H-1B and L-1 Visa programmes have been introduced by individual Congressmen and Senators. However, so far, none of these Bills have been passed.

On the Executive side, on April 18, 2017, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled "Buy American and Hire American", which requires different arms of the U.S. Administration to suggest reforms to the H-1B visa programme. This process is still underway. The US Administration has also taken some steps towards stricter enforcement and prevention of abuse of the work visa programmes.

The Government had seen the media reports that suggested that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was contemplating ending the provision of granting extensions to H-1B visa holders whose applications for permanent residency (Green Card) were pending. The Government had taken up this issue with the U.S. Administration at various levels and apprised them of our concerns over these reports.

In a statement issued to the media on 08 January 2018, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has clarified that it is not considering any regulatory change that would discontinue the existing practice of granting extensions to H-1B visa holders with pending green card applications.

Government of India remains closely engaged with the U.S. Administration and the Congress on all issues relating to movement of Indian professionals including under the H-1B visa programme. In our engagements, we have emphasized that this has been a mutually beneficial partnership which should be nurtured. Indian skilled professional have contributed to the growth and development of the U.S. economy and have helped the U.S. retain its competitive edge and innovation advantage. They are a big stakeholder in India-U.S. relations and their backward linkages to India have helped U.S. businesses.

Modernisation of Ludhiana and Ambala Stations

699. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has monitored the status of Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations that were allotted to French companies for modernisation in 2016;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the reasons for delay, if any, and the estimated timeline for starting and completion of the above mentioned projects;

(d) the estimated cost of modernisation of the railway stations under the plan; and

(e) whether the Government has any other plans to make Ludhiana a world class station and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways had signed an agreement with SNCF (French Railway) for joint study on "Renovation Concept Design of Ambala and Ludhiana Stations" at a total cost of approx. Rs. 3.14 crore on 50:50 cost sharing basis. SNCF has completed the studies. The agreement was not for modernization of Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations.

(c): Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways intend to offer important stations for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis by inviting open bids from interested parties duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. The cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations are also proposed to be offered for redevelopment under the station redevelopment programme.

Station redevelopment projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local bodies. Therefore, no time frame or cost can be indicated at this stage for modernization of Ambala and Ludhiana Stations.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat

700. SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received representations for gauge conversion from the various organizations/road users as well as from the Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Railways intends to take up the same and if so, the probable time-frame for each project;

(c) whether many surveys were proposed for gauge conversion of railway lines in Gujarat during last five years i.e. 2011-12 to 2016-17;

(d) if so, the number of surveys of gauge conversion that have been started and completed;

(e) the time by which the surveys of remaining projects will be started and completed; and

(f) the number of projects of construction of gauge conversion that have been started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Requests for gauge conversion, both formal and informal, are received by Railways at various levels i.e. Railway Board, Zonal Railways and Divisional Headquarters, etc. As receipt of such requests/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained.

(c) to (f) Surveys for 11 gauge conversion projects falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat have been completed during the last five years i.e. 2011-12 to 2016-17. Among these completed surveys for gauge conversion projects, 5 projects have been taken up/included in the Budget subject to requisite approvals from the Government. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Completion	Status
1.	Khijadiya-AmreliVisayadar-Junagarh (134 km)	2011-12	Project included in the Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government.
2.	HimmatnagarKhedbrahma with ext. upto Abu Road (144 km)	2011-12	Gauge conversion of Himmatangar-Khedbrahma (54.83 km) has been included in the budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government.
3.	PratapnagarVishwamitriJambusar-Samni & Jambusar-Kavi (103 km)	2013-14	Survey completed and report received.
4.	Bilmora-Wagai (GC) with extension to Manmad (NL) (254 km)	2013-14	Survey completed and report received.
5.	Champaner Panimines (49 km) & Chhuchhapura - Tankhala (38 km) & its extn upto Rajpipla	2014-15	Survey completed and report received.
6.	Ambliyasari-ViapurAdraj Moti (81 km)	2014-15	Project included in the budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government.
7.	GC of AhmedabadMahesana for doubling (69 km)	2015-16	Project included in the Budget 2015-16 and the work taken up.
8.	Dabhoi-Chandod with extension to Rajpipla (Kevadiya Colony) (50 km)	2016-17	Work included in the Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government.
9.	KosamabaUmarpara (72 km)	2016-17	Survey completed and the proposal shelved due to its unremunerative nature and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects.
10.	Chuchapura-Navsari Tankhala (38 km)	2016-17	Survey completed and report received.
11.	Veraval-TalalaVisavadar (VeravalDhana Jn. via Visavadar-Khijadia) (72 km)	2016-17	Work included in the Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals from the Government.

Defence Equipment Manufacturing Unit

701. SHRI D.S. RATHOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the defence equipment manufacturing units started in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Among Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited

(BDL) have started following defence equipment manufacturing units in the country during the last three years:

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:

- (i) **NAINI AEROSPACE LIMITED (NAEL):** NAEL is a wholly owned subsidiary of HAL, which was incorporated in December, 2016 by taking over the sick unit of Hindustan Cable Ltd.

(ii) **HELICOPTER ENGINES MRO PRIVATE LIMITED (HE-MRO):** HE-MRO is a joint venture company incorporated in August, 2016 between HAL and SAFRAN Helicopter engines (SAFRAN HE) on 50:50 basis.

(iii) **INDO RUSSIAN HELICOPTERS LIMITED (IRHL):** IRHL is a joint venture subsidiary incorporated in May 2017 between HAL, Russian Helicopters and Rosoboronexport with equity share of 50.5%, 42% and 7.5% respectively.

Bharat Dynamics Limited: A unit at Ibrahimpatnam, Hyderabad, Telangana started functioning with regard to Rocket Motor Test facility from 2016 onwards.

With regard to private sector, a total of 100 defence licences to 74 companies have been issued during the last three years till November, 2017 and 69 licence companies covering 112 licences have been reported commencement of production till December, 2017.

[*Translation*]

Blacklisting of Companies

702. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy to blacklist the companies which have adopted unfair means to obtain defence deals and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review and change such policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Penal action against an entity adopting unfair means in a defence deal is regulated in terms of guidelines dated 21.11.2016 and 30.12.2016 of Ministry of Defence. These guidelines are available on Ministry of Defence website <https://mod.gov.in>.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal to review the guidelines.

[*English*]

Biotech Kisan and Cattle Genomics Scheme

703. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV :
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL
VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring the development under the Biotech Kisan and Cattle Genomics scheme;

(b) if so, the details with regard to the number of farmers educated and incorporated as part of the scheme, district and State-wise during the last three years;

(c) the key achievements of the scheme since its inception; and

(d) the details with regard to the funds allocated to the scheme, State-wise since the inception of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes Madam, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is monitoring the development under Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN) and Cattle Genomics schemes, which will benefit the farming communities.

(b) and (c) The Biotech-KISAN scheme has been initiated by DBT during the current financial year (2017-18) with an overall aim to work with small and marginal farmers especially the woman farmers for better agriculture productivity through scientific intervention and evolving best farming practices by linking available science and technology to the farm by first understanding the problem of the local farmer and provide solutions to those problems. During the year, a Biotech-KISAN Hub has been established in July, 2017 at Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Dehradun to cover the agro-climatic zone of Western Himalayan Region. Under this Biotech-KISAN Hub, three Sub-Hubs have also been established at Almora, Chakrata and Chamoli in Uttarakhand state. The district-wise details of farmers educated under the programme are as follows:

Sl. No.	District	State	Activities covered for Training-cum Demonstration	No. of Farmers
1.	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	Protected Vegetable cultivation	14
			Bee keeping	15
			Value addition in Horticulture produce	18
			Biotechnological intervention in Agriculture	48
2.	Almora	Uttarakhand	Protected Vegetable cultivation	20
			Bee keeping	15
			Value addition in Horticulture produce	30
			Biotechnological intervention in Agriculture	44
3.	Chamoli	Uttarakhand	Protected Vegetable cultivation	12
			Bee keeping	20
			Value addition in Horticulture produce	16
			Biotechnological intervention in Agriculture	52
Total farmers:				304

The proposals for establishment of five more Biotech-KISAN Hubs in five agro-climatic zones viz. Central Plain Zone, Lower Gangetic Plains Region, Southern Plateau and Hills, Eastern Himalayan Region and East Coast Plains and Hills have also been developed by the Department.

The Cattle Genomics scheme has also been recently initiated by DBT in December, 2017 in which five indigenous cattle breeds have been identified for genome sequencing. The biological samples of these breeds are being collected from different farms.

(d) The state-wise allocation of funds has not been made to these two schemes. However the Biotech-KISAN Hub at HESCO, Dehradun has been funded at a total cost of Rs. 1.18 crores for a period of two years. The Cattle Genomics scheme has been funded at National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad with the total cost of Rs. 16.49 crores for a period of two years.

Digital Literacy Among Tribals

704. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribal youths have the lowest literacy in electronics and information technology as compared to others;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to start a scheme to boost digital literacy by giving special focus on tribal population especially in Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) 1. As per National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 71st Round report on social consumption relating to education, the proportion of households in the Country having computer during 2014 is around 14% (only 6% of rural households and 29% of urban households possessed computers). This highlights that more than 15 crore rural households (@ 94% of 16.85 crore households) do not have computers and a significant number of these households are likely to be digitally illiterate. No specific data on tribal youth is indicated in the said NSSO report.

2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is implementing several programmes, which have benefitted the tribal population. Some of these programmes are given below:

(i) The Government of India has implemented two Schemes on providing digital literacy to the masses namely "National Digital Literacy

- Mission (NDLM) and “Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (DISHA)” with a cumulative target of 52.50 lakh persons (one person from every eligible household) across the country. The targets envisaged under NDLM and DISHA schemes have been successfully achieved in December 2016. A total number of 7,17,412 Scheduled Tribe(ST) candidates were certified under NDLM/DISHA schemes.
- (ii) The Government has approved a scheme titled “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 crore rural households (one person per household) by 31.03.2019. The scheme is specifically targeting the rural population especially the marginalized sections of society including Scheduled Tribes. Under the Scheme, in the state of Jharkhand, a total of 9,37,011 candidates have been trained, out of which 4,32,094 candidates have been certified so far.
- (iii) Under the two Schemes for Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), so far, a total of 14,891 ST candidates have been trained, out of which 8,606 candidates have been certified as on December, 2017. In the state of Jharkhand, 1,522 ST candidates were enrolled and trained out of which 739 candidates have been certified.
- (iv) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Centres are implementing various projects/schemes for the upliftment of ST population. Some of these projects are as under:
- (a) NIELIT Ranchi Centre is offering training in “O” & “A” level IT courses, digital literacy courses, etc through a network of 12 Accredited Institutes and 133 Facilitation Centres. A total of around 4,000 candidates have been trained in Jharkhand.
- (b) Government has approved a project titled “Development of North Eastern Region by enhancing the Training/Education capacity in the Information, Electronics and Communications Technology (IECT) Area with an objective of setting up 18 Centres/ Extension Centres of NIELIT in tribal dominated NE Region to empower the youth in the field of IECT area. So far NIELIT Centres are operational in 18 locations and have trained approximately 34,533 candidates.
- (c) Permanent campuses of NIELIT have also been setup at Kohima in Nagaland and Agartala in Tripura. These Centers are offering various long term as well as short term courses in IT domain.
- (d) Under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the ST candidates are being trained free of cost at NIELIT Centres across the country.
- (v) Under ‘IT for Masses’ Programme which targets Women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, projects are funded for providing IT training including Digital Literacy, providing IT infrastructure to girls schools, women colleges, ST schools (Eklavya, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) and entrepreneurship creation. The initiatives undertaken for STs include the following:
- (a) ‘e-Inclusion: IT training for Rural Scheduled Tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Women Beneficiaries’- 17,147 ST candidates trained.
- (b) ‘IT Mass Literacy Programme for Scheduled Tribe (ST)’ - 4,392 ST candidates trained.
- (c) ‘Capacity building of 1,260 ST students of North Orissa University and its affiliated colleges in IT tools’ - 1,260 ST candidates trained.
- (d) ‘IT skills and e-Inclusion through low cost access devices based awareness program for Scheduled Tribes - Kerala’ - ICT infrastructure set up at 6 locations and 1,283 ST candidates trained.
- (e) ‘Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates - Chhattisgarh’ 3,287 candidates trained on basic computer course and 857 candidates have been trained on Advance courses (Photoshop and Web Designing).
- (f) ‘Capacity building in IT skills of Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates – Andaman and Nicobar’ – 1,006 Candidates trained.
- (g) ‘Capacity building for the upliftment of 2,000 Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates – Union Territory of Lakshadweep’ 1,878 ST candidates trained.

- (h) "Empowering underprivileged (ST) youths and women of four backward districts of Nagaland through ICT skills training" approved with an objective of training 1,280 Tribal youths from 4(four) backward districts of Nagaland in 150 hours ICT course.
- (i) 'IT oriented Handloom Sector Development Program for creative design, development and deployment by Artisans/Weavers of Jharkhand and Odisha State' - 05 IT based CAD Centres for Weavers/Artisan set up at Ranchi, Deoghar, Hazaribag, Latehar, Kharsawan; a total of 426 women including 91 candidates from Tribal community trained as CAD Master Trainer Weavers.
- (vi) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is implementing Vikaspedia project under which a multilingual collaborative knowledge sharing platform (www.vikaspedia.gov.in) has been developed in 22 official Indian languages including Hindi and Santhali. The platform provides digital content on key livelihood domains - Agriculture, Health, Education, Energy, Social Welfare and E-Governance. Under this programme, 121 Capacity building workshops on digital content access and sharing in regional languages were organized covering 10,579 first level service providers, Common Service Centre operators, Self Help Group Federation leaders, etc. across 15 districts with predominantly tribal population in Jharkhand. Further, theme based Mass media campaigns such as Digital payments were also taken up covering about 10 lakh population in the tribal belt of Jharkhand.

ROBS in Gujarat

705. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the station-wise pending proposals for construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in Gujarat;
- (b) the present status of the said proposals; and
- (c) the time period fixed for completing their construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Station-wise data of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) is not maintained. However, as per Pink Book 2017-18, work for construction of 118 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) have been sanctioned in the State of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Out of 118 ROBs, 14 ROBs have been completed. As far as status of remaining ROBs works is concerned, Railway undertakes construction of ROBs in Railway Bridge portion whereas approaches are being constructed by State Government. Completion of ROB depends on various factors like removal of encroachment, land acquisition, availability of funds and other regional priorities. Apart from this, major portion of fund for Road Safety Works (ROBs/RUBs/Subways/Level Crossings) come from Central Road Funds (CRF) as a percentage of cess collected on Diesel and Petrol by Ministry of Finance. The progress of works is commensurate with the availability of funds. Railways shall make every effort to complete its portion of work alongwith that of approaches by State Government.

Women Researchers

706. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

- (a) whether less than two out of every 10 scientific researchers in India are women; and
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry is taking steps to encourage women professionals in STEM fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. As per available statistics, India has less than two women researchers out of every 10 scientific researchers in the country. To encourage women professionals in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM), the Ministry has taken various steps to enhance their research capacities and capabilities like launching a Indo-US fellowship for women in STEMM field to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A., Women centric schemes and programs under the ambit of Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) initiative, Bio-technology Career Advancement and Re-orientation (Bio-Care) for career development of employed/unemployed women scientists; apart from providing relaxation of 5 years in terms of upper age limit to women candidate to be eligible for all the fellowships/JRF/SRF/research associate-ships awarded by CSIR for perusing doctoral and post doctoral research.

Non-implementation of CAT Orders

707. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received several cases of non-implementation of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) orders pertaining to the officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its subordinate offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the early implementation of pending CAT orders by the above offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) :
(a) to (c) No Madam. As per the information received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, there are no cases of deliberate non implementation of the orders of Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

The Hon'ble Tribunals are held in highest esteem and highest regard is given to their orders. Non-implementation of orders constitutes contempt of Court which may lead to penal consequences for all the officials concerned.

Financial Stress in Telecom Sector

708. SHRI INNOCENT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any communication from the State Bank of India about the unusual unsustainable levels of debt of telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the telecom industry has sought deferred payment for the purchase of spectrum with a moratorium of five years instead of current payback plan of ten years after a two year moratorium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Department of Telecom

received a letter from Chairman, State Bank of India on 22nd May, 2017. The letter was duly considered by the IMG (formed on 16.05.2017) in its examination of systemic issues affecting viability & repayment capacity in Telecom Sector. The copy of the letter is attached as Statement.

(c) Department of Telecom received a letter from Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on 29th June, 2017. This letter contained many issues including requests for increase in payment schedule for deferred spectrum payment liability to 20 years (5-year moratorium plus 15-year payment period). Further, during the submissions to Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), few TSP's, including Airtel and Vodafone, had sought the same.

(d) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted on 16/05/2017 with following terms of reference:

- To examine systemic issues affecting viability and repayment capacity in telecom sector and furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets,
- Policy reforms and strategic interventions for Telecom sector.

The IMG submitted its report on 31/08/2017. The IMG *inter-alia* recommended that regarding the tenure of deferred Payment Liability on Spectrum, the Telecom Service Providers may be given a one-time opportunity to opt for higher number of installments (16) instead of the currently permitted 10 installments. The IMG did not recommend any change in the moratorium period of two years. The recommendation has been approved by Telecom Commission and is under process for approval by Cabinet.

Statement

State Bank of India

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CHSECTT/5

22nd May 2017

Dear Ms. Sundararajan,

We understand that Government of India has formed an inter-ministerial panel to suggest policy reforms for the telecom sector, which is reeling under severe financial

stress. As Lenders, we are highly exposed to Telecom Sector with total lending of more than Rs 4 lakh crore. We would therefore like to represent some of our observations and recommendations to help this sector tide over this current crisis.

Indian telecom market is one of the fastest and largest telecom markets in the world. This industry has seen a high growth phase of 15 years till year 2016. Telecom sector contributed 6.5% to GDP during FY16. The sector went through its first crisis in the wake of sweeping cancellation of licenses by the courts. However since then the sector has forged ahead and increased mobile penetration in the country hugely. Given this scenario, Banks also lent large amounts to the sector for expansion as well as purchase of spectrum through auctions. The number of players in the sector was more than 11/12 which was unsustainable and it was necessary for some of them to get consolidated with the larger players. This has been happening at a fast pace in the last couple of years. Some of the transactions have led to foreign players exiting the market altogether (eg. Telenor, DoCoMo), or becoming a minority shareholder by merging their business in existing players (eg. MTS, Vodafone and IDEA also merging to form 50:50 JV). It is a question as to how this reflects on the future prospects of the sector going ahead.

The stress in the sector has reached highly unsustainable levels after the entry of new players and launch of free services which led to erosion of topline and EBITDA of the telecom service providers. The data with us suggests that the total EBITDA of the sector on annualized basis is Rs 65,000 crore which is clearly unsustainable for debt of more than Rs 4 lakh crore.

We request for immediate intervention to stem the slide. Detailed recommendations are given in the presentation attached. Some of the key recommendations are given below;

- Deferred payment liability (DPL) for spectrum needs to be aligned to the life of the spectrum i.e. 20 years with a moratorium of 5 years and repayment of 15 years as against the current policy 2 years plus 10 years
- Rationalization of regulatory charges given there is heavy burden of industry specific levy for telecom sector, (proposed 18% GST, 8% License Fees, 2-6% Spectrum Usage Charges).
 - 5% of License Fee taken for USO should be dispensed with, given the penetration and coverage being pan-India. Also,

currently accumulated USO Fund has already reached more than Rs 45,000 crore.

- Also, GST rates should be reduced to lowest bracket of 5% given the criticality of the sector to Indian Economy and cellular service becoming a necessity today.
- Resolution of definition of Adjusted Gross Revenues. All litigations with regards to same should be resolved through negotiations and one-time settlements thereby reducing the cost burden and freeing of NFB limits for other purpose.
- Inclusion of private players for utilization of USO Fund accumulated for increasing the mobile penetration in remote areas. Eg. Private players could be able to put a tower in remote location at competitive rate and hence such work should be based on L1 tender basis.
- M&A regulations to be eased to ensure quick mergers with minimum time required for approvals as well as minimum overhead costs for the same
- Income from Spectrum Trading not to be counted for the purpose of calculation of AGR given that any premium received is taxable as capital gains. This will also lead to efficient use of spectrum.

Given the importance of the sector to the economy and government's push towards a digital economy, there is a need for large scale intervention and policy impetus for the sector to revive.

We look forward to engaging extensively with you for early resolution of the above issues.

With Warm Regards

Yours sincerely,

(Arundhati Bhattacharya)

Ms Aruna Sundararajan
Chairman (Telecom Commission) & Secy. (DoT)
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Sanchar Bhawan 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi 110001

Cleanest Railway Station

709. MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the cleanest Railway Station and clean train in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways has got a survey done for ranking of 407 A1 and A Category stations on cleanliness. The survey was conducted by a third party, viz. Quality Council of India, based on Process Evaluation, Direct Observations and Citizen Feedback. No such survey on trains has been undertaken.

WI-FI in Rural Areas

710. DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a Government scheme or programme to set up Wi-Fi in rural areas, specifically in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BharatNet is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs in the country, including in the State of Gujarat. The project is targeted to be completed by March, 2019. Rs. 4066 Crore has been approved for providing last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, at all the GPs in the country.

Further, the following steps have already been taken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots in Gujarat:

- Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by BSNL at its 1850 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas of Gujarat, and Rs. 70.90 crore has been allocated for it.

- Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up at 15 rural Railway Stations in Gujarat by M/s RailTel and Rs. 2.08 crore has been allocated for it.

[*Translation*]

Cyclone Prediction Technology

711. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI RAMADAS C. TADAS:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the technology currently being used by the Government for safety from cyclonic storms;

(b) whether in comparison to other developing countries our technology is not proving as effective as it should have been; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the said technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Madam, IMD has one of the best forecasting systems for predicting tropical cyclones using high resolution advanced mathematical models (including global, regional and cyclone specific models) and a suite of quality observations from Satellites, Radars and conventional and automatic weather stations. IMD has a very effective Decision Support System for generating track of cyclones and analysing various observations at a single platform. IMD has a defined Standard Operating System for monitoring, predicting and forecasting cyclones and informing the authorities on time.

(b) No Madam, it is factually incorrect. IMD also has rich experience of more than 100 years in tropical cyclone prediction and has many trained and experienced scientists specialized in forecasting. In the recent past, IMD accurately predicted cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud and Vardha. IMD has also earned accolades from international and national scientific community for successful prediction of these cyclones. It also helped save thousands of life and loss to Government exchequer for paying ex-gratia and to carry out rehabilitation.

(c) IMD is still improving forecasting abilities by installing new observational network and improving the modelling framework.

[English]

Jigyasa Scheme

712. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to implement "Jigyasa" scheme, wherein KV children would get an opportunity to visit major laboratories of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has considered including other Government schools in this scheme to boost awareness amongst children in all the States and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has instituted a mechanism to monitor the schemes implemented by the Ministry in the last two years and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government is likely to institute such a mechanism in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) have signed an MoU on 06 July 2017 to launch "Jigyasa: Scientists-student Connect programme". The MoU envisages some of the following models of engagement:

- Student Apprenticeship programme
- Summer Vacation Programmes
- Projects of National Children's Science Congress
- Scientists as Teachers and Teachers as Scientists
- Teachers' Workshop Student Residential Programme
- Popular Lecture Series
- Visits of Scientists to Schools
- Lab specific activities/ Onsite experiments
- Science and Maths Club and many more.

The programme will connect 38 CSIR laboratories with 350 KV schools to begin with.

(b) Yes, Madam. Navodhaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) schools are also to be engaged with for which a process has been initiated. Some laboratories are involving local schools as well in their vicinity under the scientist-student interaction programme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. A Joint Working Group (JWG) with senior officials from CSIR and KV has been constituted recently for implementing and monitoring the programme.

Construction of Toilets in Madarsas

713. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL
VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has any plan to construct toilets in Madarsas in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government also plans to introduce mid-day meal scheme and upgrade skill of teachers in these educational centres as part of 3T formula, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose and the time by which toilets in Madarsas will be constructed; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to revamp Madarsas, the traditional learning centre?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), an autonomous body working under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, has decided to provide Teachers/Teachers Training, Tiffin and Toilets (3Ts) in registered, recognized and reputed Madarsas following formal education like Science, Maths, English, etc. with the funds available with MAEF. Further, it has also decided to extend the benefit of Grants-in-Aid scheme of MAEF for construction of toilets under Swachh Vidyalaya scheme of MAEF to such Madarsas. This is a continuous programme of MAEF.

(d) Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing a Scheme for Providing Education to Madarsas/Minorities (SPEMM). SPEMM is an Umbrella scheme which comprises of Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasa (SPQEM) and Infrastructural Development in Minority Institutions (IDMI).

*[Translation]***Ban on the use of Coal as Daily Fuel**

714. SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:
DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the citizens are using coal as daily fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make any rules to ban the use of coal as daily fuel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to check coal pilferage; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The information related to use of coal as daily fuel is not maintained at the central level.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

(e) and (f) Coal companies are working in close coordination with the State/local Administration to prevent theft/pilferage of coal. Various measures taken by the coal companies to check such theft/pilferage of coal are as follows.

- (i) Check posts have been established at entry/exit points where all coal laden vehicles are physically checked.
- (ii) Security at coal dumps are improved by wall fencing, proper illumination and round the clock guarding.
- (iii) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.
- (iv) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- (v) Joint patrolling with local police is also being carried out in areas.
- (vi) Surprise checks/raids are conducted by flying squads of CISF/security department.

(vii) Security squads have been introduced to check transportation of coal en route to Railway Siding.

(viii) Surprise re-weighment of coal laden trucks is done, at weighbridges.

(ix) Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF up to weighbridge, is arranged in pilferage prone areas.

(x) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.

(xi) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local Thana against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.

(xii) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with DC & District Administration.

(xiii) Technology initiatives like Global Positioning System (GPS)/General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)/ Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) and electronic weigh-bridges have been installed to check the problem of theft/pilferage at mines, sidings and transportation. The E-surveillance programme through use of Information Technology is being implemented.

*[English]***Protection Of Personal Data**

715. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:
DR. K. GOPAL:

Will the MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) Whether it is true that the Government has constituted a 10 member committee of experts to deliberate on a data protection frame work for the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) Whether it is true that this has been done due to growing digital transactions and rising concerns for safety of personal data of citizens;

(c) Whether the terms of reference of the committee include studying various issues relating to data protection and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) The time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In view of the growing importance of data protection in India and the need to ensure growth of the digital economy while keeping personal data of citizens secure and protected, The Government has constituted a Committee of Experts under chairmanship of Justice Shri B. N. Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India vide its Office memorandum number 3(6)/2017-CLES dated 31st July 2017. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Madam. The terms of reference of the committee include issues relating to data protection in India.

The terms of reference vide Office Memorandum cited at (a) and (b) above.

(a) To study various issues relating to data protection in India.

(b) To make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on principles to be considered for data protection in India and suggest a draft data protection bill.

(d) The committee has been asked to submit its report as expeditiously as possible. However no time lines have been explicitly defined. The Committee had already released a detailed "White Paper on Data Protection Framework for India" for review and inputs from public and all other stakeholders on 30th November, 2017. The last date for submission of comments was 31st of January 2018. Separate Public Consultation meetings have also been held in four different cities in India

Statement

No. 3(6)/2017-CLES
Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Electronics Niketan
New Delhi-110 003
Dated: 31st July, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of a Committee of Experts to deliberate on a data protection framework for India

The Government of India is cognizant of the growing importance of data protection in India. The need to ensure growth of the digital economy while keeping personal data of citizens secure and protected is of utmost importance.

2. It has thus been decided to constitute a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, to identify key data protection issues in India and recommend methods of addressing them. The constitution of the group and terms of reference are as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-------------|
| (a) | Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India | - | Chairperson |
| (b) | Smt. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, Department of Telecom | - | Member |
| (c) | Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey, CEO, UIDAI | - | Member |
| (d) | Dr. Ajay Kumar, Addl Secretary, MeitY | - | Member |
| (e) | Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IIT, Raipur | - | Member |
| (f) | Dr. Gulshan Rai,
National Cyber Security Coordinator | - | Member |
| (g) | Prof. Rishiksha T. Krishnan, Director, IIM, Indore | - | Member |
| (h) | Dr. Arghya Sengupta, Research Director, Vidhi Centre for
Legal Policy | - | Member |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (i) Ms. Rama Vedashree, CEO, DSCI | - | Member |
| (j) Joint Secretary, MeitY | - | Member Convener |

3. Terms of Reference

(a) To study various issues relating to data protection in India.

(b) To make specific suggestions for consideration of the Central Government on principles to be considered for data protection in India and suggest a draft data protection bill.

4. The Committee may co-opt other members in the Group for their specific inputs.

5. MeitY shall in consultation with the Chairperson and members, collect, necessary information and provide it to the Committee within 8 weeks of the date of this OM to enable it to start its deliberations on the subject.

6. The Committee shall endeavour to submit its report as expeditiously as possible.

7. The expenditure towards TA/DA in connection with the meetings of the group in respect of the official members will be borne by their respective Ministers/Departments. Domestic travel in respect of non-official members would be permitted by Air India (Business Class) and the expenditure would be met by MeitY.

(Rakesh Mahashwari)
Ground Coordinator,
Cyber Law & UIDAI

To,

1. Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Former Judge Supreme Court of India
2. Smt. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary,
3. Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey, CEO, UIDAI
4. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Addl Secretary, MeitY
5. Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IIT, Raipur
6. Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber Security Coordinator
7. Prof. Rishiksha T. Krishnan, Director, IIM, Indore
8. Dr. Arghya Sengupta, Reseach Director, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy
9. Ms. Rana Vedashree, CEO, DSCI
10. Joint Secretary, MeitY

Copy to:

- (i) PS to Hon'ble Minister (E&IT)
- (ii) PS to Hon'ble MoS (E&IT)
- (iii) OSD to Secretary, MeitY
- (iv) All Group Coordinators, MeitY

Procurement Policy

716. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present procurement policy of small track machines by Indian Railways encourages monopoly in procurement and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether people's representative has brought the facts of cartelization and monopoly of one company for procurement of abrasive rail cutter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Ministry to end this monopoly practice and evolve a mechanism so that more companies can enter in the bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) References were received from an Honourable Member of Parliament on procurement policy of Small Track Machines with specific reference to Abrasive Rail Cutters which is used for cutting of rails. A detailed reply furnishing the position on availability of multiple vendors for procurement of abrasive rail cutter was sent.

(d) Presently multiple vendors are available for procurement of abrasive rail cutter. However, with an aim to avoid suspected monopoly/cartelization, if any, and to further increase the vendor base by facilitating more companies in the bidding process, guidelines have already been issued *vide* circular No. 2001/RS(G)/779/7 Pt.I dt. 29.06.2017 which stipulate that in suspected cartel situations or where available rates from approved source/sources are adjudged unreasonably high, despite fair efforts as permissible, after recording reasons, Railways may consider placing orders outside Approved vendors list, even beyond prescribed limits, if any, subject to rates being reasonable and firms otherwise considered capable.

Deactivation of Aadhaar Numbers

717. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Aadhaar numbers that have been deactivated by the Government till date, State, district, year and region-wise data of the same;

(b) in case this data is not available, the steps being taken to maintain such a database; and

(c) whether such persons have been informed that their numbers have been deactivated and that they will no longer be able to use their Aadhaar to avail any services, if not, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken/being taken to inform them?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As on 17.01.2018, approx 68.6 Lakh Aadhaars are in deactivated state. There is no system of maintaining year wise records of deactivations. Maintaining such a database is not required under the Aadhaar Act, 2016 and Aadhaar (Enrolment & Update) Regulations, 2016.

(c) As per Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update Regulations) 2016, "Any case reported or identified as a

possible case requiring omission or deactivation may require field inquiry which may include hearing the persons whose Aadhaar number is sought to be omitted or deactivated." Post deactivation of Aadhaar, the resident is also intimated through SMS and e-mail provided at the time of enrolment. The residents also get to know about status of their Aadhaar at the time of authentication. Further, status of an Aadhaar can also be checked by visiting the UIDAI resident portal (<https://resident.uidai.gov.in/aadhaarverification>).

Free Coaching

718. SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether coaching centres have been identified in the State of Chhattisgarh under free coaching and allied scheme for the candidates belonging to minority communities and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the funds released to these coaching centres under this scheme during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the students belonging to minority communities who have benefited under this scheme, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the candidates/students belonging to minority communities is implemented through selected coaching institutions/organisations having experience in the relevant field and are empanelled with this Ministry under the said scheme by inviting proposals through advertisement in the newspapers and web-site of the Ministry from eligible coaching institutions/organizations. During the last three years, in the year 2015-16, an exercise was carried out for empanelment of eligible coaching institutions/oroganisations under the scheme. However, no proposal from coaching institutions/oroganisations of Chhattisgarh State was received for empanelment.

(c) During the last three years, 32705 students belonging to notified minority communities have been benefitted under the scheme.

Train Accidents

719. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of train accidents over the last three years after the Railways took a series of measures to improve safety;

(b) if so, the details of the accidents that took place during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17;

(c) whether the safety measures including speedy track renewal ultrasonic rail detection system, elimination of several unmanned level crossings are proposed to be taken on priority basis and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether a special safety fund along with sophisticated LHB coaches with anti-climbing features have additionally helped in making train travel safe and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. During the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents (including accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings mainly caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) have decreased from 135 in 2014-15, to 107 in 2015-16 and further to 104 in 2016-17. In the current year (upto 31st January, 2018) the number of consequential train accidents have reduced to 65 as compared to 95 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works, which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis. The Track renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution are prioritized according to the condition of track and other factors ensuring all the time that track is in sound condition for running of trains. For the year 2017-18, 3600km in Complete Track Renewal (CTR) Units target has been kept for track renewal. In view of the shortfall in production of rails by SAIL *vis-à-vis* requirement for 2017-18, it has been decided by Ministry of Railways in September, 2017 to give priority for giving rails for track renewal purpose to replace old rails *vis-à-vis* new construction projects.

Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) of rails and welds is carried out at predefined periodicity to detect internal flaws in rails/welds.

A decision has been taken to eliminate 4267 unmanned level crossings in the Broad Gauge network in the next two years. It is the endeavour of Railways to eliminate all unmanned level crossings in a phased manner by either of the following:-

Closure—Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/Negligible Train Vehicle Unit (TVU).

Merger—Merger of unmanned level crossing gate to nearby manned or unmanned gates or subway or

Road Under Bridge (RUB) or Road Over Bridge (ROB) by construction of diversion road.

Provision of Subways/RUBS

Manning—The unmanned level crossings which cannot be eliminated by above means, will be progressively manned based on rail-road traffic volume, visibility conditions.

(d) A fund namely 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' (RRSK) has been created with a corpus of Rs. 1 Lakh crore over a period of 5 years for critical safety related works. Accordingly, a provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made in budget estimates 2017-18 out of 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' to fund essential works for ensuring safety.

The funds under 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' shall be deployed to finance works under Plan heads Rolling Stock, Level Crossing, ROB/RUB, Track Renewal, Bridge Works, Signal and Telecommunication Works, other Electrical Works, TRD Works, Machinery and Plant, Workshop and Training/HRD.

The passenger coaches plying over Indian Railways (IR) have been designed with the necessary safety features considering the operating conditions over IR. Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) design coaches are of a superior design and have safety features like anticlimbing etc. in unfortunate event of an accident. It has been decided that only LHB coaches would be manufactured from April, 2018 onwards.

Claims in RCT

720. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases currently pending before the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT);

(b) whether the Government has conducted public and private audit of various railway claims tribunal offices during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government through an internal probe found that there has been irregularities in the disbursement of around Rs.50 crore between 2015 and 2017 in the Railway Claims Tribunal, Patna and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is further planning to conduct a CBI investigation in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has placed some protective measures to ensure that the corrupt practices are not followed in the various railway offices across the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) As on 01.01.2018, a total number of 36935 cases are pending before the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT).

(b) The Principal Director(Railways), under the Controller and Auditor General of India, has done a theme based audit on the claim settlement in eight RCT Benches - Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Bhopal, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Ranchi in 2017.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In terms of the report of an internal probe conducted by the Principal Bench of RCT, Delhi, it has been alleged that fraudulent disbursement of approximately Rs. 50 crore of compensation to victims/dependants of accidents/untoward incidents has been made between the years 2015 and 2017 by East Central Railway as decreed by Patna Bench of RCT.

This case has been referred to the Chief Justice of India for his orders as to holding an inquiry into the matter and nomination of a Judge of Hon'ble Supreme Court for conducting an inquiry into the allegation. At

present, there is no plan to conduct a CBI investigation into the irregularities.

(e) Corrective measures for system improvement and increasing transparency are taken regularly. Whenever irregularities are detected, as a result of investigation of complaints or during Preventive Checks, disciplinary action is also initiated whenever required.

Investment for Safety

721. DR. K. GOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that investment for safety has increased by over 60 percent during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the average vacancy in safety positions, against the sanctioned strength, has dropped to 16.86% in 2017; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The details of the funds allocation/expenditure during last three years on safety related activities are given below:

2014-15 (Rs. in crore)	2015-16 (Rs. in crore)	2016-17 (Rs. in crore)	2017-18 (Rs. in crore)
42304	45516	55918	68725
Increase over 2014-15			62.5%

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The details of staff strength and vacancy position of safety categories over all Zonal Railways are as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	% of Vacancies
01.04.2014	727582	129152	17.75
01.04.2015	737273	124201	16.85
01.04.2016	746676	122763	16.44
01.04.2017	764882	128942	16.86

Appraisal System

722. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted a new mechanism of empanelling bureaucrats under the 360 degree appraisal system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the feedback in this process is obtained informally, making the process susceptible to being manipulated and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the feedback received from subordinates and stakeholders may be biased and lacks objectivity, particularly if the officer had to discipline his subordinates or he was unable to meet the unjustified demands of stakeholders; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps considered to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) The empanelment process takes into account the overall service record, vigilance status and suitability of the officers concerned. A structured system of appraisal involving a Multi Source Feedback from various stakeholders including from seniors, peers and juniors, etc. has been introduced in the process of empanelment of officers in a transparent and objective manner for holding senior level positions in the Government of India.

Rationalization of Coaches in Trains

723. SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is planning to rationalize the number of coaches in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;

(c) whether the Government has formed a Committee to suggest standard number of coaches for all times;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report to the Government;

(e) whether extra infrastructure for the standardization of coaches is required and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase more trains in the country and bring back the good rail experience to railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Rationalization of rakes is an on-going process over Indian Railway and *inter-alia* is aimed at improving utilization of coaching stock, ensuring punctual running of trains, releasing maintenance slots and improving turn-around time.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Madam. In some cases, up-gradation of infrastructural facilities like lengthening of platform/pit line etc may be required.

(f) Subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources, Indian Railways make consistent effort to cater to the need of travelling passengers by introducing more trains. In its endeavor to provide additional services, during the period April 2017 to December 2017, Indian Railways have introduced 118 new train services. To improve rail experience for railway passengers, several steps have been taken by Indian Railways (IR), some of which are listed below:

(i) IR has decided to proliferate LHB coaches, which are technologically superior and have better riding and aesthetics. The Production units of IR would be producing only LHB coaches from the year 2018-19 onwards.

(ii) Various premium services like Humsafar, Tejas, Antyodaya and coaches like Deen Dayalu and Anubhuti, which have improved passenger amenities, have been introduced in service.

(iii) IR has launched Project Swarn with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience. In total, 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains will be covered. The work is already underway at various divisions of IR.

(iv) Two rakes of Shan-e-Bhopal Express (Train No.12155/12156) have also been upgraded at division level. Further, 69 trains have been identified for up-gradation in a phased manner on similar lines.

IR has planned to improve the interior of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches. New interiors with better facilities will be provided in the existing coaches by refurbishing them during Mid Life Rehabilitation (MLR). Work in 700 such Model rake coaches is being progressively carried out, out of which more than 100 Model rake coaches have already been turned out.

Spread of Hatred on Social Media

724. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an increase in spread of hatred and negativity on social media and if so, the details of the existing laws in place to regulate the social media in the country; and

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to review these laws in order to regulate the social media and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Madam Government has no information to show that there is increase in spread of hatred and negativity on social media.

(b) There is no proposal with the Government to review the IT Act in order to regulate the social media.

Railway Regulatory Authority

725. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up a Railway Regulatory Authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Government has approved formation of a Rail Development Authority (RDA) comprising Chairman and three Members. The objective underlying RDA is to get expert advice/make informed decision on:

- (i) Pricing of services commensurate with costs.
- (ii) Suggest measures for enhancement of Non Fare Revenue.
- (iii) Protection of consumer interests, by ensuring quality of service and cost optimization.

(iv) Promoting competition, efficiency and economy.

(v) Encouraging market development and participation of stakeholders in the rail sector and for ensuring a fair deal to the stakeholders and customers.

(vi) Creating positive environment for investment.

(vii) Promoting efficient allocation of resources in the Sector.

(viii) Benchmarking of service standards against international norms and specify and enforce standards with respect to the quality, continuity and reliability of services provided by them.

(ix) Providing framework for non-discriminatory open access to the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) infrastructure and others in future.

(x) Suggesting measures to absorb new technologies for achieving desired efficiency and performance standards.

(xi) Suggesting measures for human resource development to achieve any of its stated objectives.

Creation of Defence Chief Post

726. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to create the post of Chief of Defence Staff and also Theatre commands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal is likely to improve the jointness and effectiveness as well as economy in budget;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons the command headquarters are not located in one place and working jointly at present; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken for early implementation of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (e) Creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was recommended by Group of Ministers in 2001. A decision in this regard was to be taken after consultation with

political parties. Subsequently, Naresh Chandra Task Force on National Security recommended creation of the post of Permanent Chairman Chief of Staff Committee in 2012. Both the proposals are simultaneously under consideration of the Government.

Creation of appropriate military command structures is a complex exercise involving operational, technical, logistical and financial aspects, and is reviewed from time to time. Appropriate measures are being taken from time to time to ensure inter-operability between the Services including through joint training and exercises.

[*Translation*]

Security System for Aadhaar

727. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce a two layer security system for securing the Aadhaar data;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the said system is likely to ensure privacy of Aadhaar data?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a well-designed, multilayered robust security system in place to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity in accordance with Chapter-VI (Protection of Information) of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 and Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016.

Taskforce On Women Researchers

728. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any taskforce for the development of talent of the women in the field of scientific research;

(b) whether the said taskforce constituted in respect of women has submitted its reports to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to include women talent in scientific research in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Government of India set up a Task Force on Women in Science in the year 2005. The Task Force had members representing different disciplines of science, institutions and different regions of the country. After 10 meetings, Task Force submitted its report in 2010-11. One of the mandates of Task Force was to suggest measures to motivate girls to take up S&T for higher education and develop a scientific temper and awareness. In this regard, Task Force specifically recommended summer/winter science camps for girls who have opted for science, well-planned role model programme with successful women scientists and special fellowship scheme for girl toppers in university examinations. The Task Force also recommended constitution of Standing Committee under the Ministry of Science & Technology to take proactive measures to correct any imbalances that still persisted and hindered women in science. Department of Science and Technology thus constituted 'Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science' in 2015-16 to recommend special measures to ensure growth of women in science and to design programmes specifically for fostering, utilizing and supporting women in science and thus reduce the gender gap.

(d) and (e) Department of Science and Technology (DST), through its 'Women Scientist Scheme (WOS)' provides career opportunities to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of WOS, namely, (i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, (ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-

B) for research projects that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and (iii) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. Further, DST has conceived and launched a Pilot Project during 2017-18 for intervention at school level to significantly enhance participation of girls in higher education and careers in Science & Engineering. Twelve premier academic institutions from different geographical locations are involved at the pilot project stage. Under this Pilot Project, 21 days residential programme for meritorious girls studying in Class XI and is envisaged that encompasses various activities in line with the recommendations made by the Task Force.

[English]

Maintenance of Aadhaar Infrastructure

729. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the maintenance of the Aadhaar infrastructure; and

(b) the money spent on payment of the employees of UIDAI and other organisations that are involved with Aadhaar and funded by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per records, since inception of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), an expenditure of Rs. 9391.99 crore has been incurred as on 29.01.2018. This includes expenditure on Technology infrastructure and Support infrastructure.

(b) In addition, Rs. 181.08 crore has also been spent under Salary head of UIDAI.

[Translation]

Social Upgradation in Rural Areas

730. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian space programme has some importance in social upgradation of rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner by which it is important; and

(c) the efforts made through Indian space programme for the rural and backward areas so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Indian Space Programme plays a key role in enabling social upgradation of rural areas through space based inputs towards development of wastelands, identification of degraded lands for suitable reclamation measures, assessment of fodder crops for dairy industry, monitoring developmental activities under rural employment guarantee scheme & integrated watershed development programme, space based inputs for ground water, targeting surface waterbodies for tribal districts and monitoring irrigation infrastructure.

(c) The efforts made by Indian Space Research Organisation benefitting rural and backward areas so far include:

- (i) Mapping of wastelands (1986-2000, 2005-06, 2008-09 & 2015-16) for enabling prioritisation of watersheds, identification of areas for renewable energy projects and industrial corridor development.
- (ii) Mapping of land degradation (2005-06 & 2015-16), help in prioritisation of development in the rural areas.
- (iii) Prepared and deployed National level groundwater prospects maps, including locations for planning recharge structures, as a support for drinking water requirements for Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
- (iv) Geospatially enabled monitoring of developmental activities under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), for Ministry of Rural Development.

- (v) Generation of sustainable land and water resources development plans in 180 districts for soil and water conservation and satellite data based monitoring and evaluation of about 86,000 microwatersheds, under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for Ministry of Rural Development.
- (vi) Mapping and monitoring of village water bodies for suitability to adopt aquaculture development in the tribal districts as a possible alternative livelihood support.
- (vii) Assessment of fodder crops in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana for enabling sustainability of dairy industry, relevant in rural and backward areas

[English]

Research Among Women Researchers

731. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any programme to encourage women scientists in research activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to encourage women entrepreneurship under start-up India, stand-up India in Science and Technology department; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) 'Women Scientist Scheme' of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) provides career opportunities which includes fellowship to unemployed women scientists and technologists, especially those who had a break in career, for pursuing research in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. There are three major components of Women Scientist Scheme namely, (i) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for conducting research in Basic & Applied Sciences, (ii) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for projects in research that entail S&T interventions for Societal Benefit and (iii)

Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) that enables them to become Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) professional. The monthly fellowship amount for women having M.Sc, M.Phil/M.Tech and Ph.D degrees is Rs.30,000/-, Rs. 40,000/- and Rs. 55,000/- respectively. In 2017-18, DST initiated 'Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine) to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake International collaborative research in premier institutions in USA for duration of 3-6 months. Further, Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARe) for women Scientists of Department of Biotechnology is aimed at career development of employed/ unemployed women Scientists. The scheme is open for all areas of Life Science/Biology.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Department of Science and Technology has taken few initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurship under Start-up India-Stand up India. In the year 2014, DST and Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) along with Anita Borg Institute, USA, started 'Women Entrepreneurship Quest (WEQ)', which is a unique program designed to promote and showcase early-stage technology ventures that are founded or led by women entrepreneurs. The program is one of its kinds to be organized in the country for tapping talented women entrepreneurs in technology. The top 10 winners of WEQ, are awarded fully paid, one week exposure and experiential learning with prominent ecosystem players of Silicon valley which include academic sessions, practice pitching before Venture Capitalists, interaction with mentor network, sessions with successful entrepreneurs from iconic and potential startups, and so on. DST has also supported 6 weeks Women Accelerator Programme-Empower, which has components of strong mentoring and preparedness for fund raising, dedicated exclusively for women entrepreneurs. Another exclusive 4 months long mentorship initiative of DST is "Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment (WEE)". Mentorship program conducted through IITDelhi and WEE Foundation to empower and encourage women entrepreneurs by training them in entrepreneurship skills, mentoring and enabling them to convert their idea(s) into successful business models.

Delay in the Commissioning of KNPP

732. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were a number of deficiencies in the execution of Units I and II of Kudankulam plant which ended up in significant cost escalation and delays in the commissioning of the said units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the scheduled date of completion of the said units was postponed and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The delays in the completion of Kudankulam Units-1&2 (2X1000 MW) were mainly due to delays in sequential receipts of equipment from Russian Federation and subsequent local protests at the site. The domino effect of the protests, demobilization and subsequent remobilization of resources, various litigations, complying with the directives of the Honorable Court before commissioning of the plant took time. In addition, being the first-of-akind reactor in India of large unit size and with many imported equipments/components, the reviews and regulatory clearances also took time.

(c) The KKNPP-1&2 (2X1000 MW) got delayed for the reasons as stated above. This resulted in rescheduling completion of KKNPP-1 from December 2007 to May-2013 and of KKNPP-2 from December-2008 to October 2013. Presently, both the units are in commercial operation and are operating at their rated capacity. They have cumulatively generated about 23122 Million Units of electricity as on January 29, 2018.

[Translation]

Discount in Fare on Vacant Berths

733. SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been made to the Railway Board by the rail fare review committee to give rebate in the fare on the basis of vacant seats in a train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating/like to consider to introduce fare system of airlines in Railways in case tickets are booked by the passengers months before; and

(d) if so, the details of the provision for rebate being made/likely to be made in percentile terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Suggestions have been given by the Committee set up to review of Flexi Fare, to rationalise the fare structures including giving discount based on the occupancy of the trains.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such proposal.

[English]

Sachar Committee Recommendation

734. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has asked all the State Governments to count Muslim staff for implementation of Sachar Committee Recommendations and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the detailed guidelines issued to States in this regard;

(c) whether some State Governments including Rajasthan have started collecting said data from health centres;

(d) if so, the State Governments who have submitted such data to the Union Government to implement Sachar Committee recommendations; and

(e) whether Sachar Committee has published sufficient data in regard to Muslim representation in Government services and if so, the rationale behind issuing such directions to States to collect such data?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (e) In order to implement the Sachar Committee's recommendations submitted to the government on 17.11.2006 for the welfare of minority communities, the Cabinet approved the recommendations of the report on 17.05.2007. The

State Government and UTs were requested to consider the recommendation for postings.

No fresh guidelines have been issued by the present government. The details of earlier actions are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in. The Sachar Committee had received data from different Government Departments, Agencies and Institutions and based on the report, decisions were taken by the Government at that time. The Ministry of Minority Affairs being the Nodal Ministry to review the progress of implementation of the Cabinet decisions, had called for action taken report from the concerned Ministries/Departments. Accordingly, the Ministries/Departments in 2013 had called for reports from the State Government. The States/UTs which reported are-Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur, Punjab, Tripura, Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Puducherry, A&N Islands, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

[*Translation*]

Living Conditions of Families of Soldiers

735. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of soldiers receiving gallantry awards posthumously are living in miserable conditions;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure welfare of such families;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to look after widows and dependent parents of such soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) The families of soldiers awarded gallantry awards posthumously are adequately compensated and are taken care through various schemes of the Government. Timely payment of all dues/benefits to Next of Kin of all martyrs as sanctioned by the Government is ensured through a well-established procedure/system. All assistance is provided to the widows as per Government orders/instructions.

(b) to (d) Kendriya Sainik Board Secretariat at the central level & Rajya Sainik Boards at the State level alongwith 392 Zila Sainik Boards at the District level are

entrusted with the welfare of Ex-Servicemen and their families including the families of gallantry awardee defence personnel killed in military operations.

Regiments and local formations/establishments/units have system in place to periodically interact formally/informally with the families of defence personnel killed during operations.

Approval for Doubling of Road

736. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter regarding financial approval for doubling of Jhansi-Manikpur road and Kharad-Kanpur is lying pending in the NITI Aayog for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be approved, so that doubling work of the said very busy and important routes can be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Does not arise.

[*English*]

Violation of USOF Agreement

737. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of some of the private telecom companies have been suspended in certain telecom circles for the violation of the conditions of the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof company-wise;

(c) whether the Government has imposed penalties on such erring companies; and

(d) if so, the details of penalty imposed and recovery made from them, companywise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No Madam.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam, the details of penalty imposed and recovery made from private telecom companies in respect of violation of USOF conditions is enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Statement of penalty imposed and recovered*

Private Telecom Companies	Amount in Rs.
Reliance Infocomm Limited	1,74,67,530
Dishnet Wireless Limited	40,73,792
Global Telesystem Infrastructure Limited	78,554
Kamani Engineering Corporation International Limited	1,88,990
Reliance Communication Infrastructure Limited	8,47,614
Reliance Communication Limited	9,73,773
Reliance Telecommunications Ltd.	49,74,562
Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited	39,466
Grand Total	2,86,44,281

Promotion of Indian Languages

738. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry for the promotion of Indian languages in foreign countries;

(b) the steps taken for promotion of Tamil language in foreign countries like Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, Reunion Island etc.; and

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to promote and aid teaching of Indian languages in foreign countries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) ICCR promotes teaching of Indian languages in foreign countries by supporting Chairs of Indian studies which are established on the basis of recommendation of Indian Missions abroad

(b) The Council has established a long-term Chair of Tamil language at the Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland in 2017. Also, books on teaching Tamil have been sent to Kenya.

(c) Ministry of External Affairs is in the process of setting up 'India Corner' in the libraries of select educational institutes abroad. The 'India Corner' will stock books promoting various aspects of India in 22 officially recognised languages of India, including Hindi as well as English. The selection of books and their language is

being done, in consultation with our Missions abroad, reflecting the requirement and interest in that country.

Shortage of Judges

739. SHRI GEORGE BAKER:
SHRI ALOK SANJAR:
PROF. RICHARD HAY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of lower courts and high courts functioning across the country, State I UT-wise including West Bengal and Kerala;

(b) the details of the number of Judges working in these courts along with the judges to cases ratio, at present;

(c) the details of the sanctioned strength of the Judges in courts across the country;

(d) whether there is any difference between the sanctioned strength and the actual strength;

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bridge this gap;

(f) whether the Government proposes to establish more courts and appoint more Judges in various courts; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the vacant posts of Judges in proportion to the number of cases are likely to be filled in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The sanctioned and working strength of 24 High Courts in the country are 1,079 and 676 respectively. As per information made available by High Courts and State Governments, the State/UT-wise details of sanctioned/working strength and vacancies of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts in the country are given in the enclosed Statement. On the basis of available information, the judge-case ratio in the District and Subordinate Courts of the country is calculated to be 1175 cases per judge.

(e) to (g) The new courts at District and below District/Subordinate level are established by the

respective State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts and the Union Government doesn't have a role in establishing new courts at district/subordinate level. As per the Constitution, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. The Supreme Court, through a judicial order in Malik Mazhar case, has devised a process and time frame to be followed for the filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary. This order of January, 2007 by the Supreme Court stipulates that the process for recruitment of judges in the subordinate courts would commence on 31st March of a calendar year and end by 31st October of the same year. The Supreme Court has permitted State Governments/High Courts for variations in the time schedule in case of any difficulty based on the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions in the State or other relevant conditions. The Union Government does not have a role under the Constitution in the selection and appointment of judicial officers in District/subordinate judiciary.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of Sanctioned/Working Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telengana**	987	873	114
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	17	11
3.	Assam	428	352	76
4.	Bihar	1828	993	835
5.	Chhattisgarh	398	335	63
6.	Goa	55	43	12
7.	Gujarat	1496	1121	375
8.	Haryana	645	496	149
9.	Himachal Pradesh	159	148	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	253	224	29
11.	Jharkhand	672	419	253
12.	Karnataka	1303	976	327
13.	Kerala***	535	455	80

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1293	728
15.	Maharashtra	2097	1930	167
16.	Manipur	49	40	09
17.	Meghalaya	97	39	58
18.	Mizoram	63	46	17
19.	Nagaland	34	22	12
20.	Odisha	862	658	204
21.	Punjab	674	538	136
22.	Rajasthan	1225	1122	103
23.	Sikkim	23	18	5
24.	Tamil Nadu*	1257	916	341
25.	Tripura	107	76	31
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3204	1856	1348
27.	Uttarakhand***	291	231	60
28.	West Bengal	956	916	40
29.	Andamand and Nicobar Isaldns	11	11	0
30.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	7	0
32.	Delhi	799	482	317
33.	Lakshadweep	3	2	1
34.	Pondicherry	25	22	03
Total		22,622	16,707	5915

*As on 07.11.2017/** as on 31.10.2017/***as on 30.11.2017.

New Rail Lines in Maharashtra

740. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work done in Maharashtra regarding laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines during the last three years;

(b) the details of the sanctioned works for Maharashtra which have not been started till date;

(c) the details of the works in the State running as on date but not completed yet; and

(d) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to complete the said works on time and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) 39 km New Lines and 183 km Doubling have been commissioned in Maharashtra during last 3 years and current year. Details are as under:

Year	Plan Head	Name of the project	Section	Commissioned
2014-15	Doubling	Udhna-Jalgaon (307 km)	Bhadbhunja Navapur	11 km
			Navapur Chinchpada	16 km
		Panvel-Pen (35 km)	Apta-Jite-Pen	20 km
2015-16	Doubling	Pen-Roha (40 km)	Pen-Kasu	14 km
		Pen-Roha (40 km)	Kasu-Nagothane	13 km
		Godhani-Kalumna (6 km)	Godhani Chord Cabin	6 km
		Udhna-Jalgaon (307 km)	Dharangaon-Paldhi	17 km
2016-17	New Line	Daund-Gulbarga (225 km)	Hotgi-Tilati	9 km
		Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli	Ahmednagar Narayandoh	12 km
		Vaijnath (261 km)		
	Doubling	Baramati-Phalton-Lonand (54 km)	Lonand-Phaltan	27 km
		Pen-Roha (40 km)	Nagothane-Roha	13 km
		Daund-Gulgarga (225 km)	Mohol-Vakav	23 km
	Udhna-Jalgaon (307 km)	Chinchpada Khandbara Nandurbar	41 km	

Further, following railway lines have been commissioned on electric traction (electrified) during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17) in the State of Maharashtra:

SN	Section	Route KM	Year
1.	Manmad-Puntamba-Shirdi	81	2014-15
2.	Badnera-Walgaon	18	
3.	Puntamba-Daund	174	2015-16
4.	Dhumrikhurd-Ramtek	14	
5.	Pune-Bhigwan	108	2016-17

36 projects consisting of 13 New Lines, 4 of Gauge Conversion and 19 Doublings falling partly or fully in the State of Maharashtra have been taken up. Details of the projects are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of the project	Length (in km)	Year of sanction	Remarks
NEW LINES				
1.	Amravati-Narkher	138	1993-94	Works taken up.
2.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath	261	1995-96	Works taken up.
3.	Baramati-PhaltonLonand	54	1998-99	Works taken up.
4.	Wardha-Nanded via Yavatmal, Pusad	284	2008-09	Works taken up.
5.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli	50	2011-12	Works taken up.
6.	Dighi Port-Roha	34	2015-16	Works taken up.
7.	Karad-Chiplun	112	2015-16	Included in Budget 2015- 16 subject to requisite Government approvals.

8.	Indore-Manmad via Malegaon	368	2016-17	Included in Budget 2016- 17 subject to requisite Government approvals.
9.	Pune-Nashik	265	2016-17	Included in Budget 2016- 17 subject to requisite Government approvals.
10.	Vaibhavwadi-Kolhapur	107	2016-17	Included in Budget 2016- 17 subject to requisite Government approvals.
11.	Hatkanagale-Ichalkaranji	8	2017-18	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.
12.	Jeur-Asthi	78	2017-18	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.
13	Phaltan-Pandharpur	105	2017-18	Included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite Government approvals.

GAUGE CONVERSION

1.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat Katangi (285) & MM Katangi-Tirodi New Line (15) (total 300 km)	300	1996-97	Works taken up.
2.	Chhindwara-Nagpur	150	2005-06	Works taken up.
3.	Ratlam-Mhow-KhandwaAkola (473) with MM Fatehabad Chandrawatiganj-Ujjain (23) (Total 496 km)	496	2008-09	Works taken up.
4.	Nagpur-Nagbhir	106	2013-14	Included in Budget 2013-14 subject to requisite Government approvals.

DOUBLING

1.	Kalumna-Nagpur	5	2007-08	Works taken up.
2.	Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification Works taken up.	307	2008-09	Works taken up.
3.	Daund-Gulbarga Doubling (225) & PuneGuntakal Electrification (641)	225	2009-10	Works taken up.
4.	Godhani-Kalumna Chord	6	2010-11	Works taken up.
5.	Bhusawal-Jalgaon 3rd line	24	2011-12	Works taken up.
6.	Kalyan-Kasara 3rd line	68	2011-12	Works taken up.
7.	Parbhani-Mudkhed	81	2011-12	Works taken up.
8.	Wardha (Sewagram)- Nagpur 3rd line	76	2012-13	Works taken up.
9.	Hotgi-Kudgi-Gadag	284	2014-15	Works taken up.
10.	Itarsi-Nagpur (Balance) 3rd line excluding Chichonda-Teegaon	280	2015-16	Works taken up.
11.	Kazipet-Balharshah 3rd line (balance section)	201	2015-16	Works taken up.

12.	Pune-Miraj-Londa	467	2015-16	Works taken up.
13.	Rajnandgaon-Nagpur (Kalumna) 3rd line	228	2015-16	Works taken up.
14.	Wardha (Sewagram)- Balharshah 3rd line	132	2015-16	Works taken up.
15.	Chichonda-Teegaon 3rd line	17	2015-16	Works taken up.
16.	Daund-Manmad	248	2016-17	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.
17.	Jalgaon-Bhusawal 4th line	24	2016-17	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.
18.	Manmad-Jalgaon 3rd line	160	2016-17	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.
19.	Wardha-Nagpur 4th line	76	2016-17	Included in Budget 2017- 18 subject to requisite Government approvals.

The works against which remarks have been given that projects included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals, will be started after all approvals are taken.

Details of ongoing Railway Electrification projects falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra are:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Route KM Total/in Maharashtra	Total cost of project (₹ in crore)	Executing Agency
1.	Gondia-Ballarshah	250/250	204.61	Work has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.
2.	Amla-Chhindwara Kalumna	257/55	267.15	Work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution.
3.	Panvel-Pen-Thal	75/75	111.47	Work has been entrusted to Central Railway (CR) for execution.
4.	Jasai-JNPT	9/9	15.78	Work has been entrusted to Central Railway (CR) for execution.
5.	Manmad-MudkhedDhone	868/430	864.71	Work has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.
6.	Pen-Roha	40/40	72.75	Work has been entrusted to Central Railway (CR) for execution.
7.	Pune-MirajKolhapur	326/326	615.01	Work has been entrusted to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) for execution.
8.	Gondia-NainpurJabalpur	229/17	194.29	Work has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.

9.	Jasai-Uran	10/10	19.21	Work has been entrusted to Central Railway (CR) for execution. SN Name of Project Route KM Total/in Maharashtra Total cost of project (₹ in crore) Executing Agency
10.	Chalisgaon-Dhule	56/56	53.80	Work has been entrusted to Central Railway (CR) for execution.
11.	Daund-Baramati	44/44	47.33	Work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution.
12.	Wani-Pimpalkhutti	66/66	77.08	Work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for execution.
13.	Miraj-Kurduwadi Latur	377/377	399.27	Work has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.
14.	Gadag-Hotgi	284/21	341.72	Work has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.

(d) For New Lines, Gauge Conversions & Doubling projects: Till 2013-14, due to overall limited availability of funds, most of the projects were not progressing satisfactorily. Since 2014-15, based on physical progress of projects, last mile connectivity projects and projects for decongesting the existing routes have been given sufficient funds. For this purpose, funds for capacity enhancement projects have been arranged through institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects. The completion of railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, NOC from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations, law and order issues which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of all the projects.

For RE projects: In order to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country, various steps have been taken, which *inter-alia* include award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts, better project monitoring mechanism ensuring availability of funds through Extra Budgetary Resources (Institutional Finance), enhancing power of field units for award of contracts including sanction of estimates and increasing the number of executing agencies from existing three to six by entrusting electrification works to new agencies

viz. Indian Railway Construction Company, Rail India Technical and Economic Services and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

Use of it to Enhance Services

741. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking up several initiatives to use IT to improve the services and asked IT experts to use Government services through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) to innovate in this direction and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government has started BPO promotion scheme to encourage small towns for setting up of call centres and if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government has taken-up a number of initiatives such as e-Kranti under the Digital India programme to improve the delivery of Government Services using IT. Through these initiatives, including the infrastructure and incubation facilities at the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centres, IT experts are welcome to develop and innovate IT/ITeS solutions and services.

(b) The Government launched two BPO promotion schemes, namely India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS) under the Digital India programme, for creation of employment opportunities and promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country, particularly in small cities/towns including rural areas. The Schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 493 crore and Rs. 50 crore respectively, aims to incentivize setting up of a total of 48,300 and 5,000 seats BPO/ITeS operations by 31.03.2019. The Schemes provide financial support along with special incentives up to ? 1 lakh/seat in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society of MeitY, is the implementing agency for the Schemes.

Till now, under IBPS, a total of 31,732 seats have been allocated to successful bidders, resulting in setting up of 180 units distributed across ~90 locations of 20 States & 2 UTs. Out of these, 79 units have reported commencement of operation for a total of 13,780 seats with initial employment to 10,517 persons distributed across ~50 locations of 17 States & 2 UTs. While in NEBPS, a total of 2060 seats have been allocated to successful bidders, resulting in setting up of 19 units across 5 NER States. Out of these, total 7 units have reported commencement of operation for a total of 900 seats with initial employment to 954 persons.

Uncertainty in Telecom Job Market

742. PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any prevailing uncertainty in the job markets of telecom sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Telecom sector is one of the highly competitive high-tech sectors and is currently going through a phase of consolidation with mergers and acquisitions happening among various companies. Mergers and acquisitions can have an impact on certain specific telecom service providers. However, it may be mentioned that there is a vast potential for growth in this sector, with the increasing convergence in voice and data and related technologies and the consequent demand for telecom services.

Keeping in view the need for better connectivity and for increasing the potential for further growth, especially

in the rural areas, the Government is implementing programmes to improve connectivity through the flagship project 'BharatNet' which aims at linking each of the nearly 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of India through a vast optical fibre network that in turn is expected to boost various economic activities in the rural sector. This endeavour will open up avenues for telecom operators, cable TV operators and e-commerce companies, etc. to launch new services and in turn aid the creation of local employment opportunities

Fare in Festive Seasons

743. SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:
SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Government has constituted a committee to review the fares for various trains during festival seasons and levy additional charges for allotment of lower berths, etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also fact that the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee;

(d) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations made by the said committee; and

(e) if so, the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) An eight member Committee comprising General Manager/West Central Railway, Principal Financial Advisor/East Central Railway, Executive Director Passenger Marketing, Railway Board, Executive Director Traffic Commercial (Rates), Railway Board, Advisor (Transport)/Niti Aayog, Executive Director/Revenue Management & Marketing Automation/Air India, Director/Revenue/Le Meridian and Professor of Transport Economics/Walchand Hirachand was constituted to review the flexi fare scheme.

The terms of reference of the committee was to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind interest of passengers and Railways. The committee was mandated to examine the following issues:

Impact of implementation of flexi fare in its current form with respect to:

(i) Impact on Revenue generated for Railways.

- (ii) Impact on Passenger in terms of their choice of railway as means of transport (with increased fare).
- (iii) Competitiveness of flexi fare *viz-a-viz* other means of transport.
- (iv) Amendment/modification if any in
- Flexibility of rates in peak and lean season/ week days and weekend/festival season.
 - 'Add on' if any to be provided with flexi fare for better patronage of the scheme like loyalty points/deferred benefits etc.
 - Any other aspects deemed fit by the committee.
- (v) Fare of special trains like Humsafar etc. also to be reviewed.
- (vi) Implementability of suggestions.

The Committee has submitted its report on 16.01.2018. Important recommendations are to rationalise the Flexi fare scheme based on the occupancy of the trains and also offer discounted fare in trains having low occupancy. The Report along with recommendations has been put up for consideration of the Board.

Online Mechanism for Court Proceedings

744. SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any online application or online mechanism to track the court proceedings, status and judgments for the courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the initiatives taken by the Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The eCourts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>) provides an online mechanism

to stakeholders such as litigants, advocates and members of judiciary to track the court proceedings, status and judgments for the computerized district and subordinate courts in the country. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal provides statistical information of court cases pan country, State-wise and district-wise. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders, and final judgments are also made available to litigants and advocates through SMS (Push and Pull), email and mobile application. At present, litigants can access case status information in respect of 9.38 crore cases and 5.85 crore orders/judgments.

Recruitment of Scientists

745 SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any relaxation is given to the Department of Biotechnology for recruitment of Scientists in its headquarters against the existing rules laid down by the Government of India for notifying positions reserved for SC/ST/OBC; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Respected Madam, it is to inform the esteemed House, that Department of Biotechnology adheres to extant reservation policy of Government of India notified vide DOP&T O.M. No.9/2/73-Estt.(SCT) dated 23rd June, 1975 and OM No.36012/27/94-Estt.(SCT) dated 13.05.1994 which is applicable to all Scientific Departments/Ministries. Exemptions against reservation required from the extant reservation policy are made with due approval of Hon'ble Minister (as per the policy) before initiating any recruitment.

(b) (i) In the last 05 years, only position in Scientist 'H' (Level-15 in 7th CPC) has been advertized to be filled up on direct recruitment basis 5 times. Of these, exemption from reservation policy were allowed by Hon'ble Minister on 04 occasions and 05 candidates have been duly appointed as below:

	Name of Scientist	Date of appointment
1.	Dr. T.S. Rao (OBC)	07.10.2013
2.	Dr. Renu Swarup (UR)	31.07.2014
3.	Dr. Rajesh Kapur (UR)	22.08.2016
4.	Dr. Suman Govil (UR)	13.09.2017
5.	Dr. S.R. Rao (UR)	13.09.2017

- (ii) No exemption from reservation was allowed by the Hon'ble Minister for the vacancy arising due to superannuation of Dr. Rajesh Kapur, Scientist 'H' on 31st January, 2017. Accordingly, the said post has been advertized on 26.08.2017 as reserved for Scheduled Caste candidate and is in the process of being filled up.
- (iii) No other recruitment against open advertisement has been made in any other scientific positions during the last 5 years.

5G AUCTION

746. DR. UDIT RAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 5G auction will be conducted by selling spectrum in bands over 3000 MHz and the sale in this regard will be conducted for the first time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Spectrum above 3000 MHz will be put up for auction for the first time in the forthcoming auction. The Government has sought recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the applicable Reserve Price and related issues for auction of right to use of spectrum in the frequency bands 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz. Recommendations from TRAI are awaited.

It is for information that the standardisation work in respect of 5G technology is in progress in the International Telecom Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland under the official name of IMT (International Mobile Telecommunication) 2020. The standardisation is expected to be completed around the year 2020 after which the frequency bands, already auctioned and proposed to be auctioned, can be utilised for deployment of 5G technology.

Separate Railway Zone

747. SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is fully committed to establish a separate Railway Zone at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh as per Section 93 of the Thirteenth Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation of establishment of a separate new Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Ministry of Railways was required to examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh. To inter-alia, examine the feasibility of establishing a new Railway Zone, a Committee of senior Railway officers had been constituted. The Committee was asked to consult various stakeholders, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken. The Committee has already submitted its report. In view of the complexities involved, the matter is under further detailed examination in the Ministry of Railways.

Khadi Uniform for Postmen and Postwomen

748. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce khadi uniforms for the postmen and postwomen in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The uniform for postmen and postwomen were redesigned to make them more comfortable and durable. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will sell the uniform from its outlets in the country. An allowance of Rs. 5000/- per year is provided to the staff for the purchase of uniform, from the market, including the outlets of KVIC.

Treatment of Sewage

749. SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed or proposes to develop a technology for treatment of sewage through radiation and its conversion into bio-fertilizer;

(b) if so, the details and the benefits thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has deployed the said technology in actual usage and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Conventionally sewage treatment plant treats the sewage and the same is dried. The technology developed by BARC subjects the dried sludge to crushing and exposure to 10 kGy radiation dose. This kills the pathogens in the sludge and makes it safer for use. In the next step, BIO-NPK (Nitrogen Phosphorus Potassium) microorganisms are sprayed on to it to make it biofertilizer. The use of such bio-fertilizer provides organic carbon and other nutrients to the soil. The process also helps in recycling of the waste material to useful Bio-fertilizer.

(c) (i) A 100 ton/day capacity facility has been constructed at Ahmedabad under Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

(ii) The cold trials have been completed successfully.

(iii) The facility is scheduled to be fully operational soon after radiation source loading.

(iv) Another similar facility of 100 ton/day capacity will be constructed at Indore under MoU with BARC.

[Translation]

Mobile Towers in LWE Affected Areas of Bihar

750. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places identified by the Government for installation of mobile towers in Naxal affected areas of Bihar;

(b) the number of places where such mobile towers have already been installed so far;

(c) the number of identified places where such towers have not been installed along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) For installation of mobile towers in Naxal affected areas of Bihar under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) project, 250 locations in phase-I and 412 locations in phase-II have been identified.

(b) 250 mobile towers have been installed in Naxal affected areas of Bihar under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) project in phase-I.

(c) and (d) After installation of 2329 mobile towers under LWE Phase-I, the Department has received an additional requirement from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for setting up 4,072 mobile towers (including 412 mobile towers in Bihar) in LWE affected areas under phase-II. Telecom Commission, in its meeting held on 21.12.2017, has recommended the proposal of installing 4072 mobile towers at the locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected areas. The matter is now being processed for seeking Cabinet approval.

[English]

Private Firms to Operate ABWS

751. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow private firms to manage and operate all the Army Base Workshops (ABWs);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance combat capability and rebalance the defence expenditure of the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (c) The Government had constituted a Committee of Experts (CoE) to study and recommend measures to enhance combat capabilities and rebalance defence expenditure. Based on the recommendations of the Committee in respect of Army Base Workshops (ABWs), the Government has approved operation of 8 Army Base Workshops (ABWs) on Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model.

Some of the other major recommendations made by the Committee for enhancement of combat capabilities and rebalancing of defence expenditure, which have been approved for implementation, *inter-alia* include optimization of Signals Establishments, restructuring of repair echelons in the Army, restructuring and redeployment of Ordnance echelons, Supply and

Transportation echelons, Animal Transport Units, Closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations, etc.

[*Translation*]

Delay in Construction Work

752. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint pertaining to delay in execution of construction work being undertaken by Border Road Organisation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed the responsibility of any officer of Border Road Organisation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken against the officers responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (d) No, Madam. However, certain delays in execution of road projects have occurred mainly due to the following reasons:-

- (i) Delay in Forest/Wildlife clearance.
- (ii) Hard rock stretches.
- (iii) Limited working season
- (iv) Difficulties in availability of construction material.
- (v) Delay in land acquisition.

Nobody could be blamed for the delay due to the above reasons. However, compensation for the delay from contractors is levied as per the provision of Contract wherever applicable.

[*English*]

Training for Defence Procurement

753. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether armed forces are trained for defence procurement and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether adequate steps are being taken to train the officers/officials for defence procurement and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of trained officers available in procurement at present; and

(d) whether these numbers are sufficient/adequate and if not, the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) and (b) For acquisition of defence equipment and the modernisation of our Armed Forces, the procedures prescribed in various manuals and rules including the Defence Procurement Procedure-2016 (DPP) and the Defence Procurement Manual 2009 (DPM) are followed. DPP deals with the acquisition of new capital equipment and DPM with revenue procurements as well as the provision of all other goods, services and support activities intended to maintain the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. The Indian Armed Forces follow an approach of continuous training of its officers wherein each officer at different stages of his/her career undergoes various training courses of different contents and durations. As part of these courses, the officers are provided introductory training in various issues concerning procurement. This training is both built into the curriculum and also covered by means of lectures by guest speakers. Besides, training on financial management at macro level is provided to the officers which also covers various aspects related to defence procurement. Specialist courses are also conducted at Service, Tri-service and Ministry of Defence level at Material Management Institute of IAF, College of Defence Management of IDS and Defence HQ Training Institute, Ministry of Defence.

In addition, officers dealing with defence procurements are encouraged to attend seminars, capsule courses or other similar events conducted by various industry chambers and institutes such as National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad. All these assist in developing the required knowledge base among the officers for handling issues related to defence procurement.

(c) and (d) There are adequate number of experienced and trained officers to handle defence procurement. However, in view of the position indicated in reply to part (a) and (b) above, training of officers on procurement matter being a continuous process of knowledge upgradation, it is not possible to give exact number of trained officers.

[Translation]

Minority Status

754. SHRI ALOK SANJAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the minority status governing norms in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status in this regard; and

(c) the demands of every State in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Revision of norms governing minority status in the states is within the domain of states concerned and it is for the State Government concerned to take action on it. So far as the Central Government is concerned, six communities have been notified as minority communities *viz.* Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains under Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

[English]

Various Conventions in U.N.

755. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of the United Nations;

(b) if so, the salient features of those Conventions including the dates of ratification or approval;

(c) whether the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism have been effective in terms of tackling terrorism in the world so far and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government's proposal of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is being considered for adoption by the United Nations thereby replacing those aforesaid conventions and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) India is party to both the "International Convention for the

Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)" and the "International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)" which were ratified on 22 September, 1999 and 22 April, 2003, respectively. These Conventions aim to criminalize certain specific acts of terrorism.

The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings criminalizes the specific act of an individual who unlawfully and intentionally delivers, places, discharges or detonates an explosive or other lethal device in, into or against a place of public use, State or government facility, a public transportation system or an infrastructure facility with the intention of causing death, serious bodily harm, destruction to a place/facility/system that causes major economic loss.

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism criminalizes the specific act of an individual who by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and wilfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, to carry out acts defined in nine pre-existing Conventions mentioned in its annex, or for carrying out acts that are intended to cause death/serious bodily injury to civilians, with the objective of intimidating a population or compelling a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act.

(c) and (d) India has consistently highlighted to the international community that terrorism poses one of the foremost threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. In this context it has advocated further strengthening of the international legal framework to combat terrorism including the adoption of a "Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)" that will supplement and further strengthen the existing international legal framework to combat terrorism.

[Translation]

MoU With Canada

756. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has recently approved MoU with Canada for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, whether the MoU will provide a mechanism and help foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of the two countries;

(c) if so, whether the areas of cooperation have been identified in the MoU;

(d) if so, the manner and extent to which the country will be benefitted from this MoU; and

(e) the time by which the implementation of the MoU will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government of India has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology. The MoU was concluded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada, Government of Canada, on 14th November 2017. The MoU will provide mechanism and help to foster cooperation between Research and Development and academic institutions of India and Canada.

(c) The identified areas of mutual cooperation under this MoU include (i) safe and sustainable infrastructure, and (ii) integrated water management.

(d) Under this MoU, the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS) programme will be supported to promote research partnership between both countries. The R&D projects will be aimed at providing solutions through application of science & technology. The participants will include researchers from scientific organizations, academic and R&D laboratories from India and Canada.

(e) The process of implementation of the MoU has already been initiated towards launch of the bilateral call for R&D projects.

[English]

Free Data Services to Rural Masses

757. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested the Government to consider providing free data services to the rural masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had suo-moto initiated a Consultation Paper on Free Data on 19.05.2016. Subsequently, TRAI provided its recommendations to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on "Encouraging Data Usage in Rural Area through provisioning of Free Data" dated 19.12.2016. The recommendations *inter-alia* state that:

(i) In order to bridge the affordability gap for the persons residing in rural areas and to support Government's efforts towards cashless economy by incentivising digital means, the Authority recommends that scheme under which a reasonable amount of data, say 100MB per month, may be made available to rural subscribers for free.

(ii) The cost of implementation of the scheme may be met from Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF).

(c) and (d) The recommendations were referred back to TRAI for clarifications by DoT vide letter dated 25-09-2017. The response from TRAI dated 29-11-2017 has been received and is being examined in DoT.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Railway Tracks

758. SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of length of old and dilapidated railway tracks changed during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the corrective steps being taken by the Government to check the occurrence of train accidents due to human error; and

(c) the current status of freight corridor being constructed for goods trains and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of

track renewal carried out since 2014-15 onwards yearwise and zone-wise are as under:

Zonal Railway	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (up to December 2017)
Central	205	185	195	157
Eastern	185	162	178	155
East Central	203	202	180	189
East Coast	60	116	119	145
Northern	383	387	281	327
North Central	152	164	111	122
North Eastern	45	80	81	68
Northeast Frontier	34	95	42	50
North Western	24	59	80	116
Southern	135	187	207	203
South Central	208	278	150	128
South Eastern	168	209	190	210
South East Central	107	119	123	109
South Western	96	118	117	121
Western	194	229	240	233
West Central	225	204	193	148
Total	2424	2794	2487	2481

All figures in kilometers of Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units.

(b) Railway has taken several steps/corrective measures to prevent the occurrence of train accidents due to human error which includes imparting need based/simulator based training and periodical refresher course trainings from time to time for railway officials, counseling of railway officials for new technological advancements to avoid failures, conducting of regular inspections/super-checks involving officers/supervisors as a regular measure, launching special drive from time to time, provision of Vigilance Control Device (VCD) in all electric locomotives to judge alertness of loco pilots and extensive footplate inspections by railway officers and supervisors particularly during night hours.

(c) Work on both the Eastern and Western Freight Corridors has been taken on hand. These are targeted for completion in phases by the year 2020.

[English]

Refrigerated Parcel Vans

759. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced refrigerated van service to facilitate transportation of perishable commodities like vegetables, fruits, milk products, meat/poultry, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of routes on which such vans are operational and their usage statistics;

(c) whether it is fact that most of the vans are lying defunct and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts taken by the Ministry to capture the traffic of perishable goods and expand the network of refrigerated vans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. 9 Refrigerated vans are available over Indian Railways. At present 03 Refrigerated Vans are available for service and balance 06 Refrigerated Vans are undergoing maintenance schedules in Workshop/Open lines. However, due to lack of demand, these Refrigerated Vans had gone in disuse resulting in inoperative Refrigeration system.

During the current financial year *i.e.* 2017-18, 14 Refrigerated Vans were loaded from Yashantpur to Gorakhpur and 04 Refrigerated Vans from Palanpur to HTTP (Hind Terminal Private Limited) generating revenue of Rs. 33.24 lakhs.

Efforts are being made to capture the traffic by the Zonal Railways by conducting meetings with trade and industry, stakeholders etc.

[*Translation*]

Criminals Contesting Elections

760. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any step to prevent the dreaded criminals from contesting elections;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard from various stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) As per section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person convicted of offences specified therein shall be disqualified for membership of the legislatures from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.

(c) and (d) The issue of electoral reform in its entirety was referred to the Law Commission of India in the year 2013. After consultation with various stakeholders, the Law Commission submitted its 244th report containing

recommendation that a person shall be disqualified for membership of legislatures upon framing of charges against him for specified offences, subject to certain other conditions. The recommendations of the Law Commission are under examination.

[*English*]

Unctad Report on Cyber Security

761. SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India saw the highest number of people going online for the first time during 2012-15 period among all countries and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that the UNCTAD report has raised concern about protection of online data and devices as more economic activities go digital and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that the Government is taking all steps to prevent the growing cyber crime in the country as digital payment system needs more protection; and (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There have been some media news items based on the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) "INFORMATION ECONOMY REPORT 2017" which indicate that India saw the highest number of people going online for the first time during 2012-15 period among all countries. The news items further highlight that the UNCTAD report has raised concern about protection of online data with digitization of more economic activities.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of legal, technical and administrative policy measures for addressing cyber attacks leading to cyber crime and enhance security of digital payment systems. This includes National Cyber Security policy 2013, enactment of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, setting up of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) under the provisions of IT Act, 2000, etc. Some major activities are:

(i) CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities alongwith countermeasures to create awareness among

stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure safe usage of digital technologies. Regarding securing digital payments, 27 advisories have been issued for users and institutions.

- (ii) All authorised entities/banks issuing Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country have been advised by CERT-In through the Reserve Bank of India to carry out security audit by the empanelled auditors of CERT-In on a priority basis and to take immediate steps thereafter to comply with the findings of the audit report and ensure implementation of security best practices.
- (iii) All organizations providing digital payment services have been mandated to report cyber security incidents to CERT-In expeditiously.
- (iv) CERT-In has empanelled 54 security auditing organizations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- (v) Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) for securing applications and infrastructure and their key roles and responsibilities for compliance.
- (vi) CERT-In is regularly conducting cyber security trainings for IT/cyber security professionals including CISOs of Government and critical sector organisations to give an exposure on current threat landscape and countermeasures. In addition, CERT-In has also conducted a workshop on security of digital payments systems for stakeholder organisations covering 110 participants.
- (vii) Government has established Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre to detect and clean infected systems in the country.
- (viii) MeitY has organised 2 workshops for banks, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) issuing entities regarding security of digital payments systems.
- (ix) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different States and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom,

Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated. In addition 3 drills were conducted in coordination with The Reserve Bank of India and The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology.

- (x) RBI has issued a comprehensive circular on Cyber Security Framework in Banks on June 2, 2016 covering best practices pertaining to various aspects of cyber security.
- (xi) RBI has issued Master Directions on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments on October 11, 2017.

Medical Facilities

762. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions made for providing medical facilities to personnel of armed forces including ex-servicemen and their dependents;

(b) whether medical facility under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine has been introduced in Army hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the hospitals where the medical facility under Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine is available for personnel of armed forces, exservicemen and their dependents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) All kinds of medical facilities such as primary medical healthcare, specialist medical care and super specialists medical care are provided to armed forces personnel including ex-servicemen and their dependents.

(b) and (c) As on date medical facilities in Armed Forces are based on allopathic system of medicine. A Committee was set-up to examine the feasibility of introducing Ayurvedic and Unani system of medicine. The Committee recommended the introduction of non-pharmacological AYUSH based 'Lifestyle Centres' at Army Hospital (R&R) Delhi Cantonment and Air Force Hospital, Hindon on trial basis with manpower and other assistance from Ministry of AYUSH

Facilities at Busy Railway Stations

763. SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at very busy railway stations such as Vijayawada and Secunderabad, the

wheelchairs that are now available with the porters are old and not in working condition, causing inconvenience to the physically handicapped and old people;

(b) if so, whether these wheelchairs are proposed to be replaced with new wheelchairs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) to (c): No, Madam. 12 wheelchairs at Vijayawada station and 10 wheelchairs at Secunderabad station are available, all of which are in working condition. Further, instructions already exist with Zonal Railways to ensure availability of functional wheelchairs at stations.

Suburban Railway Service

764. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for the development of Suburban Network Railway Service of South Western Railways and Southern Railways;

(b) the details of funds allocated for passenger amenities, rolling stock, etc.; and

(c) the long term approach of the Government to improve the suburban railway services in Bengaluru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Total fund allocated exclusively for development of suburban network in Southern Railway is Rs. 14 crore for the year 2017-18. Apart from this, Rs. 1.8125 crore for upgradation of maintenance of suburban rolling stock has been allocated over Southern/South Western Railways. Further, Rs. 113.54 crore for passenger amenities have also been allocated which includes works on Railway network where EMU trains are running.

(c) Suburban Railway services in Bengaluru will be improved as per provisions of Indian Railways' policy on Suburban Railway System. Accordingly, two works identified by State Government *i.e.* (i) Conversion of 15 existing short distance passenger trains with 12 cars MEMU trains, and (ii) Enhancement of maintenance facilities for MEMU shed at Banaswadi have been approved by the Ministry of Railways in 2017-18.

[*Translation*]

Extension of DMU

765. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is considering to extend D.M.U. (79437/79438, 79431/79432) train upto Falna keeping in view the problem faced by the villagers of Falna including Sirohi;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has fixed any time limit to extend this train upto Falna;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for not extending this train upto Falna so far; and

(e) the amount required to develop infrastructure such as cleaning of train, yard, etc. for extension of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Madam. Owing to resource constraints and operational constraints including lack of terminal facilities at Falna, at present, there is no proposal for extension of 79437/79438 Mehsana-Abu Road DEMU and 79431/79432 Ahmedabad-Mehasana DEMU upto Falna.

(e) Since, there is no proposal to extend the DEMU (79437/79438, 79431/79432) train up to Falna, no exercise has been made so far for estimating the amount required to develop infrastructure such as cleaning of train, yard etc. for extension of train.

Electrification of Railway Tracks in Bundelkhand

766. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes rapid electrification of railway lines and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government also proposes electrification of all railway lines in Bundelkhand and if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways have prepared an Action Plan to electrify 38000 Route Kilometers in five years (2017-

18 to 2021-22) for 100% electrification of its Broad Gauge (BG) rail routes including Railway tracks in Bundelkhand. Year wise details are as under:-

Year	Route Kilometer planned for commissioning on electric traction.
2017-18	4000
2018-19	6000
2019-20	7000
2020-21	10500
2021-22	10500
Total	38000

Indo-china Border Dispute

767. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-China border dispute has been resolved and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of number of times when the Chinese army infiltrated into Indian territory during the last three years; and

(c) the level at which the efforts have been made/ being made by the Government to resolve the Indo-China border dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) India and China have appointed a Special Representative (SR) each to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been twenty meetings of SRs so far, the last one being in New Delhi on 22 December, 2017. The two sides are committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question through dialogue and peaceful negotiations. The two sides agree that pending the final resolution of the boundary question, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

There is no commonly delineated Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the border areas between India and China. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC.

Government regularly takes up any transgression along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including border personnel meetings, flag meetings, meetings of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, as well as through diplomatic channels.

[English]

Acquisition of Submarines

768. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the force level of submarines under Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the present strength of submarines under Indian Navy is far lesser than the strength of submarines possessed by China and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Indian submarines are based on outdated technology and lack armament expansion when compared with submarines under Chinese navy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (e) The Government constantly reviews the prevailing security scenario and enhances force levels based on operational requirements and threat perceptions, which is a continuous and dynamic process. State of the art defence equipment, including submarines for the Indian Navy, are periodically inducted to ensure availability of platforms to meet all national security requirements. Long term plans are under implementation to ensure adequate force levels including submarines for the Indian Navy.

Development of DEWS

769. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed its own Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs);

(b) if so, the implications of this new development on India's military capabilities;

(c) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) proposes to collaborate with private players to further develop this technology and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the stockpile of DEWs is likely to be completely developed?

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (d) Details of development of Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) are sensitive.

Quantum of Divorce Cases Registered

770. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of divorce cases registered/disposed of in various courts in the country during each of the last three years, court-wise;

(b) whether the Government is taking adequate steps to expedite the disposal of divorce cases including setting up of special courts in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954; and (d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No data relating to divorce cases is maintained separately. However, as per the information furnished by the High Courts, a statement giving details of cases pending in Family Courts, State/UT-wise, which *inter-alia* includes divorce cases, is given in the enclosed Statement. In the Chief Ministers' and Chief Justices' Conference, 2015, directions have been issued to all High Courts to regularly monitor and take necessary steps for early disposal of such cases. Setting up of subordinate courts which includes Special Courts, is within the domain of the State Governments and respective High Courts who set up such court as per their need and resources.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954

Statement

Details of cases pending in family courts, statewise/UTwise which inter-alea including divorce cases

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	No. of cases Pending as on 31.12.2017
1.	Andhra Pradesh, Telengana	24529
2.	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram	5693
3.	Bihar	46735
4.	Chhattisgarh	12012
5.	Delhi	30333
6.	Gujarat	30987
7.	Haryana	18963
8.	Jharkhand	10871
9.	Karnataka	27174
10.	Kerala	61970
11.	Madhya Pradesh	41028
12.	Maharashtra	35349
13.	Manipur	597
14.	Odisha	31212
15.	Punjab	4489
16.	Puducherry	971
17.	Rajasthan	31890
18.	Sikkim	165
19.	Tamil Nadu	21672
20.	Tripura	2121
21.	Uttar Pradesh	264409
22.	Uttarakhand	9201
23.	West Bengal	1140
Total		713511

At present, there is no family court in the States of Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

Crimes in Trains

771. SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has decided to deploy its personnel in plain

clothes in select trains to prevent crimes and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that thefts in running trains have increased in the recent past;

(c) if so, the total number of theft cases in trains reported during the last three years;

(d) whether it is also true that the Railways is considering to enhance the strength of RPF personnel at both stations and trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP)/District Police. However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of GRP in providing better protection and security of passenger area and passengers and for matters connected therewith. RPF has not decided to deploy its personnel in plain clothes in select trains to prevent crime. However, RPF staff posted in Crime Intelligence Branch of RPF are deployed in plain clothes in vulnerable trains for surveillance on criminals and prevention of crime.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Policing, including registration of First Information Report (FIR) and its investigation being a State subject, Railways does not maintain any data on Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes. As per the data received from the Government Railway Police Stations, 16180, 17925 and 31920 cases of theft of passengers' belongings have been reported in trains over Indian Railways during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively.

(d) and (e) The deployment of RPF staff is assessed regularly and as per existing strength optimum deployment is made in trains and at stations for prevention of crime in Railways in coordination with GRP. As regards augmentation of strength of RPF, the existing strength is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the operational requirement and the proposal for creation of fresh posts are approved by Ministry of Railways and forwarded to Ministry of Finance for sanction.

[Translation]

Rail Line Between Chatra and Gaya

772. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any railway line has been proposed between Chatra and Gaya and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted for land acquisition and construction of platforms and stations on the said line;

(c) if so, the time by which the railway line was proposed and the budget provided till date for the same;

(d) the current status of the said line; and

(e) the estimated budget required for the said railway line to complete it and the targets fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. Gaya-Chatra (97 Km) New Line project has been sanctioned in 2008-09 at a cost of Rs. 416 crore. Final Location Survey has been completed and the report has been submitted on 14.12.2015. The project could not take off due to abnormal increase in cost of land and limited overall availability of funds for new line projects. An expenditure of Rs. 31 crore has been made upto March 2017 and an outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided in 2017-18. The latest anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 4543 crore. The target date of completion of this project has not been fixed.

[English]

IT Investment Region

773. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be please to state:

(a) whether Government has received any fresh representation from the Government of Telangana requesting for release of necessary funds for the proposed IT investment region in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to complete the project at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has not received any representation from the Government of Telangana for release of funds for the proposed IT investment region in the state of Telangana. Now, the Information

Technology Investment Region (ITIR) Policy, 2008 has been closed.

Transparency in Judiciary

774. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing judicial system in the country lacks transparency particularly in the appointment of judges;

(b) if so, whether the long-pending Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges has resulted in huge vacancy in judiciary, adversely affecting justice delivery system;

(c) if so, the current status of MoP; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the prevailing challenges in judicial system of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court of India vide order dated 16.12.2015 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13 of 2015 for improvement in the "Collegium System", directed the Government to finalize the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium taking into consideration factors such as eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of Secretariat, and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. The response of the Chief Justice of India thereon was received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The views of the Government were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The inputs on the MoP of the Supreme Court Collegium was received from Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 13.03.2017.

Meanwhile in another judgment dated 4.7.2017 of Supreme Court in a "suo moto" contempt proceeding against a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, the Supreme Court has underlined the need to revisit the process of selection and appointment of Judges to the Constitutional Courts. The Government of India has conveyed the need to make improvement on the draft MoP to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017.

As the process of finalizing the supplementation of the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) was likely to take some time, at the initiative of the Government, the matter of continuing the appointment process was taken up with Supreme Court and it is continuing in accordance with the existing MoP to fill the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

During 2016, 4 Judges in the Supreme Court and 14 Chief Justices of High Courts were appointed. Besides, 126 fresh appointments of Judges were made in High Courts which is the highest number in a calendar year. During 2017, 5 Judges in the Supreme Court, 8 Chief Justices of High Courts and 115 fresh appointments of Judges in the High Courts have been made. During 2016, as on 01.02.2018, 3 fresh appointments of Judges in the High Courts have been made.

The prevailing challenges facing the Judiciary are largely to be addressed by the Judiciary as it is an independent organ under the Indian Constitution. The Government is committed to the independence of Judiciary and does not intervene in its functioning.

Agreement With Israel

775. SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made and then suddenly cancelled a deal with the Government of Israel to purchase spy cannon-fired missile; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) on 19.6.2009 for procurement of 321 Launchers, 8356 Missiles and 15 Simulators of 3rd Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system under 'BUY & MAKE' category with Transfer of Technology (ToT) to M/s Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on 1.4.2010 and the case progressed as per provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure. However, on account of indigenous development of 3rd Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system by Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO), it was, inter alia, decided that there is no need to acquire ToT with the ATGM system. Accordingly, the RFP was retracted on 20th December, 2017.

RAFALE JETS

776. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Transfer of Technology is inherent in the deal finalised by the Government to purchase 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the number of aircraft purchases was reduced to 36 from earlier negotiations for a higher number of 126 aircraft and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any other options or recourses are being considered to fulfil the remaining demand of the Indian Air Force for fighter jets and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the role of Hindustan Aeronauticals Limited in the defence deal of acquiring 36 Rafale jets; and

(e) the time by which the offset commitments of France towards setting up research and development in the country is likely to be realised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for supply of 36 Rafale aircraft envisages supply of aircraft in flyaway condition along with associated equipment. The License Manufacturing/Transfer of Technology was not sought as it would not have been cost effective for an order of this size.

(b) The Request for Proposal (RFP) for 126 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) was formally withdrawn in June, 2015 as the contract negotiations had reached an impasse. To meet the Critical Operational Necessity of the Indian Air Force (IAF), 36 Rafale were procured through the IGA.

(c) To meet the requirement of fighter aircraft of IAF, induction of the balance of 272 Su-30 MKI aircraft from

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is under process. Induction of 40 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) into the IAF has commenced. Induction of Rafale Aircraft will commence by 2019. RFP has also been issued for procurement of 83 LCA MK1A.

(d) HAL has no role in the 36 Rafale aircraft deal.

(e) The current Offsets policy of the Defence Procurement permits the vendors to provide the details of their Indian Offset Partners (IOPs) either at the time of seeking offset credits, or one year prior to discharge of offset obligations. The investments are to be made as per offset guidelines of DPP-2013.

[Translation]

Funds for Modernisation of Armed Forces

777. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has utilised the funds allocated for modernisation of armed forces during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of mechanism established for audit of funds allocated for the said purpose; and

(c) the details of defence procurement agreements signed during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) to (c) Modernisation of Armed Forces is a continuous process undertaken as per the extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) to keep the Forces in a state of readiness to meet operational and security challenges.

The capital Budget and Expenditure for Armed Forces for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Revised Estimates	Expenditure
2014-15	66151.73	65862.38
2015-16	65400.00	62235.54
2016-17	62619.36	69280.17

During the last three financial years, 154 contracts have been signed for capital procurement of defence equipment for Defence Forces.

Ministry of Defence is undertaking the following two types of Audit:

(i) Internal Audit: It is conducted by Defence Accounts Department while performing function of payment and accounting of all Defence expenditure. The major findings of the Internal Audit are highlighted in the Internal Audit report issued by CGDA.

(ii) External Audit: This is the statutory audit done by Controller and Auditor General (C&AG) as in the case of other Ministries/Departments.

Shortage of Trackmen

778. SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of trackmen who undertakes patrolling job for the security of Railways and if so, the details of vacancies, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways has decided to engage homeguards and employees of private companies for safety of tracks during night;

(c) if so, the number of private employees already engaged and the reasons for taking decision to engage private employees in the field of security;

(d) whether this decision has not curtailed employment opportunities and will not lead to security lapses and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to launch new recruitment drive for the post of trackmen, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways is aware of the shortage of Track Maintainer. The zone wise vacancy position of Track Maintainer is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Ministry has decided that whenever night patrolling is to be carried out in pair and in case available departmental manpower is inadequate, the second patrolman to accompany railway Track Maintainer deputed for patrolling, may be engaged through outsourcing. 2013 number of private persons have been engaged for the above purpose.

(d) The outsourcing of patrolman is to be done if available departmental manpower is inadequate. The outsourced patrolman is to be trained by Railway officials before patrolling in pair with Railway Track Maintainer deputed for patrolling.

(e) Recruitment process to fill up the vacancies in Level-1 posts, including those of around 35,000 Track Maintainers, has already been set in motion.

Statement

The zone-wise vacancy position of Track Maintainer is as under:

Vacancy position of Track Maintainer as on 01.04.2017 over Zonal Railways (provisional)

Zonal Railway	Vacancy of Track Maintainer (No.)
Central Railway	2151
East Coast Railway	1848
East Central Railway	3573
Eastern Railway	4664
Metro Railway	1
North Central Railway	3332
North Eastern Railway	2694
Northeast Frontier Railway	2467
Northern Railway	4956
North Western Railway	3639
South Central Railway	3273
Southeast Central Railway	1236
South Eastern Railway	2726
Southern Railway	2909
South Western Railway	1303
West Central Railway	2874
Western Railway	4164
Total	47810

[English]

Deficient Quality Missile

779. SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether strategic missile system, a medium range supersonic surface to air missile system to counter aerial threats is of deficient quality and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether over seventy percent of the under vehicle scanners installed at Indian Air Force bases are non-functional;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken/being taken in this regard;

(d) whether IL series of aircraft, which provides vital transport support to the IAF during contingencies, has not been upgraded, and continue to fly with 1985 vintage avionics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAM RAO BHAMRE): (a) The Medium Range Supersonic Surface to Air Missile System to counter aerial threats is being developed by Defence Research & Development Organization (Research Centre Imarat) and IAI, Israel. The system will be inducted into the IAF.

(b) and (c) Since its procurement in year 2012, the Under Vehicle Scanner System (UVSS) had come across defects in some machines. All efforts are being taken to rectify the defects. Supplier was penalized for delays in rectification in some cases through penal deduction and other measures. However, defects in the systems did not compromise the access control measures in various Air Force bases as there are alternative means available to check vehicles and visitors.

(d) and (e) IL fleet has undergone provisioning of modern day avionics in last about 10 years and therefore, it is not correct to say that IL fleet continue to fly with 1985 vintage avionics. Many modern Navigational aids have been procured in the recent years and further upgrade of Avionics of IL fleet has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Access to Information Technology

780. DR. BANSILAL MAHATO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the schemes implemented by the Government in the country to improve the access to information technology;

(b) whether the Government has made any efforts to provide access to information technology to the people living in rural, hilly and far-flung areas of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise including Chhattisgarh; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the decentralization of information technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Some of the key schemes implemented by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India to improve the access to information technology are as follows:

Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0: The key objective of CSCs is to deliver various citizen centric services, such as, Government to Citizen (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, educational services, skill development services etc.

CSCs are internet enabled centres operated by local entrepreneur, called Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). CSC has the capability in extending the information technology for access by the people, thereby, bridging the digital divide, with a particular emphasis on the provision of effective online services for the inclusion of the societies, thus digitally empowering the citizens, especially in rural & other inaccessible areas.

Till December, 2017, there are 2,71,311 Common Services Centres (CSCs) functioning across the country; among which, 1,73,853 CSCs are at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. The number of CSCs in the country (State/UT-wise) is shown in the enclosed Statement-I.

e-District MMP: The objectives of the e-District project are to ensure: end-to-end workflow to ensure delivery of e-Services by undertaking Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) of services, providing easy, anywhere and anytime access to Government services. This MMP is being implemented by State Governments/UT Administrations through their designated agencies. Services Launch Status: e-District MMP: e-District services have been launched in 649 districts across 32 States/UTs. The state-wise status is shown in the enclosed Statement-II.

Mobile Seva Platform: Mobile governance(m-governance) aims to leverage wireless and new media technology platforms, mobile devices and applications for delivery of public information and services to all citizens and businesses. It aims at widening the reach of, and access to, public services to all citizens in the country, especially in the rural areas by exploiting the much greater penetration of mobile phones in the country. It also leverages the innovative potential of mobile applications in providing public services. Around 3830 Government departments and agencies integrated with the Mobile seva platform. The total number of services available to citizens and businesses over Pull SMS has reached 726. On the Mobile Seva AppStore, total 1034 live mobile Apps have been developed and hosted.

Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG): Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance (UMANG) has been developed as a single mobile platform to deliver major Government services with Core Platform integrated with Aadhaar, DigiLocker, PayGov, Rapid Assessment System (RAS) etc. Citizens can access pan India Government services from the Central Government, State Governments, local bodies and their agencies and some important utility services from corporate. About 176 services from 33 departments and 4 States are available on UMANG platform.

Vikaspedia: Vikaspedia is a knowledge portal targeting specific country needs in the domain of social development. This multilingual portal is developed as a single-window access to information, products and services, with specific objective of reaching the 'un-reached' communities of India, especially poor. It catalyses

the use of ICT tools for knowledge sharing, leading to development. Vikaspedia seeks to bridge the gap between the poor and development, by providing links to government, civil society groups/NGOs and private institutions. The ultimate goal is to create a service-oriented, people-friendly and demystified Information Technology (ICT) for Development in service of communities through countrywide collaborations.

(d) National Informatics Centre (NIC), an attached office of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), develops applications and provides ICT services for e-Governance of the country. NIC has its presence up to the level of districts though it's District Centres. In addition to this, MeitY provides State e-Governance Mission Team (SeMT) to States/UTs Government for giving technical support and specialized skills for egovernance and other initiatives.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise Status of CSCs as on 31st December, 2017

S. No.	State	No. of Gram Panchayat (GP)	Total No. of CSCs including GP	No. of CSCs at GP level
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12917	7376	4168
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1814	71	56
3.	Assam	2548	2892	2311
4.	Bihar	8315	20976	13506
5.	Chhattisgarh	10948	11856	8555
6.	Goa	191	45	35
7.	Gujarat	14085	13531	7576
8.	Haryana	6205	8644	5489
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3226	2731	2156
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4167	1897	1486
11.	Jharkhand	4398	10573	6439
12.	Karnataka	6021	5851	2954
13.	Kerala	939	2318	1302
14.	Madhya Pradesh	22771	19329	14213

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	27977	29987	20684
16.	Manipur	165	628	317
17.	Meghalaya	1463	201	86
18.	Mizoram	713	135	110
19.	Nagaland	1203	146	116
20.	Odisha	6804	7771	6349
21.	Punjab	12922	6172	4043
22.	Rajasthan	9883	13382	9156
23.	Sikkim	176	30	25
24.	Tamil Nadu	12507	8852	5019
25.	Telangana	8687	5509	3165
26.	Tripura	1157	427	361
27.	Uttar Pradesh	59018	65788	41592
28.	Uttarakhand	7957	4720	4233
29.	West Bengal	3328	17063	8215
State Total		252505	268901	173717
Union Territory				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	260	52	23
2.	Chandigarh	12	77	23
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	25	11
4.	Daman and Diu	14	12	2
5.	Delhi	0	2111	0
6.	Lakshadweep	10	7	3
7.	Puducherry	98	126	74
UT Total		414	2410	136
GRAND TOTAL		252919	271311	173853

Statement-II*e-District services launched/covered in 100% districts*

1. Andhra Pradesh (13/13)
2. Arunachal Pradesh (16/16)
3. Assam (27/27)
4. Bihar (34/34)
5. Chandigarh (1/1)
6. Chhattisgarh (27/27)
7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli (1/1)
8. Delhi (11/11)
9. Goa (2/2)
10. Gujarat (33/33)
11. Haryana (21/21)
12. Himachal Pradesh (12/12)
13. Jharkhand (24/24)
14. Karnataka (30/30)
15. Kerala (14/14)
16. Madhya Pradesh (51/51)
17. Maharashtra (35/35)
18. Manipur (9/9)
19. Meghalaya (11/11)
20. Mizoram (8/8)
21. Nagaland (11/11)
22. Odisha (30/30)
23. Puducherry (4/4)
24. Punjab (22/22)
25. Rajasthan (33/33)
26. Sikkim (4/4)
27. Tamil Nadu (32/32)

28. Telangana (10/10)
29. Tripura (8/8)
30. Uttar Pradesh (75/75)
31. Uttarakhand (13/13)
32. West Bengal (18/18)

*[English]***Handing Over BSNL Towers to Private Companies**

781. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over the maintenance of BSNL towers to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the BSNL Employees' Unions have opposed to the said plan of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has floated a tender for outsourcing of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities of passive infra (non electronic infrastructure at mobile tower sites) along with Sales and Marketing (S&M) work for 26287 BSNL Non-colocated Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites in 21 circles on pan-India basis for operational and financial reasons.

(c) and (d) BSNL has informed that its Employee Unions so far have not opposed the aforesaid outsourcing arrangement of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) activities of passive infra along with Sales and Marketing (S&M) work for BSNL Non-colocated BTS sites.

Departmental Disciplinary Action

782. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise statement from 2014-2016 showing present status/ final result of the departmental disciplinary action, if any, against the officials for violation of instruction of MOP guidelines and D.O no. 3001/3.97-O&M dt. 31/03/ 1997 and no. 48013/1/2011- O&M dt. 25.02.2013;

(b) whether the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the Central Universities are exempted from the gamut of the aforesaid MOP guidelines and instructions; and

(c) if so, the details of relevant order/ notification in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP) lays down broad procedures for process management in the Central Secretariat. The procedure contained in the CSMOP are broad guidelines based on which each Ministry/Department issues its own Departmental Rules/Instructions. Accordingly, officials of Central Universities will be governed by the instructions/rules issued by the relevant statutory body/organizations. Further, the CSMOP does not contain any provision for initiating disciplinary action against an official for non-compliance of procedure laid down in the CSMOP. It is for the concerned office to take action against its officials, under the relevant Conduct and Discipline & Appeal Rules of service. Information relating to disciplinary action taken by Central Government offices against their officials for not following the procedure of CSMOP is not centrally maintained.

Village Resource Programme

783. SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Village Resource Programmes that have been launched by ISRO in collaboration with local NGOs; and

(b) the details of funds that have been allocated for such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) To demonstrate the potential of satellite technology for development of rural areas, ISRO established Village Resource Centres (VRCs) on a pilot scale, in association with selected NGOs, Trusts and State Government Departments.

VRCs have provided various space technology enabled services such as tele-healthcare, tele-education, natural resources information, advisories related to agriculture, career guidance to rural students, skill development and vocational training etc.

(b) About Rs. 18 Crores was spent for establishing 473 VRCs.

Patent Applied for Research

784. SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for lesser number of patents applied as far as research is concerned in the country as compared to China, UK and USA;

(b) whether the condition is same for patents certified and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the performance;

(d) the manner in which it would be monitored and whether continuous changes in policy would be made till we reach the stage comparable to China, UK and USA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) The reason for lesser number of patents applied in India could be due to the provision of less Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) and lesser number of scientific and technical manpower devoted to S&T activities as compared to other countries such as China, UK and USA. As per UNESCO data on S&T accessed on 31.01.2018 for the number of full time researchers in US and China is around 12 lakhs or more, whereas in India and UK it is around 2 lakhs in 2014 (latest data available). In terms of R&D Expenditure (GERD in PPP\$) China and US expenditure is in 12 digit, whereas in India and UK it is in 11 digit. Patent filing data by residents of China and US are within the range of 2 to 3 lakhs patents per year, whereas UK and India are within the range of 12 to 15 thousands only (comparable). This correlates well with number of R&D manpower and investment in the R&D. Patents granted is subset of patents filed.

(Source: UNESCO Data on S&T accessed on 31.01.2018)

(c) to (e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to improve the patent filing and

monitoring the performance with regards to safeguarding the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR's) in the Country:

- Department of Industrial Policy and promotion (DIPP) has come up with National IPR Policy for enhancing Intellectual Property (IP) output with several action points.
- Massive IPR awareness has been planned by the Government at all levels; school, college, University and Industry.
- Government has announced 10% tax regime for patent royalties to enhance patent output.
- Government has created support system for Start-ups for filing of patents where benefit of 80% reduction in official fee is provided as well as reimbursement of patent agent/attorney expenditure up-to Rs. 25,000/- paid to start-ups through Patent Office by DIPP
- Reducing the patent filing fee for small entities by 50%
- Strengthening the patent facilitation mechanism in different departments.

Gorakhpur Atomic Power Plant

785. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the construction of the Gorakhpur Atomic Power Plant (GAPP) in the State of Haryana;

(b) the status of the land acquisition proceeding of the said power plant;

(c) the time by which phase-I of the said plant is likely to be completed;

(d) the fund allocated and investment made by the Government in this regard;

(e) the direct and indirect employment likely to be generated from the said plant; and

(f) the CSR activity undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy at the Gorakhpur village in the State of Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) and (b) Land required for setting up of the project is acquired and work of preparation of the site is in final stages, namely, development of infrastructure at site and tendering of equipment and components are at various stages. The excavation clearance for the project is accorded recently by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). This will follow the start of excavation work at the site.

(c) The first phase is comprising of Unit-1 (700 MW) and Unit-2 (700 MW) of Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidhyut Pariyojna (GHAVP). The work on the project will start with the First Pour of Concrete [FPC (the zero date of start of construction)] in the year 2019. The commencement of commercial operation reckoned with the FPC is five and half years for the first unit and followed by the second unit after one year.

(d) The government has accorded financial sanction of Rs. 20594 crore for setting up GHAVP Units-1&2 (2X700 MW). The cumulative capital expenditure incurred upto December-2017 is Rs. 1031 crore.

(e) The project will bring in large investment in the region and thereby resulting in enhanced economic activity providing opportunities to the locals through direct and indirect employment and businesses. Coupled with this, there will be significant opportunities for self-employment. A large number of people will also get employment with the contractors engaged in implementation of the project, for supply of goods and services thereby generating jobs in the surrounding areas, mainly benefitting the locals.

(f) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) pursues welfare activities in and around its Nuclear Power Plants in four major areas. These welfare activities are essentially identified in consultation with the representatives of local population and state machinery based on their identified needs. The proposal, based on the above, are scrutinised with a multi-tier review and approval by the Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. The four major areas are, support to education, including skill development; health and sanitation; infrastructure development and environmental sustainability. Under the neighbourhood welfare programmes at GHAVP, some of the key initiatives taken up by NPCIL are, support to the meritorious students by way of award of scholarship, pedagogical aids, construction of inter-connecting roads within the area, construction of toilets in schools and public places, including some Panchayats and mid-day meal shelters in the schools. Special efforts were also made, based on the need identified by the locals, for construction of cow-sheds and renovation of gaushalas. The welfare programme also focused on providing assistive devices

to the specially abled persons in the area. More welfare works are identified as an ongoing exercise in the above referred areas under CSR. These include, augmentation of construction of toilet blocks in schools, providing of equipment for gymnasium in Gorakhpur State Stadium, construction of drinking water tanks, etc.

[Translation]

New Rail Line Between Nashik-Dahanu

786. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for Nashik-Dahanu new rail line, sanctioned in the year 2010-11 has not been undertaken so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways has held any officer responsible in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey from Dahanu Road to Nashik (168 km) new line was sanctioned in 2010-11. Central Railway has taken up the survey. Field Survey has been completed. Traffic Survey is also complete and report is under finalization. As per field survey, length of line is 149 km and approximate cost is Rs. 2483.8 crore.

Stalls to Multinational Companies

787. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted stalls to multinational companies to sell their products at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the name of the said companies along with the products which are allowed to be sold; and

(c) the reasons for allowing multinational companies to sell their products at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. No contracts of stalls have been assigned to any multinational companies to sell their products at railway stations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shifting of Rail Godown

788. SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shift the godown out of the city in Sagar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) Existing godowns are very important for distribution of essential commodities. Shifting of these facilities will result in loss of revenue and inconvenience to existing users.

[English]

Electronic Voting Machines

789. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the figures of the total Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that have been reported to have failed in various State elections since January, 2016;

(b) the details of the steps taken in pursuance of these reports of EVM failure;

(c) whether any study has been undertaken by the Government to look into the possibility of EVM hacking allegation; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is aware of any country which has stopped or restricted the use of EVM's due to the possibility of the machines being manipulated and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Election Commission has stated that a total of 4,50,584 Ballot Units and 4,04,403 Control Units were used for State elections since January, 2016, out of which 13,731 machines failed, averaging about 1.6%.

(b) The Commission has stated that the defective Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were sent to the factory of the respective manufacturer for repairs.

(c) The Commission has categorically stated that the EVMs used by them are non-tamperable both due to the technological measures, and also due to strict administrative and security procedures laid down in this regard. The machine used by the Commission is a stand-alone, non-networked and one time programmable one, which is neither computer controlled, nor connected to the internet or any network and hence cannot be hacked. The machine is electronically protected to prevent any tampering/manipulation. The software programme used in these machines is burnt into a one time programmable/masked chip so that it cannot be altered or tampered with.

(d) As per a status paper on EVMs, brought out by the Election Commission, the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland are among the few countries which stopped the use of machines in voting. The machine used by these countries was manufactured by a private company. Use of these machines was stopped after enquiries conducted by Commissions appointed by these countries revealed that the machine lacked adequate technological safeguards. Germany discarded the machines as it violated its principle of the public nature of elections which requires that all essential steps in the elections are subject to public examination unless other constitutional interests justify an exception.

[Translation]

Gram Nyayalayas

790. SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Gram Nyayalayas to provide speedy, effective and easy justice to the people at their doorsteps and to curtail the number of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government has requested the States to implement the Gram Nyayalayas Act on an urgent basis;

(d) if so, the State/UT-wise details of the demands made for the implementation of the Gram Nyayalayas Act and the actions taken by the Government thereon;

(e) the details of the Central assistance provided to each State and Union Territory for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the time by which Gram Nyayalayas are likely to be functional in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. The Central Government has been requesting States and High Courts for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas in the respective States. The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 provides special procedure for both criminal and civil disputes. Section 19 (1) of the Act *Inter-alia* provides for summary procedure for criminal offences. Section 24 of the Act *inter-alia* provides that hearing shall be continued on day to day basis until its conclusion and that suit, claim, application, filed under the Act shall be disposed of within a period of six months from the date of its institution.

(d) and (e) State-wise details of Gram Nyayalayas notified and operationalised by the State Governments so far, and the financial assistance provided to State Governments during last three years and current year for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Notified	Functional	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Madhya Pradesh	89	89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Rajasthan	45	45	71.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Karnataka	2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Orissa	16	13	0.00	211.00	0.00	0.00
5	Maharashtra	23	23	100.80	0.00	0.00	79.00
6	Jharkhand	6	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	Goa	2	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Punjab	2	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Haryana	2	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Uttar Pradesh	104	4	127.42	0.00	500.00	346.00
11.	Kerala	30	30	0.00	0.00	0.00	375.00
	Total	321	208	300.00	211.00	500.00	800.00

(f) The issues affecting operationalization of the Gram Nyayalayas were discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013. It was, *inter-alia*, decided in the Conference that the State Governments and High Courts should decide the question of establishment of Gram Nyayalayas, wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situation.

[English]

Inclusion of Siddi Community as Minority Community

791. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to accord status to 'Siddi' community of Gujarat as a 'minority community', if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government intends to amend the existing law in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Siddi community will be included in the list of minority community?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. So far as the Central Government is concerned, six communities have been notified as minority communities *viz.* Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains under Section 2(c) of National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.

[Translation]

New Rail Lines in Jharkhand

792. DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target was fixed to complete the work of laying of new railway line from Giridih to Kodarma in the State of Jharkhand by the year 2017 which has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the work of said railway line is likely to be completed; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Koderma-Kawar (87 km) section out of Giridih-Koderma (111 km) new line project has already been commissioned. Execution of remaining Kawar-Giridih (Maheshmunda) (24 km) section is in advance stage of progress. Execution of project got delayed due to delay in acquisition of land in Kawar-Maheshmunda section by the State Government.

[English]

Time Taken for Disposal of Cases

793. SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that some high courts are taking up to an average of four years to dispose of cases in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that the situation is still worse in the subordinate courts in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to set a time limit for disposal of the cases in all the courts including high courts and subordinate courts; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government in this regard and the steps being taken to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors such as category of the case (civil or criminal), complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders viz bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff and applicable rules of procedure.

(d) and (e) No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective. One of these steps is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary wherein a total of Rs. 6,020 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,575 crore (42.77%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,798 Court Halls and 13,759 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. Out of this 1,980 court Halls and 3,548 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 2,966 Court Halls and 1,692 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period i.e. from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3,320 crore.

Under the Phase-I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project undertaken by the Central Government from 2010 to 2015, against a total target of computerisation of 14,249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts has been achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised. Rs. 935.00 crore were allocated for Phase-I out of which Rs. 639.41 crore were utilized.

In the Phase-II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (July, 2015 upto 31 March 2019) an outlay of Rs. 1,670 crores has been approved and Rs. 921.75 crore have been released so far. The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgements etc. are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 Courts have been computerised under the e-Courts Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been operationalized between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed under this project provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, for the computerised district/subordinate courts in the country.

Another initiative that has been undertaken with a focus to improve access to justice is the Tele Law Scheme launched on 20th April, 2017, which is an effort to provide legal advice pro-actively to the marginalised sections of society through Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative facilitates delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Service Authorities (SLSA). Under this Scheme, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) connect potential litigants with lawyers through video conferencing facilities at CSCs which are, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs. The Scheme has been launched in 1800 Gram Panchayats in 11 States (U.P., Bihar, J&K, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim). A total of 12,218 cases have been registered by PLVs under the scheme and legal advice has been provided in 9,094 cases. The Government has also launched a scheme or Pro Pono Legal Services in April, 2017 in which interested lawyers and litigants can register on the website (www.doj.gov.in) to provide and avail pro-bono legal services as may be required. So far, 202 lawyers have registered on the portal and more than 298 cases have been assigned for pro bono assistance. In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government has recently introduced Nyaya Mitra Scheme covering 227 selected districts of 16 States. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitra have been engaged.

Safety of Railway Tracks

794. SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps planned by the Railways to improve the safety of rail tracks, including automated inspections and frequent traffic blocks for maintenance;

(b) whether all the railway zones have been asked to procure selfpropelled cars for track inspection and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of rail fractures are occurring on rail tracks that have not served even 25% of their lifespan and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is true that this usually happens due to improper handling or laying of rail tracks and is a major sign of worry and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Steps taken by the Railways to improve safety of railway track are as under:

- (i) Track renewal works are undertaken as and when stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis.
- (ii) Primary track renewals are now sanctioned with Pre-stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers, 60kg, 90 kg/sq mm UTS (Ultimate Tensile Strength) rails, fan-shaped layout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges, etc.
- (iii) Indian Railways have a system of scheduled inspections by Railway officials which, *inter alia*, includes daily inspection by Keyman, inspections at stipulated periodicity by various designated officials to monitor condition of track and periodic measurement/monitoring of track parameters by Track Recording Cars (TRCs) and Oscillation Monitoring Systems (OMS) for safe running of traffic.
- (iv) Mechanized track maintenance is being carried out by deployment of state of the art track maintenance machines. Advance monitoring

equipments viz Automated integrated track geometry cum video inspection system with features like rail wear measurement, axle box level acceleration measurement, condition monitoring of track component, clearance measurement to identify any infringement, etc. besides track geometry measurement are also planned to be inducted. To ensure availability of traffic blocks for track maintenance work, a Joint Procedure Order (JPO) has been issued for advance planning of maintenance block by Zonal Railways.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Analysis of rail/weld fractures occurred during 2017-18 has indicated that about 35% Rail fractures have taken place within 25% of stipulated service life of rails.

(d) These Rail fractures occurred due to various reasons which include corrosion, higher wheel impact loading, inherent defects in rails, improper handling of rails, etc.

Revenue Loss

795. SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the biggest challenge for the Railways is to meet the public sector obligation along with matching the performance of the corporate sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the revenue loss for meeting public services obligation is as high as 30,000 crore and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways is focusing on bolstering its freight and non-fare revenue and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the non-fare revenue rose 72% this year and the target is to increase the non-fare revenue to around 35,000 crore in the next 10 years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways carries out certain transport

activities which are uneconomic in nature but carried out in the larger interest of the society. Overall, the loss incurred on account of these activities for the year 2016-17 was Rs. 39,607.45 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. In recent past, Ministry of Railways has taken a number of steps to attract Freight traffic such as Long Term Tariff Contract with key freight customers, guidelines on station to station rates, liberalized automatic freight rebate scheme in empty flow directions, withdrawal of port congestion charge, proliferation of Rollon-Roll-off service on Indian Railways, withdrawal of levy of congestion charge for stone traffic transported from Eastern Railway to Bangladesh via Darsana/Benapole, rationalization of coal tariff, more flexibility in mini rake loading, withdrawal of dual freight policy of iron ore traffic, re-introduction of short lead concession & reduction in minimum distance for charge from 125 Km to 100 Km., expanding the freight basket, dispensation from mandatory (100%) weighment in case of loading of standard bags of uniform size, rationalization of Merry-GoRound (MGR) scheme etc.

In addition, Ministry of Railways has also introduced other schemes to improve freight share like procurement of wagons (rolling stock) through Public Private Partnership mode, Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS), Special Freight Train Operator (SFTO), Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO), Wagon Leasing Scheme (WLS), development of Private Freight Terminals (PFT) through Public Private Partnership mode etc.

The non-fare revenue (sundry earnings) increased by 74.88% in financial year 2016-17 over 2015-16. Many of the World Railway systems generate 10% to 20% of the revenues from non-tariff sources. Over a period of the next five years, Railways will endeavour to reach this World average by monetizing assets and undertaking other revenue yielding activities.

Vacancy in Lower Judiciary

796. SHRI Y. V. SUBBA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that vacancies in lower courts are at an all time high;

(b) If so, the details of the vacancies, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is persuading the States to fill up all these vacancies;

(d) whether the Government intends to provide a one-time financial assistance for five years to the States to fill these vacancies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) present, as per available information 5,925 posts of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts are vacant in all the States and UTs. The State/UT-wise details of vacancies of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) As per the Constitution, the selection and appointment of judges in subordinate courts is the responsibility of State Governments and the High Courts concerned. The Supreme Court has delivered a series of significant decisions on the subject. These include the All India Judges' Association case where the Supreme Court directed that the number of judges should be increased, in the first instance by filling up the existing vacancies followed by an increase in the judge strength in a phased manner. In the Malik Mazhar Sultan case the Supreme Court devised a process and time schedule to be followed by the High Courts and State Governments for the filling up of judicial vacancies. In April, 2012 the Supreme Court issued a direction in the Brij Mohan Lal case requiring that 10% additional posts should be created in the subordinate judiciary. Issues relating to increasing judicial strength and filling up of vacancies have also been discussed extensively in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held in August 2009 and in April, 2013 and during meetings of the Advisory Council of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. Following this, several communications in this regard have been exchanged with the State Governments and High Courts. Some of the reasons for delays in filling up of vacancies, as indicated by the High Courts, are inability to find suitable candidates, pending court cases challenging previous recruitments and difficulties in coordination between High Courts and State Public Service Commissions. Based on these responses, letters were written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts with a list of actionable points that might be considered to address each of these issues. This issue was also raised at the 7th Advisory Council Meeting of the National Mission of Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms where it was discussed that there may be a need for adding some flexibility in the recruitment rules for subordinate court judges to allow multiple sources for direct recruitment of eligible candidates. During the video conference held recently with Registrars General of all High Courts and Law Secretaries of all State Governments/UTs, the need to filling up of vacant posts of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts was emphasised.

(d) and (e) The responsibility of filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts vests with respective High Courts and State Governments under

the Constitution. The union Government does not provide any financial assistance towards filling up of these vacancies.

Statement

Details of vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Vacancies of judicial officers of District and Subordinate Courts
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	1,348
2.	Bihar	835
3.	Madhya Pradesh	728
4.	Gujarat	375
5.	Tamil Nadu	341
6.	Karnataka	327
7.	Delhi	316
8.	Jharkhand	253
9.	Odisha	204
10.	Maharashtra	167
11.	Haryana	149
12.	Punjab	136
13.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	114
14.	Rajasthan	103
15.	Kerala	80
16.	Assam	76
17.	Chhattisgarh	63
18.	Uttarakhand	60
19.	Meghalaya	58
20.	West Bengal	40
21.	Tripura	31
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	29
23.	Mizoram	17
24.	Goa	12
25.	Nagaland	12

1	2	3
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
27.	Himachal Pradesh	11
28.	Manipur	9
29.	Sikkim	5
30.	Pondicherry	14
31.	Lakshadweep	1
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
33.	Chandigarh	0
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0
Total		5,925

Revamping Ticketing System

797. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI HARI OM PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to revamp the entire existing railway ticketing system to boost up revenue earnings;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) During recent years the following innovative measures have been taken with a view to facilitating passengers in getting tickets and also to boost up the earnings:

- (i) Introduction of Premium Tatkal Quota.
- (ii) Running of Special trains including Suvidha trains on higher fares.
- (iii) Introduction of Flexi fare in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (iv) Introduction of new trains like Gatimaan, Humsafar, Tejas, Antyodaya, Mahamana trains etc., with higher facilities and fares.
- (v) Proliferation of e-ticketing system which now constitute around 65% of the total reserved tickets.

(vi) Provision of facility of booking reserved/unreserved tickets through mobile phones.

(vii) Facility of issuing unreserved tickets through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines.

(viii) Engaging authorised agents like Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra Licensee (YTSKL), Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks(JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents(STBA) & e-ticketing agents for issuing of reserved/unreserved tickets.

(ix) Rationalisation of computerised reservation system by providing facility of automatic preparation of first reservation charts at least four hours before scheduled departure of train and thereafter facility of booking available accommodation online as well as through computerised Passenger Reservation System(PRS) till preparation of second reservation charts.

(x) Revision of Refund Rules, granting of automatic refund on e-tickets in case of cancellation of trains, cancellation of counter tickets online through Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation(IRCTC) as well as through No. 139.

(xi) Facility of booking confirmed accommodation to foreign tourists in Executive Class/1st AC/2nd AC Class in all trains including Shatabdi, Rajdhani, Duronto, Gatimaan etc. through internet upto 365 days in advance.

Further, rationalisation of fare structure as well improvement in ticketing system based on technological advancement is an ongoing and continuous process.

Increasing Speed of Trains

798. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the speed of trains especially those covering long distance to improve the overall punctuality to be observed for all intermittent train stoppage stations; and

(b) if so, the detailed list of the trains identified for the purpose, zone wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks. Accordingly, during 2017, speed of 51 trains has been increased to reduce the journey time ranging between 1 hour to 6 hours. However, at present there is no further proposal to increase the speed of trains to improve the overall punctuality of trains at intermediate stoppages

Relations With Asean Countries

799. SHRI HARI OM PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to rejuvenate its relations with ASEAN countries in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi formally enunciated the Government's 'Act East Policy' at the ASEAN India and East Asia Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 11-12 November, 2014. The Act East Policy aims to enhance India's multi-faceted engagement with its extended eastern neighbourhood and our relationship with ASEAN is the foundation of our Act East Policy.

India's relationship with ASEAN is robust. It has matured from a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 1992 to a full-fledged Dialogue Partnership in 1996, a Summit

Level Partnership in 2002 and a Strategic Partnership in 2012. The relationship rests on three pillars: political-security, economic and socio-cultural. There are 30 annual institutional mechanisms for dialogue between ASEAN and India, including a Summit and seven Ministerial level dialogues.

In 2017, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of our Dialogue Partnership. A number of events were held to celebrate this occasion. The grand culmination of these celebrations was the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held on 25 January, 2018 in New Delhi which was attended by the Heads of State/Governments of all ten ASEAN member states. The ten leaders were the Guests of Honour at the 69th Republic Day Parade on 26 January, 2018, signifying the importance that we attach to our partnership with ASEAN.

The Delhi Declaration adopted at the end of the Commemorative Summit outlines our future vision for this partnership by stating that ASEAN and India agree to 'Further strengthen and deepen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership for mutual benefit, across the whole spectrum of political-security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation.'

(c) Does not arise.

E-market Place

800. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the e-Market place under Digital India;

(b) whether the Government is planning to come up with a policy for export of electronic products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) e-Market Place under Digital India has been already been implemented through an Special Purpose Vehicle - Government eMarket (SPV-GeM) which is Section 8 company under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The SPV is running an online platform for procurement of common Goods and Services. The portal is open for all Government agencies, including, Central, State Governments, Local bodies, PSUs etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Towers in Singhbhoom District of Jharkhand

801. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers approved for eastern Singhbhoom and western Singhbhoom districts of Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the number of mobile towers out of these set up so far, place-wise;

(c) the number of mobile towers not installed so far along with the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any person/agency has been held responsible for it so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In order to improve telecom services in the districts of East and West Singhbhoom in the state of Jharkhand, Government, under Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) supported project for mobile communication services in Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected areas, awarded the work for installation of 15 mobile towers in eastern Singhbhoom and 122 mobile towers in western Singhbhoom to M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years.

(b) As against above, actually 21 mobile towers in Eastern Singhbhoom and 128 mobile towers in Western Singhbhoom have been set up. List of places is attached as Statement.

(c) to (e) Not applicable in view of above.

Statement

List of Mobile towers set-up in Eastern Singhbhoom and Western Singhbhoom in the last 03 years is as follows:

Sr.	Name of District	Location
1	2	3
1.	East Singhbhoom	Chunidih
2.	East Singhbhoom	Chamra
3.	East Singhbhoom	Potkadih
4.	East Singhbhoom	Bara Aashthi
5.	East Singhbhoom	Gurabandha
6.	East Singhbhoom	Matiyabandhi
7.	East Singhbhoom	Balidi (Kalchite CRPF)
8.	East Singhbhoom	Baljuri
9.	East Singhbhoom	Banmakri
10.	East Singhbhoom	Bara Bangurda (Makula)
11.	East Singhbhoom	Baram (Boram PS- B COY)
12.	East Singhbhoom	Basila
13.	East Singhbhoom	Bhagabandi
14.	East Singhbhoom	Chatani Pani
15.	East Singhbhoom	Harina

1	2	3
16.	East Singhbhoom	Kamalpur P (Saragdi)
17.	East Singhbhoom	Karaduba (Karaduba PKTGATSHILA PS G COY)
18.	East Singhbhoom	Kulamara (Dumariya CRPF)
19.	East Singhbhoom	Kuyali
20.	East Singhbhoom	Laylam (Bhuyashan CRPF)
21.	East Singhbhoom	Lodhashol (Kesarpur CRPF)
Sr.	Name of District	Location
1.	West Singhbhoom	Tonto
2.	West Singhbhoom	Ptajaint
3.	West Singhbhoom	Lokesai
4.	West Singhbhoom	Patrahatu
5.	West Singhbhoom	Padapahar
6.	West Singhbhoom	Khasphokaria
7.	West Singhbhoom	Bamebasa
8.	West Singhbhoom	Anandpur (Anandpur CRPF)
9.	West Singhbhoom	Arjunpur
10.	West Singhbhoom	Baida
11.	West Singhbhoom	Baihatu (Bandgaon CRPF)
12.	West Singhbhoom	Bandu
13.	West Singhbhoom	Bandunasa
14.	West Singhbhoom	Bara Belma
15.	West Singhbhoom	Baraebir
16.	West Singhbhoom	Baralagra
17.	West Singhbhoom	Barkimara
18.	West Singhbhoom	Barkundia
19.	West Singhbhoom	Benisagar
20.	West Singhbhoom	Beraduya
21.	West Singhbhoom	Berakayam
22.	West Singhbhoom	Berakenduda
23.	West Singhbhoom	Beratulunda (Karampada CRPF)
24.	West Singhbhoom	Bhalurangi
25.	West Singhbhoom	Bharnian
26.	West Singhbhoom	Binju

1	2	3
27.	West Singhbhoom	Birkel
28.	West Singhbhoom	Borotika G
29.	West Singhbhoom	Bundu T (Jambaiburu CRPF)
30.	West Singhbhoom	Bunumlata
31.	West Singhbhoom	Burunkel
32.	West Singhbhoom	Champila
33.	West Singhbhoom	Chhota Jambani
34.	West Singhbhoom	Chhota Nagra (Thalkobad CRPF)
35.	West Singhbhoom	Chirumatha
36.	West Singhbhoom	Chitpil
37.	West Singhbhoom	Chodarapa
38.	West Singhbhoom	Deoganw
39.	West Singhbhoom	Dhobadhobin
40.	West Singhbhoom	Dhodrobaru
41.	West Singhbhoom	Diku Balkand
42.	West Singhbhoom	Dindapai
43.	West Singhbhoom	Dudh jui
44.	West Singhbhoom	Dudhkundi
45.	West Singhbhoom	Dumuria K
46.	West Singhbhoom	Durirta
47.	West Singhbhoom	Gitilpi
48.	West Singhbhoom	Goirabera
49.	West Singhbhoom	Gudri
50.	West Singhbhoom	Gula
51.	West Singhbhoom	Guli
52.	West Singhbhoom	Gulikera
53.	West Singhbhoom	Gundiuli
54.	West Singhbhoom	Herta
55.	West Singhbhoom	Hesadih
56.	West Singhbhoom	Hoyohatu
57.	West Singhbhoom	Ichapi (Kiriburu CRPF)
58.	West Singhbhoom	Ichapir
59.	West Singhbhoom	Indrua

1	2	3
60.	West Singhbhoom	Jagarnathpur (Bara NandaJagarnathpur)
61.	West Singhbhoom	Jaintgarh
62.	West Singhbhoom	Jalasar
63.	West Singhbhoom	Jamuda
64.	West Singhbhoom	Jhaliyamura
65.	West Singhbhoom	Jharbera (Jaraikela CRPF)
66.	West Singhbhoom	Jhumpura
67.	West Singhbhoom	Jomtai
68.	West Singhbhoom	Kajomra (Asanthaliya CRPF)
69.	West Singhbhoom	Kalaiya
70.	West Singhbhoom	Kamai
71.	West Singhbhoom	Kansora
72.	West Singhbhoom	Kenjra T
73.	West Singhbhoom	Kerabir
74.	West Singhbhoom	Khajuria
75.	West Singhbhoom	Khandadoar
76.	West Singhbhoom	Khandkhor
77.	West Singhbhoom	Komang
78.	West Singhbhoom	Komrora S
79.	West Singhbhoom	Kongysey
80.	West Singhbhoom	Kotagara
81.	West Singhbhoom	Koteya
82.	West Singhbhoom	Kudahatu M
83.	West Singhbhoom	Kulaburu
84.	West Singhbhoom	Kundrugutu
85.	West Singhbhoom	Kutipi
86.	West Singhbhoom	Leangi
87.	West Singhbhoom	Mamail
88.	West Singhbhoom	Mangapat
89.	West Singhbhoom	Meramhonar M
90.	West Singhbhoom	Meromgutu
91.	West Singhbhoom	Mugadighiya
92.	West Singhbhoom	Munduam
93.	West Singhbhoom	Nawada B

1	2	3
94.	West Singhbhoom	Olhaniyan
95.	West Singhbhoom	Olmokol
96.	West Singhbhoom	Omra
97.	West Singhbhoom	Padam Pur
98.	West Singhbhoom	Pansua
99.	West Singhbhoom	Paral
100.	West Singhbhoom	Patarhatu
101.	West Singhbhoom	Posaeta (Posaeta (A COY))
102.	West Singhbhoom	Purda
103.	West Singhbhoom	Putunga
104.	West Singhbhoom	Raidih M
105.	West Singhbhoom	Raigara
106.	West Singhbhoom	Rangamati G
107.	West Singhbhoom	Rayam
108.	West Singhbhoom	Rayrona
109.	West Singhbhoom	Rengrahatu
110.	West Singhbhoom	Ritusai
111.	West Singhbhoom	Robkera
112.	West Singhbhoom	Rongo
113.	West Singhbhoom	Rungi
114.	West Singhbhoom	Saidba (Lodahi CRPF)
115.	West Singhbhoom	Salikuti
116.	West Singhbhoom	Sarugara
117.	West Singhbhoom	Shawsol
118.	West Singhbhoom	Siyaljora
119.	West Singhbhoom	Songra
120.	West Singhbhoom	Sonpokhri
121.	West Singhbhoom	Takub
122.	West Singhbhoom	Tamdel
123.	West Singhbhoom	Tartaria
124.	West Singhbhoom	Tebo B
125.	West Singhbhoom	Tensera
126.	West Singhbhoom	Toklo
127.	West Singhbhoom	Tondanghatu
128.	West Singhbhoom	Tunga

[English]

Licensed Railway Porters

802. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Thanjavur Railway junction authorities are having any proposal to increase the number of licensed railway porters in the interest of senior citizens, women and differently abled passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no proposal to increase the number of Sahayaks (licensed porters) at Thanjavur junction. However, applications have been called for engagement of 08 (eight) Sahayaks at this station.

[Translation]

New Projects in the Field of Atomic Energy

803. SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched new projects in the field of atomic energy and if so, the details of the States in which these projects have been launched;

(b) whether any action plan has been prepared keeping in view their security prior to setting up of atomic energy plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Presently, following nuclear power projects are at various stages of construction:

State	Location	Unit	Capacity(MW)
Gujarat	Kakrapar	KAPP - 3 & 4	2×700
Rajasthan	Rawatbhata	RAPP - 7 & 8	2×700
Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	KKNPP - 3 & 4	2×1000
		Kalpakkam PFBR*	500

*being implemented by BHAVINI

In addition, work has also commenced on GHAVP-1&2 (2X700 MW) at Gorakhpur, Haryana.

The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of twelve (12) nuclear power reactors-ten (10) indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be set up in fleet mode & two (02) units of Light Water Reactors (LWRs) to be set up 2 in cooperation with Russian Federation to enhance nuclear power capacity in the country. The details of these projects are given below:

State	Location	Project	Capacity(MW)
PHWRs to be set up in fleet mode			
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka - 1 & 2	2×700
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga - 5 & 6	2×700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara - 1 & 2	2×700
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP - 3 & 4	2×700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara - 3 & 4	2×700
Light Water Reactor (LWR) to be set up in cooperation with Russian Federation			
Tamil Nadu	Kudankulam	KKNPP-5&6	2×1000

(b) and (c) The security aspects are reviewed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) before giving clearance for various stages of the projects from siting onwards. The security requirements are specified in AERB codes which are adhered to at all stages of setting up and operating a nuclear power plant at a site. The security aspects are reviewed periodically through multi-tier mechanism, apart from periodic regulatory inspections, to ensure adherence to the requirements.

[*English*]

Coal Imports

804. SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's coal imports from North America quadrupled to 2.1 million tonnes in October, 2017 from a year ago, the highest since January, 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the buyers are also looking to boost purchases amid a shortage of the fuel, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government on the other hand is trying to curtail import of coal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), a small quantity of coal was imported (including Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc.) from USA during October, 2017 viz. 1.07 MT (against 0.36 MT imported in January, 2015).

(b) to (d) As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. However, Coal imports have fallen from 217.78 Mte in 2014-15 to 203.95 Mte. in 2015-16 and further to 190.95 Mte. in 2016-17. The trend of fall in import of coal has continued in 2017-18. As per (DGCI&S), during April-October, 2017-18, 118.86 Mte. (Provisional) of coal was imported as compared to 121.14 Mte. in the corresponding period of 2016-17 showing a decline of 1.9%. The fall in imports is largely on account of enhanced production by CIL. The vendible stock of CIL has increased from 53.47 Mt. as on 01.04.2015 to 68.42 Mt. as on 01.04.2017. The off-take/dispatch of coal of CIL has also increased from 488.86 Mt. in 2014-15 to 543.16 Mt. in 2016-17. However, the gap between demand and

supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.

[*Translation*]

Number of Courts

805. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the number of lower courts and High Courts in the country including the State of Gujarat;

(b) the State-wise details of the ratio of judges to cases in the courts established across the country including Gujarat;

(c) whether the said ratio is increasing across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of measures taken/being taken by the Government to overcome the said difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d) As per information made available by High Courts and State Governments, sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 20,214 in the year 2014 to 22,623 in 2017 and sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 to 1079. The State-wise details of sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts and the total number of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts (as available on the web-portal of National Judicial Data Grid) along with judge-case ratio are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective. One of these steps is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for judiciary wherein a total of Rs. 6,020 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,575 crore (42.77%) has been released

since April, 2014. 17,798 Court Halls and 13,759 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. Out of this 1,980 Court Halls and 3,548 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 2,966 Court Halls and 1,662 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities of Judiciary beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3,320 crore.

Under the Phase-I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project undertaken by the Central Government from 2010 to 2015, against a total target of computerisation of 14,249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts has been achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised. Rs. 935.00 crore were allocated for Phase-I out of which Rs. 639.41 crore were utilized.

In the Phase-II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (July, 2015 upto 31 March, 2019) an outlay of Rs. 1,670 crores has been approved and Rs. 921.75 crores have been released so far. The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgments etc. are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 Courts have been computerised under the eCourts Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been

operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) developed under this project provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, for the computerised district/subordinate courts in the country.

Another initiative that has been undertaken with a focus to improve access to justice is the Tele Law Scheme launched on 20th April, 2017, which is an effort to provide legal advice pro-actively to the marginalised sections of society through Common Service Centres (CSCs). This initiative facilitates delivery of legal advice through an expert panel of lawyers stationed at the State Legal Service Authorities (SLSA). Under this Scheme, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) connect potential litigants with lawyers through video conferencing facilities at CSCs which are, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs. The Scheme has been launched in 1800 Gram Panchayats in 11 States (U.P., Bihar, J&K, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Sikkim). A total of 12,218 cases have been registered by PLVs under the scheme and legal advice has been provided in 9,094 cases. The Government has also launched a scheme for Pro Bono Legal Services in April, 2017 in which interested lawyers and litigants can register on the website (www.doj.gov.in) to provide and avail pro-bono legal services as may be required. So far, 202 lawyers have registered on the portal and more than 298 cases have been assigned for pro bono assistance. In order to reduce cases pending in courts for over 10 years, the Government has recently introduced Nyaya Mitra Scheme covering 227 selected districts of 16 States. Under the Scheme, retired judicial officers are engaged and designated as 'Nyaya Mitra' to facilitate expeditious disposal of the cases pending over 10 years. In the first Phase, 15 Nyaya Mitras have been engaged.

Statement

State/UT wise details of Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers and number of pending cases in District and Subordinate Courts along with judge-case ratio

Sl.No.	State	Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers in District and Sub-ordinate Courts*	Number of cases pending in District and Sub-ordinate Courts#	Pending cases per Judge
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11	11185	1017
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telengana	987	934419	947
3.	Assam	428	227812	532

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	1828	1687698	923
5.	Chandigarh	30	40297	1343
6.	Chhattisgarh	30	40297	1343
7.	Delhi	799	623037	780
8.	Die and Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7	5300	757
9.	Goa	55	40069	729
10.	Gujarat	1496	16336374	1094
11.	Haryana	645	636142	986
12.	Himachal Pradesh	159	212471	1336
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	253	115997	458
14.	Jharkhand	672	333954	497
15.	Karnataka	1303	1389357	1066
16.	Kerala	535	1157412	2163
17.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1343576	665
18.	Maharashtra	2097	3359446	1602
19.	Manipur	49	9928	203
20.	Meghalaya	97	7023	72
21.	Mizoram	63	3316	53
22.	Odisha	862	1031431	1197
23.	Punjab	674	568896	844
24.	Rajasthan	1225	1443046	1178
25.	Sikkim	23	1490	65
26.	Tamil Nadu	1257	1020435	812
27.	Tripura	107	25037	234
28.	Uttar Pradesh	3204	6341367	1979
29.	Uttarakhand	291	213971	735
30.	West Bengal	956	1784843	1867

* Source: High Courts/State Governments/ #Souce: Web-portal of NJDG

\$ Data on pendency in respect of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Puducherry are not available on the web portal of National Judicial Data Grip (NJDG).

*[English]***Mobile Towers in LWE Affected Areas**

806. SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers already installed in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism(LWE), State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of mobile towers proposed to be installed in such areas, State/ UT-wise; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to expedite the installation of mobile towers in LWE affected areas and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The number of mobile towers already installed under Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase I scheme in areas affected by LWE is given below:

Sl. No.	State	No. of Locations identified by MHA	Installed Towers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62	56
2.	Bihar	250	250
3.	Chhattisgarh	532	519
4.	Jharkhand	816	816
5.	Maharashtra	65	65
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22	22
7.	Odisha	261	256
8.	Telangana	173	171
9.	Uttar Pradesh	78	78
10.	West Bengal	96	96
Total		2355	2329

(b) State wise list of number of mobile towers proposed to be installed in such areas under LWE Phase-II is as below:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Districts	No. of Mobile Towers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	429
2.	Bihar	8	412
3.	Chhattisgarh	16	1028
4.	Jharkhand	21	1054
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1	26
6.	Maharashtra	2	136
7.	Odisha	18	483
8.	Telangana	14	118
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3	179
10.	West Bengal	5	207
Total		96	4072

(c) After successful implementation of LWE Phase-I mobile tower project, Department has received an additional requirement from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for provisioning of 4,072 mobile towers in LWE affected areas. Telecom Commission, in its meeting dated 21.12.2017, has recommended the proposal of installing 4072 mobile towers at locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in LWE affected areas with a viability gap funding of Rs. 7,330 crore from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The matter is now being processed for seeking Cabinet approval.

Setting UP of University For Christians

807. ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up fully Government funded universities for the educational empowerment of Christians on the lines of the Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any such recommendation from any of the bodies/commissions/NGOs, etc. and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether as per 2011 census the educational level (age seven and above) of christians and other minorities are comparatively fair and good; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) As per Census 2011 figures, the literacy rate of Christian is 84.5% which is comparatively better than the all India literacy rate of 73.0%. The literacy rates of other notified minorities, as per Census 2011, are—Muslim - 68.5%, Sikh - 75.4%, Buddhist -81.3%, Jain-94.9%

Special Package to States

808. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to announce one time special package to certain States due to financial crunch they are facing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of proposals for grant of special package under the consideration of the Government, State-wise including Kerala; and

(d) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal with NITI Aayog regarding special package to states for financial crunch. As per the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission, the States' share in the net proceeds of the Union tax revenues has increased from 32% earlier to 42% for the period 2015-20. This would provide more untied resources to the States. The objective has been to fill the resource gap of each State to the extent possible through tax devolution.

(c) and (d) Presently there is no proposal with NITI Aayog for grant of Special Package to any State including Kerala.

Reservation to OBCs

809. SHRI B.V. NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates belonging to the Other Backward Castes deprived of reservation benefit in the process of appointment to various posts due to their coming under creamy layer;

(b) whether any proposal is being contemplated to enforce the creamy layer factor in promotion process also and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would also consider to determine a creamy layer for the candidates of general category so that economically weaker people can get chance in Government jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No centralized data regarding number of candidates belonging to the Other Backward Castes stated to have

been deprived of reservation benefit for appointment to posts under Central Government due to their coming under creamy layer is maintained.

(b) There is no reservation in promotion for Other Backward Classes.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to determine creamy layer for the candidates of general category. The 9 Judge Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Indra Sawhney has *inter-alia* held that "a backward class cannot be determined only and exclusively with reference to economic criterion. It may be a consideration or basis along with and in addition to social backwardness, but it can never be the sole criterion".

Track Renewal

810. SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is taking up the process of track renewal in the States with a view to reducing derailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the tracks that have been selected to be renewed in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(d) the quantum of funds allocated and released so far for the above purpose; and

(e) the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age/condition basis. Track Renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution is prioritized according to the condition of track. If any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons, suitable speed restrictions, if required, are imposed to ensure safe running of trains. For the year 2017-18, a target of 3600 km in Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units has been kept for track renewal on Indian Railways.

Details of track renewals are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise. The State of Tamil Nadu falls in Southern Railway and South Western Railway. The targets fixed, actual track renewal, funds allocated and expenditure incurred for track renewal for these Zonal Railways for the year 2017-18, are as under:

Zonal Railway	Target (in km of CTR units)	Actual Renewal (in km of CTR units) (upto December, 2017)	Funds allocated (Revised Estimates) (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Crore) (upto December, 2017)
Southern	406	203	703	471.16
South Western	170	120	377.93	240.99

NMDFC

811. SHRI DILIP PATEL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes run by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation(NMDFC),

(b) the procedure to avail benefits of these schemes,

(c) whether owing to complicated procedure, most of the applicants are not in a position to avail benefits of these schemes, and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken to simplify the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation(NMDFC), is implementing schemes for the socio-economic development of the 'backward sections' amongst the notified minorities through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State Governments/UT Administration. For availing assistance under NMDFC schemes, the annual family income eligibility criterion under Credit Line-1 is Rs. 98,000 for rural areas and Rs.1.20 lacs for urban areas. Higher annual family income eligibility criterion of upto Rs. 6.00 lacs has also been introduced as Credit Line-2, for increasing coverage of beneficiaries under NMDFC schemes. There are two types of Schemes namely (i) concessional Credit Schemes (Term Loan, Micro Finance,

Education Loan, Mahila Samridhi Yojana) & (ii) Promotional Schemes (Vocational Training Scheme, Marketing Assistance Scheme).

(b) The Scheme of NMDFC are implemented through the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) in their respective States/UTs. The SCAs solicit applications through advertisement/publicity and the persons from targeted Minority communities are directed to obtain applications from the office of District Minority Welfare Officer/ Head Office of the SCA.

(c) and (d) NMDFC in order to cut down on waiting time for sanction of loan for the applicant, has given full authority to the SCAs for sanction and disbursement of loan and has also advised to reduce the lead time between submission of application from by the applicant to sanction of loan by the SCA and release of loan immediately after completion of disbursement formalities by the identified beneficiary. Due to simplification in the procedure for getting financial assistance and its effective implementation in a transparent manner, number of beneficiaries have increased considerably during the last three financial years.

[*Translation*]

Vacant Land

812. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK:
SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of railway land lying unutilized and undeveloped in various States of the country, State-wise;

(b) the time since when this land is lying unutilized and whether any monitoring mechanism has been evolved by the Railways to protect such land from encroachment and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme regarding giving this land on lease for some other purpose is under consideration of the Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any concrete step has been taken by the Railways for proper development and use of said land and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The vacant land available with the Railways is about 0.51 lakh hectare. This vacant land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks and required for servicing and maintenance of track, bridges and other infrastructure.

The vacant land is also utilized for execution of various infrastructural projects for meeting future growth needs of Railways which include projects like doubling/tripling and traffic facilities works, etc. Railways' operations also necessarily require development of ancillary logistic support/infrastructure such as bulk oil installations and oil depots, steel yards, concrete sleeper plants, coal dumps, connectivity to private sidings, connectivity to ports and other infrastructure, commercial plots, vending stalls, etc. for which land is leased/licensed. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. Presently, 54 sites measuring 189 hectare (approx.) where commercial development seems feasible have been entrusted to RLDA. The details of total railway land and vacant railway land zone-wise (State-wise details not maintained) as on 31.03.2017 are as given below:

(Figures in hectares)

Zonal Railway	Total Land	Vacant Land
Central	29341.17	2293.77
Eastern	20950.34	2172.80
East Central	37238.29	4148.06
East Coast	23059.34	3138.03
Northern	43195.03	11612.40
North Central	18836.49	740.02
North Eastern	25703.77	5564.67
Northeast Frontier	45451.43	1406.82
North Western	24515.14	1277.35
Southern	26882.09	2725.70
South Central	32440.03	1284.49
South Eastern	42589.45	703.16
South East Central	22146.26	3159.48
South Western	18470.13	4431.98
Western	37876.83	5889.07
West Central	23459.68	617.39
Total	472155.47	51165.19

[English]

Construction of New PHWR

813. SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the construction of ten indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) with total installed capacity of 7000 MW;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the total expenditure by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to partner with other countries in the development of the said reactors and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

State/UT	Location	Project	Capacity(MW)
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka	Chutka - 1 & 2	2×700
Karnataka	Kaiga	Kaiga - 5 & 6	2×700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara - 1 & 2	2×700
Haryana	Gorakhpur	GHAVP - 3 & 4	2×700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara	Mahi Banswara - 3 & 4	2×700

(c) These ten Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) are being built based on indigenous technology and supply of equipment and services by Indian industry.

(d) The total capacity to be added by these ten reactors would be 7000 MW. This capacity is expected to be progressively added by the year 2031. For timely implementation of these projects, the Government has initiated several measures including expediting pre-project activities, obtaining statutory clearances, procurement of long manufacturing cycle equipment, human resource planning etc.

Simultaneous Elections

814. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the recent recommendations on simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections received by the Government from NITI Aayog;

(b) whether the Government has taken any decision on these recommendations; and

(d) the deadline set by the Government for the completion of the said projects and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has in June-2017 accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for setting up ten indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in Fleet Mode, "at an estimated cost of Rs.1,05,000 crore". The details of these PHWRs is given below:

(c) if so, the details thereof and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations contained in the 79th report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee, the NITI Ayog in a paper titled "Analysis of Simultaneous Elections" has worked out a possible framework whereby elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies could be held simultaneously in two phases. The paper envisages holding simultaneous elections to the Assemblies of about one half of the States along with Lok Sabha General Elections due in April-May, 2019 and the rest of the States in the mid-way, i.e. October/November, 2021, entailing extension or curtailment of the duration of the Assemblies wherever required. However, this would require amendments to the relevant provisions of the Constitution. The Government has not taken any decision on these recommendations.

Competition in Sector

815. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the competition from other countries in IT sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government plans to increase domestic manufacturing of electronic components and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government also plans to increase the availability of computer/IT programming in regional languages across the country and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam. Many countries are building capabilities and offering incentives to compete in the global market to attract IT investments and operations. These include South Africa and a few countries in East Asia and Eastern Europe.

(b) Yes, Madam. The Government has taken concrete steps including introduction of Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP), implementation of Modified Special Incentive Package scheme (M-SIPS) and the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme to incentivize electronic manufacturing in the country. Research and Development (R&D) initiatives have been launched for "Chips to Systems", design "India Microprocessor", and development of Nano-Electronics and Micro-Electronics.

(c) Yes, Madam. Under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) and Free & Open Source Software (FOSS) development initiatives of the Government, fonts, drivers, tools, utilities, and standards have been developed and popular software such as Open Office, Libre Office, web browser Firefox, and email client Thunderbird have been localized in all 22 Indian languages including their alternative scripts. These are made available free to public to enable use of computers in local language as well as to develop applications and content.

[*Translation*]

Increasing the Speed of Trains

816. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various zones of the Railways particularly the northern railway has taken several decisions in regard to increasing the speed of trains, increasing the frequency of special trains, adhering to time table and protecting the trains from fog, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several projects have been approved to protect the trains from fog and increasing the speed of the trains;

(d) if so, whether details in regard to approved projects and the amount of funds allocated and incurred for the said purpose have been collected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Speeding up of trains including on Northern Railway is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investment made by Railways in modernization of technology, high power locos, modern coaches and better tracks.

Frequency of special trains are increased keeping in view the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Indian Railways makes all possible efforts to ensure that trains run to time. In this regard, various measures such as launching of punctuality drives, sensitising staff involved in train operations, improving asset reliability, rectification of asset failures in the shortest possible time and having better co-ordination with State Governments and civil authorities to deal with law & order problems effectively etc are taken by Indian Railways.

To avoid delay of trains in foggy weather and to enhance level of safety when running in automatic block signaling sections, a modified automatic signaling system has been introduced which restricts the number of trains to two between two stations. Further, Railways have started implementing the provision of automatic train protection (ATP) system i.e. TPWS in selected sections.

TPWS (Train Protection & Warning System) has the facility of controlling the speed based on to status of signals ahead. This helps the loco pilot to confidently run the train even though the actual visibility of the signal may be poor due to fog. For assisting the train crew, especially in foggy weather, retro-reflective Sigma (Σ) boards are being provided on OHE mast two masts prior to the signals in electrified territories to warn the crew

about signal ahead. Further, to ensure running of trains on time when pairing trains are running late, scratch rakes are inducted to the extent operationally feasible.

(c) to (e) Provision of Automatic Train Protection System (ATP) is mandatory for semi high speed trains.

Sl.No.	Name of section	Allocation	Latest Anticipated	Outlay at end of 2017-18
1	Delhi-Ambala-Amritsar:- Train Protection & warning System (TPWS) (424 RKMs)	RRSK*	184.32 Cr.	40 Cr.
2	Delhi area upto Ghaziabad & Nizamuddin:-Train Protection & warning System (TPWS) on Automatic Signalling routes (118 RKMs).	RRSK	174.09 Cr.	35 Cr.

*Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK).

Apart from the above, a work for providing ATP system, based on ETCS Level- 2 has been proposed as a part of the project for "Modernization of Signaling" on entire Indian Railways.

CMS Committee on Digital Payments

817. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI G.M SIDDHESWARA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Chief Ministers who are members of the committee of Chief Ministers to chart a roadmap for rollout of Digital Payments.

Gatiman Express is running at 160 Kmph between Nizamuddin-Agra section, which is fitted with Train Protection warning System equivalent to European Train Control System (ETCS) level-1. The work sanctioned for ATP on Northern Railway are as under:

(b) the recommendations/decision of the committee for the multiple digital payment options;

(c) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit or target for promoting digital transactions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The names of Chief Ministers who are members of the committee of Chief Ministers.

(i)	Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh;	Convener
(ii)	Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha	Member
(iii)	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh	Member
(iv)	Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim	Member
(v)	Shri V. Narayanasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry	Member
(vi)	Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra	Member

(b) The copy of the recommendations is enclosed herewith as Statement.

(c) While action has already been taken on some of the recommendations such as rationalization of MDR, Development of FastTag for toll collection, rolling out of an interoperable Bharat QR Code etc, in respect of other recommendations of the committee, they are under

various stages of implementation with different Ministries and Departments.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam, for promotion of digital payments, a dedicated DIGIDHAN Mission has been setup by MeitY for promotion of Digital Payments across the country. MeitY has been working on various strategies and is coordinating with multiple stakeholders including

Banks, Central Ministries/Departments and States to create a conducive environment to enable digital payments

across the country. MeitY has been assigned a target of 2500 Crore digital payment transactions during 2017-18.

Statement

Recommendation-Responsibility Summary

Agency	Recommendation	Ref. Para No
1	2	3
CBDT	Incentives for Banking Correspondents No TDS upto Rs. 3 lakhs	Feb 2017 24.5
	Integration of billing and tax filing in UPI app for merchants	June, 2017 24.2
	Relief in prospective taxes on digital transactions	Jan, 2017 24.1
	Tax refunds for consumers on digital payments	-do- 232
CBEC	Integration billing and tax filing in UPI app for merchants	June, 2017 24.2
	Tax relief for PoS/MicroATMs	Jan, 2017 19.1
DFS	Aadhaar seeing of all accounts and relevant policy changes	Mar, 2017 10.2
	Extend incentive charges rate for OFF-US transactions and interbank settlement charges to AEPS based merchant transactions	Feb, 2017 12.6
	Incentivising AEPS and not charging MDR for AEPS	Feb, 2017 12.9
	Insurance sheme to cover for digital frauds	Feb, 2017 26.2
	Deployment of 1 million PoS/MicroATMs at merchants	Mar, 2017 11.4
	Rollout of AadhaarPay by all banks	Mar, 2017 12.10
	Extending technology infrastructure to RRBs/Cooperative banks	Feb, 2017 11.1 June, 2017
	Extension of incentives to AadhaarPay merchants	Jan, 2017 12.6
	Incentives for payment of premiums in insurance sector	-do- 27.1
	Increased backend infrastructure capability for 1 bn transactions, security audit on quarterly basis	June, 2017 17.1 17.2
	Integrated system of SMS alets and MMID generation	Mar, 2017 16.3
	Mandate inter-bank transactions at all BCs, encouraging BCs by enhancing their income	June, 2017 12.8 24.3 24.4

1	2	3	
	Onboarding of more banks of AEPS, AadhaarPay, USSD and UPI	Jan, 2017	11.1
	Reducing cash usage in fertilizer distribution by introducing AEPS/Rupay	Feb, 2017	27.3
	Online Realtime GIS dashboard with heat maps for all transaction points	Mar, 2017	9.2
	Rollout of AadhaarPay app with targets and adoption by all banks	Feb, 2017	12.10
DIPP	Ramping up domestic production of MicroATM/PoS devices	Mar, 2017	19.2
Dept. of Posts	Deployment of digital payment infrastructure in post offices	June, 2017	11.5
Dept. of Revenue	Incentives for Banking Correspondents	Feb. 2017	24.5
	Relief in prospective taxes on digital transactions	-do-	24.1
	Tax refunds for consumers on digital payments	-do-	23.2
DoT	All modes of digital payment in regional languages	Feb, 2017	17.4
	Creation of a single helpline for consumer queries	-do-	22.1
	Incentives for data usage for digital payments	Feb, 2017	10.3
	Increased backend infrastructure capability for 1 bn transactions	June, 2017	17.1
	Increased Internet coverage in rural areas	-	17.3
	Lowering of usage barriers for USSD	Feb, 2017	16.1
MeitY	Strengthening security of digital payments	-	26.1
	Making phones as default payment device, subsidy for smart phones and biometric devices	Mar, 2017	101 10.4 11.7
MHRD	Benefits of digital payments in school curriculum	Mar, 2017	20.3
	Digitization of payment in educational institutions	Mar, 2017	27.2
Min of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Reducing cash usage in fertilizer distribution	Feb 2017	27.3
MoF	Aadhaar as primary ID for KYC and PMLA amendments	Mar, 2017	19.3
	Curbing high usage of cash	Jan, 2017	25.1-25.2

1	2	3	
	Extension of fiscal incentives to MicroATMs and biometric sensors	Jan, 2017	19.1
	Incentive for Banking Correspondents	Mar, 2017	24.5
	Lower MDR on all digital payments to government entities	Jan, 2017	27.7
	Sovereign-wallet scheme for all Aadhaar seeded accounts	Jan, 2017	23.1
	Relief in prospective taxes on digital transactions	Jan, 2017	24.1
	Setting target for value/volume of digital payments	Jan, 2017	9.1
	Cashback incentives on digital payment modes	Jan, 2017	23.1
	Creation of fund from savings generated through cashless transactions for incentivising acceptance infrastructure in semi-urban, rural areas	Feb, 2017	11.6
	Insurance scheme to cover for digital frauds	Feb, 2017	26.2
	Separate authority for regulation of digital payments	Mar, 2017	26.3
	Usage of UPI by all govt. institutions	Mar, 2017	27.6
MoPNG	Common eToll systems for State Highways/fuel stations	Jun, 2017	14.3
	Inducting UPI collect/AadhaarPay for LPG bookings of households by IVRS	Mar, 2017	27.5
Min. of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	AEPS/Rupay based Cashless PDS	Jun, 2017	27.4
Min. of Urban Development	Contactless (NFC) payments modes in all public transport	Feb. 2017	14.2
NHAI	Common eToll systems for State Highways/fuel stations	Jun, 2017	14.3
NITI Aayog	Accreditation system for districts/blocks/GPs	Feb, 2017	20.2
	Constitution of Standing Committee at Central level for review	Feb 2017	9.3
	Contactless (NFC) payments modes in all public transport	Feb, 2017	14.2
	Large scale public awareness campaign using mass celebrities	-	21.1

1	2	3	
NPCI	All modes of digital payment in regional languages	Feb, 2017	17.4
	Integrated system of MMID generation and SMS alerts	Feb, 2017	16.3
	Common interoperable QR code for UPI	Feb, 2017	15.1
	Enabling interoperable iris authentication on AEPS	Feb, 2017	12.3
	AEPS system uptime and reconciliation teams in place	Feb, 2017	12.11
	AEPS daily reconciliation and reduction in technical decline	Feb, 2017	12.4
	Payment to Aadhaar number to be enabled in BHIM	Jan, 2017	15.2
	Banks to enable seeding of mobile number to bank accounts across all channels	Feb, 2017	15.3
	Aadhaar Pay to be integrated on BHIM	Feb, 2017	15.4
	Interoperable Aadhaar seeding in MicroATMs & ATMs	Mar, 2017	12.5
	Increased backend infrastructure capability for 1 bn transaction	June, 2017	17.1
Integration of billing and tax filing in Aadhaar Pay/UPI app for merchants	June, 2017	24.2	
RBI	Aadhaar as primary ID for KYC and PMLA amendments	Feb, 2017	19.3
	Extend incentive charges rate for OFF-US transaction & interbank settlement charges to AEPS based merchant transactions	Feb, 2017	12.6
	Aadhaar seeding of all accounts and relevant policy changes	Mar, 2017	10.2
	Aadhaar authentication facility at all ATMs/PoS	June, 2017	12.7
	Aadhaar/e-KYC facility at all bank branches/BCs and small merchants for opening paperless savings/current accounts	Feb, 2017	13.1.18.4
	Incentivising AEPS by not levying MDR	Feb, 2017	12.9
	Allowing white-label agents for AEPS	Mar, 2017	12.2
	Rollout of AadhaarPay app with targets and adoption by all banks	Feb, 2017	12.10
	Developing real-time online GIS dashboard for monitoring	Mar, 2017	9.2
	Incentives for small merchants in taxation and MDR	Feb, 2017	18.3
Increased backend infrastructure capability for 1 bn	June, 2017	17.1.17.2	

1	2	3
	transactions, security audit on a quarterly basis	
	Interoperability of all banks and their PPIs on UPI	Mar, 2017 14.1
	Mandate inter-bank transactions at all BCs, encouraging BCs by ensuring minimum income	June, 2017 12.8, 24.3
	Review of P2P mobile based transactions	Feb, 2017 18.2
	Review of MDR regime	Feb, 2017 18.1
	Separate authority for regulation of digital payments	Mar, 2017 26.3
	Setting target for value/volume of digital payments	Feb, 2017 9.1
UIDAI	Patent of AEPS and AadhaarPay technologies	Mar, 2017 12.12
State Governments	Constitution of the standing committee	Feb, 2017 9.4
	Benefits of digital payments in school curriculum	- 20.3
	Educational hoardings at main locations in rural areas	- 21.2
	Leverage Local institutions	- 20.1
	Usage of UPI by all govt institutions	Mar, 2017 27.6
	AEPS/Rupay based cashless PDS	June, 2017 27.4

[English]

Reservation to Women in Lok Sabha

818. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

the status of the proposal to provide thirty three percent reservation to the women in Parliament (Lok Sabha) and State assemblies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): It has been endeavour of the Government to provide for reservation of one-third seats for women in the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies. The issue involved needs careful consideration on the basis of the consensus amongst all political parties before a Bill for amendment in the Constitution is brought before Parliament.

Health Problems in Goa

819. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of serious health problems in Goa due to transportation of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government would consider issuing some fresh directives to all stakeholders to adhere to environment safety?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Proportionate Reservations to SCs and STs

820. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to revise the percentage of reservation of posts in Government services for SCs/STs as per present proportion of their population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) At present, there is no proposal to review the reservation policy on proportionate basis on the basis of population.

(b) As per the 9 judge Bench Constitutional judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Indra Sawhney case, total reservation cannot exceed the limit of 50%. In the same judgment, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also observed that clause (4) of Article 16 of Constitution speaks of adequate representation and not proportionate representation

Menace of Blue Whale Game

821. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Blue Whale Game is creating havoc among children and students and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(b) the number of persons who have fallen prey to Blue Whale Game so far;

(c) the details of the instructions or advisory that have been issued to schools and colleges on Blue Whale Game;

(d) the details of the feedback that has come for controlling or checking the spread of Blue Whale Game; and

(e) whether the concerned Ministry is coordinating with Ministry of Home Affairs to control and stop the spread of Blue Whale Game among children, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) There had been media reports about alleged suicides/ attempted suicides due to dangerous online game like Blue Whale Challenge Game. In this regard, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had constituted a Committee to investigate all cases where suicides were committed or attempted allegedly using dangerous online games like

Blue Whale Challenge. The Committee findings could not establish any involvement of Blue Whale challenge game in any of incidents reported to them. Further, in a writ petition (civil) no. 943/2017 on the same subject, Hon'ble Supreme Court has disposed off the case directing the Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories to spread awareness in the school children about the dangers such games propagate by bringing people into a trap.

Further, Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for certain due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries failing which they would be liable. The Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 notified under section 79 of the Act, *inter alia*, specifies that the intermediaries shall inform the users of computer resource not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is grossly harmful, harms minor in any way; violates any law for the time being in force; etc.

Law Enforcement Agencies regularly monitor the social media sites and take action under existing legal provisions for removal of malicious contents/materials and prosecuting the offenders.

(c) Government issued Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Internet and Digital Technologies to all CBSE schools vide circular dated. 18.08.2017.

Minister, Women and Child Development wrote to Principals of all schools on 31st August 2017 to take immediate steps to protect children from Blue Whale Challenge Game.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a committee to investigate all cases where suicides were committed or attempted allegedly using Blue Whale Challenge Game. The Committee analysed the internet activities, device activities, call records and other social media activity, other forensic evidences and also interacted with rescued victims associated with these incidents. The committee findings could not establish any involvement of blue whale challenge game in any of the incidents reported to them.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and CERT-In interacted with service providers of social media regarding the steps to be taken to prevent users from falling prey to harmful online games.

Government has asked popular social media sites not to host any such dangerous online games and immediately remove the same as and when detected.

Reciprocal Military Liaison Officers

822. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have India and the US on reciprocal military liaison officers at each other's combatant commands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to have further foundational military agreements with the US; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE): (a) and (b) Various proposals to enhance military to military cooperation with the United States are under consideration. This does not currently include placement of reciprocal military liaison officers.

(c) and (d) To facilitate defence cooperation between India and the United States, bilateral agreements such as the Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement are signed from time to time. No decision has been reached on any such additional agreements.

Artificial Intelligence

823. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government in the field of artificial intelligence research and development and its likely advantages and disadvantages;

(b) the current levels of financial and institutional support provided by the Government for artificial intelligence;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to encourage research in artificial intelligence in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the country is moving towards adoption of artificial intelligence and if so, the various sectors where the artificial intelligence technology will be used;

(e) whether the country has adequate infrastructure to incorporate artificial intelligence and if so, the details of the same; and

(f) whether the Government has taken into consideration the job loss that is likely to occur if artificial intelligence is introduced and if so, the mechanism developed by the Government to address such issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) is a new initiative launched in 2016 to promote and foster the upcoming and futuristic technologies. Artificial Intelligence is one of the major components of CPS. The Union Government has taken the following steps:

(i) To promote R&D in artificial intelligence, expert driven research projects across the country have been initiated;

(ii) For technology development and applications in artificial intelligence, a multi-institutional and multidisciplinary cluster based network programmes have been evolved and supported.

Advantages:

(i) Development of new algorithms, technologies and applications through expert driven research;

(ii) Domain specific solution and technology development through cluster based methodology.

Disadvantages :

(a) As of now, no disadvantages have come up.

(b) Around Rs. 20 crores financial support has been provided by the Government during the current financial year 2017-18 to support R&D in Cyber Physical Systems including Artificial Intelligence

(c) Yes Madam. Artificial Intelligence is one of the core components of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems. As part of the Mission, The Government is encouraging research in Artificial Intelligence in the country by way of technology development, setting up of Centre of Excellences, Human

Resource Development and Skill Enhancement, Entrepreneur Start-ups, Eco-system Development and International Collaborative Research.

(d) Yes Madam. The Artificial Intelligence technology will be used in various sectors such as Medical, Heavy Industry, Financial, Banking, Education, Social Media and Agriculture.

(e) The country has adequate minimal infrastructure which is envisaged to enhance further.

(f) Yes Madam. It is perceived that there will be an element of job loss at the initial stage of adoption of Artificial Intelligence. However, by increasing the skills and enhancing the AI based services, more jobs are expected to be created.

[Translation]

Indo-pak Secretary Level Talks

824. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretary level talks have been held in New Delhi between India and Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the outcome of the said talks;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken for finding cordial solutions to all the disputes between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and also the outlines of the roadmap, if any, prepared between the two countries in this regard; and

(e) the details of the various steps under consideration for improving the peaceful and bilateral relations between India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)] : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) India is committed to addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and through peaceful means in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. However, a meaningful dialogue necessarily requires an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence.

During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in December 2015, it was decided to have a meeting at the level of the Foreign Secretaries to work out modalities of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. However, in wake of terrorist attack on Pathankot airbase in January, 2016 and continued support to cross border terrorism and cease fire violations by Pakistan, the meeting to discuss modalities of the Dialogue has not been held so far.

The Government has consistently called upon Pakistan to abide by its commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used against India in any manner, and to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control. The onus is on Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere for a constructive and substantive Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue.

[English]

Encroachment on Railway Land

825. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large stretches of railway land are being encroached upon in various parts of the country including northern railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational and other problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(e) the measures taken by the Railways to remove such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Presently, Railways has about 4.73 lakh hectare land, out of which approximately 862.00 hectare (0.18%) land is under encroachment including 205.54 hectares land of Northern Railway.

Most of the encroachments on Railway land are in the approaches of stations in Metros and big cities in the form of slums. At certain locations, these encroachments cause bottlenecks and safety hazard in train operations and difficulties in maintenance which at times affect the line capacity and the throughput which ultimately affects the revenue of Railways.

For removal of these encroachments, Railways carry out regular surveys and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of a temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and

squatters, the same are got removed in consultation with and the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971), as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and police.

[*Translation*]

Development of Science and Technology

826. SHRI AJAY NISHAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has made any proposal to the Union Government for development of Science and Technology in the State during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken on each of these proposals by the Union Government; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated/ released to the State of Bihar during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDHARY): (a) and (b) No Madam, Government of Bihar has not made any proposal to the Union Government for development of Science and Technology in the State of Bihar during the last three years and the current year. However the Ministry of Science and Technology through its Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been implementing State S&T Programme for promotion of Science and Technology (S&T) in the country including in the State of Bihar.

DST has played a key role proactively in establishing Councils of Science and Technology at state level including in the State of Bihar. These councils carry out S&T based activities including surveys, studies, technology development and demonstration projects. The Councils also prepare and implement state S&T plans and do various promotional programmes such as national science day, mathematics day, science festival, children science congress etc. These Councils are also conducting numerous activities like science essay completion, on-the-sport painting competitions, popular lectures by eminent scientists and officials, exhibition of models, assistive technologies useful for specially-abled, gadgets developed by students, among others.etc.

In Addition, Ministry of Science and Technology through its Department of Biotechnology in association with State Governments envisages to build the biotechnology policy relevant to the State and to set up Biotech Parks and Incubators to promote Innovation Research entrepreneurship and industry growth. These schemes are also open for Government of Bihar to drive the benefits of biotechnology for development of Science and Technology in the State of Bihar.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Law Commission Report on Bail

827. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to implement the recommendations of the 268th Law Commission Report on Bail, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether proposals regarding the amendment of Criminal Procedure Code are being considered;

(c) if so, the steps that have been taken by the Government to implement the proposed amendment; and

(d) if not, the action which the Government intends to take on the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Illegal Mining and Theft in Various Coal Mines

828. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining and theft in various coal mines is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of illegal mining and theft cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to detect and prevent illegal mining and theft in the coal mines of the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely, as such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal.

However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during the last three years and the current year are as under:

ILLEGAL MINING AND THEFT/PILFERAGE OF COAL IN CIL:

	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (upto Nov'17) (Provisional)	
	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
Illegal Mining	173.75	2.245	112.77	5.560	1292.40	62.620	73.00	2.408
Theft/Pilferage	19623.16	711.570	20428.89	937.110	25296.16	1157.556	10199.46	475.199

FIRS LODGED IN CASE OF ILLEGAL MINING AND THEFT/PILFERAGE OF COAL STATEWISE

State	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18 (upto Nov'17) (Provisional)	
	Illegal Mining	Theft/Pilferage	Illegal Mining	Theft/Pilferage	Illegal Mining	Theft/Pilferage	Illegal Mining	Theft/Pilferage
West Bengal	2	27	17	116	8	241	37	99
Jharkhand	4	22	1	30	8	45	14	24
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Maharashtra	0	13	0	6	0	19	0	9
Madhya Pradesh	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1
Chattisgarh	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	1
Odisha	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Assam	1	66	0	35		31	0	16
Coal India	7	135	18	193	16	341	51	150

(d) Law and Order is a State subject, hence primarily it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining, theft/pilferage of coal etc.

Illegal mining of coal: Following suitable steps are being taken where ever illegal mining of coal takes place:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- (iv) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place."

- (v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents;
- (vii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.
- (viii) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, state level) in some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

Theft/pilferage of coal: Following steps are taken to check such incidents:

- i. Radio-Frequency Identification Device (RFID) based Boom Barriers and CCTV camera at weighbridges, GPRS based vehicle tracking system with geofencing, CCTV camera at strategic locations of all mines have been installed.
- ii. Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local Thana. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by CISF.
- iii. Interaction and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with DC and other District Administrative Officials.
- iv. Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage. v. Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- vi. Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF upto weighbridge, is arranged in pilferage prone areas.
- vii. Surprise re-weighment of coal loaded trucks is done at weighbridges.
- viii. Surprise checks/raids are conducted by flying squads of CISF/security department.
- ix. Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.
- x. Joint patrolling with local police is also being carried out in pilferage prone areas.
- xi. Check posts have been established at entry/exit points where all coal laden vehicles are physically checked.

- xii. Security at coal dumps has been strengthened by fencing, proper illumination and round the clock guarding.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Delhi-Suratgarh-Jaisalmer Track

829. COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines is being executed in the country;

(b) if so, the State/UT-wise details thereof;

(c) the present status of electrification of Delhi-Suratgarh Jaisalmer track in Rajasthan;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give priority to the said railway tracks and complete the work during 2018-19; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) State-wise details of Gauge Conversion and Electrification projects are Appended.

(c) Present status of electrification of Delhi-Suratgarh-Jaisalmer rail line is as under:

Delhi-Rewari: Delhi-Delhi Sarai Rohilla is already electrified. Electrification of Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari section is part of Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari Phulera-Palanpur-Ahmedabad including Kalol-Gandhinagar-Khodiyar and Alwar-Bandikui-Jaipur-Phulera sanctioned electrification project and has been entrusted to Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE) for execution.

Rewari-Sadulpur-Hanumangarh: Electrification of Rewari-Sadulpur Hanumangarh (320 route kilometre) has been sanctioned at a cost of `288.38 crores. The work has been entrusted to CORE for execution.

Hanumangarh-Suratgarh: Hanumangarh-Suratgarh is part of Hisar-BhatindaSuratgarh/STPS sanctioned electrification project and has been entrusted to CORE for execution.

Suratgarh-Phalodi-Jaisalmer: Suratgarh-Phalodi-Jaisalmer is part of electrification of Suratgarh-Phalodi-Jodhpur-Bhildi incl. Phalodi-Jaisalmer project which has been proposed for inclusion in Budget 2018-19 at a cost of Rs. 750.26 crores.

(d) and (e) It is always Railways' endeavour to complete the works as fast as possible. However, completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and

road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, etc., which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways. Moreover, the funds for completion of projects are allocated on yearly basis depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of Railway projects.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of all Gauge Conversion and Railway Electrification projects falling fully/partly in the States are as tabulated below:-

Name of State/UTs	No. of projects	
	Gauge Conversion	Electrification
Assam and North Eastern Region		4
Andhra Pradesh		5
Bihar	5	13
Chhattisgarh		
Delhi		1
Goa		1
Gujarat	26	6
Haryana	1	12
Himachal Pradesh		
Jammu and Kashmir		
Jharkhand		5
Karnataka		8
Kerala	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	5	11
Maharashtra	4	14
Odisha	1	4
Punjab		6
Rajasthan	6	10
Telangana		3
Tamil Nadu	6	4
Uttar Pradesh	9	22
Uttarakhand	2	2
West Bengal	4	4

Performance of BSNL and MTNL

830. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA:
SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of public sector telecommunication enterprises *i.e.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in comparison to private sector telecom companies;

(b) the reasons for the decline, if any, in the number of subscribers of the said public sector telecom companies;

(c) whether the Government proposes to improve the market share and profitability of these public sector enterprises;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to merge both public enterprises as a part of their revival and reorganization plan and if so, the details and the present status thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the said telecom companies have surrendered their CDMA spectrum and received refunded amount and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in terms of number of wireline and wireless subscribers for last three years and current year is as follows:

BSNL:

Status as on	Total Telephone Connections in the country (in Million)			Telephone Connections Provided by BSNL (in Million)			Telephone Market Share* of BSNL (%)		
	Wired Line	Wireless	Grand Total	Wired Line	Wireless	Grand Total	Wired Line	Wireless including WLL	Grand Total
31.03.14	28.49	904.55	933.04	18.49	94.65	113.14	64.90	10.46	12.13
31.03.15	26.56	969.54	996.1	16.41	76.83	93.24	61.80	7.92	9.36
31.03.16	25.18	1034.20	1059.38	14.76	86.82	101.58	58.63	8.40	9.43
31.03.17	24.38	1170.68	1195.06	13.69	101.40	115.09	56.15	8.66	9.63
31.10.17	23.51	1178.67	1202.18	12.67	106.80	119.47	53.91	9.06	9.94

MTNL:

Status as on	Total Telephone Connections in the country (in Million)			Telephone Connections Provided by BSNL (in Million)			Telephone Market Share of BSNL (%)		
	Wired Line	Wireless	Grand Total	Wired Line	Wireless	Grand Total	Wired Line	Wireless including WLL	Grand Total
31.03.14	6.16	73.42	79.58	3.53	3.37	6.9	57.33	4.59	8.67
31.03.15	6.13	76.81	82.94	3.55	3.51	7.06	57.24	4.57	8.51
31.03.16	6.20	79.11	85.31	3.50	3.56	7.06	56.44	4.50	8.29
31.03.17	6.26	90.07	96.33	3.46	3.63	7.09	55.27	4.03	7.37
31.10.17	6.26	92.53	98.79	3.39	3.59	6.98	54.18	3.88	7.05

* MTNL operates in Delhi and Mumbai area, market share is calculated for Delhi and Mumbai area only.

(b) The reasons for stagnation and/or falling market share for wireline and wireless services are as under:

Wireline:

- There is a general decline in demand for the fixed line telephones due to subscriber's tendency to shift to mobile services because of its sheer convenience with regards to affordability and availability.
- Closure due to non-payment of telephones bills/economic reasons.
- Prolonged breakdown of services due to cable breakdown inflected due to road widening, cable thefts, cable faults etc.

Wireless:

- Stiff competition in Mobile sector by other private telecom operators who have aggressive tariff plans.
- BSNL and MTNL could not procure mobile equipment for few years, but in the last three years BSNL and MTNL maintained/slightly improved their market share in wireless segment due to their aggressive tariffs plans in competitive market. BSNL is increasing its 2G/3G coverage by addition of BTSs/Nodes.

(c) and (d) To improve the market share and profitability, BSNL and MTNL are taking various steps as detailed at Statement-I. The details of Government support to BSNL and MTNL are enclosed Statement-II.

(e) At present, there is no proposal for merger of BSNL and MTNL.

(f) Amount of Rs. 458.04 crore to MTNL and Rs.169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) spectrum has been refunded by the Government.

Statement-I

Steps taken by BSNL to increase its customer base:

1. Augmentation of GSM Mobile network capacity-

Phase VIII: Formulation of next GSM expansion project:

a. Phase VIII.1: Induction and integration of Wi-Fi Hotspot/LTE (4G) with existing GSM/UMTS network.

b. Phase VIII.2: Strengthening of Data Network:

(i) Media has observed to support the surge in data volume.

(ii) IPs have been used judiciously to address scarcity.

c. Phase VIII.3: Intra Circle Roaming has been launched for M/s Aircel as a seeker in Rajasthan Telecom Circle and in UP(E) circles. Testing is also under process in other Circles of BSNL. The Inter Circle Roaming with M/s Vodafone in Delhi for 'BSNL as a seeker' is working fine to provide roaming options to BSNL's Pre-paid Customers. Inter Circle Roaming has also been launched with M/s Vodafone in MP & CG Circles for Vodafone as a seeker.

d. Phase VIII.4 Focus on enhancing 2G & 3G GSM coverage.

GSM expansion project under name Phase VIII.4 has been finalised for the following:

- o Replacement of old equipment having high operational cost & AMC.
- o Addition of 3G capacity for increasing 3G footprints.
- o Introduction of 4G services.
- o The project is presently envisaged to provide about 20881 2G BTSs, 22517, 3G Node Bs and 10000 4G E-Node Bs.

2. Replacement of legacy Wireline exchanges by Next Generation Network (NGN) Switches:-

- Phase I: Total capacity of 1 million line equipment has been commissioned in Phase -I class-5 IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) based New Generation Network (NGN). The implementation of phase-II. 3 Million (core & access) equipment is in progress.
- With migration to Next Generation Network (NGN) system, the customer will get better communication Enhanced Value Added Services like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Multi Media Video Conferencing and IP Centrex etc.

3. Augmentation of Broadband network for meeting data growth: - BSNL has commissioned Multiprotocol Label Switching - Transport Profile (MPLS-TP) based Next Generation Packet Aggregation Network (MNG-PAN).

4. Setup of Network Monitoring system (NMS) for Wire-line, Wireless and Broadband network: Purchase Order (PO) for the procurement and implementation of Broadband Network Management System covering BB P2.2, Multiplay and Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Networks

has been placed. The equipment is in advanced stage of commissioning.

5. Roll-out of Wi-Fi Service: BSNL is deploying 35000 Wi-Fi Access Points under Wi-Fi Hotspots and Mobile Data Offload Project. Till date 3406 Wi-Fi Hotspots have been installed. BSNL is also rolling out Public Wi-Fi Hotspots at 25,000 Rural Telephone Exchanges of BSNL. Further, as on 30.11.2017, BSNL has installed 7819 Wi-Fi Hotspots across 3330 locations in the country through revenue share model.

6. BSNL-ECR CONE (Enhanced Capacity & resilience of Core Network):

- Expansion of Provider Edge (PE) Network of BSNL: Out of planned 232 PE Routers, BSNL has commissioned 232 PE Routers along with their integration with Core Routers. This has resulted in the expansion of IPMPLS Network from 106 cities to 205 cities providing connectivity for broadband, NGN, 2G/ 3G requirements apart from increased connectivity to enterprise customer.
- In respect of creation of a Super Express Highway across the country and Super Express Transport Network with 200 Gbps (Gigabits per second) line capacity connecting 47 state Capitals and important cities. The work in 45 cities have already been completed under Phase-I and Phase-II. Installation and commissioning of Optical Transport Network (OTN) equipment has been completed in two cities Silliguri and Guwahati. But Acceptance Testing is in progress. Material for Phase-III has been supplied. Installation and commissioning is in progress.
- For procurement of Converged Packet Access Network (CPAN), Purchase Order (PO) to L1 and L2 vendors has been issued. Supply in respect of B1 and B2 switch has been completed and A1 and A2 switch is in progress.

7. Customer Centric Initiatives:

- BSNL has focused on customer care services by installing exclusive call centres for GSM services, Wire- line and Broadband services.
- Unlimited free night calling from landline to any network between 2230 Hrs to 0600 Hrs. in India by BSNL to its landline customers.
- BSNL introduced unlimited free calling during day & night on all Sundays on PAN India (except HP Circle).

- Minimum 512 Kbps broadband speed upgraded to 2 Mbps.”
- The new plan Experience LL 49 which also allows free calling facility during night hours from Monday to Saturday of the week and 24 hours free calling on Sunday. The scheme has been extended in all circles (except J&K, NE-I and NE-II) & is applicable up to 31.03.2018.
- BSNL has introduced waive off installation charges scheme for New Landline which is applicable up to 17.07.2018.
- BSNL has introduced new LL Plan LL-299 with Fixed Monthly Charges (FMC) Rs.299. In this tariff plan 250 free calls are allowed to any network within India. The tariff plan is applicable w.e.f. 01.08.2017.
- BSNL has revised the existing landline plans w.e.f. 01.08.2017 and now customer will get free calls on BSNL Network equal to FMC.
- BSNL has introduced new annual landline tariff plans “LL 1200 & LL 1500” which also allows free calling facility during night hours from Monday to Saturday of the week and 24 hours free calling on Sunday. The tariff plans are applicable w.e.f. 01.12.2017 up to 28.02.2018.
- BSNL has introduced Virtual landline Connection under plan “ASEEM” in which customer can get a Virtual Landline number and get diverted all the calls received on that number to a mobile number of his/her choice. This plan can also be provided in Technically Not Feasible (TNF) areas. The tariff plan is applicable w.e.f. 01.09.2017.
- BSNL has introduced Replacement of Instrument Free of cost for existing customers, who has paid last six months bill for Landline/ Combo connection with total amount of Rs. 3600/- or above and having Landline for last three years.
- BSNL Landline may be booked through Facebook/Twitter. One month Fixed Monthly Charge on landline booked through Facebook/ Twitter is being waived off. The scheme is applicable for one year w.e.f. 30.10.2017.
- Rs 249 unlimited Broadband plan (upto 2 Mbps till 1 GB & up to 1 Mbps beyond).
- Introduction of a scheme to waive off Installation charges for new Landline/Digital Subscriber

Line/Fiber to the Home connections (voice/Broadband/combo) in all the Circles, for a period of One Year-w.e.f. 18-07-2017.

- Introduction of a scheme for sale of Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) WiFi Modem @ Rs. 1500/- with 100% Cash back @ Rs. 50/- per month for maximum 30 month or till the Broadband connection remain active to the Broadband customers who subscribe under any Broadband plan with Fixed Monthly Charge (FMC) Rs. 675/- and above.
- Introduction of new Broadband plan 'BBG Combo UL 599' with 'Flat 2 Mbps Speed' and reformulation of certain pan-India DSL Broadband plans, which are currently being offered to the customers in pan-India basis - w.e.f. 10-07-2017.
- Tariff Plan for 2Mbps FTTH/ILL Backhaul @ Rs. 17820/- for Wi-Fi Hotspots under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in all the circles-w.e.f.20-07-2017.
- Reformulation of Broadband plans; offering 'Upto 10 Mbps' and 'Upto 8 Mbps' initial download speed (subject to technical feasibility) across all the DSL/FTTH Broadband plans [pan-India (except A&N circle)] with FMC \geq Rs. 675/- & FMC \leq Rs. 675 respectively, on pan-India basis-w.e.f. 01-11-2017.
- BSNL has introduced unlimited local/STD BSNL to BSNL with 300 Mb data for only“ Rs. 99 with validity of 28 days for its prepaid mobile customers in Kolkata Telecom District, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Gujarat, MP, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra & Rajasthan. In other circles, it varies from Rs.119 to Rs. 149.
- BSNL has introduced Special Tariff Voucher (STV) of Rs 339 for 28 days with unlimited“ Local/STD BSNL to BSNL + Local/STD BSNL to others + Unlimited data (With FUP (Fair Usage Policy) of 2GB/day with no speed restriction and thereafter with speed restriction of 80 KBPS).
- BSNL has introduced new STV plan “BSNL CHAUKKA “444” Unlimited data (Speed reduced to 80 Kbps after 4GB/day) offer under prepaid mobile service.
- BSNL has introduced new plan “BSNL SIXER” “666” Unlimited data (Speed reduced“ to 80 Kbps after 2GB/day) and Unlimited free voice

(Local/STD) for 60 days any net in Home Public Land Mobile Network (HPLMN) under prepaid mobile service. BSNL has introduced the new plan of Rs.429 only which is giving free voice (Local/STD) on any network and 90 GB data @ 1GB per day) for 81 days on pan-India basis (except Kerala Circle).

Measures taken by MTNL to increase its customer base:

MTNL has taken following steps to improve its network capabilities, provide better quality of service to its customers and improve market share.

- **Expansion of GSM/3G Radio Frequency (RF) network in MTNL Delhi:** MTNL is in the process of expansion of 3G mobile network by adding 1080 nos. of 3G sites, 800 nos. of hybrid microwave to meet the backhaul capacity and data handling capacity to 10 Gbps.
- **Upgradation/replacement of 3G RF network in MTNL Delhi :** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) and 754 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.
- **3G Network Up-gradation in Mumbai:** MTNL is upgrading the existing 3G network (720 Node-Bs) and 497 nos. of existing 8Mbps Microwave Hops to 400 Mbps capacity to improve network capabilities and provide better speed.
- **Redeployment of DSLAMs (Digital Subscriber Line Asynchronous Mode) of existing Broadband Network:** MTNL has launched a special program to progressively increase the fibre length by redeploying the broadband nodes (DSLAMS) near to the subscriber premises in Delhi and Mumbai thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service. 186 DSLAMs in Delhi and approx.169 in Mumbai have been redeployed thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of Broadband service. This has improved customer experience and reduced the number of complaints.
- **Fibre to the Home (FTTH):** FTTH revenue share policy was modified to make it more flexible to attract new partners with enhanced revenue share to encourage partners to rollout more connections; 10 Partners each in Delhi

and Mumbai have already started operations. Active monitoring is being done to ensure to achieve the envisaged targets of the policy. Regular advisories are being issued to field units. In the calendar year 2017, total 699 connections have been provisioned in Mumbai while 188 connections were provisioned in Delhi.

➤ **Steps taken to further improve quality and Quantity of services:**

- Tariff of Wireless services has been rationalized significantly in view of the cut throat competition. MTNL now offers three times more data at the same price.
- To give boost to customer experience, download speed of broadband subscribers is being upgraded to 8 Mbps progressively without any additional cost depending upon feasibility and line parameters. This year, 24,332 connections have been upgraded as on 31.12.2017 in Delhi while 3,86,882 numbers have been upgraded in Mumbai.
- Tariff re-balancing of Broadband service has been done for giving more competitive and attractive tariff package to the customers.
- Training is being given to line staff to improve maintenance and installation practices.
- Refurbishing of 20% pillars and DPs every year, is planned in a phased manner. 1236 Pillar and 7199 DP have been refurbished by MTNL this year as on 31.12.2017
- To improve copper pair quality, 81,492 existing drop wires have been replaced with twisted drop wires or thermo sleeves have been put at open joints at DPs by MTNL this year, as on 31.12.2017.
- Proactive Monitoring of Broadband Faults through radius attempt.

Statement-II

Government support to BSNL and MTNL

A. BSNL:

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing“ Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013.

- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman“ & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/ bandwidth at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.
- Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS Project) has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs. 13,334 crore.
- Laying of 2,54,813 Km. OFC to connect 1,01,792 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under BharatNet project out of which, 91,001 GPs are connected with OFC with the laying of 2,20,510 Kms of OFC, also the trenching and duct laying is completed for 97,845 GPs. For execution of BharatNet project, Government has provided Rs. 5744 crore in Phase-I and Rs. 6500 crore in Phase-II to BSNL.
- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at estimated project cost of Rs. 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of Rs. 295.97 crore on 10.9.2014.
- Submarine Optical Fiber Cable Project at the cost of Rs.1900 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis for providing connectivity to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Work of setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs.940 crore.
- The work of setting up of Satellite Gateway at the cost of Rs.54 crore has been given to“ BSNL on nomination basis.

B. MTNL:

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in two service areas held by MTNL and in 6 service areas held by BSNL. Under this head, Rs. 4533.97 crore has been refunded to MTNL through bonds and Rs. 6724.51 crore has been refunded to BSNL through budgetary resources.
- The pension liability of MTNL staff who were absorbed from DoT, has been taken over by the Government.

- Notional loan of Rs. 1411 crore to BSNL which was due to be paid to the Government was waived-off.
- Financial support of Rs. 492.26 crore has been given to MTNL on account of liability arising from levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Refund of Rs. 458.04 crore to MTNL and Rs. 169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Provision of High Speed Internet on FTTH and Wi-Fi at the Hon'ble M.Ps residences. The Project cost of about Rs. 43.2 Crore was funded by DoT.

[English]

Make-II Procedure

831. SHRI BALKA SUMAN:
SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Acquisition Council has made significant changes and cleared a simplified Make-II procedure to enable greater participation of Industry in acquisition of defence equipment and to promote innovative solution; and

(b) if so, the details and the salient features of the new Make-II procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The salient features of Make-II procedure are listed below:-

- Concept of selection of two Development Agencies has been done away with. All the vendors meeting the minimum qualification criterion have been allowed to participate in the process.
- Eligibility criteria in respect of parameters such as Profitability, Minimum period of registration of company, Minimum Credit rating requirement, etc, has been relaxed for participants. Eligibility criteria for start-ups has further been relaxed.
- Provisions for suo-moto proposals from Individuals/industry, particularly for innovative solutions have been introduced.

- Documentation requirement at various stages of the process, has been minimised.
- Timelines for various stages of process have been reduced.

Anti-india Activities in Bangladesh

832. SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held any talks/ proposes to engage with the Government of Bangladesh regarding anti-India activities and growing extremist attacks in that country; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Government of India has extensive engagements with Government of Bangladesh under various bilateral mechanisms like the Joint Consultative Commission, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary-level talks, Joint Working Group on Security and Border Management, Joint Task Forces on Human Trafficking, Fake Currency Notes etc. All issues of relevance and importance are raised at these bilateral talks, including those relating to our security. A number of security related agreements – Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Combating International Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking have been signed and ratified.

During our bilateral interactions, Government of Bangladesh has conveyed that it will not allow any anti-India activities from its soil and has followed zero tolerance policy to extremist and terrorist elements in Bangladesh. Security related issues, including the activities of the Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs), their camps/ hideouts, measures to check smuggling of arms/ ammunitions and fake currency notes, have also been discussed during our interactions with Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh have also put in place mechanisms, including a Coordinated Border Management Plan signed in July 2011, to address issues arising from illegal border crossings and incidents on the border and to enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries. The two sides have been cooperating in identifying vulnerable patches along the border and taking appropriate steps to prevent illegal activities, including illegal movement across the border. Discussion under the above mentioned forums will continue with a view to safeguarding the security interests of both the countries.

Installation of Sonars

833. SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of indigenous sonars that have been installed so far in the submarines by Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and the time taken by them in such installation;

(b) the time given by the Government to BEL to complete the sonar installation in all submarines and the reasons for the delay, if any;

(c) whether the Government proposes to purchase the sonar systems from foreign countries and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the software developed by Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) installed by BEL has completed sea-acceptance trial; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has installed 05 Indigenous sonars in the submarines from October, 2005 to March, 2016.

(b) As per contractual milestones, all installations have been completed within respective refit timelines.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) The software developed by Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) is an integral part of the Sonar subsystems and the SeaAcceptance Trials (SATs) of the software are integrated with the SATs of Sonar USHUS.

[*Translation*]

Time and Cost Overrun of Projects

834. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than one-third projects in the country are running late for several years after implementation of modern technology and the Government has to bear the additional burden of thousand crores of rupees in costs due to this delay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no responsibility of higher officers of the Government related to these projects has also been fixed due to which these projects are running behind schedule; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fix the responsibility of officers for late running of these projects, if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI VIJAY GOEL]: (a) and (b) Government in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors on-going Central Sector Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above on time and cost overruns, on the basis of information provided by the project implementing agencies. As on 01.11.2017, a total of 1283 projects are being monitored by this Ministry. Of these, 302 are running behind their schedule. The cost overrun of these 302 delay projects is Rs. 1,45,679.07 crore.

The details of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects which are running behind their schedule are available at <http://www.cspm.gov.in/english/publication.html>.

(c) and (d) A Standing Committee in each Ministry has been setup for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns. However, it has been observed that due to environmental clearances, statutory clearances, land acquisition, fund constraints, security clearances etc. fixing responsibility on any officer(s) become difficult.

(e) The major steps undertaken to ensure completion of Central Sector Infrastructure Projects without time and cost overruns include: rigorous project appraisal; OCMS for better monitoring; setting up of Revised Cost Committees in the Ministries for fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns; regular review of infrastructure projects by the concerned administrative Ministries; and setting up of Central Sector Projects Coordination Committees (CSPCCs) in the States under the Chief Secretaries.

[*English*]

New Railway Lines

835. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to review further investments in new railway lines that have been stuck for a long period due to delay in land acquisition;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Railway Board has urged States to initiate and expedite the land acquisition process to lay new railway lines; and

(d) if so, the details of the State Governments response in respect of land acquisition for Railways and the details of land acquired by Railways in the last three years and laid new railway lines thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Railways have a number of projects where considerable investments have been made but returns are not forthcoming due to land acquisition problems. Therefore, it has been decided that the commencement of physical work for New Line projects shall be taken up only after completion of land acquisition. However, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been empowered to invite tenders if they are certain of the possibility of land acquisition in a reasonable time frame. For this, a written assurance from the State Government will be required by General Managers of Zonal Railways. General Managers of Zonal Railways have also been empowered to review further investment in projects where State support is not forthcoming and the projects have remained in limbo for long period. Chief Secretaries of State Governments have also been requested to take necessary steps in this regard to expedite execution work of New Lines. No further response has so far been received from any State Government in this regard.

Acquisition of land and laying of new lines thereon is a continuous process by Zonal Railways and other executing agencies. No centralized compendium of land acquisition is maintained by Ministry of Railways.

Hydraulic Plant in Arunachal Pradesh

836. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working closely with the Ministries of External Affairs, New and Renewable Energy and Defence to hash out a diplomatic solution with China in the Arunachal Pradesh border to construct a hydraulic plant when the Siang river enters India;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Development of infrastructure including, the power and water sector, in the North Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh is not a subject matter of discussion with China. However, a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog has been constituted for optimally harnessing the water resources for accelerating development in the North Eastern Region.

State Science and Technology Programme

837. DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Science and Technology (S&T) programmes have been implemented in all the States in the country;

(b) if so, the amount allocated and expenditure incurred during the last three years and the current year on establishing these State S&T programmes;

(c) whether there was a need for setting up S&T programme and if so, the manner in which the Ministry is assisting various States in developing their S&T Departments;

(d) the research support likely to be provided to these State Departments from the Centre after these Departments have been established at State level;

(e) the manner in which the Union Government monitors the progress of this project and the details of qualitative mechanisms devised so that funds sanctioned are properly utilised; and

(f) the reasons for delay in completion of the projects, if any, and the proposed timelines for the implementation of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes Madam, the Department of Science and Technology has supported State S&T Programme in all the States through Science and Technology Councils established for the purpose. However, the State Governments of J&K and Odisha have not submitted any proposal for support to the State S&T Council in their States. The main aim of the

programme is to facilitate the State S&T Councils to play a catalytic role of linking Centre and State for developing and implementing state specific S&T intervention, technology development and demonstration programme/projects.

(b) The total amount allocated and expenditure made by these State S&T Councils during the last three years and current year under State S&T Programme for their core manpower, minor office equipments and travel support etc. is given in the table below:

Rs. In Lakhs

Financial year	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
State S&T Councils in States	2312.16	2880.59	2366.89	2930.78	*3434.92	2673.53	1261.75	##

* Financial year 2016-17 grant also include Project Related grant i.e. Rs.7.90 Crore and support to three post of Consultants to State S&T councils.

The Utilization Certificate in respect of expenditure for the Financial year 2017-18 for the amount allocated to these Councils are due after 30.06.2018.

(c) and (d) The Department does not provide financial support to the S&T Departments in various States. However support is provided to the State S&T Councils established in different States.

(e) A National Committee comprising experts and members from various fields in Science and Technology including representatives from State S&T Councils monitor the progress of the projects and their qualitative evaluation. The Committee generally assesses the projects based on their scientific merits for funding.

(f) Generally the projects are sanctioned for a duration of two to three years. By and large projects are completed on time.

CAG Report on Bio-toilets

838. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its report, has found operational deficiencies in the majority of the biotoilets installed by Railways leading to choking and foul smell;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways on such remarks/deficiencies made by CAG in its report;

(c) whether the Railways has conducted any awareness campaign for passengers about the use of bio-toilets in trains;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps Railways has taken or proposes to take to ensure proper and smooth functioning of bio-toilets in all the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report has mentioned instances of defects/problems such as choking, foul smell, non-availability of dust bins/mugs etc. Generally, the problem of choking is due to use of toilet pan as garbage bins. Provision of dust bins in coach lavatories has been made mandatory to enable the passengers to use them rather dumping the inorganic waste in toilet pans. Improved flushing system is being provided in coach lavatories with bio-toilets. Ventilation in coach toilets is being improved to ensure circulation of fresh air and removal of foul smell. Availability of mugs in coach lavatories is also being ensured.

(c) and (d) Zonal Railways are organizing passenger awareness campaign at stations by regular announcement, display of short films etc. Stickers regarding proper use of bio-toilets have been provided in coach lavatories. Further, a short film has also been uploaded on social media highlighting correct usage of bio-toilets. Extensive public awareness campaign about appropriate usage of bio-toilets through different media is being conducted. Passengers are being informed through models etc. at some of the railway stations.

(e) Indian Railways are taking all the necessary steps like ensuring availability of dust bins/mugs, improvement in flushing system, provision of ventilation system, training of staff involved in coach cleaning, design improvements, augmentation of required infrastructure etc. to ensure proper and smooth functioning of biotoilets in all the trains.

Sikhs in Israel

839. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to update the number of Sikhs living in Israel and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, whether the Government intends to make any such study in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such study has also included the socio-economic condition of Sikhs living in Israel and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) Government is not aware of such a study. The Government has established mechanisms to ensure the welfare of all overseas Indians.

ROBs in Kerala

840. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of new ROBs that are going to be constructed in Kerala during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): At present, there are 64 ongoing projects for construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in the State of Kerala. So far as period of construction is concerned, Railways undertake construction of ROBs in Railway Bridge portion whereas approaches are being constructed by State Government. Completion of ROB depends on various factors like removal of encroachment, land acquisition, availability of funds and other regional priorities.

[Translation]

Leasing Railway Land

841. SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any criteria/policy for giving railway land to the private companies and persons on lease;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has made available railway land to the private companies on lease for developmental works and modernization of railway stations in the country during the last five years and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise; and

(d) the names of the private companies and persons who have taken railway land on lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) The vacant Railway land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs, is leased to private companies and persons who are required to register a company before entering into Development Agreement, for commercial development through open, transparent and competitive bidding process. The State-wise details of private companies/persons to whom land has been given on lease for commercial development/modernisation of Railway stations in the country during the last five years and the current year are as under:-

S.No.	State and Place	Company & Persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh – Visakhapatnam	M/s Venkaeswara Educational Society
2.	Andhra Pradesh – Vijayawada	M/s Trivarga Food & Beverages

1	2	3
3.	Bihar – Raxual	Mr Shamim Akhtar*
4.	Maharashtra – Bandra(East)-II	Mr Kahilil Ahmed Khan*
5.	Himachal Pradesh – Shimla	Mr. Gaurav Singh Rathore*
6.	Madhya Pradesh – Modernisation of Habibganj Railway Station.	M/s Bansal Pathways Habibganj Private Limited

*Required to register a company before entering into Development Agreement.

Make in India

842. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects including manufacturing of submarines and foreign fighter aircraft are pending due to lack of strategic partnership under 'Make in India' initiative;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the strategic partnership mode;

(c) the number of projects being undertaken under 'Make in India' initiative and the investment made thereon so far;

(d) whether the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Shri V.K. Aatre has given some suggestions for private companies and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the suggestions have been implemented and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (e) *Inter-alia*, the Aatre Task Force recommendations on selection criteria of an Indian company as Strategic Partner were examined in the Ministry and the Strategic Partnership (SP) policy has been promulgated on 31.05.2017 as Chapter VII of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016 titled as "Revitalising Defence Industrial Ecosystem through Strategic Partnership" with an aim to institutionalise a transparent, objective and functional mechanism to encourage broader participation of the private sector, in manufacturing of major Defence platforms. It will serve to enhance competition, increase efficiencies, facilitate faster and more significant absorption

of technology, create a tiered industrial ecosystem, trigger innovation, promote participation in global value chains as well as exports leading to reduction in dependence on imports and gradually ensure greater self-reliance and dependability of supplies essential to meet national security objectives. The chapter is available at Ministry of Defence Website: <https://www.mod.nic.in>.

Four segments have been identified i.e. Fighter aircraft, Submarines, Helicopter and Armoured fighting Vehicles and till date three Request for Informations (RFIs) have been issued under the Strategic Partnership Model for Submarines, Naval Utility Helicopter and Future ready Combat Vehicle (FRCV).

Bio-toilets

[English]

843. PROF. RICHARD HAY:
SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI GEORGE BAKER:
SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of trains in which bio-toilets have been introduced so far across the country, State/UT-wise including Kerala and Gujarat alongwith the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised for this;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce this facility in all trains and if so, the details thereof along with the targets set in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding foul smell and choking of bio-toilets in trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to deal with this situation; and

(e) whether the Railways intends to outsource the work of cleaning of trains and stations to enhance the

level of cleanliness, if so, the details of the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Approximately 55% of the total passenger carrying coaches over Indian Railways have been installed with bio-toilets. The details of trains are not maintained State/UT-wise. However, the zone-wise details of some of the trains having coaches equipped with biotoilets are enclosed Statement. For retrofitment of environment friendly green toilets/bio-toilets in existing in-service coaches in Zonal Railways, Rs. 3764.6 Crores have been sanctioned with an allocation of Rs. 608 Crores for the year 2017-18. Expenditure of Rs. 539 Crores approximately has been booked by Zonal Railways on bio-toilets till November 2017. In addition, expenditure of Rs. 406 Crores approximately have been made by coach Production Units of Indian Railways for installation of bio-toilets in newly manufactured coaches so far.

(b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways have set in-house target to complete the work of installation of bio-toilets in all coaches by March 2019.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways have received the complaints regarding foul smell and choking of bio-toilets in trains. Generally, the problems of choking and foul smell in coach lavatories are due to use of toilet pan as garbage bins, inadequate water flow in flushing

and inadequate ventilation. Individual dust bins in each coach lavatory have been made mandatory to enable the passengers to use dustbins, thus preventing the toilet pans/bowls from being dumped with inorganic waste. Improvement to flushing system and ventilation are also underway to eliminate foul smell.

(e) Railways have taken various measures for improving cleanliness of stations and trains.

With increase in passenger services, Railways do not have adequate staff for cleaning of all the trains and stations. Where adequate departmental staff is not available, Railways engage professional housekeeping agencies through outsourcing for cleaning of coaches of trains and stations with aim to provide clean and hygienic environment to passengers.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness in trains, schemes like "Mechanized cleaning of coaches" in maintenance depots, "On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS)" for cleaning of coaches on run in important mail/express trains, "Clean My Coach" service on demand in OBHS trains, and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations" enroute have been provided. These schemes are mostly outsourced.

Integrated housekeeping contracts are provided at major stations.

Statement

Zone-wise details of some of the trains having coaches equipped with bio-toilets:

Zonal Railways	Trains
1	2
Central	22135/36 Nagpur-Rewa Superfast Express, 22119/20 Mumbai CSTM-Karmali Tejas Express, 12131/32 Dadar-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express.
East Coast	18401/02 Puri-Okha Express, 18496/95 Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express, 12898/97 Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express.
East Central	55575/76 Darbhanga-Biraul Passenger, 13241/42 Banka-Rajendra Nagar Intercity Express, 12355/56 Rajendra Nagar-Jammu Tawi Archana Express.

1	2
Eastern	12343/44 Darjeeling Mail, 12377/78 Padatik Express, 12345/46 Saraighat Express.
North Central	22431/32 Allahabad-Udhampur Express, 12417/18 Prayagraj Express, 11107/08 Bundelkhand Express.
North Eastern	15045/46 Gorakhpur-Okha Express, 15119/20 Manduadih-Rameswaram Express, 12595/96 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminal Humsafar Express.
Northeast Frontier	15635/36 Okha-Guwahati Express, 15647/48 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Guwahati Express, 15717/18 Guwahati-Mariani Intercity Express.
Northern	14611/12 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Ghazipur City Express, 14609/10 Hemkunt Express 12471/72 Swaraj Express.
North Western	22497/98 Shri Ganganagar-Tiruchchirappalli Humsafar Express, 14889/90 Bhagat Ki Kothi-Munabao Thar Express, 14811/12 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sikar Express.
South Central	12757/58 Secunderabad-Sirpur Kaghaznagar Express, 17019/20 Hyderabad-Jaipur Express, 12721/22 Hyderabad-Nizamuddin Dakshin Express.
South East Central	18241/42 Durg-Ambikapur Express, 18247/48 Bilaspur-Rewa Express, 58219/20 Bilaspur-Chirmiri Express.
South Eastern	18007/08 Shalimar-Vanjapur Intercity Express, 22877/78 Howrah-Ernakulam Antyodaya Express, 22887/88 Howrah-Yesvantpur Humsafar Express.
Southern	12635/36 Chennai Egmore-Madurai Vaigai Express, 12605/06 Chennai Egmore-Karaikudi Pallavan Express, 22661/62 Chennai Egmore-Rameswaram Sethu Express.

1	2
South Western	16589/90 Rani Channamma Express, 12627/28 Karnataka Express, 16501/02 Ahmedabad-Yesvantpur Express.
West Central	12121/22 Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express, 11449/50 Jabalpur-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express, 12193/94 Jabalpur-Yesvantpur Express.
Western	22969/70 Okha-Varanasi Express, 19573/74 Okha-Jaipur Express, 19565/66 Okha-Dehradun Uttaranchal Express.

Visa Free Access

844. SHRI GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, India is at its lowest ranking with regard to the visa-free access to more countries and China has surpassed India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve its passport rankings in providing visa-free access to more countries on the globe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) As per information available on the website www.henleyglobal.com, the Henley Passport Index ranks all the passports of the world according to the number of countries their holders can travel to visa free. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association and lists the countries that can be accessed visa-free, with an electronic visa (e-Visa), with a visa on arrival, or with a normal visa.

According to the Henley Passport Index available on this website Statement-I, India is ranked at 86 with 49 countries providing visa free access. China is ranked 75 with 60 countries providing visa-free access.

(c) The Government has recently liberalised the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The eVisa scheme has been liberalised to allow business visits and medical

treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 163 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries.

Statement

Henley Passport Index

H&P Henley & Partners Global Passport Index

Rank	Passport	Score/
1	2	3
1.	Germany	177
2.	Singapore Switzerland	176
3.	Denmark Finland France Italy Japan Norway Sweden United Kingdom	175 17 18 19 20

1	2	3	1	2	3
4	Astria	174	19.	Andorra	157
	Belgium			San Marino	
	Luxembong		20.	Bulgaria	156
	Netherlands			Croma	
	Spain			Romania	
	United States		21.	Hong Kong (SAR China)	153
5	Jeeland	173	22.	Brazil	133
	Portagal		23.	Israel	150
	South Korea		24.	Barbados	146
6	Canada	172	25.	Mexico	144
7	Australia	171	26.	Babamas	142
	Grace		27.	Seychelies	141
	New Zealand		28.	Urdgnay	139
8	Czech Republic	170		Sr. Kins and Nevia	
	Iceland		29.	Vacean City	137
9	Malta	169	30.	Cosra Rica	136
10	Hungary	168	31.	Antigua and Barbuda	135
11	Liechtenstein	167	32.	Maundus	134
	Slovakia			Taiwan	
	Slovenia			United Arab amirates	
12.	Larvia	168	33.	Trinidad and Tohago	133
	Lithuasia		34.	Paragray	139
	Malaysia			St. Lucia	
13.	Estonia	165		Venezuela	
14.	Poland	163	35.	Panama	129
15.	Monaco	162		St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
16.	Cinle	161	36.	Grenada	127
17.	Cypras	159		Macao (SAR China)	
18.	Argentina	156	37.	Gatatemala	123
	Brazil			Honduras	

1	2	3	1	2	3
38.	Dominlea	122	58.	Kuwait	83
39.	P.I. Salvedor	121		Maldives	
40.	Petu	120	59.	Naurn	82
41.	Serbia	119	60.	Jammca	79
42.	Soloma Islands	117		Papaa New Goines	
43.	Samos	116	61.	Botswana	78
	Vonuat		62.	Bohvia	77
44.	Nicaragua	114		Qatar	
	Okeanur		63.	Babram	75
45.	Russian Federation	113		Nambia	
	Tonga			Surinana	
46.	Colombia	112	64.	Thiland	73
	Manedonia (FRYOM)		65.	Belarus	71
	Marishal Islands			Kazakhstan	
	Tuvala			Oman	
47.	Kiribari	111	66.	Swazrland	70
48.	Moldova	110	67.	Kenya	69
	Montergro			Lesotha	
49.	Palan Island	108		Malawi	
50.	Micronesia	107		Saudi Arabia	
	Turkey		68.	Gambia	68
51.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	105		Tansania	
52.	Albania	100	69.	Tunish	66
	South Africa		70.	Zambia	65
53.	Georgia	99	71.	Uganda	64
54.	Belize	96	72.	Azerbaiania	63
55.	Ecuador	88		Cape Venle Islands	
56.	Timor-Lustc	85		Cuba	
57.	Fiji	84		Indonesea	
	Guyana			Philippines	

1	2	3	1	2	3
73.	Dommon Republic Ghana Siera Leone	62	85.	Turkmekistan	50
74.	Benin Mococco Zimbabwe	61	86.	Combodia Central Assam Republic India	49
75.	China	60	87.	Angela Egypt	48
76.	America Kyrgastan	59	88.	Algenia Eguatortal Guinea Laos	47
77.	Burkina Faso Sao Tome and Principe	58		Liberea Vietnam	
78.	Mautania Mozambique	37	89.	Cameroan Nigeria	46
79.	Core Dvore (Isory coast) Senegal Togo	56	90.	Duzaodi Djibouri Jordan	45
80.	Mongolia	55	91.	Cargo (Dem. Rep.)	43
81.	Gujinca Mall Niger Tajikistan Uzbekistan	64	92.	Myanmar	42
82.	Haid	53	93.	Sri Lanka	41
83.	Bhutan Chad Comores Isaldns Gabon Madagascar Rwanda	52	94.	Sudan	40
84.	Guinea-Dissar	51	95.	Ethiopia North Korea South Sudan	39
			96.	Bangladesh Iran Korea Lehanon	38
			97.	Eritrea Paleannian Territory	37
			98.	Libya	36

1	2	3
	Nepal	
99.	Yemen	35
100.	Somania	32
101.	Pakistan	30
102.	Syria	28
103.	Iraq	27
104.	Afghanistan	24

This graph shows the full Global Ranking of the 2018 Henley Passport Index. In certain cases, a rank is shared by multiple countries because there countries all have the same level of visa-free access.

The information provided here is based on the 2018 Henley Passport Index ranking, as of 16 January, 2018.

[Translation]

Telecom Policy

845. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to bring new telecom policy for electronics and information technology; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the reforms made by the Government in the telecom policy so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the Department of Telecommunications has already initiated the process to formulate new National Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector. The work on formulation of National Telecom Policy-2018 is in advanced stage and is likely to be finalised soon.

[English]

Fishermen Arrested by Pakistan

846. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether apprehending of Indian fishermen fishing in Indian waters by Pakistan keeps on surfacing and such incidents have happened this November as well in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian fishermen apprehended and imprisoned in Pakistani jails till date; and

(c) the steps being taken to get such Indian fishermen released who are lodged in Pakistani prisons and the number of fishermen who got released during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) As per available information, presently 341 Indian fishermen are believed to be in Pakistan's custody, including those reportedly apprehended in November 2017. However, Pakistan has only acknowledged the custody of 253 Indian fishermen, so far.

(c) Government attaches high importance to the issue of fishermen and consistently takes up the issue of their early release and repatriation, including through diplomatic channels. With sustained diplomatic efforts Government has secured release of 410 and 508 Indian fishermen from Pakistan in the years 2016 and 2017 respectively. Recently, 146 Indian fishermen were released and repatriated on 8 January, 2018.

Unauthorised Construction

847. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unauthorised construction/encroachment on the land under the management of Defence Estate Organisation has increased in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the defence land encroached in such cases across the country, State/UT-wise and year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the Government has removed the said unauthorised construction/encroachment along with the number of such illegal occupants punished during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) the mechanism put in place by the Government to prevent such unauthorised construction/encroachment on defence land in the country; and

(e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect defence land from unauthorised construction/encroachment from land sharks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no increase in encroachment on land under the management of Directorate General of Defence Estates during each of the last three years and the current year.

(c) State/UT-wise details of unauthorised constructions and encroachment removed along with the number of such illegal occupants punished during each of the last three years and the current year (upto 31.01.2018) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Government has undertaken the following steps to check encroachment:

- (i) Strengthening of Defence land management by way of digitization of land records; Survey, demarcation and verification of defence lands and land Audit.
- (ii) Issue of detailed instructions by the Government emphasizing the need for ensuring vigilance, detection and prevention of new encroachments.
- (iii) Removal of encroachments on defence land under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 as well as under the Cantonment Act, 2006.

Statement

State/UT-wise area/extant of Defence land under the management of Directorate General of Defence Estates from which encroachment have been removed from 2015-2017 and upto 31.1.2018:

Name of State-UT	Number and Area of encroachment as removed		No. of persons punished
	Number	Area (in acres)	
1	2	3	4
Bihar	104	2.7828	0
Delhi	1	0.056	0
Gujarat	4	0.01	0
Haryana	16	61.11636	0
Himachal Pradesh	22	39.8525	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2	0.0211	0
Karnataka	7	0.0159	0
Kerala	3	0.083	0
Madhya Pradesh	2051	27.99302	13
Maharashtra	62	13.22625	0
Meghalaya	18	0.34717	0
Punjab	55	49.277	3
Rajasthan	22	0.6068	3
Tamil Nadu	19	1.1622	0
Telangana	35	3.9561	0

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	196	174.97527	0
Uttarakhand	20	8.678385	0
West Bengal	3	0.0179	0
Total	2640	384.177755	19

Indo-Myanmar Border Dispute

848. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has always been boundary disputes in the Indo (Manipur)-Myanmar border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of Border Security Forces in safeguarding the Indo-Myanmar borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) There is no border dispute between India and Myanmar. Boundary demarcation work remains to be completed in some sectors of India-Myanmar boundary, including in the Manipur sector. Regular dialogue is held between India and Myanmar on all issues related to boundary demarcation and border management through institutionalized mechanisms such as Foreign Office Consultations, National Level Meetings (NLM), Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG), Sectoral Level Meetings (SLM) and Heads of Survey Department meetings.

The designated border guarding force along India Myanmar border is Assam Rifles. The Border Security Force (BSF) is not deployed along the Myanmar border.

SAFAR

849. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to expand the system of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) in cities with high level of pollution other than Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to introduce a street-level weather and pollution forecasting system to ensure effective response to pollution throughout the nation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) No Madam. MoES has already expanded the SAFAR system in 3 more cities viz. Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. MoES does not have any plan for extension to other cities. MoES is extending the work to upgrade the existing system in research mode to study the air quality and to improve the forecasting skill of air quality.

(c) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Procurement of Synthetic Packing

850. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had, in the past, procured synthetic packing from abroad against contract No. G-437 dated 23.07.2010 in accordance with the laid down specifications and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the course of its load trials, the synthetic packing could not be found suitable and the rationale behind its procurement remained defunct and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has taken a decision to use the obsolete material with Hydraulic Rescue Equipment and is so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has constituted an inquest into the whole issue which caused a severe dent to its exchequer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been taken by the Government against the officers who were instrumental in procuring these faulty material and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Madam. Central Organisation For Modernization Of Workshops (COFMOW) had placed a Developmental Order of ₹ 33.78 lacs on M/s Resqtec Zumro, Netherland for procurement of 280 nos. (216+64) Synthetic Packing for 140T Diesel Hydraulic Breakdown Crane.

(b) Yes, Madam. The material was supplied after inspection by Railway Advisor (RA), Berlin/Germany. The material failed in field trial to be carried out as per contract and was accordingly rejected by the ultimate consignee being not found as per contract specifications.

(c) Yes, Madam. Decision was taken to usefully utilize the material in Hydraulic Rescue Equipment as balance amount of Rs. 15.78 lacs could not be recovered from firm and order being developmental in nature involving developmental cost only.

(d) No, Madam. The order value on M/s Resqtec, Zumro was Rs. 33.78 lacs. The payment of Rs. 18.13 lacs was made to the firm. The PBG of Rs. 2.35 lacs was encashed besides not releasing balance 20% payment. An amount of Rs. 15.78 (Rs. 18.13-2.35) lacs could not be recovered.

This order was developmental in nature. The order being developmental in nature, the cost involved is considered as developmental cost as there is always risk involved for failure of product. Thus, the loss is only notional.

(e) No, Madam. Not warranted as being developmental order and balance amount of Rs. 15.78 lacs is considered as developmental cost as there is always risk involved for failure of newly under-developmental product. Besides, a decision was taken to usefully utilize the material in Hydraulic Rescue Equipment.

Rail Accidents

851. DR. KULMANI SAMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail accidents that are taking place are mostly because of the fault of Railway staff and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the technological support to loco pilots for avoiding Signal Pass at Danger

(SPAD) and collisions is lacking and also the same is not upto the mark and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the vacancies in various posts in the Railways are extremely high and it is one of the major reasons of occurrence of accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government is taking any comprehensive measures to fill up the vacancies in the Railways to curb accidents and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the current financial year 2017-18 (from April, 2017 to January, 2018), there have been 65 consequential train accidents including the accidents at unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways. Out of these, 33 consequential train accidents were attributed to failure of railway staff.

(b) Following technological supports are being provided/provided to loco pilots for avoiding Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD):-

Automatic Train Protection (ATP) System:-

1. A proposal to provide Automatic Train Protection (ATP) conforming to ETCS level-2 standards on the entire Indian Railway BG network has been made. This will provide technological aid to Loco Pilots for avoiding signal passed at danger (SPAD).

2. Automatic Train Protection (ATP) conforming to ETCS level-1 standard is presently functional at 342 RKMs (200 RKMs Delhi-Agra Section, 117 RKMs Chennai Suburban section and 25 RKMs of Metro Railway, Kolkata.

3. An older version of ATP calling Auxiliary Warning System (AWS) is presently functional on 364 RKMs in the Mumbai suburban section of Central Railway (240 RKMs) and Western Railway (124RKMs).

(c) and (d) All consequential train accidents on Indian Railways are investigated by Commission for Railway Safety (CRS) under Ministry of Civil Aviation, or by Departmental Inquiry Committees. None of the accident inquiry reports available with Safety Directorate have indicated that vacancies on Railways are the main cause of accidents.

The total number of vacancy over the Zonal Railways of Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' staff as on 01.04.2017 is 220137.

(e) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. The requirement for various Group 'C' posts under Direct Recruitment Quota (DR-Quota) is assessed by Zonal Railway(s)/Production Unit(s), which accordingly place indents on concerned Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs). RRBs, in turn, make recruitment on the basis of these indents.

RRBs are regularly providing panels of successful candidates to Railway/Production Units concerned. The year-wise break-up of total number of candidates empanelled for various Group 'C' posts under DRQuota including safety categories through RRBs during last five and a half years is as under:-

S.No.	Year	Total	Candidates empanelled Only for Safety category	Percentage (Safety/total)
1.	2012-13	28467	23593	83%
2.	2013-14	31805	23168	73%
3.	2014-15	15191	8134	53%
4.	2015-16	27995	22965	82%
5.	2016-17	19587	17874	91%
6.	2017-18* (upto 31st December,2017)	16827	15000	89%
Total		1,39,872	1,10,734	79%

*Provisional

Further, two fresh notifications for safety categories in Group 'C' posts viz. Assistant Loco Pilots and Technicians and Senior Section Engineers & Junior Engineers respectively are scheduled in 2017-18

[Translation]

Indian Workers Abroad

852. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has obtained information with regard to Indian citizens working as labourers in companies as well as with high ranking officers in foreign countries, particularly in Dubai and Arabian countries;

(b) if so, the details of labourers such as beldars, carpenters, plumbers, electricians etc. working in big companies, particularly in Dubai;

(c) the number of labourers along with the details of those companies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for their security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) The Government maintains the data in

respect of Emigration Check Required (ECR) passport holding Indian workers including helper, carpenter, electrician, plumber etc, emigrating legally to any of the 18 ECR countries for overseas employment. Country-wise and Job Role-wise Emigration Clearances Granted to such workers during the year 2017 is as enclosed Statement-I. Exact figures regarding the total number of labourers in different Job Roles and companies in United Arab Emirates is not available as the authorities there do not share such data.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to safeguard the interests of Indian emigrants to the Gulf countries, these are:

(i) The on-line MADAD portal enables the emigrant workers and their family members to register their consular grievances online and track their redressal.

(ii) Grievances related to Overseas Employment in notified Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries including gulf countries, can also be logged in directly by emigrants/relatives or through the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) on eMigrate portal. These grievances are settled by respective jurisdictional Protectors of Emigrants (PoEs) as per laid down procedures.

- (iii) Missions in Gulf countries also conduct Open Houses on a regular basis where workers can seek redressal of their grievances.
- (iv) A multi-lingual 24x7 Helpline of Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) in New Delhi provides information, guidance and grievance redressal on all issues and problems pertaining to overseas employment of Indian nationals.
- (v) Missions in Gulf countries have also established 24x7 helplines and Toll Free help lines for the benefit of Indian workers to seek help.
- (vi) An Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) has been set up at Dubai (UAE) and four more IWRCs have been set up in Sharjah (UAE), Riyadh and Jeddah (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), to provide guidance and counselling on all matters pertaining to overseas Indian workers.
- (vii) Migrant Resource Centres have also been setup in Kochi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Lucknow to assist emigrants or their relatives to redress their problems/complaints regarding overseas employment.
- (viii) The Missions utilise the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to provide assistance to overseas Indian nationals in times of distress.
- (ix) Suitable accommodation to distressed Indian nationals has been setup in Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Malaysia to provide temporary accommodation.
- (x) Labour and Manpower Cooperation MoUs/Agreements are already in place with the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries that provide the institutional framework to comprehensively discuss and review labour related issues.

Statement

Number of Emigration clearance granted to ECR Passport holding India workers, Job Role wise country-wise, during the year 2017

Sl. No.	Job Roles (Top Ten)	United Arab Emirates	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	Total
1.	Carpenter	23759	2078	3186	2658	8861	1045	41587
2.	Electrician	6990	3391	1851	1480	3558	410	17680
3.	Plumber	1823	1731	417	749	2720	156	7596
4.	Labour	9589	28511	7281	1870	0	1615	48866
5.	Driver	0	11051	11055	1430	0	0	23536
6.	Cleaner	9461	3738	467	0	2795	79	16540
7.	Mechanic	25404	5578	10375	7415	4751	1101	54624
8.	Mason	30664	3180	1630	3835	12336	1238	52883
9.	Helper	16819	171	3059	161	2988	432	23630
10.	Painter	4035	1187	715	512	2961	362	9772
	Total	128544	60616	40036	20110	40970	6438	296714

Source: e-Migrate portal.

Kulbhushan Jadhav's Case

853. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to avert the capital punishment awarded to Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav; and

(b) the extent to which the Government has succeeded in its efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Government has repeatedly sought consular access to the Indian national Shri Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav since 25 March, 2016 when the High Commission of India in Islamabad was first informed of his custody with Pakistan authorities. However, Pakistan has not provided consular access to Shri Jadhav so far.

On 10 April, 2017, he was awarded death sentence on concocted charges through a farcical process by a Pakistan Military Court.

On 8 May, 2017, Government approached the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for egregious violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963 by Pakistan in the case of Shri Jadhav.

India's request for indication of provisional measures was heard on 15 May, 2017 and ICJ passed unanimous order on 18 May, 2017 indicating all the provisional measures that were asked for. It directed the Government of Pakistan to take "all measures at its disposal to prevent the execution of Shri Jadhav pending final judgment of the Court". The matter is currently sub-judice.

Due to persistent efforts of the Government, the mother and wife of Shri Jadhav met him in Islamabad on 25 December, 2017. Following this, the External Affairs Minister made a statement on 28 December, 2017 apprising the Parliament of the meeting and the situation arising thereof.

[English]

Telecom Services in Flights

854. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended introducing mobile telephony and internet services for passengers during air travel in the country's air space through satellite and terrestrial network;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has recommended setting up of specific regulations in view of several instances of interference in communication between the air traffic control and pilot and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has held any consultation with the Telecommunication Service Providers (TSPs) regarding the said matter and if so, the details thereof along with the details of assessment, if any, made pertaining to additional expenses and related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) After stakeholders' consultation, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) made recommendations on 'In-Flight Connectivity' as issued on 18th January, 2018 (Details of TRAI Recommendation as in the Press Release dated 19.01.2018 attached as Statement. Government is examining the said recommendations of TRAI.

Statement

*Information note to the Press
(Press Release No. 08/2018)*

For immediate release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases Recommendations on
'In-Flight Connectivity'

New Delhi, 19th January, 2018 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has on 18th January, 2018 issued its Recommendation on 'In-Flight Connectivity'.

2. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its letter dated 10th August, 2017 had communicated that there is a proposal to introduce In-Flight Connectivity(IFC) for voice data and video service over Indian airspace for domestic, international and overflying night. in Indian Air Space. DoT' had also requested TRAI to furnish its recommendations on licensing terms and conditions for provision of IFC for voice, data and video services and associated 1 sues such as entry fee, license fee spectrum related issues including usage charges and method of allocation and other conditions.

3. In this regard, a Consultation Paper on 'In-Flight Connectivity' was released on 29th September, 2017 seeking comments of stakeholders. An OHD on the issues concerned was held on 27th November, 2017.

4. After analyzing the comments received from stakeholders during the consultation and the open house discussions, TRAI has finalized its recommendation on 'In-Flight Connectivity'. The highlights of the recommendation are as follows:

- (a) Both, internet and MCA service should be permitted as In-Flight Connectivity (IFC) in the Indian airspace.
- (b) The operation of MCA services should be permitted with minimum height restriction of 3000 meters in Indian airspace for its compatibility with terrestrial mobile networks.
- (c) Internet Services through Wi-Fi onboard should be made available when electronic devices are permitted to use only in flight/airplane mode.
- (d) A separate category of "IFC, service Provider" should be created to permit IFC service in Indian airspace. The IFC service provider should be required to get itself registered with the DoT and it need not necessarily, be in Indian entity.
- (e) The IFC service provider be permitted to provide IFC, services, after entering into an arrangement with Unified Licensee having appropriate authorization.
- (f) If IFC service provider partners with Unified Licensee having Internet service (Category 'A') authorization for the provision of Internet services onboard as part of IFC, then (i) If the licensee also has the Commercial VSAT CUG service authorization, it can provide the satellite links also. Alternatively (ii) Unified License with National Long Distance (NLD) service: authorization can provide the satellite links.
- (g) The regulatory requirements schedule be same for both Indian registered and foreign registered airlines for offering IFC services in Indian airspace.
- (h) The deployment of a gateway in India provides an effective mechanism to lawfully intercept and monitor the in-cabin internet traffic while the aircraft is in Indian airspace. Therefore, the on board Internet traffic must be routed to a Satellite Gateway on Indian soil. Such an

obligation should be imposed regardless of whether the satellite in question is an Indian satellite System or not.

- (i) The IFC service provider should be permitted to use either INSAT systems (Indian Satellite, System or foreign satellite capacity leased through DoS or foreign satellites outside INSAT systems in the Indian airspace.
- (j) To promote the adoption of IFC services in Indian airspace, the IFC service provider should be imposed a flat annual Licence Fee of token amount of Rs 1. However, the same may be reviewed and amended at a later stage, if need be.
- (k) Spectrum neutral approach should be adopted subject to the condition that the frequency bands have been harmonized and coordinated for their use at the ITU. It would facilitate the IFC services in all the bands L, Ku and Ka) in which IFC services are currently being provided.
- (l) The framework recommended for IFC services in Indian airspace should be made 'applicable to all types of aircrafts such as commercial airlines. Business jets, executive aircrafts etc.

5. For any clarification/information, Shri S.T. Abbas, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing) may be contacted at Tel. No.+91-11-23210481 or e-mail advmn@tra.gov.in.

Sd/-

(S. K. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI

[*Translation*]

Israeli PMS Visit

855. SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:
SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister to India;

(b) the names of sectors on which discussions were held and agreements signed between the two countries during the Israeli Prime Minister's visit;

(c) whether Israel has taken a decision to make investment in certain special sectors in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) At the invitation of our Prime Minister, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel visited India from 14-19 January, 2018. He visited Delhi, Agra, Gujarat and Mumbai. He was accompanied by a business delegation of more than 100 members. During the visit, both the sides held extensive discussions on various areas of mutual interest *viz.* agriculture, water, science & technology, cyber, energy, trade & investment, defence and security and air connectivity. PM Netanyahu paid tribute at the renamed Teen Murti Haifa memorial to the Indian soldiers who had fallen at the Battle of Haifa in 1918. PM Netanyahu participated in the 2nd India-Israel CEO Forum meeting, Business Summit, Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi and visited i-CREATE (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) and held interactions with innovators/Start-up CEOs in Ahmedabad. He also visited Centre of Excellence for fruits and vegetables at Vadrad, Gujarat and jointly inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Date Palms at Bhuj through video link. During the visit nine MoUs/ Agreements/ Memorandum/Letters of intent were signed in the fields

of cyber, air transport, Film co-production, energy, homeopathy and space.

[English]

New Rail Lines in Madhya Pradesh

856. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys sanctioned for laying of new railway lines in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of surveys started/completed in the State during the said period;

(c) the details of laying of new railway lines started/completed in the State during the said period; and

(d) the time-frame set for completion of the said surveys and new lines, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Surveys for 11 new line projects falling fully/partly in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned during the last three years and current year *i.e.* 2014-15 to 2016-17 & 2017-18. Among these sanctioned surveys, one project has been taken up/included in the budget subject to requisite approvals from the Government. The details are as under:

S.No.	Name of the project	Year of sanction	Year of completion	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jaisingh Nagar Rewa (130 km)	2016-17	-	Survey taken up.
2.	Alot-Tal-Jaora (44 km)	2016-17	-	Survey taken up.
3.	Maksi-Harda (140 km)	2017-18	-	Survey taken up.
4.	WaraseoniKhairlanji-Tiroda (50 km)	2017-18	-	Survey taken up.
5.	UjjainRamganjmandi via Agar, Susner Jhalawar (190 km)	2017-18	-	Survey taken up.
6.	Dewas Sonkachh-Asta Sehore (112 km)	2016-17	-	Survey taken up.
7.	Pendra Amarkantaka Dindori-Mandla-Ghansour (200 km)	2017-18	-	Survey taken up.
8.	Jabalpur-Pendra via Dindori (240 km)	2015-16	-	Survey taken up.
9.	Jhansi-Shivpuri-Sheopur-Sawai Madhopur (290 km)	2016-17	-	Survey taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Mirzapur-Rewa (185 km)	2016-17	2017-18	Survey completed and report under examination.
11.	Manmad-Indore <i>via</i> Malegaon & Dhule (358 km)	2015-16	2017-18	Work included in budget 2016-17 at a cost of Rs. 9968 crore subject to approvals from the Government.

(d) Completion of these surveys is dependent upon many factors such as State Government approvals, Statutory Clearances like forestry and wildlife clearances, etc. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of Railways, timelines for completion of all the surveys are not feasible to be fixed.

Facial Recognition for Aadhaar

857. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is going to introduce facial recognition in Aadhaar authentication and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a safety assessment of this additional authentication feature of facial recognition has been done and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the security implications from the use of poor resolution cameras in this facial recognition authentication process and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is cognizant of the technologies used to cheat the facial recognition software and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the existing Aadhaar card holders have to replace their existing cards and if so, whether the UIDAI authorities will open camps to start up the face recognition camps all over the country; and

(f) the main concerns regarding safety of the existing Aadhaar cards/data and the steps the Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to

(d) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has decided to introduce facial authentication. Face authentication by itself will not be used for identity verification, instead it is meant for inclusive authentication for those who are not able to authenticate using fingerprint or iris. It shall be used in combination with other mode of authentication like finger/iris or OTP as a second factor of authentication.

UIDAI has been using camera for face capture for all Aadhaar enrolments. All cameras used within Aadhaar ecosystem are regular cameras which are safe for day to day use. Face authentication will also use standard cameras that are deemed safe for day to day use.

Security aspects used in the authentication ecosystem with respect to biometric authentication like encryption, Registered Devices, biometric locking/unlocking, notification etc. shall also apply to face authentication.

(e) No Madam. There is no need to replace existing cards. UIDAI has already captured photo of the face for all the Aadhaar number holders during enrolment and shall be used for face authentication.

(f) UIDAI has a well-designed, multi-layered robust security system in place to maintain the highest level of data security and integrity in accordance with Chapter VI (Protection of Information) of The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Authentication) Regulations, 2016, Aadhaar (Data Security) Regulations, 2016 and Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016.

Per Capita Income and Expenditure

858. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that there is constant rise in the inequality in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any data indicating the growth of per capita income and expenditure of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has maintained any data to indicate the expenditure made by the Government on education, health and other social services for every individual of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof separately on education and health during the last three years; and

(e) whether it is also true that no significant progress has been made on the ground about the expenditure and if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) In India, the data on class distribution of income is not compiled centrally. However, information on Consumption inequalities (in terms of Lorenz ratio), separately for rural and urban area, based on last three quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 61st (July, 2004-June, 2005), 66th (July, 2009-June, 2010) and 68th (July, 2011-June, 2012) round) are available and are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (e) The information on growth rate of per capita income is given at enclosed Statement-II. The Monthly per Capita Expenditure overall as well as on education and health on the basis of NSSO quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Surveys are given in the enclosed Statement-III and Statement-IV respectively. Explanatory Note in respect of concepts, definitions etc. used for above information is given in the enclosed Statement-V.

Statement-I

Lorenz ratios of distribution of MPCE (Uniform Reference Period), all-India

sector	Lorenz ratio of distribution of MPCE		
	2011-12	2009-10	2004-05
rural	0.307	0.291	0.30
urban	0.385	0.381	0.37

Ref: i. NSS Report No. 555: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12;

ii. NSS Report No. 538: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2009-10; and

iii. NSS Report No. 508: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05

Statement-II

Growth Rate of Per Capita Income

Period	Growth in per capita income
2012-13	3.3
2013-14	4.6
2014-15	6.3
2015-16	6.8
2016-17(Provisional Estimates)	5.7

Source: National Accounts Division, Central Statistics Office

Statement-III

Estimates of all-India average MPCEURP from last three quinquennial surveys of consumer expenditure done by NSS in its 61st(July, 2004-June, 2005), 66th (July, 2009-June, 2010) and 68th (July, 2011-June, 2012) round survey

Growth in MPCEURP at current and constant prices since 2004-05, all-India

characteristic	Year		
	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
MPCE: rural (Rs.): current prices	558.78	927.70	1278.94
Price deflator for rural sector*	319	494	580
MPCE: rural (Rs.) at 1987-88 prices	175.17	187.79	220.51
MPCE: urban (Rs.): current prices	1052.36	1785.81	2399.24
Price deflator for urban sector*	338	503	599
MPCE: urban (Rs.) at 1987-88 prices	311.35	355.03	400.54

* Price deflators for the years up to 2009-10 are taken from NSS Report No.538: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure; they represent price indices for rural and urban India with base 1987-88=100. For 2011-12 indices have been computed as a continuation of this series, with the help of CPI-AL for the rural sector and CPI-IW for the urban sector.

Source:NSS Report No. 555: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12

Statement-IV

Value of consumption (Rs) of items per person for a period of 30 days for MPCE (URP) using reference period of 30 days since 2004-05

Item group	Year		
	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
rural			
education	14.90	26.51	39.84
health (institutional)	10.03	13.97	23.15
health (non-institutional)	26.93	39.26	64.52
urban			
education	52.69	92.91	135.73
health (institutional)	13.05	25.04	33.13
health (non-institutional)	41.54	64.74	98.85

Source:NSS Report No. 555: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12;
NSS Report No. 538: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2009-10;
NSS Report No. 508: Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05.

Statement-V

The NSS concept of MPCE, therefore, is defined first at the household level (household monthly consumer expenditure ÷ household size). This measure serves as the indicator of the household's level of living.

Each *individual's* MPCE is defined as the MPCE of the household to which the person (man, woman or child) belongs. This assigns to each person a number representing his or her level of living. The distribution of persons by their MPCE (i.e., their household MPCE) can then be built up, giving a picture of the population classified by economic level.

The MPCE measure may be defined as follows.

Uniform Reference Period MPCE (or MPCEURP):

This is the measure of MPCE obtained by the NSS consumer expenditure survey (CES) when household consumer expenditure on each item is recorded for a reference period of "last 30 days" (preceding the date of survey).

Education: This includes expenditure on goods purchased for the purpose of education, *viz.*, books and journals (first-hand or second-hand), newspapers, stationery, educational CD, etc, and also magazines, novels and other fiction. It also includes fees paid to educational institutions (e.g., schools, colleges, universities, etc.) on account of tuition and other fees like game fees, library fees, etc., and payment to private tutors. Fees for shorthand and typing courses, fees for music, dancing and swimming lessons, and fees for training in nursing, physiotherapy, etc., are included. Occasional payments to the school fund made on account of charities, and "donations" generally, are not included here, unless they are charged by the educational institution as compulsory payments.

Medical expenses: This includes expenditure on medicine of different types and on medical goods; also, payments made to doctor, nurse, etc., as professional fees and those made to hospital, nursing home, etc. for medical treatment, and expenditure incurred for clinical tests, including X-rays, ECG, pathological tests, etc. Medical expenditure reimbursed by employer or by insurance companies is included. Expenditure on all family planning devices is included, and also expenditure on medical termination of pregnancy.

Medical insurance payments are excluded. Medical: institutional and non-institutional expenditure: The distinction between institutional and non-institutional medical expenses lies in whether the expenses were incurred on medical treatment as an in-patient of a

medical institution (institutional), or otherwise (non-institutional). Medical institution here covers private as well as Government institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

859. KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has organized Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Singapore recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with aims and objectives of the same;

(c) the details of discussions held and achievements made during the said event;

(d) the total number of non-resident Indians and persons of Indian origin who have participated in the said event, country-wise;

(e) the names of the places where Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been organized so far; and

(f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to explore opportunities for investment in India by the Overseas Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) Yes.

(b) The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is always organized in India. However, Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (RPBD) is organized in countries where there is large concentration of Indian diaspora.

This year, the RPBD was held in Singapore on 6-7 January, 2018 as a part of the commemoration of 25 years of ASEAN-India Partnership. Under the theme of "Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN-India Partnership", the RPBD highlighted the ancient links between India and Southeast Asia; and promoted greater economic and cultural cooperation between India and Southeast Asian nations as well as ASEAN. The event also showcased Indian Diaspora's

talent and achievements and deepen their-especially the youth's-links with India and their role in promoting closer India-Southeast Asia ties.

(c) The event featured 16 thematic sessions wherein over 100 eminent speakers including policy makers from India, Singapore and ASEAN region participated. The event evolved into one of the biggest business meets with sessions on ASEAN-India Economic Partnership; India and ASEAN in the Digital World; Infrastructure Development; Financial Partnership; Expanding Trade and Services; Promotion of Make in India; Legal framework of doing business in India and ASEAN; Science and Technology; Consular, Culture, Tourism and Connectivity Issues.

External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation at RPBD, Singapore and delivered opening address on the plenary on January 7, 2018. Besides bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Singapore, EAM met delegations from ASEAN countries, veterans of Azad Hind Fauz, visited all parallel sessions and addressed the Community Event. Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of Singapore Mr. Teo Chee Hean and Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan also participated in the RPBD.

A significant part of the event was competitions for diaspora youth in essay and poetry (in English, Hindi and Tamil), classical Indian dance and music, photo competition on what best represents India in ASEAN and online challenges on six social themes of relevance to India. 43 winners in all categories were felicitated by External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Singapore.

Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari delivered keynote address in the panel discussion on India-ASEAN Economic Partnership on January 6, 2018. An India-Singapore/ASEAN Startup portal, which aims at connecting startups and entrepreneurs as well as investors in India and the ASEAN region, was jointly launched by the Minister and the Trade and Industry Minister of Singapore Mr. S. Iswaran.

The event has received widespread appreciation in the ASEAN region as having enhanced India's image and prestige. The event also generated considerable interest in economic engagement between Northeast India and the ASEAN region.

(d) 5296 participants including NRIs and PIOs from 25 countries participated in the two days event. The

country wise break up is given below:

India	478
Indonesia	12
Malaysia	230
Thailand	33
Singapore	4407
Vietnam	12
Myanmar	11
Brunei	9
Cambodia	3
Laos	3
Philippines	2
Other countries	96

(e) RPBDs have been organized in New York, The Hague, Durban, Toronto, Mauritius, Sydney, London, Los Angeles & Singapore.

(f) The Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including investments from Non-resident Indians (NRIs), wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. The policy allows special dispensation for NRI investments in various sectors like Air Transport Services (Scheduled and Non-scheduled), Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airlines, Non-Scheduled airlines, Chartered airlines and Cargo airlines, wherein 100% NRI investment is permitted under the automatic route. Further investment made by NRIs on non-repatriation basis under Schedule 4 of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) Regulation is deemed to be domestic investment at par with the investment made by residents.

SSC Exams in Regional Languages

860. SHRI D.K. SURESH:
SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:
SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that all the examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) are only in Hindi and English versions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations seeking introduction of Indian languages including Kannada in question papers in SSC examinations to provide adequate opportunities for the students of rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to examine the matter and introduce other Indian languages in SSC examinations to facilitate the rural students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) Normally, the question papers in the recruitment examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission (SSC) are in Hindi and English. However, in the examination for recruitment of Multi Tasking Staff (Non-technical), conducted by SSC, the candidates have the option of answering in the descriptive paper in English or in any language included in the eighth schedule to the Constitution of India. At present there is no proposal to extend this to other examinations

Transfer of Property Belonging to the Department of Posts

861. SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the transfer of land and buildings belonging to Department of Posts at Thrissur in the State of Kerala to Thrissur Municipal Corporation for widening of the Pattalam Road in the town; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to facilitate actual transfer of this land and property to the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has approved the transfer of 16.5 cents of land and buildings of Thrissur Central Post Office in Survey No. 1212/1 to Thrissur Municipal Corporation, for the purpose of widening of Pattalam Road in lieu of alternative land in Survey No. 1236 of equal cost and equal measurement situated at a distance of about 200 meters from the existing Post Office building. A new Post Office building, having a built up area of 3500 square feet will be constructed by Thrissur Municipal Corporation at their own cost. The Government has directed its field unit to execute the transfer deed to facilitate actual transfer of land and property to the Corporation.

[Translation]

Free Journey by Government Officers

862. PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prohibit the free of cost journey in the luxury trains being provided to the Government officers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of officers who performed journey in the luxury trains being run for the foreign tourists during the last five years and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to run any special train to attract the industrialists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam. The question does not arise as the journeys performed by senior officers are for the purpose of inspecting in details all aspects of train operations.

(b) The details of Railway officers who performed journey in the luxury trains during last five years are appended. as Statement.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of Railway officers who travelled on luxury tourist trains during last five years are as under:

Name of the Train	Financial Year				
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (till, 31 Jan, 18)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Palace on Wheels	25	20	20	12	05
Deccan Odyssey	Nil	Nil	01	01	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
Golden Chariot	02	Nil	01	01	02
Royal Rajasthan on Wheels	02	Nil	01	01	Nil
Maharajas' Express	03	07	08	13	12

Shortage of Pilots

863. SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and types of aircraft that are being used by the Indian Air Force (IAF) for training IAF pilots at present;

(b) whether there is a shortage of pilots in the IAF and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the said shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) At present IAF uses adequate number of following aircrafts for training:-

- (1) Basic Trainer Aircraft;
- (2) Intermediate Jet Trainer; and
- (3) Advance Jet Trainer.

(b) The available strength of pilots in the IAF is sufficient to meet the current operational requirements.

(c) Every year, the IAF participates in a number of career fairs/exhibitions, releases advertisements in newspapers/television and conducts numerous lectures in schools and colleges to motivate the target group.

Regulation of Legal Fees

864. SHRI HARI MANJHI:
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down to regulate legal fees to be paid to the lawyers representing Union/State Government in the courts and the present rate of proposed legal fees in this regard;

(b) the total amount paid as legal fees to the lawyers representing Union/State Governments in courts during the last three years and the current year, court and casewise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a compulsory dedicated judicial cell to represent cases for all Ministries/Departments and States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Central Government by various Notifications and Office Memorandums has prescribed rates of fees for different categories of Central Government counsels depending on the nature of work and the type of Court/Tribunal; i.e. Supreme Court, High Court, Subordinate Court, Administrative Tribunal, Arbitral Tribunal, etc. The fee paid to different categories of Central Government Counsels was revised vide OM No. 26(1)/2014/judl dated 1st October, 2015 Statement. With regard to payment of fees to lawyers engaged for State Government, it is stated that State Governments make their own arrangement for defending cases out of their own funds.

(b) The following table shows the total amount of legal free paid to the lawyers representing the Union Government by this Ministry during the last three years and the current year (upto 31.01.2018):

(Figure in Crore)

Head of Account	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 upto 31.01.2018 (tentative)
Legal Advisor and Counsel	28.46	42.78	51.23	54.37

In cases where services of Central Government Counsels are availed by other Departments/Ministries, case-wise fees is paid to them by the concerned Departments/Ministries who engage them as per the fee prescribed by this Ministry. However, details are not available with this Ministry. With regard to legal fee paid

to the lawyers engaged by the State Governments court/ case-wise, data is not maintained in this Ministry.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up a dedicated legal cell to represent all the cases of the Central Government in the Courts. With regard to State Government no such details are available with this Ministry.

Statement

No. 26(1)/2014/judl.
Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs
Judicial Section

New Delhi the 1st October, 2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Revision of fee payable to various categories of Central Government Counsel.

In partial modification to this Department's various OMs issued from time to time, the undersigned is directed to convey approval of the Competent Authority for the revision of the fee structure applicable to Government counsels of all the categories with immediate effect as per the details given below:-

(A)

The Fee structure applicable to Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' panel Counsel in Supreme Court:-

Sl. No.	Item of work	Revised fee Group 'A' Panel Counsel	Revised fee Group 'B' & 'C' Panel Counsel
1	2	3	4
1.	All Regular Appeals and defended Writ Petitions(for final hearing)	Rs. 13,500/-per case per day	Rs. 9,000/- per case per day
2.	All defended Admission matters (SLP/TP and writ petitions & other misc. matters for admission)	Rs. 9,000/-per case per day	Rs. 4,500/-per case per day
3.	Settling of pleadings	Rs. 5,250/- per case	-
4.	Appearance in Miscellaneous Applications	Rs. 4,500/-per case	-
5.	Conference	Rs. 900/- per conference	-
6.	Out of Head quarter	Rs. 13,500/- daily fee for the days of his absence from HQ.	Rs. 9,000/- daily fee for the days of his absence from HQ.
7.	Conveyance charges for performing local journey while outside Headquarter.	Rs. 1,500/-	Rs. 1,500/-

1	2	3	4
8.	Clerkage	Nil	Nil
9.	Drafting SLP/Counter Affidavit/Rejoinder etc	-	Rs. 3,000/- per case
10.	Drawing Written Submission	-	Rs. 3,000/- per case
11.	Drafting or Apperanc in Miscellaneous Applications (including mentioning of the case/ Caveat/Clearance/obtaining the number and taking date for hearing)	-	Rs. 3,000/- per case

(B)

The fee structure applicable to Senior Panel Counsels in various High Courts/CAT Benches (excluding the High Courts of Bombay and Calcutta):

Sl. No.	Item of work	Revised fee
1.	Suits, Writ Petitions and Appeals, including oral Applications for Leave to Appeal to Supreme Court in Writ Petitions.	Rs. 9000/- per case per day of effective hearing in case of non-effective hearing ₹ 1500/- per day subject to a maximum of 5 hearing.
2.	Application for Leave to Appeal to Supreme Court in Writ Petitions	Rs. 3,000/- per case
3.	Setting pleadings	Rs. 3,000/- per case
4.	Miscellaneous Application	Rs. 3,000/- per case
5.	Conference	Rs. 900/- per conference subject to: (i) for setting pleadings- one conference. (ii) In respect of hearing of Writ matters, Suits, appeals and Supreme courts leave applications etc. Three conference (Maximum)
6.	Miscellaneous and out of pocket expenses	As per actual to the satisfaction of the administrative Ministry/Department.

All other terms and conditions applicable to Senior Panel Counsels in various High Courts/CAT Benches (excluding the High Courts of Bombay and Calcutta contained in this Department's, OM No. 24(2)/99-Judl., OM No. 26(1)/99-Judl., OJM No. 25(3)/99-Judl., and OM No. 26(2)/99-Judl., all dated 24.09.99, read with OM No. 26(1)/2001-Judl., dated 01.10.2011, shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

(C)

Revision of the fee structure applicable to the Panel Counsel of High Courts as well as of CAT Benches of Bombay and Kolkata:

Sl. No.	Item of Work	Special Counsel	Senior Counsel Group I	Senior Counsel Group II	Jr. Counsel Advocate on record
1.	Suits, Appeals, Writ/Revision Petitions including Special Civil Application in the High Court.	Rs. 9,000/-	Rs. 6,000/-	Rs. 3,750/-	Rs. 1,800/-
	Per conference/Consultation	Rs. 900/-	Rs. 750/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 450/-
2.	Application including interim Motions, Notices, Appeals, Leave Application, Arbitration, Company Matters, Criminal	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 2,250/-	Rs. 1,350/-

1	2	3	4
	Revision and other Land Acquisition References (per day per effective hearing)		
	Per conference/Consultation	Rs.900/-	Rs.750/-
3.	Drafting or Setting Pleadings, and Affidavits (per pleadings)	Rs.300/-	Rs.1800/-
	Per conference/Consultation	Rs.900/-	Rs.750/-
4.	Appearance before Arbitration and Tribunals etc and Courts other than High Courts (Per day per effective hearing)	Rs.7500/-	Rs.6000/-
	Per conference/Consultation	Rs.900/-	Rs.750/-
5.	Chamber Application, including Adjournment Application per day inclusive of consultation		Rs.1500/-
			Rs.900/-
6.	Written opinions and written advice including advice on evidence (inclusive of consultation)	Rs.3750/-	Rs.2250/-
			Rs.1350/-
			Rs.1050/-

All other terms and conditions applicable to the Counsels of High Courts as well as of the CAT Benches of Bombay and Kolkata in the pre-revised OM No. 23(2)/2001-Judl. & OM No. 22(02)/2001 dated 14th July, 2001 read with 23(2)2011-Judl. dated 1st October, 2011 shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised:-

Note:- There will be no ceiling on the number of conference/consultation in the case of Special Counsel, however in the case of other categories of Counsels, the number of conferences per cases will be limited to four (relaxable to six at the discretion of the Incharge (Litigation) of Branch Secretariat, Mumbai/Kolkata.

(D)

The Fee structure applicable to Asstt. Solicitors General, Central Government Standing Counsel I Panel Counsel, Delhi High Court/Central Govt. Counsel of various High Courts (including Panel Counsel of various CAT, Benches) excluding the High Courts of Bombay and Calcutta:-

Sl. No.	Item of work	Revised fee
1	2	3
1.	Retainer Fee	Rs. 9,000/- per month
2.	Civil or Criminal Writ Petitions under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution, Contempt Petitions, Criminal/Civil Revision Petitions, Reference to the High Court under Sales Tax Act and Banking Company Petitions	Rs. 2250/- per effective hearing Rs. 450/- per non-effective hearing (subject to maximum of five hearings in a case)
3.	Petitions under Article 132 or 133 of the Constitution in Civil or Criminal Cases.	Rs. 2250/- per effective hearing (subject to max. of ₹4500/- in a case)
4.	Original Suits, Civil Appeal from Decrees in Suits and proceedings including second appeal and land acquisition appeal except LPA from Petitions under Article 226 and 227 of the Constitution (including drafting fee)	Ad. Voloram/regulation fee (subject to maximum of ₹45000/- in a case.)
5.	Company Petitions	To be regulated by the rule contained in Appendix (iii) of the Company (Court) Rules, 1959

1	2	3
6.	Drafting of pleadings counter affidavits/returns/ answer to Writ Petitions/Grounds of Appeal and application or leave to appeal to the Supreme Court	Rs.1,350/- per pleading
7.	Drafting of Civil Misc. applications to petitions under the Indian Succession Act, Contempt of Court proceedings and other proceedings of an original nature	Rs.1,125/- per petition
8.	Civil Misc. petitions, forma paupers, transfer petitions and other civil misc. petitions of routine nature	Rs.450/- per petition
9.	Consultation/conference fee	Rs.450/- per conference (subject to maximum of 4 conference in case)
10.	Appearance before the High Court in application under Section 34 & 37 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996	Rs.2,250/- per effective hearing
	Appearance before Arbitrator/Umpires etc.	Rs.450/- per non-effective hearing (subject to a maximum of 5 hearing in a case). Rs.450/- per non-effective hearing (subject to a maximum of 5 hearings in a case).

All other terms and conditions applicable to above mentioned Counsels in to this Department's, in OM No. 24(2)/99-Judl., OM No. 26(1)/99-Judl., OM No. 25(3)/99-Judl. and OM No. 26(2)/99-Judl, all dated 24.09.99 read with OM No. 26(1)/200S-Jud/. dated 31.01.2008 and OM No. 26 (01)Judl. dated 01.09.2011 shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

(E)

The Fee structure Standing Govt. Counsel and Additional Standing Govt. Counsel in the District and Subordinate Courts:

Sl.No.	Item of work	Revised fee
1.	Retainer fee for Standing Govt. Counsel	Rs. 6000/- per month
2.	Fee for effective hearing	Rs. 1,800/- per day
3.	Fee for non-effective hearing	Rs. 600/- per day (not more than 5 such hearings in a case)
4.	fee for drafting Written Statement, Grounds of Appeal etc.	Rs. 1500/- per pleading
5.	Fee for drafting other pleadings of misc. nature	Rs. 600/- per pleading
6.	Fee per Conference	Rs. 900/- (subject to maximum of 5 such conferences in a case/group of identical cases)
7.	Daily fee for out of Headquarters	Rs. 2700/- per day
8.	Conveyance charges for local journey outside Headquarters	Rs. 900/- (lump sum)

1	2	3
9.	Expenses for stay in hotels	Rs.1,800/- per day
10.	Clerkage	@10% of total fee excluding miscellaneous and out of pocket expenses (maxim ₹ 5250/- in a case)
11.	Fee for identical Cases	Full fee in the 1st case and ₹ 750/- in per suit for connected cases (max. 3 cases)
12.	Miscellaneous and out of pocket expenses	As per actual to the satisfaction of the administrative Department.

All other terms and conditions applicable to above mentioned Counsels in to this Department's, OM No. 27(11)/1999-Judl. dated 24.09.1999 read with OM No. 27(25)/2011-Judl. dated 01.09.2011, shal continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

(F)

The Fee structure applicable to Senior/Junior Arbitration Panel Couse:

Sl. No.	Details of work	Proposed Revised fee
1.	Fee for effective hearing	
	Senior Counsel	Rs. 2,250/- per appearance
	Junior Counsel	Rs. 1,500/- per appearance
2.	Fee for non-effective hearing	
	Senior Counsel	Rs. 450/- per appearance
	Junior Counsel	Rs.300/- per appearance (maximum four such hearings)
3.	For drafting pleadings	
	Senior Counsel	Rs. 1,500/- per pleading
	Junior Counsel	Rs. 750/- per pleading
4.	Conference fee	
	Senior Counsel	Rs. 450/- per conference
	Junior Counsel	Rs.300/- per conference (maximum three such conferences in a case)
5.	Daily fee out of Headquarters	
	Senior Counsel	Rs. 3,000/- per day
	Junior Counsel	Rs. 2,250/- per day

All other terms and conditions applicable to OM No. 30(3)/99-Judl. 24.09.99 read with OM No., 26(1)/2005/Judl,. dated 31.01.2008, shall continue to remain applicable unless specifically revoked/revised.

2. The above revised fee will be effective from 01.10. 2015.

3. The counsel will be paid fee at the old rates in respect of their appearance in the Court etc. and other work done by them prior to 01.10.2015 and at the revised rates in respect of the work done by them on/after 01.10.2015

4. This issues with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure E-II(B) Branch, ID Note No. 9(11)/99-E(B) dated 02.03.2015 and 07.08.2015.

(Suresh Chandra)
Joint Secretary and Legal Adviser
Tele No., 23387806

Copy to:

1. All Ministries/Departments to the Government of India.
2. Incharge, Central Agency Section, Litigation (HC) Section, Litigation Lower Courts Section. All Groups-A, B and C panel counsel of Supreme Court through Incharge, Central Agency Section.
3. All Senior Panel Counsel of High Courts/ CATs through concerned Assistant Solicitors General in High Courts/ Sr. CGSC of CATs Benches.
4. All Assistant Solicitors General in various High Courts/ Sr. CGSC of CATs Benches.
5. All Central Government Standing Counsel/Central Government Pleaders of Delhi High Court.
6. All Asstt. Solicitors General/Central Legal Adviser of various High Courts.
7. All Senior Central Government Standing Counsel/ Addl. Central Government Standing Counsel of various CAT Benches.
8. All Standing Govt. Counsel and Additional Standing Govt. Counsel before various District and Subordinate Courts as per the list.
9. All Senior/Junior Counsel of the Arbitration Panel.
10. All Special Counsel, Senior Counsel Group-I, Senior Counsel Group-II and Junior Counsel of High Courts as well as CATs Benches of Bombay and Kolkata through the concerned Incharge of Branch Secretariat of Bombay and Kolkata.
11. Incharge, Branch Secretariats Mumbai/Kolkata/ Chennai/Bangalore.
12. All Sections of Department of Legal Affairs.
13. Legal Advisor, Railway Board, New Delhi (with 5 spare copies).

14. Department of Personnel and Training (AT Section), New Delhi (with 5s/copies.)
15. Joint Secretary (Legal), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi (with 5s/copies)
16. CBDT, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi (with 5s/copies).
17. Branch Secretariats Mumbai/Calcutta/Chennai/ Bangalore.
18. Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi w.r.t. their ID Note No. 9 (11)/99-E.II(B) dated 02.03.2015 and 07.08.2015
20. DGS&D, New Delhi.
21. NIC Cell with the request to upload the same in the website of this Department.
22. Judicial Section with 50 spare copies.
23. O.L. Section for Hindi translation.

(Madhulika Upadhyay)
Jr. Central Govt. Advocate
Tel. 23383006

[English]

UK Immigration Policies

865. SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Indian Ministers who visited the UK have pressed the need for Britain to review immigration policies relating to India, including student visas and extension of a visa system as introduced for Chinese visitors to the UK;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the UK authorities thereto;

(c) whether the Indian Government would broach these issues with the UK authorities during the forthcoming CHOGM meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) and (b) Yes. Shri Suresh Prabhu Minister of

Commerce and Industry visited UK at the invitation of Secretary of State for International Trade for U.K. and Shri Kiren Rijiju Minister of State for Home Affairs visited London at the invitation of Minister of State for Immigration of UK in January 2018. Both Ministers in their respective meetings called for further liberalization of UK immigration policies.

(c) and (d) CHOGM is a multilateral Summit in which bilateral issues are not discussed.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Retired Judges

866. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to recruit retired judges in high courts to deal with pendency of more than three crore cases across the country;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether this will be made possible by bringing in a special provision in the constitution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (e) The appointment of retired Judges of High Courts to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court can be made under Article-224A of the Constitution. Retired Judges are not being appointed in view of the decision dated 14.04.1982 of the then Chief Justice of India that retired judges ought not to be appointed unless all the permanent vacancies have been filled up and still large number of cases are pending for disposal.

[English]

Termination Charges

867. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:
DR. K. GOPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the average termination charges paid by the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to the foreign operators;

(b) whether the TSPs have demanded any change in the said termination charges and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the country's telecom industry is reeling under severe financial stress and has been seeking relief from the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) In order to review Interconnection Usage Charges, TRAI had issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on "Review of Interconnection Usage Charges" on 05.08.2016 wherein, *inter-alia*, issues related to "International Termination Charges" were raised for consultation with stakeholders. The Authority has conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 20.07.2017 in New Delhi, which was attended by many stakeholders. In order to give more deliberation on the issue of International Termination charges, the Authority conducted a Workshop on "Review of International Termination Charges" on 16.10.2017 in New Delhi. The Workshop was attended by International Long Distance Operators (ILDOS) who carry voice traffic to/from India and Access Service Providers.

In the consultation process, based on the information on outgoing ILD minutes for the Quarter ending September, 2017 received from ILDOs, the Authority computed the global average of the International Settlement Charges (ISC) payable by Indian ILDOs to foreign carrier as Rs. 2.57 per minute.

2. The Termination charges paid by TSPs to the foreign operators is not regulated by TRAI. These charges depend upon the termination charges etc. in the foreign country.

(c) and (d) Committee of Secretaries (CoS) had discussed the issue relating to stress in balance sheet in select sectors in its meeting held on 29th March, 2017. Consequently, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted on 16/05/2017 with following terms of reference:

- To examine systemic issues affecting viability and repayment capacity in telecom sector and furnish recommendations for resolution of stressed assets,
- Policy reforms and strategic interventions for Telecom sector.

The IMG held eight meetings and also held consultations with all the major TSPs and the Banks. Based on these and other sectoral data IMG analyzed the nature and extent of financial stress in the telecom sector and made a set of recommendations.

The IMG noted that the financial stress for some TSP's has been caused because of low operating cash flows over a number of years, inadequate equity infusion and debt which does not appear sustainable. The sector is in the midst of consolidation. The competitive context of the industry has led to accumulation of debt, a decline in EBIDTA and requirement of periodic infusion of additional equity. In view of this, the primary solution to the current problems in the sector will come internally from the TSPs and they remain liable to service the debt taken by them. Any proposed government intervention needs to be carefully calibrated to ensure that the short term pain points are somewhat eased giving the sector time to rework its investment and business strategy. The major recommendations of IMG are as follows:

- (a) Replacement of the current provision of PLR+2% by MCLR+4% as the interest rate on delayed payment of LF & SUC – One year MCLR of SBI may be adopted with effect from the date of its introduction by RBI *i.e.* April 01, 2016 in place of PLR.
- (b) Amendments to Spectrum Trading Guidelines-DoT may issue appropriate clarification that only the gain or profit arising from trade of spectrum shall constitute as part of revenue for the purpose of calculation of AGR. The matter has been referred for legal opinion, and would need further approval by Cabinet.

Deferred Payment Liability of TSPs on Spectrum-TSPs may be given a one- time opportunity to opt for higher number of instalments (16) instead of the currently permitted 10 instalments. The matter needs further approval by Cabinet Spectrum Auction and Reserve Price of Spectrum—(a) The approach to fixing the reserve price for spectrum may be reviewed for optimization in line with international best practices. (b) The next Spectrum auction may be conducted at a time as considered appropriate by the Government. (c) The exercise of Harmonization of spectrum in 2300Mhz and other bands may be taken up on priority.

(c) Spectrum Cap Holding – DoT may consider the issue in consultation with TRAI.

(d) Mortgage of Spectrum – (a) TPA may be reviewed to be in line with IBC in consultation with DFS. (b) Extend the new TPA guidelines all access licenses

(e) Long Term Loans to the Telecom Sector-The banks may take a commercial decision to take advantage of the 5/25 scheme for the telecom sector.

Report of IMG has been approved by the Telecom Commission, and action for obtaining necessary approvals is underway, including consultations with TRAI and other Govt. departments.

All India Judicial Services

868. DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD:
SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up an all India judicial service on the lines of IAS and IPS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said service is likely to be set up along with the functions thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this proposal is likely to help in bringing talent/merit and efficiency in judiciary; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was recommended by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 wherein it was decided that the issue needed further deliberation and consideration. Views on the proposal were also sought from the State Governments and High Courts.

(d) and (e) All India Judicial Service besides attracting some of the best talent in the country may also facilitate inclusion in judiciary of competent persons belonging to underprivileged, marginalised communities and women and also bring officers from other parts of the country having different cultural background and speaking language other than that of the State of allotment. However, keeping in view the divergence of opinion among the stakeholders on constitution of All India Judicial Service, the Government has undertaken the consultative process to arrive at a common ground.

Wagon Factory

869. SHRIMATI ARPITA GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the pending works mentioned in the Pink Book could be completed;

(b) whether the Railways has not allocated funds for setting up of a wagon factory in Buniadpur, West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the wagon factory is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, cutting of trees, shifting of services, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, NOC from State Irrigation Department and Power Corporations, law & order issues like protests against compensation to land losers, public agitation over alignment, extremism and naxalite problems etc., which are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways.

Moreover, the funds for completion of projects are allocated on yearly basis depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority. Therefore, it is not feasible to fix time lines for completion of pending works mentioned in the Pink Book.

(b) to (d) A wagon manufacturing factory at Buniadpur was sanctioned in 2010-11. However, existing wagon manufacturing capacity, including both private and public sector units, is adequate to meet the current demand for new wagons based on traffic projections. In view of the above, Railways have not commenced this work and no amount has been allocated for this work during the year 2017-18.

Outsourcing of Jobs in Government Departments

870. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to administrative exigency, efficiency and unavoidable circumstances, outsourcing of work in the Government departments through contract is resorted to and no centralized data of employment in Government departments is maintained in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons for not maintaining the data in the era of digitalisation and the datewise/competent authority-wise details of guidelines with justification for adoption of outsourcing policy in the Government;

(c) the Department-wise details of jobs provided on contract/outsourcing and the number of vacancies and backlog vacancies that were lying vacant during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government is intending to issue any guidelines to curb middlemen in contract/outsourcing and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines to provide permanent jobs to the people instead of keeping them on contract/outsourcing for a long time and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) A Ministry or Department may procure certain non-consulting services in the interest of economy and efficiency and prescribe detailed instructions and procedures for this purpose without, however, contravening the basic guidelines provided in rule 199 to 206 of "General Financial Rules 2017" (GFR 2017). As each Ministry/Department is competent to procure services at their level to meet seasonal or short-term requirements, the centralised data is not maintained in this regard.

There are detailed procedures laid down for procurement of such non-consulting services including e-procurement in Chapter 6 of the GFR 2017 and the "Manual for Procurement of Consultancy and Other Services, 2017". Ministries are competent to decide the mode depending on the nature of work, nature of competency required etc. Any deviation or violation can be dealt by the Ministry appropriately. The wages for the persons engaged on contract/outsourcing cannot be less than the minimum wage fixed/notified by the concerned State Government.

The Government posts are regularly filled up in accordance with the recruitment rules. Each Ministry/Department is responsible for appointment of regular employees against vacant posts after completing all procedural formalities. The centralised data of vacancies and backlog vacancies is not maintained.

Fast Track Courts

871. SHRI RAMEN DEKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of cases pending with high court and supreme court till date;

(b) the steps taken/being taken to establish fast track courts at district level; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to improve the infrastructure of district level courts in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) As per information available, 55,459 cases are pending in the Supreme Court and 41.84 lakh cases are pending in various High Courts. A list of cases pending as on date in each High Court is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The establishment of Fast Track Courts at district level is within the domain of the State Governments as per their need and resources. The 14th Finance Commission has endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, *inter-alia*, establishing 1800 FTCs for a period of five years for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens,

women, children, disabled and litigants affected with HIV AIDS and other terminal ailments; and civil disputes involving land acquisition and property/rent disputes pending for more than five years, at a cost of Rs. 4144 crore. The 14th Finance Commission has urged State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirements.

(c) The primary responsibility for development of infrastructural facilities for judiciary in the States including High Courts rests with the State Governments. The Central Government augments the resources of the State Governments by releasing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary. A sum of Rs. 6,020 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,575 crore (42.77%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,798 Court Halls and 13,759 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts as on date. Out of this 1,980 Court Halls and 3,548 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 2,966 Court Halls and 1,692 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary beyond the 12th Five Year Plan period i.e. from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3,320 crore.

Statement*Details of Pending Cases in various High Courts*

S. No.	High Court Name	Total Pending Cases
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad High Court	7,03,061
2.	High Court of Bombay	4,64,074
3.	High Court of Punjab And Haryana	3,86,189
4.	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh High Court	3,24,539
5.	Madras High Court	3,14,345
6.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	3,10,426
7.	High Court of Rajasthan	2,60,358
8.	Calcutta High Court	2,32,776
9.	High Court of Karnataka	2,14,792
10.	High Court of Kerala	1,82,287

1	2	3
11.	Orissa High Court	1,69,325
12.	Patna High Court	1,45,650
13.	High Court of Gujarat	1,09,709
14.	High Court of Delhi	69,589
15.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	60,086
16.	High Court of Jharkhand	57,944
17.	High Court of Jammu And Kashmir	43,393
18.	Gauhati High Court	39,717
19.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	37,955
20.	High Court of Uttarakhand	36,910
21.	High Court of Manipur	16,955
22.	High Court of Tripura	2,894
23.	High Court of Meghalaya	971
24.	High Court of Sikkim	215
Total Pending Cases		41,84,160

[Translation]

Weather Forecast System

872. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of India have successfully developed various models to make exact forecast with regard to the coming of monsoon and changes in the monsoon generally in Asia and especially in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which exact forecasting of monsoon has been made;

(c) the modality regarding the minimum advance period of forecast, its intensity and expansion, especially to provide information to farmers regarding different agroclimatic areas;

(d) the number of research institutes engaged in research activities on monsoon in the country; and

(e) the project-wise total allocation of fund made for undertaking research in this field during the last three plan periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes Madam. Scientists of India have successfully developed various models to make reliable forecasts with regards to monsoon onset (the coming of monsoon), its seasonal and extended range prediction and monsoon variability (intra-seasonal and inter-annual changes in the monsoon) for Asian Monsoon system, especially for Indian summer monsoon.

(b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has taken lot of important initiatives for considerable progress in the field of Earth Sciences during recent years, especially for prediction of monsoon and its variability in different time scales. One of the most important achievements was the successful implementation of the "Monsoon Mission" (which was earlier launched in 2012), a mission based program of MoES to improve monsoon prediction and weather forecast through collaborative research amongst MoES organizations and involving various national and international reputed organizations in this goal through various projects with this objective. The first phase of the Mission was completed successfully in 2017, with lot of achievements, including setting up of very

advanced prediction systems for Seasonal prediction (mainly for SW monsoon season of June to September); Extended range prediction (for next 20 days) and Very high resolution Short range prediction (up to 8 days). The seasonal prediction skill of dynamic models has also improved considerably. All the above model developments have been transferred to ESSO-IMD for providing operational forecast of the monsoon system (in different time scales) to the nation. In addition to above IMD uses state of art statistical models developed through IMD's in house research and development work for Long Range Forecast of Monsoon.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme generates district level weather forecast for the next five days exclusively for the farmers in the country. Based on the forecast, district Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) bulletins

are prepared by the Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) covering different Agroclimatic zones in the country. These AAS bulletins are prepared twice a week (Tuesday & Friday) and issued to the farmers through multimedia channel and also through SMS using Kisan portal and private companies. At present, 22.7 million farmers receive the weather forecast and agromet advisories directly. Inputs from Extended Range Forecast System (ERFS) for the next two weeks are also incorporated in the preparation of agromet advisories especially during prolonged dry spell conditions and break-in monsoon situation to cope up with moisture stress in the standing crops.

(d) The names of the research Institutions in the country engaged in forecast/research on monsoon is given below.

Sl. No.	Institution
1.	India Meteorological Department
2.	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
3.	The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), New Delhi
4.	Indian Space Research Organization – Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad
5.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar
6.	Centre for Disaster Mitigation, Jain University, Bangalore
7.	Center for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune
8.	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
9.	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
10.	Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Cochin
11.	Andhra University, Vishakapatnam
12.	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
13.	Nansen Environmental Research Centre – India (NERCI), Cochin

(e) The plan wise expenditure details (for Grants to IITM) are as follows:

10th Five Year Plan : Rs. 47.72 Crores

11th Five Year Plan : Rs. 367.25 Crores

12th Five Year Plan : Rs. 919.79 Crores

The details of allocation (sanctioned amount), grant received (from the Ministry) and the expenditure under Monsoon Mission for 3 financial years (2014-15 to 2016-17) are as follows:

Project (Program): Monsoon Mission

Year	Allocation (in Crores of Rupees)	Grant received (in Crores of Rupees)	Expenditure (in Crores of Rupees)
2014-15	59.35	23.55	25.69
2015-16	49.35	27.60	22.36
2016-17	49.40	11.66	18.91

Indian Hostages in Various Countries

873. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who are still the hostages of terrorists in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan like war-stricken countries, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to bring those Indians back safely to the country from those countries where they are stranded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of abducted Indians brought back safely from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) As per information available in the Ministry, except Iraq where a group of 39 Indian nationals working in a construction company in Mosul reportedly went missing when the terrorist organization ISIS took over control of a large part of Iraqi territory, no Indians are still held hostage in war-stricken countries like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Indian workers in Iraq are reported to have been taken captive by the ISIS.

(b) and (c) The Government has been making all possible efforts to trace the 39 Indian nationals. Assistance has been sought from the countries in the region, including Iraq, in locating their whereabouts. After liberation of Mosul in July 2017, MOS (VKS) has visited Iraq thrice in this regard.

[English]

Special Court's for MP's And MLA's

874. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the exact number of cases pending against legislators in the country;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that this data is updated regularly;

(c) whether the Government plans to institute special courts for disposal of such cases, if so, whether these courts would be permanent in nature or would be dissolved after disposal of such pending cases; and

(d) whether the Government plans to fix a timeline for disposal of such cases by the special courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) In Writ Petition (Civil) No. 699/2016 (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay Vs. Union of India & Anr.) as per records presented in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 1581 criminal cases involving Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) as declared at the time of filing of the nomination papers to the 2014 elections were pending in various Courts of the country. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed the Union Government to prepare a Scheme for Special Courts for trial of these cases, which has been done. The Union Government has written to all the related High Courts and State Governments for bringing upto date lists of criminal cases to enable their trial in these Special Courts.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 14.12.2017 has approved the Scheme and directed the Union Government to proportionately allocate the amount to be incurred by the different states in which the proposed Special Courts are planned to be located forthwith and thereafter the State Governments will make necessary arrangements of judicial officers, staff and infrastructure in consultation with the High Courts. The Union Government has released the funds earmarked for

the financial year 2017-18 to the State Governments (where applicable) to ensure that the said Courts start functioning from 01.03.2018. The next date of hearing in the case is on 07.03.2018. At present, the matter is sub-judice.

(d) No such timeline has been fixed by the Supreme Court for disposal of such cases by the Special Courts.

Standardization of Coaches

875. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is planning to rationalize the number of coaches in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;

(c) whether the Government has formed a Committee to suggest standard number of coaches for all trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(e) whether extra infrastructure is required for the standardization of coaches and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Rationalization of rakes is an on-going process over Indian Railways and *inter-alia* is aimed at improving utilization of coaching stock, ensuring punctual running of trains, releasing maintenance slots and improving turn-around time.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Madam. In some cases, up-gradation of infrastructural facilities like lengthening of platform/pit line etc, may be required.

Modernization of Railway Stations

876. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations developed/selected for development by the Government to provide world class facilities to the passengers across the country including Uttar Pradesh so far, zone-wise;

(b) the existing policy for revamping and transforming of railway stations;

(c) whether the Government has sought participation of private sector in modernization of railway stations across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the private sector thereto;

(e) whether the Government has signed Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with foreign countries in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise along with the terms and conditions of such MoUs; and

(g) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide world class facilities in all the railway stations of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) In the 1st phase of Redevelopment programme of stations, the following 23 stations were taken up for bidding:

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Zonal Railway
1	2	3
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Central
2.	Pune	Central
3.	Thane	Central
4.	Howrah	Eastern
5.	Visakhapatnam	East Coast
6.	Kanpur Central	North Central
7.	Allahabad	North Central
8.	Kamakhya	Northeast Frontier
9.	Udaipur City	North Western
10.	Faridabad	Northern
11.	Jammu Tawi	Northern
12.	Secunderabad	South Central
13.	Vijayawada	South Central
14.	Ranchi	South Eastern
15.	Chennai Central	Southern

1	2	3
16.	Kozhikode	Southern
17.	Yashwantpur	South Western
18.	Bangalore Cantt.	South Western
19.	Mumbai Central	Western
20.	Bandra Terminus	Western
21.	Borivali	Western
22.	Indore	Western
23.	Bhopal	West Central

Out of the 23 stations mentioned above, bids were received for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode stations only, which are under evaluation. No bids were received for 18 stations. In view of the not-soencouraging response, bids for three stations were foreclosed.

Seven stations *viz.*, Anand Vihar (Delhi, Northern Railway), Bijwasan (Delhi, Northern Railway), Chandigarh (Northern Railway), Habibganj (Bhopal, West Central Railway), Shivaji Nagar (Pune, Central Railway), Surat (Western Railway) and Gandhinagar (Western Railway) have been entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) for redevelopment.

An MOU has been signed by Ministry of Railways with Ministry of Urban Development for integrated planning for station redevelopment projects in cities identified as SMART cities in association with Smart City authorities. Ten (10) stations i.e; Tirupati (South Central Railway), Delhi Sarai Rohilla (Northern Railway), Nellore (South Central Railway), Madgaon (South Western Railway), Lucknow (Northern Railway), Gomtinagar (North Eastern Railway), Kota (West Central Railway), Thane New (Central Railway), Ernakulam Jn. (Southern Railway) and Puducherry (Southern Railway) have been taken up for redevelopment under this scheme.

Rail Land Development Authority has been entrusted to redevelop Safdarjung Station in New Delhi along with IRCON.

(b) Indian Railways intends to offer important stations for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis by inviting open bids from interested parties duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. The cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The following private parties have shown interest in modernization of railway stations in the country:

S.No.	Name of station	Details of developers/real estate agency	Action taken
1.	Habibganj (Bhopal)	1. M/s. Ahluwalia Contracts (India) Ltd. 2. Consortium of Bansal Construction Works Pvt. Ltd. & Prakash Asphaltings & Toll Highways (India)Ltd. 3. M/s. GMR Highways Ltd.	The proposal from Consortium of Bansal Construction Works Pvt. Ltd. & Prakash Asphaltings & Toll Highways (India) Ltd. has been accepted and the work has commenced.
2.	Gandhinagar	M/s. Kunal Structure (India) Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot.	The proposal has been accepted and the work has commenced.
3.	Jammu Tawi	M/s. Gawar-SRV (JV), Hisar.	The proposal has been taken up for evaluation.
4.	Kozhikode (Calicut)	The Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society Ltd., Kerala	The proposal has been taken up for evaluation.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Railways have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) along with the following for Technical Cooperation in Railway Sector wherein Station Development is one of the cooperation areas:-

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic.

1. Department of Transport of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism of Japan
3. Ministry of Railway of the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China
4. The Joint Stock Company "Russian Railways"
5. Czech Railways (CESKE DRAHY) of the Czech Republic and Association of Czech Railway Industry (ACRI) of the Czech Republic.
6. SNCF, the French National Railway.
7. DB International GMBH, Germany
8. Ministry of Mobility of the Kingdom of Belgium

The above MoUs provide for cooperation through expert meetings, information exchange and implementation of jointly agreed cooperation projects.

(g) Ministry of Railways is formulating revised schemes for station redevelopment on fast track. A Draft Cabinet Note has been prepared in this regard and has been sent for Inter-Ministerial consultations.

[*Translation*]

Encouraging Young Scientists to take up Research Work

877. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking appropriate measures for encouraging young scientists to take up research works;

(b) the salient features of Young Scientists Research Programme along with the amount allocated for this

programme during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the age related eligibility to avail the benefits of this programme and the details of the achievements of this programme till now;

(d) whether the Government has started any special scheme or providing any special scheme or scholarship under this programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has instituted several schemes/programmes aimed at enhancing the research capabilities of young scientists and provide a platform to develop them as independent researchers; and thereby elevating the S&T landscape of the country. The schemes are designed to identify promising young researchers with innovative ideas and provide them with training and research opportunities in niche areas of basic science and engineering. Ease of funding, speed of delivery, attractive fellowships etc. are some of the characteristics of the young scientist research programmes. The funds allocated exclusively for young scientist research programmes during 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and the current year by the Ministry of Science and Technology are Rs. 785.1 crore, Rs. 1039.6 crore, Rs. 1136.9 crore and Rs. 1068.1 crore respectively.

(c) The required age groups for obtaining benefit from the following popular young scientist schemes are given below:

Scheme/Programme Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Faculty Scheme of Department of Science and Technology (DST)	Age group: Upper age limit of 32 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST categories
National Postdoctoral Fellowship of Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)	35 years with relaxation of five years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories
Early Career Research Award of SERB	37 years with relaxation of three years to applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ Physically Challenged/Women categories
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Fellowship Schemes	35 years
Research Associate Scheme of Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	40 years and 45 years for women candidates

A number of quality publications in high impact journals and patents have emanated from the Young Scientist's projects. The schemes have helped many young researchers in the progress of their career in S&T, got appointment in academic and research institutions and received recognitions in the form of awards, membership in science and engineering academies.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) CSIR provides Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship to certain top ranking JRF-National Eligibility Test (NET) qualified candidates to nurture the budding scientific talent and to nourish the objective of pursuit of scientific research. Thematic Fellowship programmes in Solar Energy, Building Energy Efficiency Higher & Advanced Network, Bioenergy and Water Research have been initiated by DST to support young faculty and research scholars for conducting research in US R&D and academic institutions.

[English]

Cloud Computing

878. SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA:
SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any special programmes or schemes to promote the cloud computing in both Educational and Government Institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cloud computing contributes substantially to the advancements in communication and networking systems in the country;

(d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to enhance and facilitate the use of cloud computing in Government services along with the funds allocated for the same in the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) runs a Cloud Computing programme under the name "MeghRaj" to utilize and harness the benefits offered by Cloud Computing. There is no separate scheme for Education Institutions, they can also make use of the "MeghRaj" programme.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Union Government started offering Cloud Services through NIC Cloud under "MeghRaj" in February, 2014. The Government has also empanelled 12 Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) from Private & Public Sector for the purpose of offering Cloud services to the Government Institutions. The fund allocated over last 3 years including current year is Rs. 255.18 crore.

Overhauling of Railway Tracks

879. SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of initiatives taken and progress made to upgrade the infrastructure of railways, specifically rail tracks that are found damaged and unfit for regular use;

(b) whether the Government has put in place a timely structured plan to identify railway zones that need urgent overhauling;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Eastern Railway has identified rail tracks which need urgent overhauling; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The details of investments made in development of infrastructure for the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in Cr.)

Year	Amount spent on Infrastructure	Amount Spent on Track Renewals
2014-15	58718	3735
2015-16	93442	4368
2016-17	101669	5075

(b) and (c) Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works, which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railways Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis. The track renewal works are planned in advance every year and their execution are prioritized according to the condition of track and other factors ensuring all the time that track is in sound condition for running of trains. In case, if any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons, speed restrictions, if required are imposed to ensure safe running trains.

As on 01.04.2017, track renewal covering 7546 km is sanctioned out of which 3600 km in Complete Track Renewal units is targeted for the year 2017-18.

(d) and (e) On Eastern Railway, for the year 2017-18, a target of 246 km for track renewal has been kept against which 155 km track has been renewed upto December, 2017.

Job Cuts in it Sector

880. SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA: Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government has taken a serious note of the recent layoffs and job cuts by major IT companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's stand on this issue;

(c) whether it is a fact that the management of the IT companies are engaging bouncers and counsellors to threaten their laid off employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to protect the jobs and lives of the IT employees?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No such matter has been reported to the ministry. The IT sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in FY 2017-18, also.

(c) and (d) No such matter has been reported to the ministry.

(e) The industry, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders

covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium and small) are also implementing rigorous training programs to re-skill/up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies. According to National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the industry continues to be a net hirer and employs nearly 3.9 million people in FY 2016-17, an addition of over 170,000 people over FY 2015-16. Industry is expected to add 130,000 to 150,000 jobs in FY 2017-18.

In addition, various skilling/training initiatives have been taken under the aegis of MeitY to enhance the skill of IT workforce and improve its employability in the manufacturing and service sectors of electronics and IT industry. The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), the autonomous societies of MeitY, offer both short and long term, industry specific courses. Further, other organizations/attached offices of MeitY such as ERNET India, Media Lab Asia, CSC E-Governance Services India Limited, STQC and NIC are also engaged in training of various stakeholders in small numbers.

Relations with Neighbouring Countries

881. SHRI R. DHRUVA NARAYANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relations between India and China have improved since the Doklam standoff in 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government plans to improve our relations with our neighbouring country;

(d) whether the Government is taking any extra measures to ensure the security of the North Eastern States, bordering China; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) India's engagement with China is multifaceted. In areas where we have commonality of views, engagement has expanded and upgraded in recent years. Issues where there are differences are being handled through dialogue to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution based on mutual respect and due sensitivity to each other's interests, concerns and aspirations.

Both sides share the view that India-China bilateral relationship has an important role to play in the 21st Century in Asia and in the world, and that it serves the shared interest of the two sides to strengthen their Closer Developmental Partnership.

In view of the significance of the bilateral relationship, both sides are working towards utilizing their bilateral dialogue mechanisms to promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and enhancing communication at all levels in order to build greater trust and understanding.

Both sides agree that progress in bilateral relations should be guided by the consensus reached between their leaders that at a time of global uncertainty, India-China relations are a factor of stability and that both sides must not allow their differences to become disputes.

(d) and (e) Government is fully seized of the security needs of the country and remains prepared to deal with and counter all kinds of security challenges including at our borders. Government regularly reviews the threat perception to secure our borders and protect our national interest. Appropriate measures are taken from time to time to maintain and upgrade the country's defence preparedness to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India

Modernisation of Stations

882. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a major programme for modernization of Railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of stations identified and total cost of the projects;

(c) whether any stations in Gujarat including Saurashtra region have been identified for the purpose and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time limit fixed for completing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Union Cabinet approved Railways' proposal for redevelopment of 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (total about 400 stations) on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways including permitting commercial development of real estate by Zonal Railways.

Accordingly, station redevelopment program by Zonal Railways was launched on 08.02.2017. Following 23 stations were taken up for bidding in first phase:

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Maharashtra
2.	Pune	Maharashtra
3.	Thane	Maharashtra
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamilnadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

In the first phase of redevelopment for 23 stations, bids only for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode Railway Stations have been received and are under evaluation.

A dedicated organization *viz.* Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) was set up in the year 2012 for the purpose of station redevelopment on Indian Railways. Seven stations *viz.*, Anand Vihar,

Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Habibganj (Bhopal), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), Surat and Gandhinagar have been entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) for redevelopment.

Out of the above eight stations, offers have been finalized for Habibganj and Gandhinagar and Letter of award has been issued on 07.06.2016 and 03.01.2017 respectively and works are in progress.

An MOU has been signed by Ministry of Railways with Ministry of Urban Development for integrated planning for station redevelopment projects in cities identified as SMART cities in association with Smart City authorities. Ten (10) stations i.e; Tirupati, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Nellore, Madgaon, Lucknow, Gontinagar, Kota, Thane New, Ernakulam Jn. and Puducherry have been taken up for redevelopment under this scheme, jointly by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and National Building Construction Company (NBCC). Bids for Gontinagar has been invited on 06.01.2018.

Rail Land Development Authority has been entrusted to redevelop Safdarjung Station in New Delhi along with IRCON.

The cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of vacant land/air space in and around the station. Therefore, railway funds are not required for station redevelopment projects. Such projects shall generally be cost neutral to Railways.

(d) As these projects are complex in nature and require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies, no time frame has been presently set for completion of these projects.

Income From Freight

883. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been received as income from the freight by the Railways during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been upswing in the freight during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of quantity of material transported by the Railways on paid basis during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The freight earnings of the Indian Railways for the last three years are as under:

		(Rs. in crore)
Year	Freight Earnings	
2014-15	105791.34	
2015-16	109207.65	
2016-17	104338.54	

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The freight earnings of Indian Railways during the current year upto December, 2017 are Rs. 81427.77 crore, which reflects an increase of Rs. 6232.61 crore (8.29%), when compared to freight earnings of Rs. 75195.16 crore during corresponding period of the last year.

(d) The details of commodities-wise loading of last three years are as under:-

(in million tonne)

A Freight Loading		Period		
Commodity	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coal	545.81	551.83	532.83
2.	Raw material for Steel Plants	18.28	20.29	22.75
3.	Pig Iron and Finished Steel	42.84	44.79	52.41
4.	Iron Ore	112.77	116.94	137.55
5.	Cement	109.80	105.35	103.29

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Foodgrains	55.47	45.73	44.86
7.	Fertilizers	47.41	52.23	48.34
8.	Mineral Oil (POL)	41.10	43.24	42.42
9.	Container Service	48.38	45.83	47.35
10.	Balance other goods	73.40	75.28	74.35
Total (A)		1095.26	1101.51	1106.15
B	Parcel Loading	6.52	6.41	6.11

[Translation]

Poor Performance by Public Sector TSPs

884. SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the entry of a private telecom company in market, BSNL and MTNL are lagging behind in the competition and are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether indifference shown by the Government has adversely affected BSNL and MTNL networks and their functioning and absence of new and recent

technology therein has led to diminished new recruitments and heavy reduction in the number of employees;

(d) if so, whether any corrective policy has been prepared by the Government to make them viable in competitive market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) The wireless market share and number of subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has increased while the market share of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has marginally decreased during the last three years as can be seen from table below:

Status as on	BSNL		MTNL	
	Number of Subscribers (In millions)	Market Share (In %)	Number of Subscribers (In millions)	Market Share (in %)
31.03.14	94.65	10.46	3.37	4.59
31.03.15	76.83	7.92	3.51	4.57
31.03.16	86.82	8.40	3.56	4.50
31.03.17	101.40	8.66	3.63	4.03
31.10.17	106.80	9.06	3.59	3.88

To remain competitive both BSNL and MTNL have also reduced their tariff plans due to private Telecom Service Providers (TSP) offering data and voice tariff plans at substantially lower rates. This has impacted the

revenue and subscriber base of all TSPs including BSNL and MTNL.

From time to time the Government has supported BSNL and MTNL. The details of which are as below:

BSNL:

- Implementation of providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 3567.58 crores on 4.6.2013.
- Implementation of Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.49 crores on 7.11.2014.
- Refund of Rs. 169.16 crore to BSNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS Project) has been given to BSNL on nomination basis at the cost of Rs.13,334 crore. For execution of BharatNet project, Government has provided Rs.5744 crore in Phase-I and has earmarked Rs.6500 crore in Phase-II to BSNL.
- Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam at an estimated project cost of Rs. 1975.38 crore and implementation of Transmission-Media Plan for North Eastern Region at an estimated cost of Rs. 295.97 crore on 10.9.2014.
- Submarine Optical Fiber Cable Project at the cost of Rs.1900 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis for providing connectivity to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Work of setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges at the cost of Rs. 940 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis.
- Work of setting up of Satellite Gateway at the cost of Rs. 54 crore has been given to BSNL on nomination basis.

MTNL:

- Refund of surrendered BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) spectrum in two service areas held by MTNL and in 6 service areas held by BSNL. Under this head, Rs. 4533.97 crore has been refunded to MTNL through bonds and Rs. 6724.51 crore has been

refunded to BSNL through budgetary resources.

- The pension liability of MTNL staff who were absorbed from Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has been taken over by the Government.
- Notional loan of Rs. 1411 crore to BSNL which was due to be paid to the Government was waived-off.
- Financial support of Rs. 492.26 crore has been given to MTNL on account of liability arising from levy of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- Refund of Rs. 458.04 crore to MTNL on account of surrender of CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) spectrum.
- Provision of High Speed Internet on FTTH and Wi-Fi at the Hon'ble M.Ps residences. The Project cost of about Rs 43.2 Crore was funded by DoT.

Though, BSNL and MTNL have more number of employees than the industry norms. However, to maintain state of the art equipment, BSNL and MTNL have recruited around 45000 and 650 employees respectively, since their inception.

BSNL and MTNL Board have full powers to take decisions regarding upgradation and adoption of new technology. BSNL and MTNL have been incurring losses for a number of years. Therefore, as per Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines, both BSNL and MTNL have been declared as "Incipient Sick".

Consequent upon declaration of BSNL as an "Incipient Sick", action has been initiated by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for preparation of revival/restructuring plan of BSNL as per DPE guidelines. Three (03) Indian Institute of Management (IIM) have been requested to submit their willingness for undertaking a study and preparation of revival/restructuring plan of BSNL.

The "Revival Plan of MTNL" prepared by MTNL consultant is under consideration in DoT. The summary of recommendations and discussions include focus on customer, defend current revenue and additional revenue including Network CAPEX investment, Asset Monetization-Lease, Sale of real estate, buildings, Lease/sale of Tower, Fiber, Copper and active equipment, Reduction in retirement age from 60 to 58 years for employees, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), Debt restructuring and Synergy in operations of MTNL and BSNL etc. An Internal Committee of DoT is examining the

recommendations of the report prepared by the consultant to decide the path of financial, human resources and corporate restructuring for revival of MTNL.

Foot Over Bridge

885. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations of North-Western Railway without foot over bridge facility due to which passengers meet with accidents while crossing rail tracks;

(b) the procedure proposed for the construction of foot over bridge on the said railway stations; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) As per extant instructions, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) are to be provided at all 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category railway stations. There are 37 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category Railway stations over North Western Railway. Out of these, FOBs already exist at 36 railway stations except Jawai Bandh Railway station, for which it has been planned to provide FOB during 2018-19.

As per extant instructions, FOBs shall be provided at all crossing stations during doubling/gauge conversion upto 'D' category stations, where the same is not provided. FOBs already exist at 30 'D' category railway stations over North Western Railway.

Coal Washeries

886. SHRI ARVIND SAWANT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up coal washeries in coal areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether every washery out of these is functional at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to increase number of coal washeries in the State;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As informed by Coal India Limited (CIL), there is no coal washery in Maharashtra state under the command area of Western Coalfields Limited(WCL) a subsidiary of CIL.

(b) to (e) Not Applicable in view of above.

(f) to (h) At present there is no plan to set up a washery in the State since the coal supplied to power sector from the mines of WCL is as per the stipulations laid down by Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change.

[English]

Railtel Internet Connectivity

887. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details regarding the railway stations where free hotspots and Wi-Fi facilities have been provided through a fibre optic network; year-wise;

(b) whether the users have reported drop in internet speed during their access and if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is considering the possibility of providing high speed internet facility in some of the major trains; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the present status of the proposal and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Wi-Fi facilities have been provided at a total of 374 Railway Stations in various States as per details given in enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Government has proposed to provide internet facility in moving trains. Indian Railways is planning to build a high speed mobile Broadband Corridor along its track to provide internet facility to passengers.

Statement

Details of Stations (State-wise) where Wi-Fi Internet Facility has been provided:-

S. No.	Name of State	Number of Stations Commissioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	17
4.	Chhattisgarh	6
5.	Delhi	8
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	23
8.	Haryana	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
11.	Jharkhand	5
12.	Karnataka	12
13.	Kerala	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27
15.	Maharashtra	47
16.	Nagaland	1
17.	Odisha	21
18.	Punjab	8
19.	Rajasthan	17
20.	TamilNadu	22
21.	Telangana	7
22.	Uttar Pradesh	49
23.	Uttarakhand	3
24.	West Bengal	20

1	2	3
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
26.	Tripura	5
27.	Meghalaya	0
28.	Mizoram	0
29.	Sikkim	0
30.	UT Chandigarh	1
Total		374

Dry Cleaning in Railways

888. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the periodicity of washing railway linens and dry cleaning of blankets in depots across the country;

(b) the percentage of linens that are hand-washed and washed in machines;

(c) the storage provision for washed linens and dry-cleaned blankets in depots across the country; and

(d) the mechanism in place for compliance to the norms for washing of linens by the depots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Washing of bed linen (except blanket) is done after every single use. Washed bed sheets, pillow covers and towels are provided to passengers. Blankets are cleaned at least once in two months.

(b) More than 65% linen are washed in mechanised laundries set up in Railway premises. Most of the remaining linen is also washed in outside mechanised laundries through contracts.

(c) Nominated storage places with facilities like racks and compactors are provided at depots for storage of washed linen and blankets.

(d) Sample checking of washed linen is done before dispatch from laundry. Regular inspections are carried out by officers and supervisors for compliance to the norms for washing of linen items. In case of unsatisfactory work or passenger complaint, suitable penalty is also imposed.

Ties with North Korea

889. SHRI PINAKI MISRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether post North Korean missile test, India is under pressure from the US Government to scale down the ties with North Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any attempt has been made by the Government to urge North Korea to roll back its nuclear and missile programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India is making any effort to rope in the international community to deal with this serious situation and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether any positive results have been achieved in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (f) The Government of India shares international community's concerns with regard to DPRK's destabilizing activities which adversely impact peace and stability in the region and beyond. India has called upon DPRK to refrain from such actions. DPRK's continued pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes and its proliferation links directly impacts India's national security, while posing a grave threat to international peace. The Government of India is of the view that any solution

to the Korean Peninsula must take into account and address concerns about the proliferation linkages of DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes.

India remains engaged with the international community on the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

Trainee Officers Getting Disabled

890. SHRI HARISH MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trainee officers disabled during training at various military academies in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to have any scheme or to absorb such trainee officers in suitable alternate employment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate the disabled trainees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The year wise details of trainee officers disabled during training pertaining to various military academies in the country during the last three years and current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Insurance money is paid based on the percentage of disability attributable/aggravated by military service.

Statement

Details of number of Trainee officers Disabled during the last three years and the current year

Sl. No.	Name of Academy	No. of trainee officers disabled during the last three training years	No. of trainee officers disabled during current training year (July, 2017 to January, 2018)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
(i)	Cadet Training Wing, College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune	01	01	02
(ii)	Cadet Training Wing, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCME), Mhow.	01	-	01
(iii)	Cadet Training Wing, Military College of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering (MCME), Secunderabad.	03	01	04

1	2	3	4	5
(iv)	Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.	05	01	06
(v)	Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai.	13	-	13
(vi)	Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya.	04	-	04
(vii)	National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune	22	01	23
Total		49	04	53

[*Translation*]

Post Offices to Issue Aadhaar

891. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to entrust the responsibility of making Aadhaar cards by incorporating changes therein and to maintain its confidentiality to the post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started; (d) whether the Government has established any mechanism to implement the said scheme in the country; and

(e) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) Department of Posts (DoP), as Registrar of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been mandated to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility in post offices throughout the country. DoP has already started rolling out these facilities in designated post offices.

In addition, scheduled commercial banks have also been mandated to set up Aadhaar enrolment and update facility in a minimum one out of every ten bank branches.

Registrar only collects data from the residents during enrolment/ updation. Actual Aadhaar generation and updation in Aadhaar takes place after the data so collected is verified in the UIDAI system at various stages.

The Aadhaar Act, 2016 and the Regulations framed there under have necessary provisions for ensuring the security and confidentiality of residents' information

collected during the course of enrolment/updation. It is the responsibility of Registrar to follow the Act and the Regulations framed there under and guidelines issued by UIDAI from time to time

[*English*]

Poverty Alleviation Initiative

892. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any new initiatives for poverty alleviation as part of sustainable development goals;

(b) if so, the details of these initiatives/schemes and their status of implementation; and

(c) the channels for accessing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) In order to facilitate implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), NITI Aayog has carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 SDGs and associated targets on Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other Government initiatives. As a part of this mapping, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and other Government initiatives have been mapped on the SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) and its associated targets. The mapping has been circulated to the Central Ministries and placed in public domain on the NITI Aayog's website to facilitate better awareness, common understanding and faster implementation of programmes/schemes focused on poverty alleviation.

Several State Governments have also done similar mapping of their Departments and programmes/schemes. Several initiatives and schemes contribute to poverty alleviation, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY) National Livelihood Mission,

National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, etc. These programmes/schemes are being implemented by concerned Ministries in collaboration with State Governments as per well-defined guidelines.

Wi-fi Facility in Panchayats and Municipal Areas

893. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install Wi-Fi in all the Panchayats and Municipal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) the time by which the entire State of Kerala will be provided with Wi-Fi facility and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the funds allocated and spent for the aforesaid purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) BharatNet project is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) approximately 2,50,000 in the country. As part of this project, the last mile connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband technology, is to be provided at all the GPs. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the executing agency, has floated a tender on 26.12.2017 for selecting the agencies for implementing and operating the project in the country. The project is targeted to be completed in the country, including in Kerala, by March, 2019. In the municipal areas, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are providing various telecom services including Wi-fi services as per their commercial decision.

Other steps being undertaken for providing broadband services through Wi-Fi hotspots are as under:

- i. Wi-Fi Choupals are being set up in 5,000 GPs by Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV) under Ministry Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (Status in Statement-I).
- ii. Public Wi-Fi hotspots are being set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas funded by USOF (Status in Statement-II).

iii. As a pilot project RailTel is setting up Wi-fi hotspots in 200 rural railway stations. Wi-fi hotspots in 53 railway stations have already been provided.

iv. As a pilot project BSNL is setting up Wi-fi hotspots across 200 GPs in the country.

(d) The funds allocated and disbursed for setting up of Wi-fi hotspots is as under:

- i. For the 'Wi-fi Choupal' at 5,000 GPs by CSC-SPV Rs. 100 Crore have been approved, out of which Rs. 90 Crore have been disbursed under this project from the USOF.
- ii. For providing 25,000 public Wi-fi hotspots at telephone exchanges of BSNL in rural areas, Rs. 942.34 Crore have been approved out of which, Rs. 187.50 Crore have been disbursed under this project from the USOF.
- iii. For providing Wi-fi services at 200 railway stations by RailTel in rural areas Rs. 27.77 Crore have been approved to be funded from the USOF. No funds have been disbursed till now.
- iv. For providing Wi-fi hotspots at 200 GPs by BSNL Rs. 15 Crore have been approved to be funded from the USOF. No funds have been disbursed till now.

Statement-I

*Status of Wi-Fi Choupal through CSC-SPV
(as on 31.12.2017)*

Sl. No.	State	No. of GPs where equipment setup/Installed	No. of GPs where service delivery commenced
1	2	3	4
1.	Bihar	282	30
2.	Chandigarh	12	10
3.	Chhattisgarh	393	134
4.	Haryana	61	61
5.	Jharkhand	355	215
6.	Karnataka	163	91
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1316	307
8.	Maharashtra	117	76

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
9.	Odisha	90	42	12.	Uttarakhand	353	281
10.	Puducherry	81	68		Total	5034	1439
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1811	124				

Statement-II

Status of Public Wi-Fi hotspots being set up by BSNL at its 25,000 Telephone Exchanges in rural areas (as on 15.01.2018)

Telecom Circle	Total No. of Exchange	No. of Exchange where equipment setup/Installed	No. of Exchange where service delivery commenced
1	2	3	4
Assam	398	115	115
Bihar	950	0	0
Jharkhand	199	14	14
NE I (Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram)	129	35	34
NE II (Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh)	57	36	34
Odisha	801	42	32
West Bengal	1112	9	9
Haryana	791	124	93
Himachal Pradesh	719	140	128
Jammu and Kashmir	205	23	19
Punjab	1208	188	165
Rajasthan	1679	48	31
Uttar Pradesh East	1550	143	132
Uttar Pradesh West	873	182	161
Uttarakhand	429	89	72
Chhattisgarh	300	20	20
Gujarat	1850	85	83
Madhya Pradesh	850	47	12
Maharashtra	3800	50	50

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	2150	113	113
Andhra Pradesh	2650	50	50
Telangana		50	50
Kerala	1070	136	136
Chennai	80	20	20
Tamil Nadu	1150	50	50
Total	25000	1809	1623

[Translation]

Development of North-Eastern Region

894. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any special scheme/package for the development of North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated by the Government for development of the region in the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which development of North-Eastern Region has taken place by the ongoing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Government has recently approved a new scheme "North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)" at a total cost of Rs. 5300.00 crore.

(b) This fund of Rs. 5300.00 crore will be utilized to meet the committed liability of approximately Rs. 3700.00 crore for completing the ongoing projects under NonLapsable Central Pool Resources (NLCPR) scheme and to take up projects of around Rs. 1600.00 crore under the 100% new centrally funded scheme of NESIDS.

(c) All non-exempt Union Ministries are required to mandatorily earmark 10% of their Gross Budgetary Allocation (GBA) annually for the North Eastern Region. As per available information, the State-wise status of releases for the financial year 2017-18 including the ongoing scheme of NLCPR is as under:-

[Rs. in crore]

S. No.	State	Under GBA	Under NLCPR
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,172.25	82.13
2.	Assam	12,035.62	119.52
3.	Manipur	3,951.79	142.58
4.	Meghalaya	3,120.11	84.85

1	2	3	4
5.	Mizoram	3,477.83	51.91
6.	Nagaland	5,009.27	38.87
7.	Sikkim	935.02	51.68
8.	Tripura	3,051.34	64.55
Total		33,753.22	636.09

(d) Under the existing NLCPR scheme, 1614 projects of various sectors were taken up for funding till 30.09.2017. Out of this, 972 projects stands completed, the Sector-wise details of which are as under:-

Sl.No	Sector	Number of projects
1.	Agriculture & Allied	05
2.	Education	94
3.	Flood Control & Irrigation	162
4.	Health	35
5.	Miscellaneous	60
6.	Power	175
7.	Road & Bridges	332
8.	Sports	17
9.	Water Supply	92
Total		972

Self Reliance in Defence Production

895. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:
SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:
SHRI KIRTI AZAD:
DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS
HARISH DWIVEDI:
SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:
SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:
DR. RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has become self reliant in defence production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/ being taken to make the country self reliant along with the time by which it is likely to be done;

(c) whether the Government proposes to seek suggestions from the Industrial sector specially for the equipments which are being imported and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of defence equipment imported and the procurement price of the said equipment during each of the last three years and the current year so far, country-wise;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any target for importing defence equipments for the current year and the ensuing two years;

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for the purpose, yearwise; and

(g) the details of procurement policies to promote greater collaboration between international defence manufacturers and the Indian private sector in respect of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) to (g) Self-reliance is a major corner-stone on which the military capability of any nation rests. Accordingly, the Defence Production Policy promulgated by the Government, aims at achieving substantive selfreliance in the design, development and production of equipment, weapon systems, platforms required for defence in as early a time frame possible, creating conditions conducive for private industry to play an active role in this endeavour; enhancing potential of SMEs in indigenisation and broadening the defence R&D base of the country.

Defence manufacturing is primarily driven by capital acquisition of defence equipment. Under 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, several measures have been taken to promote indigenous design, development and

manufacture of defence equipment in the country by harnessing the capabilities of the public and private sector. These measures include according preference to procurement from Indian vendors under the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), simplification of Make procedure, introduction of simplified procedure for Make II subcategory, liberalization of the licensing regime and FDI policy by raising the cap on FDI in the defence sector, simplification of export procedure, streamlining of defence offset guidelines etc. Recently, the Government

has notified the 'Strategic Partnership (SP)' Model which envisages establishment of long-term strategic partnerships with Indian entities through a transparent and competitive process, wherein they would tie up with global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to seek technology transfers to set up domestic manufacturing infrastructure and supply chains.

The expenditure on purchase of defence equipment from Indian vendors for the three services during the last three years, is as given below:-

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

(Rs. in crore)

	Total Procurement	Procurement from Indian Vendors
2014-15	65583.77	39598.91
2015-16	62341.86	39149.64
2016-17	69150.12	41872.03

The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) provides various avenues for interaction with the industry. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS)/Service Headquarters (SHQs), as the case may be, through regular and structured interactions, shares the details of procurement schemes with the industry, and the industry is involved at the feasibility stage itself. Draft Preliminary Services Qualitative Requirements (PSQRs), indicative time frame and envisaged quantities of schemes are shared with the industry. HQIDS/SHQs upload the broad details of the scheme on Ministry of Defence and SHQ websites. The Categorisation committees *viz.*, Services Capital Acquisition Categorisation Committee (SCAPCC)/ Services Capital Acquisition Categorisation Higher Committee (SCAPCHC) also invite industry representatives, associations/representatives nominated by industry associations, for presentation and clarifications, as and when required.

No target is fixed for import of defence equipment. Defence equipment is being imported from various countries as per the operational requirements of the Armed Forces. During the last three financial years and current year (upto 30.11.17), 119 contracts involving Rs 1,16,523 crore have been signed with Indian vendors and 68 contracts involving Rs. 1,24,291 crore have been signed with foreign vendors for capital procurement of Defence equipment for Armed forces including rockets, simulator and component level repair facility for Tanks from Russia, Laser Designation Pods, radars, Pods for

aircraft Radios, Weapons for Garuda and Missiles from Israel, Aircraft, Helicopters, Missiles, Artillery Guns and Simulators from USA and Aircraft, Ammunition, High Zone Modules of Bi-Modular Charges from 155mm Guns from France.

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) vide Press Note No.5 (2016 Series) has notified revised FDI policy under which FDI is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and beyond 49% through Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded. Further, defence industry is subjected to industrial license under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and manufacturing of small arms and ammunition under the Arms Act, 1959 and Arms Rules, 2016. Other conditions as per the said press note are as follows:-

- (i) Infusion of fresh foreign investment within the permitted automatic route level, in a company not seeking industrial license, resulting in change in the ownership pattern or transfer of stake in by existing investor to new foreign investor, will require Government approval.
- (ii) License applications will be considered and licences given by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in consultation with Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs.

- (iii) Foreign investment in the sector is subject to security clearance and guidelines of Ministry of Defence.
- (iv) Investee Company should be structured to be self-sufficient in areas of product design and development. The investee/joint venture company along with manufacture facility should have maintenance and life cycle support facility of the product being manufactured in India.

[English]

Ceasefire Violation

896. SHRI ARKA KESHARI DEO:
 PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
 SHRI LALLU SINGH:
 SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER:
 PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD:
 SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of ceasefire violation, incidents of terrorist activities/crossborder infiltration and attacks on army jawans as well as on civilians reported during the last three years and the current year at India-Pakistan Border particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of personnel of army, Border Security Force, Jammu and Kashmir Police and civilians killed and injured in these activities during the said period, yearwise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the reasons that caused war like situation at India-Pakistan Border particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the retaliatory action taken by the Government against these activities including the Pakistan army personnel and terrorists killed during the said period, year-wise;

(e) the details of assistance provided/being provided to the families of martyred soldiers and the steps taken/being taken to strengthen the army; and

(f) the details of surgical operations conducted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Year wise details of Cease Fire Violations (CFVs), Terrorist Initiated Incidents (TIIs) and Infiltration Bid Eliminated (IBE) along the Line of Control (LC) under operational control of Army in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years including current year (till 29 January, 2018) are as under:

Sl. No.	Nomenclature	Year wise Instances			
		2015	2016	2017	2018
(a)	CFVs	152	228	860	192
(b)	Terrorist Initiated Incidents (TIIs)	48	92	131	07
(c)	Infiltration Bid Eliminated (IBE)	18	27	33	03

(b) (i) Details of casualties suffered by security personnel/civilians in ceasefire violations/ cross border firing during the last three years and the current year (up to 29 Jan) are as under:-

Period	Army personnel (CFV)		BSF personnel (CBF)		Civilians	
	Fatal	Injured	Fatal	Injured	Fatal	Injured
2015	06	17	04	09	16	71
2016	08	74	05	25	13	83
2017	15	58	04	14	12	79
2018	05	12	03	17	08	58

No personnel of J&K Police got killed in the incidents of ceasefire violations from 2015 to January, 2018.

(ii) Details of casualties suffered by security personnel/civilians in Terrorist Initiated Incidents (TIIs) and Infiltration Bid Eliminated during the last three years and the current year (up to 29 Jan) are as under:-

Period	Army personnel		BSF personnel		Civilians		J&K Police	
	Fatal	Injured	Fatal	Injured	Fatal	Injured	Fatal	Injured
2015	08	14	02	15	17	70	11	27
2016	40	61	07	23	15	66	17	50
2017	14	46	02	02	40	99	31	85
2018	0	02	0	0	01	0	4	10

(c) The increase in Cease Fire Violation in J&K has been precipitated by the nefarious designs of Pakistan in perpetrating violence and creating instability in the region. These nefarious designs of the enemy are being defeated through proactive and determined actions by the Army both along the LC and hinterland. Regular review of security situation is carried out and necessary changes in our strategy is made continuously to defeat the nexus.

(d) Appropriate retaliation to these ceasefire violations has been carried out wherever necessary. During ceasefire violations, the inhabitants of border villages which are vulnerable to shelling/firing are shifted to safer locations to prevent any loss of life. All arrangements are made for free boarding, lodging, medicare, water, electricity, food, sanitation and transport to safer places in such cases. The defences along the border are adequately fortified to withstand fire. Continuous improvements, including the usage of modern technology,

in the defences are made to make them more robust and resilient.

The details of terrorists killed along the along the LoC/IndiaPakistan Border in Jammu & Kashmir Border, in the last three years including current year (up to January, 2018) are as under :

Sl.No.	Year	Number of Terrorist killed
(i)	2015	108
(ii)	2016	150
(iii)	2017	213
(iv)	2018	08

(e) Details of ex gratia lump sum compensation being paid to the Next of Kin (NoK) of Defence personnel are as under:

Sl. No.	Details	w.e.f. 01/01/2006	w.e.f. 01/01/2016
1.	Death in the course of duties attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, etc.	Rs. 10 lakh	Rs. 25 lakh
2.	Death occurring during enemy action in war or border skirmishes or in action against militants, terrorists, etc.	Rs. 15 lakh	Rs. 35 lakh
3.	Army Group Insurance Fund	Upto 30/09/16	w.e.f. 01/10/16
	Officers	Rs. 60 lakh	Rs. 75 lakh
	JCOs/Other Ranks	Rs.30 lakh	Rs. 37.5 lakh

In addition, other benefits such as liberalised family pension, death-cumretirement-gratuity, etc. are granted as per extant rules.

(f) Based on specific and credible inputs about terrorist teams having positioned themselves at launch

pads along Line of Control to carry out infiltration and conduct terrorist strikes in Jammu and Kashmir and in various metros in other States, the Indian Army carries out operations to pre-empt infiltration by terrorists as and when required.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds From USOF

897. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds from Universal Service Obligation Funds (USOF) to mobile companies for providing telecom services in the remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total funds allocated to various mobile companies from these funds during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the State-wise number of villages, provided with telecom facilities under the USOF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. Subsidies are provided to mobile companies for mobile connectivity in inaccessible, rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region, Left Wing Extremism Affected areas, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Subsidy disbursed to various Mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years and current year is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) The State-wise number of villages, provided with telecom facilities under the USOF is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Subsidy disbursed to various Mobile companies from USOF under different projects during the last three years and current year

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Mobile Companies	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	731.40	678.85	1560.83	567.58
2.	Dishnet Wireless Limited	0.04	0.93		
3.	Reliance Communication Limited		0.01		
4.	Reliance Infocomm Limited			2.53	
5.	Tata Teleservices Limited		0.53		
6.	Vodafone Essar Cellular Limited	0.90			

Statement-II

The State-wise number of villages, provided with telecom facilities under the Universal Service Obligation Fund

Sl. No.	States	Number of Villages
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	352
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25107
3.	Assam	24692

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	38941
5.	Chhattisgarh	18328
6.	Gujarat	18054
7.	Haryana	6678
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17408
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6385
10.	Jharkhand	28821

1	2	3
11.	Karnataka	27451
12.	Kerala	1372
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51986
14.	Maharashtra	40654
15.	Meghalaya	5300
16.	Mizoram	704
17.	Tripura	858
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	2810
19.	Manipur	2174
20.	Nagaland	1263
21.	Odisha	45215
22.	Punjab	12065
23.	Rajasthan	39568
24.	Tamil Nadu	15492
25.	Uttar Pradesh	97852
26.	Uttarakhand	15381
27.	West Bengal	37571
Total		582482

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Maharashtra

898. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has conducted any survey for gauge conversion in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, section-wise; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Only one survey *i.e.* Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for Gauge Conversion from Narrow Gauge (NG) to Broad

Gauge (BG) between Pachora and Jamner and extension upto Bodwad (Malkapur) (84 km) has been sanctioned during last three years and current year in Maharashtra. Survey Report of the project has been received in Railway Board in October, 2017. As per survey report, cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 849.68 crore with Rate of Return (-) 1.82%.

The project has been shelved as there are no large and medium scale industries in the catchment area of the section Pachora-Jamner-Makapur and ROR of the project is also negative. Further, additional traffic in future will be catered after completion of ongoing works of 3rd and 4th line between Manmad-Jalgaon and Railway Electrification work between Manmad-Mudkhed-Dhone.

(c) No expenditure incurred as project is unsanctioned.

Zero Thermal Coal Imports

899. DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aiming to bring down thermal coal imports in the power public sector undertakings to zero in the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether this move would reduce the country's import bill by about Rs. 17,000 crore;

(c) whether the Government is considering to convince private companies operating in the power space to totally stop the import of thermal fossil fuel; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per the contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. CEA has reported that, with 47% reduction in import, indigenous coal based power plants have imported 19.87 MT coal in 2016-17 against 37.21 MT in 2015-16. In absolute term substitution of import by indigenous coal has been 17.34 MT. In the current Fiscal, from April to December, 2017, import of coal by these plants have further reduced to 12.8 MT from 15.42 MT during same period last year. For imported coal based plants, as reported by CEA, there was an increase in coal import in 2016-17 to the tune of 2.8 MT as compared to 2015-16, due to commissioning of new plants in 2016-17. However, in the current Fiscal, from April to December 2017, import of coal by these plants have been reduced to 30.83 MT as compared to 34.6 MT during same period last year. Further, the gap between demand and supply

of coal cannot be bridged completely as power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.

(b) All India Coal imports upto October 2016-17 and 2017-18 is given below:

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

Year	Coking Coal	Non Coking	Coal Total Coal
2016-17 #		23.65	92.64 116.30
2017-18 #	26.95	89.18	116.12
Absolute Growth	3.30	-3.46	-0.18
Growth in %	14.0	-3.7	-0.2

Up to October

The value of coal import depends upon the prices of coal in the International market and fluctuates accordingly.

(c) and (d) CIL had taken steps for promotion of import substitution through source rationalization with part supply from higher grade coal sources. Coal from various sources including higher grade were offered through various types of e-auction including special forward e-auction with ease-of-business terms like flexi tenure of lifting, reduction of EMD and floor price to cater to requirement of various consumers including TPPs not having FSA with CIL. These factors have also contributed to fall in coal import.

NSA Level Talk With Pakistan

900. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Security Advisors of India and Pakistan have been speaking to and meeting with each other very frequently despite the heightened cross-border firing and acrimonious exchanges over Jadhav's detention and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such meetings were held in Bangkok and Zavidovo in Russia and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete results have been produced in consequence of such meetings that would potentially reduce the threat of war in the tinderbox of South Asia and make for prevalence of peace and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether despite all the good overtures on the part of India, Pakistani Army and its spy wing, ISI are incurably and relentlessly committed to fomenting terror in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether due to the souring of diplomatic relations with Nepal it has become a hotbed for India specific terrorist activities and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (d) There are established channels of communications at various levels, including at the level of National Security Advisors, to discuss operational issues such as cross-border terrorist infiltration and border management. In this context, the National Security Advisors met in Bangkok in December, 2017.

At these meetings the Indian side has strongly taken up the core issue of cross-border terrorism fomented by Pakistan. Strong concerns have been shared and protests registered at the incidents of unprovoked cross-border firings and support to cross-border terrorist infiltration from Pakistan.

Pakistan has been asked to abide by its commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used against India in any manner; to respect the sanctity of the International Boundary and Line of Control; and to adhere to the 2003 understanding on ceasefire along the International Boundary and the Line of Control in order to maintain peace and tranquillity.

It has been made clear that the Government is committed to working towards normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan, and addressing all outstanding issues bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with Simla Agreement and Lahore declaration. However, any meaningful dialogue can be held only in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence. Onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere. Till then, India will continue to take firm and decisive steps to respond to cross-border terrorism.

(e) India's age old ties with Nepal are unique and special and characterized by open border and close people to people contacts. There have been instances of misuse of open border by unscrupulous elements. Both sides however have been coordinating on security and border management issues through various institutionalized bilateral mechanisms such as Home Secretary-level talks, Joint Working Group on Border Management, Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues, and coordination between the security forces. The Government of Nepal has assured that it will not allow its territory to be used for any activity inimical to India.

Make in India Policy

901. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has floated an international tender for the procurement of Rails;

(b) if so, the value of tender within the threshold of the "Make in India" policy that requires all infrastructure projects worth more than 500 million rupees to use locally-made steel;

(c) the details of the intended purchase quantity against actual purchase of rails for the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has evaluated Indian corporations/ companies that can meet the criteria and requirements of the Rails and if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has undertaken a study to evaluate the impact of shortage of rails on the maintenance and expansion work of the Indian Railways and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways have floated global tender following 2 packets system for procurement of 4.87 lakh Metric Tonnes of Rails to meet the shortfall in supply of rails by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), subject to placement of developmental order of 20% of quantity under procurement on domestic producer provided Railways is prima facie satisfied that they are technically suitable and capable of executing the order.

(c) Indian Railway's requirement and quantity of rails supplied to Indian Railways during 2014-15 to 2016-17 by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are as under:

Year	Indian Railway's Requirement of Rails	Supply of Rails by SAIL (in Metric Tonnes)
2014-2015	580750	583787
2015-2016	812417	645514
2016-2017	825000	620050

(e) Indian Railways has prioritized the track maintenance works to ensure safety and therefore presently for track renewal works rails are supplied on priority.

Closure of Coal Mines

902. DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH
SHANKARRAO:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, company-wise and year-wise details of the coal mines closed/abandoned during the

last three years and the current year along with reasons therefor and the norms for closing the coal mines;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the loss/profit occurred as a result of the closure of coal mines and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government for rehabilitation of unemployed labourers of the said closed mines;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revive these closed coal mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The State-wise, company-wise and year-wise details of the coal mines of Coal India Limited, closed/abandoned/discontinued during the last three years and the current year (as on 1.10.17) are given below:

Name of Closed/ Abandoned mines	Year	State	Name of Closed/ Abandoned mines	Year	State
1	2	3	4	5	6
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.:					
Lachipur colliery UG	2014-15	West Bengal	Belbaid OC	2015-16	West Bengal
K. D. Incline	2015-16	West Bengal	Mahabir OC	2016-17	West Bengal
Ghusik UG	2015-16	West Bengal	MallikBasti OC	2017-18	West Bengal
Haripur UG	2015-16	West Bengal]	Ratibati UG	2017-18	West Bengal
Parasea 6&7 incline UG	2015-16	West Bengal	Barmondia A UG	2017-18	West Bengal
Amrasota UG	2015-16	West Bengal	Mandmand UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.:					
Ena OC	2014-15	Jharkhand	Bera OC	2017-18	Jharkhand
Basdeopur UG	2014-15	Jharkhand	Sudamdih Incline	2017-18	Jharkhand
Hurriladih UG	2014-15	Jharkhand	Gadhur	2017-18	Jharkhand
Kenduadih Mixed	2015-16	Jharkhand	Basuria	2017-18	Jharkhand
Murulidih 20/21 UG	2015-16	Jharkhand	Bararee	2017-18	Jharkhand
Burragarh UG	2016-17	Jharkhand	East Basuria	2017-18	Jharkhand
Kujama OC	2017-18	Jharkhand	Gandudih Khas Kusundaa	2017-18	Jharkhand
Amal. East Bhagatdfih Simlabahal	2017-18	Jharkhan			
Central Coalfields Ltd.:					
Karo I UG	2016-17	Jharkhand	Saunda-D UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Khas Mahal UG	2016-17	Jharkhand	Kuju UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Ray Bachra UG	2017-18	Jharkhand	Swang UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Topa UG	2017-18	Jharkhand	Sayal-D UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Sirka UG	2017-18	Jharkhand	Kargali(BSI) UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Jarangdih UG	2017-18	Jharkhand	Argada UG	2017-18	Jharkhand
Western Coalfields Ltd.:					
Hindustan Lalpeth.3 UG	2016-17	Maharashtra	ChandaRayatwari UG	2017-18	Maharashtra
RawanwadaKhas UG	2016-17	Madhya pradesh	Ganapati UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4	5	6
Thesgora UG	2016-17	Madhya Pradesh	Ambara UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
Dhoptala OC	2016-17	Maharashtra	HLC-1 UG	2017-18	Maharashtra
Ghugus OC	2016-17	Maharashtra	Vishnupuri-1 UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
Makardho OC kada-II	2016-17	Maharashtra			
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.:					
Rajgamar 6&7 UG	2015-16	Chhattisgarh	Kotma West UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
North Jhagrakhand	2016-17	Chhattisgarh	North Chirmiri UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh
Kurasia OC	2016-17	Chhattisgarh	Surakachhar 5&6 UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh
Jamuna OC	2016-17	Madhya Pradesh	Govinda UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
Dugga OC	2016-17	Chhattisgarh	Kalyani UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh
Katkona 3&4 UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh	Palkimara UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh
Anjanhill UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh	Birsingpur UG	2017-18	Madhya Pradesh
Dharam UG	2017-18	Chhattisgarh			
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.:					
Chhendipada OCP	2016-17	Odisha	Mine No 4	2017-18	Odisha

The reasons for closure/suspension/abandonment of these mines include depletion/exhaustion of coal reserves, unsafe mining conditions arising out of fire, other safety considerations, inundation, adverse geo-mining conditions etc.

Most of the underground (UG) mines are incurring heavy losses. Closing of these unsafe and unviable mines have reduced the losses previously being incurred by them. All manpower of these closed mines have been suitably redeployed in other mines or other suitable areas of the subsidiary companies.

(c) and (d) Some of the closed UG mines have already been converted to OC mines wherever viable. Other mines which are having sufficient extractable reserves are reconsidered if and when they become economically viable in future by introduction of new technology or change of method of work.

Scholarship Schemes

903. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scholarship schemes implemented for minorities in Jharkhand during the last two years and the current year, year, scheme and district-wise; and

(b) the details of the actual financial and other targets fixed and the achievements made in each of the said schemes during the said period, year and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) implements three scholarship schemes *i.e.* PreMatric, Post matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for educational empowerment of six notified minority communities *viz.* Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi across the country including the State of Jharkhand. District-wise data is not maintained. However, State-wise physical and financial achievement including Jharkhand are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III. The scheme-wise details of physical and financial targets and achievements made during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are as under:

Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme

Year	Financial Target	Physical Target	Physical Achievements#	Fund released (Rs. in Crore)
2015-16	There is no	76312	25797	7.94
2016-17*	financial	76312	18933	8.92
2017-18* (as on 31.01.2018)	target	76312	7216	3.39

#Less applications were received as compared to physical target.

Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme

Year	Financial Target	Physical Target	Physical Achievements#	Fund released (Rs. in Crore)
2015-16	There is no financial target	12730	12173	6.78
2016-17*		12730	12929	8.25
2017-18* (as on 31.01.2018)		12730	3885	2.54

#Less applications were received as compared to physical target.

Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme

2015-16	There is no financial target	1528	2066	6.23
2016-17*		1528	2204	6.32
2017-18* (as on 31.01.2018)		1528	1097	2.97

*Data provisional. Disbursement of scholarship continues for 2017-18

Statement-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.903 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2018 ASKED BY SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY REGARDING "SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES".

Status of Physical and financial achievement including under Pre-matric Scholarship Scheme for the last two years and current year (as on 31.01.2018)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2015-16				2016-17			2017-18		
		Physical Target	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra	61390	155058		35.40	126750		25.80	108436		27.09
2.	Telangana	66788	214661		40.63	158873		39.84	124182		41.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5716	0		0.00	0		0.00			
4.	Assam	144310	61325		22.82	137493		33.32	52517		17.38
5.	Bihar	214215	23210		6.35	60399		12.46	107001		28.09
6.	Chhattisgarh	15529	13363		3.95	7329		8.60	7023		1.92
7.	Goa	7122	2127		0.22	1414		0.16			
8.	Gujarat	84764	208176		34.49	113666		25.64	102015		29.29
9.	Haryana	38510	1174		0.19	2419		0.62	931		0.31
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4301	2477		0.36	1665		0.28	1414		0.26
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	110621	0		0.00	54135		12.28	92485		21.28
12.	Jharkhand	76312	25797		7.94	18933		8.92	7216		3.39
13.	Karnataka	128489	467890	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	69.83	418486	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	71.51	327233	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	61.74
14.	Kerala	215670	521109		65.45	498360		56.79	422072		50.66
15.	Madhya Pradesh	76139	77054		11.25	71285		18.60	63378		17.40
16.	Maharashtra	289706	511996		52.42	444286		47.10	306102		33.04
17.	Manipur	14476	2120		0.79	3382		1.92			
18.	Meghalaya	26916	1879		0.49	8470		1.90			
19.	Mizoram	13240	52149		12.55	47423		8.93	27757		6.50
20.	Nagaland	28364	34507		8.61	16717		4.76	10756		3.93
21.	Odisha	26292	2976		0.40	14771		2.11			
22.	Punjab	237666	428583		46.43	379711		56.49			
23.	Rajasthan	98228	145135		30.91	117787		30.00	101467		28.84
24.	Sikkim	3067	2291		0.53	1026		0.23	666		0.20
25.	Tamil Nadu	113859	406136		46.01	330596		60.33	283108		56.12
26.	Tripura	7100	6478		0.99	1		0.00	3754		0.82
27.	Uttar Pradesh	497684	515410		123.26	422084		135.89	478938		150.07
28.	Uttarakhand	19732	6666		2.66	14478		3.69			
29.	West Bengal	327088	1285719		280.78	675218		81.01	367956		49.80
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	1694	0		0.00	15		0.01			
31.	Chandigarh	2992	1715		0.18	2394		0.25	1047		0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	225	78		0.01	63		0.01			
33.	Daman and Diu	315	0		0.00	0		0.00			
34.	Delhi	38560	78		0.02	3		0.00			
35.	Lakshadweep	920	0		0.00	0		0.00			
36.	Puducherry	2000	1442		0.29	1645		0.37	1722		0.50
	Total	3000000	5178779	1040.10	906.22	4151277	931.00	749.82	2999176	1001.15	630.16

*Data provisional. Disbursement of scholarship continues for 2017-18.

Statement-II

ANNEXUTRE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.903 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2018 ASKED BY SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY REGARDING "SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES".

Status of Physical and financial achievement under Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for the last two years and current year (as on 31.01.2018)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2015-16				2016-17				2017-18	
		Physical Target	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10232	10743		9.05	11998		10.06	11486		9.19
2.	Telangana	11131	15421		11.94	15008		12.07	11105		8.12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	950	0		0.00	0		0.00			
4.	Assam	24077	29600		20.49	28303		18.62	29408		21.13
5.	Bihar	35712	44162	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	22.34	45577	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	24.38	41991	There is no State/UT-wise Financial Target	28.09
6.	Chhattisgarh	2589	2204		1.19	2001		1.08	1859		1.03
7.	Goa	1187	177		0.11	239		0.17			
8.	Gujarat	14127	24017		12.91	18254		10.60	16321		9.75
9.	Haryana	6417	2739		1.84	3409		2.37	1127		0.79
10.	Himachal Pradesh	718	510		0.26	503		0.26	126		0.07
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	18429	20602		11.42	23639		14.43	20673		13.05
12.	Jharkhand	12730	12173		6.78	12929		8.25	3885		2.54
13.	Karnataka	21414	51775		32.68	41690		26.66	27217		17.22
14.	Kerala	35965	46703		21.04	54608		24.96	52707		25.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	12697	14309		8.50	15293		9.61	14141		8.72
16.	Maharashtra	48302	49766		23.98	44066		20.23	13814		6.49
17.	Manipur	2412	2647		2.07	2830		2.19			
18.	Meghalaya	4486	4498		3.27	4951		3.33			
19.	Mizoram	2206	586		0.44	1331		0.93	1271		0.92
20.	Nagaland	4726	797		0.66	3673		2.70	970		0.69
21.	Odisha	4381	3430		2.19	3179		2.09			
22.	Punjab	39627	63801		31.84	58812		24.89			
23.	Rajasthan	16371	28437		19.41	24604		17.51	15842		10.71
24.	Sikkim	511	539		0.24	205		0.10	102		0.07
25.	Tamil Nadu	18989	41880		24.78	38403		21.27	13442		7.75
26.	Tripura	1183	1050		0.51	909		0.44	860		0.54
27.	Uttar Pradesh	82882	98184		66.69	74633		54.24	76251		50.69
28.	Uttarakhand	3288	2221		1.42	2918		2.11			
29.	West Bengal	54501	92122		46.63	87798		43.43	27268		14.20
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	282	0		0.00	5		0.01			
31.	Chandigarh	499	257		0.11	259		0.12	49		0.02
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37	19		0.01	26		0.01			
33.	Daman and Diu	53	34		0.01	39		0.01			
34.	Delhi	6425	1226		0.79	528		0.34			
35.	Lakshadweep	132	0		0.00	0		0.00			
36.	Puducherry	332	211		0.15	280		0.18	345		0.20
	Total	500000	666840		581.10	385.72		359.65	382260		237.05

Statement-III

ANNEXUTRE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.903 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2018 ASKED BY SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY REGARDING "SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES".

Status of Physical and financial achievement under Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme for the last two years and current year (as on 31.01.2018)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			
		Physical Target	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)	Scholarship awarded	Financial Target	Fund released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1228	1174		3.20	1922		5.20	1160		3.09
2.	Telangana	1336	1917		5.24	2437		6.39	1344		3.51
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	115	0		0.00	0		0.00			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Assam	2889	4698		13.60	3999		10.25	2240		5.92
5.	Bihar	4284	11107		31.22	10923		30.91	6209		17.18
6.	Chhattisgarh	310	550		1.52	565		1.50	254		0.64
7.	Goa	145	167		0.42	114		0.30			
8.	Gujarat	1697	4386		10.60	3996		9.32	2076		4.85
9.	Haryana	770	1240		3.30	1224		3.35	552		1.41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	85	99		0.29	78		0.20	24		0.06
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2211	5784		16.30	5162		14.04	2595		6.64
12.	Jharkhand	1528	2066		6.23	2204		6.32	1097		2.97
13.	Karnataka	2570	14728		36.56	12897		32.86	4399		11.20
14.	Kerala	4316	22876		62.57	20864		56.85	12124		32.12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1524	2704		7.78	2794		7.86	1459		3.72
16.	Maharashtra	5797	6526		17.29	5165		13.53	15		0.07
17.	Manipur	290	395		1.12	345		0.92	27		0.08
18.	Meghalaya	538	1068		2.80	1125		2.86			
19.	Mizoram	264	96		0.24	247		0.55	71		0.20
20.	Nagaland	567	1279		3.47	1222		3.17	652		1.69
21.	Odisha	525	550		1.56	596		1.60			
22.	Punjab	4752	9008		24.15	6923		18.10			
23.	Rajasthan	1965	4133		11.30	3972		10.70	1795		4.54
24.	Sikkim	60	83		0.22	22		0.07			
25.	Tamil Nadu	2279	5294		14.06	5459		13.78	3177		8.08
26.	Tripura	142	185		0.60	155		0.45	66		0.18
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9948	17449		45.53	12380		32.85	3956		10.23
28.	Uttarakhand	395	690		1.85	646		1.90			
29.	West Bengal	6541	12190		32.23	12114		30.82	7103		17.99
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	33	4		0.01	0		0.00			
31.	Chandigarh	60	33		0.09	25		0.06	11		0.03
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	2		0.00	7		0.01			
33.	Daman and Diu	6	4		0.01	10		0.03			
34.	Delhi	770	1042		2.46	509		1.20			
35.	Lakshadweep	17	0		0.00	0		0.00			
36.	Puducherry	39	55		0.14	57		0.12	32		0.06
	Total	60000	133582	335.00	357.98	120158	395.00	318.07	52438	393.54	136.46

Posts of Doctors

904. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals under the Zonal Railway, Zone-wise;

(b) whether doctors are available in all the departments in these hospitals and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sanctioned posts of doctors, the number of doctors working, the number of posts vacant and the period since these posts are vacant in divisional hospitals of Western Railway; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways for filling up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The number of hospitals under the Zonal Railways, Zone-wise is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Zone	No. of Hospitals
1.	Central Railway	11
2.	Eastern Railway	10
3.	East Central Railway	09
4.	East Coast Railway	04
5.	Northern Railway	12
6.	North Central Railway	05
7.	North Eastern Railway	07
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	10
9.	North Western Railway	08
10.	Southern Railway	11
11.	South Central Railway	06
12.	South Eastern Railway	06
13.	South East Central Railway	05
14.	South Western Railway	04
15.	Western Railway	09
16.	West Central Railway	07
17.	Metro Railway	01

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) and (d) Doctors in Railway are appointed through Combined Medical Service Examination (CMSE) on the

basis of recommendations made by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). However, rate of joining of these doctors is not upto the number of vacancies. To overcome the shortage, as a gap arrangement, doctors both General Duty and Specialists are appointed on contract basis as Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs). Further, retired railway doctors are also being appointed on contractual basis.

As regards availability of doctors over Western Railways, there are 124 sanctioned posts of doctors in the Divisional Hospitals out of which 54 doctors recruited through UPSC are posted. The vacant posts of doctors are manned by engaging doctors as Contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs)

Diplomatic Vision

905. SHRI INNOCENT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any diplomatic plan/vision for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have a considered and clear foreign policy with India's short/long term national interests clearly defined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) to (c) The Government continually assesses and refines its diplomatic stance and policies in response to evolving global challenges and opportunities which have a bearing on India's short-term and long-term interests. While no single overarching and formalized policy document can capture all aspects of India's foreign policy, the underlying principles of our diplomatic strategy are long-established and enduring. These include safeguarding India's sovereignty and security, enabling India's domestic economic transformation, and building influence in global forums through bilateral, multilateral and regional efforts. This pragmatic and outcome-oriented foreign policy orientation has revitalised our traditional ties, re-energised our strategic and commercial relations with new partners and re-connected us with our Diaspora abroad.

In recent months, the Ministry of External Affairs has significantly strengthened its Policy Planning & Research Division by increasing its manpower and budget, including the inclusion of experts from other specialized departments of Government of India and engagement with scholars from the wider strategic community. This

effort is aimed at improving the Government's efforts to anticipate and react to long-term international trends and developments through rigorous analysis, and feeds into the continuous process of self-evaluation of the Ministry and appraisal of foreign policy.

[*Translation*]

Research and Development Institutions

906. SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Research and Development Institutions under the Ministry along with the number of Scientists, technocrats and researchers working therein and the number of posts lying vacant, institution-wise;

(b) whether the Government has assessed the functioning of these institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Haj Pilgrims

907. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to give any relaxation for disabled Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Haj pilgrimage is generally physically demanding to be performed in a foreign land. Therefore, as per practice prevailing old practice for more than 30 years, the Haj Policy/ guidelines for Haj Committee of India (HCoI) pilgrims provided that any person who is physically disabled or suffering from specified diseases are not eligible to apply for Haj pilgrimage through HCoI. The Ministry has directed to make necessary corrections/amendments in the Haj policy/ guidelines to allow persons with disabilities in terms of the Rights of persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

NERSDS

908. SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS);

(b) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been finalized and if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure completion of targets by March, 2018 as stated;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the powers and autonomy of the North Eastern Council with regard to the implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) North East Road Sector Development Scheme was launched during the Financial Year 2015-16. Three (3) roads were identified and entrusted to National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) for implementation. The scheme has already been taken up for extension beyond March, 2017 till March, 2020.

(b) and (c) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the three roads was finalized before taking up the work. The works have since been awarded and are at different stages of implementation.

(d) The scheme was originally conceived and launched in the Ministry of DoNER during 2015-16 and then transferred to North Eastern Council during 2016-17 for implementation. The Inter-Ministerial Committee has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC) for screening, appraisal, sanction and monitoring of the works under the scheme. NEC has been authorized to operate the budget head of NERSDS.

Software Technology Parks

909. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up software technology parks in the backward areas of the country including Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up such parks in Bargarh district of Odisha and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres are set-up at the initiative of State/ Union Territory Government(s). A total of 57 STPI centres have been setup across the country, out of which 49 centres are in nonmetro locations (State-wise list of STPI Centres is at Statement-I). The State of Odisha has 3 STPI centres located at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Rourkela. Further, 25 new STPI centres have been approved including 5 centres in the State of Odisha at Angul, Balasore, Jajpur, Koraput (Jeypore) and Sambalpur. (State-wise list of new STPI Centres is at Statement-II).

No proposal has been received from the State Government of Odisha for setting up of a STPI centre in Bargarh District.

Statement-I

List of existing STPI Centres

S.N	State	Centre Name
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada
2.		Tirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.	Assam	Guwahati
6.	Bihar	Patna
7.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
8.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
9.		Surat
10.	Haryana	Gurgaon

1	2	3
11.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
13.		Srinagar
14.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
15.	Karnataka	Bengaluru
16.		Hubli
17.		Mangalore
18.		Manipal
19.		Mysore
20.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
22.		Indore
23.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
24.		Kolhapur
25.		Nagpur
26.		Nasik
27.		Mumbai
28.		Pune
29.	Manipur	Imphal
30.	Meghalaya	Shillong
31.	Mizoram	Aizawl
32.	Odisha	Berhampur
33.		Bhubaneswar
34.		Rourkela
35.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
36.	Punjab	Mohali
37.	Rajasthan	Jaipur

1	2	3
38.		Jodhour
39.	Sikkim	Gangtok
40.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
41.		Coimbatore
42.		Madurai
43.		Tirunelveli
44.		Trichy
45.	Telangana	Hyderabad
46.		Warangal
47.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad
48.		Kanpur
49.		Lucknow
50.		Noida
51.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
52.	West Bengal	Durgapur
53.		Haldia
54.		Kharagpur
55.		Kolkata
56.		Siliguri
57.	Tripura	Agartala

Statement-II*List of upcoming STPI Centres*

S.N	State	Centre Name
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
2.	Bihar	Bhagalpur
3.		Darbhanga

1	2	3
4.	Goa	Goa
5.	Jharkhand	Bokaro
6.		Deoghar
7.		Dhanbad
8.		Jamshedpur
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
10.		Chhindwada
11.		Jabalpur
12.	Nagaland	Kohima-Dimapur
13.	Odisha Angul	
14.		Balasore
15.		Jajpur
16.		Koraput (Jeypore)
17.		Sambalpur
18.	Punjab	Amritsar
19.	Karnataka	Davangere
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
21.		Gorakhpur
22.		Meerut
23.		Varanasi
24.	Haryana	Panchkula
25.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar

Employment Generation by BPOs

910. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created huge employment opportunities under its BPO scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons so far employed under the scheme and the future plans thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to promote BPO operations in small cities and towns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Under Digital India programme, the Government has launched two BPO promotion schemes namely India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS), for creation of employment opportunities and promotion of investment in IT/ITeS sector across the country particularly in small cities/towns, by incentivizing setting up of 48,300 and 5,000 seats BPO/ITES operations by 31.03.2019 with an outlay of Rs. 493 crore and Rs. 50 crore respectively. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous organization of MeitY is the implementing agency for these schemes. Till now, under IBPS, a total of 31,732 seats have been allocated to successful bidders, resulting in setting up of 180 units distributed across ~90 locations of 20 States and 2 UTs. Out of these, 79 units have reported commencement of operations to STPI for a total of 13,780 seats with initial employment to 10,517 persons. While in NEBPS, a total of 2,060 seats have been allocated to successful bidders, resulting in setting up of 19 units across 5 NE States. Out of these, total 7 units have reported commencement of operation for a total of 900 seats with initial employment to 954 persons. Based on the feedback received from the stakeholders, the schemes are revised from time to time, so as to meet the objectives of these schemes at the earliest.

(c) and (d) The focus of the above BPO schemes is to promote BPO/ITeS operations in smaller cities/towns across the country, and the metro cities with significant level of IT/ITeS activity *viz.* Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, NCR and Pune have been excluded from IBPS. Further, there is a provision for Special Incentive for units setting up BPO/ITeS operations at locations other than the State capital.

Opening of Nathu LA Route

911. DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the issue of opening of the closed Nathu La route after Doklam standoff for Indian pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China recently referred the 1890 UK-China treaty on the demarcation of Indo-China border in Sikkim sector to follow and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government will rebut to Chinese side and place India's claim on the issue; and

(e) if so, the details of Government's view point in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD): (a) and (b) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Nathu La route was not undertaken in 2017 after the Chinese government cited unfavourable conditions to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the Yatra on this route. This matter was raised by the Government with the Chinese government, including during the meeting of the External Affairs Minister with the Chinese Foreign Minister in December, 2017. Subsequently, the Chinese government has confirmed resumption of Yatra on this route.

(c) to (e) India-China boundary in the Sikkim Sector is yet to be finalized. It is part of the mandate of the Special Representatives of India and China on Boundary Question, who are engaged in discussions, to find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question, including the Sikkim Sector.

Recruitment by C-DAC

912. DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that nine students were recruited by C-DAC in the end of 2016 as 'technical officers', through the process of campus placements and months later were informed that the C-DAC was unable to provide them the same post owing to administrative difficulties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to address their grievances;

(c) whether C-DAC will provide compensation for the loss suffered by the students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Due to administrative reasons the post offered during campus recruitment could not be offered. However, the position of "Knowledge Associate" has been offered to them and out of 9 students, 8 have accepted the alternate offer and joined C-DAC.

(c) to (e) Since the alternate offer has been issued, which is accepted by 8 out of 9 students, no compensation is due.

Quality of Food in Tejas Express

913. SHRI G. HARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Railways internal inquiry report has concluded that the quality of the food served on board the Tejas Express was satisfactory and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also true that more than 25 passengers were hospitalized due to food poisoning after consuming breakfast on the Tejas train between Goa and Mumbai and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that an omelette sample was not sent for testing and the omelette served to the passengers on board the Tejas Express was the epidemic centre of the incident which led to hospitalization of more than 25 passengers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An incident was reported in Train No. 22120 (Karmali-Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) Tejas Express on 15/10/2017 regarding suspected food poisoning by several passengers. 26 passengers fell ill after consuming breakfast.

(c) and (d) As per the report of the SAG (Senior Administrative Grade) level committee of Railway Officers constituted by Railway Board which conducted a detailed enquiry into the incident, samples of omelette served in the breakfast were not available. However, whatever samples could be collected on arrival of the train at Panvel were taken for testing and found normal as per the report of BMC (Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation) test laboratory.

Background Check for Shortlisted Candidates

914. SHRI OM BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered that background check shall be made mandatory for the shortlisted candidates for various posts of head of regulatory bodies and tribunals and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such order;

(b) the mechanism which is likely to be followed by the Government for conducting the background check;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for making the selection and shortlisting a more transparent procedure in the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has also initiated any plan for keeping check on the corruption level and increasing transparency during the whole process of shortlisting of candidates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) The procedure laid down by the Government for appointments to various posts in Tribunals and Regulatory Bodies requires shortlisting of candidates by the respective Selection Committee/Search-cum-Selection Committee and verification of character and antecedents of the shortlisted candidates thereafter before the Committee recommends a panel of candidates for consideration by the competent authority.

Withdrawal of Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

915. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the subsidy given to Haj pilgrims and revised the guidelines and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of Haj subsidy given by Government during last three years, State-wise with special reference to Hardoi and Sitapur districts of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government has finalized the modalities for re-allocation of the subsidy funds and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is urgent need for abolishing Government spending on pilgrimages of all religions; and

(e) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The responsibility for making air travel arrangements for Haj pilgrims identified by the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) is with Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). The amount of Haj subsidy given by the Government of India is reflected in the budget of MoCA, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard. The pilgrims deposit a fixed amount decided on year to year basis towards airfare to HCoI and the balance fare payable to the Airlines is paid by MoCA as subsidy to facilitate the Haj pilgrims. This subsidy is not provided State-wise/District-wise. The amount of subsidy provided to the Airlines during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 was Rs. 577.07 crore, Rs. 529.51 crore, and Rs. 405.39 crore respectively. For Haj 2017, a budgetary provision for Rs. 200 crore was provided for subsidy to the Airlines for the air travel of HCoI pilgrims. It has been decided to discontinue it from Haj 2018. However to minimize additional financial burden on Haj pilgrims for Haj 2018, choice has been given to intending pilgrims of specified Embarkation Points (EPs) to either opt for designated EP of their State or the nearest economical EP based on the indicative actual airfare for Haj 2017.

(c) The budget for the year 2018-19 for the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been increased by Rs. 505 Crore. It has been decided to allocate bulk of the additional funding for educational empowerment of Minority communities especially for Girls.

(d) and (e) Central Government does not provide any direct subsidy for pilgrims of any religious pilgrimage.

Funds to States

916. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to States in the financial year 2016-17, State and UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has granted special category status to some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria laid down therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Earlier, the Planning Commission was involved in the allocation of Central Assistance to State and Union Territory Plans (CASP) during the process of finalization of Annual Plan of States which is now not a mandate of NITI Aayog. The State-wise allocation under different schemes is now made by the concerned Ministry/ Department where the scheme rests.

(b) and (c) Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. Special Category Status has been granted to States that are characterized by the following criteria necessitating special consideration: (i) hilly and difficult terrain (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population (iii) strategic location along borders with neighboring countries (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of state finances.

The 11 States which have been conferred Special Category Status are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

NRI Marriages

917. SHRI SHIV KUMAR UDASI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the number of fraud cases in NRI marriages and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of action taken and assistance rendered to the deserted women caught in fraudulent marriages; and

(c) whether the Government has recommended a separate legislation to address issues including NRI matrimonial discord, maintenance of spouses and children, child custody and settlement of matrimonial property and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD)]: (a) The Ministry has been receiving petitions from Indian women about fraud cases of NRI marriages. In the year 2017 (upto Nov.), it received 1022 petitions compared to 1510 in 2016 and 796 in 2015. Most petitions received from them pertain to:

- (i) Harassment and ill-treatment by the husband and his family;
- (ii) Loss of communication with the spouse after he goes abroad;
- (iii) Request for assistance in serving judicial summons for Court proceedings in India;
- (iv) Assistance in obtaining maintenance and child support from the spouse;
- (v) Request for revoking and impounding passports of the spouse;
- (vi) Request for repatriation of the spouse to India; and
- (vii) Child-custody issues.

(b) Of 3328 complaints received during the last three years (January 2015 to November, 2017) from distressed Indian women deserted by their NRI spouses, this Ministry has addressed 3268 complaints by way of providing them counseling, guidance and information about procedures, mechanisms for serving judicial summons on the Overseas Indian husband; filing a case in India, issuing Look Out Circulars; getting access to lawyers and NGOs empanelled with Indian Missions etc.

With an aim to provide financial and legal assistance to distressed women married to NRI spouses by all Missions and Posts, the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Guidelines were revised in September, 2017. The amount of legal & financial assistance to distressed Indian

women has also been increased from US\$ 3000 to US\$ 4000 per case, and it is applicable to all overseas Indian Missions and Posts. The assistance is released to the empanelled legal counsel of the applicant or Indian Community Association/ Women's Organisation/NGO concerned to enable it to take steps to assist the woman in documentation and preparatory work for filing the case.

There is also a provision in the revised ICWF guidelines for maintaining a panel of 3-5 local lawyers/firms proficient in local language and law, and who enjoy credibility and have commitment and experience to assist deserving Indian national in distress in Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) and Top 20 countries with major Overseas Indian national population.

(c) No. However, the Government had set up an Expert Committee on NRI Marital Disputes, which presented its Report in August, 2017. Some of its recommendations including constitution of an Integrated Nodal Agency (INA) have been accepted and implemented and some are under further examination.

Minority Status to Castes and Communities

918. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from various castes and communities lying pending with the Government to accord minority status;

(b) the names of such castes and communities and the time since which their proposals/demands are lying pending with the Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on such proposals/demands?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): (a) to (c) Several proposals/requests from various castes and communities requesting for according minority status are received in this Ministry from time to time and are examined, considered and decisions taken.

[*Translation*]

Theft of Luggage of Passengers

919. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the rules for the Railways to compensate for luggage of passengers in case of robbery, dacoity or theft in general coaches;

(b) if so, the time by which the said provision is likely to be enforced;

(c) whether the said decision has been taken as per the order of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Branches of Border Roads Organisation

920. SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the states where the branches of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are functioning;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more branches of the organisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Chhattisgarh;

(d) whether BRO has launched/is likely to launch road projects in Maoist/naxal affected Bastar area of Chhattisgarh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) The States in which branches of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are functioning are as under:-

S.No.	State/UT
(i)	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(ii)	Arunachal Pradesh
(iii)	Assam
(iv)	Himachal Pradesh
(v)	Jammu and Kashmir
(vi)	Manipur
(vii)	Mizoram
(viii)	Nagaland
(ix)	Punjab
(x)	Rajasthan
(xi)	Sikkim
(xii)	Tripura
(xiii)	Uttarakhand
(xiv)	West Bengal
	(b) and (c) No, Madam.
	(d) and (e) No, Madam.

[Translation]

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, many notices for Adjournment Motions have been received, but it is not necessary to interrupt the proceeding for all the issues raised in the said motions. These issues can be raised on some other occasions and that's why I have not allowed any of them.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid,

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL VIJAY KUMAR SINGH) (RETD.): On behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English Version) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8705/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIONS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8706/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8707/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2018-1019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8708/16/18]

(2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8709/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STAFF IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English Version):

(1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Space for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8710/16/18]

(2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8711/16/18]

(3) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Central Vigilance Commission and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8712/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:

(1) (i) A copy of Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi for the year 2016-2017 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi for the year 2016-2017.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8713/16/18]

(3) A copy of Telecommunication Interconnection Regulations, 2018 (17 of 2018) (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 1997 published in the notification no. file no. 10-10/2016-BB&PA in the Gazette of India on 1st January, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8714/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) on behalf of Shri Alphons Kannanthanam I beg to lay on the Table.

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre fo Materials for Electronics Technology Pune, for the year 2016-2017.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8715/16/18]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 2016-2017 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune for the year 2016-2017.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8716/16/18]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National institute of Electronics and Information Technology. New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government off the working of the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at

(5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8717/16/18]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8718/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8719/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Gants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 2018-2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT8720/16/18]

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

39th Report

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

26th and 27th Reports

[*English*]

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation:

- (1) Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation based on Rules/Regulations framed under AIIMS Act, 1956.
- (2) Twenty-seventh Action Taken Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation on the observations/recommendations contained in Twenty-second Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha).

12.07 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

(i) 9th to 11th Reports

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports* (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes:

- (1) Ninth Report on "Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation" pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- (2) Tenth Report on "Need for greater budgetary allocations for various welfare measures/schemes for OBCs" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- (3) Eleventh Report on "Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Fod Corporation of India" pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

*These Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 14th December, 2017 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The matter was duly notified vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 28th December, 2017.

(ii) Statements

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the following Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes:

- (1) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the First Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fourth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Reservation in employment and Welfare measures for OBCs in the Reserve Bank of India pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services).
- (2) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations contained in the Seventh Report (Sixteen Lok Sabha) of the Committee regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on "Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their Welfare in Indian Oil Corporation Limited" pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: Those Hon. Members who have given notices under Rule 377 and whose number has come should put their related papers on the Table within 20 minutes. [*English*] Out of these, those matters shall be treated as laid for which text has been received at the Table within stipulated time. [*Translation*] The papers submitted after 20 minutes will be treated as lapsed.

...(Interruptions)

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to provide civic facilities in New Tehri, Uttarakhand

SHRIMATI MALA RAJYALAKSHMI SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): I would like to invite the attention of the Union Government towards my parliamentary constituency Tehri Garhwal. The largest dam of Asia bringing the country in the front line in the energy sector has come into existence as a result of the sacrifice of 109 villages of Tehri district and the historical town or Tehri itself. The town of New Tehri emerged after the old Tehri city submerged and most of the trader communities and the residents of New Tehri migrated from these due to unfavourable climate and environment. This has badly affected the population and social scenario of Tehri. Hanurnantha Rao Committee was constituted in the year 1994-95, whose recommendations were accepted by the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh and disseminated by the Ministry of Power of the Government of India. Its compliance has not taken place even after the completion or two decades. The condition of New Tehri city, constructed as per master plan, is extremely pitiable. The inhabitants of the city are demanding the drinking water scheme for providing safe drinking water to the people living in Tehri, playground for the children of the city, park with sitting facility for old people, sector-wise construction of community centres, construction of Chhamujhau-Chamba motor route, construction of ring-road around the dam and free supply of electricity to the villages located near the dam project site.

I would urge the Ministry of Power under the Union Government to carry out the said construction work for the convenience of new Tehri city inhabitants.

(ii) Need to provide stoppage of Dayodaya Express (Train No. 12181/82) and Jaipur-Indore Express (Train No. 12973/74) at Isarda Railway Station in Tonk-Sawai Madhopur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (Tonk-Sawai Madhopur): Ghushrneshwar Jyotirling is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of my parliamentary constituency. It is 12th Jyotirling which is located in Shiwar area or Sawai Madhopur district. Lakhs of devotees from every corner of the country visit there and the number of devotees rise to a great extent in the month of Shravana. It rains a lot in the month of Shravana which creates a lot of problems for the devotees coming here through the road route. Therefore, railways is the only mode of travel there.

I would like to demand from the government to give stoppage of Dayodaya Express train no. 12181-82 and Jaipur-Indore Express. train No. 12973-74 at the Isarda

Railway Station. Ghushrneshwar Jyotirling is at a distance of two and a half kilometres from here. At present, there is no stoppage of any train for nine and a half hours from Sawai Madhopur to Isarda and from Isarda to Jaipur. Almost 100 gram panchayats of this place are facing a lot of problems. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Hon. Minister to give stoppage of these trains at Isarda railway station at the earliest so that the nearby rural people besides the devotees could get its benefit.

(iii) Need to include milk in Mid-day Meal Scheme

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN) To ensure a nutritious meal to the school children, the Government must consider to include Milk as part of the Mid-Day meal scheme. Milk may also be introduced in the National Nutrition Mission through the Anganwadi Scheme, which will ultimately help the country to tackle the issue of malnourishment among the children. This will help the dairy farmers and the industry to get better returns as a part of the Agriculture Ministry's plan to increase India's milk production by 2022 and to double farmers' incomes through the dairy industries.

While the Ministry plans to introduce milk as a constituent steps must be taken to ensure the Quality and the Nutrient Value of the milk being given to the beneficiaries. The quality test in this regard be performed at School or Anganwadi levels after imparting proper training to the local authorities.

(iv) Regarding cultivation of bamboo in Chambal Region of Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (Bhind): 7 lakh hectare of land in Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh is covered with ravines. The entire region is arid because of decoity and lack of technology. The land of this region is very fertile. Yamuna, Chambal and Kunwari rivers flow within 20 kilometres. Therefore, water is available here in abundance. The problem of decoity has been eradicated. Now, the entire region is ready for development.

As per the new policy of the Government of India, bamboo has been exempted from the list of Forest Act. So, the Government of India is expected to take effective initiative for plantation of bamboo in the entire region to benefit.

(v) Regarding Construction of National Highway connecting NH-19, NH 28 and NH 28B in Bihar

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Saran): There is a demand to construct a national highway connecting NH 19 to NH 28 after crossing newly constructed Patna-

Digha bridge at West embankment of Saran in Gopalganj till NH28B alter crossing Dumaria Ghat bridge at east embankment of Saran. This road can be constructed at present over Saran embankment which has been bituminized or parallel to the Gandak river where adequate land without population is available.

The length of this road is about 15 kilometers which will connect Sonpur- Dariapur-Maker-Amnaur-Taraiya-Panapur Mashrakh-Baikunthpur-Sighwalia-Barauli-Manjha blocks and connecting NH 19, 28 and 2813 in Bihar. Two crore population of Bihar will benefit from the construction of the said road. The distance of all the said district headquarters from Patna Headquarter will decrease by 3 to 5 hours. Besides, it will join NH-28 at Nepal border which is important for country's security. This road proposed on river bank can also be a part or notified portion or Gandak watershed or your Ministry.

Proposal: 2 Construction of road on the east parallel to the present Saran Embankment where adequate land without population is available.

(vi) Regarding organ donation in the country

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Despite being the world's second most populated country, India is facing a severe shortage of organ donors. It is estimated that over 5 lakh people who need organ transplants die every year due to non-availability of organs. Every year around 1 lakh people need liver transplants. Only 2-3% of the organ requirement is met, 1.5 lakh people require kidney transplants every year but only 5000 people get them. According to the World Health Organisation only 0.01% people in India pledge their organs.

Of the 1.5 crore people suffering from blindness in India, almost 25% suffer from Corneal blindness. In most cases, Corneal blindness can be corrected by a Cornea transplant. Annually, there is a requirement of 1 lakh corneas, but only 10,000 corneas are retrieved every year. Of the eyes that are donated only 30% are used for the treatment of corneal blindness. The eyes that are collected go to waste in a lot of cases because they are not extracted and preserved properly.

India lacks the logistics required to transport donated organs. Organs being transported over long distances become unfit for transplant when they are not preserved properly during transit.

There is a need to spread awareness about organ donation and to dispel any myths associated with it to encourage people to pledge their organs. There is also a need to set up more organ banks and the required logistics to collect and preserve organs to make sure that they are not wasted due to improper preservation.

(vii) Need to send a central team to report on pollution of rivers in Chatra Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand and to take necessary remedial measures

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (Chatra): In my parliamentary constituency Chatra, Devnadi-Damodar river flows through Chandwa which empties in the Bay of Bengal passing through various districts of Jharkhand and Bengal, Devnadi-Damodar is called the lifeline of Jharkhand. Apart from Damodar, many other rivers also flow through Chatra Lok Sabha Constituency, but the existence of these rivers is in danger today because of pollution and encroachment. The water of these rivers has become harmful for human beings, livestock and agriculture. The rivers are becoming narrow because of continuous sand mining. Pollution level is increasing continuously. The central and state public sector undertakings are responsible for pollution and encroachment. Various power production units including coal companies like Hindalco, CCL, BCCL, Piparwar, Amrapali and Magadh and Patratu dispose of their waste and polluted effluents in Damodar and other rivers. Private companies are also polluting these rivers.

It may also be mentioned that air and environment is getting polluted also because of non-compliance of the laid down norms for coal transportation due to which people living in the nearby villages are getting affected with diseases. Hundreds of people become victims or accidents every year due to uncontrolled coal transportation. The Railways is also not taking effective steps to control pollution caused by coal.

I demand from the related Ministries of the Government of India to take necessary steps to make various rivers including Damodar pollution free at the earliest. Along with it, the coal companies such as Hindalco, CCI, BCCL, etc. should be given strict instructions to take measures to make rivers pollution-free. The Union Government should send a central investigation team at Ministry level to report on the quality of water and air pollution and the factors causing pollution in the rivers of Jharkhand and especially in Chatra Lok Sabha Constituency and take action in this regard.

(viii) Need to set up a Gas Filling Station of Gas Authority of India Limited at Village Kheri, Tehsil Konch in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): A gas pipe line check post or Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is functioning in Village Kheri, Tehsil Konch in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun-Garautha, Bhognipur. If a Gas Filling Station is set up there, gas supply will be provided especially in border districts of Madhya Pradesh such as Bhind, Muraina, Daria and Gwalior along with many districts of Uttar Pradesh J11d entire Bundelkhand. Gas Filling Station is situated about 200 kilometers from my constituency. After setting up of this plant, expenditure worth crores on freight will be definitely saved, as also time.

Therefore, I demand from the Union Government to develop a township by setting up a Filling Station of GAIL at Village Kheri, Tehsil Konch which will definitely promote industrial development of Jalaun-Garautha and will be prove as a milestone in removing backwardness of Bundelkhand.

(ix) Need to release remaining funds to Maharashtra Government under Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme and also extend the fund utilisation period to 2019-20

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (Mumbai North): The Central Government had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 3250 crores for Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Programme in 2012 for five years under National Agriculture Development Scheme. The amount was sanctioned by the Central Government to State Government under special assistance programme.

The Maharashtra Government has sent a detailed report to the Central Government with the requirement of a sum of Rs. 3136.71 crores under this programme but the Central Government has released 874.67 crores to the State Government and the time limit to utilize this funds would expire by March, 2017.

On 27th December, 2016 the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State requested the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to release the remain amount of Rs. 380 crores for the year 2016-17 and to extend the time period of utilisation or remaining funds of Rs. 1995.35 crores by 20,19-20 i.e. in the coming three years, no progress has been made in this regard till now.

I request the Central Government that the pending amount of Rs. 380 crores for the year 2016-17 may be

released early and the fund utilization period for the remaining amount of Rs.1995.35 crores be extended up to 2019- 20 i.e. in the coming three years.

(x) Need to shift antique statue of Devi Rukmani from Archeological Museum at Vidisha to Damayanti Archeological Museum, Darnoh district, Madhya Pradesh for safe custody

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Damoh): The antique statue of Devi Rukmani was stolen from Kundalpur, district Darnoh Madhya Pradesh in the night of dated 4.2.2002. The statue was recovered by Damoh Police on 5.4.2002 from Hindoli district in Rajasthan. To ensure the safety of the statue, it has been kept in the Archeological Museum at Gyaraspur, district Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. Now the statue can be kept safely at Damayanti Archeological Museum, Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh as the District Administration of Damoh has consented and is confident about the safety of the statue. I have requested the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh also in this regard, Kindly ensure necessary action in coordination with the MP Government to shift the statue of Rukmani Devi from Archeological Museum at Gyaraspur, district Vidisha to Damayanti Archeological Museum, Damoh district, Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the sentiments of the people.

(xi) Need to compensate farmers whose land falls on barbed wire fencing on international border

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Ganganagar): Approximately one acre land of local farmers is falling under safety ambit due to barbed wire fencing which was installed on Indo-Pak border from safety point of view. These farmers can neither do farming nor irrigation independently. Incidents of misbehaviour with women have also been reported from there. Therefore, it is very difficult to do farming there and farmers in this border area are suffering losses. As a result, these farmers are gradually becoming poor.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to provide adequate compensation to these farmers whose land falls on barbed wire fencing so that they could purchase land at some other place to sustain their life.

(xii) Need to create Legislative Council in Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (Sidhi): The characteristic of Indian Democracy is that it ensures involvement and participation of people in the Government. Our Government is also focused on it and is working with a motto of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas.'

We have a bicameral system of Parliament which consists of two Houses i.e. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. On the same lines, the Constitution has provided legislative councils in the States. I observe that apart from the electoral politics the intention behind it is to use and benefit from the knowledge and experience of the people experts in various fields through this House.

I feel that no one is omniscient. Different people are expert in different subjects, like some people are expert in the field of sports, some in literature and its various forms, some people interact with the farmers and students to know their problems and to work for their progress and some work in the field of science. We and this House need the expertise and experience of such people.

However, there are some States where Legislative Councils have not been provided. I am talking especially about Madhya Pradesh. Since decades we have failed to take the benefit or such expertise in various fields in the absence of Legislative Council though many of our neighboring states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar which have legislative councils are being benefited by it.

I have heard that national poet Shri Dinkar was once a part of our Upper House. It was possible because we have constituted Rajya Sabha.

We are unable to utilize the talents of many Dinkars and Tendulkars in our state in the absence of legislative council in Madhya Pradesh will not only provide an opportunity to eminent personalities but will also be useful for the State and the Government as well.

Through you, I request the Government and the Hon'ble Prime Minister to take necessary action to constitute Legislative Council in Madhya Pradesh to provide opportunities to talented people.

(xiii) Need to impress upon Government of Bihar to conduct feasibility study of construction of Tirth canal phase-II and protect the interests of farmers

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (Muzaffarpur): The process regarding construction of Tirth canal phase-II in my Parliamentary Constituency Muzaffarpur is going on, but there is resentment and opposition over it among farmers and common people in the area because not only the villages and colonies would be displaced but also the farmers are not expecting the desired benefit of irrigation from it as they have not yet received a single drop of water from the construction of first phase of this canal. Moreover, further work on this project was stopped when the question was raised on its usefulness and technical

feasibility. Now, after 42 years the process has been initiated for construction of phase-II of this canal. Another point is that the land which was acquired 42 years ago is physically in possession of the farmers as on date and they are not being provided compensation as per the new law. Sub-Section (2) of Section 24 of Land Acquisition Act 2013 clearly states that the acquisition of land made under old Land Acquisition Act of 1894 would lapse if the acquisition has been made five years or more prior to this Act and the land is still in possession of farmers physically.

I would like to demand from the Government to give directions to the Bihar Government to conduct cost and benefit study to assess the feasibility of irrigation from the catchment area of the city canal developed 42 years ago. Distributory outlet should be made on the earlier constructed area to ensure supply of water to fields and a topography of this area should be done and if it is feasible and expansion is beneficial, then the compensation for the acquired land should be paid adequately and the families of scheduled castes communities should be rehabilitated adequately after cultural and social impact assessment is done under the Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

(xiv) Regarding honouring private medical practitioners doing free service under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

[English]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASHCHIM CHAMPARAN): Scores of Private Medical Practitioners are attending to poor pregnant women on 9th day of every month. They are conducting free checkup and free medical treatment facilities in their own Clinics and Nursing Homes under Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan. We have a responsibility of honouring such Medical Practitioners who are serving with good hearts.

(xv) Need to provide alternative land to farmers of Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Banner districts in Rajasthan whose lands fall beyond fencing along international border in Rajasthan

[Translation]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Soon after our independence, the process for partition of our country was started and demarcation of the Indo-Pak border was done by the architect Radcliffe. Thereafter, pillars were installed to demarcate the border. In 1994-95 a decision was taken to install barbed wire fencing on the border from security point of view. Wire fencing was

done on India's border at a distance of 150 yards i.e. about 450 feet from the pillar within Indian territory as per the international norms. The work of land acquisition for this purpose and wire fencing was done by the Defence Ministry and the Revenue Department of the concerned State. Before fencing, farmers used to cultivate their land near the pillar. The informed farmers of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts of Rajasthan discussed their issues with the Ministry or Defence and the officers of Revenue Department after which the gates were opened after every 1-2 Km. as per their convenience to enable them to do farming. However, due to lack of education and awareness, the farmers of Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Banner failed to do so at the time of lenciruz in their districts. As a result 1959 farmers or 55 villages located in three districts spread over 666 Km. are deprived of farming on 11465 bighas of ancestral land. The Central and State Government have failed to provide any solution to the problem despite several demands made and demonstrations held by the farmers, which compelled the farmers to approach the Hon'ble High Court in the hope of justice. On 28.1.2013 the Hon'ble Court ordered the Central and State Governments as well as the concerned Heads of the Departments to allow these farmers to cultivate their ancestral land and to address their issues as per their demand. Keeping in view the problems of these farmers earlier also drew the attention of the Government in this regard by raising their issue on 9.12.2014 under Rule 377 and wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs also but unfortunately no decision has been taken in the interest of the farmers till now.

I would like to clarify that 100 meters of land has been covered between zero point and wire fencing on Indo-Pak border hut farmers have given the possession of only 6 feet of land i.e. the compensation has been given only for the land which falls under the wire fencing though 100 meters of land has been left from wire fencing to zero point which is about 11 thousand highas spread upto 666 kilometers in four districts of Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan. Farmers are demanding:

- (1) In lieu of the 11 thousand Bighas of land covered from zero point to wire fencing alternate land should be provided to the farmers in the nearest revenue villages.
- (2) The compensation for the remaining land should be given as per the market rate.
- (3) Farmers should be allowed to do farming on their land by opening the gate after every 1-2 kilometers.

(xvi) Need to establish an Integrated Bio-Centre for Horticulture crop in Chamarajanagar parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka

[English]

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the establishment of Integrated Bio-Centre (Horticulture programme) in my Constituency Headquarters under public sector in Chamarajanagar District, horticulture crops are being grown in an area of 51,754 hectares with the production of 6,90,117.47 MT. Under National Horticulture Mission Programme, a lot of extension and development works were done since inception of this scheme by 2007-08. After the implementation of NHM programme for the past 10 years, horticulture area is being increased from 38,486 Ha, to 51,754 Ha. For the benefit of farmers of my Constituency the Integrated Bio-Centre has to be started with the following objectives.

- (a) Production of tissue culture plants like Banana and other Ornamental plants
- (b) Training of Officers and farmers for various horticulture activities.
- (c) Soil, water and leaf analysis lab.
- (d) Production of Bio-fertilizers.
- (e) Production and supply of mushroom spawn.

As it is very essential to have an integrated Bio-Centre at my Constituency Headquarters, I hereby urge the Union Government to sanction the establishment of integrated Bio-Centre to help produce technology for control and stabilization of plant rates in my Constituency.

(xvii) Regarding shortage of coal supply to power Plants in Karnataka

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): I would like to raise an important issue regarding severe shortage of coal supply to power plants in the state of Karnataka, Karnataka is reeling under acute coal shortage to generate power from thermal power station. The Government of Karnataka is making all out efforts to use all kinds of alternative power generating mechanism to ensure that there is no shortage of power in the state. At this juncture it is my humble request to the Union government to join hands with the efforts of the state

government to supply adequate coal to power plants of the state to ensure power supply to all including domestic and agriculture sectors.

(xviii) Need to implement recommendations of Kamlesh Chandra Committee report on Gramin Dak Sevaks

SHRI K. AHSOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS), employees in Postal Department working in rural as well as in remote areas are paid low wages. It is the only wider unit to spread the welfare schemes in the nation and the GDS employees are the backbone of the department to implement the welfare schemes of the government throughout the nation. But it is a pathetic situation that least attention is given by the government for the betterment of the livelihood of the employees working in the department. The other departmental employees other than GDS employees are getting their wage revision by the recommendation of 7th Central Pay Commission with effect from 01.01.2016 onwards. The Kamlesh Chandra Committee's report of 24th November 2016 is on hold since long.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to implement the Kamlesh Chandra Committee's report for the benefit of more than 2 lakh 65 thousand Gramin Das Sevaks.

(xix) Need to expedite various railway works in Sriperumbudur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Ambattur Railway station comes under my Sriperumbudur Parliamentary Constituency and is having a population of nearly seven lakhs and also a floating population of another five to six lakhs. For its ideal location, it is now a hub for several industries software companies, educational institutions and many famous hospitals. It is well connected with roads from all parts of the Chennai city. But the people of my Sriperumbudur constituency, employees, workers, students, doctors and common public are finding it very difficult to commute from Chennai Central Railway station. It will be very useful for public utility if passenger trains, fast and super fast trains stop at Ambattur railway station. I strongly plead that there will be good revenue increase to our railways once train stoppages are permitted.

The station platform is good enough to accommodate lengthy trains also and there is a lot of space available for expansion in future. With regard to the repair of Ambattur rail bridge, if the department is able to renovate the bridge at the earliest it will be very useful for common people.

Tamabaram Railway Station was announced as Terminal 3 station for outstation trains to southern part of the Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states I request the Government to expedite the same as it would cater to millions of commuters.

(xx) Need to name the superfast train running between Puri and Paradip in Odisha as Adikabi Sarala Das Superfast Express

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): I would like to state that Sarala Das known as Adikabi and Sudramuni, is a 15th Century poet and scholar of Odia Literature Sarala Das a self educated man from Kanakpur in Jagatsinghpur, Odisha wrote Mahabharata, Ramayana and Chandi Purana in Odia and thus achieved an incredible feat. It is important to note that he is the first scholar to write in Odia. As one of the founders of Odia literature, his work has formed an enduring source of information on Odisha's history, religion, utilization culture, philosophy etc. The sense of Odia nationality has appropriately been reflected in his writings.

So to memorise the contribution of such a great personality, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Railways to name the superfast train running between Puri and Paradip via his birthplace, Kanakpur in Jagatsinghpur as Adikabi Sarala Das superfast Express Train.

(xxi) Need to provide Metro rail service in Sambhajinagar in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Today, I demand launching of Metro Rail Service in my Parliamentary Constituency and district Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad).

Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) is a rapidly developing city. The city witnessed a huge change after coming into Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor,

alongwith this Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad-Maharashtra) is known as the tourist capital of Maharashtra. Apart from world heritage, Ajanta-Ellora, Bibi ka Makhara, Panchakki, Daulatabad fort like historical heritages are located here resulting in increase in the number of tourists visiting this city. The number of tourists visiting this city is also always high as 12th Jyotirling Grihneswar, Shirdi and the biggest pilgrim place of Shanidev, Shani-Shignapur are also located near it.

Launching of metro rail as public transport in this city is being talked about for long. Starting a metro rail will result in further increase in the number of tourists on the one hand and the local citizens will also get better transport system on the other. Industrial area Shendra and Bidkin should be connected with Waluj by metro rail.

Hence, it is my request to the government to start the survey work immediately by making a provision in the next budget for starting metro rail service in Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad-Maharashtra).

(xxii) Need to construct a flyover on National Highway 161 at Madnur in Zahirabad Parliamentary Constituency of Telangana

[English]

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): In my constituency there is national Highway 161 and the same is being improved as 4 lane. It is not having any flyover at Madnur where another Highway known as 166BB is also sanctioned in other words, both the Highways will touch at Madnur and there is imperative need to have a flyover at Km. 130/630 to allow free traffic at Madnur without causing any kind of traffic disturbances and also to avoid accidents in future. It is requested to kindly consider and take early steps to evolve the suitable alterations in the design concerned and also take simultaneous action for the construction of flyover at Madnur on NH 161 at Km. 130/160.

(xxiii) Need to provide reservation to marariya caste of Muslim Community in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (Bhagalpur): Marariya caste of Muslim community is a very backward caste of the minority muslim community. This caste does not get the benefit of government scheme and its main reason is

that marariya caste is not included in Schedule-1 of castes in Bihar. Marariya caste which is economically and socially backward has remained neglected in Bihar. This caste is also not getting opportunities of employment etc. whereas various castes of the minority muslim community are included in Schedule-1 of castes in Bihar and all these caste categories are being provided the benefits of government schemes including reservation in government jobs but the government of Bihar has not taken any positive step to provide equal opportunity to Marariya Muslims who are forced to lead their lives in pathetic economic and social condition, nor is any survey being conducted to make any actual assessment of the present miserable condition of marariya muslims so as to improve their condition.

Hence, I request the government to direct the government of Bihar to include the Marariya Muslim caste in Schedule-1 of castes of the state to improve the standard of living of persons belonging to this caste.

(xxiv) Need to shift headquarters of Coal India Limited from Kolkata to Jharkhand

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (Rajmahal): Under Rule 377, I would like to inform the government that Jharkhand accounts for 38 per cent coal production in the country. Out of the 24 districts of Jharkhand, coal is produced in 15 districts of Jharkhand. Mining of coal is carried out in Odisha, Chhattishgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam and West Bengal but the scale of mining activity is highest in Jharkhand. Handling and managing most of the production of coal is carried out in Jharkhand state but the headquarter off Coal India limited is located at Kolkata. As the headquarter is located at Kolkata, the revenue goes to West Bengal instead of Jharkhand which is a gross injustice. Alongwith this, the youths of Jharkhand do not get employment as the headquarter of Coal India Limited is located in Kolkata. CIL is unable to monitor its production activity and functioning of coal mines and nor are the safety ruels implemented as per the rule as its headquarter is located at Kolkata and most of the production is carried out in Jharkhand. Most of the revenue of CIL is spent unnecessarily as its headquarter is located at Kolkata.

I request the government to shift the CIL headquarter from Kolkata to any coal producing district which is essential for the balanced development of the country.

(xxv) Need for early completion of Angamaly Sabari Railway line Project in Kerala*[English]*

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (Idukki): Though the Angamaly Sabari Railway Project has been sanctioned and work commenced 19 years ago, the railway could complete only 5 kilometers of railway line out of 116 kilometers length. After setting the dispute on coast sharing, the Government of Kerala and Railway entered into an agreement and a joint venture company had been incorporated. In the current year's budget, Rs. 213.59 crore is allocated for the project. Hon'ble Prime Minister included the project in PRAGATI. During the 10th PRAGATI interaction on 16th October 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister agreed to complete the project with full Central Government fund. The Hon'ble Railway Minister also agreed for the same during the discussion with the Chief Minister of Kerala. The railway has not approved the revised estimate and is not taking steps to start the work due to the ambiguity in coast sharing. Hence the intervention of the Government is requested.

12.09 hrs.**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS....Contd.***[English]*

HON. SPEAKER, I am requesting all of you to please go back to your seats. You want a solution therefore you should show some respect to the Prime Minister. Please go back to your seats. We will start discussion on the Motion of Thanks.

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER, I cannot give you any solution. You have to go back to your seats and then only you can speak.

...(Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): I would request all the Hon. Members of Parliament from Telugu Desam Party and YSR Congress Party from Andhra Pradesh. Now Hon. Prime

Minister is going to reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. *...(Interruptions).*

HON. SPEAKER: A dialogue should not go like this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Thota Narasimham Ji, that matter is before the hon. Speaker I would request all of you to resume your seats and cooperate *...(Interruptions).*

HON. SPEAKER: You go back to your seats. Then only I can hear something. This is not the way, First, you have to go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)****12.10 hrs.**

(At this stage, Shri Thota Narasimham and some other hon. Members went back to their seats).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You sit down. You don't conduct the House.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Please go back to your seats, I can understand.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Jyotiraditya Ji what is this going on?

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening? You, please it down.

...(Interruptions)

Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, what is this happening why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You, please sit down. Don't you want the House to run? What are you people doing?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Karunakaranji, please sit down Shri Sampatji, you please take your seat.

Shri Rajesh ji, please go to your seat. What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Khargeji, you are leader, please control a little bit. What is this happening?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the matter you are connected with. You are doing the same thing again. I am sorry about this.

Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

12.11 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Velagapalli Varaprasad Rao and some other hon. Members left the House).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I don't want anyone to speak. You do not put the members of your party under control. I don't want anyone to speak now. This is not the way, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening? You want to create disturbance. What is this? First you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): Madam Speaker. I want to say that when I was speaking with your permission, at that time no discipline was maintained, but now why is this being done?

...(Interruptions) Do you want to prevent me?
..(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not preventing anybody.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: So, we also are demanding the same thing whatever were promised during the time of the Reorganisation of the Andhra Pradesh State should be fulfilled. Whatever provisions are there in the AP Reorganisation Act should be implemented. That was my plea. At that time these people opposed me.

HON. SPEAKER: That is not my problem.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I was telling the same thing at that time.

12.13 hrs.

(At this stage Shri K.C. Venugopal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: It is Okay. But this issue will not get solved in way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, you give permission to make a reply.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

*DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (Chennai South): I would like to place my views on severe issues with regards to the state of Tamil Nadu on the motion of thanks on the President's address.

It is a deep concern for our entire country about the unabated apprehensions of Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu by Sh. Lankan Navy and the implications of the new Bill introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament of 24th January, 2018 with provisions to impose huge penalties of Indian fishermen, who engage in legitimate fishing in their traditional fishing grounds of Palk Bay.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

New amendments made in the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, 1960 of Sri Lanka during the year 2017 has banned and declared bottom trawling as a punishable offence. In addition, a new Bill named the Foreign Fishing Vessels Bill, has also been approved by the Sri Lankan Cabinet which provides for stringent penalties against fishing in the sovereign territory of Sri Lanka. It is widely reported in the media, that the Bill has been introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament on 24.01.2018 and its provisions were aimed at Indian fishing Trawlers from Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu fishermen, as well as their fishing gear, while they are peacefully fishing in their traditional fishing waters of Palk Bay. This new Bill has provisions to incarcerate our fishermen for longer periods of time and impose huge penalties, which run upto few crores of Indian rupees. The life and livelihood of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who fish in the traditional waters of Palk Bay, will then be left at the mercy of the Sri Lankan Government. This move has created widespread anger of the Sri Lankan Government. This move has created widespread statement and panic amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu, especially amongst the fisherman fishing in the Palk Bay. It is an extremely unfortunate development at the time when the Ministers of India and Sri Lanka met twice and the Joint Working Group on Fisheries met thrice to work out a permanent solution to resolve this long pending sensitive livelihood issue. In addition the Government of Tamil Nadu with the support of Government of India has initiated various proactive measures to decongest the Palk Bay and diversify the trawling fishing effort from Palk Bay into deep sea fishing. This unilateral move by the Government of Sri Lanka has far reaching implications on the livelihood propositions of fishermen from Tamil Nadu and will definitely hamper proactive efforts taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the diplomatic efforts taken by the Government of India. Palk Bay is the historic and traditional fishing area of Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu. Their historical rights were simply signed away as part of the ill-advised Indo-Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976, which also unilaterally ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka without having any foresight or concern for the plight of our innocent fishermen. The stand of our Revered Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the Government of Tamil Nadu to abrogate the 1974 Indo Sri Lankan agreement that created an imaginary International Maritime Boundary Line and ceded the Katchatheevu is let along with the potential traditional fishing grounds of our fishermen to Sri Lanka is sub-judice before the Supreme Court of India. Thus it would be lifting for the Government of India to register its strong disapproval of such a move affecting the livelihood of our fishermen in the Palk Bay. At the highest diplomatic level. The country is also

aware that equipments which are essential for fishermen to earn their humble livelihood, have not yet been released by Sri Lanka long periods of disuse and the monsoons have condemned the boats and equipment to ruin and the poor fishermen are being subjected to a huge permanent loss. It is therefore requested that the only means of livelihood of our fishermen is returned in a refurbished condition by the Government of India at the earliest. It is requested that Central Government to immediately take action through the highest diplomatic channels to secure the release of our fishermen and their fishing boat. It is once again reiterated that the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Mission in Sri Lanka must immediately and effectively respond to this latest move by the Sri Lanka side by registering our strong protest against the new legislation of the Sri Lankan Government and ensure that the Act is not implemented.

Regarding agriculture, it has been a long pending demand of the government of Tamil Nadu for formation of Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery water regulation Committee for the implementation of the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes tribunal. I would once again reiterate the decision of the Government of Tamil Nadu that there is no need to constitute a Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate the Inter-state River Water Disputes amongst the States. Without prejudice to the above decision, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India the following view points which have far reaching implications, if the present Act, 1956 is amended as proposed by the Government of India.

Each and every water dispute amongst the States is unique in character and the water disputes that would arise are complex in their mode unlike the usual civil and criminal cases normally dealt with by the courts; The river basins differ widely in the total availability, utilization and nature of use of water in them, besides the socio-economic conditions and other parameters that required to be examined in allocating the resources; The present Act of 1956 does not speak about the tenure of appointment of a Chairman and two other members nominated by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India from amongst persons who at the time of such nomination are judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court or of a High Court. However, under the proviso in clause (4), an upper age limit has been prescribed if the proposed legislation is enacted and comes into force. In so far as the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is concerned, the Members appointed are hearing the dispute right from the year 1991 and they have already crossed 70 years of age. The Government of India has also notified the appointment of a Chairman to the

Tribunal very recently. The new Chairman has not yet commenced hearing the pending 5(3) Applications along with the Members because of the IAs filed by Tamil Nadu with regard to seeking an order for the Tribunal to proceed with these Applications pending disposal of the Civil Appeals filed by Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. If this draft Bill is enacted by the Parliament and comes into force the two members will cease to hold office as members of the Tribunal because of the age constraint and so also the Chairman.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has been constituted by the Government of India based on the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. No. 13347 of 1983 on 4.5.1990. Therefore, the Transfer of the pending 6(3) Applications to the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal under clause ...of the draft Bill on its enactment, shall not be done without the leave of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has rendered its final decision on 5.2.2007. This decision has also been notified by the Government of India with reference to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 9.12.2016 has held that the appeals filed by the Government of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu against the final decision of the Tribunal dated 5.2.2007 are maintainable. So, in respect of Cauvery Water Dispute only 5(3) Applications are pending for the Tribunal to forward a further report to the Central Government. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal will be in a better position in terms of continuity and institutional memory to dispose of 5(3) Applications. In these circumstances, there is no need to transfer the 5(3) matters pending before the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal to the Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication in the event of the proposed amendments to the Act of 1956 coming into force.

As regards clause 9A of the draft Bill, relating to maintenance of data bank and information, the Government of Tamil Nadu in D.O. No. 10669/ISW2/2001-7 dated 31.7.2001 informed the Government of India that the data supplied by the State Government need not be verified by the Central Government and the amendment would not be necessary. The Government of Tamil Nadu reiterates this view again. In the circumstances, the Government of Tamil Nadu firmly believes that the provisions in the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 as amended upto 2002 (Act No. 14 of 2002) would suffice to adjudicate the Inter-State River Water Disputes amongst the States and therefore, there is no need to make amendments to the provisions of the Act as envisaged by the Government of India in the draft Bill of 2017. Further the Government

of Tamil Nadu conveys its decision that the functioning of the existing Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal should not be hampered in the pretext of transfer of the pending applications to the proposed constitution of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal. I, therefore urge the central government to kindly not process or proceed further on the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha, among others that envisages the constitution of a Permanent Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate River Water Disputes amongst the States. I would like to bring it to the notice of the house to the notified. Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, dated 5th February 2007, according to which Tamil Nadu has to get 192 TMC ft water in a year at Billigundulu as per the monthly schedule specified in the order. But as on 09.01.2018 only 111.647 TMC ft has been realized at Billigundulu against 179.871 TMC ft due by that date, leaving a deficit of 68.224 TMC ft. In this irrigation year 2017-18, the Mettur reservoir could be opened for irrigation only on 2nd October, 2017 against the normal date of 12th June, 2017, as the inflow into the reservoir was poor and the storage was inadequate. Though the Samba cultivation commenced soon after and the rainfall due to the North East Monsoon was helpful in the beginning, the intensity of rainfall became heavy and destructive by the end of October, 2017. The young crop could not withstand the onslaught of such rainfall and got damaged to a considerable extent. The farmers of the Cauvery delta had to replant the crop, as a result of which the crop period got extended. These standing crops need irrigation in the critical stage of crop growth maturity, namely, milky and dough stage, for which irrigation has to be extended beyond January 2018. At this instance, I would like to point out that the farmers of Cauvery delta lost their crop last year, 2016-17, due to deficit inflows into Mettur reservoir. The storage in the Mettur reservoir as on 12.1.2018 is a meagre 21.27 TMC ft (utilizable storage 16.27 TMC ft). This is grossly inadequate to meet the irrigation needs of the standing crops and drinking water needs during the summer months. The crop season in Karnataka is already over and there is a gross storage of about 49.82 TMC ft as on 12.1.2018 in the State's four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin. After reserving the minimum needs of drinking water supply and perennial crops, Karnataka can release at least 15 TMC ft to Tamil Nadu to make up a part of the shortfall, which is required to meet the crucial needs of the standing crops in the Cauvery delta. I request the government of India to urge the state government of Karnataka to consider the plight of the large number of farmers of the delta region who depend on the success of this crop to meet their livelihood and instruct them to release 7 TMC ft of water immediately and the balance within a fortnight, from the existing storage for saving the standing crops.

I wish to bring it to the notice of the Government that about 850 fireworks manufacturing units are functioning in Tamil Nadu. These units are mostly located in Virudhunagar District and contribute 90% of the fireworks produced in the country. They provide employment to more than 8 lakh people mostly women, directly or indirectly. All the manufacturers observe very high standards of safety and have evolved as a well regulated Industry over a period of time. However, recently the industry is facing a major setback, due to filing of Public Interest Litigations by a few NGOs and individuals before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to ban manufacture, sale and use of fireworks in any form. The manufacturers of fireworks have suffered very severe financial losses and there has also been loss of employment due to imposition of ban on sale of fireworks in NCR region during the 2017 Diwali season. Even though the ban was subsequently lifted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, few more Public Interest Litigations have been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the same have been admitted. This has created fear and uncertainty in the minds of the firework manufacturers leading to disruption of production as they are unsure about the outcome of the pending Public Interest Litigations. The use of fireworks during Diwali and many other religious and cultural festivals is deeply rooted in our tradition. Even in the developed countries like U.S.A. Singapore, Japan, Australia and the EU nations allow massive display of fireworks during celebration of religious, cultural and National events such as Christmas, New Year, Independence day, etc. The importance of display of fireworks during the National and cultural events in USA can be derived from the fact that the Supreme Court of USA has gone on record to pronounce, that as per the Second Amendment of the Constitution of USA, usage of fireworks during celebrations of cultural events is a right of all Americans, as it symbolises display of civic pride and patriotism.

Further, with the improvement in chemical technology, better quality fireworks which leads to lesser pollution are constantly being evolved. As per rule 3(b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, only when the level of any of the pollutants mentioned in the table in Schedule VII goes beyond the prescribed limit in the said table for two consecutive days shall the alarm bells ring and continuous monitoring and further investigation instituted. In the case of fire works, almost all reported scientific data has revealed reversing of the level of pollution to the level prior to the use of fireworks, within 24 hours. The manufactures of fireworks in Tamil Nadu use nitrate salts for its production, which is much less polluting than chloride salts, which are used extensively in fireworks manufactured in other parts of the world.

Further, none of the firework manufactures in Tamil Nadu are using the chemicals prohibited under various Pollution Control Rules or by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The manufacturers of fireworks in Tamil Nadu are using safe and environment friendly products and there are no recorded long term effect on the environment. Since the use of fireworks is attached to our socio cultural traditions, any ban on production, sale and use of the same will adversely affect the sentiments of the people of India. It will also affect the livelihood of 8 lakh people and push them further into poverty. I, therefore, urge the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to carryout necessary amendment to Rule 3 (b) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and exempt the fireworks manufacturing industry from various provisions of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, thereby saving the livelihood of 8 lakh families dependent on fireworks industry.

I wish to bring it to the notice of the Government about the proposed privatisation of Salem steel Plant. It has come to the notice of the Tamil Nadu government by the employees of Salem Steel Plant that a Legal Advisor, Asset Valuer and Transaction Advisor have been appointed by the Central Government in June, 2017 itself and it was decided to constitute an Advisory Committee for speeding up the privatisation of SSP by calling for a global tender. Salem Steel Plant, over the years has acquired global reputation for its high quality steel and is an iconic symbol of the State and the people of Tamil Nadu. We have a deep sense of pride and attachment to this Public Sector Plant. The Government of Tamil Nadu and acquired about 15.5 sq.kms of land in 9 villages four decades ago in the foot hills of Kanjamalai, Salem District. It was possible to undertake such extensive land acquisition mainly because of the public sector character of the plant and perhaps, the secured benefits that would accrue to the people of the state and the country as a whole. Land is the most valuable and sought after asset in possession of Salem Steel Plant today. Further, the Salem Steel Plant provides employment to about 2000 persons and many ancillary and subsidiary units also depend on it. It was brought to the notice of the Tamil Nadu government, that the financial condition of the Plant has improved in the financial year 2016-17 in comparison to the financial year 2015-16. Further, the State Government has supported the expansion project costing Rs. 2005 crores of the SSP with a structured package of incentives in the form of Soft loan, Capital Subsidy, Electricity Tax Exemption and Environmental Protection Subsidy. In 2015, the Government of Tamil Nadu granted a one year extension from 01.11.2010 to 31.10.2011, so as to enable the Salem Steel Plant to complete its expansion activities and avail the incentive package. The Public

Sector Undertakings are capable of performing better provided they are given the right support and direction in a dynamic economic scenario. I believe that the reasons for the Salem Steel Plant's recent losses must be studied thoroughly and the Salem Steel Plant must be given a chance to improve its efficiency to make a turn-around. If that is done, I am sure that Salem Steel Plant will certainly transform once again into a profit making Public Sector Undertaking. I, therefore, request the central government once again to kindly intervene in the matter expeditiously and the Ministry of Steel and the Steel Authority of India Limited must not privatize the Salem Steel Plant.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that three Premier, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutes namely (a) Sugarcane Breeding Institute functioning at Coimbatore, (b) National Research Centre for Banana functioning at Tiruchirapalli and (c) Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) functioning at Chennai, are likely to be closed or merged with other ICAR Institutes across the country. In this regard, the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore has been serving the farming community since 1912. The sugarcane varieties released by this Institute are very popular among sugarcane growers of not only Tamil Nadu, but also in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. With an aim to increase the cane yield/high sugar recovery and to enable better remuneration to the Sugarcane growers, the Government of Tamil Nadu is keen that the Sugarcane breeding Institute, Coimbatore is not closed or merged with other ICAR Institutions. The National Research Centre for Banana established in 1993 at Tiruchirapalli, is contributing very significantly in increasing the production and productivity of banana so as to meet the growing demand of our varieties in India and abroad. The R&D work and research station is of immense importance. Tamil Nadu stands first in banana production and export. The coordination and handholding support extended by the Banana Research Institute, Tiruchirapalli is acknowledged by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, request the Central Government not to close or merge this Institute with other ICAR Institutions. I would also like to inform the Government that CIBA, Chennai provides regular technical support to Tamil Nadu and all other coastal States especially in brackish water aquaculture. Lakhs of people in Tamil Nadu are engaged directly or indirectly in cultivation of Vennamei shrimp, which has boosted the economic contribution of Tamil Nadu Fisheries sector considerably. The continuous handholding support of such a premier institution to aquaculture farmers is inevitable in sustaining the aquaculture production of the State. Import and quarantine of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) mother

shrimps are allowed by Government of India only through the Chennai International Airport. Due referral services for pathogens are being provided by ICAR-CIBA to DADHDF Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and to the aquaculture community of the whole country. Now, aquaculture is blossoming into sustainable livelihood option for fishermen in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, that too along 1076 Km long coast line of Tamil Nadu, which has 56000 hectares of potential brackish water area. In the above circumstances, the closure or merger of the said ICAR Institutes namely Sugarcane Breeding Institute at Coimbatore, National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirapalli and Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) at Chennai will have a detrimental impact on the interest of the farmers and fisher folk of Tamil Nadu. In this regard, our Hon'ble Chief Minister had addressed the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in retaining these Premier Institutes as such. Decision in this regard is still awaited. Now, I reiterate my demand that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare must continue the activities of these prestigious Institute to function as such without closure or merger with other institutions, in order to safeguard the interest of farmers and fisher folk of Tamil Nadu.

Lastly, the entire country is aware of the severe cyclonic storm "OCKHI" which has caused extensive damage to Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. The magnitude of the damage to power infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries infrastructure etc. is humongous and thereby be declared as a National disaster. A dedicated naval base with helicopter landing centre and communication command centre must be set up in the district. 1500 High frequency wireless sets and control rooms in all coastal districts need to be set up with 90% subsidy from Central Government. Search and rescue operations by Coast Guard, Indian Navy and Air Force must continue till the last fisherman is rescued. A dedicated satellite radio channel for informing about the weather conditions to the fishermen is required. A total of Rs. 9302 crore must be allocated to the state which includes Rs. 5255 crore for relief and rehabilitation measure due to Ockhi cyclone and Rs. 4047 Cr. for permanent flood mitigation projects to be taken in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu especially Chennai city during the North East monsoon season.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Hon. President's address is a move in the direction of brining empowerment in the country in place of policy of appeasement. This government is working towards

*Speech was laid on the Table.

making the poor and farmers prosperous, bringing honour to the women and providing employment to the youth. Hon. Prime Minister has taken an effective step to provide Muslim women their right and connect them with national mainstream by remaining Triple Talaq customary practice, and this step is being hailed the world over. I completely believe that the law ending Triple Talaq and making it a tunishable offence will soon be passed. With this, the Muslim sisters and daughters will be able to lead a life of self-respect without any fear.

Some forces in the country do not want other backward classes, dalits and tribal community to develop and they are adopting new ways and designs to scuttle it, but this government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji is committed to provide an environment of economic and social development for the people belonging to the dalit, tribal communities and other backward classes. A Bill was brought to give constitutional powers to the National Commission for Backward Classes which indicates that the government is committed to the real development of backward classes. Several reforms have been carried out for making the benefits of higher education and recruitments accessible to the most backward classes. Bestowing the top most post of Hon. President by the government to the son of a dalit indicates the fact that the government will continue to work for development of dalits.

The farmer is the backbone of India. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that unless the farmer prospers, the country will never flourish. The prosperity of the farmers is the prosperity of the country. This government has launched several schemes for making the lives of farmers full of happiness and removing discrepancies of the Crop insurance scheme. Crop insurance scheme has also been made simple to provide relief to the farmers at the time of natural disaster and its premium has also been reduced to a great extent and its scope has been extended to cover several other crops. It is the decision of this government to keep the 'rate of interest for providing farming loan to the farmers at 4 percent. With this decision, the farmers do not approach money lenders today but go to the banks and get loan from there in an honourable manner. Computerized facility based schemes have been launched for providing remunerative prices for their produce and also more price than their costs. Today, the farmer is able to know easily the information regarding the value of various crops at various places.

If the life is healthy, everything else is good. Unhealthy life brings the moments of dullness and depression. Today, the poor and middle class families

are unable to get the members of their families treated at nursing homes and private hospitals due to expenditure of thousands of rupees. The bill for treatment of dengue fever and other types of fever in these nursing homes and private hospitals comes from 10 to 16 lakh rupees and these nursing homes and private hospitals do not hand over the dead body unless the bill amount is fully paid. This government has played an important role in making the treatment of the poor and middle class people accessible and free of cost. I would like to bring it to the notice of the government that there is shortage of doctors in Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) hospital located in my parliamentary constituency, Ranchi and the number of beds is not in proportion to the number of the patients arriving there. Two patients occupy a single bed. This is causing problems for the patients.

In the Hon. President's Address focus has been given on expansion of the road linkage. Jam situation is increasing in the country. In my parliamentary constituency, Ranchi a ring road is being constructed covering the bypass which is getting delayed without any reason. This work should be completed at the earliest. I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways for constructing national highways and making them durable and solid. This government has contributed a lot in popularizing cleanliness. The cities falling under my parliamentary constituency Ranchi remain filthy in the absence of sewer facility. Therefore, I would like to request the government to set up sewer facility and a sewage treatment plant in Ranchi city for bringing cleanliness there.

The Government has informed about increased output from the mines in the country and the emphasis is on increasing coal production. 38 percent of the country's total coal production comes from Jharkhand, but I am sorry to say that Coal India Limited has its headquarter in Kolkata. This results in squandering and loss of revenue to Jharkhand, as well as displacement of coal mines and due to this, inspection works also get delayed. The Government is requested to establish Coal India Limited headquarters at Ranchi. At the same time, most of the plans and plants related to Damodar Valley project should be brought to Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. Both the offices are located in Kolkata which results in loss of revenue to Jharkhand and this, in a way, is an injustice with Jharkhand. I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that both the Headquarters should be transferred from Kolkata to Ranchi.

Hundreds of villages in Jharkhand had no access to electricity three years back. Saubhagya Scheme of the Government is giving a ray of light in these dark

villages and the President has indicated in his speech that this Government has provided 6 crores electricity connections and 3.30 crore connections in rural areas. Free LPG Connections for women have brought happiness in their life and have made them free from inhaling smoke while cooking. Toilet construction scheme initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a life of dignity especially to women. 1.88 crore toilets were constructed in a bid to make India free of open defecation.

At the present time, the environment in schools is becoming increasingly violent. Violence is taking over education. Students are being killed, students are fighting each other and these fighting are taking the form of violence. Many of these students have lost their lives. Ms Jaya Bharti, a resident of Booty Basti in my parliamentary constituency, Ranchi and a B.Tech student of RTC Engineering College was gang raped and then she was burnt but the killers still have not been caught. In this regard, I request the Government to intervene and conduct an investigation at the central level.

Due to the Honourable President's address, the soldiers of the Armed Forces have got tremendous support in protecting the country. The facilities available to them have increased. We have to keep a check on the importance and arrogance of senior officers of the Armed Forces. In Sugnu, Hyundai, and Military Cantonment area in my parliamentary constituency, Ranchi, the incidents of the closure of the roads of the villages and interference in lives of people are often taking place at the behest of top army officials. Many times, I have raised this issue in this House and before the Government. Sometimes, a situation arises where the poor and the personnel of Armed Forces confront each other which turn into violence in no time. The government is defamed due to the Armed Forces in the rural, tribal areas. Subernarekha project work in my in my parliamentary constituency is pending for last several decades and due to this, payment of compensation to the displaced persons and their rehabilitation is also pending. The Government should take note of it immediately. Retired employees of HEC, Dhurwa, in my parliamentary constituency, Ranchi, have not been paid their arrears from 1.1.1997 to 11.12.2006. In this regard, I have asked question multiple times in Lok Sabha. I request the Government that their arrears should be paid immediately.

I extend my support to the Motion of Thanks on the Hon. President's address.

[English]

*SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (Murshidabad): Thanks to the President for his address to the Joint Session of Parliament.

I was disappointed with the President's Address on some points. Hon'ble President mentioned that the economy is booming. But everybody knows how our economy became affected due to demonetisation and the hasty imposition of G.S.T. Lakhs of people became jobless due to imposition of these two decisions. GOP also declined due to these tax reforms. In the President's Address it is mentioned that new employment will be generated. But I am sorry to say that 3.7 crore jobs have been lost due to demonitisation only. Now the position is that every year lakhs of employees are retiring but those posts are not being fulfilled for long time. Madam, in the President's Address there is no mention about the foreign policy of our country. We know the deteriorating situation in our neighbouring borders. Everyday our soldiers are attacked and killed on our borders. Some steps must be taken to stop such unfortunate deaths.

The Address did not touch the growing attack Oil Muslims and Dalits throughout the country. How will this Government stop the communal violence? It should be stopped.

*SHRIMATI DEV VARMA (Bankura): I would like to place my views on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. It is very heartening that the address emphasis on large number of issues like farmers, youth and self-employment, triple talaq, women opportunities, economic growth and several other policies and programmes. The President's address focused on strengthening economic and social democracy and definitely these efforts are establishing a new social order in the country which will provide equal opportunity to the poor. However the government needs to ensure that the poor especially deprived classed are not further marginalised by the upper castes. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. More than 70% of people depend on agriculture but it is most unfortunate that farmer's suicides are on rise. It is sad that poorest rural people or farm workers are forced to take their lives because of indebtedness. The Hon. President has said that the government's priority to remove the difficulties faced by the farmers and also to raise their standard of living. I urge upon the government to provide succor to the farmers immediately. Even the potato farmers are in crisis and are demoralized. The promised sabka saath

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Sabka Vikas will be hollow if farmers plight is not attended on war footing. The hon. President has rightly said that the service to humanity is an integral part of India's cultural heritage. Because of these values India has remained the first responder in times of crisis in the neighbouring countries. We do need to maintain and preserve these values. The dignity and self respect of muslim women that have remained captive for decades is now hoped to live a life of self respect after the enactment of triple talaq bill. This, no doubt will be a milestone towards women equality in the country. It is also heartening that road connectivity in the country especially in villages have increased. However there is need to connect the hilly areas that are very inaccessible. India's higher education is afflicted by a deep malaise. Three widely acknowledged criteria for Judging an education system are: access, equity and quality but sadly we have failed our youths by all three criteria. The expansion of higher education especially the medical education in the country in terms of quantity has often been at the expense of quality. Youths have become vulnerable to various illegal activities because of unemployment. We would again urge the government to implement the Special Provisional employment to the states as assured by the NDA in their Election Manifesto as then it would solve the problem of unemployment and revenue deficit. With this I support the motion and thank the hon. President for addressing the joint sitting of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (Vadodara): I support the Address of the Hon. President.

The year, 2018 is very important for fulfilling the dream of new India. The hon. Prime Minister of the country Shri Narendra Bhai Modi Ji has taken the pledge to empower the poor and the farmers of the country through various poor-centric schemes. We all have witnessed that the women collect wood and cook food on traditional stove (chulha). Our prime Minister has provided gas connections to more than 3 crore 30 lakh women under Ujjwala Yojna.

Our Prime Minister has brought a Bill regarding Triple Talaq in Lok Sabha to provide dignity to Muslim women, which has also been passed in Lok Sabha. Muslim sisters will also be able to live a fearless life with self respect when it is passed in Lok Sabha. The Government had launched "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" scheme. Keeping in mind the positive outcome of this scheme, the coverage of this scheme has now been

increased from 160 districts to 640 districts. A big step has been taken by amending Maternity Benefit Act. Provision has been made to provide leave to women for 26 weeks with pay instead of 12 weeks. Bank accounts of around 31 crore people have been opened so far under Jan Dhan Yojna. Loans of approximately Rs. 10 crore have been approved so far under 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna' and loans of more than Rs. 4 lakh. crore have been provided. There are around 3 crore such people who have availed the benefit of this scheme for the first time.

Under "Pradhan Mantri fasal Bima Yojna", the farmers: are being provided low cost and easy insurance facility. 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided insurance coverage for Rabi and kharif crops under this scheme during the year 2017. Our Government is working on the target for providing houses to every homeless poor family of the country by the year 2022.

Through "pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras" 800 medicines are being made available to the poor people at cheaper rates. The number of such centres has reached 3 thousand. Our country is the largest country of the world in terms of youth population. Prime Minister Modi Ji is running various programmes like Start Up India, Stand Up India, Skill India Mission and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna so that the youth of the country can fulfill their dreams and get self employment.

More than Rs. 1.750 crore has been released under 'Khelo India' programme for international events like Fifa Under-17 World Cup and Asian Athletics Championship in the country during the last month. The Government is running the World's largest digital literacy campaign under ambitious "Rural Digital Literacy Campaign". One crore people have been made literate so far under this programme. Our Prime minister has targeted to facilitate the poor through various schemes. I strongly support the Address delivered by the Hon. President.

*SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (Kheri): I support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Rakesh Singh Ji. The works undertaken by the Government for the welfare of the poor, empowerment of women, doubling the income of the farmers, taking special care in improving the quality of education and healthcare and provision of Rs. 5 lakh per annum insurance for a crore people for healthcare facilities is commendable. I extend special thanks to Hon. President and Hon. Prime Minister for empowerment of the nation and support the motion.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

*SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (Malkajgiri): Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Hon'ble President. I feel it as a privilege to place my opinions on behalf of our party, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi. Hon'ble President, in his Address to the Joint sitting of Parliament has assessed the various policies being undertaken by Government in the country during the year 2018-19. Initiating the Address, he informed the commitment of the Government towards strengthening social justice and economic democracy and to usher ease of living for the common man but inequalities are rising in the last few years, as per a recent Oxfam report that showed wealth concentration got skewed even more in favour of the rich in 2017, with 1% cornering 73% of all newly created wealth that year.

The Swachh Bharat Mission making the country swachh by 2019 has noble goals. I urge the Government to note that construction of toilets is only half the job done but generating demand is the essential factor that guarantees the success and sustainability of any sanitation programme.

On the proposal of holding simultaneous Assembly and General elections to ease the burden on human resources, the cost of holding elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies are pegged at Rs. 4500 crore and discussions were held on 'one nation one election' idea for many years, starting with a Law Commission suggestion in 1999. A 2015 report by Parliament's standing committee also suggested holding simultaneous election to save public money and end policy paralysis because of the impact of the model code of conduct. Our beloved Chief Minister Shri K. Chandrashekhar Rao and our party Telangana Rashtra Samithi welcome this proposal and fully support the idea of holding simultaneous elections.

Our government in Telangana has taken up some flagship programmes like Mission Bhagiratha (supply of drinking water to all households), Mission Kakatiya (restoration of the existing minor irrigation tanks). Mission Kakatiya has not only increased the irrigation intensity, but also enhanced the crop yield. We urge the central government to give financial assistance generously to tackle the severe drought conditions in Telangana and to take up long-term measures for drought-proofing and these flagship programmes.

As stated by finance minister Arun Jaitley in his budget speech that Agriculture is the government's "top

priority", but farmers were not getting the right price for their produce. The farmers are not able to recover their investment made in sowing and were falling into the debt trap. I urge the central government to increase the MSP to cost of production plus 50% and 1.5 times the entire cost of production including the cost of land in the entire country. Our government in Telangana has announced cash incentive of Rs. 4,000 an acre for each of the around 7.2 million farmers in the state-for the kharif and rabi seasons under agriculture investment support scheme and providing 24 hours free power supply for agriculture. I request the central government to extend such type of support schemes to the whole nation to support our distressed farmers.

Road transport is the dominant mode of transport in India, both in terms of traffic share and in terms of contribution to the national economy. Road transport plays a key role in promoting equitable socio-economic development across regions of the country. I urge the central government to grant funds meant for development of national highways and road network schemes in Telangana and declare all the state highways as National Highways.

The weaker sections of the society have been the victims of exploitation for many centuries. Their backwardness, underdevelopment and deprivation can be removed through the compensatory provisions of reservation. In India, reservation has become a means of empowerment. The weak persons always deserve some extra care. Similarly, the weaker sections of Indian society are requiring some extra mileage which is being provided in the form of reservation in jobs and seats in legislature. The Constitution of India gives directives to State to take special care for protecting the interests of the weaker sections of the society. The best way of protecting their interest is to provide them some facilities in the way of reservations. For a country that has scarce and limited public resources, reservations unquestionably have important social, economic and political implications. In April, the Assembly of Telangana passed a legislation to increase quota for Muslims and STs to take overall reservation in Telangana to 62 per cent by urging the Centre to include it in the 9th Schedule as was done in case of Tamil Nadu, where the total reservation is 69 per cent. Our government introduced 'Kalyana Lakshmi' and 'Shaadi Mubarak' schemes intended to give Rs. 75,116 to the family of the girl to help them meet her marriage expenses and remove the notion that the girl was a burden on the family. Our Government also introduced pension scheme for the elderly persons, widows, orphans single women and physically challenged.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (Chatra): I would like to put forth my points in support of the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the Hon. President. The Hon. President delivered the address in a joint sitting of both Houses on 29th January, 2018. The President's Address is the roadmap of the works to be undertaken by the Government in the coming years along with the details of the works already undertaken by the Government.

The Hon. President has included all major present and future issues of the country in his Address. He has referred to various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government for all classes of society including weaker sections, minorities, women, senior citizens, youths and farmers which shows that our Government is working for the welfare of every people including the poor, dalits, oppressed, exploited and deprived section, minorities, farmers, labourers, women and youths under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

It has been mentioned in the Hon. President's Address that the present Government is working for social justice and for women's dignity. In this direction, the Modi Government has constructed crores of toilets in the country. It has been decided to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi by making the country clean by the year 2019. The Modi Government has introduced a Bill in the Parliament to protect the self respect of Muslim women belonging to minority community. Our Government wants to make it a law at the earliest. This Bill should be passed with full majority by the Members of all opposition parties. Our Government has taken another important decision in the direction of women empowerment and removed the ban on pilgrimage of women above 45 years on Haj with male family members for the first time after Independence. More than 1300 women are going to Haj without Meharam this year. This number will increase in the coming years.

More than 3 crore 30 lakh gas connections have been distributed among poor women under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna so far. Now the target has been increased to 8 crores. As a result of gas connections being provided to poor women in villages, they and their children are now living in smoke free houses and are prevented from number of diseases caused due to the household smoke.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Our Government has motivated the young generation for self employment. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna provides loan to young people without bank guarantee. A loan amount of more than 4 lakh crore rupees has been sanctioned to 10 crore people under this scheme so far. Out of it, 3 crore people have taken loan from the banks for the first time. Mudra Yojna has given a practical shape to the concept of Self Employment mentioned in the ancient economic Philosophy of India.

Our Government is taking concrete steps to double the income of farmers. It is making all out efforts to complete the irrigation projects pending for decades. The Central Government has given approval to North Kayer Reservoir projects for Jharkhand and Bihar on which work has also been started. These projects will benefit a large number of farmers and labourers. It will also effectively check the depleting ground water level in Latehar Palamu and Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and improve the water level in the area.

Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme has ensured compensation to farmers in case of damage to crops due to inclement weather conditions. The scheme has benefited 5 crore 71 lakh farmers in the year 2017. The Government has implemented various irrigation projects in the country on priority basis with a view to increase irrigation facilities and its fruitful results will be visible in the coming years. There is record production of more than 275 million tonnes of foodgrains, 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables and a record increase of 38 percent in pulses production in the country. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna has been initiated with a view to check wastage of agriculture produce. In order to increase the farmers' income 'Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund' has been set up with an outlay of Rs. one thousand crores. The work to provide online connectivity to Krishi Mandis (agriculture markets) is in progress so that farmers could get remunerative prices for their produce. Agro products to the value of more than 36 thousand crores have been traded on e-Narm portal so far. Neem coated urea has checked the black marketing. Defunct fertilizer companies are being revived.

Our Government has excluded Bamboo from tree's category. It will benefit the farmers in Bamboo cultivation area in the country including Chatra, Latehar, Palamu and Garhwa in Jharkhand.

Our Government is working in full swing to provide road connectivity to all the villages in the country. It is likely to be done by 2019. Only 56% villages were connected with roads till 2014 but our Government has connected 82% villages in the past four years.

Our Government is committed to provide houses to all poor homeless families in the country by 2022. More than 93 lakh houses have been constructed during the last three and a half years. The Government has provided electricity connections to 4 crore poor people in the country under Saubhagya Yojna to ensure quality of life to them. During the last three and a half years our Government has provided electricity to 18 thousand villages which were still deprived of electricity even after 70 years of our independence, working at a great speed. The Government has implemented various schemes worth Rs. 1.5 lakh crores to supply electricity to each village and town. Our Government will achieve the target in the coming years. Solar energy generation has been increased by seven times during the last three years' tenure of our Government. The Headquarter of legislative body of International Solar Alliance has been set up in India.

Broadband connectivity is being provided to 2.5 lakh Panchayats under Bharat Net Project to start facilities like e-health, e-education, e-governance and e-commerce, etc. in the villages.

Our Government is very serious about the health of the people of the country. Many concrete steps have been taken in this regard. Various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojna, Deendayal Amrit Yojna, Prime Minister National Dialysis Programme, increasing MBBS seats by 13 thousand, reducing the prices of stent for the heart patients up to 80%, Indradhanush Yojna, etc. have been implemented by the Government.

Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojna which were meant to ensure social security, more than 18 crore poor families have been given insurance benefit so far. Approx. 2 thousand crewes have been claimed as insurance under these schemes. 80 crore people are getting the benefit of 'Atal Pension Yojna'.

We have started Khelo India Programme to create awareness among youth towards sports and to hone the talented sportspersons. An amount of more than 1750 crore rupees has been earmarked for it.

Our Government is encouraging children from very young age for entrepreneurship and creativity under Atal Innovation Mission. Our government is setting up 20 "Institutes of Eminence". For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 10 thousand crore has been allocated. The Government is going to provide autonomy to the Indian Institute of Management.

Our Government is continuously doing good work through Swadesh Darshan and Amrit schemes to

promote tourism. The world ranking of India in tourism has shown significant improvement. Our government has proposed the construction of Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Neterhat-Betla eco-circuit in Jharkhand state. Along with this, government is also trying to develop Itkhori-Kauleshwari-Bodhgaya etc places from the perspective of religious tourism.

Our Government is developing new ways for air, water, road and all types of transportation. Waterways Development Project, Sagarnala Programme, Udan Scheme. Bullet train) etc. are schemes being implemented by our government on priority basis which are likely to be completed in coming years.

The naxal and maoist violence has declined as a result of coordinated efforts made by our government and State Governments. The development works are being carried out on a continuous basis to check militancy. People are being included in the mainstream. The schemes to the tunc of more than Rs. 18 thousand crore have been implemented to enable Police force to function in a modern way.

Our government implemented One Rank One Pension' which was the demand of our soldiers and martyrs pending for several decades. The arrear of all the retired soldiers will be paid in the next year.

Our government scrapped more than 1728 obsolete laws during the last three years to ensure that the citizens do not face unnecessary hardship. Along with this the Government has also implemented GST like laws for tax reform.

Our government is of the view that our economy and development work are adversely affected if the election process continues throughout the year in the country. That is why, it has been suggested to involve consensus for conducting simultaneous elections in the country. Our government requests all the parties to cooperate in formulating a law for 'one country one election'.

Our government is working for all the classes like the Dalit, the minority, the youth, the farmer, the poor, the exploited, the deprived, the backward youth and women. Our government is marching ahead on the theory of Antyodaya. The meaning or antodaya is to bring the person standing last in the queue of development equal to the person standing in the first line of development. In this regard, government has resolved to make a new India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji. In this context, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya, the propounder of integral humanism has,

said "we have. started with the resolve to make our nation strong, prosperous and happy through Jansangh. Hence, to achieve this we'll have to make practical efforts for mitiori building, We have also pondered over our ancient culture. But, we are not archaeologists. We do not want to be satisfied by just becoming the protector of any archaeological museum. Our aim is not only to conserve our culture but to make it lively and capable by giving it momentum. The concept of nation should be based on that so that our society may lead a healthy and development oriented life. We'll have to make such arrangement. We'll have to do away with many traditions and make many mprovements. We shall take such action which will nurture the development and unity of the nation. We'll do that and remove the impediments. We will have to set up such institutions which inculcate the conscience of karma within us... In such state the diversity of nation will not hamper the unity of the nation. Variating in language and profession, etc. are found everywhere. But where larger interest is on focus, there is no struggle. We have to focus on generating the feeling of larger interest (virat). Let us start this work with taking pride in our ancient culture, making realistic assessment or present and with the ambition ot' future. We neither want to make India the shadow of any ancient era nor a picture of Russia or America ... We'll make such India which will be more glorious than the India of our forefathers. The persons taking birth in such India will not only be able to become human by developing their personalities and integrate with universe but also evolve from 'Nar to Narayan'. This is the perpetual, divine and flowing form of our culture. This is the philosophy for the world - human standing at a crossroad. May God give us strength so that we succeed, this is my prayer." (25 April, 1965).

With these words, I congratulate my government for important works being carried out in the interest of citizens during the last three and half vears and urge to realize the dream or new India of Deendayal Upadhyaya and Shri Narendra Modiji.

*SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): I would like to present certain facts of the President's Address before the Government again and the country should be reminded again and again that under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the NDA Government has given priority to bring changes at ground level during the last three and half years. The Address by the Hon. President is a reflection of the ideals of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya, the proponent of Ekatma Manavaad which has provided benefit to the last person of the society. As the Hon. President has

stated that the poor women have got an opportunity to be equal to rich women through Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna and this unnoticed side of social justice has been resolved. More than 3 crore 30 lakh gas connections have been provided 'in the country so far under this scheme. 67,000 connections have been provided in my Parliamentary Constituency; Jalaun Garautha so far under this scheme. Similarly, the Hon. President has mentioned Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of our Government under which about 45000 toilets have been constructed in our district due to which 67 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) The Hon. President has appreciated Digital India Programme which is the dream of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. This programme is connecting every person of India with the means of communication and for the first time high speed broadband connectivity has reached about 300 villages of Bundclkhand. under which my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun, Garautha, Bhognipur comes. The farmers are now aware of the prices of crops in big markets through it and they have got remunerative prices for their crops.

The Modi Government is providing power connection to 4 crore poor. people under (Saubhagya Yojnain order to spread light in their life and enable them to move on the way of development due to which thousands of families of my Parliamentary Constituency are getting benefitted.

Economic democracy is taking strength in the country from the schemes of NDA Government which feels the pain of the poor. We arc now trying to bridge the gap between the banking system of the country and the poor. Approximately 31 crore bank accounts of the poor have been opened so far under Jan Dhan Yojna. Before launching this scheme, the number of saving accounts or women in the country was approximately 28 per cent which has no increased to more than 40 per cent.

The farmers arc being provided affordable and easy insurance facility under 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna'. During the year 2017, 5 crore 71 lakh farmers have been provided insurance coverage for Rabi and Kharif crops under this scheme. This scheme has given relief to lakhs of farmers of Bundelkhand who used to worry about wastage of their capital after destruction of crops.

The top most priority of the Government led by hon. Prime, Minister, Shri Narendra Modi is to solve the problems of farmers and raiserheir living standard. The schemes of Modi Government are not only reducing the worries of the farmers but also reducing their expenditure on agriculture. The policies of the Government and toil or the farmers have yielded good results in the form or

*Speech was laid on the Table.

more than 275 million tonnes foodgrains and 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables which is a record production.

The Government is committed to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022, The work of connecting agricultural Mandis of the country online is going on so that the farmers could get remunerative prices for their yields.

Trading of agricultural commodities worth more than Rs. 36 thousand crore has been undertaken so far on eNAM portal.

The work of completing 99 irrigation projects is going on which were pending for decades. The Government is providing production bonus for pulses and oilseeds to protect the interests of farmers. The production of pulses has increased more than 38 per cent as compared to the previous year due to policy framed for pulse production and this is a record production.

'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna' has been launched with a view to check damage of agricultural crops of farmers before reaching the market and to check wastage of agricultural produce in the country. Under this scheme, supply chain and infrastructure is being modernized in the agriculture sector. A cold storage, having capacity of 40,000 tonne, has been set up in my Parliamentary Constituency under the said scheme due to which farmers have got relief from the worry to protect their crops.

An ambitious scheme of Rs. 11 thousand crore has been launched through "Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund" in dairy sector in order to increase the income of the farmers.

On the one hand, production of urea has increased because of the Government, while on the other hand, black marketing of urea has stopped after 100 per cent Neem coating. Otherwise, in the states like Uttar Pradesh, Police was called to control the situation at the time of selling of fertilizers because the fertilizer mafia involved in black marketing used to sell the fertilizers of farmer's share at three and four times the price and the farmers could not even get their share of fertilizer.

Similarly, the NDA government has introduced an Insurance scheme at a premium of one rupee per month. Till now, more than 18 crore poor people have been covered under the "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna." About two thousand crore rupees have been paid out as claims under these schemes. It clearly shows that the NDA government has secured the future of millions of families.

The Government has emphasized on providing collateral free loans to the poor and middle class, especially to encourage self-employment. People are now able to get loans to fulfill their dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Under the "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna", about 10 crore loans have been sanctioned so far and loans worth more than Rs. 4 lakh crore have been disbursed. Many young people from my constituency have also availed benefit under this scheme.

There are about three crore people who have availed this scheme for the first time and have successfully started their own business.

The NDA government is also committed to social security of the elderly. About 80 lakh senior citizens are availing benefit under the 'Atal Pension Scheme.'

Through the "Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras", 800 generic drugs are being made available to the poor at affordable rates. More than 3 thousand such kendras have been established in the country.

Under the "Deendayal Amrut Scheme", over 5,200 life-saving branded medicines and surgical implants are being provided through 111 outlets at discounts ranging from 60 per cent to 90 per cent.

In addition to medicines for heart patients, the cost of "stent" has been reduced up to 80 percent. The cost of knee implant has also been regulated.

Under the "Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme" in over 500 districts, more than 22 lakh dialysis sessions for 2.25 lakh patients have been conducted at discounted rates.

To enhance the availability of doctors, 7 thousand post graduate seats and over 13 thousand MBBS seats have been approved.

To ensure quality and transparency in medical education, Government has also introduced the "National Medical Commission Bill" in the Lok Sabha.

All these facts suggest that we have worked with special focus on the poor and the underprivileged and the Government is continuously achieving new heights especially in helping the poor. In addition to this, more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed under "UJALA scheme" and the private sector has also sold over 50 crore LED bulbs. This has resulted in an annual saving of over Rs. 40 thousand crore in the electricity bills for the poor and middle class. In addition to conserving the environment, this has also resulted in an annual saving of 10 thousand crore units of electricity in the nation.

Mission to save electricity and efforts to increase electricity production are moving hand in hand. During the last three years, solar energy generation has increased by seven times.

The Government has ensured power availability to States at cheap rates by completing work on the "One Nation, One Grid." Schemes worth Rs. 1.5 lakh crore have been implemented to strengthen the power distribution network in all villages and towns of the country. The work of electrifying 18 thousand villages is also nearing completion. Construction of the power grid has been almost completed in Somai near Eta village along Jhansi National Highway in my parliamentary constituency. Millions of people will be benefitted from this.

For the first time in the world, 104 Satellites were launched successfully at one go by ISRO. In June 2017, the first developmental flight of India's GSLV MK-III was successfully launched which marked an important step in taking forward the launch capability of the country.

This year on 12th January, ISRO made the country by successfully launching the PSLV-C40. On this day proud, ISRO also scored a century of satellites launched.

With this, I, once again, congratulate the Government and extend my support to the Motion of Thanks on the Hon'ble President's address moved by Shri Rakesh Ji.

*SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (Mathura): I support the President's Address from the core of my heart. The Address is a document of works executed during the last three and half years and future Action Plan of the NDA based on the concept of Satya, Shivam and Sunder. It is 'Satyam' because it is for the welfare of everybody and Sunder because it is a vision for creation of a new India.

His Excellency, hon'ble President has stated in his Address that the architect of our Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar used to say that political democracy could not be achieved without social and economic democracy. My Government is dedicated to weaker sections and is working to strengthen social and economic democracy in the country and to ensure better life for common citizens.

While taking revolutionary step in the direction of economic democracy and economic justice our Government has introduced 'Jan Dhan Yojana' in the year 2014 under which about 31 crore bank accounts of poor people have been opened so far.

Before introduction of the said scheme saving accounts of women were around 28 per cent which has increased upto more than 40 per cent in the country.

The work that could not be executed during Congress regime of six decades has been completed in three and half years under the leadership of Shri Nurendra Modi ji.

While taking steps in the direction of economic democracy and economic justice, our Government has emphasized to provide loan to the poor and medium sections of the public without bank guarantee to promote self employment. Now, people are obtaining loan easily to realize the dream and to set up their own business.

As his Excellency hon'ble President has stated in his Address "Around 10 crore loan applications have been sanctioned and loan of over 4 lakh crore rupees have been provided so far under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana."

As far as the question of social justice is concerned, not one but several steps have been taken by the Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji and that has changed the life of common people of the country. During the congress regime only slogan were raised.

Our Government is sensitive towards aspirations of each section of the society and presented a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes.

Apart from this a Commission has been constituted to examine sub-categorization of backward classes so as to provide benefits of reservation to the extremely backward classes in higher education and government jobs.

The minimum support price of several forest produces to be collected by tribal people have been increased.

Livelihood of lakhs or people in various tribal dominant areas of the country, particularly North Eastern region is dependent on bamboo based industries. The use of bamboo for livelihood was difficult due to classification of bamboo as tree. The government has excluded bamboo from the category of tree keeping in view these difficulties. Now, it is permissible to cut, transport and use the bamboo. The basic objective of hon'ble Prime Minister is social upliftment of all sections of society and this is clearly reflected in the Hon'ble President's Address.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The vision of our Government is welfare of every citizen without any discrimination of gender, caste or religion. This is indeed the holistic concept of our 'Karnayogi' and 'Dharamayogi' Prime Minister who said, 'welfare for all and appeasement of none'.

The Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji is committed to function in a responsible manner. The Government has enacted and enforced "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016". The provision to provide 4 per cent reservation in government jobs and 5 per cent in higher education for Divyang Persons has been made to the said Act, over six thousand camps have been organised during the last three years and more than 9 lakh necessary equipments have been provided to Divyang Persons.

As His Excellency hon'ble President has stated in his Address, the Government is sincerely working in the direction to ensure economic-social and educational empowerment of minority communities with the resolution of empowerment not appeasement.

Employment opportunities have been provided to youth belonging to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddha, Parsi and Jain communities through Seekho aur Kamao, Ustad, Garib Nawaz, Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Nai Roshni, etc. programmes.

This is indeed 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and it is not the likes of Congress and other parties which believed in the concept of 'Bas Khas Logon Ka Saath Aur Apna Vikas'.

Over 45 lakh students have also been provided benefits of scholarship, fellowship, skill development and coaching schemes during the last one year.

Keeping in view the empowerment of women, for the first time after independence, ban imposed on lone muslim women aged above 45 years traveling to perform Haj without male relatives has been lifted. This year more than 1,300 women are going for Haj without their 'mehram'.

During the last three and a half years, more than 93 lakh houses have been constructed in urban and rural areas in the country. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (urban) a rebate of 6% in the interest has been given to poor people for construction of houses.

800 types of medicines are being provided to poor people at affordable rates through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The number of such centers has now crossed the 3000. Through 111 outlets a rebate of

60-90% is being given on more than 5200 life saving branded drugs and surgical implants. Under Deendayal Amrit Yojna the prices of medicines and the stents have been reduced by 80% to benefit the heart patients. The prices, of the implant used in Knee operation have also been regulated. Through Prime Minister National Dialysis Programme more than 22 lakh dialysis sessions have been conducted for 2.3 lakh patients at concessional rates in more than 500 districts.

Hon'ble President in his address has envisaged a vision of building of a new India. Our Government under the leadership of Narendra Modi ji is working on it with all determination and efficiency.

The programmes like Startup India, Standup India, Skill India Mission, Mudra Yojna have been launched by the Government to provide opportunities to young generation for self employment so that they could fulfill their dreams.

The Government has recently approved two schemes- 'Sankalp' and 'Strive' for skill development among young people as per the present needs of industrial sector.

We are working on to develop the transport sector and to increase the connectivity as per the need of 21st century. The modern transport systems are being developed in such a way that all transport facilities are inter-connected.

Our Government is committed for conservation and restoration of our historical heritage through the programmes like 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'Arnrut Yojna'.

In the year 2022 when the country will be celebrating 75th year of our independence, farmers' income would be doubled. everyone in the country will be having a house to live, cities and villages would be developed as smart city and smart village, education and health care facilities would be available for everyone. India would be free from poverty, superpower and a global leader in the world.

While wholeheartedly supporting the President's Address, would like to conclude by quoting a few lines from the poem authored by the former Prime Minister of our country and Bharat Ratan recipient Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji:

Ujjayee Mein, Andhkar Mein,
Kal Kahar Mein, Beech Dhar Mein,
Ghor Ghrina Mein, Poot Pyar Mein,

Shanik Jeet Mein, Deergh Haar Mein,

Jeevan Key Shat-Shat Aakarshak,

Armaron Ko Dhalna Hoga,

Kadam Mila Kar Chalna Hoga.

*SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (Amerli): The target is to achieve the resolution of New India in the year 2018 itself. Our government is committed to the welfare of the people, the government has opened more than 3 crore bank accounts under Jandhan Scheme as a result of which even people living in remote villages are actively participating in economic activities and through this, economic empowerment is being done in a democracy. The participation of women is commendable in it, the government is transferring the amount of subsidy directly to the accounts of the poor. This scheme should be implemented in all parts of the country at the earliest.

The present government has done various things in the interest of the farmers. Arrangements have been made to provide foodgrains at affordable rates in states under NFSA (National Food Security Act) so as to ensure two square meal for every poor, But for this, it is necessary to make the system transparent so that the benefits could reach the deserving persons.

The government is committed to proper development right from agriculture to infrastructure. If our government is introducing health schemes to address the concerns of the poor and the middle class, it is also focusing on increasing the wealth of small entrepreneurs of the country. It has been proposed to increase the minimum support price of crops by one and a half times to ensure development of farmers under which the aim is to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 which is commendable. All the schemes of our government from food processing to optical fibre, from road to shipping, youths to senior citizens, rural India to Ayushman India are the steps in the direction of making the common man stronger. Our government is paying full attention on health services. Under this the prices of more than 800 medicines have been curtailed, the prices of stents have been cut by 80 per cent. The poor families would be provided free medical treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh in the government and certain identified private hospitals. The scheme launched at government's expense is so far the biggest health insurance scheme in the world. With the opening of 24 new medical colleges, the people will not only get the facility of medical treatment but it would also facilitate the medical education for the youth. Along with this, the seats in MBBS and post graduation have also been increased by 13000 and 7000 respectively by our government to increase the

availability of doctors. Our government has also introduced National Medical Commission Bill to ensure quality and transparency in medical education.

Our government has made provisions for 51 lakh new houses, more than 3 lakh km of roads, about 2 crore toilets, providing 1.75 crore electricity connections. The period of maternity leave has been extended from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. The government has made a provision of Rs. 26 thousand crore for the uplift of Adiwasis, for setting up or Eklavya Vidyalaya on the lines of Nuvodaya Vidyalaya. The students belonging to Adiwasi tribal community will directly benefit from this. We have also witnessed the ease of leading life under Ujjawala scheme through which not only women are saved from smoke but it is also empowering them. Under Ujjawala scheme, now 8 crore new connections are being provided instead of 5 crore connections as prescribed earlier and the dalits and the deprived will be benefited directly under this scheme. The above steps are such which will also generate new opportunities of employment in rural areas which will be helpful in achieving the target of building new India.

*SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (Akola): It is clear that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given concrete shape to the vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

The government has added a new dimension with its progressive programs so far, which will have far-reaching effects.

I believe that the campaign to free the country from open defecation under the "Swachh Bharat Mission" has been started in keeping with the spirit of social justice and the dignity of women. We are constantly moving forward in this direction and that day is not far when we will make this country clean on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The government has taken concrete steps towards the programmes like "Sabka, Sath, Sabka Vikas", and "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", which have been discussed a lot. One of the decisions taken by the Government with firm resolvers to "increase the target for the "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna" to honor the women.

An amazing and historic decision taken by the Government to enable Muslim women to get rid of "Triple Talaq" will prove to be a milestone and will help in protecting their self-esteem.

The Government feels for the suffering of the poor. Under the "Jan Dhan Yojana", opening of 31 crore bank

*Speech was laid on the Table.

accounts is a historic step to empower the economic democracy of the country.

The resolution by the Honorable Prime Minister to take along all sections of society is being completed one by one.

The Government understands the suffering of farmers. Doubling their income by the year 2022, producing record food grains, fixing minimum support price (MSP) 50% higher than production cost is not less than a revolutionary step.

Not only these, to counter the fall in prices of the crops, the Government's resolution to take necessary steps to strengthen the procurement system will ensure fair value of farmers' crops.

Our government has always been sensitive to the poor and senior citizens. Steps like "BharatNet Project" to connect 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats of the country with broadband connectivity will definitely take the country forward on the path of development.

The Government resolves to provide house to every homeless poor family by the year 2022 where every poor person has access to water supply, toilet facilities, and electricity and this target is not far away.

I want to mention the schemes that will be beneficial for the poor - such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushdhi, Deen Dayal Amrut Yojana, reducing the price of stents up to 50 percent, Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, etc.

The steps taken by the government to improve education are revolutionary for the future development of the nation to make it modern.

In the Energy sector, the "One Nation One Grid" scheme and protection of the environment by distributing more than 25 crores LED bulbs, saving of 40 thousand crores in electricity bills and saving of 10,000 crore units of electricity is a progressive step.

The Government has fulfilled its commitment of 'One Rank One Pension' and disbursed arrears of more than Rs. 10 thousand crore to over 20 lakh retired Armed Forces personnel.

The Government has turned the concept of 'One Nation, One! Tax' into reality by implementing GST, the biggest tax reform since Independence.

I extend my support to the progressive steps being taken under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister

to take the country on a new path and extend my heartiest support to the Motion of Thanks on the Hon. President's address.

*SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (Surat): I extend my gratitude the Address by the hon'ble President.

Today, the country is at such a juncture where the present Government needs to fulfill the expectation and aspirations of the people and provide employment to youth on one hand; while trying to dispel the notion of political cynicism from the minds of people, which can be attributed as a legacy of the previous Government. We have to bring the country out of that atmosphere and remove the fear of people towards political people. I am happy that the last full Budget of the present Government has been presented but no person of this Government has been accused of corruption. People's strong faith on the honest and active leadership of the Prime Minister and his respectable image among foreign diplomatic circles is the proof of present Government's commitment.

The first economic survey after implementation of GST is witness to paving the way of progress of the country. The Government has walked the talk on 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'. That is why the hon. Prime Minister and Finance Minister have become successful in having cooperation of the Members of even those parties in GST council who have not been able to accept our presence in the Parliament so far. What can be a greater proof of this than the fact that voting has not been required for even a single proposal of GST.

When the hon. Prime Minister talked about construction of toilets from the ramparts of the Red Fort those opposing it failed to reflect on their own performance. If you had provided only that much facility to the poor during the last 60 to 65 years, the country would have been on the way of progress. During the last 3-4 years, we have brought dignity to the lives of poor mothers and sisters by constructing 6 crore toilets in the country.

Though they gave the first woman Prime Minister of the country but could not ensure dignity and safety of women. Along with construction of toilets, freeing our womenfolk from the clutches of diseases caused by the use of traditional stove (chulha) also goes to the hon. Prime Minister. I, on behalf of the women of the entire country, congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the Government for Ujjawala Yojna and Swachh Bharat Yojana.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The parties who hitherto have been using muslim community only for vote bank politics since independence started to oppose the Government when it really wanted to do welfare of Muslim society at ground level. This step exposed these parties in front of minority community. I congratulate the Government and request these parties to join this march of progress on the path of dignity of Muslim Women's by making Triple Talaq a law.

The country is moving on the path of women empowerment by leaps and bounds due to several steps taken by the present Government in order to spread happiness among half or the population of the country. Launching of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', granting 26 weeks of maternity leave with pay in place or 12 weeks, etc. are some steps which will help in women empowerment and also in connecting families and keep them safe.

The present Government not only makes promises but it also has the will power to fulfill them and take any decision in the country's interest also. That's why the people of the country have reposed full faith in the Government despite toughest decisions taken by it.

The decisions like demonetization, GST, Triple Talaq and ending Haj subsidy prove that if the country is under the leadership of a capable and visionary leader, who known the strength and weaknesses of the country, the people of the country accept the tough decisions and are ready to bear the sufferings.

In recent Gujarat elections, the people of opposition especially Rahul ji rallied around anti-social people. Assurances of reservation were given against the spirit of the Constitution and the entire society was misled. Apart from this, they launched a false propaganda that no development has taken place in the country. But if they had asked the old activists whether they had come across such roads during their car travel on previous election campaigns in Congress regime, they would have come to know that almost all those roads have been constructed during BJP regime.

It was said that the Government and especially the hon. Prime Minister behaves with the opponents in a vindictive manner. I would like to suggest him to go through the biography of his grandmother. If the present Government had been more intolerant than the Government of Indira ji, half of the opposition would have been in jail today. I say this to remind him as to how low he has stooped while forgetting the limit to which one should carry one's political opposition and also if his vitriols are denting the image of the country at inernauona) level. But today, the Governments of

foreign countries have accpctcd the leadership of the present Government and hon. Narendra Bhai Modi ji and given respect to it because of the leadership, policy and good will of the Government which is an indication of changing mentality of the foreign Governments towards India.

Keeping in mind all these issues. I am of firm belief that India is in safe hands now and the people also believe that only this Government can walk the talk on the slogan of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'. With these words, I second the Motion of Thanks on the Address by the H.E. President

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (Bharuch): The Government has presented its achievements through hon'ble President's Address, The Government has executed such works, which no government can perform. The government has reduced financial crimes through GST and demonetization and made efforts to wipe out black money. The number of honest tax payers has increased and government revenue is being increased gradually, lthe government has introduced 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Yojanand scope or the same has been extended upto 640 districts. The facilities provided to working women have been increased and working conditions have been improved. Banking system has been facilitated so as to provide relief to the puor and to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. Over 31 crore IXII1k accounts have been opened so far under 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. Provision of additional fund has been made under 'MUDRA' Yojana to provide employment opportunities to the youth of the country.

I hail from tribal area of South Gujarat where tribal people are being uplifted III terms ofsocial and economic aspect. Tribal dominated areas are still considered as backward areas, But upliftment of tribal people is possible if education, drinking water and irrigation facilities are provided in these areas, the Government has proposed to set up Eklavya school in those areas hav ing more than 50% tribal population. It has been observed that there is shortage or teachers in Eklavya Schools and temporary teachers are teaching in these schools. I urge that the said problem should be addressed and services of teachers should be regularized. The Government has made efforts to promote bamboo industry in the country. Bamboo has been excluded from the definition of tree so as to set up bamboo based industries and to create employment opportunities in tribal areas. The Government is establishing museums on tribal freedom fighters in the country. One such museum is to be set up on the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

bank of river Narmada located in my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch and another at Kevadiya near Sardar Sarovar Dam. Similarly, there is a proposal to set up a museum on tribal freedom fighters in other states. It will help to create self-confidence and enthusiasm among tribals.

An indication has been given in the President's Address to provide a number of facilities to farmers of the country. Reference has been made to double the income of all farmers by the year 2022 in the country. Besides, announcement has been made to provide 50 per cent additional benefit of the agriculture cost or farmers and promise to increase minimum support price of notified crop of farmers upto one and a half times in the budget.

Roads have been constructed in 82 per cent villages of the country so as to facilitate movement of people from village to farms and other villages in all seasons. Besides, the number of national highways and waterways are being increased through Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects to improve transportation system in the country. The demand for expansion of air services is being made with the development in the country. For this, 5 times increase in the number of airports has been done and several new cities have been provided connectivity. The work to operate bullet train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai has been started.

In the President's Address a mention about the payment of 10 thousand crore rupees to 20 lakh retired persons through 'One Rank One Pension' while removing salary related irregularities of senior citizens has been made. The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Protsahan Yojana has been introduced for the youth of the country.

Health plays an important role in human life. Reference of several measures to protect and safeguard health of the poor has been made in the President's Address. National Health Policy has been formulated and Rashtriya AYUSH Mission has been launched in the country. 3000 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendragh have been opened in the country to provide 800 different medicines to the poor at reasonable rates. Dialysis facility at lower cost has been provided in 500 districts of the country.

I would like to draw attention of the Government towards poor telephone services of B.S.N.L. in tribal areas of my parliamentary constituency. B.S.N.L. telephones are not functioning in these areas whereas mobile of other private service providers are functioning properly. There were only two telephone companies in the country in the year 2014 which has now increased to around 113. It means private companies are earning

profit and expanding their business in the country, but public sector companies are incurring losses due to large number of officers and less number of workers in these companies. The Government should improve the telecommunication services of B.S.N.L. by taking strict steps in this regard.

For this, review should be conducted regarding functioning of B.S.N.L. office and on the basis of outcome strict action be taken in this regard.

There are four FM stations of Akashvani in tribal areas under my parliamentary constituency. Bharuch, i.e. Didiyapada, Netran, Jatgadiya and Rajpipla. The Government is likely to discontinue these FM stations. As a result, tribal people will be deprived of a means of entertainment and they are unable to listen to 'Mann ki Baat' and they won't be able to receive information regarding various schemes of Central and State Government.

I support the Motion of Thanks on the hon'ble President's Address.

*SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur): I welcome and would like to thank the Hon'ble President for the Address given by him in the joint session of Parliament which has a vision of 'Vasudev Kutumbakam'.

The leader of Opposition in his statement has mentioned in detail the works done by the Congress Party during their regime of 60 years. While elaborating the one man show of their party he stated that the Bhakhara Nagal' and Hirakund dams were constructed by Congress Government, but did not mention the more important point that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had also announced to construct four major dams in four directions to address the problem of water in the country, and had also laid the foundation stone for Sardar Sarovar project but the Congress Government not only failed to complete this project, but also could not construct the other two dams till date and the people of the country are still facing the problem of water.

The leader of opposition Shri Mallikarjun Kharge enumerated the achievements of one man show of the Congress Party since our independence. He stated that the Congress Government had developed each and every sector in the country, but he did not mention the Bofors scam, 2G Spectrum, coal scam and many other scams and corruption which took place in the name of the development and a probe is going on regarding all this at the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. One

*Speech was laid on the Table.

more thing, he did not mention is that many other countries which also got Independence simultaneously with us are ahead of us in the field of development.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had played a key role in the integration of princely states before and after independence but when the issue of integration of Kashmir came up, Pandit Nehru took the command in his own hands and did not allow Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to sort it out. However, Pandit Nehru failed to integrate Kashmir Federation of India. The result is that even today our soldiers are being killed in Kashmir. It is because of Congress Party that the Kashmir issue is still unresolved.

The other significant issue is that our Prime Minister Pandit Nehru had raised slogans like 'Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai' and played an important role in making China a permanent member of UNO. But now when India is offered a permanent seat in UNO, China has forgotten the favour extended to it and is creating all sorts of hindrances in it. It is supporting Pakistan at all fronts but not us in resolving the issues concerning India. Even then Congress is supporting China and Pakistan.

The third point is that majority of the Congress was in favour of making Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as Prime Minister of India but he did not let him become the Prime Minister.

The members of opposition party never speak about all these mistakes of one man show of Congress Party but people of the country know very well that they are facing the consequences of these mistakes only.

Had our education system instilled the true spirit of patriotism in the people of the country, the youth of our country would have a true sense of nationalis, but in the absence of this sense of nationalism people have developed the ideas of division of India in their minds. This has happened only because of Congress Party and even today, this party is backing the separatist forces. The leader of opposition should ponder over it. The Government of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi ji is contributing in all sectors be it safeguarding the honour of Muslim women, overall development and upliftment of tribal people, or the development of poor, middle class youth, women, farmers, industrialists and labourers, It is making all efforts to realize the dream of Saba Saheb Ambedkar, the architect of Constitution of our Independent India.

The present government is feeling the pains of the poor and preparing several schemes for their upliftment and sincere efforts are being made to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the common man or

the poor and the middle class. which I think will further strengthen the democracy of India.

Giving the slogan of 'Bharatjodo' Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi ji has prepared several schemes like 'Ek Bharat - Shrestha Bharat'. 'Swachha Bharat-Swasthya Bharat' and 'One Nation One Grade' to achieve this target.

By following the concept of Integral Humanism of Pt. Deendayal Upadhvaya the government of hon'ble Prime Minister is developing the concept of integralism, humanism in India. The movement of 'Sarva Jan Sukhaya. Sarva Jan Niramaya' through 'Swachha Bharat Swasthya Bharat' for protecting the honour of women and realising the dream of Mahatama Gandhi through construction of toilets Indians are paying tribute to Bapuji. Various schemes like Saubhagya Yojana to spread light in the lives of the poor, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, to ensure development in the interest of the nation. National Food Security Act, to ensure food for the poor, etc. are being implemented across the country which are taking the country ahead.

The Government is ensuring primary to higher education for the backward class and Adiwasis, employment of the youth along with taking care of the aspirations of each class of the society.

The government has introduced National Medical Commission Bill to ensure medical treatment education, quality and transparency by promoting National AYUSH Mission. Pradhan Mantri Jan Ausadhi Yojana, Deen Dayal Amrit Yojna, reduced the price of stents for heart patients. provided dialysis services to the needy at affordable price so that the poor and the Middle class remain healthy. Our Government has ensured that the poor and children residing in remote tribal areas and small villages of various states in the country get the benefit of these schemes and our government has also started intensified Indradhanush Mission. We welcome this.

Cultural tradition of India is our identity and keeping this in view, schemes like 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' and 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'Amrit Yojana' including the list of cultural heritages have been started.

Our government has taken steps to take our country on the new ways of development in the world as an ambitious nation of farmers, students. scientists. youths and the new generation. The scenario of internal security has improved considerably as a result of coordinated efforts made by the Centre and State Governments and the Government has taken steps to march on the way of non-violence of Mahatma Gandhi through engaging various countries of the world in peaceful dialogues.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modiji has taken the process of nation building further for the development and welfare of the people of the world through people's participation by laying the foundation of brotherhood in the service of humanity, not only in India but in the entire world taking all the political parties together to realize the dream of new India in the year 2022 when India celebrates 75th year of its Independence. He has called upon all to come together to realize the dream of new India and also made all efforts to build a glorious India.

I am happy that our government has benefitted the common man by formulating several schemes, these are the big important things.

Once again, I thank and congratulate the hon'ble President and our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji for taking steps in every direction to strengthen the base of new India.

[Translation]

*SHRI CHHOTELAL (Robertsganj): I speak frequently on farmer's issues in the House. One who will provide free education, free medicine, protection, timely supply of electricity, fertilizer, water and Minimum Support Price for paddy to the farmers, will be their leader. Today, Modi ji has proved that he is the wellwisher of the farmers of the country.

Just after two days of the Address by the H.E. President, the Government has presented a historic Budget on first February. The Government will assist each family in a year in the form of medicine worth Rs. 5 lakh directly under Modi care. Their treatment will be done in the Government or private hospital.

As H.E. President had mentioned in his address that the Government was working for tribal education the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister have passed the budget for construction of Eklavya Model Residential School in the blocks with a population between twenty thousand to fifty thousand tribals. Through this, tribal people will get education and will develop also.

Five crore 'women got honoured under Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna. Three crore more women will be benefitted under it. When women cook food using wood and cow dung cakes, they inhale smoke equal to 400 cigarettes which causes various diseases. Now, they will get rid of those diseases. Poor women will get gas cylinder in the villages. I congratulate hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister for these works.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

1. Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana
2. Employment through Mudra Bank Yojna
3. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Dahej Bhagao
4. Giving protection to women through Triple Talaq
5. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

Every poor person will be provided with pucca houses by the year 2022 Various schemes are being formulated. The poor, the Dalit and the tribal people are shouting slogans of 'Jai Bheem Jai Modi' in the villages.

Our soldiers are defeating enemies on border. They are taking revenge of death of one army man by killing ten enemy personnel but the opposition ridicules our army men. The opposition parties asked for proof of surgical strike when it had taken place. They doubted the valour of the Armed Forces. Was it right?

Do you remember how we got our Independence and how many revolutionaries were killed? Let me remind it. When the country was not free and Mother India was moaning in the chains of slavery, the brave freedom fighters or the country made the country free by sacrificing their lives.

At the same time, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had invoked the public from West Bengal through his famous slogan 'Give me blood and I shall give you freedom', Chandra Shekhar Azad was ready for freedom struggle from Kanpur with his pistol showing that if the English did not quit India, they would be chased away through armed struggle and he did his best in that direction.

Khudi Ram Bose who was 16 years old had sacrificed his youth. Vir Abdul Hamid. Usfaq, Chittu Pandey and Mangal Pandey sacrificed their lives for that cause. Our army men are killed and surgical strike is undertaken and the opposition parties ask for proof. They should be watchful in their speeches because we speak here because of them otherwise many terrorists like Afzal Guru will come here.

The Opposition party Congress is not letting Triple Talaq Bill pass in Rajya Sabha. When the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had introduced a Bill in this House regarding dowry and harassment of women related to Hindu custom, the hon. Members of Parliament had asked about the government's intention for bringing a law for only Hindu women. Then Pundit Nehru had said that he had brought the Bill for Hindu women as a first step and then would bring a Bill for

Muslim women. Congress ruled for 52 years but has not able to make a law like Triple Talaq for Muslim women. Now the Prime Minister of the country is trying to complete the works which had remained incomplete during their tenure, but still the Congress party is not giving its support to pass the Bill.

Muslim women and the country will never forgive them. The people of the country will ask them the reason why poverty exists in the country even after 55 years of their regime. Who is responsible for this? Which party has ruled the country? Who looted the country through scams? ABCD scam occurred. Today, no scam has occurred during the last four years. No Minister was we will not let them check the rising steps.

[*English*]

*SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (Chennai Central): I express my gratitude and indebtedness to our beloved immortal Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA. before I place my views. The extremely heavy rains during the North East Monsoon in December 2015 have caused enormous devastation to standing crops, property and public infrastructure besides loss of livelihood, loss of life and cattle. The State Government's requirement was Rs. 25912 crores. But even a year after the central team had inspected and given its report, the Government had not provided adequate funds to Tamil Nadu.

Similarly in Dec 2016, Cyclone Vardah had caused severe damages to the coastal regions of Northern Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu had sought Rs. 22.573 crores from the Union Government to undertake reconstruction works in areas affected by cyclone Vardah. But no relief fund was provided. Recently the Ockhi Cyclone has devastated the Southern parts of Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. But not enough relief funds were provided from Centre to Tamil Nadu.

Earlier this year the Tamil Nadu government, had declared all 32 districts as drought-affected, and urged the Centre to sanction Rs. 39,565 crore to provide relief to farmers for damages caused due to the drought situation. A special package for drought affected farmers of Tamil Nadu and cyclone ravaged fishermen and farmers would have been a very welcome step. Tamil Nadu was severely affected by drought and scarcity of water for irrigation. I urge the Union Government to release a special package and funds to address the plight of farmers in Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Tamil Nadu having coastal length of 1076 km is one of the leading States in the country boosting Fishing industry. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to release Rs. 3000 Crores for the development of fisheries in Tamil Nadu. The Union Government has promised to form a separate Ministry to Develop and conserve the fisheries resources and to enhance the socio Economic status of the fishermen community and to provide protection, ensure safety and security of the fishermen. I would like the Government of the day will create a separate Ministry for Fisheries and Development of Fishermen Community in the country and focus exclusively on the subject to provide a permanent and everlasting solution for the serious life challenging problems faced by Indian Fishermen Community. The Government of Tamil Nadu has urged the Union Government to release Rs. 17,000 crores to enhance power infrastructure in the cyclone-prone Tamil Nadu either as grant or as soft loan. Conversion of 230 KV transmission overhead lines into 230 KV underground cables need to be expedited to facilitate urban growth in the limits of Greater Corporation of Chennai. I urge the Union Government to release Rs. 17,000 crores to enhance power infrastructure to expedite the Cheyyur Ultra Mega Power Project, to allocate the entire power of 2,000 MW generated out of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Units 3 and 4 to Tamil Nadu and to speed to the process of establishing the inter-state green energy corridor.

In Chennai Metropolitan city, the Central and Egmore railway Stations are strategically important in the sub-urban railway. EMU line connecting Chennai with several stations in Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore Districts. There is an urgent need to have a skywalk connecting Central and Egmore Stations. Many important bridges and railway crossings near Central and Egmore Stations and in Chennai particularly the Elephant Gate Bridge needs to be renovated and strengthened. Therefore, I urge the Government to take up the redevelopment and modernisation of railway stations at Chennai Central and Egmore in one go and also to provide much needed fillip to all the railway stations.

*SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (Bhiwandi): The President's Address is a document which presents the picture of overall development of the country wherein an account of achievements of the Union Government in each sector has been mentioned. The development works executed by the Government in all sectors under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji have been mentioned in detail in the President's

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Address. The Government has provided basic facilities to the poor, tribals, SC/OBC, and weaker sections of the country. The picture of overall development of the country reflects in the President's Address.

Achievements of Modi Government during the last four years like increase in number of bank accounts for women in the country after introduction of Jan Dhan Yojana, passage of Triple Talaq Bill in Lok Sabha, providing toilet facility under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, providing road connectivity in villages, Passage of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, pension facility for senior citizens, Bima Suraksha Yojana for the poor, scheme for providing loan to the poor and people belonging to lower income groups with bank guarantee have been mentioned in the hon'ble President's Address. Today, India has become Net Exporter of Electricity. The work to achieve the target for providing electricity in 18000 villages has been expedited. On the other hand, the Government has fulfilled the promise of One Rank One Pension wherein arrear of over 10 thousand crore rupees has been paid to those soldiers who have retired during the last 20 years.

The Government has taken an initiative to reduce the prices of commodities with the rollout of G.S.T. in view of economic integration and to provide benefits to consumers of the country. The priority of the Government is to provide houses to poor families by the year 2022. The reference for providing gas connection under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana' 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana' and opening of 31 crore bank accounts of the poor people so far under the Jan Dhan Yojana has been made in detail in the President's Address.

The priority of Modi Government is to double the income of farmers of the country by the year 2022. The agricultural cost is being reduced and achievements made in the field of agriculture and science sectors have been enumerated in the Address.

The Union Government has formulated a health policy for the poor and taken initiative to provide medicines at reasonable rates. The Government is committed to strengthen and modernize school and higher education system in the country. The Government has set up National Testing Agency. The Government is working on the setting up of 20 institutes of eminence in the country so as to bring transparency in providing employment opportunities to youth. There is a mention of UDAN Yojana and Bullet Train in the President's Address. The UDAN Yojana has been introduced to provide air connectivity among small cities of the country.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The Union Government has started work to construct 56 airports and 31 helipads within 15 months of introduction of the scheme.

Frequent elections in the country put burden on human resources. The adverse impact on economy and development due to elections taking place in any part of the country is a matter of great concern. Therefore, we should consider the said matter seriously and reach a unanimous decision in the matter because country always comes first.

The President's Address inspires to work with total commitment to fulfil the dream for creation of a new India. The hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has emerged as a ray of hope for fellow countrymen during the last four years.

The people are realizing that the country is moving in the right direction under the able leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister. The hon'ble Prime Minister has fixed target and he is working seriously to achieve these targets and he does not consider any work as impossible, hence the Government is taking bold decisions and working continuously to complete them. As a result, people in the country are hopeful and India is moving in the direction to become a super power.

I fully support the President's Address.

*SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (Jalore): I support this Motion Of Thanks. Our NDA Government is going to complete four years of its foundation. During these four years because of the continuous efforts of this Government our country has progressed in every sector, be it health care facilities for the people or economic development of the country or foreign affairs or safeguarding the country.

We all know that through President's Address the Government highlights its achievements made in the previous year and also provides a broad framework of its agenda for the coming year before the country and the Parliament. Our Government does not believe in the policy of appeasement, but in the policy of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' and for transforming into reality. It is making all out efforts for the empowerment of minority communities. Though the Government has withdrawn the Haj Subsidy in compliance of Supreme Court's orders it has decided to spend the said funds for educational development of the minority communities especially for the women.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

It has been the endeavor of our Government to provide better and affordable healthcare facilities to the poor and middle class people and to improve the quality of these services. A new National Health Policy is being implemented on the basis of all these aspects. The Jandhan Yojna implemented by the Government has successfully connected 31 crore poor people with the banking services. Demonetization has not only wiped out black money from the country but has also addressed the problem of fake currency to an extent. The Government is Committed to strengthen the banking system and to bring transparency in it. For this purpose, the Government has decided recapitalization of public sector banks with capital investment of more than 2 lakh crore rupees. To continue our fight against corruption we have cancelled the registration of nearly 350000 dubious companies in the last one year.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has ensured compensation to the farmers for the damage of crops due to inclement weather conditions. Apart from it, the Government is also making efforts to double farmers' income. The Government has implemented many irrigation projects on priority basis to improve irrigation facilities in the country. The fruitful results of it will be visible in the coming years.

The Government has sanctioned a scheme of more than 18 thousand crores for the modernization of police forces. The internal security of the country has improved considerably with consistent efforts of Central and State Governments. The situation in north-eastern region has also changed. The incidents of naxal and maoist violence have also reduced. The Government has also finalised the policy regarding strategic partnership in defence manufacturing sector. It will promote private sector's participation in the manufacturing of defence equipments and in other major platforms and will generate employment opportunities as well. Not only this limit the Government has fulfilled its commitment to implement 'one rank one pension' by paying an outstanding amount of more than 10 thousand crore rupees to more than 20 lakh retired defence personnel.

It is because of the efforts of the Government that India has improved its ranking from 142 to 100 in the 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking of the World Bank during the last three years. It has increased our credibility in the global market. The Government has made the biggest tax reform after our independence in the form of Goods and Services Tax for economic integration of the country. It has also constituted National Anti-Profiteering Authority with a view to pass on the benefit of reduction in prices to the consumers.

India has earned new honour in the world due to diplomatic efforts of the Government. Today, all the Indians residing in any corner of the world enjoy full faith that the government would evacuate them safely and take them back to their own country in case they face any crisis abroad. After 2014, more than 90,000 Indians who were trapped in crisis have been rescued and brought home.

Government has ensured availability of power at affordable rates to the states by completing the work of 'One Nation One Grid'. Schemes to the tune of about one and half lakh crore rupees have been implemented to strengthen the power distribution system in each village and town in the country. Under Ujjawala Scheme, more than 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed. Private sector has also sold more than 50 crore LED bulbs in the country. This has led to the saving of more than Rs. 40,000 crore in electricity bills of the poor and the middle class. For the first time, electricity generation capacity has increased more than the target fixed in this regard. Now India has become the net exporter of power. The target to provide electricity to 18000 villages is heading towards completion.

Under Ujjawala Schemes as many as 4 crore women have been saved from smoke generating hearths as a result of getting free LPG connection under this scheme and their families have got a healthy smoke-free environment. I have full faith that by the end of next year the Government would be able to provide LPG connection to all 10 crore poor families of the country.

To connect small towns of the country and to ensure that the people belonging to lower middle class, middle class and the youths easily afford the benefits of air service, scheme namely 'Ude desh ka aam nagrik' i.e. (Udan) has been launched. Since independence only 76 airports were connected with commercial flights whereas under Udan scheme the work of connecting 56 airports and 31 helipads has been started within 15 months of its implementation. Flights have started from 16 such airports.

The government has been successful in keeping its promises made to the people during elections, one by one. Whether it is the expansion of rail services of metro rail projects in various parts of the country, development of national highways or improvement in transport system, digital literacy or improvement in communication system, space or development of missiles, the government has made new achievements in every sector and the government deserves accolades for this.

On this occasion, drawing the attention of the government towards the following problems of my Parliamentary Constituency, Jalore, I request the Government to consider these problems sympathetically and take proper and quick action in this regard : The work related to the gauge conversion from meter-gauge to broad gauge of Samdari- Bhildi rail line under North-Western Railway had been completed on 14th October, 2010. Goods trains are running smoothly on this route. Even after the lapse of seven years there is total absence of passenger amenities on this route. Only a few passenger trains run on this route. After conversion of this line from meter gauge to broad gauge the number of trains has decreased actually. Passengers are facing many difficulties even regarding the trains which are running on this route. Hence, Bikaner-Dadar Super fast train No. 12489/12490 be run on Samdari-Bhildi route seven days a week.

Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Intercity via Samdari Bhildi used to run on meter gauge, but after gauge conversion this train Was discontinued. Hence Jodhpur-Ahmedabad Intercity via Samdari Bhildi should be started again.

There was a long pending demand to change the name of Sirohi railway station. Now the railways has given approval to this and I thank the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Home Affairs for this. At the same time, the stoppage of major trains like the Ashram Express and the Ahmedabad-Agra Fort Express should be provided at Sirohi Road (Pindwada) Railway Station. Sirohi Road (Pindwada) Railway Station should be upgraded as 'B' grade station by virtue of the revenue generated from this station. Train had been operated for the first time in Jalore eight decades ago i.e. on 15th March, 1929. Today, the population of Jalore is above 20 lakh. The passenger facilities have not been enhanced so far in Jalore district. Sanchaur is a block of this district and this area has been declared as international border area and it is an extremely backward area. It is still deprived of railway line. It is requested to provide rail connectivity to Sanchaur.

A naturopathy hospital of 100 beds should be set up in Jalore district to meet the expectations of the common people.

Our Government is making new records in facilitating transport services. Today, highway upto the stretch of 20 kilometre is being constructed in one day. In my Parliamentary Constituency, Jherda to Sirohi highway in Gujarat (construction of bypass via Revdar and Mandar) has been declared as National Highway. Work has been started to link Jalore district centre to the National Highway. Our Government is committed to make the highways of the country crossing free. An over-bridge

has been announced to be constructed at the Crossing No. C-48 situated on Jalore-Ahor road (NH-325) for this purpose. I would like to urge upon the Government to complete all these works in a time bound manner so that the people may be benefitted as much as possible. A para military training centre should also be set up at Jalore.

With these words, I congratulate the Government for important works being carried out for the welfare of the common people of the country during the last four years and second the Motion of Thanks.

[English]

*SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (Chitradurga): At the outset I would like to state that the people of Karnataka voted for the Congress Party to power as they were disappointed and disillusioned with the performance of the previous Bharatiya Janata party Government. Our Congress Party came to power in 2013 with a commitment to clean and transparent administration. The hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka has taken every steps to meet the expectations of the people even though there is a lack of adequate cooperation from the Union government.

Our Congress Party is always following the tenets of Equality and Social Justice. Several developmental and welfare measures are initiated with the objective of building a vibrant and a model State. The Congress Government has instilled confidence amongst all sections of society including the weaker sections, minorities, women and the aged. Karnataka government has focused on people-centered development model and the person in the tail-end of the State should get food, health, education, shelter and employment.

The Government of Karnataka's most ambitious programme Anna Bhagya provides rice to the poor free of cost (as against Re 1/kg of rice earlier) and also one litre of palm oil at Rs. 25 and 1 kg iodised salt at Rs. 2 one kg of sugar at a subsidised price of Rs. 13.50 per kg is provided. This welfare initiative of the State Government benefits 1.07 crore families and covers two thirds population of the State almost four Crore people. Our Congress Government's objective is to make the State hungerfree and eliminate malnutrition.

The Rajiv Arogya Bhagya, a cash-less scheme for the people belonging to above poverty line, where the beneficiary pays only 30 per cent of the medical expenditure on treatment and the rest 70 per cent is

*Speech was laid on the Table.

borne by the Government is yet another people-friendly initiative of our Government. Extending a Helping Hand, a novel scheme, where the Government provides for medical expenditure of the victims of the major road accidents for the first three days has been announced.

The Government has set a target of constructing over 12 lakh houses in 5 years at the rate of 3 lakh houses per year. During 2013-14, 3.17 lakh houses and in 2014-15, 3.02 lakh houses have been built spending Rs. 4555 crore. During 2015-16, 4.80 lakh houses are targeted for construction out of which 2.98 lakh houses are being built for SCs and STs whose contribution of Rs. 30,000 will be paid by the Government.

Development of Hyderabad—Karnataka Area: Removal of regional imbalance is one of the foremost priorities. Sustained efforts were made which ultimately culminated in the amendment of the Constitution of India by including Article 371(J) for the development of Hyderabad—Karnataka Area. The Government immediately constituted Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board which approved an outlay of Rs. 862 crore during 2013-14 out of which Rs. 330 crore has been spent and 2339 works have been completed. During 2015-16, Rs. 1000 crore has been earmarked to the Board for taking up infrastructure works and reducing institutional gaps.

The Congress led Government follows the great tradition of the Congress Party by extending a helping hand to everyone, especially to the poor and the needy, the oppressed and the weaker sections, in the next three years. Karnataka will be a role model to be emulated.

The NDA Government claims that it believes and runs on the principles of 'Antyodaya' and makes inclusive development for all. In fact during the last three and half years the union government failed to fulfil the target of 'Antyodaya'. This Government is making the people believe its false claims that increasing the number of opening of Jan-Dhan bank account was the first. 31 crore accounts were opened. As it is known to the world that the initiative of opening bank account was taken by the UPA government and thousands of accounts were opened under the UPA regime itself. This government claim credit for name changing of the programs introduced by the previous congress-led government, That is all.

This government has pushed crores of people into hardship as demonitisation created chaos in the country. Poor people including farmers, small traders, daily wagers, unorganized sector workers were forced to

deposit about Rs. 73 thousand crores under the Jan Dhan scheme. The government did not care for the agonies and pains in queuing up in front of banks in the fear of suffering loss of their hard earned money due to demonetization. Even this is being claimed by this government as it is an achievement of NDA Government. BJP leaders say that hard earned money of the poor people is safe in the bank account and they find themselves linked with the economy of the country. It is a big fun that the common people, who deposited all their money in the account, are forced to live a pathetic life as a number of restrictions imposed to withdraw their own money and also they suffer the burden of transaction cost. I believe this is not an achievement but an harassment of poor women, daily wage earners, small shop owners and farmers. The worst sufferers have been the lakhs of urban and rural labourers and migrant workers who were left jobless because employers had no cash to pay their wages. Then came street vendors and petty traders who were left without customers. Small farmers lost heavily on perishables they could not market. Many transporters, rural and urban, had to stop plying. Small businesses in hundreds of trades—ranging from dhabas and repair shops to makers of bidis and jaggery — closed in the absence of buyers and a lack of working cash. Middle class households, more vocal in protest, suffered extreme inconvenience in getting their money out of banks.

The BJP is saying that it is because of the appeal of Modi ji, rich people gave up gas subsidy voluntarily so that this subsidy could be given to poor people and dalits in the country. If this is true, why Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has not opened his mouth and make an appeal to put an end to the repeated incidents of killings of poor and dalits in the name of Cow vigilance and religious intolerance in the country. The government has failed to control its own cadres and Hindutva brigade who are disturbing peace and harmony in our country.

Another point is the claim that NDA government had decided to provide gas connection to 8 crore poor women during 5 years. It was the UPA government, who introduced Direct benefit transfer for LPGs (DBTL) scheme. With this scheme the linkage of LPG to consumers directly through their bank accounts with Aadhaar to achieve its objective of curbing leakages and preventing black marketing of cylinders. As a result of our UPA governments, ambitious and farsighted program to the LPG is made available to poor women. As far as employment is concerned the NDA Government found no solution for unemployment in the country. It has failed to create as many jobs as it has promised. BJP promised to create 2 crore employment opportunities every year, but it has ended

with creating 2 crore unemployments every year since it assumed power at the Centre. These unemployed youths were directionless.

Social welfare is an important aspect of economic progress. No nation has ever progressed well enough with dysfunctional education system, as deficit in education hurts economic growth. Crisis in education, as pointed out by the economic survey, has not been addressed adequately by this government, or even by governments in the past. While enrollment in schools has shown healthy signs of growth, the outcomes have not been satisfactory. Higher education, similarly, suffers from huge quality issues. If India is on the cusp of reaping benefits of growth on the back of demographic dividend, it has the potential to grow at arithmetic progression if the education system is overhauled and employment generation is sped up. While quality education, along with skill, is a tried and tested long term solution to spur economic activity, the present NDA government has not done enough to make education a priority area for growth, Neither has he done enough to generate new jobs.

[Translation]

*DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL (Bhavnagar): I extend my gratitude to the Hon. President for addressing both Houses of our Parliament. We along with the entire country, have been realizing that the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi Ji inspired by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jis ideology of "Ekatma Manavvaad aur Antyodaya" is bringing about holistic change in the life of the persons standing in the last rung of the society. These things seem trivial but the life of a person changes with these trivial things.

Half of the life of lakhs of women of our country gets wasted in collecting wood and cooking food. The entire family along with women and children were compelled to breathe in the smoke of traditional stove (chulha) and lakhs of women of our country are affected heart, lung and eye diseases and many of my mothers, sisters and daughters have lost their lives. No one thought to save their lives by protecting them from this smoke. But hon. Modi Ji saved the lives of these sisters by providing more than three crore thirty lakh free L.P.G. connections to them under 'Ujjawala Yojana' and also gave them opportunity to live with honour thereafter. He provided healthy life to eight crore women by providing them free gas connection. Thousands of women have got gas connections In my Constituency Bhavnagar and we have also achieved our target.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Under the biggest financial scheme of the world namely Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, bank accounts of 31 crore poor people have been opened and the women have been given priority in this also. The number of savings accounts of women has increased from 28 per cent to 40 per cent and they are also becoming financially strong.

Ten crore loan have been sanctioned and four lakh crore rupees without bank guarantee have been provided for self employment under the "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana" so as to provide opportunities to poor people to make progress and to promote self employment. Now, people are realizing their dreams in their own manner.

We have a culture of 'Rishi' and 'Krishi'. But development of the country has remained helpless over the years. Priority of hon'ble Modi ji and the Minister of Agriculture is to address the problems and upgrade the life of farmers in the country. Five crore seventy one lakh farmers have been provided insurance cover for 'Rabi ' and 'Kharif' crops under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.

Soil of the country is fertile and over 275 million tonne foodgrains and 300 million tonne fruits-vegetables are produced due to hard work of farmers in the country. The work to link Krishi Mandi to ENAM (E-NAM) Portal is underway so as to provide remunerative price of their produces to farmers and trade of more than 36 thousand crore rupees has been done so far. In my constituency Botad-APMC has been linked to E-NAM and farmers are receiving benefits. 'One Drop, More Crop' campaign is being implemented through 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'. The work on 99 irrigation projects which were lying pending for years is in progress. Dairy industry is being transformed through "Dairy Processing and infrastructure Development Fund" and we will definitely achieve the target to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 through implementation of various farmers welfare schemes.

In order to provide financial security to backward people, poor, farmer, old aged women, youth of the country, the Government has covered these people under the 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' and 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' so as to truly realize the concept of 'Antyodaya' and claims worth 2 thousand crore rupees have also been settled. Livelihood of 80 lakh senior citizens has also been eased through 'Atal Pension Yojana' so as to provide support to these.

There is a saying that a rich country has good roads, rather I would put it in such a way that the country which has good roads is rich and prosperous.

In order to realize it so far 82 percent villages have been connected with roads under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' and all villages to be connected by the year 2019. Transportation facilities such as national highway, motorway, railway and air connectivity services we being provided to all citizens of the country. I am glad that construction of first national highway of my constituency is Bhavnagar-Somnath highway with cement-concrete is being expedited at the cost of Rs. 5000 crore and gauge conversion of Batod-Sabarmati and Dhasa-Jetalsar rail line is in progress. It is a matter of great pride that 'Ghogha-Dahej ferry service' was a dream project of the Prime Minister and the same has been inaugurated by him due to which distance between entire Saurashtra region including Bhavnagar and South Gujarat has further been reduced which pave the way for development of Saurashtra. Air connectivity has been provided at Bhavnagar for Ahmedabad and Surat at reasonable rates under "UDAN Yojana" so as to provide opportunity to poor to travel by air.

Approval has been granted to set up 251 Passport Sewa Kendra for providing necessary passport services for foreign visit and 60 Passport Kendra have also been made operational. A Passport Sewa Kendra is likely to be made operational shortly in Bhavnagar. Today, digital technology is being used worldwide. 'Digital India' Mission is proving a milestone in providing due rights to the poor and marginalized sections while uprooting corruption prevalent in the country for years. Vallabhipur Tehsil of Bhavnagar district has been made digital and even illiterate people of villages are utilizing these services. Maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks with salary has been provided to women with a view to empower women and to enable them to maintain their families. The ban imposed on women aged 45 years and above travelling for Haj with a male guardian has been removed. This year over 1300 women are going for Haj without Mehram.

There is a target to provide houses to the deprived poor families so that shelter, toilet, water and electricity may be provided to all in the country.

Today, persons belonging to the poor and the middle class are suffering from various types of diseases as a result of not getting balanced food, unhygienic conditions, fast life style and tensions and the expenses incurred on the treatment of these diseases further aggravates the situation. Our government is providing 800 types of medicines, more than 5200 life saving drugs, surgical implants and stents for heart patients at 60 to 90 per cent lower price through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra under 'National Health Policy' and in the Budget of this year 40 to 50 crore people will

be provided medical insurance of Rs. 5 lakh under 'Ayushman Bharat', which is the biggest health scheme of the world so that the no poor will die due to lack of medical treatment.

Today the entire world accepts spirituality, culture, yoga, Ayurveda and traditions of our country. UNESCO has included 'Kumbh Mela' in the list of 'intangible cultural heritage of humanity'. UNESCO has placed Chennai in the list of creative cities for its glorious tradition of music which imparts strength to our motto of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Apart from this our government is making all-out effort to develop each sector of the country so that the standard of living of each citizen could improve and implementing the motto 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas in the real sense of the term. Our hon'ble Prime Minister and our government will achieve the target of building a new India in the 75th year of Independence following the motto 'Charaiveti Charaiveti' 'New India' is the dream of 130 crore countrymen. To realise this dream, all of us must come together with this committed, progressive and transparent government and build a new India, glorious India, best and incredible India.

*PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (Ujjain): The President's Address is the mirror of any government which contains achievements and future schemes of government. With the blessings of the countrymen when hon'ble Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of India, he in his first speech said that his government would be the government of the poor, the deprived, farmers, labourers, and in this Address of the President the real form of all these things is visible. This government has actually realized the concept of social justice which was uptill now restricted to slogans.

When Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the Minister of labour he provided for the first time the right to equal pay to men and women. It was he who implemented the provision of 6 weeks maternity leave. But that was extended up to 26 weeks i.e. about 6 months by the Modi government. The women of India got justice for the first time. Now the number of saving accounts of women has increased from 28 per cent to 40 per cent. Now they have been provided 3 crore 50 lakh gas connections. Now every bank of this country has been directed that each branch should at least provide one loan to a woman.

All of us know that the Scheduled castes of this country is the most ill treated, poor, deprived and exploited class but Modi government has given justice to them. Under 'Mudra' scheme 50 per cent loans have

*Speech was laid on the Table.

been provided to the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Our friends from Congress and our communist friends kept on shouting that there should be food, clothing and housing for all. In the year 1971, the Congress gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. But they did nothing. If anyone realized the slogan of social justice, it is hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi Ji. By making provision of four lakh crore rupees, Mudra loan was provided to 10 crore people so that they may start their business, become self reliant and provide employment to others.

We know that in the tenure or earlier Governments, only one house in a village and two houses in some other villages used to be provided house under Indira Awas Yojana and these also were marred in corruption. But the hon. Prime Minister has done the work of constructing more than one crore house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. The poor of this country have been given pucca houses. Health has been a very bigger problem for the poor of this country and lakhs of poor die due to non-availability of proper treatment. When someone falls ill in a family and becomes a victim of a harmful disease, one invests his lifetime earnings for its treatment or the whole family is rendered indebted. Even then, the family member does not survive. Hon. Prime Minister has brought the biggest health scheme for the poor in the history of India and made a provision of health insurance of 5,00,000 rupees and treatment of upto 15 lakh rupees for 45 to 50 crore people. I would like to thank the Prime Minister which is full of sensitivity and who paid attention to the gigantic problem of the poor and he has made a provision for their proper treatment.

India resides in villages and Mahatma Gandhi expounded the importance of village by writing a book "Mere Sapno ka Bharat", but the work of constructing roads in the villages have been executed by our government. The work of providing optical fibre in 1,00,000 villages has been done by Modiji's government. The work of setting up 5,00,000 hotspot in the villages has been carried out by the government of Bhartiya Janta Party so that the digital India gets a boost. For the first time, this is the any government which has allocated a budget of 1400000 crore rupees for rural development. This is a thing worth being written in golden letters in the history of India. New India can be a superior India and prosperous India, when our villages become superior and prosperous and these 14 lakh 30 thousand crore rupees will become a medium of transforming the picture and fortune of our villages.

In continuation, the government has resolved to increase MSP by one and a half times to ensure better prices to the farmers for their produce. The decision

taken in this regard is welcome. The work of developing 22 thousand gram in haats into agriculture rural markets in order to strengthen and boost village economy will change the picture of village in the present times.

Even after 70 years of freedom, the electricity has not reached the houses of the poor. 18000 villages were such which lacked electricity. But our government has a target of providing electricity to each house. Under which, the country is being driven from darkness to light by giving free of cost electricity connection to the houses of 40000000 poor families.

Today, self-help groups have become a part of rural culture in the rural environment and how much small jobs coming through these self-help groups and small loans of 2,000, 5,000 and 10,000 rupees will bring happiness in the life of rural woman and change their life which cannot be imagined by the people sitting in air conditioners. Hon. Prime Minister has done the work of further extending the amount of 75 thousand crore rupees to crores of women who are connected with self help groups. A provision has been made for constructing three lakh seventeen thousand kilometers long road for development or villages. Budget has been provided in this regard.

Hon. President's Address is dedicated to social justice because this government has a resolve for social justice but social justice is not a slogan. Focus has also been made on the infrastructure which is the fundamental need of the country and which will strengthen it. Trains, metro, highways, ports, airports, powergrid, gas grid, Sagarmala, Bharatmala, digital India related projects are driving this country towards making an empowered and enabled India. But our opposition friends are bent on insulting the poor even today. They are working towards insulting lakhs of hotel businessmen, small shopkeepers, hawkers of the country and calling them beggars. Those making pakodas on street side shops, running tea stalls, small shops have been called by congress friends as beggars. I would only pray to god to bless them with wisdom so that they could stop insulting the poor of the country.

I support the Hon. President's Address and convey my thanks.

*SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (Churu): Budget session of the Parliament commenced with the address by the hon. President. In his address Hon. President presented the overall achievements of four years of the Government, laid out the priorities of the Government and appealed to work together to create a New India. The Hon'ble

*Speech was laid on the Table.

President has effectively described the economic achievements of the Government. Employment opportunities have been provided to the youths under the programs namely, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Yojana, Saubhagya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn), USTIAD, Garib Nawaz Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Nai Roshni etc. The Government-run schemes have been effectively described which have given a big relief to the common man. The Government has increased the minimum wages of workers by more than 20 percent. BHIM App has played a big role in promoting digital transactions. The Government has approved a new large scale program, namely Bharatmala for the highway sector. Under UJALA, more than 28 crores LEDs have been distributed. The Government has brought more and more transparency by strengthening the banking system. The Government is hopeful about the passage of Triple Talaq Bill. From connecting villages with road to increase in the number of bank accounts of women in the country, the works of the Government have been highlighted. For the first time, increase in Power generation capacity in the country has exceeded the target. The Government has fulfilled its commitment of 'One Rank One Pension' and disbursed arrears of more than Rs. 10 thousand crore to over 20 lakh retired Armed Forces personnel. House for every homeless poor family by 2022, doubling of farmers' income by 2022, the Government has been working keeping these goals in mind. The Government has prepared a new National Health Policy to provide better and affordable healthcare facilities to the poor and the middle class. The Hon'ble President has invoked all political parties to arrive at a consensus to hold simultaneous elections of Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. Frequent elections impose a huge burden on human resources. The address by the hon. President is a document depicting the all-round development of the country which shows that the Government is dedicated to the poor, farmers, minorities and youths.

*SHRI. SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (Tonk-sawai Madhopur): I welcome the address by Hon. President. There are many such welfare schemes in President's address which have not been given any attention by previous governments. The Modi government has initiated several schemes which are benefitting people in the cities, villages and people at the grass-root level. I would like to begin by mentioning about the women, as our Honourable Speaker is also a woman.

Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, more than 3.30 crore gas connections have been provided. 3 lakh gas connections have been provided in my parliamentary constituency Tonk-Sawai Madhopur.

The loan provided to women by self-help group was about Rs. 42,500 crore in the year 2016-17, which would be increased to Rs. 75 thousand crore, an increase of 37 percent compared with previous years. 51,370 women got benefit from this in my Parliamentary constituency, Tonk-Sawai Madhopur and for the last few months, they are collecting milk through Sarjan NGO in Duni. These women are making profits of Rs. 4 crore annually, which is an achievement in the entire country.

The Government had introduced the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' scheme. The scheme has been extended from 161 districts to 660 districts. Now its scope has been expanded from 161 districts to 660 districts. 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' has been extended from 161 districts to 660 districts. 1.26 crore bank accounts have been opened under 'Sukanya Samridhi Yojana' with deposit of Rs. 19,183 crores.

Under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana', about 31 crore bank accounts have been opened with zero balance for the poor. Accounts of 7,48,000 people have been opened in my Parliamentary Constituency. These are such people who had never thought of having a bank account.

So far around 10 crore people have been provided loan of over Rs. 4 lakh crore under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. In my constituency 23046 people have been provided loan of Rs. 131.33 crore.

The government is committed to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 and 100 per cent neem coating of urea has eliminated the black marketing.

A new policy has been formulated for pulses due to which production of pulses recorded an increase of 38 percent which is a record in itself. Besides, Modi Government has provided historic compensation for loss of crop due to hailstorm.

So far agricultural commodities worth 36 thousand crore rupees have been traded under E-NAM.

The Modi Government has constructed over 93 lakh houses for poor and the Government is committed to provide housing unit to each poor family by the year 2022. In my parliamentary constituency Tonk-Sawai Madhopur alone 20075 thousand houses with the cost of Rs. 300 crore have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Only 56 per cent villages were connected with roads upto the year 2014 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana but now more than 82 per cent villages have been connected with roads out of which most villages fall under far- flung and remote areas. Target of the government is to provide road connectivity in each village of the country by the year 2019. Per day average 3 kilometer road were constructed during congress regime which has been increased to 23 kilometer a day by Modi Government.

While fulfilling promise of 'One Rank One Pension' the Modi Government has made payment of over Rs. 10 thousand crore arrears to more than 20 lakh ex-servicemen. India has successfully launched GSLV-MK3 in June, 2017 for the first time and PSL V-C 40 on 12th January which increased the prestige of the country worldwide.

So far over 28 crore LED bulbs have been distributed under UJALA scheme leading to saving of annually 40 thousand crore rupees in electricity bills. Seven per cent increase has been reported in production of solar energy during the last 3 years. As a result work to provide electricity connection in 18 thousand villages has been expedited and electricity connection is being provided to 4 crore poor families under the Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana.

The Government of Rajasthan has provided tubewell connection to farmers who have submitted application upto 2009.

HON. PRIME MINISTER (Shri Narendra Modi): Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to say certain important points while supporting Motion of Thanks on President's Address ...(*Interruptions*)

Various hon'ble Members expressed their Views on Motion of Thanks on President's Address ...(*Interruptions*) Around 34 hon'ble Members including Shri Mallikarjun Khargeji, Shri Md. Salemji, Shri Vinod Kumar ji, Shri T. Narasimhan ji, Shri Tariq Anwar ji, Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra ji, Shri A. Anwar Raja ji, Shri Jai Prakash Narayanji, Shri Kalyan Banerjee ji, Dr. P. Venugopal ji, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtabji, Shri Anandrao Adsulji, Shri Bharti Mohanji expressed their views yesterday ...(*Interruptions*). There was a detailed discussion. Some were in favour but that was a meaningful discussion. The President's Address does not belong to any party ...(*Interruptions*). His Address is an expression of hopes and aspirations of the country and the steps taken in that direction ... (*Interruptions*). In that perspective, the President's Address should be respected and it is not fair to oppose it just for the sake of opposing it ...(*Interruptions*).

Hon. Speaker, some of the states of our country were also created by the Respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. Three new states were created. Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand out of Bihar. But the Government had a vision that the division of the states, transfer of officers and the entire process was smoothly done ...(*Interruptions*). Right decision can be taken if the leadership is farsighted and hurried decisions are not taken in view of political interests. One of the greatest examples the country has seen in this regard is the creation of the three states by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Today country is experiencing it...(*Interruptions*)

It is the character of your party.....you were responsible for partition, you divided the country ...(*Interruptions*) and even after 70 years of independence, not a single day is passed when 125 crore people of our country do not bear the brunt of the seeds of venom you sowed at that time ...(*Interruptions*) you divided the country in haste when the House was not in order just keeping in view the elections ignoring the sanctions of the people of Andhra Pradesh. We were also in favour of creating Telangana and we still wish that Telangana should progress but you sowed the seeds of hatred on that day for the people of Andhra Pradesh, and it is the result of the haste shown by you just to take political mileage that issues are still cropping up even after four years ...(*Interruptions*).

Therefore, such things do not suit you. Hon. Speaker, yesterday, I was listening to the speech of Congress leader Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji. I was not able to understand whether he was addressing the treasury benches or the members sitting on the other side or was trying to appease the policy makers of his own party ...(*Interruptions*) when he started with the couplet of Bashir Badr. ...(*Interruptions*) I hope the Chief Minister of Karnataka must have heard the couplet Shri Khargeji had recited yesterday ...(*Interruptions*) It was:

“Dushmani Jamker Karo, lekin ye gunjaish rahe,
Jab Kabhi Ham Dost Ho Jaiyen To
Sharminda Na Ho”

I hope the Chief Minister of Karnataka would have heard it ...(*Interruptions*) but Khargeji it would have been better had you mentioned two preceding lines of this couplet. The country would have come to know when do you stand Bashir Badrji has further stated:

“Jee Chahata Hai Ki Sachh Boley,
Jee Bahut Chahata Hai,

Ki Sachh Boley, Kaya Karey, Hosala Nahi
Hota”...(*Interruptions*)

I do not know whether Khargeji would be in right place after elections ...(*Interruptions*) and it can be his farewell speech also ...(*Interruptions*) Generally, when a member speaks for the first time in the House, other members hear him patiently. Similarly, the farewell speech is also heard patiently and respectfully ...(*Interruptions*)... It would have been better if some hon'ble members have heard him with respect and patience. It is essential for democracy. We have the right to oppose but the House can reject it.

Hon. Speaker, I have observed that some members of the opposition criticize our policies referring to minimal facts but harp on only one string that during their tenure they had done this, they had done that etc. and continue to boast of themselves. But do not forget that the countries which have got independence simultaneously with us have progressed faster than us and are now ahead of us ...(*Interruptions*) We have failed to progress with their pace, you divided the country ...(*Interruptions*)... Even then the country was with you ...(*Interruptions*)... you were ruling the country in that era. There was hardly any Opposition for the initial 3-4 decades ...(*Interruptions*) Prevalence of media was not much at that time and it was also supporting the Government with the hope that it would be for the betterment of the country ...(*Interruptions*) Radio broadcast was also mostly about your party—(*Interruptions*) other parties had no importance ...(*Interruptions*)... later on when Television started in India it was also dedicated to your party ..(*Interruptions*) Congress Party was involved in the appointments on top positions in Judiciary also..(*Interruptions*) It used to be decided by the party, I mean you had that luxury ...(*Interruptions*)

At that time there was no PIL in the course nor were NGOs in such a large numbers...(*Interruptions*) The views with which you have been brought up, that kind of environment was prevalent in the country at that time..(*Interruptions*) There were no protects whatsoever ...(*Interruptions*) You were dominating from Panchayat to Parliament, but you wasted the entire time in enclosing only one family. You put all your energy to ensure that the country remembers only one family and forgets the history of the country ...(*Interruptions*)... It was post independence era, and there was passion all over to take the country ahead ...(*Interruptions*)... Had they worked with responsibility, the people of this country had the capacity to take the country far far ahead, but they remained engaged in blowing their own trumpet ..(*Interruptions*) they must accept that had they kept the direction right, prepared correct policies. kept their conscience clear, they would have taken the country much ahead from where it actually stands today. They cannot deny it ..(*Interruptions*)... The misfortune of India is that the leaders of the Congress Party thought that a

country named Bharat was born only on 15th August, 1947 ..(*Interruptions*) As if this country did not exist earlier...(*Interruptions*) Yesterday, I was surprised, I may call it arrogance or their ignorance or their attempt to save their 'Chair' during this rainy season when it was said that Nehru gave democracy to this country, Congress gave democracy to this country ...(*Interruptions*) Kharge Saheb, do not exaggerate.

I just want to ask, they talk about democracy. When they talk about democracy, they must be knowing that there was Lichchhavi Empire and Budhist traditions in our country and at that time also, there was democracy in our country. The Congress and Nehruji did not give democracy to our country. There was Budhist Sangha where decision process was based on discussions, deliberations, debates and voting...(*Interruptions*)

Hon'ble Khargeji, you belong to Karnataka, Perhaps there would be no place for you to sit here. By devoting yourself to only one family perhaps you may save your seat here after elections in Karnataka, but at least do not insult Jagadguru Basaveshwarji. You should know because you belong to Karnataka that Jagadguru Basaveshwarji had given a system at that time which was known as 'Anubhav Mandapam'. It was during twelfth century AD. All the decisions in villages were taken in a democratic way. Not only this, women empowerment was also there, as presence of women was compulsory in that Sabha. During the period of Jagadguru Basaveshwar, democracy was established in the country during 12th Century. Democracy is in our blood, in our tradition...(*Interruptions*)...

History is witness as to what kind of system we had in Bihar during Lichchhavi Empire...(*Interruptions*) If we look at our ancient history, we find that we had a republic system two and half thousand years ago. That was also a tradition of democracy. Agreement and disagreement was part of our traditions.

You talk of democracy? A person who was as Minister in the Government of hon'ble Manmohan Singh, and a leader of your Party had said recently, when election was being conducted within your Party, to the media that no election was conducted when "Shahjahan succeeded Jahangir, Aurangzeb succeeded Shahjahan. Did they have elections? We are following this." How can you talk about democracy?

I just want to ask what kind of democracy you talk about. When one of our former Prime Ministers Shri Rajiv Gandhi landed in Hyderabad Airport and an elected Chief Minister belonging to Scheduled Caste came to receive him ...(*Interruptions*) Those who talk about faith in democracy and credit all the traditions of democracy

to Nehruji, following that tradition Rajiv Gandhi had openly insulted an elected public representative, a dalit Chief Minister in the Airport...*(Interruptions)*.

Shri T. Anjaiah was insulted ...*(Interruptions)* you talk of democracy. If you discuss democracy then a question arises that Telugu Desham Party and Shri N.T. Ramarao owe their origin to that insult ...*(Interruptions)* they own their existence to this insult. Shri T. Anjaiah was insulted and Shri Ramarao as a mark of respect towards him had to come forward to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh leaving his film career...*(Interruptions)* You are talking of democracy. In this country, Article 356 has been misused more than 90 times to dethrone the State Governments and uproot the parties emerging in these states ...*(Interruptions)* What did you do to Akali Dal in Punjab? What did you do in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala? You did not allow the democracy of this country to nurture...*(Interruptions)* For you, the democracy of the country revolves around your family only and you are misleading this country...*(Interruptions)*.

Not only this, the democracy of Congress Party...*(Interruptions)* when the voice of conscience is raised, their democracy is suppressed...*(Interruptions)* You know that Congress Party had selected Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy as President and they stabbed him in the back overnight and the official candidate was defeated...*(Interruptions)*. It is a matter of co-incidence that he too hailed from Andhra Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* You insulted Shri T. Anjaiah, you insulted Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy...*(Interruptions)* And you are talking of democracy. Not only this, Dr. Manmohan Singhji was the Prime Minister of the country and the Cabinet which is an important democratic institution formed by the Constitution, took a decision but your party's Government and an incumbent of your own party called a press conference and tore apart the note containing decision taken by the Cabinet in front of them...*(Interruptions)* The word democracy doesn't fit well in your expressions. Therefore, please don't teach us the lesson of democracy ...*(Interruptions)*...

I would like to point out something from history...*(Interruptions)* when election took place for electing leadership of congress in the country, fifteen Congress committees were set up and twelve Congress committees out of these elected Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and three persons voted for NOTA ...*(Interruptions)* i.e. they decided not to vote in anybody's favour, despite that the leadership was not given to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, What kind of democracy was that?...*(Interruptions)* Pandit Nehru was given the leadership. Had Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel been the first Prime Minister of the country, this portion of Kashmir would not have been in Pakistan's possession today ...*(Interruptions)*

Recently, the election of the President of the Congress Party in December was an election or coronation...*(Interruptions)* A young person of your own party raised his voice. He wanted to fill his own candidature...*(Interruptions)* You blocked him also ...*(Interruptions)* And you are talking about democracy ...*(Interruptions)* I know that the effort to stifle the voice is going to prove a failure ...*(Interruptions)* You need courage to listen to it ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, the speciality of our Government is that we have brought such a work culture which does not involve sweeping the news headlines merely by making announcements or befooling the people by mere announcements of the schemes. This is not our culture ...*(Interruptions)* We touch only those things, which we try to accomplish and the good things of any government which are stuck-up and causing loss to the country are undertaken by us to execute them in a proper manner ...*(Interruptions)* Because the governments come and go in a democracy, the country remains and we are the follower of this principle ...*(Interruptions)*

Is it not true that these are same officials, same files, and same style of work; then what was the reason that the previous Government could complete only 11 km of national highway per day, while today 22 km of national highway is being constructed every day...*(Interruptions)* Roads are constructed by every Government...*(Interruptions)* 80 thousand kilometers of roads were constructed during the last 3 years of the previous Government. 1 lakh 20 thousand kilometers of roads were constructed during 3 years of our Government...*(Interruptions)* 1100 km of railway lines were constructed during the last 3 years of the previous Government ...*(Interruptions)* 2100 km of railway lines were constructed during 3 years of our Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... could lay the optical fibre network in only 59 panchayats. After getting elected we have provided it to more than 1 Lakh Panchayats in such a short span of time. On the one hand, we have less than 60 villages in 3 years and on the other hand, more than 1 Lakh villages in the same span of 3 years. There is no comparison...*(Interruptions)*

The previous Government had implemented the 'Shahari Awas Yojana' in 939 cities. Today, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) is being implemented in 4320 cities. Your figure is less than a thousand while ours is more than 4000. The previous government in their last 3 years had added only 12000 MW new capacity of renewable energy while more than 22000 MW has been added by this government in 3 years. Shipping industry, cargo handling was showing a negative growth while under this government, this sector has shown more than 11% growth in 3 years. You

would not have been in such a mess. if you had for the reality. I am happy that Kharge ji has mentioned two things-Railways and Karnataka. Kharge Ji puffs up with pride. You mentioned about Bidar-Kalaburagi Railway line.

The country should know the truth. The Congress never ever mentioned this-not even during the inauguration ceremony or during foundation stone-laying ceremony. You should accept the truth. You should accept the fact. Bidar-Kalaburagi Railway line project was approved by Atal Bihari Bajpayee ji's government. Your government was in power till the year 2013 and you were the Railways Minister as well. It is your Parliamentary Constituency. After Atal ji's government, several years passed and only 37 kilometres were constructed. Moreover, this little work was done under the initiative of Chief Minister Yeddyurappa. He took the initiative. He approved the things demanded by the Central government. Then only Government moved ahead with Atal ji's dream. Moreover that was the time of elections and you felt that starting this railway line would be beneficial for you. Instead of 110 km, you were happy with only 37 km railway line. We took the initiative and completed the rest of the 73 km of railway lines in this short period of time. We never thought of ignoring this project or we would undertake this project later just because it was the Parliamentary constituency of Leader of Opposition. It was your constituency; but the work was for the country. We completed the work for the welfare of the country. You were pained with the fact that I inaugurated this whole project. The medicine for the pain, I believe, has been given to you by the people of this country long ago.

Hon. Speaker, they were also discussing the Barmer refinery. They thought that laying the foundation stone just before elections will help them succeed. You laid the foundation stone of the Barmer Refinery, but when we came to power and looked at the papers, we realized that the foundation stone of the refinery was laid but everything was on papers and nothing on ground. There was no approval for land; there was no land or any final agreement with the Central Government.

You laid foundation there also to get credit keeping in mind the elections. The Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan had to face a lot of troubles to correct your faults and give the scheme the right shape and now that work has been started.

When I inaugurated Dhola Sadiya bridge, some people had problems and they said that the work was very easy and tried to get the credit. They never said with honesty that the work had also been sanctioned in the period Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji' s Government. They

raised questions in the House when I was taking that work forward. One of the BJP Members of the Legislative Assembly had made a demand by studying deeply and Hon. Atal Ji had accepted that demand and then this was constructed. Our Government gave priority to the North-Eastern regions after coming to power in 2014 and accelerated the work and then the bridge was constructed(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, besides it, I say with pride that my Government has taken prompt decisions for the longest tunnel, largest gas pipeline, largest bridge on sea and fastest train in the country and we are taking these projects ahead in a time bound manner. The work of launching of 104 satellites is also being undertaken during this tenure(*Interruptions*)

One cannot deny the points mentioned by the Hon. President in his Address. I want to state how the democracy should be and how to give honour to everyone while in power. One can take a glance at the speeches delivered by the Prime Ministers of Congress party from the rampart of the Red Fort after independence. Not a single sentence can be found in their speeches recognizing the contribution of all the previous Governments in the progress of the nation. I, Narendra Modi, say it from the Red Fort that all previous Governments, State Governments and people of this great country have taken this country where it is today. We have the courage to accept it openly. It is in our character. Today, I would like to tell that when I was the Chief Minister in Gujarat, there was the golden jubilee year of Gujarat during that period. We organized a programme to celebrate golden jubilee in which we collected the speeches delivered by the Hon. Governors since the formation of Gujarat till 50 years of its formation, printed it as a book and kept it in the archives. Here, I would like to explain what the speeches of Governors are. As the speech of Hon. President 'portrays the activities of the, Government, the speech of Hon. Governor mentions the works executed by the Government of that State. We did this work in spite of the fact that the Governments of Gujarat had been from Congress after formation of Gujarat. This is called democracy. You and your family are responsible for the situation that you are now sitting in the opposition benches....(*Interruptions*) You have not accepted the country. That's why, today roads and rail lines are being constructed with double speed, a lot of development is taking place, gas pipelines are being laid, the work of reopening of the closed fertilizer plants is being done, toilets are being constructed in crores of houses and new job avenues are being made available(*Interruptions*) I would like to ask my companions from Congress....(*Interruptions*) I would like to ask our critics of employment and unemployment scenario that when

they quote the figures of unemployment, all of us know that they present the figures of unemployment of the whole country(Interruptions) if the data of unemployment is of the whole country then the data of employment should also be of the whole country ...(Interruptions) Now you will not believe my words....(Interruptions) I would like to request you to check the records ...(Interruptions) Governments of West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha and Kerala are not being governed by NDA Government. The State Governments of the said states have claimed that they have given jobs to at least one crore people in these states during the last three to four years(Interruptions) Will you deny this fact also?...(Interruptions) Will you not accept them as employment?...(Interruptions) I am not talking about the economically richer states and the states governed by the BJP or NDA Government. I am talking about those states which are being governed by your party and they are claiming to have provided employment. Either you accept that the data given by your Government in Karnataka is false....(Interruptions) So, do not try to misguide the country and provide employment data of all such states of the country(Interruptions) the Government of India has made a lot of efforts and formulated various schemes to provide employment and you know that 70 lakh new names have been registered under the EPFO who are youths and in the age bracket of 18 to 25 ...(Interruptions) Is it not employment? ...(Interruptions) Not only this, some of them became doctors, some became engineers, some became lawyers, some became chartered accountants, some started their own business, gave employment to others in their companies and created self employment ...(Interruptions) You are not ready to count it as employment ...(Interruptions) You better know that only ten percent employment opportunities are available in formal sector and 90 percent employment opportunities are there in informal sector...(Interruptions) Therefore, today we have successfully made efforts to offer such incentives and schemes so as to bring informal sector into formal sector. Not only this, today the youth of the middle class family of the country does not want to beg for job, rather he wants to live with respect. He wants to live on his own. I have asked many IAS officers as to what their wards have been aspiring to become and contrary to my common perception that they too are likely to become civil servants. The reply I get is that times have changed. They further say that we reached here in search of Government job, but when we advise our children to become civil servants, they refuse. They say that they would start their own start ups.

1300 hrs.

They return from abroad after completing their studies and say that they would start their own start-ups.

What is the need for them to pursue this career? This is aspiration of the youth of the country and whichever party is in the leadership of India, it should encourage the aspirations of energetic youths rather than discouraging them. We are making efforts to realise the aspiration of the energetic youths of the middle class of the country through Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna, Skill Development Yojna and Entrepreneurship Planning Yojana. It is the outcome of these efforts that more than 10 crore loans have been approved under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna. This figure is not a meager one. There is no complaint regarding any cut or involvement of any middleman in the process of approval of 10 crore loans. This is the outcome of the work culture of this Government. It was the outcome of the policies and rules made by us that they can get money from banks without showing any reason. 10 crore loans have been approved in which more than Rs. 4,00,000 crore has been provided. Besides it, out of the people who have got loan, 3 crore people are such new entrepreneurs who never got any such opportunity in their lives. Is this not the work of increasing employment avenues in the country? But you have closed your eyes and that's why you are not ready to change your mindset. This mindset will keep you there where you are. Atal Ji has said that no one can be great with a wrong mind and no one can stand with broken mind and that's why you will be there where you are and you have to live in that situation.

I would dare to ask all of those who have been busy singing praises about their achievements. In the eighties, dreams of 21st century were shown. That time the leaders of Congress were showing everyone the glimpse of 21st century. They had a young politician in his leader who had come to politics for the first time and had done so by winning even more seats than his grandfather and was showing the people dreams of 21st century. I had seen an interesting cartoon at that time in which a young man was shown to be standing at the railway platform and train was coming from one side. 21st century was written on the train and this young man was shown to be running towards the train. An elderly person was shown advising him to stand and wait for the train saying that the young man need not do anything. The dreams of 21st century were shown in the eighties. The speeches relating to 21st century used to be delivered everywhere and the Government talking about the advent of 21st century, could not bring even an aviation policy in the country. If there is no aviation policy in 21st century, it will be the century of bullock cart only. Was this the 21st century you had been talking of!

Hon. Speaker, we have formulated an aviation policy wherein the unutilized airstrips lying in small towns and cities are proposed to be developed for air transportation and 16 such new airstrips have already become operational and 80 more such strips are likely to be developed and we are working for that. Air services are likely to be started in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. The Members of that side will feel troubled to hear that about four hundred and fifty airplanes are operational in the country. You will be happy to know that this is the outcome of our initiative that orders to purchase more than 900 airplanes have been placed from India this year. We got this success not because we only take decisions, rather we also make proper use of technology. We undertake monitoring work, we are monitoring the works of railways and roads through drone. We are tracking the development works through satellite technology. Not only this, if toilet has been constructed, its photo is tagged on mobile phone. In this way, the work of moving all things forward has been carried out by using satellite technology. The development works have been accelerated due to monitoring work, besides leading a boost to transparency.

I remember the fact that when we won elections, your party had raised doubts that Modi would abolish Aadhaar scheme. Therefore, you used Aadhaar to attack Modi as you believed that it would be abolished by me. But it did not go down well with you when Modi linked the Aadhaar with technology. It was beyond your imagination that Modi would re-introduce it in a new way. When the process was started to benefit the poorest of the poor from the scheme, you felt bad about it. Heads I win and tails you lose'. No, that is not going to work. Therefore, today more than 115 crore people have Aadhaar cards. Funds are being deposited through Direct Benefit Transfer in the accounts of the poor for about 450 schemes of the Central Government. For several years, you have given pension to those widows who were widows only on papers and to those daughters who did not even exist. The amount was taken away by the middlemen. Similar was the case for the senior citizens and disabled people. The funds meant for them were taken away by the middlemen. Today, you are unhappy not because Aadhaar is being used for Direct Benefit Transfer but because the middlemen have lost their businesses. Mind it, only the frauds who used to loot the country have lost their income.

Hon. Speaker, we have brought the Saubhagya Scheme for providing free electricity connections to 4 crore poor and middle income families. Now, you would claim about starting a similar scheme. I agree there was a scheme but did the people have access to electricity? Were there enough transmission lines? Even the poles were not erected in 18 thousand villages. People were

forced to live without electricity and you are boasting that it was your scheme. We do not see development in isolation. We follow a holistic and an integrated approach and a long-term vision.

I want to talk about the subject of electricity. You will get to know the working style of this government. Out of the 25 crore households in the country, 4 crore households do not have access to electricity connection. This means nearly 20% of the population is still living in darkness. This is not something to feel proud of. You have bequeathed this to us and we are trying to accomplish this task of getting it completed. But how are we doing it? We have divided this task into four parts electricity generation, transmission, distribution and connection. We are developing all these together. First of all, we are emphasizing upon increasing the generation through solar energy, hydropower, thermal, nuclear and so on. We have developed the transmission network at a rapid pace. We have worked on projects worth more than 1.5 lakh crore rupees in the last 3 years. This is 83% more than that of the previous government's last three years of work. There is a 31 % increase in the expansion of transmission lines just by our government after 2014.

We have increased the transformer capacity in the last three years. We have done the work of establishing the entire network from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to Kamrup for the transmission of electricity. In order to strengthen the Power distribution system, we came up with the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana i.e. UDAY scheme in the year 2015 and signed MoU with the states. We have emphasized upon better operation of the power distribution companies and financial management.

'Saubhagya' scheme has been launched to provide electricity connections in houses. Work has been carried out to provide electricity on one hand and save power on the other. We have distributed 28 crore LED bulbs. Electricity bills of middle class families have come down by about Rs. 15 thousand crore due to use of LED bulbs which has benefitted them. We have reduced wastage of time and made honest efforts to check wastage of money also.

Hon'ble Speaker, all efforts are being made to play politics in the name of farmers and they also get supporters. The fact is that even after 70 years of independence there is lack of supply chain from farms to stores and to the market and as a result produce of farmers like fruits, flowers, vegetables, foodgrains etc. to the tune of about one lakh crore is destroyed. The government has started the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana. We are emphasizing on infrastructure

which would facilitate the storage of produce of farmers, at a lower cost so that the produce do not perish. They get guarantee in this regard.

The government has decided to help in setting up of new infrastructure in supply chain. Then one lakh crore rupees is required. It will help farmers engaged in food processing and creating avenues for agro based industries in villages for the youths of the middle class ...*(Interruptions)* Animal husbandry is as important in our country as agriculture. Both are related to each other. In our country loss to the tune of Rs. 40 thousand crore is caused annually due to lack of required upkeep of facilities in animal husbandry sector...*(Interruptions)* We have started aggressive work to ensure proper upkeep and health of these animals through Kamdhenu Yojna, and cattle rearers, farmers having cattle are likely to get big relief and benefit under this scheme...*(Interruptions)* We talk of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. In the year 1980, it was acceptable to talk about the 21st century, but they are disturbed when Modiji talks of the year 2022, the 75th year of independence, in the year 2018; they question why Modiji talks of 2022?...*(Interruptions)* They used to sing about 21st century in the year 1980 and sell dreams to the country. Today, our government wants to do work on the 75th year of Independence i.e. in the year 2022 with a fixed time table, which is an inspiration for us. If work is being carried with this objective, then why are they disturbed? ...*(Interruptions)*

They never thought big, that is why they live in doubts and nothing can be done by thinking small. Why can't we reduce the cost of farmers to double their income?...*(Interruptions)* It has become possible with soil health cards, solar pumps, neern coating of urea...*(Interruptions)* All these things have been done to reduce the cost of farmers and we have implemented many such things. We have worked to promote bamboo growing to provide employment to farmers ...*(Interruptions)* if they plant bamboo along the sides of their fields, Bamboo has an assured market. Today, our country imports bamboo to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees, this is because of their wrong policies...*(Interruptions)* They put bamboo in the category of tree, due to which nobody could cut bamboo. People of the North-East were disturbed...*(Interruptions)* We have the courage and we put bamboo in the grass category. If farmers plant bamboo along the sides of their fields, they would not have to face any difficulty and it would also generate additional income...*(Interruptions)*

We want to increase milk production. Our per milch animal milk production is low. It can be increased. We want to emphasize on apiculture. You will be surprised to know that apiculture has increased by almost 40 per

cent. ...*(Interruptions)* Very few people will know that today the world is focusing on holistic healthcare and eco-friendly living...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, it wants Bee-wax in place of chemical wax. Today, Bee-wax has a very big market the world over and if our farmers resort to bee-keeping besides doing farming, their income will undergo a change due to Bee-wax....*(Interruptions)* We also know that bee gives a new strength in growing crops. There are several sectors like milk production, poultry farming, fisheries, bamboo value addition, etc. All these things cover the income of the farmer ...*(Interruptions)*

Those who used to think that Aadhar will not be implemented it has happened. They also had a feeling that GST will not be implemented and they will continue to pressurize the Government. Now, GST has come. So, what will they do now? They will make some new plan ...*(Interruptions)* This game goes on. The political leadership of a country does nothing to disappoint the country...*(Interruptions)*

But some people have adopted the way of doing so. Today, GST has brought about an advantage in logistics...*(Interruptions)* the time which used to get wasted in jam and toll tax has been saved and our transportation system has got 60 per cent new strength of delivering goods. The work which used to be completed in 5-6 days, is now getting completed in two and a half to three days. This is a huge benefit to the country. The middle class in our country has a mighty roe to play in taking India ahead. Efforts are being made to spread misconception to frustrate the middle class and lies are being spread. The middle class of our country want good governance and better provisions. If he purchases a train ticket, he wants the facilities worth the fare, if he sends his children to a college or school for studies, he desires to have good education, if he goes to eat outside he wants quality food. So, this is what the middle class person wants and it is the task of the government to provide better resources for education, houses at affordable rates, good roads, better transportation facilities, modern urban infrastructure and this Government is working very hard to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the middle class and provide an ease of living to them...*(Interruptions)* People will be surprised to hear that if entry level income tax in the whole world exists at the rate of 5% anywhere, it is in India. Something which is not there even in any prosperous country, it exists in our country. In the first budget, the tax rebate limit was increased by 50 thousand rupees to two and a half lakh rupees. This time, we have accepted a standard deduction of 40 thousand rupees in the budget. Provision has also been made to give tax rebate to senior citizens so that the middle class would get a new benefit of almost 12

thousand rupees annually. This is what our government has done. We have spent more than 31 thousand crore rupees in Pradhan Mantri Shahri Awas Yojana. For the first time, this Government has extended rebate on interest to the middle class people of the country. Provision has been made for new AIIMS, new IIMs, metro trains in 11 big cities and more than 32 lakh street lights (LEDs). No one can ignore MSME sector and this Government has done a big service to the middle class and upper middle class people engaged in MSME sector by reducing the tax rate on a turnover of two hundred and fifty crore rupees from 30% to 25%. We have given 5% rebate. In case of businessmen who do business worth two crore rupees through banking loan only, the Government considers the tax liability on their turnover at 6% in place of 8%. That is, they will have a tax benefit of 2%.

Under GST, a composition scheme has been offered to the business involving a turnover of one and a half crore rupees and only 1% of the turnover is required to be paid which is the least in India compared to anywhere in the world and the credit goes to this Government.

Hon. Speaker, more than 31 crore bank accounts have been opened under Jan Dhan Yojana, more than 18 crore poor people will benefit from the health insurance scheme with a premium of just 90 paise per day or 1 rupee per month. We have come out with such good insurance scheme for the poor of the country. You will be happy to know that the poor families that were in trouble have received 2000 crore rupees under this insurance scheme. Hon'ble Speaker, such extraordinary work has been done ... (Interruptions) ... 3 crore 30 Lakh poor mothers and daughters have benefited from the Ujjwala Yojana. Earlier, people had to be after MPs for getting a gas connection but we are bringing the gas connection to their doorsteps... (Interruptions) We are aiming to increase this figure to 8 crore ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker. Ayushman Bharat Yojana should not we focus on healthcare of the poor in the country? ... (Interruptions) The poor avoid going for treatment due to lack of money ... (Interruptions) They prefer to die but do not want to leave their children in debt ... (Interruptions) Is this decision to help the poor and lower middle class families wrong? ... (Interruptions) However, if you want the project to be modified then you may bring good positive changes. I will definitely look into the suggestions closely so that this government could help the poor who spend up to 5 lakh rupees annually ... (Interruptions) But unfortunately you are making these kinds of statements for them! ... (Interruptions) This is a good scheme and if you have any ideas and suggestions, kindly share with us... (Interruptions) We can sit together and settle that out.

Hon. Speaker, the steps taken by the government have also changed the mindset of the people ... (Interruptions) The Jan Dhan Yojana has increased the self-confidence of the poor.... (Interruptions) He is depositing money in his account and using RuPay debit card ... (Interruptions) Today, he considers himself among the wealthy families.... (Interruptions) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has boosted the self-confidence of the women... (Interruptions) It has become one of the reasons for liberating them from great pain ... (Interruptions) Earlier the workers used to fear quitting the old job for a better job as they could have lost their accumulated money ... (Interruptions) We have transferred the 27 crore rupees of unclaimed money to their bank accounts with the help of Universal Account Number.... (Interruptions) Now, a poor labourer can carry his bank account with him ... (Interruptions) We have worked in such a way.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to talk about corruption and black money... (Interruptions) I know you are deprived of your sleep... (Interruptions) I can understand your reason for restlessness... (Interruptions) Those who are out on bail in corruption cases cannot move around freely... (Interruptions) No one can escape... (Interruptions) For the first time in the history of India, four former Chief Ministers have been declared guilty for corrupt practices by the court and now they have to spend their lives in prison ... (Interruptions) This was our commitment ... (Interruptions) Those who have robbed the country of its wealth have to return that ... (Interruptions) and I will never take my step back in these efforts... (Interruptions) This is my Article of Faith ... (Interruptions) I am a warrior. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, today there is an environment of honesty in the country. ... (Interruptions) We are celebrating the festival of honesty. ... (Interruptions) Many more people are coming forward to pay the income tax. ... (Interruptions) They have trust in the Government that every penny of their money going to the Government's treasury will be put to right use... (Interruptions) We are working in this way... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, today I would like to discuss an issue in details ... (Interruptions) Some people believe in telling a lie loudly and repeatedly and it has become a fashion... (Interruptions) Our Finance Minister has told about this again and again, but people who favour them keep on telling a lie loudly and hide the truth ... (Interruptions) That is the issue of NPA ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, today, I would like to inform the country through you and this House about the NPA issue. The country should know that the issue of NPA is connected with the working of the previous Government and they are fully responsible for this ... (Interruptions) No one else is responsible for this even one per cent ... (Interruptions) They framed such banking

policies which put undue pressure on banks ...*(Interruptions)* Loans were granted on the recommendations made over phone and favourites got it. They were not able to repay the amount of loan ...*(Interruptions)* Banks, politicians, Government and the middlemen were engaged in restructuring of the loans...*(Interruptions)*. The money taken out of the banks never came back...*(Interruptions)*. It was just movement of papers and the country was being plundered ...*(Interruptions)* thousands of crores of rupees were siphoned off...*(Interruptions)* This matter came to our notice immediately after we came to power ...*(Interruptions)* If I had a political motive, I would have put all those facts before the country on the very first day. But, any such step would have destroyed the economy of the country...*(Interruptions)* The country might have plunged into a crisis like situation and it would have been difficult to wriggle out of it. Hence, I deliberately kept mum in the interest of my country in spite of knowing your misdeeds and having evidences in this regard...*(Interruptions)* I kept on tolerating allegations leveled on me for the welfare of the country. But, now we have provided necessary strength to the banks...*(Interruptions)* Now the time has come to reveal the truth before the country...*(Interruptions)* You are responsible for this NPA and while standing in the temple of democracy, I hereby declare that we have not granted any loan during the regime of this Government which might result in NPA ...*(Interruptions)* You provided wrong data...*(Interruptions)* You said that NPA was 36 per cent of stressed asset during your regime...*(Interruptions)* In 2014, we said we will not hide behind falsehood's come what may we will reveal the facts. When we checked the papers and tried to find out the truth in this regard, we came to know that the fact provided by you to the country regarding NPA was wrong ...*(Interruptions)* It was 82 per cent of stressed asset ...*(Interruptions)* The total loan advanced by the banks till March, 2008 was Rs. 18 lakh crore which jumped upto Rs. 52 lakh crore by March, 2014. The money belonging to the poor people of the country was plundered ...*(Interruptions)* You kept on restructuring of NPA continuously ...*(Interruptions)* you saved those by giving loans on paper with the help of middlemen because they are your favorites and you had your interest in this work and that's why you did it...*(Interruptions)* We have decided to face any type of trouble. We will do every work with cleanliness. My cleanliness campaign is not confined only to the surroundings. My cleanliness campaign is for making the minds clean for the rights of the people of the country and that's why, we have done this work.

We worked for recapitalization for four years. We have studied the experiences of entire world and provided strength to the banking sector or the country. After that, kept on facing the lies for four years and now

am revealing the fact before the country for the first time that you plundered Rs. 18 lakh crores to Rs. 52 lakh crores. The amount of NPA which is increasing today is not the money given by our Government. It is just the interest on that very NPA that is Rs. 52 lakh crores. The country will never forgive you for this sin ...*(Interruptions)*

At some point of time, those responsible have to give an answer to the country ...*(Interruptions)*

I can see the hit and run politics. Throw mud and run away. The more mud you throw, the more will the lotus bloom. Throw as much mud as you want ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, I do not wish to level charges. Let the country decide. You had signed a 20 year gas contract with Qatar. We had talked to Qatar with regard to the price at which gas was to be purchased and put forth our stand. India is committed to the contract and so we had to honor it. Our credibility is involved. We had put forth the facts before them. I am satisfied to inform my countrymen standing in this pristine House that we have renegotiated with Qatar and have saved about 8000 crore rupees in the purchase of gas ...*(Interruptions)* You had paid an extra 8000 crore rupees. Questions of why and how was it given may be raised. The country will decide that. I don't want to say anything more in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

I would also like to say that a deal was signed by the Government of India with Australia for gas. We used to purchase gas from them. We have negotiated with them too. We have extended the term and in the Process, saved Rs. 4000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)* We have saved the public money. The country will ask you questions such as why, how and where this money of public was spent. People will surely demand answers to these questions ...*(Interruptions)*

There is a small issue i.e. LED bulbs. Can anybody tell me the reason why these bulbs were used to be sold at the rate of Rs. 300-350. The Government of India used to buy these bulbs for Rs. 300-350. What is the reason that the same company provides the same bulb at Rs. 40/- instead of Rs. 350/- and there is no difference in the technology or in their quality? ...*(Interruptions)* They will have to clarify and reply in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

Please tell me the reason why was solar energy sold at the rate of twelve rupees, thirteen rupees, fourteen rupees, fifteen rupees per unit during their rule. 'Loot' whatever you can, but take care of us, this was the motto on which government was run. But today that very solar power is available at a rate of Rs. 2/-,

Rs. 3/- per unit. ...*(Interruptions)*. But despite that I do not make allegation of corruption against you, the country will take care of it. I want to keep myself under control ...*(Interruptions)* But this is the fact, what was happening at that time? ...*(Interruptions)*

Today, prestige of India has enhanced across the world. Wherever Indian passport holder travels, he holds his head high with pride...*(Interruptions)* It is shameful that you portray the picture of India in a wrong way in foreign countries...*(Interruptions)* When India was fighting Doklam battle, you were talking to ablegation of China...*(Interruptions)* They must keep it in mind that there is a responsibility of the opposition towards the parliamentary system, the democracy and the country...*(Interruptions)* When Shimla Agreement was signed when Shrimati Indira Gandhi signed that agreement with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, our party had objections, but history is witness that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took an appointment with Indira Gandhi, called on her and told her that it was not in the interest of the nation ...*(Interruptions)* We did not rescind the agreement and caused any damage to the country at that time ...*(Interruptions)*... We have a responsibility towards the country. When our Army carries out surgical strike, you question them ...*(Interruptions)*

Commonwealth games were organized in the country. There are many questions in the mind of people even now ...*(Interruptions)* We organized a 54 nation India-Africa Forum Summit, BRICS summit and FIFA Under-17 world Cup after this Government come to power ...*(Interruptions)* such grand events were organized. Recently, heads of 10 ASEAN Countries were sitting together on 26th January and our tri-color was unfurled ...*(Interruptions)* The day this Government took oath, heads of SAARC countrie sattended it. You must have thought that why did not you understand this thing in 70 years ...*(Interruptions)* small minds cannot think big.

Hon. Speaker, the country wants to move forward with a dream of New India. Mahatma Gandhi had given the vision of Young India, Swami Vivekanand had given the vision of New Bharat and our former President Pranab Mukherjee had given the vision of new India when he held the office of President ...*(Interruptions)* Let us together fulfill the resolve by discharging our responsibilities properly for a new India ...*(Interruptions)* Criticism is the strength of democracy which should be done. It results in something good ...*(Interruptions)* but democracy does not give liberty to level false allegations. It does not give liberty to lower the morale of the country for fulfilling political motives...*(Interruptions)* I think those who have to express their views on the President's Address have done it. Now, I request them to read the Address and re-read if they could not understand it at

first...*(Interruptions)* If you have any problem regarding the language, take help from others. But do not deny the fact which has been written in black and white. With these expectations, I thank the hon. Members who expressed their views on the President's Address ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, I request all of you to please adopt this Address unanimously ...*(Interruptions)* With this expectation, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

13..45 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:-

'That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January, 29.2018.'

The motion was adopted.

13.46 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: INCREASE
IN BASIC CUSTOMS DUTY ON CHINA

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 17, Statutory Resolution.

Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move:

“In pursuance of section 8A(1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of notification No.25/2018-Customs, dated 6th February, 2018 which seeks to increase the basic customs duty (BCD) on chana (chickpeas), falling under tariff item 07132000, of the Customs Tariff Act from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“in pursuance of section 8A(1) of the Customs Tariff Act. 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of notification No.25/2018-Customs, dated 6th February, 2018 which seeks to increase the basic customs duty (BCD) on chana (chickpeas), falling under tariff item 07132000. of the Customs Tariff Act from 30 per cent to 40 per cent.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 pm.

13.47 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen
of the Clock.*

15.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three
Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

15.03½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Thota Narasirnam and
some other hon. Members came and stood
on the floor near the Table).*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions).

15.04 hrs.

UNION BUDGET (2018-19)-GENERAL DISCUSSION

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will start general discussion on the Union Budget. Shri Veerappa Moily.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget presented by our good friend, Shri Arun Jaitley...(Interruptions). In fact, this is the fifth time that I am initiating debate on the Budget and my good friend, Shri Arun Jaitley, is quite excellent in articulating in whatever he would like to speak...(Interruptions).

If this is the way the ruling party would like to react on the...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All are reacting to each other you, please, continue. What can I do?

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: One must know that the small mind, which the Prime Minister talked about, lies there, not here.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: He must have learnt from you. You, please, continue.

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: I am just telling you...(Interruptions). I just thought that when these people speak about a big mind, a broader mind, a liberal mind, they should behave like that, which they do not...(Interruptions).

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has no word to say, to tell them to keep quiet, which they do not know, because this is the manner in which they have deliberated in the ...(Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Now, hon. Member, Shri Veerappa Moilyji is requesting for a very calm situation here, but

the Congress people, especially under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, should be ashamed that they objected to the speech of Shri Narendra Modi, the Leader of the House...(Interruptions). [Translation] whatever he has done, is disrespect for the Hon. President. We can't tolerate this. Hon. Speaker, all the members in the House were listening quiet; an attempt was made without any reason to stop the Leader of the House, the hon. Prime Minister from speaking. I think this is very shameful. UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji had been the President of the India National Congress. She knows. You were in this House, we were in the House; we never tried to interrupt Dr. Manmohan Singh when he was the Prime Minister. We behaved properly but the Congress party has created disturbances and not allowed the Prime Minister to speak which is an unforgivable offence. All our MPs are agitated Parliamentary democracy is reciprocal. If they listen to us, then our MPs will also listen to them. If they do not listen to us, why will our MPs listen to them? If they try to snub and interrupt the Prime Minister, and do not listen to the Leader of the House, they should understand and remember that this House also will not be ready to listen to any leader of the Congress party...(Interruptions). You will get nothing with such behavior and 'Dadagiri'. I request you that we want to hold a debate on the Union Budget; you should be ready for it. Our Members of Parliament are furious and they will show their resentment.

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down

[English]

Do you not want a discussion?

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him speak. If anything is objectionable, then you may speak.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: At least let him start first.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Veerappa Moily ji, you may speak.

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam, I am speaking...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please tell your members to sit down. You may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Only his statement would go on record.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Only Shri Veerappa Moily's speech will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Only his speech will go on record. Now it is going on like this. Who can teach whom? No one can explain to them as well as to you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, it is all right if the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would like to run the House like this...(Interruptions).

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): He is a model Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...(Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: What about the eader of the Opposition?...(Interruptions). What about the UPA Chairperson?...(Interruptions). What about the Congress Party?...(Interruptions). What were you doing for the last one and a half hours?...(Interruptions). What were you doing for the last one-and-a-half hours when the Prime Minister was speaking?...(Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam, I would like to know this...(Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: You cannot surmise what Shri Jyotiradiya M. Scindia was doing...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Moily ji, you carry on.

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: See, you are disturbing your member.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...(Interruptions).

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, this is most unfortunate...(Interruptions). When the Parliamentary Affairs Minister...(Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: It is not unfortunate...(Interruptions). You are unfortunate...(Interruptions).

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam, kindly look at his body language when he is speaking...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Actually, everything happening here is unfortunate.

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Everybody's body language is

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Everything that is going on is unruly.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You sit down please. Moily ji, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam we have all been elected in 2014 by creating confusion and disorder in the country and telling all lies...(Interruptions) You will have to wait one more year to go...(Interruptions) I can have patience...(Interruptions) They will have one more year to go, and that is all...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You sit down please. Moily ji, you will speak on Budget only and his speech only will go on record. That is not the way. First you sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Moily is, you speak, start your speech.

...(Interruptions).

English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, the behaviour of these hon. Members remind me of the story of *Bhasmasura* who would like to put their respective hands on themselves and burn themselves even before the 2019 elections...(Interruptions). I do not think that we can help them...(Interruptions). Only alone can help them, if there is a God...(Interruptions).

So, Madam Speaker, I do not know whether the Finance Minister sitting here would like to get this Budget passed or not or he would like to go away without any debate...(Interruptions). He has to make this point very clear...(Interruptions). It is the duty of the Government to cooperate and to run the business of the House...(Interruptions). This is the Parliamentary convention...(Interruptions). Today, it appears to me that the ruling Party does not want to cooperate with the Finance Minister to get the Bill passed...(Interruptions). So, I cannot help; you cannot help; and only they should help themselves...(Interruptions).

Today, I would like to say that the Budget has been presented on 1st and I have a few points to

highlight...*(Interruptions)*. This is a federal Budget, which should be so...*(Interruptions)*. This is a federal Government, but what we see here is that I can narrate a member of instances where it does not reflect the federal character of the Budget...*(Interruptions)*. Hence, particularly, in the roads and infrastructure projects, they have charged cess...*(Interruptions)*.

By charging cess, they want to inappropriately take the revenue which is due to State Government. Excise Duty will be given to the divisible pool, i.e. 42 per cent...*(Interruptions)*. The divisible pool should be given to the States. Even in the case of petroleum they would like to put the cess of Rs. 2 per litre and inappropriately take the entire amount. If they put the cess, the entire thing will come to the Government of India. The Budget is a serious assault on the federal concept of economy of this country...*(Interruptions)*.

As far as direct taxes are concerned, They have levied the Long-Term Capital Gains tax. When our UPA-I Government was there, we removed the Long-term Capital Gains Tax and replaced it by Securities Transaction Tax, as it was good for compliance. That has not had any adverse impact on the money market. But now, Securities Transaction Act continues. They have not repealed it. In addition to that, they will have the legislation on the capital gains at the rate of 10 per cent. It is a double jeopardy. That is why there is a total collapse of the stock market. They had an eye on the capital market, it was rising and they were very happy that the stock is rising. Now, they have come to the abysmal low...*(Interruptions)*.

With regard to the disinvestment, the very purpose is lost, Out of Rs. 82,000 crore. Rs. 52,000 crore is the disinvestment of 51 per cent of the shares of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited which is a Public Sector Company...*(Interruptions)*. One public sector company's share is purchased by another public sector company. The very purpose of igniting the capital market has been totally gone away. This is only a make-up to show that they have succeeded in getting more disinvestment...*(Interruptions)*.

Madam, I was a Petroleum Minister, We handled all the public sector oil companies. Unlike the banks, all the public sector oil industries are sound. They were earning profit...*(Interruptions)*. They were contributing to the purchasing power of the people. But now, just like banks they will become sick, they would also make these

oil companies bankrupt...*(Interruptions)*. As a result, there will be a total casualty. What are they doing in disinvestment? They intend to sell the Air India totally. The Hon. Prime Minister was telling us in the morning that UPA had no aviation policy at all...*(Interruptions)*. We never wanted to have any aviation policy of straightaway selling the Air India to the private sector. We did not want that to happen...*(Interruptions)*.

Now, they are going to sell it to the private people...*(Interruptions)*. I can understand opening up shares to the private party. But selling Air India wholly is the most detrimental thing in the country. They are not improving...*(Interruptions)*. We had built the biggest Paradip Refinery in Orissa which was absolutely built by the UPA-I and UPA-II Government. That was about to be commissioned...*(Interruptions)*. Because of some cyclone. We could not organise a programme for the hon. Prime Minister. Of course, I am happy that the present Prime Minister chose to go and inaugurate the Paradip Refinery.

It provided lakhs and lakhs of jobs and it also helped setting up of downstream petrochemicals projects. That is the project which can create jobs. That is how are created jobs. However, this Government has no sense even to acknowledge it while inaugurating the work done by the previous Government. They want to own everything. They think that within a month or two of marriage babies will be born and they can own them. This is what the philosophy of the present Government.

We had worked on another project of biggest oil refinery in Barmer, Rajasthan. My idea was that we should create another prosperous economy like the Middle East. There is plenty of crude oil in the desert. To transport it to a Gujarat refinery, it requires a lot of money. That is why we wanted to put up the Barmer oil refinery with the support of the State Government. We had worked out all technical viabilities, work has been done, financial resources had been mobilised, and UPA Chairman Shrimati Soniiji launched it. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 42,000 crore. This was done with the collaboration of Rajasthan Government. However, the present Rajasthan Government came and immediately said that they do not want it. They had given it up. However, about three months back, after a lapse of three and half years Prime Minister and the very same BJP Chief Minister Shrimati Vasundhara Rajeji relaunched the same project. There is a cost escalation of more than Rs. 5,000 crore. One can imagine the

amount of wealth and job lost! We would have utilised the crude oil produced in that region. My idea was to make this country oil self-sufficient by 2030, and we would have definitely achieved it. In fact the whole scheme had been given up.

We had already made viability studies on coal bed methane, for shale gas and also for crude oil. But today they are not interested in this; they are only interested in purchasing oil from outside. Why? It is because they think that they cannot get commissions if there is oil exploration here. I think it is their old traditional thinking that purchase of crude oil gets a lot of wealth for them ...*(Interruptions)*.

In my fifty years of political life I have seen enough such people who create ruckus in the House. I also know how they are going to go down after some time if this is how they behave. I think all of them will not get elected and come even to the opposition, forget about becoming MPs. They deserve what they are.

Madam, the Ministry of Petroleum in the UPA Government constructed three caverns to store crude oil to meet contingency in times of distress. One was constructed in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh; another was constructed in Mangalore and the third was constructed at Padoor in Udupi in Karnataka. Ultimately, they were all commissioned. At the time when the cost of crude oil was low, any wise people—if they are wise people, would have filled those caverns with low-priced crude oil. But what has this Government done? All the three caverns which were built spending crores of rupees are left vacant.

They could have filled up crude oil and taken advantage of the lower price of the crude oil...*(Interruptions)*. Today they would have gained thousands and thousands of crores of rupees and there would not have been any problem with regard to the finances of the Government...*(Interruptions)*. They did not do that and they just want to put blame on our Government. As far as the exploration policy of the present Government is concerned they do not possess any vision...*(Interruptions)*. As I already said UPA had planned to cut down imports to 50 per cent by 2020, 70 per cent by 2025 and to empower India to become self-sufficient, totally eliminating import of crude oil empower India to become self-sufficient, totally eliminating import of crude oil by 2030 ...*(Interruptions)*. But the NDA

Government has failed to take advantage of this window of opportunity. They have failed because they are importing it, either from the Middle East. Now, they have opened up a new door to Australia...*(Interruptions)*. What happened to the agreement which was done with Kazakhstan? I had personally gone to Kazakhstan and we had entered into agreement with Afghanistan and Pakistan to put that from Kazakhstan gas pipeline and the cheapest ever possible gas will be brought from Kazakhstan to Afghanistan, from Afghanistan to Pakistan and from Pakistan to India...*(Interruptions)*. Today that could have been the cheapest gas. Now, they have forgotten that. They think that there is somebody in Australia or there is some middleman...*(Interruptions)* to strike a deal and they speak of corruption. If they are really interested in fighting against corruption, why should they hold back the Lokpal Act which was meant to fight corruption?...*(Interruptions)* There was a big agitation all over the country for passing of Lokpal Act during our regime. We readily accepted it, constituted a committee alongwith Shri Anna Hazare and others and we passed the Lokpal Act with a genuine interest in fighting against corruption...*(Interruptions)* They should have implemented the Lokpal Act. The very fact that they did not means they have something to hide, something to suppress, something to hold back. I will come back to the Rafale fighter deal at last.

As far as Aadhar is concerned, the BJP opposed it totally. They said, 'No Aadhar'....*(Interruptions)* Despite that, I, as the Petroleum Minister was the first Minister to initiate a step for seeing 295 districts for implementation of Direct Benefit Scheme in respect of LPG and elimination of all duplicate customers ...*(Interruptions)* We got it done. Aadhaar was implemented and direct benefit transfer was done. They talk of Ujjawala. This was initiated and implemented by me to provide free gas. These people have abandoned it...*(Interruptions)* They think that the Aadhaar is the best thing and ultimately, they can get credit.

As far as GST is concerned. it is said not only opined by Y.V. Reddy, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, but also by Raghuram Rajan, that GST is not free from flaws...*(Interruptions)* I also said, 'you send it to the Standing Committee on Finance and we will refine it', just like VAT, where we had something to do with evolving the VAT. They did not agree. They had their own man. Shri Bhupendra Yadav from Rajya Sabha and he was made the Chairperson of the Joint Select

Committee and hurriedly they brought about the reports...*(Interruptions)* There are two things which disturbed and disrupted the economy of this country. One is GST. That is why GST is so vulnerable ...*(Interruptions)* In fact, just before the Gujarat election, they have restructured and reduced taxation rate on 276 items.

This means, GST could be poitically manipulated just to get them elected Anyway, people know the message and they will not go by that...*(Interruptions)* It will take two years, as has been said by Dr. Y.V. Reddy and Dr. Raghuram Rajan, for the economy to come back. There has been more than multiple rate reductions in GST because of the faulty impementation of GST and because of the demonetisation policy which has been abrupty brought in...*(Interruptions)*.

The Finance Minister will have to be accountable to Parliament...*(Interruptions)* You will lose your credibility...*(Interruptions)*.

Only question is this. You have presented the Budget and also introduced the Finance Bill. We would like to know how much is the revenue collection you expect from GST, what would be the loss, what would be the deficit and what would be the States' share you of compensation would have to pay...*(Interruptions)* They would have to pay a lot of compensation to the States; may be more than Rs.10,000 crore. It did not happen when the UPA Government implemented VAT even though we provided for compensation in the VAT Act...*(Interruptions)* Ultimately, in the end, we did not pay even a single paisa as compensation. That was the faultess tax regimel!...*(Interruptions)* Now, it is full of fault. That is why in the ultimate analysis they will have to pay more than Rs. 12,000 crore or even more to the States...*(Interruptions)*.

I have some tables to show how much each State is losing because of the cess imposed on products ...*(Interruptions)*.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, because of the cess, they would be losing Rs. 511 crore per annum; Bihar would be losing Rs. 1.147 crore per annum ...*(Interruptions)*. These are the Losses for them every year. As far as Karnataka is concerned they would be losing Rs. 559 crore ...*(Interruptions)*. Madhya Pradesh would be losing Rs. 896 crore; as far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned the losses would be Rs. 2,131 crore

...*(Interruptions)*. Our MPs should be accountabe to their constituencies in their respective States ...*(Interruptions)*. West Bengal wil be doing Rs. 896 crore. This is the fate!...*(Interruptions)*. Do you think thast the States would be compsated in lieu of loss from GST? Even if there is compensation, since there is no method or system, it could be politically misused. ..*(Interruptions)*. They may give more compensation to their favourite States and ultimately in the fina allocation there would be total distortion. I do not think it can be done unless they restructure the entire GST and make it one rate ...*(Interruptions)*

The idea was to make GST to mean, 'one nation, one tax'. They are interested only in giving out slogans ike 'one nation, one tax' but here we have, 'one nation, multiple taxes,'. This is the fate!...*(Interruptions)* They are even talking about 'one nation, one election' and so many other things. They are saying that UPA-I and UPA-II were responsile for the paralysis in the implementation of these programes ...*(Interruptions)* For the first time, we wanted to make 'one nation, one power grid' when I was the Power Minister. Subsequently, Shri Scindia succeeded me in that Ministry ...*(Interruptions)* In the few months' time. I connected Sholapur and Raichur at a cost of Rs. 1000 crore by which one national, one power grid was initiated in this country by our Government. These are the few things which we would like to say but they would not understand this language...*(Interruptions)*

Our hon. Prime Minister gave a speech at Davos the other day. The increase in our import duty runs contrary to what the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said at Davos...*(Interruptions)*

What did he say? He said. "World is withdrawing from globalisation, but India will continue globalisation". This is what Shri Narendra Modi has said. What has he done? He has talked against the import duty and acted also against it. I think there is not much difference to what the US President Trump has said about 'protectionism'. I do not think this kind of a perversity of Trump is workth emulating by the Indian Prime Minister. It goes against the culture and ethos of India. He has forgotten that while giving speech, he gets possessed and that is what he has done in the morning aso. We do not mind but ultimately by getting possessed one losses the reasoning. That is what has happened with the Prime Minister's reply today. It looks to the pubic and also to all of us that he is desperate on something.

I do not know what it is that he is desperate...*(Interruptions)* This reflects the credibility of the PM's statement in the world fora. This should never be done. We do not think we have any other example of any previous Prime Minister talking one thing in the world forum and doing something contrary in the domestic front...*(Interruptions)*.

We have large item of spending on the MSP and National Health Support Scheme. The question is whether the Government has the money. It is faulty. The Prime Minister spoke on the issue of farmers and MSP. As far as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is concerned, 90 per cent of the premium collected from the poor and common farmers has been misappropriated by all the private insurance companies and only 10 per cent goes back to farmers. Last year unlawful bonanza worth Rs. 994 crore was made by the private insurers as against the wishes of the farmers. What is the *bona fide* of this programme?...*(Interruptions)*

We would like to know what is it that we are voting for. How much have they provided for the health sector? They have provided only Rs. 2000 crore whereas more than Rs. 2,60,000 crore is required for implementing the National Health Support System. Where is the money?...*(Interruptions)*

As far as the MSP is concerned, we have no idea how big it is and how it is going to be implemented. Different arms of Government are telling different stories. There is a complete confusion. You are promising one thing and incorporating another thing in the Budget. The farmers are committing suicide. There is no solution...*(Interruptions)*

As far as MSP is concerned the Food Corporation of India cannot procure wheat from Punjab or for that matter it has stopped procuring wheat from anywhere. It has already become sick...*(Interruptions)*.

As far as the farmers' insurance and MSP are concerned they will work through the Government sponsored insurance companies. This will only help private sector insurance companies to make large profit. It is commonly said that it is the 'Suit Boot ki Sarkar' and accordingly the whole plan and the schemes are being worked out...*(Interruptions)*.

We had a steady erosion in Defence Budget. It is now less than 1.8 per cent of GDP. The Government

speaks about the Defence of the country. Is it possible to defend the country with a meagre allocation of 1.8 per cent of GDP which has been made to the Defence Sector?

What will happen to the security environment? What will happen to the potential threat? We are playing with the security. This Government is playing with the security of the nation. In fact, they hurry up everything because they know very well that whatever benefits them, they can do it...*(Interruptions)*.

One such instance is Rafale fighter aircraft. This Government compromised the national interest and they also compromised the national security. In fact, this is the biggest scam of the Government apart from the Gujarat Refinery (GSPs) take over which is a scam of Rs. 20000 crore...*(Interruptions)* There is a complete non-transparency in the Rafale deal. There is complete non-transparency in disclosure of purchase price of aircraft. There is flagrant violation of the mandatory provisions of Defence Procurement Procedure and prior clearance from Cabinet Committee on Security, sacrificing the national interests on transfer of technology...*(Interruptions)*.

In fact, the Defence Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, in a press conference in Raksha Bhawan publicity directed the Defence Secretary to share the purchase price of 36 Rafale Aircraft. Nothing happened thereafter...*(Interruptions)* The allegations on Bofors deal is buried. It is dead and gone. From the Supreme Court to the CBI court, they have all closed it...*(Interruptions)*

As far as Rafale is concerned, nothing happened thereafter. Tragically the Defence Minister has finally refused to disclose the purchase price in Parliament on 5th February, 2018. With whom they would like to share it? In fact, Rafale deal has left more questions than answers. It is time for the Prime Minister to answer to the questions of the people of this country and to the Parliament...*(Interruptions)*.

I urge upon the Government to come out with a White Paper with regard to the purchase of this aircraft. In fact, for the purchase of this very same aircraft during UPA regime, the negotiated price was Rs. 526.1 crore as against the present rate negotiated price of Rs. 1570.8 crore as per current exchange rate. Who is responsible for the loss to the exchequer? This has to be answered.

It is the biggest scam. People are talking about it...(Interruptions).

Now I understand as to why they are not interested in implementing Lokpal. They know very well that if the Lokpal were to be there, today this would have been the first petition to go against the Prime Minister and this Government to inquire into the Rafale deal. If they are so courageous, let them constitute Lokpal. This will be the first complaint against the Prime Minister and this Government...(Interruptions) that it is the 'Suit Boot ki Sarkar' and accordingly the whole plan and the schemes are being worked out...(Interruptions).

What happened to Make in India. I would like to say what do the people say because they are not prepared to hear it...(Interruptions) This is a New York Times item in Asia Pacific Column. They say:

"India's Economic Woes Are Piercing Modi's Aura of Invulnerability"

They should answer it. The economy is falling. The stock market continued to soar and now it is down again. There was another article which says that the slowing economy risks turning India demographic dividend into a disaster...(Interruptions). At no time, such a commentary has come. They do not want to realise it. This country is endowed with demographic dividend because of the largest number of youth. This is what is going to happen. I can explain so many things but I do not want to do that...(Interruptions).

Whenever our Prime Minister or the Finance Minister represented our country in world fora, they came back with accolades. They praised India. But after the address of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, our credibility has come to nadir...(Interruptions).

This is what they said in "The opinion India"—This was India's moment to lead. Prime Minister seemed reluctant—Modi disappoints at Davos. This is the report that we are getting. But they do not realise. They want to silence the people with their big voice. Since their leader has a big voice, they want to reflect on that big voice. But ultimately that big voice is going to sink them and not sink our Party. The results of the bye-elections in Rajasthan has already come out. This is what he has done...(Interruptions) However much they speak about it, that is not going to help them, rather it will go against

them...(Interruptions).

Madam Speaker, another point that I would like to make is about the Government of Karnataka. As far as the State Government of Karnataka is concerned, there was a statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in Bengaluru which is not befitting him. As far as housing in Karnataka is concerned, the State was allotted 3.36 lakh of houses for poor under the PMAY but the State Government has constructed only 38000 houses. This is what was said by him. In fact, under PMAY the share of the Government was Rs. 1.5 lakh and the beneficiaries were 3.5 lakhs and the number of houses constructed in Karnataka was 2,90,207. Let the Housing Minister of this Government deny this fact? The total cost incurred for housing was Rs. 14,764.09 crore. The share of the Government of India in this was only Rs. 4,357 crore. The rest of the money was invested by the State Government...(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, I would like to mention two points here which are known to hon. Members of the House on both the sides. The Government of India had a flagship programme known as the *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* and also *Rastriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan*. Crores and crores of rupees were allocated by the UPA Government for construction of rooms and also for appointment of teachers. But in the last four years not even a single paise has been released by the present Government for these two schemes...(Interruptions). This Government has not allocated money for these schemes but they say that they are interested in school education...(Interruptions). but on record the Government has not allocated a single pie on these two scheme...(Interruptions) The other scheme is the PMGSY—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. That was a flagship programme of the Vajpayee Government. We increased the allocation of funds under this scheme. But no sooner the Government took over the reins of power at the Centre, this Government has not released a single paise to any State, to any constituency under this programme. How do they face this?...(Interruptions).

Madam Speaker, I would like to make an appeal to you. You may kindly make available the books, namely, 'Discovery of India' 'Glimpses of World History' by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and 'My Experiments with Truth' written by Mahatma Gandhi so that they can read

history and come back. They have no background... *(Interruptions)*. I think, the hon. Prime Minister will have to relook at the statement he made in the morning. When he was referring to Vallabhbhai Patel he said that he was denied the Congress Presidentship and he attributed the reason for it to Pandit Jawahar lal Nehru. No. It was not so. It was Mahatma Gandhi. So, it is an indirect reflection on the Father of the Nation.

I demand that Prime Minister to give an explanation or apologies to this Houses and the entire nation for having cast aspersions on the behaviour of Mahatma Gandhi. This is a major point which I would like to mention.

Now I would like to quote from a book by John Maynard Keynes, a famous economist. He says:

“The master-economist must possess a rare combination of gifts. he must be a mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher-in some degree. He must understand symbols and speak in words. He must contemplate the particular, in terms of general, and abstract touch and concrete in the same flight of thought.”

You would not understand it. It is Latin for you. I am quoting only for the Member who understand it...*(Interruptions)* :

“He must study the present in the light of the past for the purpose of the future. No part of man’s nature or his intentions must be entirely outside. He must be purposeful and disinterested in a simultaneous mood, as aloof and incorruptible as an artist, yet sometimes as near to earth as a politician.”

With regard to the rate of interest, the investment towards the private sector is down. It is on the negative graph. There is no attempt in the Budget to definitely augment private investment. If there is no private investment, there is no job that could be made available. According to the CMIE and the IMF and many such agencies, in the last three years, there is jobless growth in India because of the faulty decisions of this Government.

On the rate of interest, John Maynard Keynes said:

“The rate on interest is the price which equilibrates the desire to hold wealth in the form of cash with the available quantity of cash. Because of bad loans, all the major lending institutions are now trying to increase their cash balances, and have therefore, either stopped lending to customers or put up the

rates or are refraining from reducing the rates at which they are willing to lend.”

What Keynes said in the 17th century has become true today in India. I do not think any other country can practice this kind of an economy...*(Interruptions)*. Only we can do it because there are no ears with this Government to listen to the right advice or wisdom of the economists of the country. Every economist is telling this and pointing it cut to the present Government to correct their stand and to come out with a solution...*(Interruptions)*. But they go on making experiment at the cost of the people.

Within the risk management paradigm, there are two main approaches to reform. The first is to allow market forces to create more and better markets for risk-new derivative products, more extensive financial intermediation.

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: ‘According to this view, the financial system is like an early aircraft. Just because it is prone to crash, we should not abandon the attempt to make it reliable and airborne’.

Keynes further said ‘that these are strange visions for an economist. But then Keynes was not primarily an economist. So, it is not necessary that the Finance Minister should be a great economist but only the most brilliant mind of modern times devoted himself to the study of economics, a contemporary of Einstein, Freud and T.S. Eliot who absorbed the mental and cultural vibrations emitted by their words and used them to revolutionise a science which had not progressed since the 18th century.’

The Finance Minister is equipped with all these things. He reads lot of books. He must have read books written by Einstein and others but in the present regime, I do not know whether he is allowed to function independently to give a better Budget and articulate the economic theory of this country.

During the elections, they declared that ‘achhe din’ will come. I do not know when it is going to come. I think ‘achhe din’ will come for the country only after their defeat in 2019. Write down Shri Bidhuri, you will be the first person to be defeated because people have seen how you are behaving in this House. The cameras are on and your behaviour is well-known to everybody now.

There is a threat to growth. There is a fiscal deficit and current account deficit. The export has come down.

It is not growing. The manufacturing sector is going down. With all this, how will you create a sustainable economy? I have already said about the agriculture. In fact, during the UPA regime. Dr. Manmohan Singh has waived off Rs. 72,000 crore farmers debt, immediately, after six months time, the entire amount of Rs. 72,000 crore lent by the banks and waived off by the banks have been reimbursed so that the banks do not collapse and they survive. Now, they are afraid of everything because they are not strong within themselves.

Even take the flagship programmes of the Government, including the irrigation projects, it is found that only four out of 23 large irrigation projects are targeted for completion by March, How will they help the agriculture sector? In fact, the Central Government has set a goal to double the farmers' Income by 2022. But farm incomes are either stagnant or have become minus. I call upon the Government to establish a Statutory Farmers Income Commission to ensure basic living income for agricultural households. Merely making an announcement without a structural reform in agricultural sector is not going to help them.

As far as the gross tax revenue is concerned and the capex is concerned, it has slowed down. The BE was increased considerably for the previous year indicating a slow pace of implementation. That means that there is no increase in either public or private capital. Gross capital formation in the economy has been showing a declining trend in 2016. It was 30 per cent of GDP slipping from 35 per cent in 2013. How do you improve it? How do you develop? Where is vibrancy? Thus, there is declining trend of fixed capital formation which account for 70 per cent of the total budgeted capital expenditure...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have expressed your objection. You sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: It is a worrying trend. There is no indication in the Budget that this trend will be reversed. You say that you are implementing all the projects. But according to CMIE, the value of stalled projects is equal to one trillion rupees. This shows that along with the private sector, the Government has also joined now this slow-down.

In the Economic Survey which was presented by the very same Government in 2014-2015, they said that the

fundamentals of the economy were very strong and that is why we have a chance and a window of opportunity to prosper and to make a comeback. Today, the same cannot be said of the Indian economy. All surveys, and all rating agencies say that the fundamentals of the economy of our country have weakened as on today and it is a disaster for the economy of the country. This is the fact. It is supported by all the evidences. It is true of everything...(Interruptions). Where will they find the rest of the money for even paying the subsidy?

16.00 hrs.

Economy is in a bumping phase with a slowdown in GDP growth, a higher trajectory of retail inflation, risky current account deficit and instability in banking sector...(Interruptions).

They talked about recapitalisation of public sector bank.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you have availed the whole time of your Party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: No. Madam, I am just concluding...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam, they promised recapitalization of public sector banks. How are they going to do it?...(Interruptions). What is the roadmap? When are they going to do it? But if they do not do it, then a total disaster for the banking sector is awaited...(Interruptions).

As far as job creation is concerned, they have failed. It is a jobless economy with this Government...(Interruptions). And if they go on shouting like this inside and outside the House, what else would be there except jobless economy?...(Interruptions). Their job is only to shout, not to contribute to the dynamics of this economy!...(Interruptions). I do not think our Finance Minister will get any support from such people who are only interested in shouting and creating confusion and disorder...(Interruptions). When there is a disorder inside and outside the House by their own colleagues, how can you expect an order and a sustainable economic development?...(Interruptions). That can never happen. Anyway, let the fate hang on you...(Interruptions). Ultimately, they will make India a BJP mukt India. That is what they are trying to do...(Interruptions).

Petrol and diesel prices are rising. There is no strategy spelt out in the Budget to control and regulate it; and how to meet the challenge that is before the country. With these words, I conclude...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (Haridwar): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I welcome the General Budget presented by hon'ble Minister of Finance and I rise to speak in favour of the budget...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: I am confident that this budget will definitely play an important role in writing a new chapter in the field of job creation by promoting development oriented good governance, poverty alleviation, social governance and bringing changes in economy.

You are aware that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance have displayed their foresight, planning ability, unparalleled leadership and sharpness in all fields, be it the question of energy, poverty alleviation, environment conservation or mobilizing new resources. This budget is based on the principles of integral humanism while implementing 'Antyodaya' policies of the Government. Therefore, in my view this budget is a beautiful bouquet of flowers which will make everybody happy.

"Jan Jan ko Harsayega, Nav Ja Thal me Pragati Prateek Ban, Yeh Jeevan ko Mahkayega!"

Hence, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance.

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya ji had said that Karl Marx had analyzed the history and economy by considering the principle of thesis, epithesis and synthesis.

Theory of Darwin is based on the principle of survival of the fittest whereas we have witnessed the sense of oneness among all people across the country. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya ji once said that one cannot claim that the country has made progress or is on the path of development unless you bring a smile on the face of a man standing last on the social ladder.

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya ji, while enumerating his views on 'Ekatma Manavvaad' and 'Cultural

Nationalism', said that earth was like our mother and we are the son-daughter of mother earth and each person living on this earth is part of us on the basis of the concept of brotherhood. Hence—

"Ayam Nija Paro Vetu Gana Laghu Chetsaam!
Udarcharitana tu Vasudheva Kutumbakam!!"

"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina!
Sarve Bhavantu Niramaya!!"

It means that economic planning should be done in such a manner to make everybody happy, healthy and prosperous, I think, this budget is symbol of his ideology. In this budget dream of prosperous and better India has been envisaged through successful implementation of various ambitious schemes.

Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Prime Minister had also made reference to Atal Ji, One of this poem—

"Swapan Dekha Tha Kabhi Jo Aaj Har Dhadkan Mein Hai,

Ek Naya Bharat Bnaane Ka Irada Ma Mein Hai,

Ek Naya Bharat Ki Jisme Ek Naya Vishwas Ho,

Jiski Aankhon Me Chamak Aur Ek Naya Ullas Ho,"

I think that the path on which India is moving forward at present while facing new challenges, the meaning of Atal Ji's poem is being realised. The concept of new India has been envisaged by our great leader Narendra Modi Ji, and we are definitely moving ahead in that direction.

This is our good fortune that the government has been successful in efficient implementation of the schemes by formulating strategies. It is not a fact as is being said that no scheme were prepared after 70 years of Independence, but that scheme remained just a part of the pocket of few people. That is why the country's progress remained stagnated or declined instead of moving ahead. For the first time in the history of India such an administrative system was set up which succeeded in setting up a time bound transparent and accountable implementing mechanism for schemes and policies and as a result, a special business environment has emerged in the country. For this I want to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. That is why our ranking in ease of doing business jumped from 141st to 100th place. A jump of 41 rank indicates that our economy is progressing at a rapid pace and it has become a source of inspiration for the rest of the world.

Hon'ble Speaker, so far as demonetization and GST are concerned, I think the steps taken for implementing

them and in the direction of building an economically strong India, people feel that these are revolutionary steps. The entire world is witness to this fact. An economist and political leader of repute and President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim has said that GST will have a positive impact. Head of IMF, Christine Lagarde said that implementation of GST was a courageous work and she was very much impressed by it and hoped for positive results I think not only in our country but people associated with economy across the world are saying such things. Director and chief economist of IMF, Maurice Obstfeld also said that economic reform of India had been quite effective. It is very difficult to find such a comprehensive reform in the entire world. The entire world is saying that the manner in which changes are continuously taking place in the economic system of India, it is certainly like showing new way to the world. Donald Trump, the President of the USA has praised the economic policies of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in the meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held in Vietnam last year.

He said that India has registered dramatic growth since it liberalised its economy. That is the statement of the USA. It is being said for our country and for our Prime Minister. It is being said about our Prime Minister about whom a very bad comment was made yesterday. I want to say this because I respect the senior leader of the Congress a lot, but the manner in which Khargeji said about the chest of 56 inch; I think Hon'ble Khargeji does not know that it was the 56 inch chest which destroyed terrorist hideouts and spelled doom on the Pakistani land. Why do not you accept this fact? At present, Pakistan's known as a terrorist nation. What was the situation earlier? The same Pakistan used to threaten us and we could do nothing, but watch them silently. Is it not an achievement of 56 inch chest? India has left behind China in growth rate and occupied the number one position. Is it not an achievement of 56 inch chest? Have we not become number one destination in foreign direct investment in the world leaving behind China and USA? Is it not an achievement of 56 inch chest? As per UNDP report. India is the only country in South Asia and BRICS which has been included in the list of best performing economies. If it is not an achievement of 56 inch chest, what then is it? The world bank said that India reached the 100th rank in case of doing business, a jump of 30 ranks? Is it not his achievement?

16.12 hrs.

[Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

192 countries all across the world started following him for Yoga and Ayurveda. Is not the impact of his 56 inch chest? World Economic Forum summit was held in

Davos, Switzerland recently. Our Prime Minister delivered speech there and the entire world accepted him as global leader. It is the influence of our Prime Minister. Historical decisions such as Triple Talaq, GST and many others have been taken by the Prime Minister and if I discuss about them, it will take four to five hours at least. I think the other comment was also unfair. It is unfair to make such a comment about Narendra Modi Ji that 'Na Khaunga Na Khane Doonga Aur Apne Chaheton ko Jaroor Khilaoonga!' Hon. Kharge Ji, I challenge you to point out the name of any Minister who has been implicated in corruption during the last three and a half years. What has prompted you to make such an unfair comment. I do not want to dwell on the past. If I do so, I can continuously speak for at least two hours elaborating on what had happened in the Congress regime. But I think that ...*(Interruptions)*. Is it right to utter such trivials?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, now I come back with the message what Atal Ji has given to us:

Sabal bhujaon me rakshit yahan nauka ki patwar hai,

Chir chale sagar ki chhati, paar karen majhdaar,

...Gyan-ketu lekar nikla hai Vijayi Shankar,

Ab na chalega dhong, dambh, mithya, Adambar.

This show off will not go for long. 18 lakh more people have been added to the people who have filed tax returns in the year 2016. What does this prove? There has been an increase of 50 per cent in the number of direct and indirect tax payers. Whereas the economic growth of the country is 6.75 during the year 2017-18, it is likely to be 7 to 7.5 during the year 2018-19. I think it's a jump for the country from economic point of view. The Congress Government had made the country economically weak during the year 2004-05. I would like to say about tax collection which has crossed the stipulated target and increased by 15 per cent, whereas it is being said about GST that it is causing loss to the country.

I would like to congratulate our Finance Minister for this. 4.2 per cent increase has been recorded in Direct Tax Collection whereas Indirect Tax Collection has increased by 22 per cent. What does this Indirect? Whether GST has failed and whether everything has been failed due to GST? These are factual and authentic data. Regarding Income Tax, it is being said that salaried employees will get standard deduction of Rs. 40,000 on their taxable income and the interest income on bank deposits of senior citizens has been made tax exempt upto the amount of Rs. 50 thousand. The rebate on their medical expenditure has been increased from thirty

thousand to fifty thousand rupees. The present Pradhan Mantri Vyaya Vandana Yojana is proposed to be extended upto March, 2020 and present investment limit for per senior citizen has been increased from Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh. As far as GST and service tax is concerned, this determination will definitely prove as a milestone in providing economic liberty to each citizen of the country. I think it denotes the basic spirit of the Constitution and it will make taxation system transparent and effective in the Centre as well as in states. Sir, I have been the Chief Minister of a State and I know the problems of a State. But, GST Council is also there in the states. If any problem occurs, GST Council will solve it. GST Council has also been set up in the Centre. The recommendations of GST Council will be binding on the Government of India. Last time, it was said that a lot of amendments have been made in it. Sir, amendments will be made, if needed, because this was a big and hard decision for the country's interest. So, amendments will be made if needed.

Sir, I would like to tell about 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas'. Who doesn't know that the states have been given 32% to 42% funds and the funds being given reflect that our Prime Minister is moving ahead with 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas', Sir, one crore and one lakh new taxpayers have been registered after GST and demonetization. If the average of last six years is seen, an increase of nearly 62 lakh has happened. Therefore, this increase is surprising. So, I think that it has certainly put a check on the black money and also on those protecting black money and this is in the interest of the country.

Sir, so far as GDP is concerned, it is a matter of pride for us that today we have established ourselves as a fast emerging economic superpower in the world our GDP growth rate in the last three years has been 7.5%. The present growth rate is likely to remain around 6.5%. IFA has made an assessment of growth rate to remain at 7.4% in the next year 2019. I think that when there is volatility and instability in the whole world, we are not only able to maintain our economic growth rate, but also surpassing it. Sir, we are being recognized in the whole world for more than 8% growth rate in the service sector. More than 8% growth rate in the service sector in India has been significant in this regard. Even in the present situation, we are the seventh biggest economy of the world. We are the progressive and 15% increase in our exports in the year 2015 will certainly lead us much ahead. Thus, it is a matter of utmost delight for us that in FDI sector where America was the biggest hub of the entire world from investment point of view, it has continued to attract FDI of 56 billion dollars, China has attracted FDI of 57 billion dollars and today, we have become the largest investment hub of the whole world with more than 60 billion America dollars of FDI, even

leaving America behind. Sir, this is the proof and evidence of the fact that our economic policy, our foreign policy and our grasp on our schemes and their implementation tell our success story.

Sir, I think that we have certainly succeeded in keeping the inflation rate below five per cent. It is about 4.3% at present. We are moving ahead with our ambitious economic policies with full confidence with a foreign exchange reserve of 417 billion American dollars. I would like to ask my colleagues, how much was the foreign exchange reserves earlier? What was its maximum level during the regime of Congress? Today, we are moving ahead breaking all the barriers.

Sir, so far as women empowerment is concerned, it is stated in our scriptures that "Yatra Naryastu Pujante, Ramante Tatra Devta". Of course, I am talking about women, please sit down. Where the women is respected, the God also resides there. The God also showers blessings on that family. You will see that several schemes have been brought for women empowerment, like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", which is being extended successfully in 640 districts. Our Government has opened 1.26 crore accounts under Sukanya Samridhi Yojna in the country in which the amount of 19,183 crore rupees has been deposited and I would like to congratulate all for the same. I think that the people are facing problems due to Triple Talaq. This is also our government's respect for the women. This Bill has been brought to protect these women and sisters who were facing insult and exploitation. Concession has been given to the Muslim women of more than 45 years of age to go on Haj pilgrimage without male escort. This is certainly a historic decision.

Sir, it was being told that a lot of employment and jobs were to be generated and in this regard, I would like to say that more than ten crore people have benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Yojana. More than ten crore people have benefitted with the amount of four lakh crore rupees and the matter of happiness is that 76% women are a part of it. An amount of 3.5 lakh crore rupees has been allocated for women which is a record amount.

Sir, if you see, a much bigger historical decision has certainly been taken. More than 15 crores Jan Dhan accounts have been opened for women only. You know this very well. Target under the Ujjawala Yojana has been increased from 5 crore to 8 crore. Perhaps, no one had thought that such a scheme would be prepared in such a manner where a person or the Government would think of the mothers and sisters who are inhaling smoke damaging their eyes and lungs. This has happened for the first time. As far as airways, roads, and railways are concerned, our Government has surprised expectations

in all these sectors. Transport facilities have direct impact on other sectors. It has been decided to operate services on 56 airports and 31 helipads.

Sir, you know that the Prime Minister had said that one-hour flights would cost only Rs. 2500. A poor man can also fulfill his dream of traveling by airplane. This has also happened probably for the first time in the history. After so many years since Independence, I feel that there are around 600 planes. Total is 600. At present, order has been issued for procurement of more than one thousand planes by the Government and non-Government sector. This is also a big achievement of this Government.

Sir, we never considered our ports as the backbone of our economy which can contribute in more than 10 percent rate of growth. In view of this, 110 inland waterways in 24 states have been declared as National Waterways.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, with the redevelopment scheme for more than 600 railway stations, safeguarding rail travel in the country is our first priority. Upgradation of 3,600 km railway track is a huge achievement in itself.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, for the year 2018-19 a provision of Rs. 148,528 crore for the railways is a big achievement in itself.

If we talk about road construction, under the efficient guidance of our Minister for Road Transport and Highways, we have achieved the target for the construction of 9,000 km national highways during the year 2017-18. We have started work on the Bharatmala project at an estimated cost of about Rs 5.35 lakh crore. I think this is such a big task that if you see the total number of National Highways in the entire country since Independence, twice number of National Highway has been constructed and that too in these three-four years only. This is also no less achievement. If a Government works, everyone should recognize it. It should also be criticized.

Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji have sanctioned Rs. 12,500 crore for the 'Char Dham Maha Yojana' in Uttarakhand which will ensure safe Char Dham Yatra all round the year. For this, I also express my gratitude towards our Government. There is Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Hemkund Sahib, Piran Kaliyar Sharif, and Valley of flowers. There is Haridwar and Rishikesh. I would like to invite all the honorable members to take a holy bath in the Ganga River in Haridwar.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, as far as skill development and entrepreneurship are concerned, this is for the first time in the history of the country that under Mudra Yojana' Rs 4.6 lakh crore has been allocated to 10.38 crore beneficiaries. Nobody had ever imagined that it would be done in this way. This time also, provision of three lakh crores has been made for the year 2018-19. This is a very ambitious, visionary and important scheme which aims to develop skills of the youth and the unemployed of the country on the one hand and provide employment opportunities to them on the other. I want to congratulate our Government for this also.

The package to the tune of Rs. 7,148 crore provided by the Government to the textile sector will certainly generate employment and the production of textile will also be streamlined.

Sir, all the schemes namely, Make in India, Digital India, Start Up India, Stand Up India, Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna are very good schemes. Till date, people of the country felt proud to use made in China and made in Japan items. I think vision of the Prime Minister in Make in India, Digital India, Skill India initiatives will prove beneficial in the ensuing years 'Made in India' items will be used worldwide and people will feel proud to use these items.

Sir, a subsidy of Rs. 64,000 crore has been directly deposited in the bank accounts of beneficiaries through seeding of Aadhar with bank account under Digital India Programme and Jan Dhan Yojana. All this happened with the use of technology. Not only this, the said initiative has proved beneficial in bringing transparency and in curbing corruption in government schemes. Over three crore fake gas connections and two crore seven lakh fake ration cards have been seized through digital technology. Billions of rupees are involved in such racket of fake gas connections and bogus ration cards. On one hand, the entire country has been brought to the Aadhar level and on the other hand one lakh Gram Panchayats have been connected with 'Bharat Net Project'. The budget allocation for Digital India Programme has been doubled and an amount of Rs. 3,073 crore has been allocated under the scheme. Hence, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister and the Government.

Sir, health is wealth. It is said "Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam". Body and mind are two important parts of life. Without health you cannot achieve anything. Good

health is necessary to achieve success in life. Hence, the Government has envisaged the concept of prosperous India and Healthy India. All health care facilities are being provided through 1.5 lakh centres across in the country. An amount of Rs. 1200 crore has been earmarked to provide free of cost drugs and diagnostic services.

Sir, a medical college will be set up for three Lok Sabha constituencies and around 24 medical colleges will be set up to provide health care facilities and to conduct research work. This step will prove beneficial for lakhs and crores of people in the country. This is an ambitious scheme. For the first time, 50 crore people will be benefitted under the scheme. Insurance cover (upto Rs. 5 lakh per year for each family has been provided. Now, 50 crore poor families will be provided health care services. It is the largest flagship programme in the world. Under the scheme, 10 crore families comprising around 50 crore people will be provided coverage of up to Rs. 5 lakh per year per family. It is a flagship programme of the government. It is a new initiative taken for the first time in the world. I would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare for this.

Sir, the Government has taken an important step to provide health care facilities to the poor and middle class families for treatment of diseases for the first time in the 70 years of Independence with the concept of prosperous and healthy India. Over three thousand Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been set up in the country. Today, equipments worth Rs. 2.50 lakh are being provided at 40 thousand rupees. It is a revolutionary step. Life saving drugs are being provided at these Kendras. Under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Scheme, a rebate of 60% to 90% on over 5200 life saving drugs is being provided. This is an important thing. Upto 6.7 per cent increase has been reported in various schemes for immunization. 13 thousand new MBBS seats and 7 thousand P.G. seats have been accorded approval to address the disparity in doctor-patient ratio in the country. Today, there are such Medical Colleges which lack sufficient number of faculties. In these colleges the seats for MBBS, MD and faculty should be increased so that our medical education become affordable. I think it is a very important step in the direction of Yoga and Ayurveda.

Sir, as you know today India has become a leader in Yoga and Ayurveda in the entire world. What we call Ayurveda, is actually a science of 'Aayu' and 'Shashva'

treatment. This government is paying attention towards this very system of medicine. I am fully confident that we'll be able to ensure physical and mental health of the people of entire world through Ayurveda.

Sir, we have never appeased the minorities, but have worked for their empowerment. Earlier, they were being appeased, now they are being empowered. I want to know what is correct-appeasement or empowerment? All the governments which came to power after the Independence of the country so far never paid attention towards the education and medical treatment to them. For the first time, this government has provided free coaching centres for the children of the minorities, made arrangement for their education and advancement. The way the government accorded importance to empowerment and provided schemes like 'Sekho and Kamao', Ustad, Garib Nawaz, Kaushal Vikas Yojna, Nai Roshani', etc. for the minority brothers and sisters, this has been done for the first time in the history of this country. I think minorities have the same feeling. Till date, they were subjected to deceit, their children were not provided education, When their children are educated, they will think about the country and the world by coming out of narrow consideration. This is what our Prime Minister wants, my government wants. I am happy that today the Muslim community has accepted this fact. Today, they are also openly standing with Modiji.

Sir, earlier our friends used to say that this is the government of shopkeepers. and it is anti-farmer government. And when so many schemes were prepared for the farmer, they say why were farmers given so much? It is quite surprising. I think it is required. Farmers are the soul of this country, they are 'annadata'. For that our Prime Minister, our government has ensured security for the last field of farmers in all respects. If their last farm is damaged, security will be provided under Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme. The last field is being irrigated through Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojna. The production carried out by the farmers will be their production cost, and one and half times of that cost will be provided as support price. The farmers will not backtrack. Not only this, there are proposals to double their income by the year 2022. I do not want to go into the details, but what our government has done for the farmers, if I get at least two hours, then I'll be able to describe the works done by our government for the farmers.

I want to congratulate my government that it has taken a historic decision. In the matter of dairy development, an amount of ten thousand crore rupees has been allocated for dairy development. Persons who used to rear two cows, will have the capacity of rearing fifty cows. Such a scheme has been prepared. Certainly, the white revolution which will be ushered, strengthen our economy, provide employment to our citizens and a new initiative will be launched.

For agricultural marketing, which is related to setting up of infrastructure, an amount of two thousand crore rupees have been provided. As many as 22 thousand rural haats have been converted into agricultural markets. An amount of Rs. 1400/- crore has been provided to manage other agro-products. An amount of Rs. 2600/- crore has been provided under Krishi Sinchai Yojna. Organic cultivation should be increased by setting up big clusters in Villages, and it is quite essential. It is essential because I belong to Himalayan region. On the one hand, there are possibilities, and on the other hand, these fruits and vegetables have become the source of diseases. People are turning hollow from within because of fruits laced with chemicals in the absence of organic cultivation. Organic cultivation should be encouraged in fruit belts, vegetable belts so that the health of people could be protected.

In comparison to last years, an amount of 1400 crore rupees has been provided for processing of agricultural goods under 'Krishi Sampada Yojana'. would like to congratulate the Government for the same. And the most important point is that we are importing paper worth thousand crore of rupees from abroad but we have never promoted our bamboo. I think that our Prime Minister has rightly given 'green gold' name to bamboo and this 'green gold' will certainly change the fate of farmers and give a new financial base to the country as well as a new direction of development. A provision of 1290 crore rupees made for the farmers under Bamboo project has also happened for the first time.

Operation Green will be launched in the country. A provision of 500 crore rupees has been made for launching 'Operation Green'. The prices of potato, tomato and onion will also be regulated under it. When the conclave of Chief Ministers of hilly states was organized in the year 2010, I had told that there was a need for green bonus. These developed countries are polluting our country and making the air toxic. And the Himalayas is absorbing everything even today, like Neelkanth. Even today, the Himalayas is absorbing the toxicity in the air

being spread by these developed countries which consider themselves much advanced. Even today it is protecting the health all over the world by becoming Neelkanth and thus protecting their lives. The youthfulness of hilly region, the water of hilly region and the life giving air of hill state are for this country and the whole world. So far as green bonus is concerned, I would like to request the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to expand its ambit. When our Prime Minister was visiting abroad, he raised his concern on terrorism, protectionism and environment. Therefore, all the people at the international level felt that the Prime Minister has raised concern about the people of the entire world.

This campaign is necessary for the protection and safety of environment. The government has made a provision of 500 crore rupees for this purpose. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance Shri Shuklaji is sitting here and I want to congratulate him. Education is the backbone of a person and the society. There is nothing without education. There is a Sanskrit adage:

"Vidvatvam cha Nripatvam cha Na Eva Tulye Kadachana Swadeshe Pujyate Raja, Vidwan Sarvatra Pujyate"

Education transcends the boundaries of the country; it is respected in the whole world. Therefore, education is extremely necessary. I want to opine that the foundation of education should be strong in building a supreme nation. This Government has taken steps in that direction also. A provision of ten thousand crore rupees has been made to make the universities at par with international standards. The government has also started a new drive to give the management education a new dimension by making a legal provision to enhance educational quality and research as well as other activities in IIMs. I would like to congratulate the Education Minister for the same.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a provision of giving research fellowship to promote research in the country. There is a provision of setting up 18 new IITs and NITs. There is a provision of setting up 10 world level universities in the country. A provision has been made to spend one lakh crore rupees in the next four years for setting up educational infrastructure. Such a decision is being taken for the first time after independence.

The government has allocated 85,010 crore rupees for education. I would like to congratulate the government for the same. The Government will mobilize 20,000 crore rupees for setting up Education Finance Agency. A framework has also been prepared for setting up educational infrastructure. A provision of 50,000 crore rupees has been made for school education. An amount of 35,010 crore rupees has been allocated for higher education. My colleague was saying that the allocation in that case was this much, now it has come down. The detailed issues like the allocation of funds for various sectors, the level of requirement, the allocation based on whims and fancies and not on actual needs was happening under your regime. Now, the government has fixed priorities. I have had the privilege to be the Finance Minister. I have been the Finance Minister of Uttarakhand and I also have the privilege to be the Minister of Development of Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. There, I presented the budget of hilly region. Then, I also had the privilege to be the Chief Minister.

The Department takes liberty in increasing or decreasing the budget upto 10 to 20 per cent in implementation of various schemes. Objections are raised regarding such schemes. Our Government has done a very good job in this regard. Priority schemes would be implemented. Whether Rs. One crore, Rs. 100 crores, Rs. 1000 crores or Rs. 100000 crores is needed, it would be provided. If Rs. 100000 crore is needed, it will be given, but taken back if not utilized. The Government deserves congratulation for this.

Funds have been allocated for urban and rural development. Smart cities are going to be constructed. 99 cities have been selected to be upgraded as smart cities and Rs. 2.04 lakh crore has been provided for this purpose. These cities will be upgraded. Rs. 77,640 crores have been sanctioned to provide safe drinking water in 500 cities under AMRUT Yojna. Vitt Nigam Limited was set up in the country to carry on all these projects in full swing. Providing houses to every people by the year 2022 is a big target. On one hand, there is immense development, on the other hand, there are people living in backward and remote areas who have neither toilets, nor houses. The Government has also expressed concern about those who do not have education.

The Government is moving forward keeping in mind both aspects and it is a very big step. These houses will have electricity, water and technology. Provision of Rs.

21,000 crore has been made for this. The Government is going to construct more than one crore houses immediately. Our Government is committed to the welfare of Indian soldiers. One Rank One Pension was discussed for 40 years. We are glad that we have implemented it, rather than speaking about it. Now, Rs. 10,000 crores have been deposited in the accounts of the soldiers and their family members. Besides, 12.10 per cent of total Budget has been provided to Defence Provision of Rs. 2,95,511.41 crores has been made in this regard. Definitely, it is our priority to secure the future of our brave soldiers through the Defence budget.

About 31 crore new accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna. It has broken all world records. Before implementation of this scheme by the Hon. Prime Minister, if any penniless person went to the bank to open account, the branch manager would call him mad and throw him out of the bank. It is such a revolutionary step that more than Rs. 68,000 crores have been deposited in about 31 crore accounts opened with zero balance. These are the people who get encouraged to save money and whose life has turned meaningful. A policy has been made to provide overdraft upto Rs. 5,000 without any condition, problem and guarantor. If Rs. 5,000 is provided to 31 crore people, Rs. 1 to 1.5 lakh crore goes in their accounts. This is a big change. This time, more than Rs. 40,000 crore have been transferred in their accounts without any middlemen. A new type of transparent economic system has been started.

I think Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna is also a part of it. No one could think that insurance could be availed by paying only Rs. 1 per month and Rs. 12 per year for an insurance of rupees two lakhs. Previous insurance schemes took a long to settle case of any accident or death, but this scheme has the provision to provide Rs. One lakh immediately in case of disablement. I think more than 10- 12 crore people are getting direct benefit through this scheme.

The country was in dark. The freedom fighters thought that when the country became independent, they would get electricity and food and they would progress rapidly. The hon. Prime Minister has said this very morning that 18,000 villages were without electricity even after 70 years of independence of the country. Now, this Government has provided electricity there. Four crore people living in slums will get free connection under

Saubhagya Yojna. It is being discussed that who has got what, you can see that. You cannot see because you are not able to get out of here, you are not in touch with the people.

The number of targeted beneficiaries under the Ujjwala Yojana has been increased from 3 crore to 8 crore which will ensure free gas connections to our mothers and sisters. They have tears of joy in their eyes because for them, this is the first time that they have got the freedom since the country got its independence. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the Government for making provision of Rs. 16,000 crore for 4 crore electricity connections. Families living in dark will now have the access to electricity.

Supt pade niras jivan mein jine ki alag jagah denge
*Soye-soye khoye mann mein, kuch naye kame
 ki lalak jagegi.*

I feel that this step by the Government will go a long way in instilling new hope for living life.

Cleanliness, 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is very important. The day when we get rid of the dirt in our minds, all dirt will be cleaned. Today, the hon. Prime Minister has indicated and highlighted the same. 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is not just about disposing of garbage. Who are responsible for the garbage, they are same people who have filthy minds. Today itself, the hon. Prime Minister said that persons who continuously think about trifles, they harm not only themselves but also the nation.

'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' also aims to free the mind from foul and darkness. He quoted Atal Ji. Atal Ji had said, "Chhote mann wala kabhi bada nahi ho sakta aur toote tann wala kabhi khada nahi ho sakta". One, who is busy in trifles, can't be expected to speak noble words. One who cannot think big, cannot be a great person. So, this Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is very important. 6 crore toilets have been constructed till now and construction of 2 crore new toilets has been announced. For this, the Ministry of Finance has made a provision of 15,343 crore and it is 17,843 crore for urban areas.

Sir, no doubt, the Ganga River is our mother; the water of the Ganga is nectar for us and for the whole world. So, under 'Namami Gange Programme', 4465 villages have been declared open defecation free and 187 projects at a cost of 16,713 crore have been sanctioned. I would like to extend my gratitude and congratulate the Government.

Sir, Uttarakhand is strategically very important and that is why I request the hon. Minister of Finance to announce a research centre having international significance. An International Institute for Yoga and Ayurveda should be established in Rishikesh. I demand for an establishment of an International Research Centre for development and research on agriculture in Uttarakhand including Haridwar. I am almost done now. Our hon. Prime Minister says that we have to live each and every moment on this earth. Referring the ones who speak ill about someone, he says:

*"zahar bhi hai zindgi to halak ghoonte ja use,
 Kanth hi to neel hoga, parwaah uski hai kise?"*

That is why, he is continuously progressing. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. I feel that the hon. Prime Minister is thinking like this:

*"Mujhko isko nahi hai gam, jo faila tha bhishan tam.
 Main nij ko tapa tapa kar nayi roshni launga,
 Dharti ke kan-kan jan hit mein main Geeta ko gaunga.
 Khushiyon ki barsaat jahan ho, main aisi
 duniya banaunga.*

This is the dream of our Prime Minister. A very important Budget has been presented here. Once again, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister for this. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is a very important subject. At the same time there are many Members yet to speak. Therefore, hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches are permitted to lay them on the Table of the House.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (Chennai Central): Hon'ble Duputy Speaker, Sir, I express my hearty gratitude to our beloved Immortal leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, before I speak in this august house on the General Discussion on the General Budget 2017-18.

Total expenditure for 2018-19 estimate to be over Rs. 24.42 lakh crore. The decision of the Government to bring out industry-friedly Defence Production Policy 2018

and the proposal of development of two defence industrial production corridors is a welcome initiative. Tamil Nadu should be given priority in defence production projects.

The Target of Rs. 3 lakh crore for tending under PM MUDRA Yojana is welcome, but it should be disbursed among the real beneficiaries without any partiality or denial to people living in all the States.

The allocation for Railways in 2018-19 of Rs. 1.48 lakh crore is not sufficient for the completion of many long-pending projects and could escalate their total cost further. The redevelopment of 600 railway stations and renovation of over 3600 kms of railway track in current year is a good decision.

The decision to divest 24 public sector units with a target of Rs. 80,000 crore needs introspection. Prestigious units like Salem Steel Plant and NLC India should not be disinvested at any point of time. The creation of five lakh Wi-Fi sports for the benefit of five crore rural citizens and the national program to direct efforts in Artificial, Intelligence is welcome. The IT and ITES gap between cities and rural India needs to be narrowed down. The allocation of Rs. 2.04 lakh crore for Smart City mission is welcome but it needs more care and caution to monitor and check whether this huge amount is properly utilized in 99 cities selected under this mission.

As far as the health sector is concerned, the Government has done what has already been done by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the last six years. The decision to start 24 new Government medical college and hospitals is welcome. The allocation for nutritional support to all TB patients should have been more than Rs. 600 crore. The national health protection scheme to benefit 50 crore people and health cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for poor and vulnerable is good.

The allocation of Rs. 10,000 crore for fishery development fund and animal husbandry fund. Kisan credit card to be extended to fisheries, animal husbandry farmers and Rs. 1290 crore for bamboo sector are really helpful. The emphasis on agriculture and enhancing farmers' income are welcome features of the Budget. While the Union Finance Minister spoke about the general revival of growth in the agricultural sector this year, he did not highlight the acute drought situation which has affected agriculture in the southern part of the country, in particular Tamil Nadu. A special package for drought affected farmers would have been a very welcome feature

of the Budget. We welcome the enhanced agricultural credit target of Rs. 11 lakh crore. I urge the Union Finance Minister to ensure that the Commercial Banks in particular lend more against land and cultivation related documents and not as jewel loans, so that the availing of agriculture insurance is also simultaneously enhanced. We expect that the Government would be able to ensure timely and adequate release of pending funds to Tamil Nadu.

In the area of Education, while we welcome initiatives like the Innovation Fund for Secondary Education which would provide greater flexibility to State Governments to pursue strategies and implement schemes which are suitable and appropriate to local conditions, we are seriously concerned about the implications of proposals relating to the National Testing Agency to conduct nationwide entrance examinations like NEET.

The Union Government should ensure that national level testing is not imposed or forced on States like Tamil Nadu which already have a transparent and fair system of admission based on a school leaving examination which is conducted with un-impeached integrity. Education is the eye of the society. It is heartening to see the Government aim to create an educated, healthy and clean India. Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma focused exclusively on the development of education in the State and took far-sighted initiatives for the welfare of students in the State. Amma's scheme of provision of priceless laptops for students is the first of its kind in the country. I wish the Union Government will take a leaf out of Amma's many innovative and inclusive schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu.

The introduction of NEET has created a huge uproar in Tamil Nadu as it was a direct infringement on the rights of the State and would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu. With sustained efforts, the Government of Tamil Nadu had established maximum number of Government medical colleges across the State to achieve the optimum doctor-population ratio and to augment the medical service infrastructure. If these seats are taken away by students of other States through NEET. It will create non-availability of doctors and medical services particularly in rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

In the Health sector, we welcome the proposal of the Government to create 24 additional medical colleges and to strengthen Health Sub centres. But the proposed

National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 has a number of problematic features which diminish the powers of State Governments. It discriminates against Tamil Nadu which is far advanced in medical education and medical services in the country. Hence, I urge the Union Government to take up any such reforms only after adequate consultation with the State Governments and all stake holders.

17.00 hrs.

We welcome the enhanced allocation for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. With the substantial enhancement of funds for Scheduled Caste welfare, the long pending arrears for the post-matric scholarship scheme for Tamil Nadu would be released immediately.

Chennai city has been growing rapidly and traffic volumes have increased greatly. To promote and ease public transport of various forms including metro rail and to ensure that the share of public transportation in Chennai city is substantially increased and accorded top most priority by our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma during her golden reign.

Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was instrumental and played a stellar role in implementing the Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-I the Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-II has been included in the rolling plan for the current year for funding by the Japan international Co-operation Agency. For the expansion of the Chennai Metro Rail Project along three corridors—north-west to south east, west to east, and an orbital corridor—an estimated cost of Rs. 44,000 crore have already been approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu. I urge the Union Government to provide all necessary clearances to fulfil the dream of our visionary leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

In Chennai city, Central and Egmore railway stations are strategically important in the sub-urban railway EMU line connecting Chennai with several stations in Kanthipuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore districts. There is an urgent need to have a skywalk connecting Central and Egmore stations. Many important bridges and railway crossings near Central and Egmore stations and in Chennai, particularly the Elephant Gate Bridge need to be renovated and strengthened. The Union Government should take up the redevelopment and modernisation of railway stations at Chennai Central and Egmore in one go and provide fillip to all the railway stations.

The Union Finance Minister had announced that a new Health Production Scheme for 50 crore people would be launched to provide insurance cover up to Rs. 5 lakh for poor families that require hospitalisation. We welcome this move and request the Government of India to converge their new scheme with similar schemes that State Government may already be implementing, like the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme in Tamil Nadu.

The taxation measures on the personal income tax side, however, fall short of the expectations of the salaried middle classes. The levy of surcharge is a retrograde measure by which the Centre is trying to avoid sharing its tax proceeds with States.

The people of Tamil Nadu have their genuine expectations still left unfulfilled. I urge the Union Government to consider in this Budget the genuine demands of the Government of Tamil Nadu to immediately release an adequate relief grant to Tamil Nadu for being devastated by two back to back calamities of severe nature in the years 2015 and 2016.

Our beloved immortal leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had consistently urged the Union Government for the inter-linking of peninsular rivers and for nationalisation of rivers. The Government has notified a Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers so that water resources of the country are optimally utilised. This has to be expedited.

Sensing the importance of cleaning, restoration, and conservation of rivers, our visionary immortal leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced Tamil Nadu Vision-2023 a far-sighted, multi-disciplinary Mission, giving utmost importance to create and achieve a clean and pollution-free environment. The document includes profiles of 217 infrastructure projects in six major sectors—energy, transport, industrial and commercial infrastructure, urban infrastructure and services, agriculture, and human development—and sets a target of Rs. 15 lakh crore investments.

The Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust has been set up to reduce the sewage let into the rivers and other water bodies of Chennai mega city. Apart from the Adyar River Eco-Energy Fund to restore lake, water bodies in Chennai and other cities, another major initiative will be undertaken by launching the Cooum River Restoration Project to be implemented at a total cost of Rs. 3,833 crore in five years with Chennai River Restoration Trust as the nodal agency.

This needs adequate support from the Union Government.

The major projects in the pipeline are creation and restoration of water bodies in Chennai and adjoining areas at a cost of Rs. 500 crore and restoration of Chennai waterways at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crore. The remediation of Perungudi and Kodungaiyur dumpyards and a greenfield regional landfill waste processing facility at a cost of Rs. 150 crore each are also needed. An integrated waste collection and transfer project at a cost of Rs. 200 crore is also required. The Greater Chennai's Slum-free City programme requires Rs. 25,000 crore which includes a 100 per cent sewerage coverage programme at a cost of Rs. 7000 crore.

All these need generous support and funding from the Union Government.

The Government has included all masala ingredients required for the popular Budget. The responsibility of implementing the schemes and projects envisaged within the stipulated time is with the Union Government. We hope that the Union Government would address the requirements of people in various States without derailing the federal system and the democratic principles provided by the Constitution of India.

*SHRI IDRIS ALI (Basirhat): On the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Houses of Parliament on 29 January, 2018, I like to put the following issues.

In the PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA YOJANA, Central Government is not providing interest free loan to set up a business and or securing higher education but shouting for Bhavya and Divya Bharat, the Grand and Divine India where the Indian youth will become key stakeholders.

Every third person in an Indian city today is a youth. In about next seven years, the median individual in India will be 29 years making it youngest country in the world. One-fifth of the Indian population lives on less than Rs. 50 a day. While the income levels in cities may appear to higher, the cost of living is also constantly increasing, resulting in shrinking savings, in adequate access to health care and lack of quality education.

Maternal mortality remains the top cause of death among young women, more than half of young urban

women are anemic due to not having adequate food and nutrition.

In an economy, driven by jobless growth, compulsive migration to cities is often a case of distress transhumance. The migrants then become the new 'serfs' of the informal sector services and construction sector, while the existing rural and agrarian problems remain unresolved.

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry conducted a survey of 214 business firms covering 10 key sectors of the economy from MSMEs and large enterprises operating in different states to assess the impact of demonetization in the last one year and has observed that 65 per cent of firms across all sectors surveyed have registered a decline of their sales post demonetization and turnover is dipped more than 61 per cent of their business, as on date which have not yet been picked up their business.

Right from bankers to large scale and small scale industries every one vented their frustration at demonetization but the voice of common man, who was the most affected due to note ban, has not been heard. In the case of farm and Farmers, the Agriculture sector growth is projected to fall to 2.1 per cent in FY 18 because of an expected drop in the rabi harvest, an almost 3 per cent fall in harif production, according to Advance Estimates by the Central Statistics Office.

We have record production of farming this year. Very good, but whether a farmer has received his minimum price of cultivation? Certainly not. This means that he can be worse off in a good rainfall year than a drought year. Central Government during this tenure has never tried to balance the growing mismatch between the efforts of a cultivator/farmer in their cultivation and income. Farm distress and thus suicide of Farmers are more painful than demonetization.

A big economic regime of business is there. We need far-sighted and sustained policy initiatives to provide farmers dignified livelihoods; these are essential to sustain agriculture, which is now been so critical to our well-being in the era of present Central Government.

In case of Good and Service Tax, the latest data showed that the Government's fiscal deficit reached 112 per cent of the full year target during April-November, 2017. Most analysis now expect the Government to breach

*Speech was laid on the Table.

the fiscal deficit target of 3.2 per cent of GDP in the current year. Since there is still a fair bit of uncertainty in terms of revenue shortfall on account of GST, the extent to which it will miss the target will only become clear in coming weeks.

A pension scheme for the citizen of India should be between 18-40 years which has started in 2015-16 financial year and the benefit will come after 20 years who have joined in 2015 and when will attain age of 60 years replacing previous Government's Swavalamban Yojana NPS Life, which was not well accepted by people. Nobody knows what will be the Government amendment of the scheme between this period 2018-2035.

Question is whether Government proposes for tax free income for the senior citizens of aged over 70 years and raise the limit of 15 lakhs?

Whether Government proposes to amend Post Office Monthly Income Account Rules, 1987 to raise the maximum deposits upto 20 lakhs for single and 50 lakhs for joint account?

The pensioners of EPS-95 scheme still today are getting minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month. The Government has not implemented the 147th Report of the Bhagat Singh Koshiyari Recommendations for financial betterment of EPS holders. Then where is the commitment of social security of senior citizens?

Senior Citizens are not able to get AADHAR CARD due to hazy and indistinct finger prints and of smoky eyes. The people of aged above 70 years may be kept out of the AADHAR compulsion.

In case of minority, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes development, several unutilized funds have been taken forward with the budget estimates since last 4 years and are focusing on more approval in comparison to last budget. What actually happens that these people remains in same conditions as were four years back. There is a need of interest free loan to dalit and BPL minority people and should also be free from any legal fees in any court of the country.

In case of medical facilities to Central Government employees which administrates as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and the Central Service (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, Government has identified 300 cities with population over one lakh. Out of 300 cities only 37 cities are covered with CGHS facilities. Serving

employees of the Central Government outside these 37 cities avail medical facilities under restricted CS(MA) Rules. In maximum cases the central Government Pensioners residing outside CGHS areas are entitled to Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) @Rs. 500 per month for their OPD/IPD needs.

Need to take all employees and pensioner of Central Government, Autonomous bodies, Sub-ordinate offices under one umbrella of Health Service, merging into a combined entity of CGHS-CS(MA) Rules 1944-ECHS-RELHS, and more private hospitals be empanelled covering all 300 cities with an introduction of SMART CARD having cashless medical coverage.

The Government should actually be aware that days of peddling slogans have reached their expiry date. The promises of 2 crore jobs per year; doubling of Farmers income by 2022; housing for All; Clean Ganga Mission by 2020; and all other commitments need a high annual growth rate with proper investments. The Government is building a false narrative that does not eventually wish away socio economic and political conditions. As for now, it must be busied itself selling illusions and fictions about the economic situation. Basically all expectations are illusions, and will eventually be untrue.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur): I congratulate the Minister of Finance hon'ble Arun Jaitley for the budget. In this budget a provision has been made to double the income of farmers by promoting agricultural products of these farmers in the country. Several schemes to provide health care services to crores of families, employment generation, education, youth scholarship, to address concerns of senior citizens as well as middle class farmers and to take the country to the path of development through implementation of Digital India Programme in the country have been announced in the budget. This budget will definitely take the country to the path of development and these progressive initiatives will place the country in the list of advanced countries of the world. Economy of the country will be further strengthened with the schemes formulated for record production of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables in the country. The initiative to provide health care insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh to 10 crore families of the country is the largest flagship health scheme in the world and the same has been included in the budget.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Construction of 2 crore toilets under 'Swachh Bharat-Swastha Bharat Mission', reduction in consumption of electricity through LED bulbs and electrification of each house has been envisaged in the budget. It is a matter of immense joy that objective of Ujjawala Yojana is to achieve ease of living and smoke free life for poor women of the country. The scheme aims at empowering the women and coverage of the scheme has been extended to 8 crore families from 5 crore. Dalit, tribal and poor backward families of the country are being benefitted by the scheme. The Government has taken on initiative for upliftment of the poorest and marginal farmers, development of agricultural distribution infrastructure in rural agricultural markets through APMe, development of horticulture through adoption of scientific method farming and rebate in opting for cultivation of flowers. All these measures will ensure all round welfare of farmers and strengthen economic production.

The proposal to introduce bamboo mission for the tribal poor rural people will bring a change in the country's economy because different types of bamboo products are in high demand across the world and the country will benefit by catering to the global market.

Each individual desire to own a house. The Government aims at providing affordable housing in rural areas under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in collaboration with National Housing Bank.

An initiative to develop better education system so as to provide quality education to children and to provide skill development training in different fields as well as introduction of Pradhan Mantri Research Fellowship Scheme will provide an opportunity to talented young persons to make their own identity and take the country to the path of development.

Various welfare schemes for senior citizens including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana will be introduced and upgradation of hospitals for providing quality medical treatment will take the country to the path of development.

Micro, small and medium enterprises will contribute in the development of the country and create employment opportunities for youth of the country.

- All villages will be connected by roads in the budget.
- Awas Yojana for rural people.
- Rozgar Yojana, Biji Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana.
- Recommendations of Swaminathan

Commission will guide the way to increase farmers income.

- This is a development oriented budget which will fulfill the expectations and aspirations of children as well as senior citizens through various schemes such as Digital India, Infrastructure development, Rail-Metro Highway, Powergrid, Gasgrid, Food Processing to Fibre Optic, Rail Road to Waterways.
- Free of cost gas connection to the poor under Ujjwala Scheme.
- Electricity connection to 4 crore houses under Saubhagya Scheme.
- More than 800 medicines will be provided at lower rates through more than 3 thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- Encouragement to investment in food processing sector through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sampada Yojana.
- Dairy industry, benefit of health care facility on the guiding principle of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya', improvement in quality of education cleaning of rivers as rivers are called our mothers, increase in production of crops of farmers by providing water to agricultural sector, upgradation of facilities for the tourists and development of tourist spots through smart cities, heritage areas.
- High speed rail project, setting up an institution at Badodara to impart manpower training required for Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet train.
- It is a Budget which will provide income alongwith training to the youths of the country by setting up an institute to impart manpower training required for High Speed Rail Projects, Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

Concrete steps have been taken in this Budget to strengthen the economy of India. For this I thank the Government of hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi and hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley Ji.

*SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (Amreli): The General Budget 2018-19 presented by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji is focused on villages, the poor and the welfare of farmers and the overall development of each Indian.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Like each Budget of Modi government, General Budget 2018-19 is also a budget of taking the saga of development ahead. Several issues have been included in this Budget to take the vision of development and the development in its concrete form to the villages, the poor, farmers, Dalits, Adivasis and the labourers of this country.

In this Budget, special attention has been paid to the welfare of farmers. The BJP and the Modi Government at the Centre is committed to the welfare and development of the farmers. The Government has taken a historic decision to increase the minimum support price of crops by one and half times of the production cost which is the most important step in the direction of achieving the target of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. For the first time after independence, any government has shown the courage to increase the minimum support price by one and a half times of the cost price. 'Operation Green' scheme has been launched at a cost of Rs. 500/- crore for the welfare of farmers producing potato, onion and tomato which is an important and praiseworthy step. Apart from this, the government has allocated about Rupees 2000 crore for the development of rural haats, Rs. 1400 crore for food processing and Rs. 1290 crore for National Bamboo Mission. The amount of institutional loan for agriculture has been increased and Rs. 11 lakh crore has been provided for this purpose. The announcement of tax relief for companies associated with agricultural production and agro-processing is a historic step which will lead to the creation of large scale employment in the country. The allocation of Rs. 1280 crore under National Bamboo Mission will not only provide a new option of agriculture for small farmers but the import of bamboo products will also decrease. Two schemes have been separately launched for pisciculture and provision of kisan credit card has also been made for cattle rearing and pisciculture.

The Prime Minister has presented a new idea of 'AYUSHMAN BHARAT' before the country through this budget. In order to realize the dream of sound health of each person of the country, the government has made a provision of health insurance of five lakh rupees for almost 10 crore poor families of the country which will provide better health facilities to almost 50 crore people of the country. This scheme is going to prove a blessing to the poor. A provision has been made in the budget to open 24 new medical colleges. Simultaneously, the government has fixed a target of opening one medical college in every three parliamentary constituencies by the year 2022 which will be a significant achievement in the health sector.

The Government is committed to improve the quality of education and this is visible in the budget also. A provision has been made to open one Eklavya Model Residential School in each tribal area by the year 2022. Employment will be generated in the railway sector besides opening up of a railway university in Baroda. In addition to this, modernization of schools has also been given priority in the budget.

Special focus has been given in the budget to rural development. An amount of 14.34 lakh crore rupees have been allocated for strengthening infrastructure in the villages. Several schemes are also being formulated for digital India and a target has been fixed for providing broadband facility in five lakh villages. Our government has given the right to women to live with dignity by constructing 6 crore toilets and now, the government has targeted to construct two crore more toilets in the next financial year. This is a very important step in the direction of Swachha Bharat Abhiyan. The 115 districts of the country lagging behind in development will be brought forward in line with the districts already developed by developing them as model districts. A target has been fixed under Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojna for supplying electricity to each house by 2022 under which 1.75 crore houses will be provided electricity this year. A target has also been fixed to link villages with rural markets and better roads.

For railways, a budget of 1.48 lakh crore rupees has been earmarked with an increase of almost 20 thousand crore rupees compared to last year. A target has been fixed for renovation of 3600 kilometres long railway tracks and electrification of 4000 kilometred long area.

Approximately, six lakh crore rupees have been allocated for infrastructure development and thousand kilometers long new highways will also be constructed in addition to it. The present number of 124 airports in the country will be increased to almost five times and the common citizens will be linked with these under the 'Udaan Yojna'. Almost 2600 crore rupees have been earmarked separately for ground water irrigation which will prove helpful in keeping the water level intact. Several tax concessions have been given for development of small and medium industries which will help in generating employment and also the small scale and medium industries will be protected. An amount of 7,150 crore rupees. have been earmarked for textile sector welfare which will prove successful in alleviating the problems of this sector.

I would like to congratulate the government for allocating three lakh crore rupees under MUDRA Yojna in the financial year 2018-19. It will help in generating

employment and the women, OBC, SC and ST communities will particularly get its benefit. Rupees 56,619 crores for SC welfare and Rupees 39,135 crores for ST welfare have been separately allocated in the budget. It will help in the welfare of the exploited and the deprived sections of the society and also help in bringing them to the mainstream of the society. The Government has achieved significant success in containing the fiscal deficit from the first budget itself and now limiting the fiscal deficit in the year 2018-19 at 3.3% will make the economy more robust. Besides taking welfare measures for salaried class and generating new employment, the Modi Government has taken a decision to make 12% contribution in wages of EPF which is quite praiseworthy.

General Budget of the year 2018-19 is another step taken to make development in India all-emcompassing and all-inclusive. This budget will play a bigger role in realizing the concept or 'New India' presented by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi before the people of the country. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji and the Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley Ji from the core of my heart. The people, oriented budget presented by the Government today will prove to be a milestone for the development of India in the days ahead.

[English]

*SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (Dibrugarh): I whole heartedly support the Union Budget, 2018-19, presented by our Finance Minister Shri Arjun Jaitlyji. The Budget which aims at welfare of the farmers, the workers, the poor, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, women and other vulnerable sections of our society is undoubtedly a welcome step by the Government. The Budget proposals will certainly go a long way in eradicating poverty and taking the country in the path of development. Moreover, the Government's focussed approach towards energizing our youth will help them reap the benefits of growth and employment.

The Government's desire to make the country prosperous has been clearly reflected in this year's budget as it has proposed to develop all the sectors including railways, industry, health, trade and commerce, defence, science and technology, markets, finance and insurance and aviation. I express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Finance Minister for announcing among other things, a comprehensive healthcare policy. The Union Budget, 2018 has been a huge step in making healthcare affordable and accessible by launching the world's largest healthcare schemes.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Under the National Health Protection Schemes provision has been made for a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs a family per annum. The scheme will cover 10 crore vulnerable families with approximately 50 crore beneficiaries. The proposed health and wellness centres sought to be created where free essential drugs and diagnostic services will be provided is really a giant step towards achieving 'Swachh Bharat'.

Railways is the lifeline of our country. The Finance Minister's proposal to develop railway infrastructure in the country will usher in a new era in the history of Indian Railways. The proposal to set up a railway university in Vadodara, Gujarat is a laudable step in this regard. Madam, I belong to Assam and I am really very happy that in this year's budget hon. Finance Minister has given considerable attention to the development of the north east. Describing bamboo as green gold the Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 1290 crores for development of the bamboo industry, which is grown extensively in the north east. In fact, India's north east is the world's biggest bamboo producer. A thrust on bamboo cultivation will have significant socio-economic ramifications for the north east that hosts 45 per cent of global bamboo reserves.

As a matter of fact, our Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitlyji has presented a very pragmatic and people friendly Budget that will benefit every section of society. I express my heartfelt thanks to the hon. Finance Minister for his visionary ideas which have been reflected in the Budget.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget. The Finance Minister is not here. He is in the other House listening to the Prime Minister's speech. But, at least we are happy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, this is a Budget of 32 pages and 166 points having a total expenditure of Rs. 24.42 lakh crore. This Budget should have covered the issues of Andhra Pradesh. Trinamool Congress had opposed the division of Andhra Pradesh. I myself spoke in the House against it. If certain things were promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, they should be fulfilled. Why should the allies of the Central Government stand in *dharna* in the House? This is a matter for the ruling party to consider.

Sir, I wish to say that the Budget is coming at a bad time for the nation's economy. The Economic Survey for 2017-18 states clearly that Indian economy's growth rate had been significantly compromised by demonetization exercise. The part of the economy that

suffered most on account of the policy was rural economy in general and the informal sector in particular. The Finance Minister has not talked about the disruptive event of demonetization and GST imposition on the economy. Now, the Gujarat election results have come with the same warning and message for the Government.

You know that inflation has again become a big concern. It has left behind the four per cent comfort zone mainly because of spurt in prices of food items. Budget speech is silent about inflation which may cross 5.2 per cent. With international crude at 70 dollars a barrel and Central banks in different countries withdrawing monetary stimulus measures put in place after 2008, not sticking to borrowing targets, may prove to be dangerous. Here, we have exceeded our deficit financing target. This will involve more borrowing. Even Moody's, the rating agency, has considered this a very dangerous portrayal.

Sir, this Budget is not whole. There are different tensions between sectors of economy. There is a tension between Davos man and Make in India. In Davos Modi ji talks about 'open your door' Then he comes to India and talks about Make in India. But Make in India has been a total failure. It is a non-starter. We are beginning to reverse commitment to lowering Customs Duty. Sir, the Government is bluffing its way out of the three major tensions in our country; rural versus urban, public sector versus private sector and global versus India. The Government has in the hastily cobbled together Budget displayed its own nervousness.

The Indian economy faced the worst slow down in five years according to the CSO. While macro economic shocks like demonetization and GST are likely to have contributed to the slow down, the root lies in the decline of investments. Actually investments have declined in the country and that is the root of all problems.

If I may say that the budget has seen a disappointing cut in all outlays of major schemes this fiscal year, the schemes that will get constant or reduced outlays are: Mahatma Gandhi NREGA-Rs. 55,000 crore as in previous year; Prime Minister Avas Yojana; National Drinking Water Mission; and Swachh Bharat Mission. [Translation] You advertised it extensively by showing the picture of Modiji, but you reduced the outlay. A film namely 'Toilet-Ek Prem Katha' has also been made but in spite of that the outlay has been reduced for Swachh Bharat scheme.

[English]

Other schemes are: National Health Mission, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, etc. It is a shame. Our young children will not get food. Other schemes are: interest subsidy for

short term farm credit, North-East Investment Promotion and Gram Jyoti Yojana. The Government has run out of steam. [Translation] The Government forgets at the time of announcing the scheme upto which scheme it had announced before two years.

[English]

Make in India, the Start-Up India, Digital India, Skill India Programme, Stand Up India, etc. seem to have fallen by the way side. Under Mudra Scheme which is talked about, the average Mudra loan in Rs. 43,000. This is tokenism and this will not create a single job. [Translation] Even a single job is not created with Rs. 40 thousand but they speak here that they have implemented 'Mudra' [English] Sir, the budget did not provide for any tax relief to average tax payer. For middle class earners and savers, the standard deduction and long term capital gains tax cancel out each other. Do you know what is happening in the market? The markets are bleeding. I have seen the *Times of India* which says that Sensex dives 1275 points intraday over Dow crash LTCG worry. What is this LTCG? It is Long Term Capital Gains Tax. A middle class earner of over Rs. 1 lakh, will have to pay tax. As a result of which, the share prices are falling. The Sensex has fallen to 33483 which had crossed 36000. This is the credit of Mr. Jaitley's budget that has brought down at one go the share price of the whole country.

It has been said that the Finance Minister has failed the fiscal consolidation test. The fiscal deficit slippages for 2017-18 and 2018-19 will raise doubts about India's commitment to fiscal consolidation. The big disappointments in the budget are the fiscal deficit and exports which are very bad. Agricultural exports have stuck because of GST every day problem. Agriculture, health care, jobs, investment and trading are affected. There is no tax relief and there is slashing of allocations.

Sir, Shri Arun Jaitley had a chance to leave his name in history. Dr. Manmohan Singh presented a Budget in 1991 and it is still remembered as the 'Budget for Liberalisation' Shri Chidambaram presented a Budget in 1996 and it is still remembered as the 'Dream Budget' Now, Shri Jaitley is helpless because all financial decisions are announced by the hon. Prime Minister, Demonetisation was announced by the Prime Minister, GST was announced by him in a midnight tamasha, as a result of which Shri Jaitley had a chance in this Budget to enlist his name in history. But he has missed the chance and the bus has left. The Budget document is untidily cobbled paragraphs hither and neither without creating a coherent and consistent whole.

Sir, this is a knee-jerk reaction to Gujarat elections. The Budget proposals should have been radical and bold and that by adequate provision of funds. But the Government failed. The main problem in the country is that there is no investment. The other problem is that the manufacturing sector has failed to take off and as observed in The Economic Survey it is not able to compete with global competitiveness. We are not able to compete globally. This is a very small Budget. Only 12.9 per cent of GDP as compared to 13 per cent last year. With smaller Budget we cannot have higher growth.

Sir, I would now turn to the main claims of the Government. It has claimed that the Budget has emphasised on the rural sector, the women and unemployed. But before that I would like to make one last point. The Government says that they want 'ease of living for people'. Let me tell them that ease of living depends on reigning in the recent upsurge of vigilante maythem; outbreaks of sectarian violence as in Kasganj in UP and assaults on women as in Haryana. *[Translation]* Unless the country has communal unity, these own protectors will keep on making. The country will not get development. *[English]* Just today I read in the newspapers that communal incidence is the highest in three years. What is the number? They rose to 822 in 2017 from 703 in 2016 and number of death in 2017 was as high as 111. *[Translation]* Will like to invest in the country where people die in communal riots? None will like to invest money in Kasganj of U.P. as riot takes place there. *[English]* Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State in the country. The State witnessed 195 riots last year in which 44 people lost their lives. This is not the situation for inviting investment. The Government, as a whole, has failed to reign in communal forces.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): That is the State of saints. how did riot take place there?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: The person whose heart is not purified by taking the name of Rama should not call himself Hindu. I swear in the name of Ram that we will build a temple right there. The more you speak the less the investment will be.

[English]

Sir, now let me turn to some specific figures. I would be brief. Economic situation calls for higher Government spending because of low investment and poor demand condition, especially in agriculture and informal sector. Central Government's spending has provided falling impetus to real economy affecting private investment rates, employment and household consumption and growth of real economy. Central Government's expenditure as a percentage of GDP is falling every year.

Sir, the Budget has artificially inflated total spending by including the amount received as cess for GST compensation to States which must be kept as a non-lapsable fund in public account. Capital expenditure is the main thing for building roads, houses, hospitals and other permanent structures. Capital expenditure is crucial for future growth but it has been falling as a proportion of GDP. Last year, we saw a significant shortfall from the budgeted amount.

Devolution to State Governments has not really occurred. The 12th Finance Commission suggested 42 per cent devolution but the Centre has used cesses and other ways for holding on the revenues to pass on more tax revenues. This year, they have increased the health cess to four per cent. What does cess mean? It will not go to the State.

In petroleum sector, they have transferred two per cent from excise duty to cess. It means it is in the Centre's pocket and the State will not get the benefit. This is not called devolution.

The main thing is agriculture. The total outlay on agriculture is to go up only 12 per cent. There is no change in share of the total expenditure. The procurement price is 50 per cent over cost. If the cost is A2+ FL, it is still less than what the UPA Government was providing. It is nearly 70 per cent. If the cost is C2, there is no provision for it in the Budget.

In West Bengal, the State Government is procuring rice on its own and it has got surplus rice. The FCI is writing to the West Bengal Government to give them rice with the intention as to what can be done. There is no provision for food subsidy. Increase in food subsidy has been given but they will be required to pay part of the FCI dues. FCI buys only from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. From where else in the country does FCI buy? What infrastructure do you have? Are there enough roads? Are there enough warehouses? This is a problem.

You will be surprised to know that for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, only Rs. 1150 crores are allocated. There is a decline in the Budget for it. This is the situation. There is no money available, not the infrastructure, to procure crops at one-and-a-half times the cost of production.

Spending on rural development is to increase only by three per cent. So, there is a decline in real terms, if you minus inflation.

Other claims about rural spending are all on low budget including loan from banks. They say that they

will spend Rs. 14 lakh crore and Rs. 11 lakh crore will come from the banks as agricultural loan. So, the Government is providing only about Rs. 3 lakh crore which is chicken feed.

As regards allocation to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, it will decrease by Rs. 2000 crore. In this situation, how will you build houses? You are incurring losses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

There is no increase in the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The amount is only Rs. 19,000 crore. By this way, how will rural areas progress?

Shri Arun Jaitley has given you only false promises. It is all false propaganda. You keep Narendra Modi's hoardings at places and praise him ...*(interruptions)*

The other thing that I want to say is about the health sector. They are saying about the National Health Protection Scheme which will cover 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. The coverage will be upto Rs. 5 lakh. In West Bengal, the Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, is implementing Swasthya Sathi Scheme. Under that scheme, three crore people have been covered for an amount of Rs. 5 lakh. Now, what will happen to the State Government funded schemes? They have not even discussed with the State Governments as to how the National Scheme will be implemented but Kumari Mamata Banerjee has already implemented it. I think many other State Governments have also followed it.

There is no budgetary allocation for this scheme. The allocation for the existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is increased by Rs. 672 crore. Proper implementation of the scheme would cost at least Rs. 60,000 crore. From where will the money come?

Where from the money will come? As I said, proper scheme would cost at least Rs. 60,000 crore. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana has already failed. You said you will give one lakh coverage. But you have not been able to do it. What will happen as a result? There will be a shift to private healthcare, without proper regulation and monitoring. The system will be more expensive and less efficient than public and tertiary care. The public health spending is falling as a share of GDP.

My next point is about women. Why does not this Government learn from West Bengal? See how Mamata Banerjee's Kanyashree Prakalpa Scheme is working. To start with, the coverage was for 31 lakh people. Now, she has extended this Scheme to girls above 18. At 18, a girl gets Rs. 25,000 and after 18, if she joins

a college, she will get Rs. 2,000 per month. *[Translation]* The expenditure of 'Beti Bacho-Beti Padhao' is thousand crore rupees *[English]* We are spending Rs. 10,000 crore on Kanyashree Prakalpa Scheme alone. You have not done anything on a big scale.

Now, you are saying that you have gas connections under Ujjwala scheme. *[Translation]* You have given free gas connections for one time, but the people have to purchase cylinder on increased price the next time. Who will pay for their refilling? It is not subsidized. You are cheating the people. How will they refill their cylinders? Second thing is that through whom the healthcare schemes will be implemented. The ASHA workers who wear simple white dress with blue border are poor. There is no mention in the Budget to increase the payment of ASHA workers. *[English]* Anganwadi workers and helpers are underpaid. They have no money. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee has formed an association of ASHA and anganwadi workers. We shall agitate. The State Government will increase their salary if nobody does anything about it.

My next point is about Nirbhaya. You and I were in this House when we passed that Bill. Now, what has happened? The Nirbhaya scheme, which is meant for protection and empowerment of women, which includes Nirbhaya Fund, gets only Rs. 1,365 crore. For 60 crore women, you give only Rs. 1,365 crore. *[Translation]* It means twenty or thirty rupees will be provided for each woman. I do not think you will be able to move women forward with it. Is this Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas? How can we give protection to the women in this way?

[English]

The Prime Minister says that we have taken care of old people. But the National Social Assistance Programme meant for old people is very poorly funded. There is very little increase. *[Translation]* Why did you not increase it? *[English]* Spending on education is falling. The Finance Minister has not acknowledged that Indian universities do not find a place in the first 200 universities of the world. What have you done? You are talking of black boards to digital boards. Now, go and see the condition of schools in the rural areas. You are talking of digitisation! One of my BJP friends says very often that in his constituency the internet does not operate in most of the places*(Interruptions)* I will not take his name.

You are saying that you are giving broadband and that you will digitalise India. What digital India? First, let the mobile phones work properly all over the country. Inside Karur or Thanjavur, let the mobile phones work. Then, we will agree that development has taken place.

One good thing about the Budget is they have given in for food processing. I am sure Shrimati Badal will do something about it. *[Translation]* Mr. Udasi has done good work relating to crop insurance in his district.

[English]

Lastly, Mr. Udasi has been making a demand for a long time that the crypto currencies like Bitcoins should be banned. That has been seen by them, but they say that they will keep the Blockchain technology. How to use the Blockchain technology is to be seen.

With these words, I say that this is a very disappointing Budget. Mr. Jaitley has missed the bus for the next election. In 2019, we will have another person presenting the Budget. Thank you, Sir.

*SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): The Finance Minister in his budget speech spoke at length on how the government's focus has been on the distressed agricultural sector. But due to lack of details, to me, the government's main announcement of providing minimum support prices (MSPs) that are at least 50% over the input costs seems a sleight of hand. There are several cost concepts that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices considers while recommending MSPs of 23 crops and the government is yet to clarify what does input costs entail for this announcement. It is only when the Government decides to consider, along with input costs of seeds, fertilizers and hired labor, the cost of family labour and the imputed rent on owned land and imputed interest on owned capital that the peasants may have some cause to celebrate. The real question, however, is how many farmers will actually benefit from the rise in MSP considering that in the past only 10% peasantry have benefitted from it. Lack of details on the mechanism to be used to compensate farmers when prices fall below MSP further makes the plan hazy.

In the healthcare sector, the budgetary provision and allocations seem grossly inadequate to meet the targets set under the National Health Policy, 2017. The Policy talks of increasing the government's spending on healthcare from 1.15% to 2.5% of GDP by 2025, which calls for 20 per cent increase in allocation year on year for the next 7-8 years, while the budgetary allocation has barely increased to that level. The allocation of the National Health Mission has been reduced by 2.1% of the revised estimates of 2017-2018. I do welcome the government's plan of providing health insurance of Rs. 5 lakh per year annual cover to 10 crore households for secondary and tertiary hospitalization. However, previous experiences of insurance scheme have shown

*Speech was laid on the Table.

how insurance benefits private hospitals and promote the practice of unnecessary prescription and treatment just because patients are covered. The government should, therefore, put in place suitable mechanism to check such untoward practices. The Government have not made a single pie as allocation.

It is saddening that the quality of education imparted in our schools is still a major cause of concern. In its recent report on the status of education in the country focusing on the 14 to 18 years-olds, an NGO has highlighted that even after elementary schooling the foundational skills in reading and arithmetic are extremely poor. The MHRD has also conducted nationwide survey of students to assess their learning. I hope the government uses all this data productively to devise policies focusing on improving the learning outcomes of the students in both rural and urban areas.

Beyond the pink covers of the economic survey, the budget has little to offer to the women in the country. The only major announcement is the deduction in the EPF contribution of women employees during their period of initial employment. Though there is increase in the targets set under the Ujjawala scheme for LPG connections, there are certain limitations to its implementation. Beyond the first free cylinder, the poor households find it difficult to buy refill and hence many connections lie defunct.

The Government has consistently sidelined the interests of rubber farmers who are reeling under distress due to fallen prices of natural rubber. The budget, too, does little to provide relief to the sector. As compared to the revised estimates of the year 2017-18, the allocation to the Rubber Board has been cut by 20%. A similar cut has been made to the allocation of the Spices Board.

The government has not given any major thrust to the railway development in the State of Kerala with the allocation to the Thiruvanthapuram and Palakkad railway division being meagre Rs. 923 crore compared to Rs. 1206 crore last year. This is a huge cut of 23% despite the State pushing for improvement in the rail infrastructure, especially at the busiest stations in the State. The doubling work via Kottayam has been given only Rs. 82 crore, this is grossly inadequate and will take doubling work nowhere close to commissioning.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): The Budget presented by the Government favours all classes of society in the country and it is the Budget to transform

*Speech was laid on the Table.

India into a New India. This Budget caters to the farmers, the people living in the rural areas, senior citizens, to use on social and economic development of the tribals, development of common man, businessman and traders. This is the Budget to change the lifestyle of the farmers living in the villages. This Budget will strengthen and develop rural economy, double the income of farmers and provide relaxed life to senior citizens. The Government has presented this Budget to solve current problems and it is being appreciated everywhere and by every class. I express my immense gratitude towards hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley Ji for presenting this Budget.

Farmers are the food providers of the country. They face many problems from sowing of seeds to taking their crops to the market. The Government schemes relating to agriculture do not reach the farmers due to which the Government's objectives relating to farmers development are not achieved. In this Budget, the Government has presented many proposals to solve the problems of the farmers which will help in making farmers' life happier and making agriculture a profitable occupation. The Budget has a provision to provide 50 per cent additional benefit to the farmers over their cost of production. Today, the farmers are not getting even their input cost due to which agriculture has now become unprofitable. This Budget will provide them 50 per cent over their cost price relating to irrigation, fertilizers, seeds and labour cost. There is a proposal in the Budget to increase Minimum Support Price of the crops fixed by the Government upto 1.5 times. It is also proposed to provide accessible market to the farmers where they can sell their crops. For this, the Government has proposed to convert 22 thousand Haats into agriculture markets and provided Rs. 2000 crore to set up agricultural Haats. Under a good agricultural policy, record production of 275 million tons of foodgrains and 300 million tons of vegetables and fruits has been done in the country. I request the Government to make arrangements for adequate warehouses so that the farmers could protect their crops from getting damaged and they can sell them at remunerative prices when they need money. The farmers of the country are always at the mercy of money lenders. They compel the farmers to take loan at the time of sowing crops and they grab a huge quantity of crops of the farmers at the time of harvesting. The Government has increased agriculture loan from Rs. 10 lakh crore to Rs. 11 lakh crore. Through this, the farmers can get loan from the Government at lower rates at the time of sowing crops. Many efforts have been made to promote export of crops, fruits and vegetables produced by the farmers and the Government has set a target to undertake agricultural export of 100 billion rupees. Rs. 10,000 crore will be earmarked for

pisciculture and animal husbandry so that farmers could get income from other sources from time to time apart from agriculture.

Education gives encouragement to social development and consciousness. This Government has taken many steps to spread education. A provision has been made to provide free education from pre-nursery to class 12th under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' running in the country. It will promote education upto secondary school level. There is a provision to spend Rs. 1 lakh crore on education which is higher than previous year. This Budget has a provision to provide training to 13 lakh teachers. The Government has given indication to promote research in education sector and strengthen basic education. Areas with 50 per cent tribal population will have Eklavya Schools with hostel facilities. I request the Government to increase the number of educational institutes in the areas with huge backward castes population but having less educational institutes.

Hon. Finance Minister has made a provision to provide the benefit of healthcare facilities to the poor in this Budget on the instructions of the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The Government has launched a unique and the largest Government funded health insurance scheme in the country which has been named as Ayushman Bharat. Under this scheme, free treatment upto Rs. 5 lakh will be provided to 10 crore families i.e. 50 crore people. 40 per cent people of the country will get the benefit of this health insurance policy. Today, the poor class in the country is dying in the absence of proper treatment. The TB patients in our country do not get rid of their disease due to lack of nutritious food and hence they die. The Government has made a provision to provide assistance of Rs. 500 per month to each poor TB patient by allocating Rs. 600 crore for this purpose so that they could get nutritious food.

Hon. Prime Minister is aware of the sufferings of the poor and he knows the problems of rural women closely. Therefore, the Government has allocated Rs. 16000 crore under new Saubhagya Yojana in order to give electricity connection to 4 crore families of the country as well as to provide free LPG connection to 8 crore poor people so that the women who cook food in smoke can get relief. It has been announced in the Budget to construct houses for all poor people and provide them houses by the year 2022. Under MIUDRA scheme Rs. 3 lakh crores have been allocated for self employment and employment generation to remove unemployment. Apart from this, it has been targeted to provide employment to 70 lakh people.

The demand of air service is increasing rapidly in the country because of growing business and industries.

The Government has announced in this Budget to increase the number of airports five times and start functioning of the closed airports in order to enhance connectivity among the cities. It has been announced in the Budget to improve drinking water facility in 500 cities of the country. I support this Budget.

[English]

*SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (Araku): I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate the Union Minister for Finance, Hon'ble Arun Jaitley ji for presenting the union budget 2018-19, which is people centric and focused on the Agriculture.

Agriculture is the root of Indian economy. but farmers are being neglected for the past 6 decades. Though they are the people struggling and supplying food for the people of the nation, their suffering has been endless. Many farmers across India have committed suicide unable to take the losses and manage their families. I appreciate the government taking cognizance of this situation and providing them with relief.

The current support price (MSP) for Rabi crops of 1.5 percent has been extended to Kharif crops as well which is a welcome step. this move will also facilitate the objective of doubling farmers' income by 2022. The agriculture credit that is extended is proposed at Rs. 11 lakh crore which will help the farmers to get credit for the crops.

The budget provided for increasing the educational infrastructure under the new scheme called "Revitalising Infrastructure systems in education" (RISE) by 2022 is certainly the need of the hour. The move from blackboards to Digital boards will improve the quality of education and enable the rural children on level playing with that of the students in the urban areas.

The policy of the government towards creating Swasth Bharat is commendable and one of its kind in the history of the world. National Health Protection Scheme which is supposed to cover 10 crore poor families, with a coverage upto Rs. five lakh per family is a historic move. I wish the state governments will also rise to the occasion and implement this scheme in true letter and spirit.

The announcement of the minister that 14.3 lakh crore to be spent on livelihood and infrastructure in the rural areas shows the commitment of the government

towards development of the rural areas. 115 districts have been indentified to be the models of development through accelerated investments in social services and infrastructure. I request the union government to select the backward districts in Andhra Pradesh so that there will be development on par with the already developed areas.

Regarding the tax structure the salaried employees should have been provided with the rise in standard deduction as the price of living has increased. The people of the country have been very disappointed with the meagre relief. The decision to provided full waiver for start ups for a period of 3 years is certainly a welcome step. The reliefs provided to senior citizens also are commendable.

I would also request the government to provide more funds in encouraging women entrepreneurship to bring out the talents in youth girls, the government should also provide for incentives.

Coming to the state of Andhra Pradesh, I wish to bring to the notice of the Union government that the aspirations of the people of AP over fulfillment of the assurances in the Reorganisation Act were not met. The allocation made to the educational institutions like the IITs and the tribal university is meagre. More budget should have been provided to fulfill the commitment to establish the universities.

I would like to draw the attention towards the Railway zone for AP with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam. Andhra Pradesh has 3704 km Railway route, and the highest revenue earning division is the Visakhapatnam division. I am seriously concerned why there is an undue delay in the decision of formation of railway zone which is an assurance by the AP Reorganisation Act. It is the sentiment of every citizen of AP that this zone should be formed at the earliest possible.

The establishment of kadapa steel plant, Duggarajapatnam port, industrial corridor from Visakhapatnam to Chennai and legal sanctity to special package that has been announced has no mention in the union budget. The Polavaram project which is a national project has also no mention.

The Union Minister has assured that these will be fulfilled separately. I wish to bring to the notice of the union Minister that 70 percent of the displaced families are tribals. These tribals who are displaced due to the Polavaram project are endlessly waiting for the R&R package to reach them. The R&R package is itself around Rs. 34000 Crore. The farmers who lost their

*Speech was laid on the Table.

lands in the Polavaram project also have to be excepted from the tax payments.

There are also issues of RoFR which needs to be addressed in coordination with the state government to take this project forward. At this juncture, I also request you to kindly appoint a central task force to look into the needs of AP and also to monitor the end use of funds. As we feel there are huge diversion of funds and also an undue delay in the implementation of flagship programs of PMGSY also, which is priority of the Union Government.

I would also like to request you to take up the pending issues as assured by the government and support the people of Andhra Pradesh as this is a newly formed state and suffering with a huge deficit budget. The sentiments of the people of Andhra Pradesh that the state has been completely ignored have to be taken into cognizance and the decisions have to be taken to fulfill the assurances of the Act.

I would like to quote our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words "Mere good governance is not enough; it has to be pro-people and pro-active. Good governance is putting people at the centre of the development process."

With these few words, I support the Union Budget 2018-2019.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, at the outset, let me, with folded hands to both sides of this House, express my opinion that I was very sad to see the way the Congress Benches opposed while the Leader of the House was speaking today earlier this morning. The Leader of the House is the Leader of the House because people have chosen him, may not be directly. but because he has a larger number.

Similarly. I was very surprised and very hurt to notice the way the Treasury Benches Members were behaving. They were pointing and aggressively working like they are going to beat up everybody else just with brute majority. It was very painful, because the Treasury Benches should not be doing that.

On the other hand, here we see colleagues, Mr. Thota, who sits right here and the colleagues from the TDP fighting for their just cause of Andhra Pradesh. The way it has been neglected by this Government, our empathies are with the people of Andhra Pradesh. They are an ally of the Government; they are part of the evil formation of the Government. But now they have realized that they have to get out ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Satpathy, are you supporting the Polavaram project?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): We cannot support the Polavaram project. We have said it many times. We will sit down with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and settle it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Sir, this time is not my time. The opposition is playing its game. You have to learn tolerance. It is sad that they do not even know or they are not even aware that there is a word called 'tolerance'. Therefore, it shows in their behaviour. God bless them; let them grow up.

Sir, this year's Budget is supposed to focus on a few special points. My learned friend Saugata Babu has spoken in detail. He is a senior colleague; I should not be calling him a friend. I am very inferior to him. But he has spoken in detail. I would not like to get into those details. But it focusses on agriculture, rural economy, health, especially for senior citizens. This is the rhetoric of the Ruling Party, or as they say jumla. There is an adage in English which says: 'Living in a Fool's Paradise.' Now, let us imagine an universe or a world or a paradise inhabited by the Moody's — nothing to do with Modi—Moody's, IMF, World Bank. There you go and live and you think that this is a beautiful world. But unfortunately, the people of India are not capable of inhabiting that world. That is an exclusive world reserved for a few rich people, whose company they enjoy. It shows it. They speak about rural India; they speak about agriculture, but their whole action goes contrary to what they speak. They speak about bullet; they do work for bullet trains. They put up institutes for training people to run the bullet train, to repair the bullet train.

I wonder how do people in the rural areas of Bengal, of Odisha, of Andhra Pradesh, of Tamil Nadu, of Chhattisgarh, of Jharkhand benefit from any bullet train. What relevance does it have in their lives? I am unable to understand that.

They should admit. Now, the time has come because their D-Day is closing. There is one little indication, which our yellow coloured colleagues here are showing. If you remember, in the last 15th Lok Sabha, how the Congress got pulled down with the curse of the Telugus, of the Andhriles. It was not only the pepper spray by which Mr. Mahtab was also affected badly, but it was the atmosphere that the people from Andhra created that the Congress got damned.

Sir, again, our colleagues from Andhra, right in front of you, are opposing this Government. We can clearly see what is the fate of this party in power, now.

Sir, our dear and most beloved hon. Prime Minister, this morning, said that any idea—he spoke in Hindi and I am not able to speak that language—anything new that comes to him, he is willing to accept it. At that very time, there was a disturbance and I did not want to further add to the disturbance. But I was wondering, in all these four and half years, have they accepted a single idea, a single amendment, a single suggestion from the non-ruling parties? The proof is again right in front of us. Their own allies are complaining. Not a single idea has been accepted. What *jumla* is being talked about in this House? This is *jumla*.

They have deprived my State in many ways. My State alone gives around Rs. 17,000 crore to Rs. 18,000 crore annually just with Railways-carriage, carrying of iron ore, chrome, coal and so many minerals. Unfortunately, nothing has been earmarked for Odisha. We had asked for a meagre sum of Rs. 6,000 crore. Sir, if the British would not have been there and had they not required to connect Chennai to Kolkata, probably Odisha would not have had a railway line till now; and because we had coal, they drew a line up to Talcher, which is part of my Constituency. We are lucky because of our natural resources, and not because of any largesse from this side or that side. The people of Odisha are blessed by Lord Jagannath.

Sir, for our irrigation, for our railways, our Chief Minister, Shri Navin Patnaik had made some demands long before the Budget but nothing was granted, nothing was given. This is not their kindness that we want. It is our demand. We are giving this much money annually. This is our due. But we are not getting it.

Sir, they talk about credit to lessee farmers, to tenant farmers.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Sir ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : I do not know why Nishikantji always troubles me...(*Interruptions*). Is he assigned by his party to trouble me? I am not yielding ...(*Interruptions*). If you have good manners, you do not disturb me... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, what is this?

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will look into that.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, they talk about credit to lessee farmers, tenant farmers ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, really, without disturbing the landholders' rights, can the lessee farmer, Bhaga Chasi – we call them Bhaga Chasi – really get his dues? Can he get insurance? Can he get credit facilities? This is delightfully opaque. Only these people can do it.

There is the Farmer Producer Organisation that they are talking about. A limit of Rs. 100 crore has been set up. Why is this limitation? It is just because it is a farmer, just because, he is *gareeb*. We will have Adanis and Ambanis having billions of crores in dollars. But if it is a poor farmer getting together with his brethren and forming a company, there is a limitation of Rs. 100 crore. Why again this kindness? Are they saying that the farmers should not dream big? What about Amul in their erstwhile State of Gujarat? Now, it is slipping out. But the State they said was a model State.

What about that? Potato, onion and tomato are not region specific. They have no concept that such produce need preservation and cold storages. Are we even aware that one cold storage cannot even keep all these fruits and vegetables? Potato needs one temperature for preservation; tomato needs another temperature for preservation; and onion needs another temperature for preservation. We have the Minister of Food Processing Industries sitting here. Her budget has been cut down...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): No, its doubled.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Okay. For example, we are talking about cyber physical systems. Initially, I could not understand what exactly cyber physical system is. Then, I started thinking and I thought, maybe, they are talking about robotics. Robotics is still evolving. Countries like US are spending billions for it. What do we give? We give a meagre sum of Rs. 2,800 crore or Rs. 3,000 crore to develop robotics and the kind of research that is required. This is nothing. Why are we wasting that money? How do we think that we can even preserve this perishable? What will happen when investment is made? Farmers will start farming and there will be huge productions but there will be no lifting of the crops and there will be no storage facilities. Who do we think, we are hoodwinking except our own people?

There was some mention about "From Hawaii Chappal To Hawaii-Jahaz". Somebody boasted today that some 600 or 700 aircrafts are flying in the Indian skies. Now, there will be 900 modern aircrafts flying. Listen, when those 900 aircrafts come in, how many of our farmers will be flying those aircrafts? How many of our villagers will be flying those aircrafts? We have to

talk sense. Let us not be without sense. Let us not talk just because somebody has told us and we have to talk out of sense. What does this country need? This country needs good bus stands. Have we ever thought of modernising our bus stands? This country – I am ashamed to say – has never even thought about footpaths. You go to Mumbai; you go around Delhi; you go around any part of this country; all the Metros; and all these smart cities that they are putting up does not have sidewalks or does not have modern bus stands that are required for a proper city. Are you giving airports to my people? My people do not need airports. They need bus stands. They need sidewalks. They need safe roads. But there is no provision for that.

On the one hand you say Rs. 6.47 lakh crore personal tax collection shot up to Rs. 8.27 lakh crore. However, they also claimed that the turnover is not encouraging. You claim big about ease of living. There was also a mention in Hindi, which I wrote in English, which says: There should be least government interference. How is that going to be achieved? It is pretty pink when you show a rosy side alone to your brain-damaged followers. Would you bother to let the nation know how much you are going to spend to collect this tax?

Now, I am coming to MSME. Do you truly believe in your claim that mass formalisation of MSMEs due to DeMon and GST will make financing easier? It has not done so yet. This means, most of the MSMEs operating on their own steam and without virtually any Governmental help are dead or terminally ill already. Are you aware, you have killed them with your demonetisation? It is because, today it was said that only 10 per cent of jobs are formal; 90 per cent are informal. What have you done with your demonetisation and your GST? You have killed that 90 per cent. It is because, that 10 per cent, that employment opportunity is belonging to your friends.

Are you again incentivising, so-called, medium enterprises earning up to Rs. 250 crore? The bar has been raised from Rs. 50 crore. How many MSMEs in Tamil Nadu have a turnover of Rs. 250 crore on which they are taxable? There are very few. So, what will happen? All these big corporates, their family members, their directors, their friends will form ancillaries. It will be the big industrialists, the super corporates which will break up into smaller ancillaries. They will benefit from this. It is not the true MSMEs, not the young men, not the start up, crawl, stand India. So, these are the things that one has to think about.

It would have been much better if they would have thought of means on how to make MSMEs avail loans

easier. The Budget 2018-19 says that disinvestment will fetch Rs. 80,000 crore. Is it not like an incapable child, a demented child who does not know what to do with all the wealth that the parents have left for him or her and starts selling off the family property? It is because, he or she does not know what to do with it; he or she cannot build on it. So, it is very easy to criticise the Congress. But, I have lived in this country for new 61 years and I will not blame any Government. It is because, Congress has come; Congress has gone. They have come; they will also go. Nobody is permanent. But, the country will last; the people will live. People will decide who is best for them. But, here, this disinvestment is, one fuel company buying into another fuel company. It is just a jugglery from the left pocket to the right pocket. So, what is the great idea? The great idea, what I understand, is to cover up all the wrongdoings that had been done some years ago before 2014 with some fuel companies in Gujarat. That is the effort that is being tried out. It is good to focus on the aged and the unhealthy. But, it is more important to make the present generation healthy.

What facilities are we giving to schools, to colleges? Suppose, that is considered as a State Subject, even from the Central Government, I would like to know, what facilities have they thought of in the smart cities like any open-air gyms, any parks, any recreation centres. There is nothing. If you read about the smart cities, there is no such thing.

There is a lot of hullabaloo about health getting priority this time; 10 crore families involving 50 crore individuals are supposed to get Rs. 5 lakh annually for healthcare. But, what has been done in the Budget? The Finance Ministry gave Rs. 2000 crore extra to the Health Ministry. But, is it not correct that the Government took Rs. 750 crore away from other schemes? Poor Health Ministry had been given Rs. 51,550 crore during 2017-18 when the RSBY was introduced, and Rs. 2000 crore was given for the scheme. The total should have gone up to Rs. 53,550 crore. Instead, what has happened? In reality, the Health Ministry was given Rs. 52,800 crore only.

Shockingly, the allocation for the National Rural Health Mission for 2018-19 has been brought down to Rs. 24,279 crore compared to Rs. 25,450 crore during 2017-18 – the net Rs. 1,179 crore less than last year. There is a wild theory doing the rounds.

Sir, you might remember, during the UPA time, in the Budget, the then Finance Minister had declared a cess on iron-ore exports and we all exporting States were very happy because when the Union Government or the Federal Government levy cess, a part of it will

obviously devolve to us. We were very happy. Then on the same evening, the then Finance Minister, you would know him very well, flew to Singapore for one night. Hectic parleys took place. The deal was done. Next day, he came back. And when the Finance Bill came, that cess was withdrawn. This is on record Sir, and you know that very well because you were there in that Lok Sabha. A day or two before this Budget, when there was a murmur of an imposition of long term credit gains tax (LTCG), the Fils withdrew and the market was jittery. The Finance Ministry assuaged the market saying that nothing of the sort was planned. Now, that it has been imposed – markets tank, so called corrections happen and some people knowing that a reversal of such a decision will come are making a serious killing. So, now, we await whether a reversal will happen like the previous years or will it not happen. If it does, then it is a designed move to take position in the market at a lower level and make a killing in the bargain.

Again, here too, they are using the Government position to benefit a few friends. This reminds us of what the UPA did by levying cess on iron-ore. Therefore, at the end, I would like to say that my State, my people of Odisha, my party BJD, we vehemently oppose this Budget. It is not pro-poor, it is not pro-people, this is a confused Budget, aimed at only encouraging the rich to become richer, that one per cent which holds 74 per cent of the wealth that exists in India will probably by the time this Budget takes place and the elections will come, will probably start owning 90 per cent wealth of this country. We are sad today because this country is ours, the country belongs to the people, the country does not belong to any Political party and therefore, we are constrained because this Government is ours. The Government does not belong to any political party. We are constrained, we are unhappy to say that we oppose this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: There are two things in his speech one is about brain-damaged followers, second is evil formation, both are unparliamentary.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through that.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : I will not withdraw that word. It is not unparliamentary. I have checked in the book.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: It is unparliamentary. I have the book.

[English]

*SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur): Thank you for the opportunity to place my views and concerns on the budget 2018-19 presented by honorable finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley.

The Union Budget 2018-19 is neither a pro-farmer nor a pro-poor budget. Like any other past budgets of the Modi regime, it's a hardcore pro- corporate and pro-foreign capital budget, which is packaged in a "populist" way.

At the outset, the pro-farmer claims of the Union Budget 2018-19 are, in simple word, a hoax. The expenditure on agriculture and rural development, as percentage of GDP, is reduced from 1.15 percent to 1.08 percent. The farmers of our country left high and dry. The contribution of the agriculture sector to the Indian economy is now hovering around 16% only, according to the recently released Economic Survey report of Financial Year 2017-18. The sector's growth has fallen from 4.9 per cent in Financial Year 2016-17 to 2.1 per cent in 2017-18.

The biggest farce of the Union Budget 2018-19 is that despite the rhetoric of calling itself a farmer focussed budget, the actual allocation to the agriculture sector is merely 2.36 per cent of the budget, which is even lower than the 2.38 per cent allocated in the Union Budget of 2017-18. There has been a record production of more than 275 million tones food grains and over 300 million tons of fruits and vegetables. But the budget is silent on the plunging price of agricultural products Finance Minister mislead Parliament and the nation by falsely claiming to have declared MSP for the rabi crops as per the formula recommended by the Swaminathan report and was in the process of similarly enhancing the MSP for kharif crops. Regarding the proposed 1.5 times of the cost of cultivation as Minimum Support Price (MSP), the very calculation of the cost of cultivation was wrong. There is a lot of differences between the methodology that M.S. Swaminathan proposed in his report in 2005. The Swaminathan Commission suggested the fixing of the MSP for crops "at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production", however, the BJP promised in its 2014 Poll Manifesto to enhance the profitability in agriculture, by ensuring a minimum of 50 per cent profits over the cost of production:. Since the government calculation method is bound to show the low cost of cultivation, the 1.5 times of it doesn't help in the increase of actual MSP. Moreover, there is no increase in one of the major rural employment generation schemes, the MNREGA. Like last year, only rupees 55,000 crore was allocated to this project, which employs a large number of rural population during the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

non-cultivation season of the year. The finance minister also reduced the allocation for the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, which has a Revised Estimate of rupees 4,800 crore in Financial Year 2017-18, while only rupees 3,600 crore is now allocated for it in the Financial Year 2018-19. Even the Revised Estimate, in the future, is less likely to go above rupees 4,000 to rupees 4,200 Crore by the end of the Financial Year 2018-19. While the Revised Estimate for the Market Intervention Scheme and Price Support Scheme was rupees 950 crore in the current financial year. It is reduced to mere Rs. 200 crore for the next financial year. Thousands of farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers, are thrown into the abyss of extreme destitution due to the predatory credit system prevailing in the countryside. Thousands of farmers commit suicide due to the falling prices and shrinking subsidies. In January-October 2017 period itself, Maharashtra reports 2,414 farmer suicides. The Neo-Liberal reforms have taken a toll on our agricultural sector. Cutting of subsidies, poor access to formal rural credit system, ineffective compensation policies and above all, corporatization of agriculture has broken our agrarian economy.

The proposal for the education sector has widely welcomed by the corporate educational institutions that indicates the direction of the system. It has allocated Rs. 85,000 crore (US\$13.26 billion) for education, with Rs. 50,000 crore for schools and the rest for higher education. This was an increase of just 8% over last year. the allocation for secondary education rose by a similar ratio, from Rs. 3,900 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 4,200 crore for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Finance Minister has also proposed treating education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12. This could only be possible by extending the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 up to the higher secondary level. The Minister did not address it deliberately because it would require huge funding. Instead, he increased the 3% education tax to a 4% 'health and education' levy, which should bring an additional Rs. 11,000 crore to government coffers. This shows the government is in no mood to prioritize education and paves the way for the total privatization of the education sector. Strangely, the levy collected in the past mostly unused. It is reported that more than Rs. 830 billion lay idle in government coffer last year. Obviously, the poor and weaker sections would be further deprived of educational facilities in the coming future.

The mega health insurance scheme announced in Budget 2018 is largely geared towards the corporate healthcare industry's interests. The private hospitals that get empanelled would no doubt have a market advantage over the others. If, with corporate influence,

reimbursement rates are now negotiated upwards and quality standards tipped in favor of corporate providers, the advantage that affordable private care providers have will be lost. This will help corporate consolidation of the market. The National Health Protection Scheme promises Rs 5 lakhs per year per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization and aims to cover 10 crore families. The scheme was, in fact, announced in the 2016 Budget - the only difference being that the sum assured was raised from Rs 30,000 to Rs 1.5 lakhs then and to Rs. 5 lakhs now. The scheme has not been operationalised in the last two years. Moreover, not even 50% of the funds under the existing health cover scheme have been spent in the past year. If we compare it with last year's revised estimates, the increase in budgetary outlay for the health sector is trivial, and in real terms probably stagnant. On some key components, especially the 53,198 crore and the budgetary allocation for the current year is Rs. 54,667 crore. Thus, this year's allocation shows an increase of 11.8% over last year's allocation but only a 2.7% increase over the revised estimate. In terms of public health expenditure as proportion of gross domestic product, it has declined further.

India is home to over 18 million unemployed people. In the election campaign four years ago BJP had promised 10 million jobs during its tenure. But only about 8,23,000 jobs had been created in the country till October last year and, according to the International Labour Organisation, most of it classified as vulnerable employment. The educated unemployment among India's youth may be as high as 20%. In a similar vein, according to the World Bank, 30.8% of India's population aged between 15 and 29 years are NEETs (Not in education, employment or training). Despite the much trumpeted Make in India political slogan, still for medical and electronics we depend on imports for 90 per cent of the country's needs. Japanese steel and engineering companies are the major supply contractors for a 17 billion \$ Indian bullet train project. Making matters worse, less than half the candidates trained by the National Skill Development Corporation-under the government's flagship scheme 'Skill India'-over the last two fiscals have reportedly landed jobs. The tughlaqian decisions of demonetization and GST has taken away around 2 crore employment opportunities every year that would have been a breather for the struggling unemployed youth in our country.

This Budget is anti-SC/ST and Women. This means that there will be further reduction of social welfare expenditures. The government has earmarked Rs. 95,754 crore (Rs. 39,135 crore for STs and Rs. 56,619 crore for SCs) in Budget 2018-19.50% of the earmarked funds

are either not relevant to the community or not accessible. Out of the allocated amount, only Rs. 48,321 crore is for targeted schemes, the rest have no relevance nor are accessible to the community. The design of the schemes is a matter of grave concern as they are not designed to address the needs of the community. Eight of the important schemes for the SC/STs are severely underfunded. Budget 2018-19 is definitely not one for women. The gender budget has fallen from 0.68% to 0.65 per cent of GDP. The gender budget has shortchanged girls and women. In the budget speech last year and this year, the worlds 'women' and 'girl' were spoken as many as 13 times. The Gender Budget statement of the year however tells an entirely different tale with lesser focus on women in the next fiscal year.

India has the world's highest population of stunted children-short for their age-and the country's failing primary healthcare and overburdened tertiary care are ill-equipped to handle the crisis of childhood malnutrition, leaving India unable to fulfill its national potential. Girls, rural areas, the poorest and scheduled tribes and castes are the worst affected. In 2017, Global ratings agency Moody revised the country's sovereign ranking to Baa2 from Baa3 citing implementation of a string of economic reforms, including demonetization and rollout of the goods and services tax. But it never became big news that the 2017 Global Hunger Index Report ranked India 97th out of 118 countries with a serious hunger situation. Even in such situations, allotment in ICDS scheme has been again reduced in this budget is highly condemnable. Rs 300 crore in this Budget has cut allocation for pregnant and lactating mothers. The allocation for ICDS this year is Rs. 16,334.88 crore whereas it was Rs. 15425.19 crore last year. This allocation is grossly inadequate to even cover the increased cost norms for the supplementary nutrition declared by the Ministry in September, 2017.

We had strong PSUs that helped us to withstand the perils of the latest global economic crisis. Dismantling the public sector became the part of the government agenda since 1991 with the official advent of neoliberal policies under the Congress government. The Modi government has intensified these policies. Public sector today is the repository of huge national assets including land and minerals, vital infrastructure and huge productive forces. It is the wealth of nation. Last year the government secured rupees 1 lakh crore by selling even the profit making PSUs. This year it aimed to collect rupees 8000 through selling of the remaining ones. The decision of the BJP led government to allow 100% Foreign Direct Investment in such strategic sectors of our economy like defence, railways, telecom, civil aviation, satellites, power, petroleum, mining, coal etc is nothing but anti national in character.

Inflation is another challenge that the Government could not handle with. Consumer prices in India rose to a 15-month high in 2017 due to the ongoing seasonal surge in vegetable prices and an unfavorable base effect from last year, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's medium term target for inflation. The fuel inflation rose to 7.90% in December 2017 against 6.36% in November, 2017. The food inflation rose to 4.85% in December 2017 compared to 4.42% in November, 2017. The benefit of price slash of international crude oil price has not been transferred to the consumers and the economy. Instead, the government is transferring the benefits to the corporates and augmenting the inflation. It is expected that, at this rate, in all likelihood, the inflation rate would cross double digits this year. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is in its all-time high. While WPI in 2016 was 1.3%, it has been doubled in 2018 with 3.6%. The price of food articles has been increased from 3% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2017.

The government is concerned about fiscal deficit. But, my question is who has created such situation? The February, 2017 budget had committed to targeting a fiscal deficit of 3.2% of GDP. The numbers now being announced indicate that the deficit will be at least 3.5% of GDP for the current fiscal year, and it could actually be higher. Diversion of funds in the name of banking recapitalisation is another tricky game of the NDA government in favor of the corporates. In reality all the banks are under debt crisis due to the Non Performing Assets. Some of the country's biggest banks are reporting losses. India's banking system was saddled with Rs 7.29 lakh crore of gross non-performing assets (NPAs)-about 5% of the country's GDP. These has caused due to the non-payment of loans given to the corporates. This year 5 lakh crore rupees have been earmarked for banking recapitalisation. In 2016-17 budget it was rupees 2.13 lakh crore. This banking recapitalisation would be done by diverting funds from the social welfare sectors. While the government cutting funds from social welfare sector, funds are being served to the corporates on a platter. Trade deficit has also hiked from 11.1 % in 2016 to 14.1 % in 2017. Removal of wealth tax in the last year budget step to help the corporates. Now, the finance minister has shown again his loyalty to them by reducing the corporate tax from 30 to 25. He has also extended this benefit for companies with turnover of up to Rs. 250 crore. Last year, it was available only to the companies with a turnover of 50 crore.

The Government has also axing the democracy through subverting and bypassing the parliament. After the implementation of GST, the newly constituted GST council would decide the Tax related matters instead of the states and Parliament. The scrapping of the Planning

Commission also a big blow to the federal principles followed by our country. It Planning Commission was dismantled without consulting the states. The Niti Ayog is more a "think tank" than a finance-distributing agency. The 92 years old tradition of separate railway budget that deals with a whopping 148000 crore, has become a mere mention in the main budget.

Last but not the least, the budget 2018-19 is an evident of glaring regional discrimination of the central government of some selected states with a vengeance. Kerala has been a historically neglected region for railway. Kerala is a world-renowned tourist destination. It is also will known for its beautiful religious destinations. The present budget has cut 23% of the fund allocation compared to last year. The insufficient funds earmarked for new lanes, gauge conversion, doubling of lanes and electrification Act as a major impediment of the railway development of the state. The long-standing demand of the state for more trains from important cities, a separate railway zone, track doubling and electrification, development of adarsh stations at Mulamkunnathukavu, Vallatholnagar and vadakkancherry, has not been met. The demand for Railway Over Bridges, at Kollengode-Oottara, Muthalamada under Paakkadu division, Enkekkadu, Pottore, akamala, Mulloorkara under Thiruvananthapuram division, Subway at Peruvambu are also neglected. Kerala has acquired 235 acres of land for the Kanjikkode factory. Even after laying the foundation stone before five years, nothing has been done on that land. The newly gauge converted Palakkadu-Pollachi route is not beneficial to the people due to lack of stops. It has stops at many local stations and was heavily used by the people prior to the conversion.

Kerala is one of the states that have been at the receiving end of the central governments ruthless following of the neo-liberal policies. According to the estimates of Kerala, there are over 13 lakh people associated with agriculture sector in the state, and around 75 lakh people are associated with the plantation sector. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement with India and other 15 nations, the agriculture and plantation sectors in Kerala are staring at an uncertain future as they fear that once the pact is signed it will sound a death knell for these sectors. Kerala will be one of the state's worst-affected by the RCEP agreement due to the agro-climatic conditions as well as crop mix. There will be a direct impact on rubber and spices and an indirect impact on coconut. currently the fall in price of rubber from rupees 260 per kg to rupees 100 has created an unprecedented economic situation in Kerala. Declaration of Minimum Support Price for cash crops is the only way out to save

the farmers from committing suicides. The demand for increase in import duty for rubber is a long pending demand of kerala. Many other demands of kerala have been yet to be fulfilled such as increasing the amount of financial assistance to IAY programme.

In the health care sector, there is a long pending demand to upgrade the Thrissur medical college in to a Cancer Centre. Establishing a medical college at Vadakkancherry would be beneficial to the people of three districts such as Thrissur, Palakkadu and Malappuram.

I conclude by expressing my great disappointment on the Budget 2018-19. Apart from the rhetoric of pro-poor, pro-farmer, in reality, it has nothing to offer to them. Instead, the budget is clearly paving the way for the corporates and multinationals by snatching whatever is left out for the poor in our country. Finally, I would like to remind the government that, a country is not a company.

SHRI ADHALRAO SHIVAJIRAO PATIL (Shirur): It is very unfortunate that our friends from Andhra Pradesh, the true ToP friends, true NDA partners who have been good friends of BJP had to stand on their feet since morning for their rights. They have promised certain things to the people of Andhra Pradesh which the Government of India is not able to fulfil them. We, the people from Shiv Sena and from Maharashtra are with them and we support them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put forth mine and my Party's views on the Budget presented for the financial year 2018-19. This year's Budget was much anticipated in the current climate of gloom and doom as far as the state of economy is concerned.

Already the economy was limping in terms of slowing private investment, falling industrial output and overall liquidity crisis caused by demonetization. The inherent issues in GST implementation are still being addressed and MSMEs are yet to come to terms with them. Amidst all this, the Budget was expected to address all these issues. Unfortunately, the Budget failed to address any of these concerns and should be seen as another lost opportunity.

The middle-class was expecting a relief in the form of income tax revisions which did not materialize. Cess has been hiked to four per cent from the current three per cent across the board for the taxpayers. The exemption limit for income tax has remained at Rs.2.5 lakh since the last three years. The same should have been revised to Rs. 3 lakh, if not more.

It is a welcome step that corporate tax reduction of 25 per cent for companies with turnover up to Rs.250 crore is a very welcome step. However, LLP, partnership firms, proprietors, Association of Persons and Body of Individuals should not have been distinguished and discriminated. They also deserve tax reduction of 25 per cent with a turnover up to Rs. 250 crore.

The Government has opted for wider fiscal deficit at 3.5 per cent of GDP for the year 2018-19 and projected the 2018-19 year's deficit at 3.3 per cent of GDP. Higher fiscal deficit is not good for the Government's credibility and FDI among other things. If the Government means to implement all the social, rural and infrastructure expenditure plans with very small changes on the tax front, it will certainly have some concerns for the fiscal deficit target for the next year. We have seen inflation coming up in the last couple of months. Increase in the Minimum Support Price for some of the crops has the potential to increase the inflation rate going forward.

The major sector where the Budget has fallen short is allocation of resources towards Indian Defence. Though there is a hike of 7.81 per cent over the last year's allocation, the allotment under the capital head of Rs. 99,947 crore is less than the allotment for the Defence pensions. With ever increasing hostilities from our neighbours and considering the urgent need for revamp of our defence equipment, a higher share towards capital head was expected. Also, this would have an adverse impact on the prospects of getting the Indian private sector to undertake more projects in this sector.

Coming to one of the important points, which is really bothering our country, let me put to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that the vital point of concern of everybody is that the United Nations released the 2017 Revision to its World Population Prospects a couple of weeks before and the data has some surprising insights about the way India's population is set to grow in the next two decades. India will be number one in seven years in the world.

Within the next seven years, India will overtake China to become the world's most populous country. In just a year or two after that, once China's population has hit around 144 crore of people, its population will start to decline for the first time ever.

India, in the meantime, will continue to grow until 2061 or so and only start to decline when its population has gone well past 168 crore of people, when it will be the most populous country the world has ever seen.

This is the beginning of the end of the demographic

dividend. We are young but not for long. By 2040 or so, India's demographic dividend will be conclusively over. So, if India wants to use its global competitive advantage in having a large working age population, it has around 20 years to do this.

18.00 hrs.

As a nation of 130 crore population, we ought to have plan for what this number would be after five years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and 25 years. There is neither a single word nor any provision for the above projection of population for the next 20 years and thereafter.

Then, I would like to come to Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG). Tax on Long Term Capital Gain on shares is not a step in the right direction as it will discourage investment in stock market and consequently the coming up of new industries.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is 6 o'clock. I want to know the view of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in terms of extension of time of the House.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Sir, the Budget discussion is continuing. Twelve hours have been allotted for this discussion. Friday being a Private Members Business day, reply to the Budget discussion has to be given tomorrow. Therefore, I request you and the entire House, through you, that the time of the House for this discussion may be extended up to 9 o'clock ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): Initially there was a request to extend the time for discussion up to 8 o'clock and we agreed to it. We have a whole day available tomorrow. We can continue this discussion tomorrow also.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: If the discussion goes till tomorrow, the reply by the hon. Minister will be very delayed. Therefore, I request the Members to extend the time of the House till 9 o'clock ...*(Interruptions)* We also have to send it to Rajya Sabha.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, the time for Budget discussion is first extended up to 8.30 pm. If further required, we will extend it again.

Adhalrao Patil ji, please continue your speech.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Sir, if revenue mobilization was the motive, a small increase

in Securities Transaction Tax (STT) would have garnered more revenue with better efficiency than poorly thought out tax on Long Term Capital Gains on shares.

Sir, real estate industry is passing through a very critical time. Some stimulus measures should have been provided in the Budget to reactivate the industry.

Import duty on gold was also expected to be reduced which is not done. I am afraid that this will increase smuggling of gold in the coming years.

Then, I come to a very important point as far as industry is concerned. 18 per cent GST on service sector is extremely high as it is on luxurious goods.

There are some industries like computer hardware industry and electronic hardware industry where important spare parts like LCD displays and computer displays attract 18 per cent of GST. It is definitely on higher side. This will surely have a bad impact on the growth of this industry. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to rethink on GST rates for LCD displays, LCD panels and LED TVs and reduce it from 18 per cent to 5 per cent or 12 per cent at the most.

Sir, let me come back to some of the positive points included in the Budget. The outlay of Rs.1.49 lakh crore towards Railways is a positive step in improving the connectivity across the nation. I am hopeful that this allocation is fully and effectively utilized considering the long pending projects, which have received in-principle approval and are yet to take the ground.

For example, in my constituency, Pune-Nasik railway project was announced and the State Government of Maharashtra has also agreed to share 50 per cent cost. Now, the project cost has gone up to Rs. 5,341 crore. This is a long-pending demand. I do not see any concrete movement towards this railway project. There is another railway project in my constituency—Kalyan to Nagar. The demand for this railway project has been there for last 25 to 30 years. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider it and make some provision to announce this project.

Providing Minimum Support Price to the tune of 1.5 times the cost of produce to farmers is another welcome step, but considering the already stretched finances and the lacunae in implementation of loan waiver schemes as seen in Maharashtra raises serious doubts about how this would be implemented.

Similarly, the formation of National Health Protection Scheme is a welcome policy decision that would provide cover to India's vast number of rural and urban poor.

This is very critical when healthcare costs are rising by the day, and private operators view this sector primarily from a profit-making perspective, but again, given the severe lacunae in our healthcare infrastructure, merely budget allocations would not suffice. I would urge upon the Government and the relevant Ministry to look into delivery of the services as promised.

Increase in tax exemption limit for senior citizens for bank interest from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 is a great relief. Also, the increase in Section 800 deduction for health insurance premium and medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 will also help them to buy old-age health covers and cope up with the rising healthcare costs.

Overall, the Budget was a missed opportunity in terms of delivering on the much talked about promise of *achhe din* which India has been waiting for since 2014. Though there have been several small initiatives which were positive, it was found wanting on the major impactful sectors which could help revive the economy and stimulate job growth.

I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister for giving me this opportunity to express views on behalf of the people of India.

*SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (Namakkal): Budget is guided by duty to strengthen agriculture, rural development, health, education, employment, MSME and infrastructure sectors. The Union Government says that these structural reform will push India among the fastest economies of the world. So many announcements have been made by the Finance Minister in the last full Budget of this Government. Two New funds of Rs 10,000 crore has been announced for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry sector; and Rs. 1290 Crore in Re-structured National Bamboo Mission. Rs. 5.97 lakh crore allocations for infrastructure. Increase in Disinvestment from Rs. 72,500 crore to Rs. 1,00,000 crore. Loan from Self Help Group Women has increase about Rs. 42,500 crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 75,000 crore by March 2019.

It is a welcome step that the Finance Minister has announced that 70 lakh jobs will be created this year. Textile Sector has been allotted Rs. 7148 crore, against 6,000 Crore in 2016. No any major change in Income tax. Customs duty on various products like mobile phones has been increased to 20 percent and prices of televisions will be increased to 15 per cent.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

In Railways, more than 25,000 Railway Stations, escalators will be built and all trains to have Wi-Fi, CCTV etc. 24 new Government Medical Colleges will be set up by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country. At least one medical college for three Parliamentary Constituencies. Senior Citizens are also benefitted by this budget.

Interest exemption on deposits with banks and post offices are increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000. No TDS required is required for section 194A. Benefit is also available for interest from all fixed deposit schemes and recurring deposit schemes. Hike in deduction limit for health insurance premium and/or medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 under section 80. All senior citizens will now be able to claim benefit of a deduction of Rs. 50,000 for medical insurance premium.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has praised the Union Budget saying it is fairly balanced, growth oriented that focuses on development of agriculture, rural development and health sector. He welcomed as it will give a big push to the agricultural sector.

While welcoming the proposed liberalisation of exports of agricultural commodities, he expressed the hope that Tamil Nadu will benefit from the Mega Food Parks Scheme. However, the budget has left out Chennai which is expanding faster and needs strengthening of its suburban train system.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jayadev Galla.

18.08 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Ravindra Babu and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, when a Member of your Party is speaking, it may not look nice to put up placards. If you are agitating, you may come and do it. I do not have any objection to that. If you come here and stand, which you have already been doing, it is okay, but when an hon. Member of your Party is speaking, if you stand there putting up placards does not look nice. That is not correct. Please do not do that.

You may come here and do whatever demonstration you want to do. I have no objection to that. You have every right to do that in democracy. If you stand there and put up placards while a Member of your Party is speaking, it does not look nice. We would be creating a bad precedent. So, please do not do that.

If you are sitting, that is different. Please do not show the placards. If you want to do it here, I have no objection, but please do not do it there.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (Guntur): Sir, the five crore people of Andhra Pradesh demand an explanation from the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. After they promised a special status to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the elections, we were told by them that because of technical difficulties due to the introduction of GST, that was no longer possible and in lieu of this, they offered us a special package which, you promised, would be equal in value to all the benefits we would have otherwise received had we got a special status.

We believed you, Mr. Finance Minister, but he is not here to address him directly, and the Prime Minister. We are allies. We fought the 2014 elections together. We won based on promises made to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Why should not we trust you? We have trusted you and we have maintained 'Alliance Dharma' for the last four years, and now five Budgets later still waiting. You have repeatedly given us assurances and asked us to have patience, but there is no more time for patience. This Budget is the final chance to fulfill your promises and assurances. It is now or never.

We understand that you have the numbers in the Lok Sabha to render us irrelevant. But let me remind you that elections are fast approaching. Based on current trends, the next General Elections will certainly be challenging. If the promises and assurances you made to your ally are not fulfilled, what message does that send to your other allies or potential allies? You must consider this point. I may be new to politics, but I do understand about trust, which is an essential requirement for any partnership to continue.

I also think that I can safely say that India has not seen her last days of coalition Governments. What message do you want to send to your allies and potential allies, Mr. Prime Minister? Your allies are feeling neglected, betrayed and humiliated as are the five crore people of Andhra Pradesh. We demand an explanation.

In the Budget, there is no mention of Amaravati, Polavaram, Railway Zone, Deficit Budget, Special Package and not to mention the other commitments made in the A P Reorganization Act and the assurances made on the floor of the Rajya Sabha by the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, without which this Bill would not have been passed. Therefore, it should be considered sacrosanct.

Some of your Party leaders are trying to convince you that somehow your Party can grow in Andhra Pradesh by breaking promises and weakening the Telugu Desam Party. Seasoned advisors of the Congress President convinced her as well in 2014 of an ill-advised strategy and paid a very dear price for it. From being the strongest State-unit in the country for the Congress, it went to zero out of 25 MPs and zero out of 175 MLAs where it is likely to stay for a very long time.

The Congress thought that by betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh it would ensure a win in Telangana, and the TRS would merge with it. The Congress had also expected that because of a secret deal between them and the YSRC, they would win in AP and would also support them, if not merge.

The people of AP are no fools, and the Congress was wiped out in both the States and the YSRC's devious plans were understood by the people. Please do not be of the opinion that the BJP will fare any better if it treads the wrong path.

The YSRC is now again trying to fool the people of A.P. They are praising the Budget; cozying up to the Central Government; and shifting the blame from the Central Government and the BJP to the A.P. Government and the TDP.

The people of A.P. are no fools. They know that the YSRC needs to support whoever is in power in the Centre in order to keep their*... Today, it may be you, tomorrow it may not....(interruptions)

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (Tirupati): Sir, it is a personal aspersion ...(interruptions) It is against a person who is not in the House ...(interruptions)

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: And what is the message you will send to the country by supporting the Party whose Founder and President is ...(interruptions). If you think that the YSRC would make a better alliance partner in A.P. then it would be a serious lapse of judgment and morality...(interruptions)

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: The individual is not present in the House. ...(interruptions). He is not supposed to take his name. ...(interruptions).

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: I did not name anybody ...(interruptions)

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: I think that the Chair should object to it. ...(interruptions)

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, there is a saying that: "You can fool some of the people, all of the time; you can fool all of the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. And let me assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, that the TDP and the people of Andhra Pradesh are certainly no fools. We demand an explanation.

Our Chief Minister has visited Delhi 29 times. He has met the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Home Minister multiple times and every concerned Minister to get the promises and assurances fulfilled. He has submitted Report after Report with the latest Report being here. You can see how detailed this Report is. This is not the first report. So many reports have been given to every department. It is shameful for the Government to still say that they are waiting for the information or they are still examining the situation.

Sir, there are nineteen items just in the A.P. Reorganisation Act alone that are yet to be fulfilled. I am not going to cover all of them. I am going to focus on five main items because of the paucity of time. But there are nineteen items just in the A.P. Reorganisation Act alone. I would not go into the details but let me read them out. These include Special Category State, Bridging the Resource Gap, the Polavaram Project, Formation of a Railway Zone, Financial Assistance to Amravati, Establishment of Greenfield Crude Refinery and Petrochemical Complex, Institutes of National Importance, Formation of Dugarajapatnam Port at Nellore, Increase in the seats of A. P. State Assembly, Anomalies in Tax Matters, Steel Plant in Kadapa District, Establishment of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, the Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro, Rapid Road and Rail Connectivity to Amravati, Development Assistance to Backward Districts, Payment of Power dues by Discom, Appointment of Schedule-IX Institutions, Appointment of Schedule-X Institutions and the Formation of the Greyhounds Training Centre. They are there in the A.P. Reorganisation Act alone, not to mention other assurances made to us ...(interruptions).

Sir, where is the budget for fulfilling your promises and assurances? Where is it in the Budget? How do you plan to do it?

Regarding the Special Package, I wish to remind the hon. Finance Minister what he had said on 7th September, 2016 while announcing the Special Financial Package to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, he said that the Government of India will support Andhra Pradesh to the hilt. That was in September, 2016. Nothing has

*Not recorded.

been done since then. The Government cannot take our patience for granted. Not allocating and not even mentioning about the Special Financial Package to Andhra Pradesh in this Budget is injustice and it amounts to deceiving the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Secondly, when the hon. Finance Minister came to Amravati to lay the foundation stone for Administrative City, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requested for exemption of Capital Gains Tax till the first sale of the developed land in the capital region. The hon. Finance Minister assured that he would consider this request sympathetically but the exemption has been given only for two years. So, I request that it should be given until the first sale of land. We made this request over and over again but we want a confirmation.

Thirdly, the House is aware that Andhra Pradesh has been given financial package due to immense loss it has suffered after bifurcation. The House is also very well aware that the financial packages with different nomenclatures were announced to various States and regions earlier and we also know the fate of those announcements. So, looking at the past experience, the people of Andhra Pradesh are very apprehensive that this financial package may also meet the same fate.

Hence, there have been numerous demands from various quarters and also from our Chief Minister for giving legislative backing to the entire Special Financial Package announced on September, 2016 and also to implement the package in a fixed timeframe.

In view of the above, I demand the hon. Finance Minister through this House to immediately release the financial package announced and also give legislative backing to the Special Financial Package to legitimise the announcements made by the hon. Finance Minister. I am sure, he would reply to this when he replies to the debate.

Regarding assurances given during bifurcation, the Government of India promised to give equal amount that the Special Category Status would get as a Special Package. I do not want to go into the Special Category Status issue right now.

Secondly, the then Prime Minister also assured on the floor of the Rajya Sabha that a Special Development Package would be given for seven backward districts of Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra and it will be on the lines of Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi Special Plan in Odisha and the Bundelkhand Special Package in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. But, so far, the Government of India has given just Rs. 1,050 crore (at Rs. 50 crore per district every year for three years).

While the package given to KBK and Bundelkhand is Rs. 6,000 crore, only Rs. 1,050 crore is given to Andhra Pradesh and even this Rs. 50 crore is stopped this year. We want that package, and not any pittance, to backward districts.

Sir, regarding Polavaram, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a revised proposal of Rs. 54,000 crore as per 2014-15 estimates. Out of this, nearly Rs. 30,000 crore is meant for compensation to be paid for land acquisition and R&R. So, I only request the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to approve the revised estimates of Polavaram at the earliest.

Coming to the Railway zone and also the Vizag and Vijayawada Metro, the hon. Finance Minister has announced allocation of Rs. 17,000 crore for Bengaluru Metro and approved Rs. 51,000 crore for the Mumbai Suburban railway network, but there is no mention about the metro in Visakhapatnam or in Vijayawada. It is obvious that the Finance Minister's announcement for Bengaluru is because there are Assembly elections in Karnataka and not in Andhra Pradesh. How is it justified? Does it not mean that you are deviating from your own path of talking only of vikas and there would not be any politics on developmental issues?

Yesterday, the hon. Railway Minister made a statement in the other House the Rajya Sabha on the Railway zone. He said:

"Changing the Zone and the contours of any Zone involves consultations with a lot of other States. After we finish the consultation with all the States, we will find out a viable method by which there is no dispute."

This should have been done by now. Four years later, why are we still hearing this, Sir? This is not something that I expect from a senior leader like Mr. Piyush Goyal. This statement by the hon. Railway Minister is understood by the people of Andhra Pradesh as delaying tactics as the Railway Zone is part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act which this Government is supposed to implement.

Coming to our new capital of Amaravati, Section 94(3) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act says:

"The Central Government shall provide special financial support for the creation of essential facilities in the new capital of the successor State of Andhra Pradesh including the Raj Bhawan, High Court, Government Secretariat, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, and such other essential infrastructure."

It says the Central Government 'shall' provide, Sir, and not 'may' provide.

Provisional estimates indicate requirement of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore for construction of the new capital Amaravati. But just for the essential infrastructure including the Raj Bhawan, Secretariat, High Court, Legislative Assembly and Council, the land development is estimated to cost around Rs. 42,935 crore over the next five years. But in the last three years, we were provided Rs. 500 crore in 2014-15, Rs. 550 crore in 2015-16, and Rs. 450 crore in 2016-17. Nothing more has been given. Rs. 1000 crore of this has been given for specific projects in Vijayawada and Guntur for underground drainage, not even for the capital city. So, I request the Finance Minister to release at least Rs. 10,000 crore annually so that in four to five years Rs. 42,935 crore can be given to construct our Raj Bhawan, Secretariat, High Court, Assembly, etc.

The Finance Minister made a statement in Rajya Sabha and said that he has directed Expenditure Secretary to sit with officials from Andhra Pradesh and finalise about the deficit budget. Officials from Andhra Pradesh have reached today and would be discussing with Expenditure Secretary and others. So, I will speak about this only after the outcome of those meetings. But that is definitely an area of concern to us.

Sir, coming to allocations to institutions, the allocations to various institutions mandated to be set up in Andhra Pradesh as per Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act are a pittance in this Budget. With such paltry allocations every year, it would take 10 to 30 years for these institutions to become a reality.

Just to give an example, they announced the setting up of AIIMS in Amaravati, our new capital which also happens to be in my Parliamentary Constituency. The estimated cost is Rs.1618 crore, but so far not even a single penny has been allocated. This year some money is given to AIIMS in various States, but there is no specific mention about AIIMS in Andhra Pradesh. That may be again because elections are not coming up in Andhra Pradesh.

In the same way, I have figures for every institution and allocations to others such as the Vizag Steel Plant, the Dredging Corporation of India, the Hindustan Shipyard, the Vizag Port Trust, etc., where the allocations are miniscule.

The overall allocations made to Andhra Pradesh comes to Rs. 1,814.46 crore and it is no exaggeration when I say that the Telugu movie Bahubali's box office collections were more than the funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh in the Union Budget.

If the people of Andhra Pradesh gave zero seats to the Congress for passing the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, imagine what they would think about the BJP for not even fulfilling the minimum requirements contained in this Act.

We demand an explanation, failing which we will have no option than to consider you acting in bad faith—let me repeat, we will have no option than to consider you acting in bad faith – and will certainly have to reconsider why are we in this relationship.

I am sure you will understand, as will your other allies and potential allies in this very crucial election year. This is your last chance to fulfil your promises and assurances, and to maintain the alliance dharma, which we have maintained till now, very patiently.

It gives us no joy to be in this position, and to deliver this message to a friend and ally, but you have given us no other option and no other choice. It is now or never. We still have belief and trust in the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister, but we demand a comprehensive explanation and let me remind you again that the people of Andhra Pradesh are no fools.

18.26 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Jayadev Galla and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, first and foremost, we are also concerned about our neighbours, the Telugu Desam Party who have been deprived of the rights and the promises which were made in the State Re-Organisation Act. We also feel that at the time of bifurcation in the State Re-Organisation Act, some promises were made. Mr. Arun Jaitley was the Leader of the Opposition at that time. He himself had really monitored all the promises which were given on that day. After his satisfaction only, the Bill was passed. Hence, I feel that the demands which were really put forward by the Telugu Desam Party, our neighbours, should be honoured. At the same time, whatever has been promised to the Telangana Government should also be honoured.

I take this opportunity today to express our concerns and our demands from the General Budget on behalf of Telangana Rashtra Samiti. Telangana became a reality on 2nd June, 2014, a fulfilment of the long-cherished aspirations of the people. It is now three and a half years. Today, I feel proud and happy that the State is moving ahead, living up to the expectations of the people, fulfilling their desires and becoming a role model for other States in the country. Our Chief Minister Shri

K. Chandrashekhara Rao had a forward vision that smaller States could really develop the country. He has fought for it, achieved it and we are now going forward in building our own State with his full vision.

The Budget of Rs. 24,42,000 crore which was presented by our hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley is totally confusing. After the Budget was announced, many economists sat together, many people came together and had a lot of discussion as to what has been given to whom. Did the poor get something? Did the farmers get something? Did the businessmen get something? Who got what? In this analysis we are still not able to find out anything. But when we see our State Budget, it is always presented like a banana. Even a small child can just open the fruit and eat it. Whenever the Budget is presented in the State of Telangana, it is very clear. Farmers get their share, the SCs and STs get their share through their sub-plans, infrastructure is built properly, irrigation is looked after, pensions are given to the poor people, and everybody gets their livelihood from the Budget, but when we come across this Union Budget we see that no person is really satisfied.

I would like to commence by speaking on the allocation made for agriculture against the promises made to this sector. The biggest announcement in this sector is the extension of MSP to the kharif crop to at least one-and-a-half times the production cost. However, I could see no particular allocation for this and there are no details laid out in the Budget.

The issue with the entire Budget in general is that the Government has made big promises and laid down targets to be achieved in the next three to four years but there are no details laid down. Coming back to the MSP, the Government needs to give out the details as to the method of calculation of the cost: Will it be A2, A2+FL, or C2? What will be the allocation that would be set aside for the fulfilment of this promise?

The next issue is the allocation for the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation, and Farmers' Welfare. The Revised Estimate last year for this Department stood at Rs. 46,105 crore but the Budget Estimate this year stands at only Rs. 46,700 crore. This is hardly an increase in the allocation. How is the Government planning to carry out the MSP promise with this allocation? Is the Government planning to put the financial burden to carry out this on the States?

In Telangana, we have initiated a unique programme in agriculture. We have a scheme of input grant under which we give unconditional grant of Rs. 8,000 crore per acre to farmers. We have also started giving free

round-the-clock electricity to farmers. These are initiatives involving huge costs. Keeping all this in mind, an additional financial burden should not be put on Telangana to carry out the promises made by the Centre. The input grant scheme will increase the production and most agricultural produce will be doubled. So, I request the Government to work out a proper mechanism for the MSP that is to be given to the farmers. *[Translation]* Farmer, after all is a farmer. When will we provide, if not farmers? Today, the production has gone up. Whatever is going on since yesterday, that is our ongoing meeting with Shri Radhamohan Singh Ji. *[English]* Our red gram production was only 30,000 to 40,000 metric tons but now it has gone up to two lakh metric tons last year. Last year, given an MSP, they were able to buy 1.5 lakh metric tons of red gram but today they are saying that they can buy only 74,000 metric tons of red gram. How can it be a farmer-friendly Budget? How will you double the income of farmers? We really do not understand that.

Half of the production this year is at the rate at which you were buying last year. This year, you are not buying. There is a chaos in Vikarabad district and Mahboobnagar district. My farmers are on the road in Medak asking for MSP to be given to red gram. You are saying you are going to double the income of the farmers. We would like to know how.

Now, I would like to come to the health care which the Government claims is the highlight of this Budget. Once again, just like Agriculture, no detail of this proposed National Health Protection Scheme was given in the Budget. There are no details as to what is the budgetary allocation to this scheme, what is the Centre-State sharing pattern and what is the premium for this coverage. The Government just said that they will launch the scheme and the Health Minister said that the modalities will be worked out.

I came across many newspaper reports which said that the allocation made is just Rs. 200 crore which, if accurate, is really low. Secondly, under the existing health coverage scheme, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, out of 5.9 crore BPL families, only 3.6 crore families were enrolled in this scheme and while Rs. 1000 crore was allocated in the BE, only Rs. 451 crore was utilised. So, the Government should give out the details as to how the Government proposes to increase coverage under this scheme and prevent under-utilisation of funds as it happened during the last scheme.

I also would like to say here that when the Government has revised the three per cent Education Cess to four per cent, the financial burden of the Health Protection Scheme should be taken care of by the Centre

only and the burden should not be imposed on the State or even on the people. I also request the Government not to keep a premium on the health coverage plan since a cess is already being levied for Health.

My second issue with the Healthcare Budget is the allocation to the health sector. The total allocation to health is Rs. 54,600 crore, which is just a marginal rise from Rs. 53,294 crore allocated last year. The allocation to National Health Policy last year was 0.32 per cent of the GDP and it was widely recommended and as prescribed by the NHP document itself that it should be taken up to one per cent. However, this year the allocation has reduced to 0.29 per cent of the GDP. The allocation to Health at around one per cent of the GDP is amongst the lowest in the world. It forces people to shell out in large, thus forcing seven per cent of the population into poverty every year.

Furthermore, there is a huge gap between the allocation to urban healthcare and rural healthcare. The allocation to Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana which looks after institutes like AIIMS and upgrading of Government colleges has gone up by Rs. 650 crore which is a hike of 18 per cent. On the other hand, allocation to upgradation of district hospitals has been reduced by 14.5 per cent.

The requirements of the primary healthcare are being ignored. For the National Health Mission, the budgetary allocation has reduced by two per cent. The RE for last year was Rs. 31,292 crore and this year's BE stands at Rs. 30,634 crore. The share of National Rural Health Mission in entire health Budget has fallen from 52 per cent in 2015-16 to 44 per cent in this Budget. The funds this year fell down by Rs. 1200 crore as compared to last year's BE.

In this year's Budget, the particular allocation to child and reproductive health has also gone down. This is exactly opposite to what we in Telangana are providing for the Child and Women. In Telangana, we have KCR Kit Scheme in which we provide Rs. 12,000 to pregnant women and if the new born is a girl, an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 is provided. The Kit Scheme also contains a kit of 15 branded items which is given to them and it contains items useful for both the mother as well as the child.

It is sad to see that the Centre has reduced the budgetary allocation to Child and Reproductive Health Programme. Sir, this KCR kit which has become very popular in Telangana, around 1.5 lakh women have come to the Government hospitals for delivery. All the private maternity hospitals are on the verge of shut

down. Today, our Prime Minister has also said that Telangana is doing very well. We really appreciate it, but what I would like to say is that we want some more support to be given to the State of Telangana so that we can come up further. *[Translation]* Health State. Health National Please don't make us unhealthy.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. All are well in Telangana. You should not worry.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: I would take this opportunity yet again to draw the attention of the House towards what the hon. Finance Minister had promised to Telangana State on the floor of the House. A promise to establish an AIIMS was made to Telangana in February last year. However, there has been no Central allocation made in this regard yet again in this Budget. When the Union Minister of State for Health visited Hyderabad recently, our Chief Secretary raised the issue of setting up AIIMS. Still there has been no assurance by the Minister and no word from the Centre. Sir, a very prominent person like Shri Arun Jaitley Ji promises on the floor of the House saying that the Government will allocate money and give us AIIMS but even after one complete year, if a single paisa is not allotted for that, what would be his reputation? How can we really trust the Finance Minister? So the amount has to be released immediately.

Now, I come to the budgetary allocations to education sector. The Budget Speech focused on strengthening the quality of education through increased focus on digitalisation and improving the digital technology and infrastructure. However, as per a report in 2015 only 57 per cent of the elementary schools in the country have an access to electricity and only 26 per cent of the elementary schools are equipped with computers. And the problem here is that, despite the push for digitalisation, the allocation for e-learning has gone down from Rs. 518 crores to Rs. 456 crores.

In our country, the quality of teachers is a serious issue which is affecting the quality of education that our children receive. Despite this, the budget for the Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission for Teachers and Training has remained stagnant at Rs. 120 crore, the same was allocated last year. Out of the allocated Rs. 120 crore last year, only Rs. 100 crore was utilised.

The allocation to IITs has reduced from Rs. 8,244 crores to Rs. 6,326 crore. The allocation to IIMs has reduced from Rs. 1068 crore to Rs. 1036 crore. Considering the fall in world rankings for Indian educational institutions in the recent past, the allocations

to such institutions of national importance has to be taken seriously. Telangana has been incurring huge expenses to ensure that the educational standards of the State remain high. We have a KG to PG education scheme. We have launched Residential Schools for SCs/STs and other minorities. Since the formation of our State, we have opened 504 residential schools, of which 104 schools are for the weaker sections.

We also have opened 30 degree colleges for girl students belonging to the Scheduled Caste community and 22 degree colleges for girl students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes community. The State incurs an expenditure of Rs. 1.25 lakh per annum on each student while providing them free boarding, clothes and other essentials. We expect the Centre to allocate such appropriate funds for our higher institutions of learning.

This year in the Economic Survey we have one chapter completely dedicated to the pendency of cases in the Judiciary. It is not only a grave issue concerning our citizenship but also as a State it drives away possible investors from foreign countries. One of the biggest reasons as to why there is pendency in courts is infrastructural problems that our Judiciary faces. Improvement of infrastructure of our courts is long due now. Yet, in this Budget, the allocation for improvement of infrastructure of the Judiciary has gone up by mere Rs. 1 crore, from Rs. 629 crore in the previous year to Rs. 630 crore this year, Upgradation of courts should also be taken up as an issue of utmost importance and the budgetary allocation should be made accordingly.

Sir, now I turn my attention to the schemes for which the allocations have gone down. The first scheme that I would like to refer to in this regard is the MNREGA which is a very important scheme. The Revised Budgetary allocation for the scheme last year was Rs. 55,000 crore and the Budget Estimate for this year is the same as that of the last year. We are all aware of the difficulties that most of the States are facing, including my own State, over unpaid wages under this scheme. Almost 18 States in the country have the problem of unpaid and delayed wages. Its money belongs to the poor they have already done the work and put in their efforts and hours and now waiting for their money to be transferred to their accounts. But even people working under this Scheme have to wait for their money to be sent from the Centre. Considering that it is an important issue, it is better to keep the allocation same as that of the previous year.

Now, I come to the allocation made under the 'Swachh Bharat' Mission. The allocation under this head has gone down by 9 per cent. The RE for last year was Rs. 16,948 crore and BE this year is only Rs. 15,343

crore. The hon. President spoke of how construction of toilets is a salient contribution towards social justice. While they have been largely successful in constructing these toilets, many international organisations have pointed out the loopholes in this construction.

The other point is that this year's Budget increases the exemption of interest income on bank deposits from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 for the senior citizens. This is a welcome step. But I would like to bring to the notice of the House the fact that the issue of income tax that is levied on the pensions earned by senior citizens. For the senior citizens, the pensions that these people earn is the only source of income for them. *[Translation]* They keep little money as deposit for their medical treatment. *[English]* In the flow it comes out like that.

This pension is used by them for their increased medical expenses and their other livelihood expenses. I get many letters and messages from senior citizens asking me to take up this matter with the Government. After decades of service to the Government that these people superannuate from their jobs and get their pensions and pension is something that the Government gives to them in lieu of their services. I would like to suggest to the Government not to impose income tax on pensions.

[Translation]

This is my request, the government has promised for the establishment of AIIMS *[English]* An eminent figure of the country, the hon. Finance Minister had promised on the floor of the House that he will allocate money for the establishment of AIIMS in our State and so I would like to request him to kindly keep up to his words so that money is allotted. The hon. Finance Minister may kindly announce the amount of money being allocated for the purpose.

Sir, I have not been allowed to complete my speech. There were so many other points to be made. I thought my colleague Shrimati Kavita Kalvakuntla would also be allowed to speak on this. Will you give her an opportunity tomorrow? With this assurance can I take my seat? Thank you.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, Shri Jithender Reddy spoke about income tax on elderly citizens. A similar thing is happening in my State of Odisha. When land is being acquired for coalmines and other things, people who are land owners become land losers and they are left with nothing. Tax is being levied by the MCL and other Government companies. That should also stop.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to participate in the discussion on the General Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley.

This is the last full Budget of this Government and also of the 16th Lok Sabha. Since the Lok Sabha election is nearing and some of the States would also be going to the elections, we could see that this Budget has become an election-oriented Budget. In 2014, the Government or the BJP has given a large number of promises.

At the very outset, I would like to say that there are some unfortunate instances in the House today. We have heard just now the words of Shri Jayadev from Andhra Pradesh. He has explained their experiences of the last four years as to how many times they have tried to meet the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. They have said that this is the last chance of this Government to satisfy them. So, I would like to say, whether they are in the Treasury Benches or in the Opposition, this issue has to be taken up by the Government very seriously because they are the ally of this Government. They are not satisfied with your performance or you are not in a position to satisfy them and that is why, they were here. Then how can you satisfy other Parties and other people when your ally itself is against this Budget? They have made it clear. So, this instance should not be repeated as it is the fault of the Government for the last four years

When we go into the details of the Budget and when we analyse the Budget, we could realise the actual situation prevailing in the country.

The Government claims that there is better growth rate, and inflation and deficit are under control. There was 9.1 per cent growth rate during the UPA Government. It has come down to 5.3 per cent last year. Now it is 6.3 per cent or so and the Government is expecting 7 per cent or 7.5 per cent next year but the former Chairman of the National Statistical Commission said that 6.5 per cent growth may be an over estimation based on the growth rate in the entire tax regime in the Budget. The buoyancy in the indirect taxes including GST is unlikely to be as high as assumed in the Budget. It is also an assumption that the Government thinks that there may be better growth rate and it may be an over estimation.

The Economic Survey also made it clear that this growth rate is based on the market conditions of foreign countries with regard to exports. If there is a better demand, the exports from the nation may increase. This is also a prediction which we cannot rely on. Again, the

Economic Survey says that the non-tax revenue is not at a satisfactory level. Keeping all these issues in mind, we cannot say that we will reach 6.5 per cent.

The Government promised that there would be better growth and sufficient funds allocated. One major claim of the Government is to give 50 per cent MSP to the farmers. In their election manifesto itself, BJP has promised to give 150 per cent. Then Swaminathan Commission has already recommended to give 50 per cent but except for Rabi crops, the Government has not implemented those recommendations.

The Government has implemented this 50 per cent as far as the rabi crop is concerned. But it has not been implemented for other crops. So, it is not a fair thing done by our hon. Finance Minister. It has never been implemented across the country.

Similarly, there is no proper extended crop loan facility in this Budget allocation. As a result, we could see extensive protests in many States, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and mainly in the BJP-ruled States. Every Government says that kisan or farmer is the backbone of this country. But that backbone has now been broken. The Government now says that income of the farmers would be doubled by 2022. How can you talk about 2022? How can one say that you will be in power in 2022? That decision should be taken by the Government which will be there in office at that time. What the farmers really need is immediate relief. You are not in a position to write off the loans. They need writing off of loans. You are not doing that. About 2022, we will see later as to who will come and who will take that decision. At present, the farmers need immediate relief in the form of writing off of loans. The Government is not ready for that.

The other very ambitious scheme in this Budget is the health insurance to 10 crore families, at the cost of Rs. 5 lakh. The Finance Minister says that it will cover 50 crore family members. Many Members who spoke before me have already spoken about the fund allocation. It is only Rs. 200 crore. Rs. 200 crore for 50 crore of people! How much will they end up getting? In Kerala, the population is only three crores. But the allocation for health insurance scheme was Rs. 2,000 crore. Similar thing has been done by the West Bengal Government also. You claim to cover 50 crores of people. You can as well say it is 100 crores or 125 crores. After all, there is no proper allocation here. There are some insurance schemes which are already in existence. There is no detailed response from the Government on how they are performing.

India is a young country and it has a good number of youth population, which is about 60 per cent. Unemployment is the burning issue now. What measures has the Government taken to tackle that? You promised that you will give two crore jobs to the youth every year. So, by now you must have created eight crores of jobs. But the Government does not even have the estimate in this regard. The Government has failed to provide employment to the youth. At the time of elections, you wanted to attract the youth and you promised them employment. Leave alone creating new employment. People are retrenched from the existing jobs as a result of disinvestment. So, people who already have employment are not able to retain their job. As I said, there is no new employment opportunities also.

The Economic Survey has stated that unemployment in rural areas is declining. Of course, it is true. It is because of the implementation of the MNREGA Scheme. It was one of the main contributions of the UPA Government, to which the Left parties had given their full support. As stated by other Members, I would also like to mention that last year the allocation for this was Rs. 55,000 crore. The same amount has been retained in the present Budget. There is no increase at all.

The Government claims that they have taken many steps for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of our country. Their population in terms of percentage is 25. But the allocation is only 1.6 per cent for their welfare. How can you say that you have given better allocation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes?

19.00 hrs.

The Finance Minister in his Speech talked more about the welfare of women. But we have not seen a single word, either in the President's Address or in the Budget Speech with regard to the Woman Reservation Bill. What is your opinion on this issue? Why is the Government hesitating? We said that the Congress Party or the CPM Party or the opposition party are fully supporting you to bring in Bill. But the Government is not ready to bring in Bill. You can see that in Rajya Sabha it was passed. It was not possible for the UPA Government to pass the Bill, because they had not got the majority. But you have got absolute majority. Why is the Government not bringing the Bill?

You talked about the Nirbhaya Scheme. Earlier it was said that the Nirbhaya centres would be opened in various States, but we have not seen it anywhere. When you say that you are doing much for the welfare of women, it has become really a lip service and nothing more than that. You are really misleading the women of this country.

In Lok Sabha, we have 11.3 per cent of woman representation. In Rajya Sabha, it is only 11 per cent. But in many countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh and many other countries, it is much higher. In countries like Portugal and Spain, it is more than 50 per cent. In Africa also, it is higher, more than 60 per cent. But now, you are not in a position to give justice to women, otherwise you should bring the Bill in this House itself.

The main source of revenue is indirect tax. In many of the countries, the percentage of indirect tax is less, compared to the direct tax. But in our country, every year the percentage of indirect tax is increasing. It means that more and more burden is on the common people, whereas the percentage of direct tax is declining, giving more benefits to the higher income groups. It is said that 73 per cent of the additional wealth generated in 2017 is possessed by one per cent of the people. How can you say that the income distribution is justifiable? So, the claim of the hon. Finance Minister that there is higher allocation to various sectors is contradictory to the facts. The Government expenditure to GDP has now reduced further from 13.2 per cent to 13 per cent. The expenditure on agriculture and rural development, as a percentage of GDP, is reduced from 1.15 per cent to 1.08 per cent; the total health expenditure has fallen from 0.32 per cent of the GDP to 0.29 per cent; Central expenditure on education has fallen from 0.49 per cent of the GDP to 0.45 per cent; gender budget has fallen from 0.68 per cent to 0.65 per cent of GDP; allocations for welfare of STs is below 1.6 per cent of the total Budget, and for SCs, it is 2.32 per cent. This is totally inadequate seeing the proportion to the share of population. The allocation for MNREGA has remained unchanged.

Sir, the Finance Minister has completely failed to address the burning question of price rise. The basic reason for the uncontrolled price rise is the price of petroleum products. In the international market, the price of crude oil has come down to the extent of 28 dollars. It has gone to 68 or 70 dollars per barrel. But why are you not in a position to transfer this benefit to the common people? You have raised Excise Duty 16 or 17 times because the benefit goes to the oil companies, but the burden goes to the common man. Then you say the Budget is better. How is it possible to say that?

The Government has declared that they are going to disinvest 24 major Public Sector Undertakings including Civil Aviation. Government expects 80,000 crore as revenue. Every year the fiscal deficit is being reduced, just because you are selling more and more shares of Public Sector Undertakings. You see that Public Sector Undertakings are the wealth of the nation, wealth of the people. You are giving it to private

companies and as a result of this, a large number of people are out of jobs.

It is not just selling of the shares of the public sector undertakings alone but it is really a socio-economic issue as our social structure itself is going to be changed. That is the main issue, that is the point that this Government has to address.

Nowadays, the Government is bringing in a number of new legislations and reforms. One among them is the FRDI Bill in which there is a very strong criticism from most of the stakeholders. The Government is going even to reduce the power of the Reserve Bank of India and also is going to make a separate Resolution Corporation, Members of which would not be elected, but would be nominated by the Government. I do not want to go into the details of this Bill as it is under examination of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Sir, it is a typical example where this Government is following the same methods and norms implemented in the western countries, who had faced a very serious financial crisis in the year 2008. But in those days, our economy was strong in India. The then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had said that 'our economy is very strong.' We were supporting his Government at that time. We had said: 'our economy is strong just because a large number of public sector undertakings, public sector banks and crores and crores of people are supporting you.'

But, Sir, now, this Government is weakening our public sector undertakings and public sector banks. As a result, they are taking up the new liberal policy, which is being following and implemented in western countries. It is not at all applicable to our country as we have to trust more on our public sector undertakings and public sector banks.

Sir, in 2004, the number of billionaires in India was nine. Their income was Rs. 500 crore or more. But now, this number has gone to 100 plus. This House also discussed the issue of huge NPAs in the banks especially the public sector banks. Twelve major individuals or the firms have to remit more than Rs. 1.50 lakh crore or more. This Parliament itself has sanctioned Rs. 1 lakh crore to the public sector banks, which would really not be giving any relief to the common people. It is just to compensate the big corporates, who had taken huge amounts of money from these banks. So, this money, which is being taken from the Government, would assist and compensate the big corporates only.

Therefore, the line or the policy of the Government is very clear, which is to give more and more assistance

to the corporate sector. The situation has worsened after the demonetization and GST implementation where the medium and small-scale industries are closed. A large number of workers are thrown out their jobs.

Our Prime Minister had said in this House: "You give 50 days to me; after 50 days, if the position is not better, you hang me." We had said: "You are our Prime Minister; we respect you." Now, not only 50 days have gone, even one year has gone. What is the present position? So, the demonetization and GST implementation have weakened our economy. Though our Finance Minister is not ready to admit it, yet in his mind, it is very clear because some of the decisions are not taken at the level of the Finance Minister. We witnessed a number of very beautiful speeches made by our Finance Minister. Today, also, it was very beautifully crafted. But we know that he is not free in taking decisions. Take for example, the decision of demonetization. It was not taken by him. Of course, the Finance Minister has to answer it.

So, in such a situation, for any Finance Minister, it is difficult to present a better Budget in this House itself.

Sir, this Government speaks about new India, digital India and shining India. It is true that India is shining, but it is shining of the corporates it is the shining of the billionaires and not the people, in general. The common people are suffering and the rich people are shining. That is the shining India, that is the digital India!

Sir, the Budget is nice, beautiful to hear and witness. It is like an impression in the festival season where fireworks give very magnificent and beautiful colours and scene in the sky, but within no time, it would disappear. This is really the content of this Budget. That is true as far as many of the schemes are concerned.

I want to say something about my own State, Kerala. Kerala is fully disappointed with the Budget proposals. As stated by my friends from Andhra, we have also been raising the issue of the rubber farmers. You know that the economic condition of Kerala mainly depends on rubber. Not only for four years but for many years together, we have been demanding to increase the import duty on rubber. The Government is not ready for that. There is no support price for rubber.

A large number of people, not only in Kerala but in other states also, are working in foreign countries. We are getting crores and crores of rupees. It is very sad to say that not even a single line is said about the NRIs. It is because we are not able to give them jobs, they are going out of country and get jobs. Why can you not give them some package? The State of Kerala has

done a lot in this field. Just now, we have concluded a big conference of these NRIs. We have done Loka Kerala Sabha but the Government of India has taken no steps in this regard.

We have witnessed the Ockhi cyclone. It has damaged a very large area. A lot of people have been affected due to this. The same thing has happened with the State of Tamil Nadu also. The State Government has requested for a package of Rs. 7,400 crore and an immediate relief of Rs. 4,300 crore. But we got only good words. Our Prime Minister and other ministers have visited there but, I am sorry to say, nothing is given. Therefore, I request the Government to consider this issue very seriously.

While implementing the GST, we thought that the income of the State might go up to 25 per cent. It was also the assumption of our Finance Minister. But, now, it is clear that there is only 14 per cent increase. As a result, the expenditure is increasing. There is more burden on the State Government. When we asked about the change in share of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Finance Minister said that you are going to get more money and you need not to worry about it. Now, our share has decreased. Our burden has increased. Therefore, I would like to urge the Finance Minister to compensate the loss that the State has to bear. Even in IGST, we have to get, at least, Rs. 4,300 crore which is with you. It has not been released. The check-posts have been abolished all of a sudden. The income has also gone. But the E-way system has not come. So, many others issues have to come with the implementation of GST. The State is really facing very serious difficulties.

No new project is announced for our State. As far as the health sector is concerned, you know that the State of Kerala is the first or the best. You can see a number of examples. We have been asking for AIIMS as stated by other members. But no decision has been taken. There is also a commitment given in this House but that is not materialised.

I have only two points as far as the Railways is concerned. The first issue is that there should be a discussion on the railways. Nowadays, we have no discussion on the railways. Nowadays, we have no discussion at all *...(Interruptions)* We do not know what is happening in the railways *...(Interruptions)* Secondly, there is a decline of about 23 per cent in the expenditure as far as the railways is concerned. As far as Kerala is concerned, we are disappointed. I think, the Finance Minister may take some lenient steps on this issue.

There is a reduction of Rs. 2 per litre in Excise Duty on petrol and diesel. But, they have increased the prices

of petroleum products by Rs. 4 per litre. Where is the relief? So, in such a situation, it has become an anti-people Budget. So, I am compelled to oppose this Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (Misrikh): I support the budget presented by the Government for the year 2018-19 under the leadership of a dynamic and renowned Prime Minister of the country, hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi. It is the fourth budget of the government. The Government has achieved several notable targets during a short span of four years. Under the leadership of Prime Minister; Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has successfully implemented various infra structural reforms. India has been included in the list of fast emerging economies in the world as a result thereof. Foreign direct investment has increased in the country as a result of various reform measures taken by the Government and now it is easier to do business in India. Now, allocation of natural resources is being done in a transparent and honest manner. Now honesty is supreme for us. Benefits are being provided to the poor in an effective manner with the use of digital technology. Cash transaction has been reduced in India post demonetization of high value currency. Tax base has increased and digitization of economy has been expedited in the country. Demonetization has increased deposits in banks and now these banks are capable to pace up the growth rate. All these infrastructural reforms will assist Indian economy in achieving long lasting and solid growth rate in the medium and long term. Economic growth rate of the country has further improved. Average rate of economic growth has reached 7.5 per cent mark in India during the first three years of the government. India is now a 2.5 trillion dollar economy and seventh largest economy in the world. India is already the third largest economy in the world on the basis of purchasing power parity (PPP).

Indian society has displayed a remarkable flexibility in adopting infrastructural reforms in politics and economy. Growth rate of 6.3 per cent in GDP during the second quarter had indicated large scale changes in the economy. GDP growth rate is likely to be 7.2 per cent to 7.5 per cent in the second half of the financial year. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has made an assessment in its recent report that growth rate of India will be 7.4 percent in the ensuing year. The country is moving strongly in as direction to achieve a higher growth rate of over 8 per cent. Manufacturing sector is also back on the fast growth rate track. Even the service

*Speech was laid on the Table.

sector which is one of the major sectors of development, is registering a high growth rate over 8 per cent. Export is likely to increase at 15 per cent rate in the year 2017-18.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always stressed the importance of good governance. He has pressed for the concept of minimum government and maximum governance. This concept has inspired government agencies to bring numerous improvements in the rules, policies and procedures. This change is reflected in the country's 42 ranking in 'Ease of doing Business' report issued by the World Bank during the last three years. India has been included in the top 100 countries for the first time. After achieving success in 'Ease of doing Business', the government is striving to make life of common people particularly the poor and middle class people easy through 'Ease of Living'. The basis of Good Governance is that there should be minimum interference of the government in the life of the common people of the country.

The Government is providing free gas connections to the poor people of the country through Ujjawala Yojana. Four crore houses are being electrified through 'Saubhagya Yojana'. Over 800 medicines are being sold at over 3000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The price of stent has been regulated. A special scheme has been introduced to provide free dialysis service to the poor. Major relief in interest rate is being provided to the poor and middle class section in housing schemes. Efforts are being made to provide online public services by ticket of bus or trains or for various certificates. A large section of the country has benefited by the provision of issuance of passport within two or three days at the doorstep or registration of a company in one single day. Time and money of lakhs of youth has been saved with the decision to do away with the necessity of getting certificates attested by a gazette officer and abolition of interview for group 'C' and 'D' services. Various services and benefits are being provided to the people at their doorstep and financial benefits are being directly transferred into the bank account of beneficiaries. With all these measures corruption has been checked and delivery cost of benefits and services has been reduced and role of middleman in this process has been eliminated. The direct benefit transfer introduced in India is the largest mechanism of its kind and it conveys the story of country's success across the world.

The Government is committed to the welfare of farmers. Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 when India will celebrate its 75th independence day. The focus of the government is doubling the income of farmers. The Government considers agriculture as an industry and

intends to provide assistance to farmers to get higher agriculture production at comparatively lower cost input and to get remunerative price for their produce. The Government is emphasizing on creating productive and beneficial on-farm and non-farm employment opportunities for farmers and landless families. It is the result of the hardwork of farmers of the country that there is record agriculture production in the country. A historic record i.e. around 275 million tonnes of foodgrain and 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables have been produced in the year 2016-17.

Our Government has tried to make an arrangement so that our farmers get at least 50 per cent more than the cost of their produce i.e. one and a half times of their cost and minimum support price for most of the rabi crops have been fixed at one and a half times of their cost price. Now, the government has decided to implement this principle as the basis for the rest of the crops. I am quite happy that the government has decided to increase the minimum support price of all the declared crops by one and a half times their production cost from the next Kharif season. I believe that this historic decision will prove an important step in the direction of doubling the income of farmers. More than 86 per cent of our farmers fall in the category of small and marginal farmers. They are not always in a condition to sell their produce directly at APMC or wholesale market. The present number of 22000 gramian haats will be developed and upgraded as rural agricultural markets and for this, 'provision has been made to set up an agricultural market infrastructure fund with Rs. 2000 crore rupees for the upgradation and development of agricultural marketing infrastructure in 2200 rural agricultural markets and 585 APMC.

India is an agricultural country. As India is known an agricultural country, similarly districts of the country may be recognized for one or other agro products. As cluster based development model was adopted for the industries, there is also a need to develop cluster model scientifically by identifying agricultural products in our district and the Government is making efforts in this direction. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will review its ongoing schemes alongwith Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Commerce and other concerned Ministries and promote cluster based development of agricultural commodities in the sectors concerned. The Government has encouraged organic cultivation. For this in big clusters having an unit area of 1000 hectares, organic cultivation would be encouraged by Krishi Utpadak Sangathans and Rural Productive organization. Women self help groups would also be encouraged to carry out organic cultivation under National Rural Livelihood Mission.

Our ecosystem is also conducive to the cultivation of highly specialized medicinal and aromatic plants. A large number of small scale and cottage industries are also operating in India where scent oils from which scents are extracted and other related products are produced. The government has allocated an amount of Rs. 200 crores for the organized agriculture and related industries. Food processing sector is growing at an average rate of 8 per cent per year. Pradhan Mantri Krishi SAMPADA Yojna is our flagship programme for encouraging investment in food processing sector. The amount of allocation for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is being increased to Rs. 1400 crore by almost doubling the amount of revised estimate of Rs. 715 crore for the year 2017-18. Tomato, onion and potato are major vegetables which are used throughout the year. It is challenging to establish mutual contact between the farmers and consumers by satisfying both the groups due to seasonal and local production of these perishable commodities. The government proposes to launch 'Operation Greens' on the lines of 'Operation Flood'. 'Operation Greens' will encourage farmers producers organizations to adopt agriculture logistics, processing facilities and professional management. There is a huge potential of export of agro products from India which may be to the tune of 100 billion US dollar, whereas present export is to the tune of 30 billion US dollar. To materialize this potential, the export of agro commodities will be liberalized and the state of the art testing facilities would be set up in all 42 mega food parks. The government will provide the facility of kisan credit cards to farmers associated with pisciculture and animal husbandry so that they may fulfill their requirement of operating capital. This system will be more beneficial for small and marginal farmers. Bamboo is 'green gold'. Now the government has decided to launch a reconstituted National Bamboo Mission with an outlay of Rs. 1290 crore.

The Department of Rural Development has been continuously making efforts to improve the standard of living of the rural poor. The allocation for the Department of Rural Development has reached up to Rs. 109042.45 crore in the year 2017-18 from the budgetary allocation of Rs. 50162 crore in the year 2012-13. Apart from this, higher financial allocation and more contribution of state was available under PMGSY and PMA Y for programmes of the Department of Rural Development during the year 2017-18. The total funds available is about 3 times higher than the total funds available during the year 2012-13. Apart from increased financial provision, the Department of Rural Development has started long term administrative system to increase transparency by using space technology for socio-economic caste census-2011 (SECC -2(11) IT/DBT payment system, transaction based programme MIS and geo tagging of assets.

The objective of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is to provide all weather roads for 1,78,184 habitations with a population of 500 in plain areas and 250 in hilly areas. By March, 2014, as many as 97,838 habitations (55 percent) have been provided connectivity. As on date 1,30,947 habitations under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and other 14620 habitations have been connected through programmes of State Governments and as a result total 82 per cent habitations have been connected. Total 47447 km roads had been constructed at rate of 130 km per day in the year 2016-17. Efforts are being made to take this figure up to 51,000 at a rate of 140 km per day in 2017-18. As a result, all eligible habitations are likely to be connected with all weather roads by March, 2019.

We would like to consolidate the rural road network in view of the economic importance for upgradation of existing identified rural roads taking into consideration the better and widened roads for agricultural market and by making a provision of increasing the rural hubs on the basis of their role in providing facility. This will strengthen phase-III which is already in implementation stage. Upgradation of 1,10,000 kilometre road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna-III is proposed. For carrying this out, a provision of annual financing of 19,000 crore rupees by the Union Government will continue till 2022. For realizing the Prime Minister's dream of 'New India-2022', there is a need to link markets with roads and bring them closer so that the farmers can derive benefits of market.

Certainly, there is a need for formulating a robust maintenance policy in view of the upkeep of roads and importance of the GIS mapping of roads and bringing the markets closer so that the farmers can get their benefits. And for that provision of funding is also necessary. This will ensure the maintenance of PMGSY roads with high standards. 15% PMGSY roads are being constructed by using innovative green technology like plastic geo-textile, fly ash and the use of iron and copper waste. This will not only reduce the cost of construction but also promote the use of local waste.

More than 4.5 crore women have been brought under self help groups to bring diversity in Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna National Rural Livelihood Mission. A significant expansion has also been done in bank linkage during the last several years for economic activities through capacity building and skill training. With bank linkage of 23,953 crore rupees in the year 2014-15, the magnitude of present outstanding loan has increased to approximately 60,000 crore rupees.

During the last several years, a diversity has become visible in the livelihood under women self help groups

in the northern, eastern and north-eastern states like the southern states. This will help poor families to come above the poverty line by increasing their income and productivity. More than 32 lakh women farmers are being engaged for sustainable farming with a target of developing one thousand organic clusters.

MGNREGA has played a role of social insurance according to the need of time. The resources were effectively used for wage employment during the last three years so that the livelihood security of poor families can be improved. During the said period, more than 10 lakh ponds and 6.7 lakh compost pits were constructed. Apart from this, 1.6 lakh liquid resource management soak pits and solid resource management soak pits were prepared in various states. MGNREGA resources were utilized for providing 90 to 95 days of work to poor families and providing new houses including toilets to the poor families under Swachha Bharat Mission or MGNREGA. 71.50 lakh houses have already been constructed in the last three years which include 17.83 lakh houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Gramin). 33 lakh additional houses under PMA Y(G) are expected to be completed by 31 March, 2018 as they are in their advanced stage of completion. MGNREGA is being used as a livelihood resource and the individual benefit scheme like ponds, irrigation wells, goat farming, milk production, poultry farming etc. are a part of it.

Department of Rural Development (DORD) has expressed hope to get rid of poverty of the rural areas with the emergence of a new India by the year 2022. It will get an impetus by the concrete steps like diversification in rural livelihood and improvements in basic infrastructure. The Department has already initiated work to set up 5000 clusters in fifty thousand gram panchayats in collaboration with the State Governments to remove all the dimensions of poverty in an effective manner. The department has seen a medium of growth rate in self employment for 7 lakh poor families through Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and skill development for wage employment under Deen Dayal LJPadyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna (DDUGKY). Efforts are being made to bring improvement in skill quality of poor families and enhance their capabilities through better implementation of DDUGKY and RSETI programmes for implementing Kaushal Bharat Karyakaram. In the last budget, an announcement was made to bring one crore families of 50000 gram panchayats above poverty line under Antyodaya Mission. Department of Rural Development has done ranking of these gram panchayats. Gaps in the basic infrastructure, human development and economic norms are being identified. The government is committed to bridge these

gaps and bring about a change in the lives of the poorest families.

Keeping in view the principle of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya', the government is of the opinion that health is the core of human development. The government is committed to formulate a robust health system and people-centric primary health care system which should be available near to the people's place of living. The two far-reaching aspects announced by the government under Ayushman Bharat' will build a new India by the year 2022. This will lead to enhancement of productivity and welfare and save the loss of wages and poverty. Under the National Health Policy, 2017, health and curative centres have been conceived as a foundation of health system in India. These 1.5 lakh centers will bring the health care system near to the people's place of living. These health centers will provide extensive health care including cure of non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services and these centers will also provide essential medicines and diagnostic services free of cost.

The Health Protection Scheme is the second program under Ayushman Bharat. We all know that millions of families in the country have to borrow or sell properties to get treatment in hospitals. The Government is concerned about such families. The present National Health Insurance Scheme provides annual coverage of Rs. 30,000 to the poor families. Many State Governments have also implemented Health Protection Schemes with diversified coverage. Now our Government has decided to make the health protection more ambitious.

Under the National Health Protection Scheme, more than 11 crore poor and vulnerable families are being provided treatment coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per year. Rs. 2000 crores have been allocated for this scheme. States have the option to adopt Trust model or insurance company based model to implement this scheme, although the Trust model will be given preference. These two far-reaching initiatives under Ayushman Bharat will create a New India by 2022, and it will ensure that there should be no loss of wages and poverty along with enhancing productivity and welfare. These schemes will create millions of opportunities, especially for women. The Government is definitely and continuously moving forward for health coverage for all.

Every year TB causes more death than any other infectious disease. It mainly affects poor and malnourished people. That's why; the Government has allocated an additional amount of Rs. 600 crores to give Rs. 500 per month towards nutrition for all TB patients during their treatment period. With the aim of increasing

more access to quality healthcare and education, we will establish 24 new government medical colleges and hospitals by upgrading the existing district hospitals in the country. This step will ensure at least one medical college for every 3 Parliamentary Constituencies and at least one Government Medical College in every State of the country. In addition, a Government Medical College will be set up in Sikkim as there is no Government Medical College right now. For the above initiatives, the share of the Center and the State will be 60:40, respectively.

At the same time, I also want to say that Misrikh, the Parliamentary Constituency from where I have been elected, is one of the most backward areas of the country. There is a need to make rapid development works there. Last year I had also demanded that there is a need of embankment along the left bank of the Ganga that flows through my Constituency. Every year, millions of farmers here become homeless. Due to flood, they lose their houses and lands, and are in dire want of food grains. Embankment will not only ensure their safety from outbreak of flood, but it will also create new opportunities for tourism in the region. Several times in the past, I have put my demand to construct an over bridge at Sandila and Balamu railway crossings but still there is no progress despite the sanction of funds in 2016-17 Budget. Therefore, while I support this budget, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to redress the said problems.

[English]

*SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (Kurnool): I am extremely delighted to have got an opportunity to place my views on the Union Budget 2018-19. I have gone through the budget proposals and I am both happy on uncertain initiatives and unhappy on certain aspects. Budget offers lot of optimism and is ray of hope for the middle class and unemployed. Its focus on women and rural development is laudable. Very good thrust is given to Agriculture and farming community. It has also initiated steps to reform tax structure and as a first step provided relief to salaried section by way of Standard Deduction. This will immensely help the middle class salaried and pensioners. Next to agriculture, corporate sector employs largest workforce and is an important driver of the economy. Though some relief is provided in the form of reduction in corporate tax, it is restricted to a section. As a woman parliamentarian I am extremely happy to note that this government has undertaken to do a lot for women. Construction of toilets will be a big morale booster apart from being a health initiative especially to rural woman.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The best scheme that has been formulated for the benefit of Agriculturists since independence is Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with very attractive premium rates. However the scheme does not cover the product price fluctuations. The constituency which I represent is a major producer of tomatoes from where they are supplied to neighbouring states of Aadhra Pradesh. With a good crop this year farmers were totally devastated at the price which is around a Rupee for a kg. It does not even cover transportation. There is no minimum support to the produce. I request the government to provide minimum support price for tomato. I request the government to formulate a scheme for the development of storage facilities for tomato producers so that the farmers can sell the produce later when they command good price. I request the government for providing insurance mechanism to cover losses on account of price fluctuations so that the farmer can be compensated for the expenses incurred in cultivating tomato.

When it comes to the handloom sector, it leaves everyone worried. Unable to survive on this industry many are diverting to other activities and converting as labour. It is time to provide substantial relief to the weaving community by designing appropriate schemes.

I am extremely disappointed at the treatment given to Andhra Pradesh in the Budget. The non-implementation of the assurances given on the floor of the house and in the AP Reorganisation Act has given rise to lot of discontentment among the people of Andhra Pradesh. The creation of separate railway zone for Visakhapatnam, Steel Plant at Kadapa are some of the major disappointments. Once cancer hospital was approved for establishment in Kurnool. It is highly unfortunate that the work in setting up the cancer hospital has not yet commenced leading apprehensions in the minds of people.

I also request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to sanction RIMS (Rayalseema Institute of Medical Sciences) status to Kurnool Medical College. This will serve not only the people of Rayalaseema but also bordering districts of Telegana and Karnataka.

I request this government to design a special package for Rayalaseema and implement the same in a time bound programme so that it can become on a par with other areas of state.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Baramati): Sir, speaking on behalf of my Party, regarding this Budget which this hon. Government has brought, this is the last full Budget that the Government is placing on the Table of this House. As we are all aware, actually the whole Budget discussion has been in a very hostile environment. It is

probably the first time that the allies of the Ruling Party are in such a hostile mood. We have also been allies for several years and I have been here in this House for over a decade. But, I have never seen such a mistrust from an alliance in such a public forum. Normally, these things are debated in closed doors. If the ally is feeling so cheated by the Government, what should the common man think? I think, it is really a matter of concern. I do not say this just as a Member of Parliament but, as a citizen, I would like to ask the Government that if there is so much mistrust and all the three allies are saying the same thing, not just in Parliament, even outside Parliament, where is really India headed and where is this Government headed? That is the first question I would like to ask.

I would like to quote Voltaire here. This seems like a Government that 'I don't know where I am going, but I am on my way.' So, they really do not know where they are going but they are on their way. That is what really worries me because this Government has made a lot of very interesting promises. Sometimes when you hear all their speeches, I feel I am in Disneyland. Everything looks so beautiful and so real. But, what I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister – I am fortunate the hon. Finance Minister is present here—is in the context of Minimum Support Price for farmers. I come from a society and a State which is highly agrarian. It is a very modern State but still agriculture is the backbone of Maharashtra, the way even industrialisation is. At the same time, yesterday, I had a fortunate chance to ask the hon. Agriculture Minister a question on Minimum Support Price. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has said that they are already giving one-and-a-half times of the crop price that the farmer is looking for. The question I asked the hon. Agriculture Minister is this. What is the formula they are using? There are a couple of formulas that are recommended. The Government normally takes it from the CACP which recommends it and then it goes to the Ministry. Then there is a Cabinet that decides on it. But, in the process, there are two major formulas that are used. One is the AF plus, the friendly labour one and plus, which anyway during the UPA 2 was also given with a plus 20 per cent to 30 per cent. It is a continuity. Even when this Government came, they were anyway giving the A2+FL formula. They also were giving the C2 formula. But, according to what the Budget Speech said, which formula they are looking at which is one-and-a-half times? If they do C2 plus 50 per cent, that is really one-and-a-half times. Look at my State. I come from Maharashtra where the normal cost of cultivation is far higher than rest of the country. So, what happens in a State like mine? About the honourable larger part of the Government, I could quote one of their

official Spokespersons who spoke on one of the television channels two days ago who said that we are not following the C2 formula and we are not looking at land rent cost. So, C2 includes the land rent cost. So, what is the formula? Yesterday, the hon. Agriculture Minister in his speech said that the NITI Aayog and the States will decide. So, we still do not know what the formula is. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to tell this nation – we are all curious – how this one-and-a-half times is going to be achieved. To give you an example of one crop from my State. One-and-a-half times they are going to get. So, it is C2 plus 50 per cent; that really makes one-and-a-half times.

The other question is this. To give you an example of tur dal - tur dal issue is very critical in my State right now - you will be surprised that the Minimum Support Price recommended by the Government is Rs. 5,450 per quintal as of today. Yesterday, in Maharashtra, it was not moving beyond Rs. 4,400 per quintal. The market is not even flooded yet.

Unless the Government steps in and aggressively buys this, how is my crop protected? The Government keeps talking about what the wonderful initiative they have done in dal. So, how is the tur dal farmer going to survive if he is not getting the minimum support price? We urged the Maharashtra Government. We even requested the Central Government to step in. But unfortunately, we got no reply yesterday from the Agriculture Minister. So, I take this opportunity to ask the Finance Minister as to what he has in his mind for our farmers. That is not only from my State but it happens in various States also. The tur dal crisis is going on. The same thing is with soyabean. We have had a crisis for soyabean. This year Vidarbha has had a bumper crop of cotton and soyabean but unfortunately, because of rain, soyabean has been hurt and in cotton, this year we have had a new infection called pink-work which is called bond alin in Marathi. The entire crop has been wiped out. Now, what happens in this kind of a situation? At many times, the Government has talked about loan waiver. I remember when the UP Government came, the first decision that the Government took was to do complete loan waiver. So, why only the State of Uttar Pradesh is given this? We are very happy. I am a farmer's daughter. So, I do sympathise and empathise with this. If UP can do it, why cannot the rest of the country and why not my State of Maharashtra get a complete loan waiver? So, let it be an equal playing field for every farmer. It is because he is the one—with all the digital India, all the job creations, all the MUDRAS of the world—unless he is the person who brings you food on the table, what are you going to do with the money? It is not that this Government has much money.

This is what the Budget claims, I mean it is all looking like. So, the entire thing about giving one-and-a-half times more truly looks like an eye-wash. So, I just recommend one thing. There was a Price Stabilisation Fund during the UPA time. Why cannot this Government expand it? When there is a crisis like this, why not use this Price Stabilisation Fund for all the farmers who are in crisis because they work very hard? They are not asking anything for free. They are asking for their basic rights. So, why do we not rise in support of the farmer as a sentiment of this entire House because I do not think anybody in the State or in the country is against anything special done for a farmer and this farmer is not asking for any other thing. He is just asking for his basic rights. So, I would urge the hon. Minister to look into this. He is not the only one but you see, even the *Economic Survey*, be it on agriculture, be it on education, is so harshly criticising on this. I have real concern about the farmers and I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to really look into it and clarify again because the promises made by their Government were something else and today the formula and the reality on ground is different. Actually, the Government likes to believe that one-and-a-half times more was the amount given to them. Sir, would there be an agrarian crisis? Would even one farmer commit suicide anywhere in the country? Maharashtra till date has never had so many farmers' suicide like we have had in the last three years. This is the Government data that I am quoting. There have never been so many farmers' suicide. So, if the cultivation cost and the MSP is so high, why would any farmer kill himself or herself? I mean what is the logic of coming to this conclusion that all is well in the agriculture domain of the State. So, it is probably an illusion. I do not think it is really the reality on the field.

The other programme which is very good for the poor is health programme. We welcome it. It is wonderful. If we can give universal healthcare to everybody, it is absolutely a welcome step. But I have just a few concerns about it. The cess that has been added was originally the tax collections but now the Government has made it into a cess. Now, the catch for a State is, when there is a cess, it only comes to the Central Government. When it is tax, it is divided between the Centre and the State. Now, what happens in the health programme? If you just calculate it, even if they collect the cess which will only be with the Central Government. none of our States are going to get this amount of Rs. 11,000 crore which will come.

Sir, even if you do 60:40 or 50:50, have they run it through the States? Had our States got the money? My State is anyway debt-ridden. Do they really have the resources to contribute to this health scheme? That is my first question.

Sir, they are talking about 10 lakh crore families, which is wonderful. We welcome it. It is Rs. 5 lakh per family. Even if you take an account of ten per cent—forget anything else—which is just one crore family with RS.1 lakh, the claim will be Rs.1 lakh crore as an insurance amount. Even if the Central Government accounts the premium which they have not clarified as to who is paying how much as yet, let us say it is 50:50, then the Central Government will pay Rs. 25,000 crore which they will probably, through the various cesses, will recover. Where will my State get Rs. 25,000 crore or any other State will get Rs. 25,000 crore? That only makes it to Rs. 50,000 crore. Now, if Rs. 1 lakh crore is the requirement and Rs. 50,000 crore is what the two Governments' contribution, is the insurance company committed to paying the gap? If the insurance company has to pay Rs. 50,000 crore, the insurance company is going to be bankrupt.

So, the way the banks have gone bankrupt like the hon. Prime Minister said today, the insurance companies also will go bankrupt. So, how will they sustain is my question. So, if the hon. Minister throws some light on it, we will have more clarity because we are a little disillusioned right now. We do support the health scheme but we want to know how it is going to be implemented. Various States have their schemes like the Telangana Member said about how they have implemented their health scheme. The West Bengal Government has done their scheme. Maharashtra has done their own. Kerala has done a good scheme. So, how are we going to club all these and how will we be making sure that this will be implemented? It is because according to the information we have, first, there is no blueprint for this scheme as yet. Second, do we really have the infrastructure? So, are we going to the Government hospitals and to the private players? So, who is going to take the ownership of all the private hospitals and make sure it runs flawlessly, honestly and transparently? So, how will you identify those hospitals? We do not want the money which is allotted for poor people to be misused by anybody. So, I would ask this.

There could be inflated bills. We have no idea. So, I think we really need to get a Bill for this health scheme, which has complete clarity because even for the infrastructure, there are several very good hospitals. But are we equipped enough in our country with this kind of support system that we need?

My question to the hon. Government and to the Minister is this. Why is this Government only looking at disease management? Disease management is what they are looking at. Nothing in this entire Budget speech has talked about malnutrition. How do people get sick? The basic need is starting from malnutrition. So, if you

are not addressing malnutrition issues, why are we only going into disease management? You are not looking at preventive measures at all. So, prevention is the best cure. So, why are we looking at disease management? so even if we do disease management, first we need more money for prevention and malnutrition. There are absolutely no numbers, and I hate to say this. But in the last 3-4 years since this Government has come, the social numbers for all these projects are extremely low. The malnutrition numbers have gone up countrywide. There are sporadic States which have done exceptionally well because the States are doing well. So, what is the malnutrition or the food mission programme of this Government to eradicate malnutrition which is actually a national shame in this country? So, that is really what I would ask the hon. Minister to guide us on.

Sir, I come from a farmer's background. I do understand that eventually to have such programmes, you have to disinvest. But we come from very traditional Indian culture. Disinvestment is not something which is our first. Why does a woman save in gold in our family? It is because she knows when there is a rainy day, if somebody is ill in the family, if there is a wedding in the family, if somebody wants to study in some institute where you need money, that is when the woman of the house sells her jewellery or her assets for the betterment of the family. So, when there is disinvestment going on, what are we going to do with so much disinvestment? I understand if there is a drought, you disinvest. I understand that. If India is going through some crisis, we do understand that you need to disinvest. But if you keep disinvesting all your assets, when there is really a crisis, what is this Government going to do? So, does that mean they are absolutely selling the family silver which we only do when there is a crisis in our family? Nobody does that. This is good Indian traditional culture which we are proud of. So, I would ask the hon. Minister to clarify as to what is the need to sell all this. This is my question to him.

The other thing which Karunakaran Ji also talked about was the FRDI Bill. Now you are encouraging people to come. I do realise that it is still in the Standing Committee. But the Government has thought of such a Bill. It is here at one level you are bringing people into the banking sector. If tomorrow there is a run on the bank or there is a panic situation, all you are going to get is a Rs.1 lakh guarantee. Why would any human being or a person who has worked very hard with pride, want to pay minimum? It has to be increased. So, I really urge the Government to re-think of this Bill. I urge the Standing Committee on Finance also to re-think of this because there is a panic amongst the people because they are unsure of what is going on.

This Government likes to talk about 20:20. Good luck. May the best person win 20:20 and I think let us make the best team win, whichever team it is. But they talk about housing, water, Swachh Abhiyan. We are very happy. If India is going to be a clean country, why should we not rise? Eventually, all of us have to rise above politics. The nation comes first and then our differences. On such a background, if you have to look at basic things, water and housing, what is the data? If water has to be given to every household, today the cost is Rs.15 lakh crore just for water. In respect of housing, the target is 1.5 crore.

The total BPL housing requirement is 10 crore. We have achieved about 3 crore. This is all Government data that I am quoting. There is nothing out of my imagination. Out of these 7 crore, which is still left out, one and half is committed. So, 5.5 crore is all up in the air. If this money has to come, where is this money coming from? What is the roadmap? This almost sounds like a commitment which is an eyewash.

The similar thing are even with Income Tax today. There are a lot of people who want to pay tax. They are happy to pay tax. The Government did demonization, for whatever the reasons are, but their own Economic Survey says that it was a bad idea and that is what really has created the slow down. This is all in the Economic Survey.

How many people have joined the tax net? It is probably doubled, which is eight crore. It is a wonderful thing. But, how many are these four crore contributing? Whatever information we have, people that have come, are only contributing Rs.16 crore. So, after this whole rigmarole of exercise, if only Rs.16 crore is the number that has been added, was it really worth an exercise? Was it the only road to get there or were there other roads too to get there without disrupting the economy? We really want to ask what the hon. Minister's and the Ministry's thought is.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice a few other points which are really critical more so because I am a woman. I still remember when the present Government was in the Opposition. They used to say *[Translation]* 'Bahut ho gayi mehngayi ki maar. Ab ki baar Modi Sarkar' *[English]* It used to hurt me. My mother used to tell me that he was talking about price rise and he was right *[Translation]* Inflation has gone up under your government *[English]* If my own mother was staying in a house of a UPA constituent Member, I really did realize that this was a great line that they gave and the country bought it. But in the last four year—please put your hand on your heart, you may not know but your

wife will definitely know—have really the expenses of any house gone down? The answer is 'no'. Be it education, be it healthcare, be it your basic *sabji mandi*. I do not have to eat fancy food. [Translation] It you order basic roti-sabzi-dal-chawal there is no change at all in the bill amount. May be. It has increased. It has increased. Inflation has affected almost every thing. So, what this [Translation] 'Bahut ho gayi mehngai ki maar'. [English] This is absolutely something which is untrue and they have not been able to change it. It is the same thing whether it is petrol, diesel or gas cylinder.

There is a wonderful scheme of gas cylinder. But you go to any woman anywhere and ask her what the price of a gas cylinder is. She will say [Translation] now it is very costly. And, this Government is not even giving kerosene anymore they say that you have gas cylinder, you will not get kerosene [English] So, she does not know what to do because the cost of the basic cylinder is almost doubled. It is Rs. 800. It is really a tragedy for a woman.

They talked about Andhra Pradesh and 115 backward districts...(Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, I have a small submission to make.

I think the hon. MP is misinformed. The cost of a gas cylinder is not Rs. 800. It is subsidised and the subsidy is given through the Direct Benefit Transfer to the bank accounts of the LPG consumers. I think the hon. MP is making some mistake. If there is any case, the lady that you are referring to, we would love to know about the details ...(Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Sir, we all pay Rs. 800 ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The Hon. MP is talking about a poor woman, who has been given the Ujjwala connection. She is talking about that. She may have given up the subsidy. I have given up this benefit and I think Supriya Sule ji with all humility I can say, would have given it up also. I am sure those of us who have given it up, are helping to make the nation because of that.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I am not talking about that. But this is not about my cylinder. My children's tuition teacher, who is a middle-class hard earning lady, has given it up. But she is getting pinched is a suggestion. I appreciate you that from the Ministry of Railways just step in and move around to know what the common man thinks. It is not necessary about

subsidised cylinder. Talk to your child's tuition teacher, talk to your driver, speak to all the people in your office, if you have one, and not just in the Mantralaya in Mumbai, you will understand the pain of the common man...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Common man has understood Modi...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: No, that is okay. He is a Mumbai boy, I have to be little generous and kind to him ...(Interruptions) He is a Mumbai boy.

So, Sir, these are all woman related issues. It is not just about me. I am not asking for anything. I do not deserve to ask for any subsidy. I always say that I do not deserve it. I has born with a golden spoon in my mouth. I am not asking it for myself. I have never asked anything for myself. I am asking for the people because I represent a constituency. I get elected because 18 lakh people vote for us and we come to this House. So, we have to voice it. I am not a voice of Supriya Sule. I am Baramati, I have a number which is 35. I do not stand here as my name, I stand here as my constituency number.

Sir, given all this, I would say that everybody has talked about the Nirbhaya Fund. Nirbhaya Fund has been through a lot of challenges and a lot of numbers have been given here regarding the ASHA, the anganwadis etc. I am glad that Shri Goyal is here. I think, luck is on my side today. I am lucked out today. We appreciate him for providing wi-fi at every station. Why can we not have women toilets and put more of this Nirbhaya Fund into woman's safety in the railways? We all women will be appreciative of him and history will remember him that the man who gave all women dignity on railway stations is Shri Goyal. So, we will be very proud of him even if he is sitting on that side.

SHRI PIYUSH GOEL : I have already ordered it for every station across the country.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : I want to see it. I am very happy. I want to use them all because we travel a lot by railways. When we go to Latur, Amravati and Nagpur, we do use the railways. So, I would request him to do all this at all the railway stations.

CCTVs are also given and we are very happy about that, but a lot of times, the Railway Department asks us only to give MPLADS funds for CCTV. Why should we not use this Nirbhaya Fund for putting up all these facilities? The Government says that there is so much money. Why should they not use it for woman safety? They keep talking about *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*. It is

a wonderful thing. In the State I come from and Shri Goyal also comes from, 1314 schools of Marathi language are getting shut. Here, we are saying *Beti; Bachao Beti; Padhao* and it is absolutely a shame when 1314 Marathi schools are shut in Maharashtra today.

I especially remember the Budget Speech where hon. Finance Minister talked about quality of education. I do take this opportunity to say that when such a rural issue is going on, MGNREGS is something really critical. The data tells that 56 per cent wages are delayed under MGNREGS. First of all, the problem is that there is an agrarian crisis. Maharashtra has been through it. Be it soyabean, be it cotton, be it tur, there is a huge problem of procurement. Moneys are not reaching the farmers on time. The alternate support system in the rural economy is MGNREGS. If those payments are delayed by 56 per cent, it takes a three turn-a rounds by the time the man or the woman gets his or her money. How will he survive? It is not that only he suffers. His children's fee does not get paid and medical issues also crop up. So, it is really the bottom of the pyramid which is surprising.

Now, I come to the issue of differently abled people. This Government talks about the divyangs. We absolutely appreciate the projects. They are doing mega projects. We also had one in my constituency. So, I thank the Government for it. I would request them that the Swavalamban Health Insurance Scheme which was launched for these differently-abled in 2015 has not taken off completely. The new health scheme is coming which is launched while the Swavalamban Health Insurance Scheme has not been done. What is this Government going to do? The Rights of Persons with Disability Act in 2016 has increased the number of disabilities from seven to 21 which is a welcome step, but the budget allocation is only of Rs. 215 crore. When the number of disabilities have been increased, which is a very good vision, why should they not look at increasing the allocation?

The same thing is there about MUDRA. Prof. Saugata Roy was also talking about it and I think, Shri Dubey corrected him by saying that MUDRA does not create jobs. Even if it is a business model, how much wealth has MUDRA created? If they have to start a business with Rs. 40,000, how is this going to work? Has anybody analysed MUDRA? It is a great scheme, but just because new EPFO registration is done, it does not mean that it is a new job. So, I would ask for some clarity on this from the Government that the private investments create jobs. If MUDRA is creating new entrepreneurs, we are happy, but to create jobs, you need good private investments. That is something we really need to look into.

I would urge this Government to rethink on some of their policies, to all the commitments that they have made. I would request them by just saying one thing to the Government and with your permission, I would like to quote Voltaire again:

“One day everything will be well, that is our hope. Everything is fine today, that is our illusion”.

This is what the Government feels. Thank you.

*PROF. RICHARD HAY (Nominated): I support the Union Budget, 2018-19 for its clarity in finding solutions to the problems of the common man. I have few suggestions to put forward. As I am representing a micro-minority, the Anglo-Indians, and my community is facing a challenge of survival, it is proposed to sanction necessary amount to build at least three Community Centres in North India and four Community Centres in South India in places where there is a large concentration of members of our community. It is also proposed to allocate funds to construct and maintain three Anglo-Indian museums in the North and four in the South.

I would like to suggest mainly to improve the health of citizens and to create an eco-friendly environment, cycling be promoted-to start with school children and government employees. To promote cycling as a healthy habit, the government is urged upon to take steps to lay cycle tracks by the side of all roads including highways. In some countries, they provide sky cycle tracks to facilitate cycling. This easiest method of transport would definitely ensure a pollution-free environment-pollution being a big threat to human survival.

I support the Central Budget for many a reason. First, this budget solves the perennial problem of financial stress on the marginalised farmers by ensuring reasonable MSP for the farmers' produce which has been welcomed by farming community. At last here comes a Government which wipes the tears of the indigent farmers and bring hope to millions of farmers in the country.

For the first time, again, in the history of the country, the gargantuan task of providing Universal Healthcare has been facilitated through this unique and innovative budget. This remarkable scheme would not only wipe out poverty, but also ensure the prevalence of a healthy society. Indeed, not a single country could have devise such a milestone transformative scheme. Here is a Government that understands the pangs of pain of a poor citizen.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Thirdly, the decisions taken by the Government of India to pick up 12% of EPFO contribution across all section which would necessarily bring down the cost of production. This would boost employment levels and provide more employment opportunities to the young.

Fourthly, the budget serves the swifter development of the country by enhancing the infrastructure of railways, roads, ports and airports.

Fifthly, I compliment the hon'ble Minister of Finance for containing the fiscal deficit to 2.3 % of GDP. In a country like India, it is very difficult to contain inflation, but kudos to the Government of India, through efficient fiscal management and planning and pragmatic steps taken by the Government of India to control inflation, the people in the country are proud of the achievements of the Government.

This budget in totality ensures an equitable society in which the common man's woes are attended to without any ifs and buts. This is the first ever budget which would bring in qualitative and quantitative improvement in the quality of life of the common man.

I hope that one of the great sites of tourist destination be in the Kerala State, my home State which has been blessed by nature to be an eco-friendly State. I would suggest to give this status to the hot spot of eco-diversity-Munnar in Kerala. The potential of tourism has to be fully exploited in the different parts of the beautiful country, a cultural hub of all nations as she takes pride of her 5000 years of civilization.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (Tirupati): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

At the outset, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for some of his very revolutionary and visionary thoughts, like the very ambitious health insurance, Minimum Support Price to the tune of 1.5 times the cost of produce to farmers, long term capital gains tax, increase in the imported goods surcharge, relief to senior citizens etc. I appreciate all of them. So, I take the permission of the Chair to rebut some of the allegations that were made by the hon. Member, Shri Jayadev Galla, of Telugu Desam Party.

Since the hon. Finance Minister was not here, he may not be aware as to why I have deviated from my speech. The Chair should permit me.

The first point that I want to seek the permission of the Chair is to expunge the words that the TDP MP, Shri Jayadev Galla, has spoken about my Leader ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (Ongole): We should remove it from the records ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Sir, we request that those words must be expunged. They are very unparliamentary, particularly, when that particular person is not here ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY: Sir, he has mentioned about him here ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Discussing about him here is very unparliamentary ...*(interruptions)* It is not supposed to go on record.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anything that is unparliamentary will be removed. I will go through the records and remove from the records anything that is unparliamentary...*(interruptions)*.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Thank you very much, Sir ...*(interruptions)*

At the same time, I would also take the permission of the Chair to say a few words about this present Government of Andhra Pradesh as well.

He was telling that my* has colluded with the Congress Government. If it was true, then I am sure that he would not have been jailed for silly reasons for almost 16 months. Obviously, he was fighting against the then Government and had to pay a price for silly reasons. So, obviously, the observation made by the TDP MP was false.

I also want to say about some of the misdeeds that the present Government in Andhra Pradesh is doing. I call the... as very inefficient for the simple reason that he has been in power for the last four years both at the Centre as well as the State. He could not get what the people of Andhra Pradesh are asking for, namely, the special status. He has been in power for almost three-and-a-half years both at the State as well as the Centre. It is extremely unfortunate. I call him extremely inefficient.

And to prove it further, the State AP Reorganisation Act has enshrined certain things. He could not achieve most important things. Forget about the special status, instead of special status he has been satisfied with special package, a strange phenomenon doing great harm to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Why cannot he get the Special Railway Zone when he is in power at the Centre? It is extremely unfortunate. He is struggling for the last three-and-a-half years and the reason for the same is not known.

*Not recorded.

Secondly, as regards the Dugarajapatnam Port, on the floor of the House, hon. Minister, Mr. Nitin Gadkari, has clearly mentioned that the Government of India does not require a single pie to put up a major port at Dugarajapatnam. The entire cost will be borne by the Central Government. Therefore, I do not see any reason why the* Andhra Pradesh is delaying it and not writing a single letter to the Government of India to start the construction of the Dugarajapatnam Port.

The reason that I could see is only to protect a private port existing there closer to it, which is considered to be extremely closer to the ...* Andhra Pradesh. So, to protect a private port, it is extremely unfortunate that he is not allowing a Central Government major port to come up at Dugarajapatnam. It is great injustice to the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, to the people of the Tirupati Parliamentary Constituency.

As regards the steel plant at Kadapa, what was he doing for the last three-and-a-half years? It has been mentioned in the State Reorganisation Act. Again, I find fault with the ...* Andhra Pradesh because Kadapa is the District where my Leader, Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy comes from. In case the steel plant comes there, then he thinks that the credit will go to him. Therefore, the ...* Andhra Pradesh is preventing a steel plant to come up at Kadapa. It is extremely silly on his part.

As regards Polavaram, for three-and-a-half years he is sitting on it. It was supposed to be completed by 2018. Initially, the price was contemplated at Rs. 16,000 crore. Now, the price for it has escalated to Rs. 56,000 crore, and it is still not clear as to who is going to bear the cost.

What was the Chief Minister doing? Why was he not negotiating with the Government of India about this thing? It is a national project. The Government of India is supposed to take up the entire thing and they have communicated even in the beginning that the Government of India will undertake the entire construction of the Polavaram National Project, but he wanted to take it on his own and the tenders were floated by him. At one stage, he found that it is not convenient for him. So, he went back. Therefore, the fault lies with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, certainly not with the Central Government for the delay of the Polavaram Project.

Similarly, Petrochemical Complex at Vizag was contemplated. What was he doing? He would have got it completed long back. He would have snapped the ties with NDA. His Minister should have resigned long ago. Continuing up to three and a half years and, now, finding fault with the Central Government is extremely ridiculous. All the more ridiculous is that the Members

*Not recorded.

came into the well and protesting against their own Government. It amounts to only match fixing because the elections are coming and there is a fear caught on him. Therefore, he is finding ways as to how to snap the ties with NDA. The people of Andhra Pradesh will definitely understand his malicious games.

Sir, the manifesto of Shri Chandrababu Naidu has as many as six hundred promises. If any promise is made in the manifesto and not fulfilled, it is very unfortunate Parliamentary Democracy of ours. There is no watch dog to control or to implement the promises made by any particular party once it comes into power. Shri Chandrababu Naidu has made six hundred false promises. To quote a few, he said that he would give unconditional waiver for all farm loans. As on today, with the interest, the farm loans are of Rs. 80,000 crore. He could give only a pittance of Rs. 8,000 crore as against Rs. 80,000 crore. It is a great fraud on the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Out of 1 lakh farmers, 90 per cent farmers are in debt. So, you would have asked, at least, the Government of India to come to his rescue and help the farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

He also said that all the DWCRA loans will be waived off. The outstanding amount of the DWCRA loans are Rs. 30,000 crore. He could not do anything except for a petty amount of Rs. 3000 crore which he has given to them.

Similarly, he promised to give every household one job if he comes to power. He has mentioned it in the manifesto. It is unfortunate that three and a half years are over, still a poor man is looking up to get one job in each family. He also promised that if he cannot give the job, Rs. 2000 would be given as a compassionate amount. He has also not given that to even one family. He has promised the BC community to get a separate budget of Rs. 10,000 crore. They have not seen the light of the day yet. Till date, three and a half years are over and he promised the waiver of the loans of these weavers. Again, a great injustice has been done.

He promised every woman to give a smart phone. He did not give even a one single phone to any woman. It is so ungrateful to the women, so ungrateful to the youth, so ungrateful to the farmers, so ungrateful to the BC people and so ungrateful to the weavers. He also promised to give house for every poor man. During last three and a half years, I have toured as many as 1300 villages.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it Andhra Pradesh Budget or what?

...(interruptions)

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Sir, kindly pardon me because you are not aware of it. That is why I took the permission of the hon. Chair as well as the hon. Finance Minister. The reason is that had the TDP party members not touched the issue of our leader, I would not touch that. I think you will permit because if that goes into record, the other things as well should go into record. Kindly bear with me.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh promised that every village would be connected with BT Road. It could be seen on any manifesto of TDP. He also promised that every road will be converted into CC road in villages. Zero result. The Government of India's interest comes into what I am going to mention now. Does the Government of India know that 10 State schemes of Andhra Pradesh are being run by the fund given by the Government of India under MNREGA? It is not only a clear diversion of funds, it is cheating on the belly of the poor man. Under MNREGA, if a person below the poverty line asks for it, a minimum 150 days of work and wages should be given to him. I have attended any number of Mandal meetings. No Mandal has ever implemented that scheme 100 per cent. Hardly 30 per cent of the people below poverty line are able to get their wages. He is doing a great injustice to the poor people. Under the rule of the former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, 90 per cent of MNREGA funds were disbursed in the form of wages. However, *...(Not recorded)* without engaging anybody for wages, by using machinery without calling for tenders, the MNREGA money is being used.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names of persons should not go into the record.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Why not, Sir? He used that word for us.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a former IAS officer. You know very well that leveling allegations about tenders on Chief Ministers cannot go on record.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: I am sorry, Sir. I withdraw it.

The Andhra Pradesh Government is making some of the government machinery like the District Administration, the Chief Secretary, and the Finance Secretary very ineffective. That is because the Janmabhoomi Committees which are flooded with Telugu Desam Party people are deciding on everything including on the houses to be allotted by the Government of India. The Janmabhoomi Committees are constituted unconstitutionally by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

**(Not recorded)*

Pattiseema is one project to which Government of India is also connected, if not directly. Delay of Polavaram project, as I already said is not due to the fault of Government of India, it is the fault of Andhra Pradesh Government. The entire country should know about Pattiseema project. Nearly 80 per cent of the work of the irrigation canal connecting Godavari river to Krishna was done by the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, father of Shri Jaganmohan Reddy. For the remaining 20 per cent of the work, the actual cost would have been around Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 400 crore. But they have spent as much as Rs.1,800 crore on that. The C&AG's finding about corruption of Rs. 280 crore is still pending. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to institute a CBI inquiry against the present Government of Andhra Pradesh to get into these details.

The Anti Defection Law exists on paper only in Andhra Pradesh. As many as 24 MLAs have been bought outright. Out of those 24 MLAs, four have been made Ministers — unprecedented in a democracy in any of the States. The supremo of TDP was also caught on telephone conversations in MLC election in Telangana. It is case of cash for votes. And to avoid embarrassment, instead of his supposed stay in Hyderabad for ten years, he had to leave for Amaravati within a year. That was done to overcome the CBI inquiry. This amounts to match fixing. What happened to the Anti Defection Law? One of our MLAs, a lady MLA, was banned entry into the Assembly for almost three years.

Despite the court orders, she was not allowed to enter into the Assembly. It is extremely unfortunate. Therefore, they must think twice before throwing mud on others. The hon. Member from Telugu Desam Party should not have commented in such a way. It is very unfortunate.

The Government of India should note that he spent Rs. 2,000 crore on Pushkaram. When the State Government is reeling under the deficit budget and he is seeking Rs. 16,000 crore from the Government of India, he is spending so much on one Pushkaram at Rajahmundry where 29 people died. He is not supposed to take a bath at a particular ghat. He took it there, depriving the people. After he left, there was a stampede which resulted in the death of 29 people. It is only because of the Chief Minister and this is a shame for him. When Andhra and Telangana were a combined State for almost 70 years, the entire Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were existing in just three and a half acres of area and it was extremely successful. The present Government of Andhra Pradesh has acquired 35,000 acres of fertile land of Krishna and Godavari area. It is very unfortunate and

depriving the farmers of their legitimate livelihood. Forgetting about all this, he is finding fault with our leader. It is very unfortunate and we want those words to be expunged.

Coming to the next point, the Government of India has said in this Budget that 50 crore people would be covered by insurance and we appreciate that. But let me also point out that in 2016 they said that under Rashtriya Bima Yojana, one lakh insurances would be given to the people. I do not think a single person has been covered under the insurance. In 2017 again, there was a new insurance scheme with a cover of Rs. 30,000 crore and they promised that they would be covering 26 crore people. Unfortunately, 21 crore people below the poverty line are yet to be covered. Now, this year they have come up with a very big plan of 50,000 crore for 10 crore families. I request the hon. Finance Minister, who is very efficient and a man of consciousness, that before making any of the schemes, the poor people should not be hit below the belt. I request him to look into that.

Coming to the Minimum Support Price, perhaps eyeing the coming elections, Minimum Support Price at the rate of one and half times the cost of production is given to the farmers. They have not indicated the terms and they have not indicated both the crops, rabi and kharif. But here the critical point is that unless the Minimum Support Price is properly fixed, there is no point in giving it at the rate of one and a half times, again a false promise. I request the hon. Minister that the Minimum Support Price should be fixed critically taking all aspects into consideration. Then only one and a half times Minimum Support Price of the Swaminathan committee would be fulfilled.

I would like to suggest one more point to the hon. Finance Minister. There is a lot of income disparity in India. The rich are becoming richer. That is why every time the Opposition parties say it is corporate and all that. Why can't the hon. Finance Minister consider universal basic income principle? When the disparity is increasing so much, one per cent of the people in India are cornering the benefit of the 75 per cent of the nation's wealth in the form of loans, land, water and the nominated positions, judges etc. Why can't the Government give every family a minimum of Rs. 5000 per month? I have last two points.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude; I have given you more than 25 minutes.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: This is

my last point. They are taking credit for ODF as already mentioned in 1,300 villages but it is extremely ineffective. It is very ineffective for the simple reason that the faecal management principle is not being followed. No toilet is being put into use for the purpose for which it has been created. So, I request that that should also be considered.

The Government is going all the way to waive NPAs and all that, finding several ways to overcome them; but the farmers' loans do not even come to one-fifth of that. It comes to about Rs. 3 lakh crore. If the Government of India thinks, let them help each and every small and marginal farmer by waiving the entire farm loans of the country. The Government will be remembered for ever and ever.

Lastly, we again request the Government for special status category for Andhra Pradesh and to do justice to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you very much for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

*DR. A. SAMPATH (Attingal): I would like to raise some serious objections and reservations on the General Budget speech made by the Hon. Finance Minister. The result of globalization, liberalization and privatization are thorns and pains to the common people.

The House of the People is the paramount body of speech and expression. This is the paramount forum in this nation to express the voice of the people. But unfortunately, the space for expressing the views, voices, if it is of a different angle than that of the official version of the Government of India, gets diminished day by day. I fell the signs of social-political-economic and cultural loss of a developing country.

The Finance Minister does not tell how much of new currency notes were printed and put to circulation after 8th November, 2016. He neither says about the amount black, I mean, the illegal money confiscated since demonetization. It is only a shower of political slogans without any wholehearted willpower from the executive. The powers and prerogatives of the legislature are being usurped by the executive, which is against the spirit of the Constitution.

Why the General Insurance agents still denied of commission while the firms and companies get it? Increasing the limit of MSMEs to the tune of Rs. 250 crore would help the joint stock companies and not the small scale industries. The Budget did not address the issue of traditional sectors like handloom, coir, cashew, bamboo-mat weaving, potteries, fisheries etc. We need a separate ministry of Fisheries.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to express my strong reservations on the tendency of the Government of India to by-pass the supremacy of the Parliament. The role of the various departmentally related Standing Committees are being reduced to mere organs to look into the Demand for Grants, whose recommendations are not at all seriously considered by the Executive.

The Finance Minister is trying to generate a set of numbers for projected revenues that are unlikely to be met. Then they find it as an excuse for reducing certain expenditure below the allocated amounts. The end result is that every succeeding year, the Parliamentary discussions on General Budget as well as discussions on the Demands for Grants for various Ministries become a futile exercise. The centralized and secretive manner for the eventual spending below the budgeted amount is not at all a healthy practice for a developing nation like India.

The budget has lost its sanctity, reliability and authenticity. It has become distorted without any vision. It is once again a blatant attack on the poor and the oppressed. Why the NPAs are mounting up? Who are the real culprits? It is not the common people but the corporates and the affluent who are able to manage the affairs of the political system, and also to cleverly manipulate. And again, they cry for privatization also. What a paradox! Many of the Budget proposals are detrimental to the economic growth of states like Kerala. Justice is not shown to the five million Indians working abroad and the millions of poor farmers, many of them in the path of committing suicide.

His Budget Speech did not address the serious situations of this country, the severe economic and social issues. The sluggishness and consequent difficulties emerged in the lives of common people, especially in the unorganized and informal sector, after the demonetization of November 8th, the decreasing growth rate of investment, rising unemployment, problems faced by the agrarian population, deterioration of the law and order situation, serious concerns about the safety of women and children and caring of senior citizens and age old people were also not catered with. The GST was implemented without proper and scientific homework.

Concessions and incentives are to the corporates and the rich and affluent. But whatever subsidies and other reliefs were there for common and poor people all those are being snatched away day by day. Ruthless exploitation continues in the unorganized and informal sector. The disparities of caste, creed, religion, genders etc. are still looming and not weakening. Economic disparities also grow alarmingly. The top 1 per cent of

the rich and affluent controls 13 per cent of the total assets of this nation. But the Finance Minister still plays music for privatization of the PSUs.

Why the Finance Minister was silent about any financial provision for the SAGY? He is also silent about the filling up of one million vacancies under various Government establishments, Departments, Railways armed forces para-military PSUs and Banks and Insurance Sector, etc. Railways now head towards privatization while the experience in other countries shows us its ill effects and the social costs. If the MPLADs utilization should be meaningful it has to be increased from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 20 crores at least.

The General Budget Speech does not reveal the truth; the real picture is something different. I strongly protest against the decision for not providing the statement of 'Revenue Forgone'. Burden of indirect taxes has been increased. Big announcement has been made but proper provision has not been made. The proposal to garner 80,000 crores by disinvestment is like killing the golden goose. I request the Government of India to withdraw the privatization of public sectors.

There is no mention about the extension of the National Inland Waterways in between Kollam and Kovalam in the state of Kerala. The preservation of water sources should be of prime concern. But the rain water harvesting and construction of new hydro-electric power projects do not find any place in this Budget.

In his Budgetary Speech, he does not speak anything about any financial and technical encouragement of traditional industries such as handloom, potteries, bamboo, carpentry, coir, traditional ornament making, mat-weaving, fisheries, handicrafts etc. The constitutional norm of 'equal pay for equal work' was recently reminded by Supreme Court of India also. But still it is a mirage to the working class. Why he is not mentioning about minimum wage of 18,000/- per month?

In the Budget Speech there is no mention about the reservation and protection of public lands and promotion of sports facilities at grass root level. What about the protection and encouragement of various regional art forms and folk culture? This speech is silent on the regular employment and also universal basic income. It should be constitutionally admitted that the 'pension is the right and not a privilege'. Sufficient provision should be ensured for adequate facilities for the physically and psychologically disadvantaged people. He is conspicuously silent on mental health as well as clinical psychology;

Why the Finance Minister is silent about the sufficient financial technical and medical care for those who are in need of the palliative care treatment? Our population is growing not only in quantum but also in life expectancy. Even after the declaration of new AIIMS in various states, why the silence in the establishment of AIIMS in Kerala?

The privatization is not the panacea for the problems. Many of the PPPs has failed to deliver the results. Our natural resources are being looted by large corporates. The unholy nexus of big corporate-ruling political class and the bureaucrats is nothing else but a reality. We cannot tolerate corruption and communalism. "Corruption" should not be a side effect of the "development". Communalism is like a venom to the society while corruption is like cancer! We have to fight both tooth and nail.

Why this Budget is still silent about the construction of a new National Highway in Kerala and a bypass in NH-47 at Attingal and also about Kottor-Ambasamudram Highway to connect in between the capital cities of Kerala and Tamil Nadu States respectively?

The declaration of Varkala Cliffs as Global Geological Heritage site need sufficient financial provision for their protection. The grand old Cliffs at Varkala have a height of 30 metres and it is 20 million years old.

This Budget has not shed even "crocodile tears" to the Okhi Cyclone victims. Allocation for judiciary has to be increased to 1 per cent of the GNP. The Finance Minister tries in vain to paint a glossy picture as this is the last year of the 16th Lok Sabha and the nation is heading towards a general election within months. But at the grass root level I am sorry to say that it is not all that rosy.

Why many details are hidden from Parliament? Why Railways got only 3 minutes from 11:59 AM to 12:02 PM during Budget Speech? The tradition of having a separate Railway Budget is no more. Likewise State Bank of Travancore is also no more! And the "Statement of Revenue Foregone" is also no more!

The Minister has neglected the sad plight of rice, sugarcane, coconut, cotton, cardamom and rubber cultivators. The conversion of cultivable land to other purposes, the decreasing area of cultivable land of various crops and the high prices and unavailability of pulses have led to incurable problems in the primary sector. There is urgent need to increase protein consumption of children and the pregnant women and hence for free provision of sufficient quota of pulses, cooking oil, sugar to the schools as well as anganwadies.

The latest information regarding the number of stunted growth children and hence, wasted human lives are not only shocking but also to be ashamed off, by ourselves! The PDS can be strengthened only by strengthening the activities of the Food Corporation of India.

The Address is silent on international refugee's issues. Also silent about the solving of Rohingya Refugees' crisis and their rehabilitation. It is not mentioning about the interstate migrant workers. Why silent on the demand to increase the wages of unorganized sectors including the MNREGA?

Are we ditching the principles of great Non-Aligned movement? International treaties and conventions should be discussed and put for assent from the Parliament. Various stake holders should also be consulted. The issues of the North Eastern states and Indian islands should be separately discussed. The Parliament should be in session at least for a hundred days during a calendar year. All Indian languages of this federation should be used instead of imposing any particular language. This Budget has no allocation for promotion of Classical languages like Malayalam. We should start sending Indian Parliamentary delegations to various nations in order to strengthen the international friendship and also for bilateral parliamentary understanding.

The President's Address as well as Union Budget is conspicuously silent about the growing menace of various signs of intolerance – communal religious, social and political. The Government of India should provide insurance to the media persons and the whistle blowers.

The law and order situation in the Delhi and NCR has become shameful. The slogan of "to serve and to protect" has become a joke among the people! More funds should be provided for police reforms and prison reforms. The principle of co-operative federalism does not trickle down. The benefits of the record slash in the international crude oil prices have not been transferred to the working class and poor. So the so-called "openness of a global economy" is only for the benefit of the rich and affluent.

Hence I oppose the General Budget 2018-19.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN (Banka): Hon. Deputy Speaker, thank you so much for giving me permission to speak on the General Budget. The people of the country had great expectations with this Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister because this is the last Budget of the Government. It should portray the old promises that had been made by the Government

during the last four years but this Budget did not mention any such thing. Kabirdas had said—

*“Kabir Das ki ulti vaani,
Barse kambal bhige paani.”*

This type of a situation has arisen. It was promised to provide job to two crores of youths but which department these jobs have been provided? What efforts have been made for jobs as four years have gone by? The unemployed youths ask for jobs but there is no record of it. The people of the country along with the youth and the farmers feel that they have been cheated. It has promised to provide Bihar the special category status and the Chief Minister of Bihar had also reiterated to have this status anyhow. Now, where is that status and what about the special package which was provided? The Budget does not mention all these points.

Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh used to say that the path of prosperity of the country passes through agricultural land and barn. We cannot make our country prosper with industries. We can make a large population prosper with agriculture, farming and irrigation, but today the condition of agriculture sector is very disappointing. Farmers are committing suicide. The Government should present data in this regard. Farmers are committing suicide in various states including Maharashtra, but their loans were not waived and they also did not get loans from banks. It was promised to provide the farmers one and a half times of their cost price and to implement Swaminathan Report. But where is the report? The BJP Government had made a commitment before the country to bring good days. These days may be good days for the people but the country has suffered a huge loss. These are the bad days for the country and the condition has turned worse today.

The condition of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is now bad to worse. Funds are sanctioned from the centre but the works remain pending at State level. In my Parliamentary Constituency, Banka in Bihar, 22 bridges were sanctioned through NABARD but the work on 11 bridges has been stopped out of them. Development works are stopped in the name of good days. People's commuting is hindered. There was a discussion with the Government to set up a mega project in Bihar. It was sanctioned, land was acquired but 4 thousand megawatt power project is not being initiated in Banka. You had said that the person who will sow crops on the land... will be the owner of the land. But today, that person is in a miserable condition.

You talk about cleanliness and toilet. Get reports from the states in this regard. You can see that there is a big scam happening in ODF. Cheating is done in the

name of cleanliness. You had said that inflation was a swindle ... (*Interruptions*) You have raised this point and that's why I would like to say something. It may hurt you but as you have raised this point, I am laying this book before you. This is a message from Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav Ji and I am reading a line from it. He has written— I will work, fight and win till my death and I will burn myself to illuminate Bihar (*Interruptions*) You can laugh at this today. Jesus was also crucified because the honest people have sacrificed their lives. The son of a poor family, Karpoori Thakur can be disrespected and respect of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar can be minimized. History will be witness to. The kind of social justice, sectarian unity and brotherhood for which hon. Lalu Prasad Yadav has been fighting. If anyone is there to give power to this work, it is only Lalu Prasad Yadav Ji. He has neither suppressed nor cheated anyone. Lalu ji has said that if any injustice is done to anyone in Bihar in the country, he would rather die than watch everything silently. You incited me and that's why I have to say all these things.

Sir, the Government talks about 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. But today, the condition of the girls has gone from bad to worse due to murder, robbery and rape cases. It also talks about Sab Jan Hitay, Sabka Sath, poverty eradication, Jan Dhan Yojna, Hunarmand Bharat and bringing black money back, but nothing is happening in the country. You said that you would bring money back from Swiss bank. Now you say that Swiss bank has been switched off and it is not being switched on. Same condition is with Namami Gange project and inflation. The situation has become worse than before. Backward people, Dalits, tribal people and minorities are not getting the honour they deserve. The rights given to them in the Constitution are being taken away from them. The recommendations of Mandal Commission are not being implemented and OBC, Dalits, backwards and tribal people are being troubled in the name of this Commission. Today, the situation has become critical. We are the followers of Dr. Lohiya Ji, Baba Saheb, Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan, Jannayak Karpoori Thakur Ji, Periyar and Charan Singh.

Sir, at last I would like to say that there are many hurdles in the way of implementation of reservation system. We will fight for the rights of all the poor. The Budget does not have the provision for prosperity of the country and Bihar. Hon. finance Minister is a scholar. We have a lot of expectations from him. With these words, I conclude.

20.10 hrs.

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Hon. Deputy Speaker, our country got freedom on 15th of

August, 1947. I have counted the period of time thereafter. It has been almost 70 years, i.e. about 25,000 days and only one party i.e. the Congress party has been in power for 55 years out of the said period. Out of the said 55 years the person belonging to a single family had been the Prime Minister for 40 years...(Interruptions) Only the person belonging to Gandhi-Nehru family had been the Prime Minister for 40 years. The Gandhi family has no connection with Mahatma Gandhi Ji. Hon. Kharge Ji had been Minister for 10 years and he knows who the Prime Minister was. The Prime Minister was controlled by remote? Only one family ruled this country directly or indirectly for 50 years out of 55 years ...(Interruptions).

Sir, we just listened to Supriya Sule Ji. She told her sad story but she is also associated with that party. Her party is in favour of that party. The sad stories you told about the inflation in your mother's time and about your school teacher all belong to that period. Veerappa Moily Ji and our Dada also mentioned such things. But out of 70 years, the Congress party ruled the country for 55 years and 5 more years were also related to them. Our Finance Minister has spent only one thousand days holding the office. Today, after 70 years of independence, we are talking about construction of toilets and condemning the present Government for this. I feel very bad about it and do not know how to react in this situation. The people who ruled the country for 50 years out of 70 years could not provide toilets to the poor and today people are blaming us. What did they do in 24 thousand days? They neither provided toilets nor rights to the farmers. Today, you are talking about MSP. What did they do in this regard in those 24 thousand days? I would still like to thank them because they are expecting us to do those things only in one thousand days which they could not do in such a long period. Just now, one of our friends has delivered his speech. The person he quoted is moving inside and outside the jail.

Today, they are telling 125 crore people of the country to follow them. This Government of scams has ruled the country for 24 thousand days and scam of Rs. 12 lakh crore has been done in 10 years. You should provide details regarding those 12 lakh crore rupees. If they provide details as to in which bank or locker this money has been stashed, Arun Jaitley Ji will bring it in the country. Today five Chief Ministers from the opposition party are either in jail or about to go to jail. Out of them, one is from Haryana, two are from Bihar, one is from Jharkhand and one is from our Maharashtra, who has been in jail for about one year and nine months. This Government of scams and leaders of scam are talking about inflation. The Agriculture Minister during Congress regime whose example is given

for being the leader of farmers and the god of farmers did nothing for the farmers. Many farmers committed suicide and food inflation reached high during the tenure of that Agriculture Minister who calls himself the leader of the farmers and the best Agriculture Minister. Food inflation reached 20 percent and prices of food kept rising on daily basis. People did not get bread and pulse to eat. These data are not of our Government but of theirs. What changes have we made in our Government? Today, we do not say it, but people say, "Garibon Ke Samman Me, Modi Ji Maidan Me. Kisanon Ke Samman Me, Modi Ji Maidan Me." This is the summary of the Budget. Arun Jaitley Ji has mentioned in the Budget to provide MSP to the farmers 1.5 times more than the production cost of their crops which was not done by the previous Government. This Budget is about "Garib Mahilaon Ke Samman Me, Modi Ji Maidan Me." How many poor people were provided with gas stove during 67 years of your Government? Now you are talking about the price of gas cylinder in the country. You should admit the fact that eight crore women did not have gas connections. Was "Garibi Hatao" only a slogan? How many poor people got gas stoves and get rid of the smoke of the conventional stove?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Budget says that Modi Ji is working in honour of senior citizens, labourers, young entrepreneurs, rural areas, and clean, strong and healthy India. I am going to tell all these things. I was listening to the speech of the Leader of Opposition. I was confused that a senior Minister of the Congress Government on one side says that their party is the party of the poor. I will also mention the point of marketing. We should learn marketing from them as they had been giving the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' for many years. First time it was introduced in 1971. When I searched it on Google and saw some papers in library, I got that generation after generation the same party and family gave this slogan. It means the grand-mother and the father gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao', and now the son is also talking about the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. This is amazing...

Sir, no one can do better marketing than them. You were in power from 1971 to 2014, sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly. You did not give gas stove to even a single poor woman during the regime of your three generations. Is your slogan 'Garibi Hatao' only for marketing? You are leveling allegation on us for marketing. I have to say more on that marketing. Hon. Kharge sahib is sitting here. His senior colleagues say that this is the Budget of Modi Ji. You frequently ask Arun Jaitley Ji about capital gain. Till yesterday, you

used to level allegation on us that we are taking interest in share market, we are industrialists and we worry about Adani and Ambani. Today, whom are you worrying about? Please read your entire Budget speech again. In the entire speech, the Congress party has asked about capital gain. Sensex has fallen one thousand points. Who is suffering this loss? The Finance Minister has clearly mentioned in his Budget speech as to who has suffered the loss. [English] Capital gains amounting to Rs. 3,77,000 crore which was disclosed in the last year belong to hardly 100 or 200 corporates or a few couple of 100 HNIs [Translation] The population of India is 125 crore. One percent of it is 1 crore 25 lakh and 0.0001 percent of it is around two lakh. Is this the policy of Congress? The Finance Minister has clarified this fact as to where he is going to invest the money gained from the capital gain tax of 10%. He has clarified that he will invest this money for National Health Mission and provide medical insurance of upto Rs. 5 lakh to 10 crore poor families out of which half of them live below poverty line and includes senior citizens. On one hand, there are 10 crore families i.e. 50 crore people and on the other, there are 1 lakh corporates, HNIs-High Net Individuals. I would like to ask the Congress, party whether it wants to favour the said HNIs. Our Saugata Roy Saheb who talks about Leftism was also saying such things on capital gain.

I would again like to thank hon. Arun Jaitley Ji and hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji for formulating Ayushman Bharat scheme for 50 crore people of the country. Now the old people of the country are blessing Narendra Modi Ji and Arun Jaitley Ji to be Ayushman. You formulated Ayushman Bharat and that's why they blessed you to live long. Sir, when a 74 years old person gets heart attack and goes to the hospital, the doctor treats him and tells him not to worry for 15 years as by pass has been done. But after some time when the hospital bill of Rs. Eight lakh eighty thousands comes to him, he immediately gets another heart attack. If my Government wants to be concerned about of their bill and if it takes an amount of 30 thousand crore rupees from those high networth individuals, one lakh companies and distributes it among 50 crore people then I'll thank Arun Jaitleyji, Narendra Modiji not once but ten times.

The leader of Opposition is worried about funds. They looted the country for ten years. Where was the concern at that time? What did they do for ten years? When the Minister of Finance, our leader cited the example of pakoda, your best Finance Minister replied that the pakodawala was the unemployed. Your leaders are talking about *Chaiwala* and *Pakodawala*. In order to project poverty, your leaders organize events for visiting the poor, host lunch event, the dinner event; no one can realize and feel the pangs of poverty through these

events But our Prime Minister has felt the pains of poverty by selling tea. I can tell you. I know what is toilet and what are the pains related to it ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I will describe poverty to you ...*(Interruptions)* one poet has said that those who have never seen poverty...*(Interruptions)* Mallikarjun Khargeji, I would have supported you. Veerappa Moilyji when he used to favour capitalists, if you had opposed him ...*(Interruptions)* Those who have never seen poverty are not acquainted with hardship. It is a different thing that they get appreciated when they issue sympathetic statement. They pass time just by spreading slogans day and night. Our Prime Minister knows poverty, the suffering and pains of the poor ...*(Interruptions)* it mentioned toilets ...*(Interruptions)* I know the difficulties related to toilet. I know it because I have grown up in poverty. When I used to go school, as I was born at Bajra road, Bandra, Mumbai, the toilets of our Chawl were in a dilapidated condition. We had to use toilet with broken gates. So, we used toilet by holding newspaper in front of us. When hon'ble Prime Minister talks of 5 crore, 6 crore toilets, we can understand that pain. You will not understand it. They have made joke of the poor in the name of poverty for 67 years. You ask about the people for whom this Budget was made. This Budget has been named by the Editor of a newspaper 'Mera gaon, Mera Desh' Some others said that this Budget of Arun Jaitley focuses on village, the poor and the farmers. Someone said, 'prosperous farmer, healthy India'. Everybody will get shelter and every house will get power. Someone said 'young India'. Some other said 'M.F. prescribes Modi care for India'. The Minister of Finance is Arun Jaitley. How, there is not much difference between Arun Jaitley and Arjun Jaitley because his objective is also quite clear. Welfare of the poor is the objective of Narendra Modi Government.

Like the target of Arjun, there is nothing but poverty which has been kept as the focus of this Budget. [English] In newspapers, it is said 'Modicare the world's largest scheme', 'Budget: gain the senior citizen'; [Translation] 'India is getting stronger', 'the base of New India will be laid', 'Mera Gaon, Mera Desh'.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, now it is 8.30 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): We can extend the House by half an hour.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (Gulbarga): No Sir, it is not good. They have got the relievers. They can go and come back ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, let him complete the speech.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. After Mr. Somaiya finishes his speech, there is one more speaker, Shri Ramachandran. After he concludes, we will adjourn the House.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to tell about their schemes. What were their schemes? There is an advertisement of 'Lux' soap. Leave it. I will tell later. What is their strategy? It is a family's strategy ...*(Interruptions)*. Wherever you see, you will find only one thing everywhere. Wherever you go in India from villages to cities, markets and malls, what are the names of 16,700 schemes? The schemes are in the names of Smt. Indira Gandhi, Late Jawahar Lal Nehru or Shri Rajiv Gandhi or Shri Sanjay Gandhi. It has been revealed in the information sought by someone under R.T.I. There are more than two dozen schemes of the Union Government and these 48 schemes are nomenclatured as Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, Jawahar Lal Nehru Rojgar Yojna, Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna, Indira Gandhi Canal Project, etc. When we found out the details, these names are all pervasive. You didn't find any other name. Now, they have given details that 16 schemes out of the 48 schemes of the Union Government are in the name or Rajiv Gandhi.

If Moilyji were present here, I would have told him. He was taking the name of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. He was saying that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi should give an explanation. First of all, you tell us as to how many schemes you have named after Mahatma Gandhi? The Congress government has formulated only four schemes in the name of Mahatma Gandhi in the last 55 years and only one scheme has been formulated in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ji, What is their task? This is called marketing which tells everyone that whatever happened in the whole country, it is due to only one family. Only they are prevolved from birth to death. Their name is visible in maternity home also that is the hospital to be visited by a conceiving mother is Rajiv Gandhi Hospital. In other words, only Gandhi-Nehru family is present in all schemes spanning subjects

from birth to death. This is not a joke, and you level charges against us that we changed the names of schemes. Our Cabinet Ministers are sitting here. You level allegation on them that they changed the names of the schemes. But you haven't left any scope for the change. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you one thing that the opposition has raised concern about the 'Modi Care' scheme brought by our Government. They said, "How are you going to implement it?"

This is a good thing. Our Finance Minister will speak about it in detail. If we make a provision of medical insurance of five lakh rupees, are you in agreement with it? Has the Union Government made a provision of fifty thousand rupees in place of five lakh rupees in last several years? Two-three persons do pay visit to all the Members of Parliament of our Lok Sabha every day. We act on the issues brought to us by all those persons who visit us.

[English]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you must also be receiving representations from several people coming to meet you. I also receive many representations and people come to me saying that 'this is the hospital bill and we need some support'. We write letters for grant of assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund; we write similarly for assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. We also approach various charitable trusts.

[Translation]

He has to wait for the cheques from Trust and also donations for two-four months. A son runs from pillar to post for his mother, A daughter suffers a lot for her mother and keeping this in mind, Shri Narendra Modi Ji announced that the Government of India would look after each old mother and father and it will provide five lakh rupees for treatment. We have to thank him for this and say "Ayushman Bhava". Our hon. Minister talked about this in his press conference and other people also said. *[English]* that this is not just one scheme. *[Translation]* We will bring complete change; there will be miracle in health care industry. We will build such health infrastructure where a large number of patients can get treatment. Nurses, doctors, ward boys will be required and around fifty thousand to five lakh people will get job opportunities; so, in fact, we should express gratitude and support this scheme.

Sir, I would like to add one or two more things *[English]* like "What is today's India".

The India Brand Equity Foundation has stated what India is today. It is not said by Kirit Somaiya. It has been stated by India Brand Equity Foundation. They said:

“Indian companies raised Rs 1.6 trillion (US\$ 24.96 billion) through primary market in 2017.”

It is all time record.

[Translation]

If the economy is dull and weak, how has so much money been raised through primary market?

[English]

Sir, they also said:

“India received net investments of US\$ 17,412 million from FII during April-October, 2017.”

[Translation]

This money has been invested not by an Indian company, but by a foreign institutional investor.

[English]

Sir, they also said:

“The top 100 companies in India are leading in the world in terms of disclosing their spending under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), according to a 49-country study by global consultancy giant, KPMG.”

They further said:

“The bank recapitalization plan by Government of India is expected to push credit growth in the country to 15 per cent.”

What is India? They further said.

[Translation]

You were talking about Aadhaar, this is its report and from a foreign land.

[English]

They further said:

“The Government of India has saved US\$ 10 billion in subsidies through direct benefit transfers with the use of technology, Aadhaar and bank accounts.”

[Translation]

Today, the hon. Prime Minister has talked about this in detail.

[English]

They further said:

“India is expected to have 100,000 start-ups by 2025 which will create employment for 3.25 million people.”

“India received the highest ever inflow of equity in the form of foreign direct investments (FDI) worth US\$ 43.4 billion in the year 2016-17.”

“The World Bank has stated that private investments in India are expected to grow by 8.8 per cent during Financial Year 2018-19 to overtake private consumption growth of 7.4 per cent.”

Impact investments in India may grow at 25 per cent annually. [Translation] It is amazing. [English] Indian merchandise exports in dollar terms registered a growth of 30 per cent. [Translation] This is the Government under the leadership of Narendra Modi. It cares. Many spokesmen have said that [English] we are the sixth largest economy in 2017. In 2027, we will be the third largest and in 2047, when we will be celebrating 100 years of our freedom, India will be the first largest economy of the world.

[Translation]

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will not go into details of tax revenue and other data. I have detailed figures and all. There is a difference between the UPA Government and the Modi Government [English] In 2004, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee handed over the reins to UPA, the GDP growth was 8.1 per cent (2003-04). [Translation] When UPA handed over the reins to Modi Ji, GDP growth rate was 4.8. During Vajpayee Ji's Government, current account deficit was 10.5 plus and during UPA regime, it was minus 45. Fiscal deficit during Atal Ji was 4.57 and when we came to power, it was 5.7. Industrial production, then in 2004, was 6.9 and when we came here, there was zero growth. Currency depreciation was 9%, manufacturing growth was 38%, food inflation ...

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, at last, I would like to say that this Government has announced several schemes. Our hon. Minister for Railways is here, he has also shown some figures relating to the railways. I will say that under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji, in the last 70 years, this is a Budget or we say a full Budget for the poor which focuses on the poor, farmers, workers,

senior citizen and rural areas of the country and that is why, today Hindustan is calling, "Modi Ji, Arun Jaitley Ji-Ayushman Bhava".

[Translation]

*SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (Jalgaon): The Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has presented one more welfare oriented budget for the year 2018. The Government has taken welfare initiatives in the budget for all sections of the society in the country. I consider the budget as the one focusing on building the nation. Several announcements have been made for welfare of farmers. Now the farmers will receive Minimum Support Price for all crops instead of certain selected crops. The Gramin Market E-NAM scheme has also been announced. Apart from this, 42 mega food park will be set up in the country. Fund to the tune of Rs. 11 lakh crore has been allotted for providing loan to farmers.

Several announcements have been made for education sector. The emphasis will be laid in imparting education from pre-nursery to class XII standard. 24 new medical colleges will be set up. Railway University will be set up in Vadodara. Eklavya Vidyalayas will be set up for education of tribal people. As far as medical health care sector is concerned, the Minister of Finance has announced that the Government will bear the medical expenditure of 40 per cent people of the country. The long term capital gain on sale of shares will be taxable at 10 per cent rate. The Government will contribute 12 per cent in EPR for new employees. A New scheme will be formulated to tackle the problem of pollution in Delhi-NCR region.

A revolutionary step has been taken in the health care sector in terms of announcements of health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh for 10 crore people. Around 50 crore people will be benefitted with the said step. It means 40 per cent people of the total population of India will be benefitted. Such a comprehensive scheme has been announced for health care sector for the first time in the country. It is the largest health care scheme in the world.

The number of taxpayers has increased to 19.25 lakh in the country as a result of various important steps taken by the Government. Direct tax collection has increased by 12.6 percent in the country. The income tax collection of Government has increased by Rs. 90 thousand crore which is the outcome of a campaign against black money. The prices of diesel and petrol reduced by Rs. 2 per litre to provide relief to common

man. The growth rate is likely to be 7.2 per cent in the next financial year. Besides export is likely to increase by 17 per cent.

I would like to mention certain welfare measures announced in the budget—10 crore poor families will be provided medical insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh every year. 40 per cent population of the country will be provided Government health Insurance.

Farmers will receive minimum support price at one and a half times of their production cost so as to increase the income of farmers. Ninety Nine cities have been selected under Smart City Mission. One Hundred monuments will be developed as 'Adarsh Smark'. Heritage scheme will be formulated for pilgrimage tourist destinations.

Emphasis will be given for imparting education from pre nursery to class XII as well as to promote digital education. The challenging target has been fixed to increase school enrollment rate. Eklavya School will be set up to ensure education of tribal people. Blackboards will be replaced by digital boards in schools. Funds of Rs. 3 lakh crore will be allocated for providing loan to set up business under MUDRA YOJANA' and Rs. 3,794 crore will be incurred for small industries.

An amount of Rs. 1,200 crore will be incurred on setting up health wellness centre.

Twenty Four new medical colleges will be set up.

An Announcement has been made to provide housing unit to each poor family by the year 2022.

Two crore additional toilets will be constructed in the country.

Minimum support price for all crops will be provided instead of certain selected crops.

Electric connection will be provided in 4 crore houses under Saubhagaya Yojana.

The Minimum Support Price of Kharif crops is one and a half times more than the production cost.

Operation Green is for potato, onion and tomato. Rs. 500 crore will be provided for potato, onion and tomato.

Kisan Credit Card will be provided to stockbreeders also.

42 Mega good parks will be set up.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Exemption of upto Rs. 50 thousand will be given to senior citizens in their income from interest of their deposited money.

Now, the common man will also be able to travel by air in the country. It was announced to provide connectivity in 56 airports and 31 helipads across the country will be of Rs. 2.95 lakh crore.

The Government has shown its commitment towards providing Minimum Support Price to the farmers one and a half times more than their input cost. There is no doubt in the fact that the Government is more concerned to increase income in agriculture sector in this Budget. It has been mentioned in the Budget to convert 22 thousand Haats into agriculture market. Along with it, the Government is going to provide Rs. 1,400 crore for food processing. It is very significant that the Government has mentioned to set up a system like industrial cluster at district level for agricultural produce and make special arrangements to check loss from fluctuation in prices of potato and tomato on the lines of Operation Flood. The Government has also paid attention on pisciculture and animal husbandary. Where as on one hand special fund will be provided to promote pisciculture, on the other hand, the Finance Minister has mentioned to provide Kisan Credit Card to the stockbreeders.

When as on one hand the Government has opened the door for disinvestment by accelerating the pace of reforms, on the other hand, it moves forward in this direction by approving the merger of insurance companies. The Finance Minister had something for everyone in his Budget from healthcare to education sector and for villages and the poor.

It is the outcome of the steps taken by our Government during the last four years that we are going to become fifth largest economy of the world. Our economy is on the right track. Our economy is of 2.5 trillion. Our government focuses on development of villages and has given transparent governance. Service sector is developing with the rate of 8 per cent. Most of the Government services are being tried to be made online. It takes only two to three days to get passport at home. A company gets registered in one day. We are focusing on Ease of Living. Medicines are being sold at low cost.

The World Bank has also appreciated the comprehensive reform measures being undertaken during the tenure of our ambitious Government and said that India has more capacity to develop as compared to other emerging economies of the world. If we make an evaluation keeping in mind these points, it is expected that the way in which the Government has made several

new announcements starting from village to city and from healthcare sector to manufacturing sector, it will result in inclusive growth of the country.

Dafinitely, this Budget is rural India centric and farmers friendly. The Finance Minister has announced to increase MSP one and a half times more than the input cost of Kharif crops. The government has fulfilled one more promise of implementing the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission by taking step to increase MSP 50 per cent more than the input cost. This is expected to improve the condition of rural people and farmers.

On this occasion, I draw the attention of the Government towards the following problems of my Parliamentary Constituency, Jalgaon. I would like to request the Government to take necessary steps to allocate adequate funds in the Budget for taking proper and quick action for redressal of these problems-

Three important projects of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra are lying pending for a long time with the Union Government for consideration. Necessary funds may be provided by giving quick approval to these projects for Implementation.

A portion of National Highway 211 linking Dhule and Chalisgaon of Maharashtra has become badly dilapidated and the general public is facing problems. Hence, there is a need for repairing and widening the said portion at the earliest.

A portion of National Highway No. 6 passing through Jalgaon city is in a very bad condition and the general public is facing the problem of traffic jam for hours due to narrowing of the road. There is a need for repairing and widening of the said portion of Highway as soon as possible.

One Naturopathy hospital with a capacity of 100 beds should be set up in Jalgaon district in view of the expectations of the general public.

Necessary funds should be released for desilting large amount of silt deposited in almost 50 years old Girna dam in Jalgaon district and Jamda and Dahigaon catchment areas under the irrigation system and increasing the capacity of catchment area and also there is a need for giving quick approval to the proposal for construction of embankments lying pending with the Central Water Commission for a very long time.

Quick approval should be given to the river linking project lying pending with the Central Water Commission under which the Girna river in Jalgaon is to be linked

with its tributaries like Bori, Anjani, Titur and Mahashwa through channels and necessary funds required for carrying out the said work should be released at the earliest.

There are a large number of plastic units located in Jalgaon which manufacture various plastic products. A plastic park should be set up there for development of plastic items.

A textile park or cluster should be set up in Jalgaon for development of a large number of spinning mills located there and development of other industries related to it so that economic growth take place and the employment opportunities for the youth increase.

Fruits like banana, mango and various other varieties of orange fruits are produced in a very large quantity in our Jalgaon district. Therefore, remunerative prices should be ensured for the fruit producing farmers and their processing industries should be set up in addition to setting up a food training centre so that the small scale entrepreneurs are given training for processing and their income sources are increased as well with the rise in employment opportunities also for them.

A paramilitary training centre should be set up in Jalgaon district.

A Passport Seva Kendra should be set up in Jalgaon district.

Operation should also be commenced in Jalgaon district under India BPO promotion scheme being launched under Digital India Programme.

With these words, I would like to congratulate the Government for important works being carried out in the interest of common citizens of the country during the last four years and support one more public welfare Budget presented by our Government.

[English]

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (Sriperumbudur): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget which is presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, I am sorry to say that this Budget has lost the confidence of the people. Going by any standard or yardstick, it has really failed all sections of the society. I am sorry to say this. I will narrate them during the course of my speech. As a real friend of the Treasury Bench, on behalf of our Party, I would like to express our humble feelings. The people of this country had very high hopes from this Government four years

back when they voted for this Government. But, now, all their hopes are dashed by the last full Budget of this Government. There is nothing in this Budget for households; there is nothing for education of students; after completing their education, there is nothing for giving them employment; there is nothing for the Government employees and salaried class; there is nothing for industrial development; and there is nothing for States also.

Whatever the Finance Minister has done, it is just to mobilize resources and keep them with the Centre, be it by way of GST or otherwise. Let it be.

In the very first paragraph, the hon. Finance Minister mentioned about reducing poverty and creation of infrastructure. But, he has not allocated enough in the Budget for doing these things. If that be so, how could one believe their words?

He talked at length about the farming sector, health and wealth of the farmers. After four years, the Government is thinking about farmers' welfare. After four full years, now the Government is thinking about farmers' welfare and farming sector. But, here also, he did not spell out what sort of measures he is going to take to get them out of the rut that they are in now. He did not say whether he is going to introduce a short-term or a long-term loan waiver scheme or not. I would like to know whether the Government is serious about the farming sector, which is our backbone.

If the Government is serious about the farming sector, it should make available water to the farmers, provide electricity to the pump-sets, provide affordable and quality seeds to farmers, and remunerative support price for their produce. I am sorry to say that the Government has not done anything, except shedding crocodile tears.

Had it been serious, it should have provided adequate funds for inter-linking of rivers. In the case of Tamil Nadu, our farmers in the delta area get water only from the Cauvery River. The condition of our farmers in the delta area is pathetic due to unavailability of water. Unavailability of Cauvery water is a perennial issue which needs to be settled at once. The Government has not taken any action to constitute the Cauvery Management Board as mandated by the Final Award of the Tribunal.

On the health sector also, he has brought in the National Health Policy, 2017 that proposed to set up 1.5 lakh centres throughout the country. Though it would bring health closer to the people, a meagre allocation of Rs. 1200 crore in the Budget raises doubts in our minds whether it is a sort of 'poll promise' - it is our

own doubt – to cover the population or they really have health of the people in mind. This should be clarified by the hon. Finance Minister.

On the health front, I am glad to say that the Government of Tamil Nadu has done excellent work; it is the forerunner. Our Amma had been a pioneer in implementing the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme and in providing universal healthcare across the State.

I am sure, this is the case with most other States. That being the case, whom is the Government talking about? What is the meaning of it? This has become another slogan for facing the elections.

In earlier Budgets, the Government promised three years back to set up one AIIMS-like institution in our State. Places were also selected to set up AIIMS. So far, the result is zero. I am sorry to reiterate, please solve the grievances of our State – you had announced it earlier – regarding setting up AIIMS in our State. Even after four years, and even after getting the suggestion from the Tamil Nadu Government, there is no result.

Now, in this Budget, the Finance Minister spoke about setting up of at least one medical college for every three Parliamentary constituencies, and at least one Government medical college in each State. Going by the speed with which the Government is taking action, I am not sure when they will come to be established.

Sir, as we all know, education is the backbone of any economy. The country's future depends on the education of its citizens. But sadly, the Government has not allocated adequate funds for education sector. The education sector has become a sick sector particularly, the professional colleges. Now, with the policies of the Government, this is the time when the Government should hand-hold such educational institutions for the future of our country and youngsters. The educational institutions are in a very pathetic condition. More pathetic is the condition of the students coming out of those institutions. There is no employment available to them after education. The Government has no policy for placement. There are no employment opportunities available to them. No policy guideline and direction are given to those who implement the policies.

Sir, the Finance Minister has given about Rs. 2,500 crore for Tamil Nadu for the development of Railways. Really, it is peanuts for us. It is not sufficient. When people are expecting the Centre to give special focus on expanding the capacity of suburban Railways in Chennai, unfortunately, it has been left out in this Budget whereas Mumbai and Bengaluru have got adequate

funds for their suburban train systems. I am not questioning. I am very happy, My State of Tamil Nadu is being consistently neglected by the Centre. My constituency Sriperumbudur houses many industrial establishments. It is an industrial hub and we have been demanding Sriperumbudur-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor for quite some time. But the Government has not taken that into account as yet.

Sir, several thousand Government employees reside in my constituency. My constituency is in Chennai's peripheral area. The Government employees are totally disappointed. This is for your kind information through our Speaker. It is the taxation measure of the Finance Minister. This has insulted our Government employees. You are giving Rs. 40,000 as standard deduction on one hand but you have taken away the benefits hitherto given to them under transport allowances and health insurance schemes on the other hand. Please look into this.

There are no special concessions given to women in the Budget. There is nothing for women entrepreneurs also in this Budget.

I want to say something about women who are being portrayed in a bad light in TV serials, cinemas, social media and others. TV channels are also bothered only about TRP and not about the impact that it is going to make on the other populace. Indirectly, others are also being influenced badly due to this. I request the Government to pay attention to this aspect if the Government is seriously bothered about the women of India.

I agree that the Government has given some benefit to MSME sector. I am very happy. It has reduced the corporate tax to 25 per cent for companies with a turnover of less than Rs. 250 crore but much more needs to be done to the sector so that the country moves speedily forward. The expectations of the MSME sector are far greater and they need to be supported more because they are significant contributors to new employment generation.

Now, I am coming to GST. This is an important issue. I would make the following points—I come from a particular constituency which houses many industrial establishments—for the consideration of our hon. Finance Minister.

The impact of non-compensation of IGST is huge. Most of the auto majors and manufacturing units are suffering due to non-availability of IGST compensation. They get major tax relief only through IGST.

In the post-GST scenario, the output tax incentive is restricted to sales within the State, that is, 14 per cent SGST but it is not for inter-State sales. Secondly, 80-90 per cent of sales of the industry are inter-State sales. So, unavailability of IGST incentive is a huge loss for the industries that have pan-India sales. So, I request the Centre to consider compensating the IGST component, as was available earlier.

There is another important issue. This is a golden chance that our hon. Finance Minister is sitting here. Really, I am much more happy. Everybody knows that the Tamil fishermen are suffering a lot and the Government of Tamil Nadu has been demanding a 'Comprehensive Special Package for Diversification of Fisheries in Tamil Nadu', with an allocation of Rs. 1,650 crore. The Centre has not paid heed to this demand.

Tamil Nadu lost heavily due to the unfair recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. As a compensation, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu demanded an annual special grant of Rs. 2,000 crore for four years. The Centre has not replied to that as yet. The irony is that even the Thirteenth Finance Commission grants are pending to be released by the Centre. The grants are pending to be released by the Centre under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. Post-Matric and Pre-Matric Scholarship Schemes grants are also yet to be released. There were several demands that were put forth by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu through the Memorandum submitted to the hon. Prime Minister on 27.02.2017. The Finance Minister may consider those demands and allocate appropriate sums of money for the overall development of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, with these words, with a heavy heart, I support this Budget and conclude my speech. Thank you.

[Translation]

*DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (Latur): The Budget presented by the government of our popular Prime Minister of this country Shri Narendra Modiji has its focus on the common man, Dalits, the poor and on the interest of backward society.

The poor people of our country face hardship in respect of medicines. Costly medicines and treatment create difficulty for them. Costly medicines are available in the market, but the government of Modiji has provided affordable medicines to them in the form of generic medicines. In this Budget, has been provided that each family would be entitled to get free of cost medical treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh every year.

Good amount has been provided for Latur-Nanded new rail line in this Budget for my Lok Sabha

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Constituency Latur. Substantial amount has also been provided for doubling of Latur-Kuduwadi line. An amount of nine thousand crore rupees has been allocated for National Highway in my Lok Sabha Constituency Latur. The people of India are happy with this Budget. The common man are extremely happy in my Lok Sabha Constituency. I support this Budget.

Thank you.

21.00 hrs.

[English]

*SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (Arambag): The Government has announced various schemes but just like the previous budget no specific details of their implementation have been given.

The Government budgetary promises on providing insurance coverage to 10 Crore poor families is the biggest *jumla* as there is no clear policy for health and senior citizen.

The Government should improve facilities of State run hospitals. Like in West Bengal, our Hon. Chief Minister, Smt. Mamta Banerjee has done free dialysis hearth surgery, Sisu-Sathi Scheme, free cancer treatment, fair price medicine shop in all Government hospitals in West Bengal. There is no explanation on how the Swachch Bharat funds, Swachch Bharat cess etc. were utilised. No one knows what happened to the bullet train.

Education policies have been interacting for a last couple of decades to increase the education budget to 6% GDP, but the Government don't buzz.

We want to make our institutions world class but we do not have even half the budget of what a world class institution spends on their colleges.

Finance Minister has tried to make improvements for farmers, but the problems of farmers and rural people are enormous. Measures are not sufficient. The Government has talked about doubling the farmer's income, but for that the agricultural growth should increase up to 12%; that is not there.

GST has been around its implementation, but its benefits are in a fall in the effective tax incidence. GST removes the cascading impact of indirect taxes. Its introduction is supposed to reduce the final indirect taxes we pay. Budget 2018-19 does not show any such impact.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The Government in its budget for 2018-19 has not announced any scheme for minorities nor has it given any serious thought about gender budgeting. Even SC/ST castes have lost their priority in governmental schemes.

Everybody cannot fry pakoras, recently PM remarks "Pakora" seller earning Rs. 200 a day should also be considered employed. There is a serious distortion between employment and investment. There are no certain attempts for employment generation.

It is not a growth-oriented budget.

*SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (Khammam): The Union Budget for 2018-19 has promised to fix minimum support prices (MSP) for crops to guarantee farmers at least 50 per cent returns on production costs. This is quite similar to the original recommendation of the M.S. Swaminathan headed National Commission on Farmers (which called for MSPs to be "at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production"). The Government has come up with new definition for Minimum Support Price (MSP), which in fact has made no change in the old MSP.

Since 2006, farmers' organizations have been demanding that the MSP should be at least one-and-a-half times the "C2" production cost, based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, Professor M.S. Swaminathan, who headed the commission, has stated clearly that the recommended formula as at least 50 per cent above "C2". Whether the Swaminathan Committee's formula has been made applicable while announcing the MSP for farmers in the current Budget?

Last year, the share of agriculture ministry was a miniscule 2.38 per cent of the entire Budget. This time, it has dipped to 2.36 per cent. Interest subvention on loans got Rs. 15,000 crore last year. It remains the same this year. The allocation for Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana was reduced from Rs. 4,500 crore (RE) to Rs. 3,600 crore. The allocation for Market Intervention Scheme and Price Support Scheme went down from Rs. 950 crore (RE) to Rs. 200 crore. However, a few schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinachai Yojana (PMKSY) has been increased to some extent from Rs. 7,377 to Rs. 8851.

In Telangana, farmers are in distress. Paddy, chilli, cotton and other commercial crops are not fetching Minimum Support Price.

One more thing, I would like to bring to the notice that this Government had in affidavit submitted to the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Supreme Court in 2015 said that it cannot give the 1.5 times profit. However, it has announced it now in the Budget 2018. But, actually, the Government is not going to give MSP as per the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations. I request to implement the Swaminathan's Commission.

The subabul wood, which is used as raw material in paper production is growing in Telangana and is usually purchased in large quantities by ITC, Bhadrachalam, Sirpur Paper Mills and AP Paper Mills. At the time of plantation of subabul, the representatives of these Papers Mills are entering into agreements to purchase at prevailing price by the paper mills. But, the time of crop cutting, they are not honouring the agreements and cheating the farmers and there is no mechanism to monitor the sale and the entire market has gone into the hands of middlemen. I request the Government to ensure that subabul farmers should get remunerated price.

Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave a clarion call to double farmers' income by 2022 when India celebrates its 75th year of Independence. It seems, it remains as a distant dream.

While bifurcating Andhra Pradesh State, the Government had made promise to establish a Steel Plant at Bayyaram.

The newly carved Telangana State is one of the most backward regions in India. Although this region is backward in all respects, the Telangana region is rich in several mineral resources. Bayyaram Iron Ore is one such valuable resource, which, if utilized, can appropriately provide a great boost to the development of the newly carved Telangana state. The Bayyaram mines extend over about 1,41,725 acres (56,690 hectares) across Khammam district covering Bayyaram, Garla etc. and some Mandals of Warangal district.

For judicious utilization of these natural resources, a Public Sector Steel Plant may be constructed at Bayyaram so that the valuable ore can be used properly. Bayyaram location has several advantages. Coal, which is an important raw material for steel production, is available at Illendu, which is just 24 km away. Dolomite—another important raw material is also available at Madharam, about 15 Km from Bayyaram. The plant will generate employment to thousands of tribals in Khammam and Warangal districts. It will also fetch thousands of crores of revenue to the Government every year.

I have also requested the Government to establish Mining University under Dhanbad Mining University. It

has also not been considered. People of this region are upset that the Government has not made any allocation for this.

Government has announced setting up of Ekalavya Model Residential school on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas to provide the best quality education to the tribal children in their own environment by 2022 in every block with more than 50 per cent ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons with special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

My constituency, Khammam district in Telangana has got 10 Assembly Constituencies. Out of these 10 constituencies, 5 constituencies are STs and 3 Constituencies are of SCs and the remaining 3 Constituencies are General. Total 70 per cent people of my Constituency are Tribes.

I request to the Government that one Ekalavya Model Residential School on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas to establish in my Khammam constituency, as the tribal population will get benefit of it.

The Government has also not allocated funds for implementation of ongoing schemes in Telangana and but it has made a meagre allocations for the state includes Rs. 10 crore for the Tribal University and Rs. 75 crore for the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. While there were no specific allocations made to Telangana, the Centre said that Rs. 440.51 crore was allocated for drinking water projects, to provide safe drinking water to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years.

While there were no specific allocations made to Telangana, the Centre said that Rs. 440.51 crore was allocated for drinking water projects, to provide safe drinking water to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years. But, injustice was done to the state with no allocation for its flagship programmes like Mission Kakatiya and Mission Bhagiratha and for prestigious irrigation project Kaleshwaram. Another important irrigation project Seetharama Project on river Godavari, which provides drinking water facility to the tribal people and there is persistent demand to make this project as "National Project and accord National Project Status". But, no allocation has been made for this new project.

At least some funds should have been allocated to the Kaleshwaram irrigation project. The Bhadrachalam Division of Telangana State has got highest population of tribes and other nomadic tribes. For their welfare, the previous Government had announced a Bhadrachalam-

Kovvur Railway line. The proposal relates to construction of new broad gauge railway line from Bhadrachalam Road- Kovvur alignment (sanctioned in Railway Budget 2013-14) by merging with Bhadrachalam-Sattupalli alignment (Sanctioned in Railway budget of 2010-11), upto proposed Chandragonda Station on Bhadrachalam-Sattupalli line as both these alignments are falling in the same vicinity – within 21 kilometers- which covers mainly tribal areas to facilitate these tribal to mix up with mainstream but no expeditious progress has been achieved and no reference has been made in this budget. Right from the beginning, I have been asking for new Railway Lines. Every year Rs.5 crores and 6 crores are nominally allocating, which is not spending and again repeating the same. People of my region are not happy with this move.

There are three major Railway Stations in my Constituency, Khammam, Kothagudem and Madhira and I have been requesting the Government to improve these stations and provide halts to some Express trains in these stations. But, the Government has not considered the request of these people.

In this Budget, the Government has announced World's Largest Health Protection Scheme covering over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families launched with a family limit upto 5 lakh rupees for secondary and tertiary treatment. I appreciate the Government's move in the healthcare sector of announcing worth Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization and the Government has also announced 24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country.

Since my constituency is predominantly covered by tribal, if the Government considers one such Medical college in my Constituency, it will be helpful for the tribal population.

I, therefore, request the Government to consider my requests and provide some allocations for the people of my Constituency and for the welfare of Telangana State.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Hon. Deputy Speaker, first of all, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Budget. The Budget presented by hon'ble Minister of Finance for the year 2017-18 is historic and would provide impetus to the development of this country. Each need of the poor and farmers would be fulfilled on the one hand, and speedy all around development of the country would be ensured on the other.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, addressing this House for the first time in the year 2014, had said that his Government would be the Government of the poor, the youth, the woman and his government would ensure an honest, clean and transparent system. This Budget has been presented accordingly, and it is directed towards that end. Some of the leaders of the opposition failed to understand this Budget. When the Budget of this country provides for the poor, the farmers and the villages then certainly some of the political parties do not like it. But the government of Bharatiya Janata Party and Narendra Modiji has only one target i.e. carrying out inclusive growth, taking everybody doing and moving ahead. Today, the need of the hour in the country is that we should help the poor. Gandhiji used to say that when our democratic government would come into power, the first priority should be the poor. Similarly, Lohiyaji used to say that when our government comes to power special care of village, the poor, the farmer and the woman should be taken.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya always used to say that when a Government cherishing our ideology would come into power, the idea of Antyodaya should be fully integrated into it. The government of Nehruji promised

to provide 'roti, kapda and makan'. After that Shrimati Indira Gandhi came to power and she gave the slogan of 'garibi hatao'. And then Rajiv Gandhi came to power, he showed the dreams of 21st century, But Budget kept on to be presented but no solution of poverty was found. No solution of farmers' distress was found. The village remained deprived of basic needs. I would like to thank hon'ble Prime Minister Modiji who kept all his promises in focus not only in this Budget but in previous four Budgets also and the scenario in the country appears to be changing.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you can continue your speech tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Thursday, 8th February, 2018 at 11.00 am.

21.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday. February 8, 2018/ Magha 19. 1939 (Saka).

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