

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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Dated 16 April 2014

(Vol. XII contains Nos. 21 to 26)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

30-31 Aug 2010

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

Lok Sabha

Monday, August 30, 2010/ Bhadra 8, 1932 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Papers to be laid on the table of the House:

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Madam Speaker, I have to report a message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In Accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th August, 2010 agreed without any amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2010 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th August, 2010."

11.01 hrs.

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN THE 122nd ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Madam, I beg to lay on the table (Hindi and English versions) of the Report on the participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation in the 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Bangkok (Thailand) from 27th March to 1st April, 2010.

11.01 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Study Tour Report

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Report on-the-spot study visit of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Mirchpur village, District Hissar, Haryana on 2nd July, 2010.

MADAM SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia - Absent,
Shri Prabodh Panda-Absent.

11.02 1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 4th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2009-10), pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C. P. JOSHI) : I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on the Rural Development in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (15 Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17.12.2009. The report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2009-2010.

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development in March, 2010.

There are 30 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to allocation and utilization of funds during 10th and 11th plans and annual plans, capacity Building of Panchayats, Restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Devolution of Funds, functions and functionaries, professionalizing DPCs, Effective implementation of PESA, Twelfth Finance Commission Grants, issues related with Backward Regions Grant Fund etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 3097/15/10)

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

11.03 hrs.

(i) Re : Functioning of CBI

(Translation)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha) : Madam Speaker, you are well aware of the fact that since last session we have been repeatedly insisting that the functioning of the CBI may be debated. You do know that this subject had even been listed in the BAC Agenda of the meeting in the last session and there had also been a meeting in the last session and had also been included in the List of Business. This continued to be included in the List of Business for two weeks. However, for some reason or the other this discussion was procrastinated and we couldn't discuss it. This time too you can recall when all party meeting was convened before the commencement of the session and we were asked as to which issues we wanted a discussion on, we had vehemently suggested that the functioning of the CBI should be debated upon. But now that session is getting over. This is a two days extended session and we have not received any information about it so far. Yesterday there was an episode which made the demand for a discussion on this subject all the more relevant. A senior IPS officer from Gujarat.....* has alleged and the same has been prominently published in the newspaper that the CBI officials are mounting pressure on them to take the name of high profile leaders in order that they may be falsely implicated and in case they don't do so, they will implicate Geeta Jauhari. No senior police officer can afford to level more serious charges than this one. We have been repeatedly saying that this Government is making misuse of the CBI for its political purposes, guards its own people and makes the opposition members get trapped in cases and causes a sense of fear among the other ... (Interruptions).

* Not recorded

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : The name will not go on record.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : Please don't take anybody's name.

...(Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Government instills a base of fear among a few politicians in order that political interests may be served. Therefore, I would like to request you to take up this issue for discussion in the session by extending it by one more day. You may take legislative business for two days but the session must not be over without comprehensive debate on the functioning of the CBI. This is my demand. I would like the Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond to it. We are ready for one day but the functioning of the CBI must be discussed here overtly ... (Interruptions). I would like to inform the country through you how the CBI is being misused by the Government to gain political mileage ... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down. Honourable Minister wants to say something. ... (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Satish Sharma, just save Ottavio Quatrochi and implicate all others. ... (Interruptions). Madam Speaker, I want to inform the country through discussion in this house. ... (Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down. Honourable Minister wants to say something. ... (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. I would like to request him to extend this session by one more day. ... (Interruptions).

11.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ganesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Madam Speaker, the leader of opposition has

reminded us that this subject was included to the list of Business in the last session, I would like to make Smt. Sushma Ji recall that the moment she said so the Government had agreed to it that we wanted a discussion being that should not allow oneself being shrouded in doubt as to whether the Government wants it. In the first place I would like to submit that the throught is false, baseless and unfounded one that the Government is shying way from debate on discussion over this issue.

It is totally false.

The Government has always maintained it and the same could have been said by way of discussion. Any kind of allegation upon me is unfounded and baseless.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit through you that the Government has never misused the CBI nor will ever do so. I have already said it several times and am even saying today. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER : Please listen to what the Honourable Minister is saying.

...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : CBI is an autonomous body ...*(Interruptions)*. These people are not demanding discussion. They talk of coming into the well ...*(Interruptions)*. You have seen it that they don't want discussion, as everything will come up during the discussion ...*(Interruptions)*. They don't want debate. They want that what they are doing ...*(Interruptions)*. They don't allow others to speak after they make their submission ...*(Interruptions)*. This proves that they want interruption not a discussion ... *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 Noon.

11.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*)

* Not recorded

[English]

MR. CHARMAN : The House will now take up item no. 4, Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Babu Deb Acharia.

... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI T. R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, my calling Attention has not been taken up for the last one month.

... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia is on the legs.

... *(Interruptions)*.

12.0 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

12th Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASUIDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to present the 12th Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture on the Constitution (one hundred eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2009.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir my Calling Attention has not been taken up for the last one month ... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you please raise this issue in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.01 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS - CONTD.

(ii) Re : **Provision of Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2010**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, matters of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India is bringing in the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha. This

is a dangerous bill which is a conspiracy against the Muslims. In the wake of Pakistan war in 1965 the Congress Government had introduced a Bill which was named the Enemy Property Bill. As per the Provisions of the Bill if a person happens to be migrated to Pakistan, his property will not be succeeded by his heir/heirress be it their son, daughter, spouse, father or any other relatives rather it will be transferred to the Government. The property of as many as 2600 Muslims was transferred to the Government out of which as many as 1800 muslim families happen to be belonging to Uttar Pradesh.

A case was filed against this Bill which was pursued by the Muslims in the Supreme Court a decision which was pronounced by two judge bench Consisting of Shri Ashok Bhan and Shri Altamas Kabir on 21.10.2005 way back in the year 2005.

The main points of the case are as follows :-

1. If a person has got Indian Citizenship and has not got the Citizenship of any other country, he/she can't be an enemy. It's property can't be an enemy property under section 2A, 2B and 2C of the constitution.

2. The custodian will only look after the property. The Custodian will be obliged to return the property to its absolute owner who is not a foreigner.

3. Honourable Supreme Court has also ruled in its order that the property of the people rented out by the custodian will have to be returned to them after making them evacuated.

4. As many as 1800 Muslims of UP have been benefitted from the orders of the Honourable Supreme Court which includes former MLA M. A. Khan Alias Suleman Raja Mehmudabad, but the Government wants to strip them of their interests by introducing this Bill which is not permissible in the Constitution of India.

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs Shri P. Chidambaram was a prosecution lawyer in the extant case against M.A.M Khan, Raja Mehmudbal and the other two leaders of the BJP were also associated with him as a lawyer. Honourable Minister of Home Affairs Shri P. Chidambaram is bringing in this Bill in the Lok Sabha after losing the case in the Supreme Court.

This Bill will jeopardise the prospects of all the Muslims and will cause a sense of insecurity among them. This Bill will harm the Muslims of entire country and this Bill will create the

feeling of inferiority complex among Muslims which is not a good thing for the secularism of this country. This is a big conspiracy hatched by the Congress against the Muslims. The Congress wants to snatch away the rights of Muslims through this Bill.

It wants to convert the Muslims into the second class citizens. The status of Muslims is already in a pathetic condition in this country and the congress party intend to inculcate inferiority complex in Muslims by bring out such bills and it is forcing Muslims to take wrong path ...*(Interruptions)*. Why are you interrupting? I am talking about Congress.

This Bill is being brought against the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court because the Supreme Court has delivered the decision in favour of Muslims. The Congress Government is bringing this Bill to cause harm to Muslims, instilling the feeling of inferiority complex among them and to dispossess them from their property. There is an urgent need to do away with this bill.

It is necessary to highlight certain provision of this Bill. The Bill provides that the Muslims have to declare their citizenship within 120 days. It is absolutely wrong. Why such demands are made from Muslims time and again? The Muslims are true citizens of this country and they are always ready to make their supreme sacrifice for any kind of aggression against India. Why such a demand is being raised from Muslims?

The Muslims will get their property in the wake of orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and no one has got right to dispossess them from that property. I would like ask when an Indian can ask his tenant to vacate his property, then why cannot a Muslim ask to vacate his property from his tanants. Why such discrimination is being done with the Muslim community only?

It is now evident that Congress Party and the Bhartiya Janata Party are hand in glove with regard to this Bill. They want to get this Bill passed by the Lok Sabha and also by the Rajya Sabha in a very urgent manner and want to enact a law so that Muslims are deprived of progress and their rights. This is not in line with the provisions of our constitution ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should be order in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This bill may kindly be referred to the standing committee immediately (Interruptions). Now it has been established that the Congress party of this country and the BJP are hand in glove..... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called Shri Jaswant Singh. He is on his legs.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is true. Congress have two members of the other House and also members of Rajya Sabha, they are hatching a conspiracy against Muslims in connivance with Bhartiya Janata Party (Interruptions). They are doing something..... (Interruptions) against Muslims.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please take your seat. You have already mentioned your point.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Mr. Chairman, sir I would like to tell Mulayam Singh Ji that necessary amendments have been moved in this Bill ... (Interruptions).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Muslims never showed their back so far as sacrifice is concerned right from Abdul Hamid. In the struggle of freedom, Muslims never lagged behind but it is very unfortunate that the Congress Party in connivance with BJP ... (Interruptions) is bringing this Bill. It is against Muslims ... (Interruptions).

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Shri Salman Khurshidji and many other members raised this point with hon'ble Home Minister and hon'ble Finance Minister ... (Interruptions). Thereafter the Government ... (Interruptions) have moved its

amendments ... (Interruptions) and after those amendments, they should not worry about anything and at the same time we all would request them that BJP should support the Bill ... (Interruptions). We all should mention this that the amendments have been incorporated therein thereafter ... (Interruptions).

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran) : There is no need for this Bill..... (Interruptions). This is a conspiracy against Muslims ... (Interruptions).

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Therefore, you should not have any concern of apprehension ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please take your seat. You have already mentioned your point.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You kindly have a look on the amendments ... (Interruptions) whatever you have said, after that there is no confusion on that front ... (Interruptions). Every care has been taken in respect of those points ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please take your seat. You have already mentioned your point.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman Sir, kindly allow me to speak for a while..... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What I am saying is that the views expressed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have been taken care of in the amendments which are officially being moved. Notice of those amendments has been given. The amendments have been circulated. I am sure all the hon. Members must have read those amendments. That must clarify all the doubts about it. There is nothing left after that. We must unanimously pass this Bill. ... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever point Mulayam Singhji have raised, I would like to say with regard to that ...*(Interruptions)*. Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs you kindly listen ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Hon'ble Supreme Court should be given due respect ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, Please come to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please come to you seat.

...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs kindly come to your seat ...*(Interruptions)*. This discussion may be done outside the House ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Shrimati Sushma Swaraj to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Sushma Swaraj says.

...*(Interruptions)*.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji, had mentioned that if the Bill be presented in its original form, they would oppose that. Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had mentioned that they are bringing amendments therein. If you would bring amendments, then we should oppose it ...*(Interruptions)*. You refer this Bill to the Standing Committee as after bringing the amendments the Bill will assume a new form ...*(Interruptions)*.

† If ordinance comes in the original form we would support it. And if it is introduced with amendments we will oppose it ...*(Interruptions)*.

* Not recorded

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request hon. Minister to come to his seat.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please take you seats. You leader is on her legs. Let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs want to have a discussion, then the House may be adjourned, we would talk to him outside the House ...*(Interruptions)*. What is going on seat to seat? ...*(Interruptions)*. He is going to every seat to make his point ...*(Interruptions)*. Chairman, Sir, I have a point of order ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, You speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : She is on her legs. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shrimati Sushma Swaraj says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this Bill has been listed for discussion today ...*(Interruptions)*. My request is that let us discuss the Bill first. Let us discuss the provisions of the Bill ...*(Interruptions)*. It is Zero Hour. However, this matter has been permitted. Let us take it up for discussion at the relevant time today only ...*(Interruptions)*. It has been listed in the Business ...*(Interruptions)*. It is there in the List of Business. Let us take it up for discussion and then come to a conclusion ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Right.

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have a point of order that our rules specify that no member can stand in the House having his back towards the Chair. Minister for parliamentary Affairs is standing in this manner for the past ten minutes having his back towards the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I would apologize for that.

...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If he wants to have a discussion, he should adjourn the House and then do the discussion with anyone he so wants ...*(Interruptions)*. He is having discussion in the House by going seat to seat ...*(Interruptions)*. It is against the rules. ...*(Interruptions)* Secondly, I would like to say that Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji had mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's vesion will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.....*(Interruptions)*.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji had just said that they would oppose the Bill if it would be presented in the original form ...*(Interruptions)*. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs had mentioned that he is bringing amendment in that ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to tell the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that if you would bring the amendments, we would oppose the same. ...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, the bill may be referred to the Standing Committee where discussion on each and every clause should be made. ...*(Interruptions)*. Then only this bill should be brought forth. ...*(Interruptions)*. This Bill should not be taken today. ...*(Interruptions)*.

12.15 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Lalu Prasad, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

* Not recorded

12.16 hrs.

GOVERNMENT BILLS-INTRODUCED

(i) DAM SAFETY BILL, 2010*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all dams of certain parameters in India to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN (DR. M. THAMBIDURAI) : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all dams of certain parameters in India to ensure their safe functioning and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I introduce the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*.

(ii) INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Kapil Sibal, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p. m.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 30.08.2010

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

12.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair).

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, my question is regarding system. When sitting of the House was being concluded and the Leader of Opposition was addressing the House then our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs violated a rule.

[English]

Rule 349 (xii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha clearly says :

"Whilst the House is sitting, a member shall not sit or stand with his back towards the Chair."

Sir, if he wanted to have discussions with hon. Members, he could have called them to the Lobby, he could have called them to his chamber, but it is very unfortunate that being the Parliamentary Affairs Minister he has indulged in unparliamentary behaviour and conduct. ... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, all the person move here and there in the House ... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, they are speaking irrelevant things. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, what I am saying is not irrelevant and what they are saying is irrelevant. ... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please all of you may sit down. Please maintain calm.

... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Therefore, by upholding the high traditions of this hon. House, I urge the hon. Parliamentary

Affairs Minister to apologise for his behaviour because this went on for more than 10 minutes. ... (Interruptions). We don't expect this from the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Therefore, I want him to apologize to the entire House. ... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The minister wants to say something. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have raised a point of order and I want your indulgence on this to let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister respond to my point of order and apologize to the House. ... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Honourable Member speak.

... (Interruptions).

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It is customary for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to go to every member..

... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please take your seats.

... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want to raise any point of order. But I will only support his case. ... (Interruptions). Sir, about three days back, the hon. Speaker has called a meeting of the leaders of all the political parties where the Leader of the Opposition was also present. About 48 hours were wasted during this Session and this was discussed in the presence of all the senior leaders of this House, including the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. Every day, we are witnessing disturbances in this House. We have not come here only to sign and take our Daily Allowance. I am very much hurt by what is happening here. ... (Interruptions). He is a senior leader. He is now advising us how to behave in this House. He is now telling the Parliamentary Affairs Minister as to how he has breached the rules of this House. ... (Interruptions). I am so sorry, this is not the way especially for the recognized Opposition Party to cooperate. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I do not know why he is standing up. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran) : Opposition is a part of the Government. If Minister talks to the members of Opposition, leader then it is not a crime. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : You may talk in the lobby and in your Chamber. It is not proper to speak with your back towards the speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Deputy-Speaker Sir, Mr. Anant Kumar has now raised a question. It is correct that the Minister of Parliamentary affairs meets the leaders from opposition during the proceedings of House but not by standing but by sitting beside them all holding discussions with them. It has been the tradition if there is anything necessary then they have all the right to talk to them by sitting close to them because the main responsibility of conducting the House lies with them. But they should talk by sitting properly alongwith them not by casually standing in front of them because it is against the dignity of the House.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar) : Deputy-Speaker Sir, the leaders of all parties have taken the decision in the BAC to extend the sitting of the House during this session by two more days. We had discussed whether this session of Parliament may be extended by two more days or not. Now we have extended it by two more days. We expected that the remaining Bills and other necessary work of the Government should be disposed. We had also decided that we would participate in the discussion during this period and would conduct the House smoothly but today morning the condition worsened. It is the duty of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to ensure the smooth conduct of the House in a appropriate manner and he could have met the leaders from opposition in this regard. We have to ensure that the proceedings of the House are conducted smoothly when this session period has been increased for two days. When Bansal Ji tries to ensure smooth conduct of House by going to any leader then there is nothing wrong in it. If the proceedings of House are stalled then it is not proper. The action of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is absolutely right.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Sir, with all the humility at my command, I want to assure this House, I want to assure the hon. Speaker, to you and through you to everybody who is in some way or the other associated or concerned with the running of the Parliament that I hold the traditions of the Parliament in the highest esteem.

Sir, it is always may endeavour to adhere to those very scrupulously and during all this period I have tried and at times I had to go to the Leader of Opposition, at times I had to go to the Leaders of various other political parties. As you all are aware, in the morning there was some commotion, on some points there were sharp difference of opinion between the leaders of the BJP and the leaders of various other political parties. I think, I was performing a duty when I went there, but, Sir, as I observe now and I am reminded of that. I was also reminded of that by the hon. Leader of Opposition, by Shri Ananth Kumar that I did commit a little impropriety totally inadvertently that I turned my back towards the Chair, which was never my intention and can never be my intention.

I must thank Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. But there was no space to sit there. The occasion was such: the situation was not that the House was in order the way it is now at this moment that I could go to some hon. Member and sit with him to discuss a point. The situation was to try to bring the House in order, which, of course, is not my responsibility as such. But that was a humble effort on my part to try and inform the hon. Members that the amendments which the Government had proposed should take care of their view points. But there was a different view expressed by the leaders of the Opposition and I do not know whether the hon. Leader of Opposition was standing or speaking at that time. It was total commotion, I remember that very vividly. My only sincere endeavour was to see that we put an end to that.

But in the process if I turned my back, and I say, very inadvertently, at all, it was not a deliberate thing on my part. I meant no disrespect to anyone. If my back was turned, I certainly feel bad about it and I apologise for that. But there was nothing, whatever, on my part to.

I would only take this opportunity further to say, I take it in the right spirit, and I would honestly wish that if these were the traditions which we were to uphold, the rules which the hon. Member read, if we were to uphold those during all our working time- that is what Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji said- we will really present a different picture altogether, and I will have never to go to anyone any time. That is what the hon. Speaker endeavoured the day before.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Darjeeling) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I had been called earlier before some passion of domestic politics intervened and the House was adjourned. I wish, with your permission, Sir, to switch from domestic concerns to some issues which I think are of very high national importance covering the foreign policy of the country, the security policy of the country.

I would refer, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to two aspects. One is the denial of visa on grounds of Jammu and Kashmir being sensitive or disputed territory as per and by the authorities of the People's Republic of China. This is totally unacceptable. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker had called him but he could not speak at that time because of noise, therefore we have called him on the basis of approval from Speaker but calling attention would continue after this and you may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it raises issues of very high national importance. It also impinges on our territorial integrity and national security besides, in my view, being an example of grossly provocative conduct on the part of a neighbouring country.

The hon. the Raksha Mantri who is my dear friend of many years' standing and whom I hold in high regard, found it fit to not really take this matter with sufficient seriousness. I do not want to repeat what he said....*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your Seats. Calling Attention would be introduced and it will be introduced just after this and he is not going to speak for long.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : But I do wish to say, Sir, that principally, amongst the Raksha Mantri, along with the discharge of his duties and responsibilities, is also to safeguard the interest, honour and welfare of all senior officers of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. The officer who has been denied a visa is a Lieutenant General, is an Army Commander of our Northern Army, and is one of the principal officers of the Indian Army. This, Sir, is a slur just to an individual: as he wears the uniform of the Republic of India, in that sense it is a slur upon India. I do wish and I do so sincerely that the hon. the Raksha Mantri hadn't taken it so lightly.

The second aspect which I wish to also emphasise is about recent events in certain parts of the northern territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and northern territories are still treated by us as part of undivided Jammu and Kashmir. I refer to areas of Gilgit and Baltistan in which, I am informed, Islamabad has reportedly handed over *de facto* control of the Gilgit and Baltistan region to People's Liberation Army. As we know, the People's Liberation Army is very much an extension of Chinese national interest and the Policies of the People's Republic of China. Consequently, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, certain sections of the western portions of Jammu and Kashmir, Pak-occupied Kashmir, stretching from Gilgit in the north to Baltistan in the south have been closed even to citizens of the area including the Army personnel of the Pakistan Army.

All access to this area is now reportedly being controlled by the PLA through the PRC. Reports about these developments have originated very sadly, I say, from a variety of foreign intelligence sources, foreign and Pakistani journalists and also Pakistani Human Rights activist. But I am saddened that till date, not a word has emerged from the Government of India. It is a matter vitally concerning our national interest, and I would really have very much hoped that the Government would have come forward rather than somebody else from abroad informing us, about this.

I might add, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that the Government has a duty to inform the country, and we have a right to know what the Government has to say in this regard.

There are three additional important aspects. I would not take long to say them.

Sir, this development in the Gilgit and Baltistan area is also accompanied by a kind of simmering rebellion in Gilgit, and there has been firing as also imposition of curfew. What information does the Government have in this regard?

I am informed, secondly, that there is an influx in that area of Gilgit and Baltistan of about 11,000 soldiers of the People's Liberation Army, who are now constructing barracks for permanent residences.

Thirdly, reports have appeared that there are 22 tunnels being dug there, which tunnels could be for the convenience of the passage of rail, road or also possibly for the storage of missiles. I would like to know from the Government what information do you have.

Sir, I wish to add, in conclusion, very briefly but manifestly, the People's Republic of China wants a tight grip on this region so as to further encircle India and the Gulf through Pakistan.

I wish to further add that when the intended high speed rail and road links through Gilgit and Baltistan are completed, China will be able to transport cargo, civil or military, from Eastern China to the new Chinese built ports of Gwadar, Pasni and Ormara within 48 hours from the east coast of China to the Makran coast is directly for us a national issue.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, these issues are of vital national importance. The Prime Minister recently informed us that the Government's policy is not 'reciprocal'. I am intrigued by the use of such delphic phrases. Would the Prime Minister kindly inform us what he means by the policy not being 'reciprocal' when we are being encircled by the People's Republic of China? We are confounded by what the Government is saying. May I add, Sir, a word of caution and advice to the hon. Prime Minister? Statecraft is a very cruel business. Good nature is bungler at it and Pusillanimity is no alternative to sound policy.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Jaswant Singh Ji. We would like to get a response to this from the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri B. Mahtab and Shri Rajendra Agrawal are associating with the issue raised by Shri Jaswant Singh Ji.

14.19 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item no. 6- Calling Attention. Shri Sanjay Nirupam.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The need to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Sir, no criteria has been prescribed in the Constitution to include languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. As on date, 22 languages have been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. In the beginning 14 languages among them had been included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was included in the year 1967. After this, 3 more languages *i.e.*, Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali languages were included in the year 1992. Thereafter, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali languages were added in the year 2004. The basis for including these languages in the Eighth Schedule was the circumstances of that time and the demands of people. At this point of time, demands to include 38 more languages including Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution are pending. A Committee constituted in September 2003 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mahapatra, to determine the criteria for the purpose of including more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Report of the Committee is under consideration for consultation with Concerned Departments of the Central Government. Decision on pending demands to include other languages including Bhojpuri and Rajasthani language shall be taken, *inter-alia*, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee and the decision of Government on them. Time frame cannot be determined to

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

consider the demands to include more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement by Honourable Minister and the written replies which has been coming to us for past several years is like that only. Bhojpuri, Rajasthani, both the languages are struggling for years to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India like various remaining 39 languages. I have stood up for expressing my view with reference to two languages in calling attention. Especially, Bhojpuri has been my mother tongue.

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur) : It is still your mother tongue?

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : It is still my mother tongue ... (Interruptions). An arrangement is made there that they can speak in Bhojpuri in Parliament in future, stop for a moment ... (Interruptions). If you speak in Bhojpuri then interpretation will not be available therefore this arrangement is being made. Bhojpuri is the second major language after Hindi and is approximately 1000 years old. We have history of the seventh century available. There are around five such continents besides India in the world where Bhojpuri language speaking people are living. Bhojpuri is spoken in approximately 12 countries besides India. This language is the language of persons living in Bihar and UP but alongwith this it is the language of people like us who are living in Mumbai, Kolkata or Delhi. It is the language of those people who went to different countries from India 150 years ago as Girmitia labourers. They went to Mauritius, Surinam, Fiji and Trinidad and many people from Surinam are living in Holland and the language spoken by such people at home and their spoken language alongwith language for interaction is Bhojpuri. Few days ago, a survey was conducted in Bihar on Bhojpuri language which was spoken by a majority of population but this language has its own history, culture, grammar and tradition and only its script is Devnagri. If you think on a different line then this language has a very rich history. Our country has nearly 1000 Bhojpuri writers. Entire world is full of Bhojpuri writing people. Bhojpuri language is being taught in approximately eight universities and is being taught in Patna, Magadha, Jaunpur, Kolkata University. Foundation course has been started by IGNOU. On this basis it has been our constant demand from the Government to include

Bhojpuri and Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. Rajasthani language has its own history.

Rajasthani language has its own culture and tradition. It is the language of an entire state Marwaris settled all over the world. Whenever Marwaris meet each other they love each other and converse in Marwaris dialect. I have risen to give equal respect to both these Language acts as an important link so far as paying respect to any section of society or community is concerned. Kabir is known as first poet. Kabir's original language was Bhojpuri. In 1200, he himself had said that Bhojpuri is my first language. Bhojpuri is a language wherein people have interest. People are interested in reading it writing in it. This Bhojpuri is connected with the sentiments of people. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should include Bhojpuri language in Eighth Schedule of Constitution of India as soon as possible.

Sir, I express my anguish over the statement given by the hon. Minister, as he has not fixed any time limit in this regard. The Sitaram Mahapatra Committee had been asked to lay down a criterion on the basis of which a language can be included in the Eighth Schedule.

In the beginning, 14 languages were included in the Constitution. (a) Five or ten year's later, other languages were included, thus bringing the total number of languages included in the Constitution to 22. (b) But, while doing so, no criterion was laid down. These decisions were taken keeping in mind the aspiration and demand of the people. The Sitaram Mahapatra Committee was asked to evolve a criterion on the basis of which the languages could be included in the Constitution.

Hon. Minister has stated in his statement that the Sitaram Mahapatra Committee had submitted its report in 2004. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the whereabouts of this report. Now, the year 2010 is running. Why this report could not be accepted for the last six years? Whether the report had something positive to say about the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthan? Further, whether the Committee had given any criteria, which among others, constituted its terms of reference. Earlier, the Ashok Pahwa Committee had been constituted in 1996. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the fact that the Ashok Pahwa Committee was also asked to lay down criteria for this purpose. It had stated.

[English]

"The official language of the State may be included in the Eighth Schedule on the condition it should be spoken by substantial proportion of the population of a particular State."

[Translation]

We have included Maithili. Maithili is the language of Bihar. Bodo, Konkani, Dogri languages have been included. I welcome the honour given to all these languages and it should definitely be so. But the number of persons speaking these languages is in lakhs, though the number of persons speaking Bhojpuri is much more than those of other languages. In this case, the Bhojpuri language should be given the same honour, as given to Bodo and Maithili languages.

Secondly, it is stated that the language to be included in eighth schedule should have its own literature and language. I assent that Bhojpuri language has not got very much recognition by the Government, it has not got the cooperation, support and financial assistance from the Government. The literature in Bhojpuri language is being written for last thousand years. It has got very rich literature, very good poems, stories and essays are written in this language. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the criterion set on the basis of Ashok Pahwa Committee proves right in this case. Therefore, the efforts shall be made to include Bhojpuri language in the eighth schedule. The Government has not given recognition to Bhojpuri language, even though four TV channels of the said language are running. Bhojpuri is such a language to which the Government has not given any recognition, then also the Bhojpuri has its own cinema and this cinema is of around five hundred crore rupees. The language which is becoming so rich and prosperous without the cooperation of the administration and Government will certainly improve its ranking if the Government gives it recognition and improvement to it, and it will endow respect to the sentiments of the people linked with this language. Therefore, keeping in view the sentiments of Bhojpuri community and Rajasthani community, the immediate efforts shall be made to include both these languages in the eighth schedule of the Constitution, the time frame should be set and the hon'ble Minister should take a decision in this regard at the earliest.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Vinay Kumar Pandey, Shri Arjun

Ram Meghwal, Shri Punia, Shri Lalchand Kataria, Shri Devi M Patel and Shri Ram Singh Kaswan associate themselves with this issue.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand as to why he did not give speech in Bhojpuri.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: I pledge that I will give speech in Bhojpuri once this language is included in the Eighth schedule.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Article 343 to 351 of the Constitution of India contain language related sections. It is mentioned in the beginning itself that the official language of India will be Hindi. We would want that after acquiring the status of official language, Hindi must be conferred with national language status as well. No, no. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hindi must get a status of international language, Hindi should become the language of United Nations Organisation. As far as Bhojpuri is concerned, it is a local language, it is no more a dialect, in fact it has become a language now. Various small dialects are its associate and sister language and on similar lines Bhojpuri becomes associate language of Hindi. Saint Kabirdas, profound scholars of Hindi like Dr. Hazari Prasad Divedi, Dr. Naamvar Singh, Dr. Kedar Nath Singh, Shakespeare and Kalidas of Bhojpuri language Shri Bhikhari Thakur, who was from Bihar, have also enriched this language. Literature of Shri Mahendra Misi has reflected the culture of India. Bhojpuri is the language of 9 districts in Bihar, 14 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 2 districts in Madhya Pradesh. Apart from that, people in nearly 15 countries speak this language. There are people in various cities who speak this language. Different types of Literature have been written in Bhojpuri. Bhojpuri has been assessed to be the language of 17 crore people in India. All over the world 25 crore people speak Bhojpuri language. Bhojpuri is a very important language in Mauritius, Fiji, Surinam, Guiana. Mauritius has presented a Bill to include Bhojpuri language into its official language. Similarly, Babu Kunwar Singh, Babu Jagjivan Ram, first President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Lok Nayak Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, various legendary leaders of our history came from this language belt. Late Shri Chandrashekhar ji also hailed from this region. I want to admit honestly. This language has such a vast Literature that a number of people use Bhojpuri

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

as a public language. Nearly 8 universities are teaching this language. Why has this language not been included in the Eighth Schedule so far?

I would like to ask the Government that 14 to 22 languages have been included in the Eighth schedule, whereas the number of Bhojpuri speaking people is more than eight languages included in it. Then why Bhojpuri has not included into it. It was informed that report pertaining to Bhojpuri was submitted in the year 2003, which was just dumped by the Government. Has the Government been only pondering over it for 6 years? I myself am a witness of the fact that in this House only Shri Shivraj Patil had informed that it will soon be included into eighth schedule. I would request the Government to interpret the meaning of 'soon'. On the other side Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal affirmed that it will be done soon. I would like to ask the Government, what does it mean by 'soon' and immediately? The Government apprised that it is the recommendation of the committee. I wish to ask if it has got the public support then why is it being delayed? People ask about the parameters adopted by the committee on report. Do the parameters are determined on the basis of favour and recommendation? Do political reasons fix the parameters? The country cannot be run like this. Language is a sensitive matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, we are raising all these questions. We are raising this specific question. What is the reason for Mahapatra Committee Report on Bhojpuri and their seeking opinion for years from all the departments? How many people speak the Sindhi language and how many persons speak Nepali in India. When the request for these languages came then they were accepted and when the question on Bhojpuri arose then we constituted an enquiry committee and we are discussing the report of Committee. Opinion has not been received therefore decision has not been taken. We ask when there is such a mass support for Bhojpuri..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is support language for Hindi. Hindi will be enriched with this..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jagdambika Pal.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It will become a strong national language and International language with it ... (Interruptions) I am concluding. There has been no enquiry into the addition of eight languages out of fourteen languages and law, committee etc. is being suggested for Bhojpuri. They are stating many things. Therefore, I want to ask a question. We are not going to agree. We have understood there is no other alternative than fighting. Therefore, there will be a resulting strong mass agitation. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jagdambika Palji.

... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, there will be such struggle which may not have been demonstrate earlier. With these words. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have put forth your views.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Likewise, for the Bhojpuri language here also. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : These words of the Honouable Member will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Jagdambika Palji, please speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There will be a fight and struggle Government should tell when justice will be delivered? When the justice will be done to 25 crore people of India and the world? Otherwise, be prepared for the struggle. With this Bhojpuri Lok Bhasha Jindabad, folk language, democracy, folk dress, folk lunch will be strengthened. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government should pay attention to it. Otherwise, be prepared for struggle. ... (Interruptions) Rajasthani language is being used for more than 2500 years. ... (Interruptions) Here Rajasthani was the language for doing official work. It is popular in the country therefore Rajasthani language cannot be overlooked. Therefore, it is a question of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages.

Otherwise there will be an agitation and be prepared for it.
...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Enough, you please sit down.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I am very grateful to you. Today a proposal is under consideration of the House to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani language spoken by big percentage of population in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution through a very important calling attention notice. Honourable Minister has stated answering this calling attention that only fourteen languages were included in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution after Independence or at the time of Independence and today twenty-two languages instead of fourteen languages have been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution -whether it is Nepali, Manipuri, Konkani, Sindhi, Bodo, Dogri, Santhali or Maithili, these languages have been included. Honourable House shall welcome the inclusion of these languages, we welcome but today if this House realizes the feelings of this House seriously then today feeling of the majority of the people in the House is to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Honourable Minister has said one thing. Honourable Minister has said that whatever included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution has been done in view of circumstances and demand. Honourable Minister has himself said this. Then, the demand of the entire House was raised in the 14th Lok Sabha which was referred to by Honourable Raghuvanshi and the erstwhile Home Minister of that time has said that we have decided to include in principle the Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and then there is continuity for Government. If this matter is being raised from the Fourteenth Lok Sabha to the 15th Lok Sabha then the assurance given by the erstwhile Home Minister of that time is the treasure of the House, it is treasure of the Government and the present Home Minister should make clear declaration in the House today on the assurance given by the erstwhile Home Minister for the inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and this assurance should be given to this House.

I want to say only one thing that whether today this matter has been raised by Sanjay Nirupam or by us, this matter was not raised by three members only but the matter raised consists the sentiments of all the members. The languages which we have welcomed today are spoken in a limited region-whether

they are spoken in the Konkan region, spoken in the Maithili region, spoken in the Santhal Pargana region if we can welcome the inclusion of these languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution then as on date Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages are spoken in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, all the States of India and even spoken in Surinam and in Trinidad, Mauritius, South America, Caribbean Countries, Guinea and the language which has reached different countries since 18th-19th century, shall not incur any expenditure for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude in brief.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Please listen. Here is my very valuable suggestion. I know that the response of Government would be positive on it. I want to say that just now the names of various renowned literators have been mentioned and also the names of legendary literators have been mentioned. Oh yes, Lalu Yadav ji is also legendary and several other members are also present in the House. Dara Singh Chauhan also belongs to that region and you are in the Chair of the House and you also belong to that region. Speaker of this House Meira Kumar ji herself belongs to that area. At least, 100 Lok Sabha Members of Parliament hail from Bhojpuri speaking region. It is the first dialect and I have brought its grammar. This is brief Bhojpuri grammar. I do not want to go into its details. But if it is said that Bhojpuri is a dialect as has been said about Maithili. But, today that dialect has attained the status of a language and its script is being used. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please brief your speech.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Today its grammar is ready. Grammar of Bhojpuri has been uploaded on our Internet site. As our colleague has said that the history or various literature of this dialect dates back to 1000 years ago and wide range of literary work is available in this language. If World Bhojpuri Conference can be organised in Mauritius and if Bhojpuri can be taught in other countries of the world and award can be conferred in a Mahatma Gandhi Academic Society in Mauritius and Delhi Academy is conferring awards there and Honourable Sir likewise today foundation course is being conducted in Indira Gandhi Open University. I would like to know why is it that a foundation course may be introduced in IGNOU in Mauritius, an award can be given by Hindi Sahitya Academy however it has not officially been included in the eighth schedule - while the fact

remains that this has been practically adopted and assimilated the world over. That way its importance has been proved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, you have made your submission.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : I am concluding. These are my feelings. There may be statistics that as many as 25 crore people speak Bhojpuri or about Rajasthani let me submit where there is no Marwari or where there is no Rajasthani be it Basti or Dumiryaganj or Siddharth Nagar. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister. Please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : Sir, There may be 22 or even 24 languages. I would like to request Honourable Minister of Home Affairs that erstwhile Minister of Home Affairs answered that he would implement it. Even after constituting a committee if the report is not presented, it is alleged that this has been put in the cold storage..... (Interruptions) Mahapatra Committee Report was presented. Mahapatra Committee Report came in the year 2003 and the Committee was constituted in the year 2004. What sort of consideration or perusal has been in place for the last six year?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want that an announcement should be made to implement the Report which has been put in the cold storage for the last six years.....(Interruptions) An announcement should be made to include Bhojpuri and Rajasthani in the eighth schedule..... (Interruptions)

14.46 hrs.

At this Stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Bhisma Shankar alias Kushal Tiwari came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whosoever of the MPs want to associate himself/herself with the matter, he/she may forward their name to the table of the House. Hon'ble Minister, please speak up.

... (Interruptions)

14.47 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and Shri Bhisma Shankar alias Kushal Tiwari went back to their seats.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please bring the House in order. I am ready to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only Minister reply will recorded.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister please give your reply.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, ours is a unique country. Different languages and dialects are spoken here. Our unity exists in the diversity of our country. Our country is a bouquet wherein flowers of different languages and dialects are wouhg. No language is inferior to the other one. All the languages belong to our country and all the language are our national languages.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, I would like to apprise the House through you that our ...(Interruptions). You please bring the House in order, only then I will be able to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you don't want to hear the reply, I will take up the next matter.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPAKER: Honourable Minister, you may speak.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can I speak this way. I am speaking but nobody is getting it ... (Interruptions). You bring the House in order. Only then I may be able to submit something in the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister, did you give the reply.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I understand the sentiments of the hon. Members. This is an important issue, particularly, the demand of Rajasthani and Bhojpuri languages to be included in the

Eighth Schedule, but the scope of the Calling Attention in this House is limited.

Therefore, I respectfully submit to the hon. Members that we can have this discussion on a substantive motion as the time is not available in this current Session. We can have ... *(Interruptions)* We can have a substantive discussion in the next Session because we do not take any decision under the Calling Attention. If you want to have any, then there are other Parliamentary mechanisms through which you can have the discussion). ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran) : If you agree to it, get it implemented by asking the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Laluji, I cannot accept just at this moment. On the spur of the moment, the Government cannot accept or the Government cannot relegate. My most respectful submission is if you want to have a meaningful discussion, you can bring it in any form of substantive discussion, under Rule 193 or so, and then all the Members will have the opportunity to express or give their views. The Minister, at the end of the debate, would then be in a position to respond and articulate. Today we have spent enough time on non-issues. Limited time is now left, and it is three o'clock. There are certain other issues. Please transact some business because the House has been extended to transact certain essential Government Business. My respectful submission to all the Members would be that let the normal business be carried on. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Only what the Minister says will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)**

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said. ... *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would just like to submit that as far as Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages are concerned, their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule is under consideration of the Government. It is under consideration of

the Government and whatever decision is taken will be made known to the House. This is under consideration of the Government and we are considering it on the recommendations of Sitakant Mahapatra Committee Report. *[Place in Library, See LT No. 3098/15/10]*

14.52 hrs.

(iii) DIRECT TAXES CODE, 2010*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to direct taxes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to direct taxes."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.53hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, matters under Rule 377 shall be treated as laid on the Table of the House. Those Members who are desirous of laying their matters under Rule 377 on the Table of the House may send slips at the Table within 20 minutes. Only those matters for which slips have been received at the Table shall form part of the proceedings and rest of the matters shall be treated as lapsed.

- (i) **Need to set up food processing industries and cold storages in Cuddalore Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu**

* Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 30.08.2010

**Treated as laid on the Table

SHRI S. ALAGIRI (Cuddalore) : There is a scope to set up Food Processing Industries based on Banana and Cashew nut in my Parliamentary Constituency Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. Crores of rupees, supposed to be earned from Cashew nut and Banana is being lost every year due to non-availability of Food Processing Industries and Cold Storage facilities. The Department of Food Processing Industries must explore the possibility for setting up of Food Processing Industries in the area. The Cold Storage facilities are also not available to the farmers so as to enable them to protect their foodgrains, fruits and vegetables from getting perished. Since, this Parliamentary Constituency falls under the coastal area, the sea food industries can also be set up here for which demand is increasing in the foreign countries.

I urge upon the concerned Minister to take necessary steps for setting up Food Processing Industries and Cold Storages in my Parliamentary Constituency of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Need to include water as a subject in Concurrent list or Union list by suitably amending the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution

SHRI RAJAIHA SIRICILLA (Warangal): It is well known that there is no culture without agriculture. There is no agriculture without water. Water is an important natural costliest component among all other resources. We know, we cannot create water and it is available naturally. Fortunately, India has abundant rainfall. It is about around 1000 MM per annum. There are certain countries which does not have rainfall at all *i.e.* close to zero. We are facing the peculiar situation wherein one part of the country is affected by drought and the other part by floods. Both are causing damage and threat to the country. As per the statistics, 10 to 15 per cent of the available water only is being utilized for the agriculture purpose and 85% to 90% available water is going into sea. But there are several disputes in inter-state or Inter-regional sharing of water. Several dispute and awards are pending at various courts and committees. It is consuming several years, man hours and court hours in settlement of the issues. It was published in journals that there will be a world war on account of want of drinking water in 2045. There are several agitations in each State for water. As such, the subject of Water Resources was kept under State list in order to inculcate interest and manage the water resources and to use it for cultivation.

Therefore, there is dire necessity to think and initiate debates and discussions on water conservation and include water as a subject in Concurrent or Union list by bringing suitable amendments in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

(iii) Need to open a CGHS Dispensary in Vasundhara Ghaziahad Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (latur): Approval was accorded by the Government to set up a CGHS Dispensary at Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, however, that has been lying pending even today. The said colony came into existence way back in 1997-98, A representation was also referred to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to set up a dispensary there. However, the requisite result is yet to come.

During the 13th Lok Sabha the petition Committee recommended the setting up of a dispensary here which has not yet been implemented on the ground. All the colonies and settlements around Vasundhara will be largely benefitted from the dispensary. There are as many as 2500 CGHS Card holders in this locality who are faced with severe problems for want of dispensary. This area is witnessing a rise in population day by day. Sir, having regard to the facts stated above. I would like to urge upon the Government through you to do the needful to set up a dispensary there at the earliest possible - for which sufficient space is also available in sector 6.

(iv) Need to expedite completion of Alappuzha by-pass project in Kerala

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): Alappuzha Bypass project, which was started in 1980s has not yet been completed even after the 30th year of its commencement. The construction works are still pending due to many reasons such as four-laning works of NH 47, land acquisition and completion of Railway Over Bridges. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) have connected NH 47 to the said bypass project. The bypass project is proposed through the beach side of Alappuzha and aiming to protect beach while road projects are realized. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had assigned one

consultancy before six months for the feasibility study of constructing a two lane fly over bypass in this area. Its report is still awaited. It is clear that, if the four laning works of NH is clubbed with bypass project it will be delayed for many years. But the bypass is a necessity of the entire residents of the district and also the travellers. The one and only option for its prompt completion is that the project should be taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways apart from the other NH projects and to complete the bypass works separately. So the Government should take necessary steps to expedite the completion of this project.

(v) Need to improve the BSNL landline services in Kuttanadu Taluk of Alappuzha district, Kerala

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelkkara): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government regarding the deterioration in and restoration of landline telephones services in Kuttandu Taluk of Alappuzha (Kerala).

There is a severe crisis prevailing in the mofussil areas under the SSA-Alappuzha (Kerala). The services particularly pertaining to landline connections in the areas under SSA-Alappuzha are very much affected. Telephone Landlines under various telephone exchanges of Kuttandu Taluk are in precarious condition.

The customers are surrendering their landline connections due to the poor service which is mainly because of poor circle management of Kerala Telecom circle. The immediate and necessary steps are required to be taken to win back the confidence of BSNL customers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to restore normalcy in landline services in Kuttanadu Taluk of Alappuzha SSA.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance from Prime Minister Relief Fund to the people affected due to cloud burst, torrential rains and landslides in Uttarakhand

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA (Tehri Garhwal): Normal life in all the districts of Uttarakhand state has gone haywire due to incessant rains, cloudburst and landslide. The houses, stores, markets, motor route/approach road and fields and barns of people residing in various hilly areas have been completely

destroyed and they are facing a shortage of necessary items.

Bhatvari market and village lying ahead of Gangotri in Uttarkasi district of Uttarakhand state has fallen prey to this natural disaster. The houses, stores and fields of the people have been destroyed in the land quagmire. Similar incidents have taken place in many other districts of the state.

The State Government is providing a mere two thousand rupees to the people whose houses have been destroyed partially and only 35,000 rupees to the people whose houses have been completely destroyed - which is substantially a very low amount. It is impossible to carry out repair or construction of any building using this amount. No assistance is being provided to such persons whose stores have been destroyed.

Even after making a request to the Government of Uttarakhand no steps have been taken to hike the amount of assistance being given to the victims.

I request the Prime Minister to immediately provide assistance amount keeping in view the special circumstances caused by the disaster in Uttarakhand to the people whose buildings and stores have been destroyed and where crops have been lost on the lines of Leh in Jammu Kashmir from the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund after securing the list from the State Government.

(vii) Need to take steps to check illegal immigration of Bangladeshi nationals into the country

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): The issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh is now not only confined to India-Bangladesh border. Their anti-national activities in various parts of the country have become a cause of concern for all, not only from the point of view of law and order but from other angles also. Today about two and a half crore Bangladeshi immigrants are illegally living in the entire country. These infiltrators have wrecked the balance of population in all the north-east states and West Bengal and in Bihar. These illegal infiltrators have got their names registered in the electoral roll and have also obtained ration cards. Today in twenty Lok Sabha constituencies and in about 125 legislative assembly seats these infiltrators have reached such a state wherein they are influencing the outcome of the elections. Their numbers are in lakhs even in

capital Delhi which is turning out to be a law and order issue. Various groups of Bangladeshis are found to be involved in various crimes and anti national activities.

The Minister of Home Affairs is urged that in order to rein in anti-national activities and to repatriate the Bangladeshi infiltrators appropriate steps should be taken by the Government.

(viii) Need to review the proposal of widening of N.H. 4-A in Goa keeping in view the interest of large number of residential and commercial establishments facing dislocation.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (North Goa): Government has taken a decision to widen N.H. 4A in order to link NH-4 and NH-17 located in Goa. Survey work between Molem and Panaji has also been carried out. The State Government and other government agencies were kept in darkness by the authority before carrying out this survey. Earlier there was a proposal to keep the width of this NH as 45 meter due to which hundreds of buildings, stores, temples, mosques, churches etc. situated along Fonda to Panaji were on the verge of demolition. However Government has taken a decision to increase its width from 45 meter to 60 meter. As a result of the said decision by the Government there is a possibility of demolition of thousands of buildings and people becoming homeless due to which there is severe anguish among the people of the area.

Keeping in view the possibility of thousands of people rendered homeless due to the construction of this national highway, my request to the Government is that widening, of the NH-4A is being carried out in order to link the said two national highways, other options should be explored for that purpose like even before the advent of Fonda City the said two national highways can be linked together by constructing a new way between Fonda and Berna. Besides this, there exists many other options also.

Hence my request to the Government is that keeping in view the sentiments of the people of the region immediately put a stop to the construction of the National highway by exploring other options and then only carry out the widening of the said national highway - 4A.

(ix) Need to open Central Government and Railway

Hospitals in Jalore and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan and provide adequate funds for the upgradation of the medical facilities in the region.

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (Jalore): The condition of hospitals at local, tehsil and district levels in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalore Sirohi (Rajasthan) is very miserable. The provision for modern facilities, equipments, blood bank etc. is not adequate there. When people of the locality fall ill, they have to cover a distance of 200 to 300 kilometers to avail treatment facilities in places like Jodhpur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai etc. Owing to shortage of money, poor people fail to spend so much money to travel such distances to avail the treatment. As a result unwanted incidents take place.

Hence, through this House my request to the Government of India is to grant funds for providing state of the art facilities in local, tehsil and district level hospitals of Jalore and Sirohi districts. In addition to this central or Railway hospitals may be set up in this region so that people of the said region can be benefitted from such a move.

(x) Need to shift Bauxite Dumping Yard from residential area in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT (Lohardaga): My parliamentary constituency Lohardaga is a dumping ground for bauxite due to which the health of the people of the region is being adversely affected. This dumping ground belongs to a private mining company. As this dumping yard is situated in the middle of my parliamentary constituency, Lohardaga city, potable water level has come down significantly in the area due to repeated digging and the city is encountering the issue of potable water. Owing to this dumping yard dust particles are spreading in the city. The extent of sound and air pollution has also increased and health related issues among the people are on the rise. Owing to this dumping yard, movement of heavy vehicles remains unabated from dawn to dusk as a result of which serious accidents and traffic jams have become a common feature in this area. Today the life of the common people have become arduous due to this dumping yard. Many a times I have urged for the relocation of the said yard. So, through you, I urge the Government to take suitable action in this regard to relocate this yard away from the city keeping in view the sentiments of the people.

- (xi) **Need to review the proposed setting up of sewage treatment plant at Sathawan, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh keeping in view its potential adverse impact on the ecology of the area.**

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): The fertile land belonging to the farmers of more than half a dozen villages of district Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is being acquired for the construction of Sathawan sewage treatment plant due to which resentment has spread among the farmers of the region and they are agitating and demonstrating on a large scale against this move. Place of importance for Buddhist religion Sarnath and many national monuments and museum are located adjacent to the proposed Sathawan treatment plant - where thousands of Buddhist monks and foreign tourists pay visit every year. The birthplace of the writer of national eminence Munshi Premchand is also near Sathawan where beautification work is being done. Each year great writers of the country visit the birthplace of Munshi Premchand. The environment here is very clean and very beautiful from the view point of tourism. A sewage plant has already been set up in Dinapur at Varanasi district which is functional. As a result of the usage of water released by the sewage plant for the purpose of irrigation the production of crops and fruits and vegetables is adversely affected. Owing to the consumption of said vegetables and fruits people are afflicted with many diseases. People residing in the adjacent areas of this plant are getting polluted water for their consumption. Ground water is getting polluted on a large scale. Owing to the construction of sewage plant various types of fitness, diseases and the number of flies, mosquitoes in adjacent areas are rampantly increasing which is posing a serious threat to the lives of the people residing nearby. Citizens of this region are opposed to this move due to which the use of sewage water for irrigational purposes was discontinued but the environment is still being polluted. If Sathawan Sewage plant is set up, the life style of the people of the region will be adversely affected, crops will be destroyed and the people of the region will have to combat with different types of diseases.

So, through this House, my request to the Government is that keeping in view the above difficult situation acquisition of hundreds of hectare fertile and agricultural land from the farmers for the construction of Sathawan sewage plant may be done away with. The proposed sewage plant may be set up in infertile

and unproductive land away from dense population.

- (xii) **Need to set up training institute for carpet weaving in Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh and look into the problems being faced by carpet exporters**

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): I would like to draw the attention of the House through you towards the carpet business of the country which has been affected due to global economic recession. However, recently the demand of carpet has increased in the world. My Parliamentary Constituency Bhadohi has been a leader in carpet business. But, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you towards some of its problems. Earlier the weavers used to make carpets alongwith their families in villages in the form of cottage industry. They have stopped imparting training in weaving to their children due to the problem of child labourers resulting in set back to export of carpets worth crores of rupees.

Therefore, the Government should train the youth and ladies by opening the Training centres to bring good and trained artisans under this industry. Besides, an amount of more then rupees 500 crore from the export of carpet is blocked in the foreign countries and there is a delay in making payment to the exporters. Therefore, ban should be imposed on the export of borrowed goods as per the policy of the year 2002. The permission for export should be given only after obtaining bank guarantee. We demand this from the Government.

- (xiii) **Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya In Supaul Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR (Supaul): Through you, I would like to draw the attention of Honorable Minister of Human Resource Development towards the popular demand of the people with regard to setting up of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Parliamentary Constituency Supaul, Supaul and Mahepura districts come under my Parliamentary Constituency, Supaul is adjacent to the Nepal border and there is no centrally sponsored school for better education due to which talented students and poor and helpless students in rural areas are deprived of education. There are several establishments of the Central Government including offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in my Parliamentary Constituency. Hundreds of children of employees working in them are deprived of better education every year whereas

Kendriya Vidyalayas should have been established in such places much earlier.

Therefore, the Honorable Minister is requested to take initiative for establishing Kendriya Vidyalaya in Supaul so that the people can get quality education and I too can help two children of my constituency to get quality by using my privilege to enroll them in the Vidyalaya.

(xiv) Need to shift the toll tax centre near Collectorate Office in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu to a place outside the city limits

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Madam, in my Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu many large, medium and small industries are located. Industries of various kinds such as electrical, electronic, automobile, mechanical, iron and steel are flourishing here which are providing employment to a large number of people.

However, the people of the district are facing problems as they have to pay toll tax even for travelling within the town. In Krishnagiri district, toll gate is situated near the Collectorate office on NH 47. If one has to go to Collectorate Office from the town, first he has to cross the toll gate by paying the toll tax. Large number of offices are situated there and people going to Bangalore from Tamil Nadu, are using this toll gate only. It fetches huge revenue than any other toll gate in the State. As the toll gate is close to the town limit, people are often forced to pay toll tax which results in frequent tussle with the authorities. As a result, the poor agriculturists whose lands are situated beyond the toll gate, traders, students and local of people have to cross the toll gates several times for one reason or the other suffer.

I, therefore, urge upon Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to direct the authorities for shifting the toll gate from near Collectorate office, Krishnagiri to a place far beyond the town limit.

(xv) Need to declare Thrissur in Kerala as a Heritage district

SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur): Thrissur occupies an important place in the history and culture of Kerala and is known as the Cultural Capital of the State. From very early times, Thrissur became an important centre of Sanskrit learning. The great

Sankara Acharya had taught Advaita here.

The history of Thrissur district since 12th century has seen the rise and growth of Perumpadappu Swarupam. The 14th and 15th centuries constituted a period of aggressive wars in the course of which the Zamorins of Calicut acquired a large part of the present Thrissur district. In the subsequent centuries the Portuguese dominated the scene. Later European powers like the Dutch and the English came on the scene. From the very beginning, Thrissur was in the fore front of the national movement. The famous Guruvayur Satyagraha is a memorable episode in the history of the National Movement. The present Trichur District was carved out of a bigger district of the same name on 1st April, 1958.

Kerala's architecture has grown here also and the temple features low, tiled roofs, an abundance of wood work, and the famous 'Koothambalam' or theatre hall with sloping roofs of metal plates within which is performed the dramatic art from 'Chakiarkoothu'. The famous Kerala Kalamandiram, Cheruthuruthi, founded by the late poet Vallathol Naryana Menon, is in Trichur district and is an approved Deemed University. It is a centre of performing arts, specifically significant to Kerala culture. The Kerala Sahitya academy and Kerala Sangeetha Nadaka Akademi are situated in Trichur district.

I urge upon the Government to declare Thrissur as a heritage district.

(xvi) Need to set up a Steel Plant of SAIL in Keonjhar, Orissa

[Translation]

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI (Keonjhar): The SAIL produces steel in India and the supply of raw material for production is from Keonjhar, Sundergarh district of Orissa and Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, Keonjhar alone supplies 70 percent raw material. It is regrettable that SAIL has not yet installed any plant in a place from where raw material is extracted whereas Steel Plant has been installed in Durgapur, Rourkela, Vishakhapattanam which are too far away from the place of supply of raw material and for this reason the cost of transportaion of raw material to these plants is very high and pollution also spreads during the process of carrying these goods. SAIL is contemplating to double the production of steel. If this plant is installed in Keonjhar, then the transportation cost

of carrying raw material and pollution from it can be avoided. Unemployment prevalent among tribal people of this area can be removed. All the basic facilities to set up the above plant are available here. There are roads, railway lines and provision of water at this place.

Through the House, the Government is requested to instruct the SAIL to take immediate action to set up steel based industry in Keonjhar.

(xvii) Need to expedite rural electrification work under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana in Jaynagar Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal

[English]

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana has met with a limited success in my constituency, Jaynagar under South 24-Parganas district of West Bengal. While it was promised to complete the work of rural electrification by the year 2010, merely 40% of the target has been reached till date. Paucity of pillars, wires, transformers and other accessories are hindering works. I have learnt that more than Rs. 13,000 crores under the scheme remain unspent with the State Government.

As inconvenience caused to the people due to lack of electricity in this backward Sunderban area are immense, I shall request concerned Ministries of Government of India to take up the matter with State Government of West Bengal and speed up the work of rural electrification.

14.54 hrs.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - Deferred

- (I) ENEMY PROPERTY (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL, 2010
- (II) ORISSA (ALTERATION OF NAME) BILL, 2010
- (III) CONSTITUTION(ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule) - Deferred.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 13. I call the Minister now.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, what about item number 10?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yesterday, it was not answered, therefore, today Minister Sir will answer.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What about Enemy Property Bill on the number 10? Item Member ten should be taken as per order.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam, I will respond to that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this morning, the House is aware that some hon. Members raised some issues regarding the continuation of the discussion on the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act and the House had to be adjourned. This Act, of course, is a 1968 Act. The circumstances under which an Ordinance was promulgated is well-known to the hon. Members. It is stated in the Memorandum accompanying the Ordinance. After the Ordinance was promulgated and a Bill was introduced, some concerns were raised. We had extensive discussions. I can say without fear of contradiction that we had extensive discussions with many, many leaders and many Members of the House and some official amendments were introduced. This morning, after the House was adjourned, it was represented that Members would require more time to study the Ordinance along with the official amendments. Let me formulate their position. They say they want more time to study the Ordinance along with the official amendments and, therefore, they can take a more comprehensive view. After discussions we think that this is a reasonable request. Therefore my submission to the House is that we will bring a fresh Bill incorporating the official amendments in the Bill in the next Session, and in the mean while whatever legal steps have to be taken will be taken by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I would like to say something about it.

(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the constitution of Standing Committee, it has become a rule and convention that whenever a new Bill is introduced or any Amendment is brought in the old Bill, the Bill is sent to the Standing Committee. Only exception to it is when the Ordinance is converted into a Bill. This time also this Bill *i.e.* Enemy Property Bill was introduced in the form of Ordinance and you came here to convert the Ordinance into Bill. Therefore, we had not made a request to sent this Bill to Standing Committee we has said that when you would bring the Bill, we would put our case and, thereafter, we were ready to pass this alongwith it some Amendments, few Government Amendments were introduced officially and these Amendments are altering the original character of the Bill. Therefore we said that we would not pass this Bill with Amendments.

Today there is a complication and an important point in what we have said. I want to ask you this point. You want that the people should discuss these Amendments for more time. Therefore, this Bill has been shaped as a new Bill and you are referring a Bill to Standing Committee alongwith these Amendments but you have said that you would bring the Bill in Winter session, then is it not the case that you are repromulgating a new ordinance for these Amendments by letting this Ordinance to lapse. If you are doing this, then we will oppose it. It is a case of malafide intention on your part. Therefore, I will like to say that the Hon'ble Minister must state in a straight forward manner if he want so Some members have told you that if they want to read more on the Amendments which you have brought alongwith Bill, then there is only one way that you refer this Bill to Standing Committee alongwith Amendments. The legal investigation of these amendments will be done there and a detailed discussion on it can also take place. If the Bill alongwith Amendments(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, be silent, stay calm.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If the Amended new Bill is sent to the Standing Committee alongwith Amendments, then we are with you because its legal aspects will also be discussed in Standing Committee and the takeholders will also be heard and we will get an opportunity to present our case. We will present our views when the Bill is introduced in whichever form after the presentation of report of the Standing Committee. If

you are sending the Bill alongwith these Amendments to the Standing Committee, then more time will be available to express views in Standing Committee. However, your point came at a time when you said that you would bring the new Bill during the Winter Session. Then what will you do during the inter-session? Meanwhile, if you want to repromulgate any Ordinance alongwith Amendments or worse Amendment and want to bring any new Ordinance, then it reflects a malafide intention on your part and I would like to say that we would strongly oppose it. You please state in detail what your intention is.(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we raise an objection to it. The title of Enemy Property should be changed to Evacuee Property Act. The title of Enemy Property is illogical and wrong, and it should be changed to Evacuee Property(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect, there is no need to widen the debate now. I take note of the issues raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have great respect for her views. Legislations is proposed by Government - when hon. Members point out that they want more time to study the legislation, we think, it is reasonable. Therefore, we would bring forward, as I said, a Bill that incorporates these official amendments, which have been discussed extensively, in the manner in which consultations take place outside the House with Leaders of Parties. So, there is nothing new about it. There is nothing surreptitious about it. We discussed with everybody. Now, what should be done between now and the time when we are able to bring a new Bill incorporating amendments is a matter which the Government would consider, and certainly, we would keep in mind whatever the Leader of the Opposition said but I do not have to answer, I submit with respect, hypothetical issues. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): An important point in the speech of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is that it has been a convention since the constitution of Standing Committee according to which when any new Bill is introduced and especially any such Bill is introduced in which there are two opinions, then the Bill is mandatorily referred to the Standing

Committee. That was why it was not referred to Standing Committee. However, it appears from what you have said now is that you want to let the Ordinance lapse because everyone knows that if the Bill is not introduced, then it will lapse. What can be done if it lapses and we will have no idea. Therefore, this question was asked whether you are going to bring Ordinance again in such amended form.

[English]

If you do not reply to this, it only shows that the Government is determined to see that the law relating to this does not go to the Standing Committee. This is not right. Therefore, that she asked you very specifically, do you intend to bring this - because for all practical purposes, these amendments that you have proposed now undo the Ordinance, practically, and I am surprised because I was told that in this case, it was not only the *Rashtrapati* issuing a formal Ordinance but she, the people who met her, she discussed the matter with them also, and she said that this is the right Ordinance - I am sorry, I do not want to refer to that - but basically, I feel that this would be the first time, an Ordinance has been brought and the Bill to replace it is not being moved and basic amendments which change the nature of the Ordinance was being moved but now you don't propose move even that. I wish you come out clearly what do you intend to do.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think, we are looking for ghost where none reside actually. The point is, there was an Ordinance. Official amendments have been proposed after extensive consultation with every Leader of the House of different parties. Now, some leaders say, they want more time to look at it. What is unreasonable about it? In the meanwhile, what needs to be done, Government would reflect on what needs to be done and will take whatever steps need to be done in the meanwhile. Therefore, I do not think there is any need to harbour any suspicion or ill-will. We will come back to this House with whatever we have to bring to the House. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALJI TANDON (Lucknow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the property is worth 25 thousand crores. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No decision has been taken on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): No discussion has been taking place on this issue... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly make your point when a discussion on this issue takes place.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No discussion is taking place right now on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When a discussion will take place, then only you speak on the issue.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When a discussion will take place, then only you speak as the issue. The Bill is not being introduced the right now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they speak from that side, we will also speak from this side.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, if they speak from that side, we will also speak from this side, you give us time. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No one will speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALJI TANDON: Sir, kindly listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Leader of the Opposition and Shri Advaniji both have expressed their views. Let us move forward now. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Kindly give us a chance to speak after they have completed their speeches. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the same story will be repeated then. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Bill is not being moved, then there is no need to speak about that. When the Bill be presented, then only we would talk on it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have to make a submission regarding Item Nos. 11 and 12 - those which are listed here regarding change in the name of the State and the language. Some hon. Members from Orissa had represented that there is a rethink on this matter on their part. It was, in fact, required that we should put it off for the time being. Therefore, we decided that we would take it up in the next Session. Therefore, I request that we may go to item No.13.

15.06 hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

(I) Flood and Drought situation in the country-Contd.

[Translation]

*SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (Jalgaon): Floods and drought are ruining several parts of our country but our Government is not serious to check this problem. I would like to submit that the Bill formulated by the Central Investigation Commission 33 years ago is still pending with several State Governments for its passage. This Bill was forwarded to State Governments in 1957 by the Central Investigation Commission. Had the bill passed at that time, the commission would have been empowered for evacuating people from flood affected areas, taking stock of the situation in such areas, providing compensation to affected people and formulating policy

*Speech was laid on the Table.

regarding habitation in flood prone areas. This could have averted the wrath of floods.

I personally feel that if the raining at the origin of the rivers does not stop, not only the plains of Ganga-Yamuna, but the plains of Brahmaputra can also come under the wrath of flood. Today, half a dozen of rivers are flowing above the mark of danger. At the same time, the lower regions of other rivers are also under the influence of flood. Besides, the lower parts of several towns are submerged with water due to opening of gates of barrages made on these rivers. The crop was destroyed due to drought first, now the flood is causing havoc to the crops.

Most of the tributaries of Ganga are flowing near the mark of danger. We can witness that due to continuous rain in many states, the situation of flood has occurred at the origin of the rivers. The situation in some states is very serious. The rain has not stopped as yet. Major rivers like Ganga are touching the mark of danger. The cities, people and agricultural land situated on the banks of these rivers have started submerging.

I would like to inform the House that Yamuna in Uttarakhand is overflowing at its origin itself. Yamuna has crossed the mark of danger in Muzaffarpur in Uttar Pradesh, Yamuna Nagar in Haryana and in the capital city Delhi in the country. Gates of the barrage have been opened in Tajewala, Haryana due to excess of water. This has submerged various towns and villages situated at the banks of Yamuna. The lower areas of Capital city Delhi have been submerged with the water of floods.

I would like to demand from the Government to provide immediate compensation to flood affected states in the country. Our Government only promises to provide compensation but it is unable to provide the same within prescribed time-frame. I would like to ask the reasons for the same.

I would like to inform that even today 68 percent of the agricultural crop is dependent on the rains. Due to excessive use of ground and surface water and with the changed circumstances on account of global warming, the scope of drought has further widened. I would like to inform that several districts in the drought-affected states are now in the grip of floods. Problems of farmers are on the rise. Their crops have been damaged and now they are facing the problem of unemployment. The cycle of migration in the search of

employment has begun once again. We all are aware that the farmers in various states, especially in Vidarbha are in deep trouble and the poor farmers of Marathwada have been badly affected by the floods. The Government should provide them immediate compensation but it is not able to provide the same in time. I would like to ask as to why the Government is delaying the matter and playing with the lives of farmers.

I feel that the reason of drought has exposed the mismanaged calamity management. There is neither any arrangement of monitoring nor any internal audit. The situation is worse. Even the calamity management is not aware about the expenditure being incurred for calamity management. As a result the fund allocated by the Centre earlier to the tune of Rs. 400 crores for the relief and rehabilitation has come under the scanner.

A number of people have lost their lives due to the drought. An amount to the tune of Rs. 28 crores has been withdrawn from various treasuries of calamity relief fund in the past five years but a detailed description of the expenditure has not been furnished, I would like to ask as to what the Government is doing in this regard?

As per the official figures, 21.88 crore rupees were withdrawn during 2004-05, the DC Bill of which has not been submitted, Likely, no account is available with the department in respect of amount withdrawn in the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the tune of Rs. 5.32 crores, 47 lakhs and 23 lakhs respectively.

Most of the political parties are demanding to form an all-party committee for drought relief in the wake of present scenario. I believe that no effort has been made in this regard as yet. The situation is getting worse day-by-day. The Government has kept itself focused on various issues like agriculture, food supplies, rural development etc. in the wake of drought situation but still the expenditure is not being incurred as per budgetary provisions. In the current financial year 2009-10, despite the situation of drought in the various parts of the country and the wholehearted efforts of the Government to tackle the same, the pace of development is very slow.

I would like the Government to formulate a policy in this regard so that justice could be done to the families living in the

flood and drought affected areas.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): A discussion is taking place in the House under Rule 193 regarding the situation arising out of floods and drought in the country. On one hand there is flood in the country and on the other hand there is drought. This contrasting situation is a natural calamity. Today man has reached planet Mars and Moon but he is helpless before the nature. Some are holding global warming guilty for this natural calamity. Unlimited exploitation of natural resources is also a reason behind this situation and some man created incidents are also responsible for this situation. Place from where I belong is full of coal mines. The stones, the soil, which come out of these mines is called O.B. dump, is deposited on the banks of the river due to which the river becomes narrow and this causes floods. Earlier, floods never occurred in this region, today that area is flood-affected. This is taking place due to sheer neglect by local administration and the negligence of coal mines management. Even after bringing these matters to the notice of the Government, no action has been taken. If this situation continues, the helpless farmer is left with no other choices than to watch his crops getting submerged. Rural people are forced to leave their places and here the rules for providing compensation to the flood affected is so strict that administration gives compensation after many months, years. This has caused resentment among the people. My request to the Government is that it should take this matter seriously and it should remove the mountains of O.B. dump deposited by WCL along the banks of the rivers in our region and it should provide adequate funds for the assistance and the resettlement of villagers and farmers affected by this calamity and it should carry out development work there.

In the beginning, I talked about the contrariety of floods and drought. NDA Government led by the hon'ble Atalji had taken a decision to implement the river-linking project after taking cognizance of the above fact. Floods can be controlled by supplying water to drought prone areas. But after taking into account the political pluses and minuses, UPA Government did not pay any attention towards the said project, A committee headed by the then hon'ble Minister Suresh Prabhu had presented a report about the project. Why the Government is not making that report public? Whether this Government has

put the work regarding river-linking project into the cold storage? This should come into light as a necessary and ambitious project of the country.

I urge upon the Government not to consider it from a political viewpoint but consider it keeping in mind the national interest and start the river-linking project by providing resources so that the said project can be completed expeditiously.

*SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul) : Through you, I would like to tell this House about the actual position of floods and drought in the country. The natural calamity has affected 13 states situated in the lower parts of India as found in the year 2010 and the Government had provided rupees 8000 crores to 80 districts of the states as a relief measure.

I am of the opinion that a Bill is pending before the House which was prepared on the basis of central inquiry commission report. This shows that the Central Government does not require this Bill. It also shows that perhaps the Central Government is unaware of the actual magnitude of natural calamity and in the event of the Bill being passed, perhaps maximum number of states which are affected by the natural calamities would have got the right to formulate the policy regarding rehabilitation, resettlement and compensation and shifting of the people from the affected areas and also carrying out survey of flood affected areas, so that people can be saved from the ravages of the floods.

I am of the opinion that most of the big rivers destroy the districts surrounding the flood-prone areas of the state each year. Today we can see that the condition of the most of the big rivers is the same, they are flowing above the danger mark. Have we made a mention of this phenomenon in the constitution with golden letters after independence and today also it is engraved in golden letters in the pages of constitution. This reveals the fact that only after taking into account the complete details of the geological status of the country, the framers of the constitution had mentioned it there and the constitution was prepared keeping in mind the importance of public matters, protection of lives and properties and their development.

It pains me a lot to say that even today floods and drought are affecting the parts of such a big country. Are we lacking the will to take steps in this regard or are we not ready to accept those states, which are facing this calamity every year as part

*Speech was laid on the Table.

of our country?

The first priority of the country should be the concern about the country's development and it is necessary that the Government's commitment towards the planned development should be one of its eternal necessary features.

I am of the view that we treat floods and drought as natural calamities however perhaps we do not wish to implement pending schemes. Have we not made any plans to counter floods and drought or we do not want to implement them at all. The scheme to link rivers is perhaps pending. A vast country like India needs such a scheme, with which we can tide over this calamity and emerge strongly as a developing nation in the world.

Today every country is concerned about the status of the environment. The world is concerned about saving water and giving uniform growth to vegetation and trees, however, if we want to give uniform shape to the rivers, then through this scheme of linking rivers we can produce complete shape to all work through both these forms which will protect our environment. Water will be conserved and we can bring the weaker states into the group of developing states and by completely overhauling the entire shapes of the developing states, we will position ourselves as a developing nation in the world.

Today the condition of our country's capital has also become similar to those of the lower states, Yamuna has destroyed the weak lower strata which do not have the capacity or power even to stand properly. When the capital itself is reeling under destruction, then what to say of those big rivers which are creating havoc and why the Government is not extending complete co-operation to the states to make them strong?

Today the farmers who are called the backbone of our country is so badly affected by the floods and drought that they either commit suicides or are compelled to migrate to other places leaving their land behind which for them, is a motherly figure. Why is it so Sir? Who is to blame for their ill fate? That natural calamity or Government's inaction? We have to show concern for those weak states and its farmers and the time is ripe to provide special importance to the farmers who keep the country alive and by giving legal status to all these things we have to save the farmers.

I feel that everything about the drought- flood management committee has come out in the open. Even today there is no provision for monitoring system, Internet facility in this management committee. Perhaps it is a condemnable matter that disaster management committee itself does not know how the amount was spent or where the amount was spent.

So keeping in view the last and current scenario, most of the political parties have demanded to form an all party committee. Government should take important steps to formulate a policy in this regard so that justice should be meted out to the families of people affected by the floods and drought in the states.

*SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): At the outset I would like to thank you for initiating a discussion on floods and drought under Rule 193.

Today, even after 63 years of our independence, our Government is aware that our country has to face devastation by drought or flood every year. We all know it very well that these natural calamities cannot be prevented but people can be safeguarded from them.

Sir, from the assessment of the situation it becomes evident that every year thousands of people are affected by floods and the Government offers compensation to the affected people. Instead had the Government evacuated people residing in the flood-prone areas to safe places before hand, the Government would not have the liability of paying the compensation and the lives of people would also have saved.

It is national calamity and on one hand, every year floods cause devastation to the tune of crores of rupees and put thousands of lives in danger, and on the other, thousands of people suffer due to drought. Thereafter the Government provides compensation and this process is continuing even after 63 years of our independence.

Sir, all the disaster management policies of the Government are limited to the papers and are not yielding any concrete results. I would like to request the Government that it is a matter of serious concern and the Government should endeavour to find a permanent solution to this problem with the cooperation of all the parties.

*SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): The entire

*Speech was laid on the Table.

country is gripped by drought with some places having floods too. What are the reasons for this? Nobody has even tried to find its root cause. The entire country receives 4000 cubic metres of water through rains out of which only 18 percent is conserved and the rest get wasted. If the situation is not managed properly, it would have horrible consequences. The World Bank had warned in this regard way back in 2005 and urged to work in this direction. But even after five years of this warning nothing has been done in this regard. It is a grave danger for the environment the way nature is being abused, forests are being cut and only concrete jungle is being created. Today, only the shares or real estate companies are on the rise and the real estate companies are acquiring the farming land of the farmer by luring them and creating the concrete jungles. This is very unfortunate. The Government is encouraging the real estate companies and demoralizing the farmers. Farmers are helpless today from all quarters. They are bearing the brunt of nature today. They are helpless due to land acquisition, price rise, non-availability of fertilizers, not receiving remunerative prices of their agricultural produce and the middlemen.

The way modernity is making progress, it is severely ruining the nature resulting in occurrence of natural calamities such as polluted environment, drought, hailing, cloud bursting, land slide etc. But the Government has totally ignored this issue and it is not giving any attention in this regard.

My parliamentary constituency Nalanda is facing drought for the last two years with the adverse impact on the paddy crop. Only 24 percent paddy plantation could be done. Last year also there was much severe drought and only 16 percent plantation was done. If this trend continues, the farmers would be ruined. Presently, they are almost ruined. They neither get compensation from the Central Government nor have they got any scheme for better irrigation facilities. The farmer is the most tolerant creature of this earth and he has been compared with the God. The profession of agriculture has been considered as the best profession. But whether this fact holds ground in the present scenario. The livelihood of the farmers is being snatched. They are being displaced from their homes but they are still silent and they start preparations for the next crop with double zeal. The story "Poos Ki Raat" by famous storywriter Munshi Prem Chand presents the exact condition of the Indian farmers.

Better water management and irrigation facilities are needed today but the Government is not paying any attention towards this. Ministry of Irrigation has been renamed as Ministry of Water Resources, but it is not doing its work properly.

Thirty-eight districts in Bihar were declared drought affected and a Central team had also gone there recently. This team had itself studied the condition of farmers in my parliamentary constituency. They can be asked about the pathetic condition of the farmers of my parliamentary constituency. Even if the recommendations of the Central team are implemented, the compensation will still be given at the old rates only, which will not benefit the farmers at all.

I demand from the Central Government that an Empowered Group of Ministers itself should visit my parliamentary constituency along with other districts and only then the bitter truth will be revealed. Every time a Central team conducts a visit and submits its report. The compensation is given on the old rates but a permanent solution of this solution is not found. When an Empowered Group of Ministers would visit there, they would be able to assess the exact condition of the farmers.

I also demand from the Central Government that arrangement should be made for 10 deep boring hand pumps for drinking water and 2 deep boring submersible pump sets (20 hp) for irrigation in every Panchayat in every block in my parliamentary constituency Nalanda district. Only then the farmers could be survived, their fields could be irrigated and their entire family could get safe drinking water. The Central Government should, at least, make available 40 kg. rice, 20 kg. wheat and 20 litres of kerosene per family from the ration shop at the highly concessional rates for the people of my parliamentary constituency Nalanda who do not have grains due to the two years continuous drought so that they could survive. Besides, their K.C.C. loans for the concerned two financial years should be waived. The Central Government should make arrangements for fertilizers, better seeds and pesticides and other farming equipments for them. Sprinklers should be provided free to the farmers so that the fields can be irrigated well even with little water. Pesticide sprayers should also be supplied free of cost to farmers. The Central Government should provide 2 big tractors for tilling in each Panchayat so that the tilling arrangements of the fields of farmers could be made. These arrangements should immediately be made by

the Central Government so that the farmers could be benefited. Delay in these arrangements would not benefit the farmers much.

I demand the Central Government to take some concrete steps in this regard so that the farmers could realize that the Central Government has given them some benefit in real terms.

If the farmers are not provided the benefits, their situation will further worsen which may give rise to agitation. Therefore, there is need for Central Government to ponder over it and implement it at the earliest.

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu) : I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to debate on flood and drought situation in the country. The problem of draught and flood has emerged as a big challenge before the country. Are we able to cope with these problems effectively? Multi-pronged initiatives should be undertaken to deal with the crisis. Do we come to see those initiatives of late, heavy rainfall in Punjab, Haryana has been turned into a disaster. The colossal damage caused these days can't be compensated anyways. Every year several parts of the country face devastating effect of flood, yet the Bill drafted by Central Vigilance Commission 33 years ago is still lying pending with various states for passage. No other state but Manipur and Rajasthan have considered it seriously. Flood causes colossal damage to life and property every year but the State Governments are not taking lessons from it. The Central Government too washes off its responsibilities by paying somewhat grants to the farmers. This is the responsibility of every sector to make an assessment of it before the onset of raining season. Unfortunately, the basic reasons for flood have never seized our attention. People stay relaxed till the raining season beings. The fact in that the problem of flood is directly linked with deforestation, unplanned town planning and mining, materialistic philosophy of life.

In 1981 an agreement was reached among the Chief Minister of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan over sharing of Surplus Water of Ravi Beaus rivers in which Rajasthan accounted for 8.6 MAF. Rajasthan is being allocated 8MAF water by Bhakhra Beas Management Division, Rajasthan. Even after making a lot of efforts remaining 6.06 MAF water is not being allocated to Rajasthan. Likewise, for Sidhmukh Nauhar out of 0.47 MAF water of Rajasthan's share merely 0.03 MAF

*Speech was laid on the Table.

water is being supplied. The remaining 0.17 MAF water is not being shared even after a lot of efforts. There is severe problem of potable water also other than water for irrigation. The construction of Rajasthan Canal has been completed. This area has such a vast potential that in the event of full capacity of water, this may also substantially resolve food crisis other than solving flood problems in the said areas. However, neither the Central Government is serious about it nor Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan is ready to give them their rightful share of water. Rajasthan has always been reeling under draught due to sparse rain. Somewhere excessive amount of water continues to be the cause of destruction. In both cases such affected states will require billions of rupees as relief. In the Vajpayee regime river linking scheme was resorted to in a bid to overcome the problems of low rain and heavy rain. What happened to the scheme, why was the scheme consigned to oblivion? This issue is also important that whether the impact of change of Government should affect national schemes as well. Quite not Natural disaster has nothing to do with politics. This is such an issue that will have to be considered seriously by our representatives. It is difficult to predict when the mood of monsoon is going to be in bad shape. In such scenario there is just one option left that we should be equipped with enough mechanism to manage every drop of rain falling to the earth from whatever locations or sources.

If we are equipped with the mechanism to preserve flood water coming from the three states, the same amount of water can prove to be a nectar for the drought affected states. Every year we spend billions of rupees on flood and draught. However, at the same time we are not ready to sell out even a single penny on river-affected states. Every year we spend billions of rupees on flood and draught. However, at the same time we are not ready to sell-out even a single penny on river-linking programmes. Today China is using every drop of rain-water. It is going to construct a dam over Brahmaputra river. What are we doing is a point in question. Gradually the ground water is declining. Monsoon is unpredictable. What is going to be the case with rivers. One will have to take pains to help the rivers go dry. The Government should act on its rising over politics or else the situation is going to be worseneven further. If we are able to understand the need of water management, we may find a control over both draught and flood. As the country is growing on development path, the population of farmers is also

going down in the same proportion. Given that, what should our farmers do, where should they go.

What is the future of our 60 crore farmers. Farmers can't choose but have to engage themselves in the cultivation of varied crops. Farming is going to be more and more difficult for the farmers day by day. Farmers keep on looking skyward in the hope of rain. People tend to dissociate themselves from farming and villages. First, there is no rich yield and even if there is rich yield, they don't get remunerative price of their produce. After many years, Rajasthan is going to have good yield this year. Yesterday, I happened to visit Ramsars Tiba Village of my Tehsil. I complimented them on having good yield of Moong. The Villagers conveyed me that they were unsure about getting the prevailing rate of their produce and said that they would-feel complacent enough even after getting half of the prevailing price in the market. This must engage Government's attention. Proper arrangements should be put in place to save the farmer's agricultural produce. Relief subsidy has always produce. Relief subsidy has always been elipsed with and has been reeling under controversy and corruption. On occasions if seem that if the announced relief reaches the genuine beneficiary the entire locality will be millionaire. The benefit of insurance cover reaches the farmers after a very long time. In certain cases, it does not even reach them. These things used to be taken care of.

*SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Today the Dam Security Bill, 2010 has been brought in this House. Several Provisions have been made in this Bill-which include setting up of an National Dam Security Committee, initial filling up of water pools, setting up of an earthquake scientific centre etc.

If there is proper implementation of law already in place in our country at present, we can be successful in dealing with the problems of common man to a substantial extent. But the situation is quite reverse. Today we are bringing about changes in law through Bills however, it is not possible to find a situation to the problems with this change rather the executive body should resort to rescuing the citizens from the problems by way of proper compliance of law.

In our constituency, konar Dam was constructed way back in 1954 during the tenure of our farmer Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. It was a good idea but now a days we

*Speech was laid on the Table.

(SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY)

witness the whole host troubles due to the Engineers, Bureaucrats and Managers' thought being quite otherwise apparently inimical to the public interest.

DVC recommended a traditional unit of 3 MW (Hydel Power Project) on this Dam. The Project Report was prepared by NHPC in this connection. Subsequently, the Central Water Commission observed that there is difficulty in sitting up a hydro electric project due to a crack in Konar Dam. Thereafter, CWC remarked that approval could be given offer conducting trial for 4-5 years. I fail to see as to why sanction was accorded to the proposal of setting up of a Hydel project by NHPC while there was crack in Konar dam. There is incorporation of all the three entities DVC, CWC and NHPC in this enterprise. Two departments are proposer to the Hydel project and after conducting a survey and scrutiny for five years the CWC shall embark on a conclusion that a hydel project shall be set up there. The entire episode is misleading one. Public money was profligated and National property was wasted on the pretext of scrutiny being conducted by the Management and the other technical Departments and I am afraid the same trend shall continue even further. Consequently, the public shall continue to be subjected to the basic problems.

I would like to request the Government to make sure that the laws made with the passage of the Bill be complied with in letter and spirit. Let State Dam Security organization be set up in every state and Hon'ble Members of Parliament be conferred effective powers for the monitoring of this work. Alongside, Central Water Commission (CWC) be made effective for the safety of Dams and express approval should be accorded to the construction work of Hydel Power Projects by examining the reasons for Crack in Konar dam. This apart, while acquiring land in the state of Jharkhand, the person concerned should be given compensation and jobs with immediate effect in order that there may be increased participation of people in Dam construction in the state concerned.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to hon. Members for participating in large numbers and making very useful suggestions for management of the situation caused by floods and drought every year in the country. Hon. Members have said that we should strengthen the preventive measures

to tackle this recurring problem which affects millions of people every year, particularly the poor strata of the society. ... (Interruptions) It is, in fact, a strange phenomenon that at the same time, parts of the country are affected by floods, and parts of the country are affected by droughts. We are a large country and although it might appear strange, we have to live with this. ... (Interruptions) We have to prepare ourselves to deal with both droughts and floods.

To share with this hon. House, in the current South-West monsoon, out of 36 meteorological sub-divisions, nine sub-divisions received excess rainfall and six sub-divisions received deficient rainfall during the period 1st of June to 25th of August, 2010.

During the current year, 19 States and two Union Territories have experienced floods, cyclone and landslides in varying degrees. The magnitude of floods was rather severe in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir Mizoram, Punjab and West Bengal. The Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand have declared drought. For example, The Government of Bihar had initially declared 28 districts as drought affected, and subsequently declared 10 districts as drought affected. Jharkhand has declared the whole of the State - all 24 districts as drought affected.

As per the preliminary estimates of damage, 911 persons have lost their lives, 7000 cattle heads perished, 3.55 lakh houses were damaged, fully or partially, and crops over an area of 4.55 lakh hectares have been affected due to floods and cyclone. The management of droughts and floods is a joint responsibility of the State Government and the Central Government. The State Government is obviously the first responder; they have to undertake rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations. The Central Government is always ready to supplement these efforts by providing logistics and financial support. So, when flood hit J & K, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and West Bengal earlier and when drought hit Bihar and Jharkhand, we have always responded promptly to the requirements projected by those States. We have deployed Army, Air Force, Border Roads Organization, the NDRF, which is a specialized force, the ITBP; we have supplied boats and other equipments in flood-affected areas. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has rushed doctors and medicines; the Ministry of Telecommunication has set up emergency communication facilities; the Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways has tried to clear the roads and maintain traffic; the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies has also rushed in a large quantity of food.

The situation is reviewed nearly on a daily basis by the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary; and the Secretaries of the Ministries concerned, which I just mentioned, are also in touch with their counterparts in the States.

As the hon. Members are aware, during 2005-10, the total kitty of relief funds to the States was Rs. 21,333; and after the new Finance Commission, for 2010-15, it is now Rs.33,580. For the Special Category States, the Central Government's contribution is now 90 per cent. It must be remembered that financial assistance is given towards relief. It should not be confused with compensation for loss. The idea is to provide immediate relief, rescue and rehabilitation. Compensation is a separate issue. The CRF and the NCCF are not meant for that. The main objective of relief is to assist the affected persons to restart their economic activities. The relief is by way of gratuitous assistance as an immediate help to the affected people.

Sir, the norms for granting relief are well-settled norms. The successive Governments have revised the norms. The last time we revised the norms was in July 2007. We cannot obviously re-visit the norms every year or every time there is a flood. The last time we re-visited was in July 2007, after the 12th Finance Commission gave its award. Now, after the 13th Finance Commission, we have already undertaken the exercise of revising the norms. An expert group was constituted by my Ministry on the 27th October 2009. The expert group has consulted all the State Governments; they have received the suggestions of the State Governments and the Central Ministries concerned. The group has submitted its report on the 30 June 2010. We are looking into the report, and once the report is examined, we will, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, take up the matter of revising the norms.

We have always followed a set procedure for giving relief. We send the team to visit the States. The team comes back and gives its report. It goes to an Inter-Ministerial Group, and after that, it goes to the high-level committee and the high-level committee takes a final decision on the amount of relief to be granted.

Every State has been allocated a certain amount in their

relief funds, based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commission.

15.14 hrs.

(Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha *in the Chair*)

These are non-lapsable funds, and irrespective of whether there is a natural disaster or not, as soon as we receive the Utilization Certificate from the State Government, the Central share is released to the States. We have followed the same pattern; there is no departure from the pattern.

Some States, when they make their projections for relief, make projections, not based on the norms, but send memoranda seeking additional financial assistance, unconnected with the norms. These have to be ironed out by the Central team and by the IMG and finally, a decision is taken by the high-level committee.

We have passed the Disaster Management Act. The Act was passed in 2005 and notified on December 26, 2005. The Disaster Management Authority has done remarkable work; they have brought out manuals; they have brought out handbooks; they have brought out instructions in all the languages; they have imparted training to hundreds of people; they have helped the State Governments set up the State Disaster Management Authority. Our capacity to deal with disasters is much better today than what it was five years ago.

Sir, the NDMA is responsible for laying down policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management and I am confident that when these plans percolate down to the district level there will be a much better response system at the district level to deal with disasters.

Sir, I wish to assure the hon. Members that in case of every flood and every drought the Government will look into the Central Team's Report very carefully, will look into the IMG's Report very carefully and the HLC will take decisions very sympathetically and very compassionately so that adequate relief is provided to States hit by drought and flood.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does anyone wish to seek some clarification?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down and raise your hands,

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli) : Sir, both draught and floods situations are prevailing in Uttar Pradesh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance to speak. Please sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, I am giving you time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why everybody is standing. I will give you a chance to speak but first sit down.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI : Sir, Uttar Pradesh is reeling under drought situation. Ask him what he has done in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down and raise your hands. I will give some Members a chance to ask clarifications.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) : Sir, earlier Bihar had been facing floods situation during last three years, but this time the state has been experiencing both drought and floods situations. Whenever Government of Bihar demanded funds from the centre, we didn't get any money. Government of Bihar is managing its affairs on its own. Today the state is facing critical situation. ... (Interruptions) Through you, I would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs as to how much money was demanded by the Government of Bihar and how much money was given to the State Government? Whether you have carried out any assessment of the devastation caused by floods and drought in Bihar? Will you meet out justice to the people of Bihar based on that assessment. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, if you do not listen, I will go to the next item. I am giving you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun) : Sir, drought has ruined farmers in Bundelkhand and both Uttar Pradesh and Central Governments are sitting idle on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance to speak. please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please behave yourselves.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singh ji, do you want to say something?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Manipuri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please give two minutes time to everyone, everyone will keep quiet.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody cannot speak at a time. I am giving chance to everybody. I have called her.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI (Yavatmal-Washim) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, flood situation occurred in Maharashtra, but neither the State Government nor even the Central Government paid any attention to it, while both in the state and in the centre congress party is in power. My demand to the Central Government is to make an announcement here for providing relief to the farmers there at the earliest and that amount should immediately be given to the State Government. Besides this, the funds given to the State Government under crop insurance scheme have not been disbursed among the farmers till date. I allege that the State Government is deliberately not doing any work and the Central Government is also not providing any assistance. I want that the farmers there should get immediate relief and the amount of compensation.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it rained a lot in various states, but Bihar, Jharkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh are reeling under drought. In Bihar even the sowing of seeds could not be carried out. A problem regarding the potable water has also been cropped up there. The temperature has risen to 47 degrees there on account of global warming and the people have come out on the streets. People are not even getting two square meals. Floods and drought have been striking Bihar continuously for the last five years if the people remain dependent on the State Government, a large number of people are going to succumb to starvation hence the Central Government should provide assistance there at its own level and also carry out monitoring. The situation in Bihar is turning out to be critical. The situation in Jharkhand and Eastern Uttar Pradesh is also not different from Bihar. The situation in

Bundelkhand is also quite worse. Therefore fodder and coarse grains should be produced there after holding discussions with the department of agriculture. On behalf of the Government of India, Minister of Home Affairs, who is holding the charge of this department, should pay attention to it as we shall be busy with the elections. Therefore you should provide assistance to Bihar and other states immediately.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a serious subject. Uttar Pradesh, especially Bundelkhand, Ramabai Nagar, Etawah, Oriaya, Fatehpur and many districts have been reeling under severe drought. As a result the situation there has become very grave. Farmers there are on the verge of starvation as the fields are lying dry. Drought has been striking there for the last five years. As a result sowing could not be carried out by the farmers there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, only question should be asked.

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGAI : Farmers and labourers are dying of starvation there. Through you, I would like to make a request to the Minister of Home Affairs to tell us the step and the relief measures taken by him to address the issue of drought there? Along with this I would also like to know the amount of assistance demanded by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the drought affected regions? I would like to request the Hon. Minister to grant a package of Rs. 30000 crores in the interest of Farmers, labourers and common man for medicines, education and the development of the farmers so that the development of people there may take place and a permanent arrangement for the proper system of irrigation can be put in place. In order to ensure that the money of this package should not be diverted by the State Government for any other purpose and to prevent its misuse, the Central Government should monitor the said funds. I am saying so because the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is spending the hard earned money of the farmers on setting up of idols and of constructions of parks only. If the Central Government does not give the said package then we will think that it is doing injustice with the

people of the drought affected area and does not have sympathy with the poor and the farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one man from each party will be allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, you may please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI : It is a very serious issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, nothing is going on record. Please do not waste the time of the House. Everybody cannot speak at the same time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many issues are involved in this. The issue of floods, drought and other calamities have been raised here. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given notices many times, regarding centre-state relations which is a contentious issue. There is also dispute about the share of states. I would like to tell you that today the Minister of Home Affairs has given a reply on floods and drought. The issues of Bundelkhand has been left out. This issue could not be raised with full force however the entire House has debated it. I would like to say that the time left with us is just today and tomorrow? If we do not hold discussions on centre state relations, tension will mount between the State Governments and Central Governments and this tension may rise to such a level that problems may further enhance. I only

* Not recorded

want to say that you should convey to the speaker to hold a debate on this issue.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I just have one question in two parts. In the year 2008, the State of Orissa had floods; in the year 2009, the State had drought and in 2010, in certain parts of the State there is drought and in certain parts of the State there is flood. In my constituency of Dhenkanal and Angul, there is a drought like situation. There has been not enough rain this year. In what the hon. Home Minister read out now it seemed very eloquent. It seemed there is provision for relief in that. But I would like to find out from the hon. Minister one particular point and that is, first of all, whether there is any provision for compensation. Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, is the Government of India in collaboration with the State Governments planning to have any long-standing measures so that they are able to face both drought like situation wherever drought takes place regularly and wherever there is flood? It is not something that a new area is getting flooded. It is the same area that gets flooded. Is there any provision for planning on the part of the Government of India to collaborate with the State Governments, including the State Government of Orissa to ensure that drought and flood like situation are met and countered well before it takes toll on the poor farmers who have no voice in this House and instead only those who talk of nuclear arsenal have voice in this House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the opinion expressed by my colleague Shri Tathagat Satpathy on the issue of drought and flood, especially in my state of Orissa..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU (Amritsar): Chairman Sir, Hon'ble Minister has replied on this issue

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a debate.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : As I had initiated, I want to ask the hon'ble Minister. We all know that he is well-educated. I want to mention it pin-pointedly that "Talim ka jor itna, Tahjib ka shor itna, barkat kyun nahi hoti, Tirmhari niyat main kharabi hain." Though they are well educated and well-mannered, yet they are unable to excel because their intention is not good," Sir, this is a right thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is not an appropriate manner.....*(Interruptions)* Is this the way to put forth one's views in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : Sir, he has been allowed to ask a question only.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this is an issue related to the State Government. It he is talking about the intention, he should see the intention of the state government.*(Interruptions)* He is mentioning a wrong thing in the House.

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I am telling absolutely right thing. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is no need to dramatise the matter. The issue relates to State Governments....

[English]

You do not have to dramatise everything here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Sir, he should keep in mind the dignity of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I am right. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You are not allowing me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, on the last occasion, the debate was over. It was mentioned specifically the other day that the debate is over. They only want to disrupt the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am allowing Shri Sidhu to put his question because he was the mover of the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Sir, you are not allowing me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, a discussion is to be made on ST, SC, then there will be zero hour and thereafter half an hour discussion -is also to be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, there is no system like that. The debate was concluded the other day. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: I had asked on that occasion also as what provision the government had to prevent the danger. Every year, people are killed by flood and every year you compensate for that. You do not care for the living beings, rather you give compensation for the dead bodies. The danger could have been avoided by incurring a small expenditure. If the compensation is of fifty thousand rupees, they try to hush-up the matter by spending only five thousand rupees. You do not work in the direction of mitigating the danger. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more questions. There is no time further for the discussion. The hon. Minister may reply now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It was specifically announced on the last day that the debate was over and only the hon. Minister was to reply. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not even listed for the day. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the hon. Minister's statement will go on record and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The hon. Minister is on his legs. Otherwise, I will have to go the next item.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is prepared to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

*MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Members are not interested, then I will go to the next item.

15:36hrs.

(ii) Situation Arising out of Increasing atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Country- Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item no. 14- "Further discussion on the situation arising out of increasing atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country raised by Shri Gopinath Munde on the 19 August, 2010.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some discussions is always held on this subject in the House. There are a number of matters which we raise in the House, a lot of hue and cry is made and the matter is closed forever. I do not want to raise each and every issue. Several schemes are being implemented for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country even after so many year of independence but there must have been some lacunae somewhere. There is either some lapse in our style of functioning as we are unable to understand the problems. I

* Not recorded

would not say much but we do not give proper attention to these issues. Generally it is seen that atrocities are committed against adivasis be it a girl or a boy, they are of tender ages. I am giving example of a recent incident that took place in the state of the members who boast too much in this regard.

An incident takes place in Beer-bhoom in West Bengal with an adivasi girl of 16 years. She is paraded in three-four villages after putting off her clothes. Many CPI members are giving long speeches on honour killings here in this House, and the incident take place in their own state. I am expressing concern over the issue that no action is taken even after a one month after occurrence of the incident. Efforts are made to keep the incident secret. The incident is highlighted in the media, after one and a half month. After the matter is publicized people becomes active and they start search operations. Our Union Minister went there to meet them and find out the truth, but curfew-like situation was there, people were not in their homes, and it was likely that they were forced to leave their homes. We had to search people in the village for a long day to talk about the incident alongwith policemen, but nobody was ready to talk in this regard. Then, they get the information that the girl was kept in a Nari Niketan. When they reach to meet the girl, she is found in a pathetic condition. The girl is just 16 years old but her life has been ruined. I am mentioning this incident because this creates a fear in our mind that the Government does not take action in the matter but tries to hush up the incident. No arrests are made and we merely keep on discussing.

Such brutal incidents take place in our county. Our Union Minister went there and met the victim. She was looking depressed and was asking as to what was her fault. She was in love with the boy of other caste and this had lead to her present condition. If such an incident takes place with a girl of 16 years, then it could lead to two alternative. Either she might be ruined or she could become a revolutionist and avenge the society for her sufferings. We tend to give different names to the incidents of social revolts, such as naxalism etc. Sometimes a girl becomes a bandit or sometimes the entire society gets agitated and an explosive situation could arise. These issues are not given thought keeping in view such considerations. I am not finding faults with West Bengal Government. But people would keep on discussing the issue only without any concrete solution. Keeping in view of the condition of that girl, I feel that

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

psychological treatment is also necessary in such situations. The society is also getting treatment in a separate manner. Certain outsiders are raising the issue of original habitants and they are inciting the adivasi people. A feeling of separatism is also being raised among these people in the name of freedom element knowledge compaign. If such kinds of incidents keep on occurring, it would affect the harmony of the country.

Sir, I would like to mention that a number of government schemes have been implemented on which crores of rupees are spent. I have personally experienced it. When I was the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, I used to travel a number of states and ask as to how many crores of rupees have been spent. They would tell me that crores of rupees have been spent. Then I would ask about the success stories, number of people in BPL category for whom the scheme was implemented and number of such people belonging to adivasies or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who were benefitted by the schemes to rise above the BPL? There is no such record. There is no data about the ration of beneficiaries out of the amount spent and with regard to success stones of the beneficiaries. No proper record is available. Crores of rupees of the Government are spent but no efforts are made for social integration. Some outside elements are spreading the feeling of separation and no action is taken against those people. I like to mention that when we point out these incidents and talk about the atrocities, compensation is provided to the victims. Whether a compensation of some lakh of rupees can revive the life of a victim, rebuild the personality of the victim, reconstruct the society that has been shaken after the incident? Whether life after such incident can become normal and the victim can become an ideal citizen. These issues must be given consideration from this point of view. Psychological treatment is very much necessary in such cases. This I would like to say. The girl was kept in Nari Niketan for two years and when she came back to her house, how can she or her family could come out of shocks of that incident? I would like to mention that there is no use mentioning the incidents of atrocities. This is a part of our society and we have to take care of it so that it may not get weakened. If we would have an appropriate approach to these issues, we would find positive results and it would be much better step in this direction.

SHRI ASHOK TANWAR (Sirsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this serious matter. All of us are aware that about one fourth of the population of India constitutes of Dalits and Adivasis. This issue is related to their dignity and self-initiated.

Mr. Chairman to their dignity and self-respect on this issue on 20th August last week. Many hon'ble Members discussed various matters. I feel that atrocity against dalits is a national problem. If we address this problem well in time, I think the outcome will be very good. Today all of us project India as a developed nation of the 21th century. If the problem faced by the dalits are not addressed, we will lag far behind. From time to time, discussion have been held on this subject during the tenure of every Lok Sabha. Atrocities against dalits are not a single case instead numerous atrocities are committed against dalits. On a servant at the work place, on wages of a labourer, if it is a village or city place or other such kind of atrocities are committed. Today it is the responsibility of all of us to check such types of incidents. Each one of us by representing our separate regions represent the entire India. Today there is no such region or constituency left in India which do not have the population of dalits and adivasis, it is the duty and the responsibility of our administration and also the various governments of the states to prevent the atrocities on dalits in the country. There should be no politics on this issue. My opinion is that there should be no politics on this issue as this issue concerns the country and the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the youngest member belonging to a scheduled caste in this House. The rights given to us through the constitution, the rights given to us through the law, should be exercised for safe guarding the rights of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Appropriate action should be taken on the protection given to us through those laws. Debates should be held about it in the house. I would like to quote a few lines from a poem:-

Need na do chahe tahni ka, Aashry chhin-bhin kar dala'

Lekin pankh diye hain to, vyakul udan main vighn na dalol'

People belonging to the down trodden category or the Scheduled tribes, who are eager to soar high towards prosperity are prevented from marching ahead which is not good for this country, the society. Therefore I would like to urge all the

members of this House to formulate a concrete strategy for it, an action plan should be prepared so that we can say that after the passage of so many years, we have done something fruitful. The caste system in our society is about 2-3 thousand years, and there is a need to bring about improvement in the system. It takes time to do away with such a system. The governments which have been in power through constitution and law irrespective of the party to which they belong, we will support to them who have initiated this matter from their side. But there is a need to change the mind set, pattern of behaviour. Today there is a need to increase the awareness. If we can execute it in a proper manner I am hopeful that in the coming days we will be able to address this issue in a better way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a cutting here from Times of India dated 25/6/2009 in which written that.

[English]

Dalit kids cannot use school loo but have to clean them.

[Translation]

When such types of atrocities are committed against even the children, then I agree with what is written further in the cutting.

[English]

Survey lists caste bias as cause for higher dropout rate.

[Translation]

There has been a mention about Bihar and other regions in it. Instead of holding discussion on the region my discussion is about the attitude and the section which is affected by it. I feel that it is also a violation of human rights.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ASHOK TANWAR : Sir, this is my maiden speech. So I request you to give me a little more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak for one more minute.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK TANWAR : Along with this, today there has been discussion on floods and drought. I would like to speak on that topic also. A few days ago during the floods in my

constituency I personally realised and after the flood a crisis erupted. Some powerful people grab the land of poor people. I feel during the floods the hutments of the poor people get washed away, they are forced to leave their farms and barns and immediately after the floods is such types of incidents occur, atrocities are committed, if land of poor, people are grabbed then responsibility of our elected representatives it is our responsibility to work together with the police administration to curb such encroachments. I would like to have a discussion on my region and other regions also. A few days ago an incident occurred in our Hisar district.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK TANWAR: My speech has become a lengthy one, but I would like to present my suggestions before the house.

[English]

Change in people's thought, attitude and behaviour. This is also a part of social engineering, this is also a part of social engineering, this is also a way of social engineering. Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhi Ji started this. Gandhi Ji started Harijan Sewak Sangh to change the minds and hearts of the people and recognized that behaviour and morality of the people should be accordingly changed.

[Translation]

This agenda was put into the backburner. We have to bring forward this agenda.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK TANWAR: I would request the Ministry of Social Welfare to bring forward and strengthen our social awareness agenda. I think there is a need to bring about change in our customary laws and style of punishment. There are many things to say but with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Premdas Kathiria will speak now. Hon. Member please restrict your speech to only four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): I am indebted to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the oppression of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes. Besides, everyone in the whole country is aware of the oppression of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes. Ambedkar Saheb had stated that howsoever good the laws may be, if the persons responsible its implementation are not good, the laws would prove to be ineffective I would like to say that last time there were discussion for many hours on this topic but today again we are here for a brief discussion. You have given me less time to speak. Data have come to light on the oppression of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes in the entire country and Uttar Pradesh is topping this list. I am not going into those figures. I would like to say that after Ambedkar Saheb, if person talked about the upliftment of the dalits it is none other than our national chairman Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji from Panchayats to district Panchayats. It was Neta Ji who was instrumental in making the people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes into Sarpanch, Chairman, Block President. All of our colleagues make tall claims. Parliament is the biggest medium to express one's views. I would like to say that oppression, atrocities, injustice take place in place where poverty exists, where minority exists, where vulnerable people exist, where illiteracy prevails. If you want to do away with it this Government shall have to make some strong efforts regarding education, employment and the removal of poverty. I would like to express my gratitude that today a proposal was made in the House to discuss this subject. I would like to say that Lohia Ji stated that there was a big line and a small line. People will lodge protest if you cross the big line, if you extend the small line, there will be parity. That's why I am saying that the poor people should be uplifted. We all are responsible for the incidents of atrocities against poor people on account of wealthsness and price-rise. I would like to end my speech with a couplet

"Agar is watan ke kisse Sunanie lagenge, to Pathhar Bhi Aansu Bahane Lagenge."

Agar Hum Sab Log Yeh Bhool Gaye, to is Sabha ko Banane mein Zamane Lagenge."

SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on this important subject.

MR. Chairman Sir, we are discussing the subject of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but the aim of Our Constitution to build an equalitarian society has not been achieved even due to ideologies of class-based society. One reason behind it is that the welfare of these castes vested in the hands of those who were benefitted by these castes and who have committed atrocities against these castes of class based society. I want to state here that we cannot provide rights to S.C. and S.T. only by formulating strict laws and neither can we stop their exploitation. We have to make it a mass movement and the reason for this is that since these castes were exploited because of arrangement of class-based society, therefore, these castes have to be accepted by the whole society on its own alongwith formulating a law. Until we accept them we cannot bring the schemes meant for them into the preferred.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to state that Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, Swami Periyar, Naryan Guru etc. again tried to build a equalitarian society. Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar had made efforts for them in London, that when persons who discussed for voting rights after gaining in dependence decided on giving the right to vote only to lawyers and persons possessing large holdings, kings and rulers. It was only B.R. Ambedkar who worked for giving right to vote to the entire castes belonging to SC and ST and women.

Sir, all castes belonging to SC and ST were reduced to a community begging for labours. I want to state that it is only under the leadership of Behen Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh that this part of society asking for favour has turned into a giving community, but in the rest of the country this part of society asking for favours is still in the same situation. I want to state Honorable Minister is also sitting here Census was conducted in 1831 and English language was used in that Census. We sometimes pronounce vote in the English language is 'Vote' and at times we pronounce is as 'Bhote'. Even Today, thousands of castes belonging to SC and STs are not able to get their caste certificates because of wrong pronunciation of castes. This is happening only due to wrong pronunciation. Rajbhar community to which I also belong, is ST in Rajasthan, ST in Chhattisgarh, ST in Madhya Pradesh and when we write 'Bhar' in English it is pronounced as 'Bhaar' in Maharashtra. I want to state that similarly there is Turha caste. When we read it in English it is read as Turia. Similarly there is Kharwal caste and

we can real it as 'Kharwar' in English. There are number of such castes in the country which are not considered as SC and ST due to the wrong pronunciations. It is because there is a mentality, and the notification in the Constitution may contain differend word society has given a particular name. If we are 'Bhar' then we are called 'Bharwa' in common language and if we are 'Passi' then it is called 'passia in common language. And if we are 'Brahman' then we are called 'Babhan. The condition of these castes is getting worse due to wrong pronounciation causing non issuance of caste certificate and thereby causing hindrance in non issue of their development.

Lastly, I want to say that if these castes have to progress then Government of India should issue a mandate in the entire country on the lines of Uttar Pradesh that all the development schemes should be introduced from the Mohallas of these Dalit SC and ST.

16.00 hrs

As on date, the backlog Quota of Scheduled Caste has been fulfilled in Uttar Pradesh only. Why not, the Government of India issues directions for filling up the backlog quota for SC and ST in all the Departments is a timebound programme. All the development schemes should be promulgated only through their participation. Nowadays, officers keep the seats meant for SC and ST Vacant for 6 months and even for one year so that other persons may be accommodated by converting them as 'general' seats. You gave the opportunity to speak and I am very thankful to you.

SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY (Jamui): Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me the permission to speak on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are discussing the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the highest Panchayat of this country even after the 63 years of Independence and this is very unfortunate for me and the country.

Sir, I feel ashamed that we are discussing about the exploitation of SCs and STs which are more than one fourth or more one fourth population of our country.

Sir, it is correct that the problems of Dalits have not changed till date because of poverty, lack of education and unemployment. The pitiable condition of Dalits and Scheduled Castes before 1947 was mainly due to poverty, lack of education

and unemployment. Jamui Lok Sabha constituency is reserved constituency of Bihar and I am from this area. Naxalism is also spreading there. People say that the centre of naxalism is there. I have watched closely the pitiable condition of the poor there. Poor is not able to get food and clothes. If there are ten or twenty houses in the village then the development does not reach there. I request the Central Government that it the responsibility of the Central Government and every state is part of the Centre which are its hands and legs. If hands and legs are not protected then this body is of no use.

Sir, I want to draw the attention towards history and want to state that "he slept on footpath, he was lying on footpath, he died of hunger and when the covering cloth was removed 'Zindabad' was written under it."

Sir, lastly I want to say that "one loses restraints in speech when irritated and broken glass can also kill. Therefore, do not annoy Dalits otherwise coal too turns red when burns.

16.04 hrs

DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*

Madam, the condition in which the Dalits women work in brick kilns, collect leaves and Mahua in forest and the way they suffer from exploitation and injustice is not heard anywhere. I demand from the Central Government that if you want the welfare of Dalits and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes then there is a need to promulgate separate schemes. Bihar Government had conducted a survey on those Dalits and among the Dalits those dalits whose condition was pitiable, those who were weak and those who were away from the society and those who were separated from the mainstream. Honourable Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar had constituted a Mahadalit Commission after conducting a survey on them and on the same lines he is trying to bring Dalits into the mainstream by providing special package and facilities. We demand from the Central Government to take steps for the welfare of Dalits like Honourable Chief Minister of Bihar who constituted the Mahadalit Commission. There is a need to make provision of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is possible only with a new package for the Welfare of Dalits and Scheduled Tribes.

Madam Chairman, I conclude with these words.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): Madam, in the first place I would like to thank Shri Munde Ji as he has raised a discussion on an important issue in Parliament.

Madam as per statistics, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute one fourth of our population. There are such people that have been living in the jungles, hilly areas and along the river sides and are get to grow socially, intellectually and morally.

Madam, it is a matter of great concern that these people are forced to lead the life of an animal. They are neither aware of their rights nor do they know anything about law and order. They are also entitled to lead the life of a man. Therefore, we will have to link them with the mainstream of society.

Madam, I am aware that the Government have made a number of policies for bringing them in the mainstream of development however, these policies are on paper itself and if we actually gauge them, one will find that this has come to an end. I do know that every year many amendments are brought about in its policies and a few people keep on joining the mainstream.

However, Madam, I am afraid this is not a concrete step and in case this trend continues one shall never witness fall in their number and in case of addition of four, this will bear as many as eight ones and this trend shall be allowed to continue infinitely. We talk of Naxalites. Who turns into a Naxalite? When a common man is left with nothing to eat he will be compelled to engage himself/ herself in theft or robbery.

Madam, there is a need to raise a concrete step to find a permanent solution to this problem and the whole host of policies framed by the policies should not be limited to paper rather it should reach the people. Besides, a drive will have to be launched to enable such people to join the mainstream of development. Alongside a prospective employment scheme will have to be evolve especially for the backward people, only then one can put an end to this problem.

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Madam, the number of cases against the Dalits is not coming down. No state lags behind in terms of targeting the Dalits. The element of surprise is that the number of criminal cases is going up in those states where the Dalits constitute a major part of

*Speech was laid on the Table.

governance, where the Government have been formed in the name of Dalits. The Chief Minister of the State is Dalit who asks for votes by introducing herself as Dalit yet maximum cases of atrocities on Dalit have been reported in the state as such cases are on the rise year after year. The Dalits account for nearly 21 per cent of the entire population in the largest state, Uttar Pradesh. Some of the parties want to exploit a major chunk of their population as their vote bank but they are least concerned about progress and well-being of the Dalits.

The quantum of cases registered against the Dalits is very low as compared to the actual incidents of atrocities on Dalits. In fact, centuries old mindset is to be largely held accountable for targeting the Dalits. It is nothing but the outcome of this mindset that criminal incidents are allowed to take place with Dalits. Important thing is that nothing is being done on the ground even after the statistics being in the knowledge of the government. The United Nations has released a report with surprising statistics and findings. As per the report, Dalits particularly Dalit women have completely been pushed to the margin in India. As per the official statistics in every 18th minute, some Dalit falls prey to atrocity.

Andhra Pradesh comes at number two in terms of atrocities on Dalits. Rajasthan too doesn't lag behind when it comes to atrocities on Dalits. It is at number three. Section of prevention of atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes Act 1989 provides that such officers should be put behind bars for delinquency of duties. An officer of Dy. S.P. rank investigates such cases. And in some cases, despite officers belonging to SC/ST categories, the cases are dropped or closed either due to political pressure or due to some temptation. In many cases, even the innocent ones are trapped. It is the bounded duty of an officer not to save the perpetrators of crime or to fabricate the innocent ones. Having said that, in reality, we come to see that this is allowed to happen. The Government ought to deal with it strictly.

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK (Thane): Madam Chairman, through I would like to say that we are discussing such an important issue today and a few people are present in the House. Even after 63 years of Independence, we are still relating this issue. I think at that time we would have very few Members of Parliament who would be belonging to the Schedule Caste, Scheduled Tribes and the backward castes.

This problem exists in every state. There was a time, we used to read in the newspapers and would watch on TV. Today the entire nation is witnessing the incidents taking place in those states. This must be taken care of irrespective of Treasury bench belonging to any party. This is my submission to all the honourable Members. As it appears to me, there is hardly any constituency which is not inhabited by the people belonging to the scheduled caste and the backward caste.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to submit through you that this responsibility rests with us and with society. Nobody knows how long we are, to going to confer in the House. When we go out, We come to see that the backward caste of every category is being subjected to atrocities which is even on the rise. Some of them are such powerful ones in the society who too are being the victim of atrocity and harassment and we are helpless and are not able to do anything on this front. It is very unfortunate. I would like that a fair initiative should be taken in this regard to mitigate the degree of atrocity. For this we should bring one thing to the forefront. I am talking of fifty to hundred years time in future. To my mind, if we don't think over it, the posterity will never forgive us.

Madam Chairman, I thank you once again for giving me an opportunity to give vent to my view on this issue.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Now, I directly come to the issue of atrocity on SCs and STs which is being debated here. In that regard, through you I would like to suggest the Government and would impress upon the Government to necessarily lend a thought to them.

Madam Chairman, I would like to submit, through you, that the atrocities being perpetrated on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pertain to a number of things. First, I think, it relates to the dignity of individual. The incidents taking place relating to the dignity such as the bridegroom being thrown off the mare etc. have much to do with individual ego. A few incidents are related to social equality as well such as, entering the temples, ban on entry into the temples, or prohibiting them not to do so, all these are the nature and scope of bringing in the element of inequality in society. In this country, some incidents are related to the mind set of people, for instance meal was cooked under Mid-day-Meal scheme but nobody had it. Took

part in the marriage ceremony but didn't have dinner. All these highlight mindset. Some of the incidents, relate to atrocities and harassment. For example the recent incident of Mirchpur in Haryana, and at some other places to are related to atrocities.

Madam Chairman, I would like to submit, through you, that even after the lapse of 63 years, we are discussing this issue. Why is it that these incidents are not checked? I would like to suggest a few things to the Government. In the first place, as all the Honourable Members have just said, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had given a formula. We here got political freedom however until and unless we get social and economic freedom, our political freedom will remain incomplete. We ought to debate this issue extensively in the House. For this, to happen, we need to bring about a change in our mindset first. And also the increase in crime can be largely attributed to inequality. This is not possible only through law. The element of atrocities calls for quick disposal. Let there be separate summary trial in the courts, let there be burden of proof on the opposite party rather than being the same on Dalits. Indian Evidence Act too calls for amendment. This is my suggestion.

Madam Chairman, secondly, I would like to suggest that the District Collector and the Supdt. Of police of the District should be held responsible where incidents take place. Presently wherever such incidents take place, SDM, Tehsildar or Dy. SP is placed under suspension and senior officers don't feel the heat. This tendency of passing the buck should be put in check immediately.

I feel that the S.P. and the district collector should be held guilty if incidents such as setting someone on fire, dismounting a bridegroom from a horse, rape and murder take place.

Secondly there should be a provision of reservation in proportion in the population in allotment of shops and houses constructed by J.D.A., D.D.A, Housing Board, U.I.T., Municipality and other boards. At present, there is no such provision, while it should be in proportion to the population. The provision of reservation should cover army, judiciary, university, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council and the private sector. The 85th amendment to the Constitution was made for this purpose and reservation in promotion was implemented. When NDA Government was in power, an amendment was made to the Constitution and Article 16(4)(a) was added to the Constitution, but as a result of the judgements of the courts and in the absence of thorough interpretation, it is not being implemented.

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

I hail from Rajasthan. Group B, Group D and even Group A employees are not getting promotions in the State. The reason behind it is the M. Nagraj's case on 19.06.2006. It has been decided by Hon. Supreme Court. The Court has underlined three issues in it. The first issue is that it has asked for the determination of social backwardness. If you want to implement the provision of reservation in promotion, then at first determine social backwardness. The second issue is that there is a need to determine whether SCs and STs have adequate representation in the jobs or not. The third issue which it has pointed out is that the people belonging to these categories have inefficiency, How can it be handled.

There is a provision in Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution for constituting a National Commission the report of which would be presented annually, then through you, I would like to know what Hon. Supreme Court will do to determine the social backwardness? Social backwardness gets determined and all of us are aware that SCs and STs are socially backward. But where is the need for Supreme Court to give instructions in this regard. Secondly, I would like to say whether there is an adequate representation or not, many a time, discussions were held in the Parliament in this regard and many times people have stated that the percentage of reservation meant for SCs and STs has not been filled up. All are aware of this fact. The report of the SCs/STs commission also toes the same line, then how come they implemented the new rule to ascertain whether SCs, STs have adequate representation or not, thirdly, they said that there was inefficiency, I would like to say that they have taken the basis of inefficiency only from the A.C.R. I feel that due to some unknown reasons at the time of writing the ACRs of employees and officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the entries of ACRs are never filled up properly. When the ACRs are not written in a good way, then how can we say that they are not capable. Therefore, this basis is also not correct. In this regard, I would like to say that though atrocities are taking place but in this system, they are also taking place in the form of judicial atrocities. It is of paramount importance to set right these judicial atrocities. The provision of reservation adopted by this House itself under Article 16(4)(A) is yet to be implemented. Different courts are giving different judgements and are interpreting it and we are unable to do anything in this regard.

Through you, I would like to present the next point why there is no all Indian Judicial Service on the line of IAS and IPS. The Law Commission has submitted its report, but it has not been constituted because as soon as the Indian Judicial Service is constituted, there will be reservation for the SCs and STs. The people in judiciary do not want SCs, STs to come into this service. Therefore, it is very necessary that an All Indian Judicial Service should be set up.

Secondly, I would like to say that SCs/STs Welfare Association is not being provided with facilities on the lines of trade unions of railways, banks. They are also associations meant for the welfare of SCs and STs. Trade Unions are being given more facilities. The discrimination should be done away with.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I will conclude in two minutes.

Secondly, I would like to say that Planning Commission has fixed heads for S.E.P. and T.S.P. 789 for S.E.P. and 796 for T.S.P, but guidelines of the Planning Commission are not complied with and the funds provided to these schemes get diverted and this tendency of diversion needs to be checked immediately.

Fourthly, I would like to say that there is also a need to bring about necessary amendments in revenue laws. Disputes arising out of the land submerged, illegal occupancy of land are high in numbers and as there are more cases with the regular court hearing does not take place for years. Therefore, there should be special courts for revenue case also. It is most often the people belonging to SCs and STs who are at the receiving end in the revenue cases.

There is also discrimination in the matter of educational opportunities. There is a need to provide free of cost education to SCs and STs. It should not remain confined to Government schools only rather it should also be extended to schools of high standard.

These days coaching has turned out to be a tradition. I hail from Rajasthan. There is Bansal college in Kota and there are other big colleges. A student belonging to SCs and STs cannot get admission there as the fees they charge is to the tune of 2-3 lakhs. Through you, I would like to convey to the Government that today the tradition of coaching is on the rise. Due to exorbitant fee being charged by coaching institutes, students belonging to SCs/STs get deprived of education.

Therefore, there should be a provision for the reimbursement of fee charged by coaching institutes.

The rates of post-metric scholarships should be revised. What is going on now? The wards of the parents whose annual income is rupee one lakh or rupee one and a half lakh, does not come under the category of students eligible for scholarships. This means that a ward of a class IV employee cannot avail scholarships. You have hiked the scholarships for the students belonging to minority communities. We welcome this move but the scholarship amount being provided to students belonging to SCs and STs is on very old rates. Therefore, there is a need to revise these rates immediately. It has been a long pending demand.

Finally, I would like to say that decisions of Khap Panchayats are hostile to the interest of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, a ban should be imposed on them. There are so many banks in this country, but in reply to a question which I asked, it was stated that there were 15 directors in a bank, but today there is not even a director belonging to SCs, STs or OBCs, in any bank. What kind of system is this? They have a huge population and there is not even a director in any bank. The government advocate on the panel. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Jagdambika Palji.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL : They are about twenty thousand in number. There should be the provision of reservation in it also. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Chairman, I am very grateful to you that you gave me the opportunity to speak on a very important subject. Our country has 16.2 per cent population belonging to Scheduled Caste and 8 per cent population belonging to Scheduled Tribes. Concerns for increasing atrocities against approximately 25 per cent population whose share and participation is vital for the country, is being expressed in this House and I have also stood up to express my feelings. It is certainly painful that on one hand we are competing with the world and comparing ourselves with the development of other countries, America and European countries. On the other hand, we have not been able to build a society even after 63 years of Independence in

which there is no atrocity or injustice on the basis of any caste and there is no excess and his fault would only be that he was born in a particular caste and born from a womb of a mother, and therefore, he is being discriminated against and injustice is being meted out to him despite giving equal contribution in building the society. Today, we should not discuss only the atrocities. We should not mention only the incidents but today this Upper House must consider whether we would work for building such society in the future so that we do not have to discuss the increasing atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in a civilized society. They should have equal participation. Meghwal Ji mentioned about the education sector and P.L. Punia ji discussed in detail about the Poona Pact. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said at that time if we want to develop equality in the society and establish coordination then definitely if we will make efforts to remove the gap between haves and have-nots, a new society will be built and there will be a new dawn and we can present an ideal before the people of country and the world. Whether our society is like that? Mr. Prime Minister should also consider that today only thirty per cent people are being punished for atrocities on SCs and STs and whether we can formulate a mechanism in which the law to punish any person committing atrocities against persons belonging to SC, ST on the basis of race or caste can be effectively implemented to stop these incidents. Prime Minister of India should consider whether we can give equal participation to them in the development process in all the states of the country so that the persons belonging to SC and ST can have equal participation. He said this thing and I want to say what is the actual picture of the society in India. Even today, atrocity is carried out against a Dalit in every 18th minute. Even today, there are 33 per cent such villages in various states where any healthcare worker does not go and instead he prefers to sit in the house belonging to other society.

He will not go to his house for vaccination, or immunization but he would go to the house of other person from another caste. When we would change this society? It is the responsibility of our public servants and the employees to avoid carrying out the vaccination on the basis of castes if they are carrying out the vaccination of children. You go to villages to see the real condition of villages. Perhaps healthcare workers refuse to go to the houses of person belonging to Schedules Castes. Today, the situation is such that 38 per cent Dalit children

(SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL)

are made to sit separately in the Government schools. This is the reason that a lady amongst us is a Dalit Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh. We had great expectations that if a Dalit lady is becoming Chief Minister then undoubtedly the atrocities on Dalits in Uttar Pradesh shall decrease or the related incidents will stop. But an order was passed in the past which we welcomed and it stated the Dalit cooks will be appointed to make Mid-Day-Meal in Junior High Schools of Uttar Pradesh. Dalit cooks were appointed and the programme was introduced but few people opposed. Our Dalit Chief Minister returned that order from the entire State and today in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*. I think what can be bigger than it that on the one hand we talk of equality and on the other hand include in the process of participation in development. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am standing here and want to say when this cycle of atrocities will stop. These are not our figures but these are the figures of the National Crime Record Bureau. In the year 2007, 6,628 criminal incidents happened against SC, ST which increased in the year 2008. Our all colleagues have come ... *(Interruptions)*. I am telling about UP ... *(Interruptions)*. In the year 2007, 6,144 such incidents took place. ... *(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Silence Please

... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am glad that at least our many such colleagues have come in whose mind there is a concern but they find themselves very helpless that today steps are being taken for the protection of Dalits or there is so much talk about prevention of atrocities on Dalits but why are they not being stopped. I will talk about Uttar Pradesh. There in the year 2006. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, Sir, you please conclude. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am presenting the figures of the National Crime Record Bureau and not any exaggerated figures. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You listen to them. When you were speaking, he was also listening.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am not presenting my figures. My colleagues will be given a chance to speak. They can note my figures. If I am wrong then they will amend those figures. I will accept them. ... *(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I conclude in two-three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*.

In the year 2006, 229 Dalit women were raped in Uttar Pradesh. In the year 2007, 318 Dalit women were raped. In the year 2008, 375 Dalit women were raped. Incidents or rape are increasing in a civilized society. ...*(Interruptions)*. Law and Order is in the hands of their party in Uttar Pradesh. Despite that also today in Uttar Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR (Gautam Budha Nagar): See what is happening in Haryana.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am not talking about Haryana. I am presenting the figures of the National Crime Records Bureau. ... *(Interruptions)*

Today we have Prevention of Atrocities on SC, ST Act. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur) : Do not talk about rape. ... *(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : You are responsible. I do not know who has done this. But you are responsible if you are in Government. You have to tell us as to why all this has seen done. You are accountable. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members please don't talk among yourselves. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : A very serious issue is being

debated. We are discussing atrocities against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes. Please don't make a mockery of it.

Jagdambika Pal Ji, Please conclude now.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : You have given me an opportunity to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now conclude please.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : I will conclude in one minute. ...*(Interruptions)* Given the report on the social condition of the world.....*(Interruptions)*. I am going to conclude in a minute.....*(Interruptions)*. Now I will say nothing.....*(Interruptions)*: Gorakhji, please sit down. Now I will not say anything*(Interruptions)*. As per the report on world wide social condition, out of one thousand Dalit children 83 die at the time of birth itself. *(Interruptions)*. I am concluding my speech..... *(Interruptions)*. Out of one thousand babies born in Dalit families as many as 83 die at the time of birth itself.....*(Interruptions)*. One thousand children are such among whom 119 children happen to die in their fifth year of existence. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members. Please conclude now.

.... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Jagdambika Pal Ji, please conclude now.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am going to conclude in a minute. Today 119 children out of one thousand die in their fifth year. 83 children out of one thousand die at the time of birth itself. 42 per cent of the them are not receiving nutritious diet. We ought to express our concern over this. There is no party politics in it. Whether we are in this party or the some other party. Today we have to chip in the development process of the country. We should abide by the existing law strictly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now only what Prashant Kumar Majumdar says will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat)
Hon. Madam Chairman, the atrocities against the members of the SC / ST, backward communities and women are gradually increasing in our country. The main reason for this is the fact that the country is governed by the rich, well-to-do people who are at the helms of affairs and participation of the have nots in the administration is almost nil. In the towns and villages, the police officers are accountable to none. The responsibilities of the district SPs are not fixed and thus nothing is being possible. The Government which is in power must fix their responsibility.

In the Constitution of India, there is a provision of reservation for the SC / ST and backward communities. The Central Government as well as the State Governments must ensure that these hapless, poor people get their due. I can cite numerous instances whereby it can be proved that the backward people are losing on all counts. In the year 2009-10, the Tribal Department of Government of India had allocated Rs.3220 crores for the Tribal Fund. But only Rs.1616 crores have been spent so far. It means that nearly 50% of the money still remains unspent. Why is this happening? It is happening because the money earmarked for the tribal people have been diverted to pay the second instalment of the 6th Pay Commission. So who reaped the benefit? The upper class of the society who are salaried and meaningfully employed reaped the benefit. This money was meant for the uplift of the poor people of the society: for their development and progress, much could have been done with this amount. But they were deprived altogether. Not only that, there is a provision of reservation in jobs also but actually the tribal people never get recruited anywhere. The reason is, there is a misconception that. People of SC / ST, backward communities are less educated. This is absolutely wrong. 63 years have passed since our independence. Can't we employ these people even in group D services? The truth lies elsewhere. The advertisements for recruitment are published in such a fashion that the underprivileged people do not actually come to know of such recruitment drives. On the contrary the creamy layer of the society produce fake caste certificates and grab all the jobs by appearing in the interviews. The interview board members are also mostly wealthy persons who manipulate the entire recruitment procedure. Sir, you kindly set up a proper inquiry commission and the truth will be revealed and you will come to know of the malpractices going on in the administration.

* Not recorded

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

(SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR)

In the educational scenario, there are high irregularities observed. If the reservation policy is seriously implemented then the private institutions will be deprived of lakhs of rupees that is raised in the name of capitation fees. The situation is almost the same in the Government sector also. In almost all the states the SC / ST people are deprived of their due. Nowhere, the reservation policy has been implemented for the benefit of the backward communities. The money allocated for the purpose of their uplift has always been utilized for some other needs and much of the funds has been usurped by the district administration. Every time an inquiry is sought, it goes unheeded.

In my Balurghat constituency, near the Balurghat police station, there is a big school but there too, the tribals do not get the funds allocated for them. The money gets diverted unscrupulously.

This is not all. Under the Forest Rights Act of 2006, the forest dwellers, the tribal population were to be given land deeds. But that has not happened even today. Moreover, in the name of development and progress these people are displaced and ousted from their homestead. For irrigational purposes, acres of land under forest is being snatched away from the original forest dwellers. This is sheer injustice. The precious coal and manganese reserves of the country are also being handed over to big entrepreneurs and the real owners are left with nothing. Thus the country is incurring huge revenue losses.

Hon. Smt. Indira Gandhi ji had taken pains to nationalize banks. But the tribal people do not get bank loans when they need. The banking services are still not in the grasp of the backward society. The Land Reforms Act is yet to be implemented. The people are yet to get their land rights. In West Bengal, the State Government has implemented this law and thousands of landless labourers, poor, SC / ST people have been benefitted by it. But in other states the scenario is very grim.

The mid-day meal scheme is also riddled with much controversy. If the meals are cooked by the women from the backward communities, then the rich students of the school refuse to eat that food and the women are thus compelled to leave their job of preparing mid-day meals. So the responsibility must be fixed. So I demand that along with fixing accountability,

all the democratic minded people should join hands with the left to carry forward the movement against atrocities meted out to the people of SC / ST and backward communities.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate and conclude my speech.

(Translation)

SHRI MADHU KODA (Singhbhum): Madam, today we are seriously discussing about the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to submit that the SC and ST people belong to such categories who are backward in all respects-be it political viewpoint, be it social stand point, or be it economic standpoint. The architects of our Constitution made provision in the Constitution even for those people who go unheard, who have no representatives. They made provision for their protection and security. If in any family someone is a weak child, the head of family - be it father or mother takes special care him or her. Likewise, in our country right from the very beginning the people belonging to the SC, ST and the poor community who have been residing in the far-flung forest areas or in hilly terrain so their both ends meet with the little resources available to them in the woods.

Madam Chairman, several provisions have been made as right in the Constitution for the tribal people. Several laws have been made for the protection of tribal areas. I would like to say that the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe is possible only when we get the laws put in place for their development and protection in the right spirit and strengthen the mechanisms responsible for their implementation as well.

I come to see that everybody talks of social development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but the ground reality is quite otherwise. Why is it that there has not been social and economic development of these classes. First we will have to go into its reasons. Very humbly I would like to request the Central Government that people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been fighting for their rights for years together. If people of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes are listed in a state they are not recognized in the other state.

I would like to give an example in this regard. Nearly 100 years ago, the English ruler roped in many of our SC/ST

brothers and sisters for working in Assam Tea-States. In the recent past incidents occurred in Assam for their identity which was covered by Print Media and Electronic Media as well. Hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is sitting here. I would like to request him to take this issue seriously. In West Bengal the people belonging to Scheduled Tribe have not been covered in that category in Jharkhand. Similarly, in Orissa too they are not being recognized. There, a conspiracy is being hatched to enlist them in minority by giving them nomenclature of different castes and sub castes. This is a very burning issue. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take special care of them. Let there be proper mechanism to properly spend the money received as grants for the development of areas covered in the fifth and sixth Schedule.

With these words I conclude my speech and thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the debate on atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per my studies and information even after 63 years of the country's independence. The incidents of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are on the rise. The said atrocity and harassment have not emerged today, rather this have been in existence for thousand of years in the past. Even after independence, atrocity and harassment is continuing. At times it is on the higher side, sometimes it is on the lower side but it remains in existence. In the districts and states where the tribal people and the Scheduled Castes revived some courage atrocities got subdued to some extent. However, in the regions where people could not be able to show their courage, people suffer the mist. I would like to put forward some suggestion in the hosue.

Today, Madam Somaji as well as the Minister for Tribal Affairs are present here, so I would like to advance some suggestions.

[English]

I would like to recall here what. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar once said. He made a very brilliant statement. He said, "Political power is the main key by which a lock can be opened either it

may be big or small". We the tribal people and the Scheduled Caste people of this great country India have been locked in such a room and in such a compartment into which even air cannot enter. We are being kept in an airtight compartment.

[Translation]

The way in which Hitler murdered lakhs of jews mercilessly, the same is being done with us. The atrocity and harassment, tribals, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are being subjected to does not match Hitler's merciless killing of Yahudis but the manner is one and the same.

Therefore, I would like to put forward a proposal. America has as many as 50 states for just 25 crore population and it has been able to project itself as the most powerful country of the world.

[English]

Why in India there should be only 33 states and Union Territories?

[Translation]

In a country which is home to 1.2 Billion population, I would strongly suggest creation of twenty five (25) states in the regions where the tribals and the Scheduled Castes are in majority or a bit less then the majority.

[English]

More than 25 Nos. of new smaller States comprising the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas and regions should be created across the country. That is the only way to help ensure overall development and safety and security of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people in this great country. You cannot rescue the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people by just talking about atrocities committed on them this way or that way either inside the House or outside the House.

[Translation]

Therefore, I would like to assest that there is a need for the creation of at least 25 States seperately for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Now your speech will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Madam Chairperson, atrocities on SCs and STs are on the rise all over the country. The official number of annual occurrence of incidents of atrocities as put out in the administrative reports is far less than the actual incidents.

Due to backwardness, illiteracy, social weakness, the sufferers do not dare to report or do not have the access to report to police station or any Commissions, etc.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

DR. TARUN MANDAL : Women and young girls are the worst sufferers. ... (Interruptions) The reception and behaviours of the police personnel, officials and of State administrations also work as a deterrence to the complainants. Many a time, their case is not registered and sometimes miscreants putting influence on police, their cases are made very light.

Even observing the fate of registered cases and getting no effective redressal from the police or administration, people from this section get discouraged and frustrated to lodge complaints.

To stop atrocities on SC & ST people, society needs a cultural revolution. What was initiated during Indian Renaissance by people like Rammohan, Vidyasagar, Mahatma Phule, Jyotiprasad Agarwala, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, Netaji Subash, Bhagat Singh, Nazrul Islam was not brought to culmination during Indian freedom movement and even today in free India. Cultural movement and reforms took a backseat to hasty political agenda then. Even so-called educated people are not free from looking down upon SC & ST people. It creates division among exploited people which helps to survive the present capitalist form of Government. Only in real socialist system, I believe, such atrocities can be fully stopped.

My constituency is a Scheduled Caste one, out of seven, six assembly segments where SCs are in majority and in one

* Not recorded

Muslim Minorities are in majority. My constituency is mainly inhabited by SCs and STs community and is economically backward and where employment is very less. There is a special problem in my constituency - due to forest and deep sea - SCs and STs community people go for catching fishes and for livelihood, they had to go to the forest. There also, they become victims of tigers, pirates and crocodiles. To get compensation from the Government also is a hard task and even to get a licence for catching fish and going to the Jungles is a very hard task. Hence, I would request the Government to look into matters and find solutions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Mohanlalganj): Madam, by making obeisance to Dr. Ambedkarji, first of all I would like to say that he was such kind of a leader who had feelings for the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. By challenging the people belonging to scheduled castes he had asked - "how long will you be trampled over by the society. My heart is torn into pieces after seeing the miserable plight of your faces and hearing your despondent, has frustrated voices. It would be better if you die as soon as you are born. Why are you leading such a condemned life?" The words of Dr. Ambedkar used to instill fervor among the people belonging to scheduled castes and a handful of people belonging to scheduled castes got elected to the House, this is not going to improve the condition of this country. Everyone is aware of the existing condition of the country. The scheduled castes include dalits, landless labourers and labourers. They have neither land nor houses. They are suffering from malnutrition. Their health condition is not good. They are compelled to live in miserable conditions and they do not have medical facilities. The Union Governments and the State Governments provide Rs.42000 crore for eradication of poverty in the names of dalits, but corrupt bureaucrats and contractors misappropriate this money. The condition of the dalits is very worse today. The sting of untouchability which we took is yet to be undone. I would like to touch upon the condition of dalits in today's society in a few words.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, four members from your party have already spoken.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Madam, constitution has abolished untouchability and it has been declared an offence.

I would like to present before you the figures regarding untouchability in Indian villages based on the study conducted by the United Nations Organization. Health workers refuse to visit the homes of dalits in 33 per cent villages. In 38 per cent government schools, children of dalits are made to sit separately during Mid-day-Meal. Dalits do not get their letters in 33 per cent villages. Dalits are prevented from drawing water from public water sources in 48 per cent villages. This is not the end of atrocities against dalits. Dalits are prevented from approaching police stations in 27 per cent villages. These figures are taken from the studies carried out in 565 villages of 11 states. If we cast a glance on the figures assimilated from the police department during the last five years, the picture is very alarming. As per these figures, every week 13 dalits are murdered, houses of 5 dalits are burnt down and 6 dalits are kidnapped. In my parliamentary constituency, from where I am elected, robbers struck at Awasthiji's house in Sitapur district, Awasthiji was a cancer patient, he had tumour in his head. Robbers beat him with the lathi and as a result he died. The hands of his son and daughter-in-law were fractured. The population of Pasi community is more than one crore in Uttar Pradesh they are considered as a martial and brave community. When people belonging to Pasi community came to visit them, the police officer put them behind the bars. Moreover they were forced to be down on ice blocks, they were killed after giving electric shocks to their ears. People can verify this visiting there. The ears of the men and women belonging to Pasi community have turned black after being subjected to electric shocks. The tales of oppression do not end here. His wife wore a veil during a wedding, ceremony, her clothes were reduced to shreds by that police officer in the presence of all the bridegroom party and he went away after flaring all her jewellery. Amma has said many times there but no action has been taken against that station House Office. Of Kamalapur Police Station.(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The name should be expunged from the records.(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: There is despondency, frustration among the people of this community today. People are frightened and have run away leaving their homes. Atrocities on dalits are committed in Uttar Pradesh where the Chief Minister is a dalit, there atrocities are being committed on alit

men and women. I demand that an enquiry be conducted in this regard and punish the guilty.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): In my opinion atrocities on scheduled casts/ scheduled tribes and the poor people are not committed by any group of individual but due to wrong policies of government and non-compliance of existing laws in the country. The downtrodden are carrying night soil on their heads since thousands of years, government announces that this will be stopped this year. It will be stopped right now, but till date the practice of carrying night soil on the heads has not been stopped. All State Governments should be given instructions in this regard and with the provision of more funds this disgraceful practice should be stopped.

Owing to economic backwardness and illiteracy, people belonging to SCs and STs have been viewed only through a prism of slavery, bonded labourers and cheap labour by the higher society. The Government has been failure in providing them with education, higher education and a sense of their own rights, acquiring knowledge. There is a need of it. Overlooking their interests by the Government is itself an offence and it is injustice, atrocity on the people belonging to SCs, STs. It is the responsibility of the Government to remove it. Taking immediate cognizance, more attention should be said in this direction.

The economic backwardness has prevented the Adivasis from carrying on with their traditional profession in forest areas. Forest laws prevent them from earning their livelihood through forest produce, there is no development of agriculture in dense forest areas, there is no provision of irrigation, they are not even getting full square meal as they are dependent on agriculture and its produce. They have not got sufficient clothes to wear, they are fed up with their life due to loan burden and several diseases. Government is not offering any concrete programme. I hold the Government's wrong policies and its neglect towards the said communities responsible for the sad plight of this society who are compelled to lead a hungry, half-naked life. Attention should be paid in this direction.

If we have to lessen the atrocities on them and do justice to them, then we have to educate them first and make them financially strong.

There should not be delay in providing them lease deed of their forest land, irrigation projects should be implemented in maximum number in forest areas, for treatment and education. Union Government should set up self education centre, health centre, technical and medical colleges should be set up for higher education in tribal dominated areas. They should be provided with work. Electricity, water irrigation system should be provided to these people who are dependent on agricultural produce. I am concluding here with the demand that action should be taken in this regard.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Members who are desirous of laying their speeches on the table can do so. Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Madam, I will present my views in one minute. After a long time a discussion is held on Scheduled casts and scheduled tribes. I think one or two members are about to speak. My wish is that your make arrangements for the reply to be given at 5 p.m.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Those who are yet to speak on this matter can lay their speeches on the table.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: You please call them.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Half an hour discussion is to be taken up now.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Five minutes will not matter much madam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please lay the speeches on the table. Three members from your party has already spoken. Shri Pakouri Lal.

SHRI PAKAURI LAL (Robertsganj): Madam Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me two minutes to put forth my views. I am an Adivasi and the area which I belong to is very backward. I would not take much time and would only read out what I have brought with me. I do not want to waste the time of the House.

Madam, I belong to Sonbhadra district in Uttar Pradesh. It is Adivasi, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated area. Our district is adjacent to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The people belonging to Scheduled Tribes are very poor there and their condition is very miserable. The people there are unable to arrange for their

daily bread and butter. When police take action against Naxalites in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand they flee to this area which is bound by forests and hills and force Adivasis of this area to provide them food etc. If these people do not provide them food, they commit atrocities on them. When they leave their places in night after having meals, police reach there in the morning and police also commit atrocities on these people. Thus, these people suffer atrocities due to poverty, naxalites and also on account of enquiries by police.

The issue relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being discussed here. There are a number of Scheduled Tribe dominated areas in my constituency where 16 tribes namely Gaur, Kharwar, Panika, Baiga, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Rajgaud, Khaijuar, Barhiya, Pankha, Chero, Bhuia, Bhunia, Pathari and Agaria live. These people were in the list of Scheduled Castes in the Census of 2001 and they were taking benefits being provided to scheduled casts. But the Government of Uttar Pradesh later changed their status and included these 16 castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes in 2003 as a result of which these people are not getting the benefit of reservation. The elections of Lok Sabha, Legislative Assembly are now over. Now, elections to Pradhans and Zila Panchayats are scheduled to be held there but these 16 castes would not get benefit of reservation.

I would request the Government that as long as these 16 castes do not get the benefit of reservation, they should be provided the benefits given to scheduled castes They should be allowed to contest Panchayat elections under the quota of Scheduled Casts. I would again request the Government that the people belonging to these castes? may be given proper benefits. These people are already facing the atrocities by feudalists and police. If they lose faith in Uttar Pradesh Government and Central Government, then these castes would become hapless.

I, through you, would like to request the Government to take this problem seriously and keeping in view the miserable condition of the poor people of that area, give them the right to contest election on the quota of Scheduled Casts. I thank you again for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Madam Chairman, if these people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes are not given the benefit of reservation, they would be deprived of contesting the elections. Their representatives would not be elected. Therefore, these 16 castes should be given the benefit of reservation of Scheduled Castes, till they get the benefits of Scheduled Tribes.

*DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shrawasti): Madam, there is a provision of reservation for the people of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes in the India Constitution. However, in Balrampur and Shrawasti districts of Uttar Pradesh which is my parliamentary constituency Ghumantu and Khanabadosh (nomadic) castes such as Thadi, Chamarmangata, Shikari, Banjara, Tharu etc. castes have not been included in the list of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. Hence, they do not get the benefits of reservation. While drawing the attention of the Government, I request that action should be taken in this regard according to the provisions of the constitution.

[English]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH (Fatehgarh Sahib): I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to express my views on the national importance matter atrocities upon the SC/STs. I want to inform with very proudly to this august house that my Party Indian National Congress always against the atrocities with SC/STs and downtrodden peoples of the society. My party always stand with the SC/STs and downtrodden peoples of India. I belong to state of Punjab and my Constituency is Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, which is reserved for SC candidate. I need to inform this august house that I am fighting for the rights of SC/STs and downtrodden people since last more than 40 years. I want to share my experience of life with this august house that atrocities upon SC/STs and downtrodden people can be eliminated by the way of education, implement fairly the constitutional rights of SC/STs, fairly give the opportunity in all sphere of the life, provide food security, provide health facility and lastly recognition.

Illiteracy is the main root of all the evils. If the opportunity of quality education given to the SC/STs and downtrodden people of the country then automatically atrocities removed from the society. The also stand with shoulder to shoulder with society and participate and share the progress of the country. If 1/4th people of the society are ignored, atrocities by the upper caste of the society due to this factor whole society become handicapped. The SC/STs are the most disadvantage segment of the weaker section of our society atrocities are committed

on them on account of their dependence on non SC/STs landowners, educational backwardness and social discrimination. The SC/STs also suffer from their stigma of untouchability. In our constitution SC/STs are protected from all types of exploitation a number of safeguards have been provided in our constitution, under article 15 no citizen shall on ground of religion, race caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subjected to any disability, liability but the august House knows very well that how fairly constitutional rights are implemented in our Indian Society.

Second point is that fairly provide the opportunity to the SC/STs and downtrodden people of the society. Provide their quota honestly. Further I want to inform to very painfully that SC/STs and down trodden people of the society are exploited by the upper caste of the society whether they are educated or not, if they are illiterate then there is no excuse of atrocities but if they are educated and get the opportunity of service they never got the Outstanding ACRs because they belong to SC/STs, there qualifications capability, efficiency, decision making power, education all are ignored by the senior officers those mostly belong to upper caste. If the people of the upper caste will not change from the inner core of the heart & spirit they become the victim of atrocities strongly. The law of the land should be implemented.

Atrocities on SC/STs by the other section of the society are also due to lack of food security, if Government provide honestly food security to SC/STs and downtrodden people that will also minimize the atrocities.

Untouchability is also stigma of SC/STs and downtrodden people. They always suffer inferiority complex for being ignored class of the society.

Health facility also not provided fairly to SC/STs and down trodden people of the society. A weak person never stand with the healthy person, if we have a will to remove atrocities upon SC/STs then provide equal health facility and healthy atmosphere to SC/STs and down trodden people of the country.

[Translation]

*SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (Misrikh): Whenever laws are enacted for safeguarding the interest of *dalits* and the

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exploited people in our country and to check the atrocity and injustice meted out to them, the influential class of the society always reacts in similar way expressing their apprehensions about the so-called misuse of such laws. Article 17 of the Indian Constitution gives right against untouchability. Two acts were enacted in pursuance of Article 17 viz. (1) Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1976 (2) Scheduled Casts/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989. The aim of these Acts is to prevent the offence of untouchability against the people of Scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes.

But, only through enactment of an Act, justice could not be provided unless and until the enforcement thereof is done in a just manner. The assessment of the figures of the year 2008 makes it clear that several cases are pending in courts even today.

It is true that justice delayed is justice denied. When justice is not provided in time, it does not make any sense. Providing justice is not enough, justice should be reflected in real terms. But, nowadays, reflection of justice is a distant dream, justice is not done at all, it remains pending and atrocities are on a rise.

People belonging to the oppressed classes are already subjected to excessive exploitation. Former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had brought the provision of Special Component but today 750 crore rupees belonging to Special Component have been spent on Commonwealth Games.

In terms of employment, discrimination is being made intentionally. The backlog posts are not being filled up intentionally. The Constitutional provisions are not being complied with. Besides, officer belonging to Scheduled Casts/Scheduled Tribes which are qualified in all respect are not being selected to the posts of Boards of Directors in Public Sector Undertakings. In addition to this, discussion is also being made in promotions. One such incident had come to my notice wherein ACRs for the period of 1995 to 2008 of Joint G.M. in an Ordnance Factory Shri O.P. Rawat, who belong to Scheduled Caste had been marked "Very Good" both by initiating officer and Reviewing Officer but at the time of an important promotion, efforts are being made to make adverse entries in his ACRs to deny him promotion. I would request the Government to do justice in this matter.

Unless and until we talk and ensure fulfillment of economical, social and cultural rights of these people, so that every down-trodden could have the feeling of equality respect and pride cannot be restored to these people. Merely assertion of the abolition of untouchability will not do Article 21 of our Constitution also assert that all the citizens of India have the right to live life with dignity. It is my demand that these *dalits*, the exploited people and the victims of atrocities be given, if not much, right to life with human dignity, due respect and equality.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Madam Chairman, I would complete in just one minute. Mr. Chidambaram, kindly pay attention to my words as I would mention the fact which had not been mentioned by any other member. The primitive tribes Jarawas live in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and they are in the verge of extinction. The population of other primitive tribes such as Ongies, Andamanis, Shompans and Sentineless is decreasing day by day there. These are on the verge of extinction. They should be protected as they are the heritage of the world.

At the end, I would like to mention that our hon'ble Home Minister and Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhiji are sitting here. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had prepared IDA of Andaman and Nicobar. People belonging to Munda, Orao and Kharia castes have migrated to Andaman from Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh states but they have not been given the status of scheduled tribes. Similarly, when Andaman and Nicobar was created and inhabited, people belonging to the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Bangladesh were settled in Andaman, These people belong to Scheduled castes in their original states but in our region they became Brahmins and other upper castes. I demand from the Chairperson of UPA and hon'ble Home Minister that these people should be included in the list of Scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

*SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): I would like to tell about the poor and helpless people, who even after the independence, are far from development. Even today, they are living in the forests, hills and remote places far from the mainstream of development. There is no change in their lives even today. They are forced to lead their lives with the help of their fellow habitants.

Even today they are not able to avail the benefits of the numerous schemes of the Government. Perhaps this is the reason they are still living in forests and are forced to lead their life like animals instead of a human being. Perhaps, we do not have sufficient power to change their lives. We have to work with utmost dedication showing our full strength. A number of policies have been framed for them but even those could not bring any change in their lives. We have never tried to know the root-cause for these reasons. Efforts should have been made to bring them into the mainstream of development but I think perhaps such efforts have not been made. Efforts were not made to create the infrastructure to give them the assistance as was required for them. This is the reason that they are being exploited in the society even today and this would continue to happen in the future also. I believe that in Naxalite affected regions, these poor people fell victims because of their truthfulness, honesty and innocence. They are not spared even in these areas. If the assistance from the Government reaches them, I can say with full confidence that these Adivasi people are very honest and trustworthy to fully utilize the same. They are ready to fight against Naxalism putting their lives at stake. They are not Naxalites or Maoists. They are honest people who are dedicated in all respects like the true patriots of the country. Therefore, I request you all to come forward and help them in all respects by treating them like the members of your families. I believe that they would definitely change their lives for which they are waiting. This society is looking towards you with a lot of hopes as dutiful citizens of this country.

Many NGOs came forward for their development. They were engaged in their own development and misguided the Government. Therefore, the Government should make an important contribution in their development by implementing important policy decisions which could help in their development. Today, there is a need for the Government to make an important contribution in their development by implementing important policy decisions. Even today, there are many such tribal castes, who deserve reservation but they have not been included in the reserved category. There are 20 such sub-castes of Madhya Pradesh which have not been included in the category of reservation. Hence there is a need to consider about the development of these poor and helpless people.

[English]

*SHRI CHARLES DIAS (Nominated): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the discussion "Increasing atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Tribes."

This subject has got some relevance to discuss in this august House. Scheduled Castes and Tribes form about 23% of the population of our country. Even after 63 years of independence and after introduction of a variety of schemes and projects for the welfare of the SC/ST and after spending thousands of crores of rupees, the situation of the SC/ST has not improved much.

They have not come up as we wanted them and their living conditions have not much improved. In my view, the rigid caste system prevailing in our country for centuries was to a great extent checked the progress of the SC/ST.

The increasing atrocities on SC/ST according to me is caused due to the educational and economical backwardness. Also, the punishment for atrocities on them has to be harsh and effective.

The SC/ST people have to be helped from their backwardness by effective means. The Ranganathan Misra Commission has recommended that those SC/ST people who are converted to Christianity and Islam have to be allowed to maintain their 'caste title' to get benefits and reservations provided by the government. This aspect has to be looked into and provide more facilities for them for the all-round progress of SC/ST and also take strict action on the culprits who harass the SC/STs.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on a very serious issue relating to increasing atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If you have a look at the newspaper today, you would find almost one news-reporting on this issue. Therefore, this issue must be discussed in the House. Even after 63 years of our Independence, we are not able to implement some concrete schemes in order to put a check on atrocities being committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A number of members believe that caste

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based census will let us know the exact position in relation with each and every caste. Earlier, such census was held in 1931. After that, we are now going to hold a census on the basis of caste after which we would come to know about the number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, their standard of living and their means of livelihood. No doubt, the Government has set up Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to give some benefits to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but this commission seems to be lagging behind in achieving its objectives. For this purpose, the commission should be given certain privileges.

Of late, a news was published in the newspaper that a women belonging to Scheduled Castes was appointed in a school to cook food under mid-day meal scheme of the children but some people objected to it demanding her removal. They said that their children would not eat the food made by her and we would not send our children to school. Such types of news relating to indecency with the women relating to these castes keep on publishing in the newspapers which is a matter of concern. If we have a look at the figures of last two years, we would find that out of the total cases of atrocities being committed on these people, only a few cases have been registered and a number of cases we not even registered. We should also give due attention to this fact that in how many cases that have been registered, the culprits have been punished.

Even today our social system is based on Manusmriti. To root out this completely, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had burnt the Manusmriti. A number of great personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Periyar etc. had struggled to root out this system completely and restore the humanity.

There, I would like to mention that Jayganand Bhartiya, born at Arkandi village of patty Sawali in the development-block of Beerokhal of the Tehsil Thailisain of district Paurigarhwal in Uttarakhand formed a 'Gharwal Sarvadalit Board' on 1st December, 1933. Alongwith the fighting for freedom, he always worked for upliftment of downtrodden people, he also launched Dola-Palki movement for the upliftment and equality of downtroddens.

I personally feel that the God has made each and every people alike and humanity is the highest religion. We should make efforts to eliminate inequality prevailed in the society. We should ascertain the number of people living below the poverty line and thus evolve concrete schemes and implement them for raising their standard of living. They should be provided opportunities for job under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme. Everybody should have equal opportunity to attain education. We should work towards sending every child to school and imparting them education. When we would provide equal opportunities to every person of this society, then this society will rapidly achieve progress. They should be provided dwelling units under Indira Awas Yojna.

I would like to thank our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji under whose sagacious leadership provision of providing reservation has been strictly implemented and the expectations of dalits have picked up by giving them reservation in Panchayats with the help of Special Component Plan. They have developed the confidence that they also have the same status at par with the others.

I would like to mention that apart from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, some nomadic castes named Tolcha, Bhotia, Tharu and Boksha are also residing in our Uttarakhand. Some special package and concrete schemes need to be evolved for their upliftment. The Government should also give special attention towards this issue.

While concluding, I would like to request the Government that equal status should be given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the society. The exploitation and oppression of the women of these castes should be stopped. The Government should enact stringent laws and punish the culprits to check the incidents of atrocities on the women of these castes like burning, economical exploitation and physical exploitation. Union Government should enact stringent law to check any injustice, misconduct or atrocities, if committed on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is high time that every citizen in the country should get the status of equality and similarity.

[English]

17.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to the

hon. Members for the very informative debate that we have had over the last two days. On the first day, we had about 14 Members speak on the subject and today we have had another 14 or 15 Members who spoke on the subject.

This is a subject on which all of us should understand the historical injustice that has been heaped upon the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In fact, it goes back to the origins of society, as we know it, and the divisions in society. Over the years, instead of these divisions becoming narrower, these divisions have become deeply entrenched. There are other divisions in society but the most cruel, the most humiliating and the most dehumanizing are with regard certain castes as "untouchables". As a result of that, we, today, have a number of castes which are described as Scheduled Castes.

The Scheduled Tribes have a different kind of history of injustice because of where they live and the manner in which their societies are organized. They suffer another kind of injustice. Over the years, we have tried to find ways in which we can bring the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into the mainstream and get rid of these divisions in our society which contribute to the injustices that continue to be heaped upon. Unless we understand that it is the divisions in society which cause or perpetuate these injustices, we cannot treat the injustices or deal with injustices alone. It is these divisions which are bad.

As a result of that, they have suffered socially, politically, economically in terms of development and they are the victims of crimes and atrocities. In this debate, hon. Members have highlighted general issues. They have illustrated them by specific instances and each instance must compel us to hang our heads in shame. Only in the last couple of months, we had instances in a neighbouring State. Some time ago there was a very bad incident in which a judgment was delivered about three or four weeks ago. I do not wish to name the State or the place. Everybody knows that but each one highlights how deeply entrenched prejudices are and how those who have wealth and power use that wealth and power to inflict atrocities upon the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

My colleague, Shri Mukul Wasnik, made a brief intervention the other day to inform the House about the issues that have been taken up by his Ministry and the initiatives taken by his Ministry. In fact, his Ministry is the nodal Ministry to deal with

Scheduled Castes and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for dealing with Scheduled Tribes. We, in the Ministry of Home Affairs, look after the administration of criminal justice, that is most important when we deal with the crimes and atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Madam, Parliament has made a number of laws, the general laws, the IPC and other laws. But we made two special laws. First is the Protection of Civil Rights Act of 1955, in short called the PCA and the other is the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Prevention of Atrocities Act of 1989, in short called the POA. These two Acts in my view, empower sufficiently the States to take action if the State has the intention, the mind and the will to take action. In fact, hon. Members will agree with me that adding to the laws does not make the enforcement more effective. It is the implementation of the existing laws and the intention to implement the laws; the will to implement the laws that makes enforcement of laws effective. We make more and more laws. But if the enforcement is lax, if the enforcement is poor, then merely adding to the body of laws does not make a difference.

Madam, I must concede that the statistics do not reflect any decline in the atrocities. On the contrary, the information compiled by the Crime Records Bureau shows that the number of cases registered of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is, in fact, on the rise. I have the numbers from 2006 to 2008, subsequent years are being compiled. Take for example the case of the Scheduled Castes. The number of cases of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes registered in 2006 was 26,665. That itself is an understatement. Many of the cases are simply not registered. In 2007, it was 29,825 and in 2008 it was 33,365. So, this clearly shows the rise in trend. I can make one or two deductions from this. Firstly that there is no let up in the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes. The other inference one can make is, perhaps, because of the pressure that is put on the State Governments by the Central Government, by public opinion and by NGOs, now the States are showing greater willingness to deal with the problem. Therefore, more cases are being registered. That is also a possible conclusion. Whichever is the right conclusion, it is not a matter of which we can be proud about. We cannot be happy about the fact that approximately 33,000 cases are being registered as atrocities against

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Scheduled Castes in one year. What makes it even more disturbing is that while so many cases are registered, the conviction rate hovers around 30 per cent. What makes it doubly painful is that there is rise in atrocities, but when you try to prosecute and convict, the conviction rate is only 30 per cent. It was 28 per cent, 31.4 per cent and 32 per cent. Acquittals are very high. Not only are acquittals very high; pendency is about 80 per cent. At any given time 80 per cent of the cases are pending. So, there is a serious problem in the manner in which we are dealing with these cases. After all, in our system, the Executive can only prosecute. The Executive can take preventive measures and if crimes are committed; if atrocities are committed, the Executive can only prosecute. It is the judiciary which has to punish. I am afraid that the disposal of the cases is low; the rate of conviction is low. Therefore, it is fair to conclude that the feeling amongst the Scheduled Castes and the Schedule Tribes that all these laws and all these statements, all these pronouncements have really not brought any relief to them. That feeling is running high and I cannot but say that feeling is justified.

We must ask ourselves as to what can be done. Look at the kind of crimes that are committed against these people! The crimes that are committed are the worst kind of crimes. They are murder, rape, kidnapping, abduction and arson. These are not petty crimes. These are pre-meditated crimes. Some of them may be opportunistic but most of them are pre-meditated crimes. Among the worst crimes in the Indian Penal Code are murder, rape, arson, kidnapping and abduction. This shows how vulnerable the Scheduled Castes and how vulnerable the Scheduled Tribes are.

Madam, we all represent one State or another. So, please do not misunderstand me that I am pointing fingers at the States. We all represent one State or another. If, in the course of my intervention, I would mention about some States, just remind me, and I will tell you about my State also. There is no difficulty about it. In every State, the position is more or less the same.

Ultimately, we must recognise that police and public order are State subjects. It is the same people who elect the Central Government and the State Governments. We are all elected to represent the people in Parliament and to form the Central Government and the same people elect people like us to the

State Legislature to form the State Government. In their wisdom, the founding fathers said that let police and public order be subjects of the State Government. So, when these atrocities are committed, why does the State not show the willingness, the determination and the firmness of purpose to punish those who are committing these atrocities?

Some of us who are here were and can be in the State Legislatures in the future. For example, Shri Munde, who started the debate, was in the State Legislature for many years. Some of them who are in the State Legislatures may move to Parliament. We are not saying that we are not responsible. All that I am pointing out is that ultimately, if the authority where the power resides - the State Government - does not take seriously the phenomenon of atrocities and crimes being committed on its own people, then that is a matter of shame. All of us representing one State or another must also, in a sense, share the responsibility that our States are not doing enough to punish those who commit atrocities.

Madam, on the 1st of April, 2010, my Ministry issued a very comprehensive advisory based on the recommendations of the National Commission and others. The advisory set out in great detail as to how the State law enforcing machinery must be sensitised to deal with crimes and atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We emphasised that unless the law enforcing machinery involves the community, these atrocities and crimes cannot be prevented or punished.

I have no doubt in my mind that in every community, there are people belonging to the non-Scheduled Castes and non-Scheduled Tribes who are basically good human beings and who do not want these atrocities to be committed on SCs and STs. I cannot believe that every one who is a non-Scheduled Caste and non-Scheduled Tribe participate in or condone these atrocities. In every community, there are people who will, if they are brought into the system, stand by the law enforcing agency and ensure that these atrocities are not committed. In every village, there are such people. In every town, there are such people and in every *mohalla*, there are such people.

The point is that the law enforcing machinery stands completely divorced from the community. It must involve the community in enforcing these laws. It must involve the community in ensuring that these atrocities are not committed.

So, we have said that they must have a community monitoring system to check cases of violence, abuse and exploitation. If a complaint is made, there must be no delay in registration of an FIR and that FIR must be investigated promptly. If there are areas where there is a long history of atrocities and crimes, special attention must be paid to those areas and policing must be made more effective in those areas. If atrocities and crimes are committed, immediately the State must rush in and implement measures for the economic and social rehabilitation of victims of atrocities.

I had a case in one State - I shall not mention the name of the State — about two months ago. Several Members of Parliament and their friends came and reported. They said that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been driven out of the village and that they have moved 100 miles away and settled down in another place. There was a sense of fear in a number of villages surrounding that village. I deputed a team from here. They went and met those villagers. I am happy to inform you that many of them who had left the village were persuaded to return to the village and we have got assurances from other members of that village that they will not commit any atrocities on these people and they will be treated with dignity and respect. But that is just one incident. I am sure there are many other cases where no effort of such kind is made. Such effort in my view must be made primarily by the State Government.

The State must ensure that everybody can live in his or her traditional habitation or place of residence with respect, with dignity. Some of the measures that we have asked them to do is, the provisions of these two Acts must be enforced more vigorously; enforcement agencies should be instructed in unambiguous terms and must be sensitised to the rights of the weaker and vulnerable sections; the administration should play a more pro-active role in involving the community; and training must be imparted to police officers on these laws.

In fact, training has become a casualty. We are now, once again, restoring the primary place for training. Every officer must undergo training periodically. But when they undergo training, it is usually for arms training; it is usually for training in forensic investigation; but not enough hours or enough classes are devoted to training police officers to sensitise them to these laws. If you send a person for training for seven days; that is

spent on giving them arms training and training on forensic investigations. These are the more glamorous aspects of policing. But the point is that they must devote enough hours, enough classes and enough lectures on this aspect too. Enough real life cases must be placed before the officers who are imparted training through case history, case study, etc. and they must be sensitised to these laws. We have now said that all training must include training where they are sensitised to the laws concerning the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Then, when you register an FIR, it cannot be left to the whim and fancy of the officer who registers the case. They must take the statement of the victim and the victim's statement must be appropriately reflected in the FIR. The victim could be an unlettered person; so, the victim says something and the officer records something else. The victim's statement must be recorded and the Section that is attracted must reflect the victim's statement, not what the police officer thinks is the minimal duty that he has to perform. We have also recommended that we must use the media, print and electronic media, to create awareness of these laws. I have already spoken about the community monitoring system. We have said that they must also organise camps in sensitive areas for legal literacy and legal awareness among the sections of the people who are vulnerable. While they sensitise the police officers and the community, they must also create legal awareness and legal literacy among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes so that they can stand up for their rights and go and register these cases. We have recommended that NGOs working in the area must be associated. NGOs are available there and virtually for everything, you can always find well-meaning and well-intentioned NGOs. These NGOs must be brought into the picture. They must be involved with the community. They must be encouraged to work among the vulnerable sections. We have said that the FIRs and the investigation of FIRs must be supervised at the appropriate level by senior officers. There are senior officers who do not take any interest. I can give you examples from my own experience where if the SP takes an interest in matters of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, you will see a sharp dip in the crime in that district, at least, as long as that person is an SP. Each one, I am sure, has got the same experience.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool): The problem is that senior officers are not taking any action. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I agree with you. In fact, the popular notion is that nothing can happen in the district, even crime, without the knowledge of the police station. If the SP takes special interest in atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, you will find a sharp decline, at least, for the two years or so that he is there. ... (*Interruptions*) In areas where they are particularly vulnerable, in my view, the State must make a conscious effort and post officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in those districts where the people are especially vulnerable. They must supervise these cases. We have said that the District Magistrate/ District Judge/ District SP must periodically review these cases, the Judiciary cannot remain aloof by simply saying that 'I remain in a cloistered Chamber, and I will only hear the cases'. The District Judge has a special duty. He is responsible for the administration of criminal justice in a district. In fact, the Supreme Court had to tell them that to periodically visit the district jail. Likewise, the District Judge and the Senior Judges must periodically review what is the state of these cases and how they can be expedited. Not only the Executive Administration but the Judicial Wing of the State must also take an interest in these matters. (*Interruptions*) They should review these cases. Then, we have said that the Districts and Sessions Judge must hold a monthly meeting and in that meeting the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Public Prosecutor must be invited. They must review every single case which has been registered and the trial of those cases. ... (*Interruptions*) I concede that this is not happening. I agree with you that this is not happening. I say that with a considerable degree of anguish and pain. This is not happening. But hopefully the media will carry this and the print and the electronic media tomorrow may be out of the 700 District Judges or so presiding over districts, may be a few district judges will now realize that it is not their duty merely to hear both sides and deliver the judgment. It is their duty to ensure that the administration of criminal justice in their jurisdiction takes place effectively. So, it is my sincere hope that the District Judges will please hold a meeting once a month or once in two months and review the trial of these cases, expedite these cases and ask why so many cases are ending in acquittal. I will tell you presently why so many acquittals take place.

Now, about the last part of this, we have rehabilitation. It is not enough for the State merely to enforce a law and punish "X" for the crime against "Y". He can be punished. What about "Y" who is the victim? You have to extend measures for the social and economic rehabilitation of the victim. In fact, a part of the reason why atrocities are committed is economic activity. In my experience, I have seen that in some areas, the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe person is prosperous. My knowledge is mostly about the Scheduled Caste, not about the Scheduled Tribe. It is because of the economic activity, because of the enterprise, there are areas where the Scheduled Caste people have also become prosperous. The Scheduled Caste people are able to build brick and stone houses. The Scheduled Caste people are able to acquire vehicles. The Scheduled Caste people are able to dress better, send their children to better schools. One of the reasons why atrocities take place in those places is to cripple them economically. Every riot, every arson case cripples them economically. Therefore, it is important that the State must immediately rush in social and economic measures for the rehabilitation of those who have suffered through these atrocities.

Madam, the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes went into the matter why are cases ending in acquittal. As I said, acquittals are running a little over 70 per cent. They found out the following are the reasons. They took a number of cases and analysed. The so-called compromise between the complainants and the accused is not genuine. I am not against compromise but some of these compromises are forced compromises; compromises are brought about by the police themselves. So, they are not genuine compromises. If they are genuine compromises, we are happy. But some of these are forced compromises. Then, the witnesses turn hostile.

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR (Amalapuram): Sir, there is no provision of anticipatory bail in these cases. This is also because of the police.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The witnesses turn hostile or the witnesses do not appear on the date of the trial. Then, the Judge has no option but to acquit the accused because there is insufficient testimony.... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please listen to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is answering every question.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM: In my experience, I think the most serious lacuna is delay. Delay leads to "disappearance of relevant evidence." Therefore, it is important that the case is tried within three months or six months. If you delay the case, you can be sure that the evidence will disappear; compromise will be forced; witnesses will turn hostile. After that, what is the point of blaming the Judge because he has to acquit? Therefore, it is important that -I repeat it - the District Judge must take responsibility for the administration of criminal justice in his jurisdiction. He must hold the Monitoring Committee meetings every month. He must bring the DM, the SP and others together and try to impress upon all his Judges, the Sub-Judges and the Magistrates that these cases must be tried and the judgment must be pronounced within three months or six months. It is not impossible to pronounce a judgment....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): The High Court must monitor the District Judge and the Collector. Otherwise, it will have no effect. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I agree with you. In fact, every High Court has a High Court Judge in charge of a district. That High Court Judge must now monitor that district. I agree with you on this count.

There is another problem. We have asked the States and the High Courts to designate the Special Courts. Now, when you designate a Special Court, which is a Sessions Court, then, you do not designate it only for the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe cases but you designate it for a whole lot of cases. Then, the sufferer is the category of cases where the Executive or the Police is no longer having a great interest, any way, to prosecute. Therefore, the Special Courts are really not Special Courts. It is a misnomer to call them Special Courts because a Special Court is a Special Court on many special things. So, it ceases to be a Special Court.... (Interruptions)

Then, the Special Court cannot take cognizance of an offence without being committed by the Magistrate. That is a provision in the P.O.A. Act, which, I think is a lacuna. We are intending to correct that lacuna. He must be able to take cognizance of a case even without the committal by a Magistrate.

The Ministry of Social Justice has taken a number of measures. For example, they are giving assistance for setting up of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe Protection Cells; they are giving assistance for the setting up of Special Police Stations in the vulnerable areas.

They are giving assistance for setting up exclusive Special Courts, for awareness generation programmes, incentive for inter caste marriages and for relief. But the budget of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has increased tremendously since the UPA came into office in 2004. I think my colleague Shri Mukul Wasnik must have given you the numbers. But I still think the funds are insufficient for these purposes. We are a very large country. So, more funds must be allocated to this Ministry so that they can intensify their efforts in the matter that I have just mentioned.

Madam, some States have done well in this regard and I must compliment those States. For example, Andhra Pradesh has set up 22 Mobile Courts in 22 Districts. ... (Interruptions) After all, whether they give anticipatory bail or regular bail, pending a trial you cannot keep a man in jail for ever. You know the law of the country. Bail is the rule, jail is the exception. So it is not important that they give bail. What is important is that these Mobile Courts should decide the cases quickly. Once the case is decided, there will either be a conviction or acquittal. ... (Interruptions)

The State of Tamil Nadu has set up four Special Courts in four districts only for Protection of Civil Rights Act. In other districts they are burdened with some other cases. But in these four districts, which are extremely vulnerable, there are really 'Special Courts' for this purpose.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees then the House may be extended till the reply of Minister Saheb. Thereafter, half-an-hours discussion 15 November will be taken.

SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS : Yes.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : So the time of the sitting is extended.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am giving these examples because these are good practices and they must be emulated by other States. In Tripura, the First Class Judicial Magistrate has been empowered to hold Special Courts. Kerala has specified the District Court itself as a Special Court. But, as I say, the District Court is already burdened with so many kinds of cases. I am not sure whether that is an effective way of dealing with these cases. Chandigarh has designated the Additional Sessions Judge as a Special Court. Puducherry has designated the Chief Judicial Magistrate as a Special Court. Special Police Stations have been set up in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh and, I think, other States should also set up Special Police Stations for dealing with crimes and atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): West Bengal has not set up any Special Court. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, that is not correct. West Bengal has designated the District Judge as a Special Court. But that, as I say, is not a very effective way of dealing with the matter. ... (*Interruptions*) This is a serious subject and we must go above the political differences.

The Act allows for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and I am afraid not many States have appointed Special Public Prosecutors. Regular Public Prosecutors deal with these cases. But I am convinced that regular Public Prosecutors and regular courts are there and then you call them 'special just because the Act requires you to call them 'special' makes them anything but 'special'. So you have to really earmark Special Public Prosecutors and earmark Special courts if we have to make a dent into the kind of crimes that are being committed against these people.

Madam, 23 States have set up SC/ST Protection Cells. I can give you the names of those States. But all major States have set up SC/ST Protection Cells. But the Act provides for the appointment of Nodal Officers. Such officers have been appointed in 28 States. In most States there is a State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee chaired by the Chief

Minister himself. But I wonder how often that Monitoring Committee meets and how often does it give specific directions in matters that are brought to its notice.

Now, there is a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Social Justice. That Committee was set up after the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was passed. That Committee has met, so far, 10 times. The situation in 25 States and 4 Union Territories were reviewed. That committee has expressed that the most important areas of concern are the following five: firstly, the high rate of acquittal; secondly, the high rate of pendency of cases and very low rate of disposal; thirdly, inadequate use of the preventive provisions of the Act, while the punitive provisions are invoked and FIR is registered, preventive provisions are rarely invoked; fourthly, that the committees and other mechanisms provided in the Act have virtually not been put to use; and fifthly, the Act itself may not be deterrent, perhaps it is not being as deterrent as we thought it could be. That is why, we have issued the advisory on the 1st of April 2010 drawing attention to the provisions of the Act and said that you have to enforce the Act more strictly.

Madam, the POA rules were notified in March 1995, that is, about 15 years ago. Since the Committee chaired by the Minister for Social Justice has come to the conclusion that the provisions of the Act and the rules may not have as much of a deterrent effect, we are in the process of amending the rules. Draft amendments were initiated in November 2009. We are now consulting the States, UTs, other Ministries and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and my colleague, Shri Mukul Wasnik, informs me that very soon the rules will be amended and the rules will be updated. We will try to make the rules stricter and more stringent so that the Act can be implemented more effectively.

In the Government of India, the principal Ministry or the principal instrument that we have to deal with this matter is, of course, the Ministry of Social Justice. We have a young dynamic Minister. He is taking great interest in the matter. He has started the amendment of the rules and I am sure that he will bring about qualitative change in the manner in which these two Acts are administered throughout the country. We must extend our fullest support to him in whatever measures he takes and whatever advisory he gives to the States. Parliament must

extend full support so that the country, the Governments in the States can know that he has the full backing of Parliament.

Madam, I could go on giving more statistics and details, but that is not the purpose. The purpose is that this is a matter of shame, wherever we go, whoever we talk to, both in India and abroad, ask us about how we treat our Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities. This is nothing to do with party politics or philosophies or ideologies. The point is, we cannot call ourselves a civilised nation, and we cannot call ourselves a land of Gandhi, Nehru and Sardar Patel unless we bring dignity and equal respect for our Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities and if I may add, our largest neglected vulnerable group women.

These are the four, which are most vulnerable in this country. Wherever you go, in the academia, in the universities where human rights organisations gather, the question that is often asked is, very well you are a dynamic nation, you are a growing power, but how do you treat your Scheduled Castes, how do you treat your Scheduled Tribes, how do you treat your Minorities and how do you treat your women.

In Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as I said, this is something very deeply connected to the way in which our society is organised. In fact, creative destruction of some of these structures in society is the only way in which we can get over these differences.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE : In other countries how many Scheduled Castes are there?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Hardly. In other countries, there are other divisions. There is a division of race, there are divisions of tribes, some tribes are considered superior, and some tribes are considered inferior. So, these divisions are there in some other countries too. But we are peculiar; we are unique in this caste system. But we have to get over these. We have to encourage people to transcend caste, to break these caste barriers and encourage our young people to think beyond caste. I am not sure whether we are doing the right thing sometimes when we deepen the entrenchment of caste. But that will open up a larger debate and I have no intention of opening up a larger debate at this hour of the day.

Some steps that we take entrench caste, and, on the other hand, we talk about how to break caste barriers and to creatively

destruct the structure of our society. Be that as it may, in my view the principal responsibility lies with the State Governments. They are our Governments; they are your Government, my Governments in the State. We must impress upon the State Governments to enforce these laws. We will make these laws stronger when we amend these rules. And, if necessary, I am sure the Minister will come back to Parliament even to amend the Act itself. In the meanwhile, my sincere appeal to the State Government, to the Executive and the Judiciary, the Executive must bear great responsibility; the Chief Ministers must take special responsibility; the District Magistrates must take special responsibility in ensuring that prevention and punishment take place in the most vulnerable areas.

Finally, I would once again appeal to the District Judges, you are at the apex of the judicial system; you have the power which no other man or woman has the power to punish. That is an extraordinary power: a power that is given to the ruler alone. You alone have the power to punish. Judicial power is the most potent power in society. You have the power to punish. It is your duty to ensure that criminal justice is administered properly. You must chair these meetings once a month. You must call the DM, the SP and the Prosecutor. You must review these cases. You must improve the rate of disposal. You must ensure witnesses appear, trials take place quickly and punish the people.

As far as the victims are concerned, the Executive and the Judiciary must ensure that the victims are compensated and social and economic rehabilitation takes place. If all of us, collectively, together, demonstrate greater will and determination, I am sure, things will improve. Even if we cannot say in our lifetimes we have changed everything, I hope in our children's life time, at least, this humiliation and crimes and atrocities that we heap upon Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I hope a day will come when we say they are free from these crimes and free from these atrocities and they can live with dignity in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Chairman Sir, I want to ask on Question.(Interruptions) You allowed me to ask question on the subject of floods and drought but now you are not allowing me to ask question.(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

DR. BALIRAM (Lalgani): Madam, Minister has not given the complete answer.(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No speech of any Honourable Members shall go in record.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Madam Chairman, I am walking out of the House because you are not allowing me to speak on such an important subject.

17.43 hrs.

(Shri Shailendra Kumar then left the House.)

DR. BALIRAM: Chairman Madam, I want to say through you that the answer given by Honourable Minister has imposed the responsibility of law and order on State Governments. But I want to say that the authority which you command, the responsibilities of the Central Government and reservation for us, as has been said by our various Honorable members, jobs till date. What is being done for filling the quota of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Central Government Universities on the basis of guidelines of UBC ?(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please ask direct questions.

....(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Honorable Members, please be seated.

....(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Honorable members we are discussing on a very serious subject. You all sit down.

Dr. Baliram ji, You ask question only.

....(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please keep silence and let then ask quesitons.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Madam, there will be no problem if the backlog is filled.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's reply.

* Not recorded

....(Interruptions) *

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Madam, on the question of reservation, let us be very clear. I am not trying to boast about this. All the constituent Parties of the UPA, I am sure all other Parties here too, and the Congress Party which heads the Government has from the year, 1950, the first amendment, totally committed to reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and to the OBCs. Now, in 1986-87, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister and I had the privilege of being the Minister for Personnel, we did the first special drive for filling backlog vacancies, and 55,000 vacancies were filled in a matter of seven months. That is a record.

In UPA-I, the Government, through the DoPT, through the Ministry of Social Justice, etc. filled 54,000 backlog vacancies. These backlogs, you know, accumulate for a variety of reasons. Many of them are legal reasons by people who invent legal reasons but we are totally committed to filling this backlog. In UPA-I we filled 54,000 vacancies. If we find that the backlog is accumulating despite our best efforts to appoint people to these reserved vacancies, we will come up with another drive to fill the backlog vacancies.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar.

... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shailendra Kumar says.

.... (Interruptions) *

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak one by one.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM : I want to ask a question.

..... (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have asked your question and its answer has been given.(Interruptions)

Shailendra Kumar ji, you speak.

DR. BALIRAM : Madam, vacancies for 68,000 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and

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Backward Castes have been filled with the people of General Category. What will be done in this case ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : Commission for Scheduled Castes has not been constituted and Commission for Scheduled Castes should be constituted.*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Dara Singh ji, you sit down.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Just a moment. To the best of my understanding of the law, if I am wrong I will correct myself tomorrow or you correct me tomorrow, a reserved vacancy of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe can only be carried over, can never be filled by a non-Scheduled Caste and a non-Scheduled Tribe. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : There is not a single person belonging to Scheduled Caste in the Board of Directors of any PSU.*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You sit down.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot): There are many such vacancies in Railways.*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Tell me which Department, which Ministry. I will look into it personally. ... *(Interruptions)* Tell me, I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Honourable Chairman Madam, you gave me the opportunity to ask question and I am grateful to you for that. I am also grateful to Madam Speaker in particular that she granted permission to discuss

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this important subject under Rule 193. Honourable Sonia ji, Chidambaram ji, Mukul Wasnik ji and Leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee are present here. Special component plan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was introduced during the Prime Ministership of Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ji. Today, it has been completely close because of which there has been no development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. The Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which you have constituted, do not have any Constitutional right. I request that it should be given Constitutional rights on the lines of Election Commission and it shall be constituted by expeditiously filling the vacant posts lying vacant for four months.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Madam Chairman, there is a lack of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the judiciary from Lower Courts to the Supreme Courts. Why is it so? Central Government ministers advocates in the whole country and the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is negligible. Why is it so? There is no representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Undertaking of Government, Board or Directors of Boards. Why? Home Minister ji has rightly said that if everyone fears the Caste System then what is policy which Government of India intends to make for eradicating the Caste System so that the Caste System can be completely eradicated in the country?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, the point now is: Are they showing separately the amount earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? You will remember, when I was the Finance Minister, in the Budget beginning 2005-06, we put out a statement showing the amount of money allocated for programmes, which are 100 per cent for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; and then the programmes in the second part of the statement, where they will also get the benefit. That practice is being continued. If you will kindly look at the Budget papers for this year, there is a statement, which shows that amount for the whole Government of India.

Now, I am told by my colleague that some Ministries are not following the guidelines and creating the minor heads to

show for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I have just got the information that the Planning Commission has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Member, Planning Commission, who is now looking into the matter; and that Committee will come up with guidelines, instructions for which we will insist that every Ministry, every Department show what is the amount and how it is being spent.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Madam, on the issue of Discussion on flood and drought situation in the country, it was partly discussed in this House. It is a very important issue. If you permit, tomorrow we may sit a little late, discuss and conclude this discussion.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It has already been concluded today.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Minister does not even know that the discussion on it has ended.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Minister were in the other House.

... (Interruptions)

17.54 hrs.

HALF- AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Availability of fertilizers

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 15 : Half-an-hour Discussion.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Madam, I am very much thankful to your for giving me the opportunity to raise a discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers on 5th August, 2010 to Starred Question No. 162 regarding availability of fertilizers.

The gist of the questions are, whether a number of fertilizer units have been closed down; the number and reasons for closure; loss of production; action taken for availability of fertilizers, consequent availability; and the Empowered

Committee of Secretaries' recommendations and action taken thereof? These are the points which were raised in that Question.

Madam, you might have known that the entire House and Members cutting across party lines had uttered their displeasure at the answer of the Minister. The Minister in his answer has admitted that five units of FCIL and three units of HFCL have been closed down.

17.56 hrs.

(DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*)

Similarly, in private sector, three units have been closed down. So, the domestic demand of the country is 280 LMT. The annual production in our country is 211.12 LMT. So, there is deficiency of 70 LMT of fertilizers in our country, especially urea. The Government has arranged for import of urea. So, in the answer, the Minister has spelt out that only one company, that is, Oman India Fertilizer Company has imported 20.62 LMT. So, as against the shortfall of 70 LMT, only 20.62 LMT has been arranged as per the Minister's answer. So, who is going to import the remaining 50 LMT?

Therefore, this raises a doubt in the House and the Minister should spell out how they are going to meet the demand of urea required for the farmers of India. Sir, you know the application of fertilizers will increase the production of agricultural produces. By increasing the production we can fight against poverty in our country. Sir, you know by increasing the application of fertilizers, we can increase the production. Compared to our neighbouring countries, our country is far behind in application of fertilizers. In China, there is consumption of 260 kg. per hectare but in India the consumption is 120 kg. per hectare. In Orissa, it is merciless, that is, 62 kg. per hectare. So, we have to increase the application of fertilizers.

Therefore, the Government has set up an Empowered Committee of Secretaries to find the modalities and investment avenues for revival of closed units, and they had given their recommendations to the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rudramadhab Ray, please try to raise the questions.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY : But the Minister has not spelt out in his answer what is the recommendation of the Committee.

So, the Minister should spell out here what the Empowered Committee of Secretaries recommended to the Government for revival of the units.

Another thing is that the Minister is so confused regarding revival of the units in Orissa. In Talcher in Orissa, the Minister has given two statements, which has caused suspicion in the minds of me as well as in the minds of the people of Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever questions you want to raise, you raise.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY : On 12.6.2010, the Minister had expressed to *Samaj*, one of the most leading daily newspapers of Orissa, that Talcher unit will be a coal based fertilizer plant.

18.00 hrs.

And gas will be generated out of coal. But, on 20th August it has come in *The Economic Times* in which the same Minister has told that the revival plan included the proposal to convert Talcher Plant from coal based urea plant to a gas based urea plant. There is no problem of water in Talcher. Non-availability of gas remains the bigger hurdle in the way of revival. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is 6 o'clock. If the House accepts, we can extend the time of the House further till the Half-an-Hour Discussion and 'Zero Hour' are over. The hon. Member may proceed and try to put the question.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY : The proposed gas pipeline will be laid with Reliance Industry carrier gas from Krishna-Godavari basin to West Bengal. However, the Minister will take a final view after consultations and going through the detailed report in the financial revival of Talcher unit. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister whether the Talcher unit will be gas based unit. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda) : Chairman Sir, it is the Question of Order, there is no Cabinet Minister.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary. The Minister who has to give the answer is here.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS : He has just left here.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Government does not care for the farmers.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : The Cabinet Minister will come shortly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has come. The Cabinet Minister is here.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Member put the question. We have to take up the 'Zero Hour' also. Please try to wind up.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY : The hon. Minister should clarify whether the Talcher unit will be a gas based industry out of coal or a pipeline to be drawn through Talcher. He may also spell out in this House as to what is the time bound programme.

Secondly, this is the Government which is very very careless in regard to production of fertilizers. There is a shortfall of 50 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers. They have not yet planned out as to how to make it up.

Similarly, the Dharitri paper of Orissa..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That cannot be allowed. Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G. Hansraj Ahir to speak.

... (Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDER KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Sir, I had given notice in the morning. You should also give us the opportunity to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can go only according to the ballot. Otherwise, there is no end. This is a Half-an-Hour discussion. We have to follow certain rules.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Sir, you give us the opportunity to speak. This is wrong convention. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G. Hansraj Ahir is speaking. Please do not interfere in his time.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you go on interfering like this, I cannot run the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interfering, when he is raising the issue?

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is his turn to speak. Why are you interfering now?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : It is the question of order. We have given notice in the morning.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have I called you? Why are you interfering now?

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not dictate terms to the Chair. When he is speaking, you cannot interfere. Let him finish first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Chairman Sir, I want to say to the Honourable Minister Sir that the answer you gave on 5th day of this month was regarding Urea only. Question was not asked on all the fertilizers also. There is also shortage of DAP and various fertilizers in the country. You had to give answers on all the fertilizers. I hope that you will correct your answer. You have accepted that the eight industries run by the Government in the country have been closed. You have stated the shortage of power and gas as the reason for their closure. Alongwith this, the company was suffering loss due to providing employment to more number of people and they have been closed due to this also. Government could solve this also but you have not made that effort. You have explained about Urea only and stated that there is shortage of 60 lakh tonne urea. How much is the shortage of DAP? How much is shortage of other fertilizers? You have imported 20 lakh tonne whereas the shortage is 60 lakh tonne. This is causing black marketing of fertilizers all over country. Spurious and adulterated fertilizers are being sold due to less supply of fertilizers. Jain industry, which was manufacturing spurious fertilizers to an industrialist in India in Vidarbha ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to put the question you want to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Sir, I want to state the results of the shortage. Spurious and adulterated fertilizers are being sold which poor farmers are bound to buy. This does not end here only and if anyone is taking DAP or Urea and as Coromandal International Company provides Godavari DAP, supplier companies compel the farmers to purchase Godavari

Gold which is an organic urea whereas they do not need it. Cacrus organic fertilizer has to be taken on buying Urea from IFCO. Likewise, there has also been linking in RCF.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dharmendra Yadav, you please speak now. Otherwise I will call the next person.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Farmers are being looted through such system. I was telling you that Paramint PPL Company forces people to buy Gypsum. I have watched closely by going to shops in Chandrapur district in Yavatmal in Vidarbha, and, therefore, I am saying that there is shortage. The shortage has not been removed even after the import. I want to ask about the efforts which the Government is going to make to revive the closed industry. Whereas the Government is going to make serious efforts or it will give such answers only? Are you going to import fertilizers to remove the shortage of fertilizers? When there is sowing season there is a need to provide to the farmers but there is a delay in supply from your side.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a discussion. Please understand.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Farmers have to buy fertilizers. We want to ask about some other more programmes which the Government intends to formulate on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shri Dharmendra Yadav.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (Badaun): I want to ask the Hon Minister through you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to ask the questions and not give a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV : Sir, it is a matter related to the farmers and let it continue for half an hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Already 15 minutes are over. The Minister has to give reply also.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply hon'ble Minister has stated that such number of factories are lying closed and as a result of the factories lying closed, there is a shortage of urea and other fertilizers. But my direct question to the hon'ble Minister is that the country wants to know the time by which the closed down companies will be restarted and the time by which an agriculture based country like India will become self-dependent in the case of urea and chemicals. Through you, I would like to let the Government know that earlier there was a plan to provide assistance to agriculture and there was also a scheme whereby maximum price was fixed. The burden of fluctuations in international markets was borne by the Government. But I fail to comprehend the policy of Government of India as Government of India has declared maximum support and left all the assistance on the poor farmers of India. On one hand there is a cartel formed and comprising of international markets, their producers and its exporters. Government of India is unable to prevent the blackmarketing of urea in our country. But in spite of this, foreign exporters have left the lot of India's crores of farmers on the hands of foreign producers.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what formule he has in place to shield the farmers of India from the effects of the fluctuations in international market? If international producers and exporters unite together then what plan you have to save our farmers? You have declared the minimum support and apart from this you, left everything on the farmers. I would like to say that all the figures are reflecting and we are taking great pride in the fact that even in this time of international slow down, we have maintained a growth rate of 8 to 10 per

cent. I would like to say that today the growth rate of farmers has come down by two percent and you have stopped subsidy on urea, what will be the future of the farmers of this country, this is what I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the availability of fertilizers. Our State Minister of Fertilizers has written a letter to all the Members of Parliaments on 22nd June, 2010 claiming that there will not be any shortage of fertilizers during this year. But on the contrary shortage of urea is being felt in the whole country. On the one hand there is acute shortage of urea in the country, on the other hand 70 lakh ton urea has turned into stone at ports like Kandla and Mundra. Owing to the non-availability of urea in sufficient volume, the fertilizers companies of our country are unable to extend their business. While on the other hand along with IFCO and Kribbco Government has established companies in countries like Oman.

My question to the Minister is how much cheap fertilizers will our common farmers get from these companies. Government is wrongly giving out subsidies in many factories. It should be enquired into.

[English]

Further, eight public sector and two cooperative fertilizer companies are closed, and not a single new fertilizer company has been installed in the last 10 years. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Is there any scam in the urea sector?

[Translation]

My demand is that there should be a thorough enquiry into this and ensure that farmers get urea in sufficient quantity, Government should take action in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shailendra to put one question to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am indebted to you for giving me an opportunity to put a question during half an hour discussion. Lot of hon'ble Members

have put their questions. Hon'ble Speaker Madam has granted permission for the half an hour discussion for which I am grateful to her also. Mostly demands were made that we are unable to supply urea and DAP as per demand in the whole country. Question were raised here about the availability of fertilizers and a mention has also been made about spurious fertilizers. During the last session, we had held a discussion on it in this house and also held a discussion during the Question hour that these fertilizers are being smuggled to Nepal and Bangladesh on a large scale and the attention of the Government had been drawn towards it to prevent it. But no effective action has been taken. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister that how will you bridge the gap between demand and supply? Now, it is being said that there is spurious fertilizers available, how will you prevent it? What system will be put in place to prevent the smuggling of urea and DAP being smuggled through Bangladesh and Nepal route(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister reply. Nothing is going on record except the Minister's statement.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly hear the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY : Now, please listen to the reply of Minister.

...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply first to the questions raised by the hon. Members. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND RERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please address the Chair. Do not address the Member, Mr. Jena, please address the Chair.

* Not recorded

* Not recorded

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that discussions are taking place after so many days. My expectation from the House was that proper discussions would take place at least on the issue of fertilizers and farmers. I will neither be able to make everyone satisfied in this half an hour discussion nor will I mete out justice to everybody. ..(Interruptions). There are two issues regarding the fertilizers. The first question is about the closed down units and their probable date of revival and the second is about the quantity of urea and DAP now available in the country. In many of the states which received rainfall, urea is not being supplied as per the requirements, there are such complaints. I have stated in the reply to the question that UPA Government was not in power in the year 2002. Sindri, Gorakhpur, Talcher, Barouni, Korba, Ramguntam, Durgapur and Haldia units have been closed down where 23 lakh metric ton urea was being produced.(Interruptions). Please listen to me.

Factories are temporarily closed down, they can be closed down even for a month. Many factories are closed down and they get revived also. Some of them are closed down permanently. After UPA Government came into power in the year 2007 Cabinet, UPA Government has fixed the requirement of urea for the country, but urea is not produced in that much quantity. How to increase the production? Can the closed down units be revived? The Cabinet has taken a decision and a Committee comprising of group of secretaries was formed and it has been told to examine whether those units can be revived or not. A study has been carried out and the recommendations of the group of Secretaries are out now and they have given two models. First model is revenue sharing based on PPP model and our PSUs have also evinced interest in that we can go for revival. When Rudra Babu who belongs to Odisha, asked the question, I failed to understand it. Talcher unit is a coal based unit. That was closed down. Coal is available in Talcher. It will take time to make available natural gas in Talcher. When it will be provided, nobody knows. There is a new technology in coal gasification route, can this unit be revived? For this purpose, a team went to China, inputs were collected from South Africa also that coal gasification route is the best route and it can be revived. That's why national chemical and fertilizer, GAIL, Gas Authority of India Limited and Coal India jointly offered a

proposal to the department of fertilizers that they would like to operate by forming a consortium. We thought that instead of taking up the auction route we would directly approach the Cabinet so that the unit could be opened immediately. A recommendation from empowered Committee of Secretaries was received, now it is going before the Cabinet and after the Cabinet approval it will be awarded directly on nomination basis without any tenders as they are public sector units. About Talcher Unit the same reply was given by me in Rajya Sabha that it will be done in the least possible time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : We have been hearing this proposal for six months.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: In which technology we can take up a unit and one unit involves an investment of Rupees ten thousand crores. You please tell me the number of such units with investment of Rs. ten thousand crores which had been set up in two days, two months, or in five years. So this is a process, in order to implement his process, I am not holding any one guilty at least the unit.(Interruptions)

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Is it economically viable?(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Yes, it is economically viable. That is why we are going in for that.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please listen to me. You cannot quote from the newspaper in the House.

[English]

The point is, if natural gas is available to us, we will certainly go in for that. The natural gas is not available and that is why we are going in for this shortest route. The price will not be less than the price of natural gas price. That is why coal gasification route is the best route and that is why this unit can be revived earlier on other units will be revived only when the gas will be available to the Fertiliser Ministry. Not only the availability of gas, but the price of the gas is more important. (Interruptions) I am coming to that.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : May I provide you information?
It will take 25 years to set up the coal gas unit.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I will take up to that Committee.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Hon'ble Minister Sir, you give the correct answer.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: You listen to me.

[English]

Neither you are an expert nor I am an expert.

[Translation]

You listen to me. Whether you know or not(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I know. It will take 25 years.
....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Ramagundam and Talcher were operational on Coal gasification route. It is not that we are bringing new technology.

[English]

Ramagundam and Talcher, these two units were operational before also on coal gasification route. It is not a new technology. The improved technology that is available today is more suitable and all over the world, wherever coal is available, those units are functional. You can go and see it. If you want, a Committee can go and see it also.

Therefore, this is the route that has been decided to revive the Talcher unit. Not only the Talcher unit, Ramagundam unit was also considered. But natural gas is now available around Ramagundam, and so Ramagundam is also going to be revived. About the other units I have already said in my reply.

[Translation]

I have told you that we are approaching the Cabinet to revive eight units. I feel that the Cabinet will soon take a decision on it (Interruptions) No, this will not go to the GOM, it is being sent directly to the Cabinet. GOM is not meant for it. Secondly, it is regarding the availability of Urea.... (Interruptions).

*Not recorded

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Can we have a GoM on coal gasification please?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: No, it is not required because this is a technology which is approved in your own Constituency. The Jindal Group is also having a coal gasification plant. Therefore, this technology is proven. Therefore, there is no necessity of going in for a GoM or anything for that matter.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Honourable Minister Sir, tell us about Barauni.(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : I have told about Barauni. Barauni was made a Special Purpose Vehicle. At that time it was given to the public sector. Once the decision is taken on the price of gas in the new investment policy then the work on Barauni can also be started.(Interruptions) complete the speech. You can put the question. We can discuss this matter very well. The point is that the Government is very keen to revive this unit because urea is required in this country. We require 280 lakh tonnes but our availability is hardly 211 lakh tonnes. We import nearly 50 lakh tonnes of urea. We do not know what will happen to the prices because we do not have control over international market. One thing I can assure Shri Dharmendra Ji that it is a controlled item. Urea consumption by the farmers is 55 percent.

[Translation]

55 percent Urea is consumed in the country by farmers in the form of fertilizers and then there is the consumption of DAP and MOp. But, Urea is most important. Therefore, Government is still keeping Urea under Control to provide Urea but I must tell you about the distribution and figures regarding the amount of Urea provided to the different states. How much Urea was required and how much Urea has been given.(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): But there is severe shortage of Urea in Madhya Pradesh.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister complete his speech.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : You listen to me ... (Interruptions)
Good rainfall has been recorded in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and therefore, the demand of Urea has also increased.

*Not recorded

[English]

60 rakes are moving daily to different parts of the country. Particularly wherever requirement is there, we are trying to reach that State. Let me admit that smuggling is taking place.

[Translation]

Please listen to me, smuggling is taking place. Some people use the Urea which is going for the farmers for industrial purpose by diverting it. Smuggling is taking place from outside... (Interrptions) You listen to me.... (Interrptions) I will tell that also. ... (Interrptions).

[English]

Please listen to me with patience.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister address the Chair. He is not addressing the Chair. That is the problem.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Fertilizer Control Order empowers the State Government. We are in constant touch with the State Government to know what is their requirement and as per their requirement, we make available the requirement. The availability is more than requirement and the distribution is purely the responsibility of the State Government. If the State Government will not look at that, what can I do or what you can do? Therefore, I say that I have written to all the hon. Members. Wherever there is requirement and hon. Members suggest me, I will see that urea is made available and DAP is available there. But at the same time, I have requested the hon. Minister of Rural Development. There is a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Member of Parliament and all information would be given to the hon. MPs so that at the district level, they can also monitor as to what is the availability of the fertilizers and as to how it is being distributed. They can monitor in their own respective district also because dealers are deliberately hoarding them and giving them to the farmers at a higher price. Therefore, the FCO and the Agriculture Department of the State Government must take immediate action. Therefore, we are writing to all the Chief Secretaries; I have written letters to all the Chief Ministers and I am also writing to all the Members of Parliament to please take necessary steps.(Interrptions).

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV : It you could not control the State Governments then how would you control MRP?..... (Interrptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : You listen to me. MRP of Urea has been fixed by the Govt. of India.

[English]

The MRP of Urea is fixed by the Government of India. Nobody can change the MRP of urea. Anybody who is selling more than the MRP, they are penalized under the Fertilizer Control Order and under the Essential Commodities Act....(Interrptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV : How would you control the Urea imported from the international market....(Interrptions)

[English]

Therefore, what I suggest is that it is a matter... (Interrptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing except the hon. Minister's reply will go on record.

.... (Interrptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : That will also be done but I only request you to be alert. I give you the information regarding the amount of fertilizers in different areas....(Interrptions) I have the complete information. I will give you (Interrptions).

[English]

I would share all the information with all the hon. Members. At the same time, I seek cooperation of the hon. Members. Fertilisers should reach the farmers and not to the traders who are engaged in their smuggling. Members can help the farmers and also the Government by monitoring it under the Monitoring Committee at their command. I would request the Members to take initiative in this regard. I can assure the availability of fertilizers. I would see to it that wherever the shortage is, if

Members write to me or tell me, fertilizers are made available there..... (Interruptions)

18.31 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up, zero hour.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Post and Communication of the Government of India towards this very important issue..... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already started with the zero hour. Nothing except what Shri Ganesh Singh is saying will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : I want to draw the attention of the Ministry of Post and Communication towards several such big villages in the country which do not have Post Offices, whereas the Central and State Governments have formulated policies to open the accounts of beneficiaries and payment of pension etc. to the retired employees through Post Offices. Ministry of Railway has announced to provide rail tickets from post offices. Similarly, the accounts for payment to labourers in MNREGA have also been opened there. But today it is also being seen that there is no post office upto 15-15 kilometer in several remote areas of the country. For example, I want to tell that there is a place called Kotar in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency where there is a Tehsil headquarter and there is a no sub-post office there as on date. I would like to demand from the Government of India that sub-post offices should be opened in all such villages of the country with a population of one thousand people and I demand from the Government of India that the post offices should be opened in all the villages with a population of one thousand people so that we can effectively implement the schemes introduced by the Central and State Governments.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI (Dhar) : Sir, there is a small scattered population of tribals in the forests of Mau

* Not recorded

tehsil in my constituency, Tribals have been cultivating land for the last 25-30 years in the area near those villages. According to the Forest policy of the year 2005, lease of land had to be allocated to those tribals but instead of providing the lease of land, injustice and atrocities were inflicted on those tribals.....(Interruptions). Officer of the Department of Forests came along with 10-12 employees at four O' Clock on the night of 21 August, 2010 and took away a tribal Shri Ram Chandra and his son and manhandled them. When Ram Chandra went to the Police station then Policehim away after manhandling him instead of registering his report. Likewise, the officers of the Department of Forests crossed every limit on 9th July when a tribal named Ghanshyam was so severely beaten that he lost his mental balance and they also beat one person named Nandu and his hand was fractured and burnt the books of a Class 12 student Kumari Gopi Chopra and destroyed her house. I want to tell you that the officer of Department of Forest Deputy Ranger Bhardoria and ASDO forest Abhay Jain used to call the ladies in night to talk to them in isolation.

Chairman Sir, I urge the Government through you that the lease of land be allocated to these persons. I request you to register cases against the officers and Police officials who refused to write their reports and committed atrocities and injustice against them.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA (Gurdaspur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I stand today to support the long-pending demand of Dalit Christians that they should be included in the category of Schedule Castes, since they share the same socio-economic status, and stigma as their counterparts. The plea of the Dalit Christians is that when the Schedule Castes Order has been altered twice on this issue, why can it not be amended again to include them? It has already been done in case of both Dalit Sikhs and Dalit Bodhs.

Most of the Dalit Christians are economically poor, educationally backward, politically powerless and socially outcaste. For this reason, Dalit Christians demand that the Indian Government should restore their legitimate rights and cease to discriminate against them on grounds of religion.

As per a recent study, inter-caste marriages between Dalits and non-Dalits among Christians is not common and is even prohibited, and social sanctions are imposed on those who break this taboo. Social segregation is also there in the sphere

of worship and religious rituals as well as insistence on separate burial grounds for Dalit Christians. The study further says that since the last major judicial pronouncement on Dalit Christian issue, there is a lot more evidence available now on the social, economical and educational backwardness of Dalit Christians. As per this study, there is no compelling evidence to justify denying SC status to Dalit Christian.

Since I am personally aware of the problems being faced by the Dalit Christians because there are, around 1,50,000 Christians in my parliamentary constituency, Gurdaspur in Punjab, and since there are no schemes for their upliftment, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Minority Affairs to kindly bring in the necessary amendment to the Scheduled Castes Order of 1950 to provide reservations to the Dalit Christians in order to do justice to the long-pending demand of theirs.

SHRI G.M SIDDESHWARA (Davangere): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government to the need for sanctioning the salary grants for the year 2009-10 for 20 artists and one Guru in the Shivakumara Kalasangha Shivasanchara, Sanehalli, Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.

Shivasanchara is a reputed Theatre Repertory of Karnataka and was founded as part of the decennial celebrations of Shivakumara Kalasangha in the year 1997. A group of 20 rural artists are selected every year and trained in histrionics under the expert guidance of theatre directors. The artists are paid monthly honorarium and provided free boarding and lodging during their period of training. In addition, the Shivasanchara is regularly organizing various activities like Yearly Drama Festival from November 1st to 9th, Training Camp for Children, Seminars, Printing of Books and Street Plays with a view to strengthen their troops to render greater service in this field. For this purpose, they have demanded a financial assistance for payment to 20 Artists and one Guru for the year 2009-10.

I have written so many letters to the Ministry in this regard. And even after my personal meeting with the then Minister, the Ministry of Culture has not so far sanctioned the grant to this Kalasangha.

Keeping in view of the above, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction the financial grants to the Shivakumara

Kalasangha at the earliest so that they can improve their activities further.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (Jalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the bigger problem of water. Banas river in Sirohi under my Parliamentary constituency Jalore-Sirohi is a very big river. A large area of Abu Road and Pindwara tehsil is under this region which is a backward area and the persons belonging to Garasia and Bheel tribes live in this region. A dam has been constructed on this river in Dharavi village, 35 kilometer before Abu Road. There is no dam or anicut on this river stretch till approximately 50 kilometer of Gujarat border passing alongside Abu Road due to which the 1.5 lakh queses water flowing in the river passes into Gujarat. There is acute shortage of water after Dativadabad.

Sometimes back, it used to be a perennial river because of which it was the main source of water for the villages settled near and on its bank but now the river almost exists no more there. There is no water at all in the river. I would like to demand from the Government that Abu Road whose population is approximately one lakh, is settled near the bank of this river and is on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border *(Interruptions)*

Just a minute. Let me finish. I am sitting here since morning. I would like to demand that we have given many application for this. Tehsildar has also written from there. If only 3.5 crore rupees can be arranged then anicut can be constructed but the State Government repeats the same pea and says they have no maney.

I request the Government through you that ikindly help us in constructing this dam with a special package of 3.5 crore rupees so that our problem can be solved there.

[English]

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to caution the Centre about the acute drinking water scarcity being faced by the people in the vast tracts of Tumkar, Kolar, Chitradurga, parts of Hassan, parts of Chikmagalur and rural and urban districts of Bengaluru. Unless this problem is tackled seriously, the above tracts are likely to be barren and drought affected in a short span of five to ten years. There are

streams and tributaries that flow westwards into the sea without their full volume being harnessed for public use. Adequate water from these streams can be harnessed by pressure tunnel process at an altitude of 915 to 920 metres from MSL without having any adverse effect on ecology and environment.

The proposed sites for such facilities can be at Madikeri, Somwarpet, Sakleshpur and Moodigere which put together can make available 90 TMC of water for drinking purposes for meeting the demands from the drought prone tracts as mentioned above and also to recharge more than 13,000 tanks and ponds. At the instance of Karnataka, the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad had undertaken an aerial survey of these streams and tributaries flowing westwards and on the feasibility of excess water getting diverted to feed the drought prone areas. The Report is lying with the Government of Karnataka.

I would like to urge upon the Centre to take up the issue with the Government of Karnataka to implement the project by offering maximum possible Central assistance for providing drinking and recharge of the ground water level.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the administration towards the monument of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Dadar Chaitya land in Mumbai. Everyone knows Doctor Babasaheb Ambedkar who is the Father of Constitution and that he strived to bring equality in the country. The monument of Baba Saheb is small. Maharashtra Government and the Central Government and all the followers of Baba Saheb also want that there should be a national level monument of Baba Saheb. This is what everyone wants.

Sir, when the Mahaparinirwan diwas of Baba Saheb comes, 25 to 30 lakh persons reach there from the whole country. There is no space even for standing. I demand that there is a mill namely, India United Mills Dye Works which is closed and is a Central Government mill and we had written a letter to the Minister of Textiles after the closure of mill. He has also accorded the approval for it. I want that in place of this mill, the land shall be given for construction of the monument of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. An Art gallery on the life of Baba Saheb can be built over there and a library on the entire life of Baba

Saheb and the related International library can be built there. A Bhikshu niwas and a Centre for Buddhist philosophy can be built there. I demand that land of the mill should be given for the construction of the monument for which the Minister has already accorded approval and the Central Government is also prepared to give it. If the Maharashtra administration can get the land earlier than a monument and a library of International standards in the name of Baba Saheb can be built over there. Sir, I request the Minister and the Government through you that the above land may be given at the earliest for building of this monument.

[English]

SHRI PRALHLAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Mr. Chairman Sir, we are all aware that Railway Mail Services (RMS) are the age-old basic utility services rendered by Postal Department in coordination of the Railways. It is the lifeline of Postal Department. But there seems to be a deliberate attempt by the postal authorities to shift these services towards the area of privatisation especially mail services without formally announcing it. This is confirmed beyond doubt by turning away these mail services from RMS to road transport vehicles.

In my constituency, namely, the Hubli Division of Karnataka itself, it is reported to me that a section of RMS working in Guntakal Passenger Train, the section working in the Hubli-Bangalore-Mysore Intercity Train and Hubli-Bellary Railway Mail Services are withdrawn and in its place, private vehicles are being hired and mail bags are dispatched. Likewise, the RMS route towards Sholapur, Bijapur and Bagalkot are also being converted into Road Transport Mail Services by hiring private vehicles. The reason being given includes speedy mail services, unlike in the RMS as there have been less frequency in rail services, and we can reach out to various interior places quicker by road than by rail. But this is not well justified if we look at an example of how the mail bags that are carried by Ranichannamma Express from Bangalore to Hubli which are meant to be dispatched towards Bijapur and Bagalkot. These mail bags are said to be dumped in Hubli RMS office till late in the evening to be picked up by private vehicles which cause inordinate delay in distribution. It is distributed only late in the evening.

It is needless to explain how this move for privatisation results in reduction of staff strength and lead to distress in the existing staff working in RMS. It is repeatedly brought to my

notice by the RMS Employees Union. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to take this matter into consideration.

I have one more point to be brought to your kind notice and it is about the long pending issue of regularisation of 32 casual labourers in Hubli Division. It is pending since many years and even the Supreme Court in its recent judgement has directed the Government of India to lay down specific guidelines. In spite of this, RMS Hubli Division has not taken it into consideration and the labourers are not being regularised. They are working there for more than 15 years. They should take their service into account and justice should be given to them.

[Translation]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few days back a very disturbing news appeared in the newspaper to which I want to draw your attention and the attention of the Government also two correspondents in the Onja city of Mehesana district of Gujarat provoked a person named Kalpesh Mistry for self-immolation.

The intention was to increase the TRP of the TV channel for which they used to work. Since, it is a criminal case and anything, relating to its details, said in the House may influence the enquiry, therefore, I want to raise a big question without going into the details of the matter. Today, there is a need for this country and media to get rid of the terror of TRP. Entire game plan revolves around the attention of eyes and the anatomical structure called 'eyeballs' is English. There are as many advertisements as there are 4 number of eyes whose attention has to be drawn. Whatever we may say in this House and outside that eyeballs or TRP do not reflect the reality of the nation. But the criteria for the persons who give advertisements is only the TRP. Therefore, I request the Government that some concrete steps have to be quickly taken to save the media of the country, which is the pillar of democracy, from the terror of TRP and paid news. I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the situation in Santhal - Pargana from where I am a Member of Parliament. There is a story, namely, 'Ek namak ka daroga' by Prem Chand. It has been mentioned in the story that the poverty due to excesses by the riches is very poisonous. I am saying this

because Santhal-Pargana or Jharkhand produces 50 percent mines and minerals of the country. Despite this 75 percent persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes live in this area and they all are in the BPL category. Its border touches Bangladesh on one side and Nepal on the other side. The problem of drinking water is so acute that there is hardly any difference between the quality of water consumed by humans and animals. The condition of school is such that only 20 to 22 percent women go to school and are literate. There are six districts namely, Godda, Deoghar, Dumka, Jamtada, Pakud and Sahebganj where percentage of literacy in 20 to 22 percent. There is no irrigation water for crops despite several irrigation projects which are running for the last 40 years. You must understand that it is the biggest breeding ground for corruption. There is no electricity there. There is 10 thousand megawatt coal and Asia's biggest Raj Mahal Coal Block, Chitra Coal Block in Santhal - Pargana. Power is being produced in Kahalgaon in Bihar from it, power is being produced in Farakka and it is being transmitted to Punjab, West Bengal from there. There is no power plant in the entire Santhal -Pargana. There is no Women's college there and wall of the existing women's college is broken. Attendance of those boys who come to the college is only 10 to 12 percent. I want to say that it is a deprived section and is adjoining Bangladesh and Nepal through border and there is no means of employment and everybody is unemployed. Due to this it is epicenter of nexals. 34-35 districts which the Central Government has just identified and in which it is investing 15 thousand crores of rupees and the letter which I wrote to Prime Minister and I have said to the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance that you have to include these six districts also in your plan. I must tell you that when a became Prime Minister who is a Maoist, and came to India Hon, Sharad Yadav ji who is a Member of this House at the time when he held a Press Conference in Delhi had said that when he was underground he spent five years in the same Santhal-Pargana. He said this on T.V. on record and said in the Media that this region is such a huge epicenter for naxalites. I request the Central Government through you that you include those six districts also in the Naxalite affected districts, otherwise your 15 thousand crore rupees will go waste because naxalites are going to Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh or Bihar from there only.

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Sir, Attappady is one of the important tribal areas of Kerala which is located in the Palakkad district, the border of Tamil Nadu. Sir, you are very much aware of it.

Attappady is home to 6,000 tribal families in 180 hamlets scattered over 745 sq. km. in three panchayats. From being more than 91 per cent of the population in 1951, the tribals have since been reduced to a minority. The non-tribal population has increased considerably due to migration from Tamil Nadu and other parts of Kerala. There is a sharp decline in agriculture as well. The region has gradually suffered ecological degradation, resulting in all classes of land - private farms, forest, riverbanks, wetlands and common lands - becoming wasteland. By the early 1990s, more than 80 per cent of its people had sunk below the poverty line. Attappady was stricken with rampant child labour, migration to the plains and disease and hunger. The tribes slowly started migrating and shifted from agriculture to labour generated by welfare schemes. But when the villagers came back to their respective land, they found that outsiders had occupied their land and the sale documents that were shown also looked authentic.

Sir, in a particular area stretched over 224 acres; 50 acres belong to the forest department and the rest to the tribals. But the land mafia has bought and sold 400 acres by double-selling the same plot. Property is changing hands every few months, bringing profit to a small circle. Banks even offer loans against such property. Initially, duplicate documents are made in the name of individuals/middlemen, and then they transfer the land to corporates and multinationals. But the revenue records prove that the land really belongs to the tribals.

Under Kerala's Tribal Land Act of 1975, the tribal land can only be sold to other tribals and that too in unavoidable circumstances. The Supreme Court has asked the Government to cancel all transactions after 1986. But the law is subverted by convincing adivasis that the land is being taken on rent. Pune-based Sarjan Realities, which arranges land for Suzlon Energy Ltd., has managed to get 623 acres in Attappady, on which 30 windmills have been set up and most of this is in Sholayoor and Agali panchayats near Coimbatore area, the border of Tamil Nadu. When the project was inaugurated in 2007 by the State Power Minister, Suzlon announced, it aimed

at producing 20 m.w. of power. However, the demand in the region is only 0.5 m.w., and most of the power would be utilized in other parts of Palakkad district.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government in Kerala is not taking any steps to return the tribal people their land lost to the windmill company in Attappady. The incident of forcibly taking away the tribal land and putting up windmill farm over there was an encroachment on the rights of the tribal people. The Minister for Welfare of Scheduled and Backward Communities had stated that no action could be taken against the company since the land was purchased after the cut off date of the Tribal Land Restoration of 1986.

Sir, in Kerala, in the entire Attappady area, the tribal people have started their agitation. But so far the State Government of Kerala is not taking any step to return their land. So, Sir, I would like to request, through you, to the Government of India to intervene in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH (Araria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you that you gave me the opportunity to speak on this matter of Public Importance. I want to draw the attention towards the need to add A.C. Coaches and Pantry Car in Seemanchal Express running from my parliamentary constituency Araria because this train does not have arrangement for meal. Neither there is any poverty car in this train nor there is any First Class or Second Class A.C. Coaches.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Araria is along the border of the neighbouring country Nepal and quite often it witnesses the movement of terrorists. There is a solitary train for Delhi from there which comes to Delhi via Jogbani and Araria. This is simply ridiculous and assured that there is only one AC compartment in this train half of which is three tier and the remaining half is two tier wherein even catering facility is not available. It takes more than 24 hrs in journey to and from by this train. No security arrangement has been made in the train. Just fifteen days back there was robbery in the train.

Through you, I would like to say to the Government as well as to the Hon'ble Minister to make provision for first tier, two tier and three tier AC boggies.

There are just four sleeper compartments in this train. I demand addition of 4 more sleeper compartments to this train. People are faced with lots of problems in traveling by train and have to go without food all through the journey. The passengers have to get down at the station to take meals due to which at times their trains are left. Therefore, I would like to request you to provide catering facilities in the train other than making arrangements for sleeper and AC coaches therein.

SHRI SURESH KASHINATH TAWARE (Bhiwandi) : Sir, there is a Washind Railway station in my parliamentary constituency Bhiwandi where Gate No. 62 has been closed down which results in great troubles in making movements. The conduit made during the rain is used by the passengers but in the rainy days that conduit like road is also closed which causes inconvenience to nearly 50 to 60 thousand people. Particularly those suffering from diseases/ailments and the elderly ones are faced with all the more constraints. Therefore, I would like to request you to get that gate opened until the flyover is made there in order that people may be facilitated to use that conduit road. This is all my demand is.

[English]

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY (Jalpaiguri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious matter of very urgent public importance.

Sir, you are aware that NH-31D, NH-31, NH-31A in West Bengal are the only connecting National Highways between the North-Eastern India and the rest of India. But now those roads have turned into dilapidated roads and the condition is very bad. There are a huge number of potholes and ditches in many places. Water-logging during the rain season has become a common feature and now it has become an accident-prone area. At present, the roads from Bagdogra to Siliguri, Siliguri to Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri to Moinaguri, Dhopguri and Falakata, and from Alipurduars to Assam Border have been totally damaged. The National Highway is not safe for use of any kind of vehicles. So, the transport system has damaged causing much harassment and inconvenience to all concerned.

Now, I would urge upon the Government, particularly, the Minister concerned to take an immediate and urgent action for repairing the NH-31D, NH-31, NH 31-A by sending a survey team there immediately. I hope the Government will take proper action.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (Kannur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to the exploitation taking place on the hard earned money of the employees of the organized sector under the shield of Provident Fund Pension Scheme.

The Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme, 1995 covers nearly four crores of beneficiaries in its ambit. It is known that their contribution towards EPF Pension alone comes to over Rs. Three lakh crore. It is surprising to know that a scheme having such a huge capital is paying only a meagre static amount to its members as Pension, which does not even come to par with the returns that could be earned from any other investment.

An employee who retired after 15 years of service, after contributing Rs. 541 per month towards EPF Pension Scheme, last month drew a meagre amount of Rs. 1,393 only as pension. It is shocking to learn how the EPFO, for a long time, has been exploiting the Provident Fund pensioners, keeping them under the cloud. On analyzing, it is learnt that if an amount of Rs. 541 per month is deposited under any recurring deposit scheme for 15 years, it would yield up to approximately Rs. Two lakh, inclusive of interest earned, by the end of 15 years. If this saving of Rs. Two lakh is deposited for interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, then the minimum return would be Rs. 1,558 per month, apart from keeping their deposits safe in their own account. But in the EPF Pension Scheme, the Pension paid is only Rs. 1,393 apart from the ownership of deposit fund being with the Government.

This is a gross injustice being done to the common man, who largely belongs to economically weaker class. For worsening the damage done to these employees, two main attractive provisions beneficial to the members were withdrawn two years ago. They are Death Relief Fund and Commutation. Both these provisions, which were quite beneficial to the employees, were scrapped even without the consultation of the Trade Union leaders.

Taking into account the total EPF Pension contributions of an employee throughout his employment, it is very clear that even the meagre pension which he draws under the EPF Pension Scheme is much below than what he would have earned, had he deposited his total contributions to some other account.

My request here to the Government is to immediately set up a Commission in this regard to study this case and to ensure a satisfactory pension to these retired employees. I would also urge upon the Government to restore the two main attractive provisions, namely, Death Relief Fund and Commutation which were withdrawn, for the true welfare of the employees of the organized sector, which I understand, may not cause any financial burden on the Government.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI (Shirur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House towards an important issue pertaining to the discriminatory treatment with Urban Cooperative Banks for giving the benefit of interest under the Subvention Scheme.

As per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, all Commercial Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks having A.D. Cat. 1 license are eligible to extend export finance to the exporters at a concessional rate. The Ministry of Finance, Government of India, through Reserve Bank of India, also provides subsidy in the form of interest subvention of 2 per cent over and above the concessional rate for exporters and specified sectors and hence, export finance is thereby made available at a cheaper rate of 7 per cent. Accordingly, since June, 2009, all Urban Cooperative Banks, who are dealing in foreign exchange work, were made eligible for getting the benefit of interest under the Subvention Scheme.

All these banks have submitted their quarterly claims with the Reserve Bank of India for the last three quarters, after giving concession to the exporters. The total amount of claim of all Urban Cooperative Banks together is Rs. 4.81 crore approximately is yet to be settled by the Reserve Bank. Reserve Bank of India is yet to receive this subsidy amount from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce. Similarly, the scheme has already been extended to Commercial Banks from April, 2010 onwards up to March, 2011. However, discriminatory treatment is being meted out to the Urban Cooperative Banks and the scheme is yet to be extended to Urban Cooperative Banks from April, 2010 onwards.

I urge upon the Government to remove these discrimination and extend the scheme to Urban Cooperative Banks also upto March, 2011 as is done in the case of Commercial Banks so that the exporter clients of these banks will be benefited.

I also urge upon the Government to arrange to release

the subsidy amount of all the Urban Cooperative Banks immediately.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful that you have allowed me to raise this serious and important issue pertaining to the problems of linguistic and religious minority people of Assam. Sir, I also gave a Calling Attention Notice on this matter.

On 21st July, 2010, in front of the DC Office of Barpeta, Assam, the police fired on one lakh odd peaceful demonstrators. Four persons were killed on the spot, 26 were bullet injured and more than 100 persons were seriously injured. They were protesting and demonstrating against the unjust and discriminatory pilot project for updating National Register for Citizens (NRC), 1951 of Assam. It was being done on the basis of incomplete and incorrect voters' list, that is, electoral rolls of 1966 and 1970. It called for applications from citizens at Barpeta and Chhaygaon Circles of Assam.

As that was discriminatory and derogatory, out of 73,000 persons of that Circle, only 10,000 applied and the rest refused to apply. Why? It was because as per Rule 4 and 6(1) of the Citizenship Rules 2003, Registrar General of India should notify preparation of National Register for Citizens throughout the country, at a time, and not for a particular State or any Circle. The people of Assam have a strong apprehension that the pilot project is aimed at branding religious and linguistic minority communities of Assam as foreigners at the behest of all Assam Students Union (AASU).

Why will the *bona fide* citizens of India have to apply again for citizenship? They are not against NRC updation or preparation or detection and deportation of any Bangladeshi, but this should be done as per the prevailing norms and Rule of the Land. The foreigners should be detected using Foreigners' Tribunal.

Sir, more than 1.5 lakh people have been kept as D-voters, that is, doubtful voters having lost their voting rights for the last 15-16 years. They should be given voting rights immediately.

Sir, in Rule 4A provision was made setting aside Rule 4 in the Citizenship Act and that was done by the hon. Home Minister in this House, which was not discussed or ratified by any House. For that provision the State Government initiated this pilot project. But it should be rejected on the same ground by which Supreme Court rejected the IMDT Act.

So, I demand that the State Government should immediately annul 4A, do the NRC on the basis of Rule 4. I would also demand that stop pilot project and adequate compensation should be given to the victims immediately and guilty police officials be punished accordingly.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker for allowing me to speak relating to my parliamentary constituency Nawada. Mr. Chairman Sir, Nawada district of Bihar is reeling under severe draught. Rivers and ponds have gone dried up. There is no layers of ground level water. Both people and animals move helpless from one location to the other in search of drinking water. Thousands of women are being compelled to carry water in their pitchers and buckets from two-three kilometres' distance. They can hardly afford to take bath in a month. Such state-of-affairs even after 63 years of Independence is very terrific. Whatever little amount of water is left in Nawada district is vitiated with excessive amount of fluoride which results in the increase of disability. There are generation of handicapped and impaired people in a number of villages. Right from the State Government to the Central Government have not taken any meaningful initiatives in all these years. In these districts Parsakri, Tilaiya, Ghaghar rivers are being the constant source of catastrophe and disaster due to heavy rainfall. The project of proposed dam over it for irrigation purposes and for power production has been lying pending for years together in the past. Out of the population of 25 lakh merely two thirds is of Mahadalits, Dalits, backwards most backwards, minorities and the poor people who don't have an access to food and drinking facilities even today. I would like to request the Central Government to take steps at their level by chalking out an effective plan having entered into a discussion with the representatives of the State Government and make funds available for devising plans. I would like to draw the attention of the government in this regard.

SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH (Balaghat) : Sir, the state government has sent a list of certain road construction to the Central Government to provide facilities for the upgradation of Naxal affected Balaghat routes in Madhya Pradesh which is necessary to do in the public interest. The State Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government for building a

stretch of 30 kilometres along Bassivan-Katangi route under Central roads funds. Parsatola Jatta Mohgaon road having a stretch of 17 kilometres is proposed to be constructed under LWE scheme which too is lying pending with the Central Government. The proposal of Lonzi Durg Road upto Chhattisgarh border of 34 kilometres has been sent to the Central Government under LEW Scheme. The proposal of Lanzi Saletkri Road upto Chhattisgarh border with a length of 59 kilometre has been sent to the Central Government under LWE Scheme. For Rajegoan Kirnapur Lanzi Angaon road covering the length of 57 kilometres has been sent to the Central Government under LWE scheme. Proposals have been sent to the Central Government by the State Government for the development of Naxal affected areas. However, these proposals have been lying pending with the Government for the last six months. Balaghat district is a naxal affected district. Therefore, this calls for special attention. So, therefore, I would like to place my demand before the Central Government to approve the proposals relating to the construction of roads in the Naxal affected districts received from the State Government in the public interest.

[English]

SHRIPREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. This is to bring to the notice of the Government and of this august House that Sikkim is presently facing and coping with one of the worst cases of widespread landslides due to torrential rain and cloud burst that has not yet abated.

Many people have lost their lives. Many people have been made homeless. Farmers have been affected very badly with standing crops being washed away at several locations.

The National Highway 31 A, which is the only lifeline, has been breached at several places. Many remote locations have been cut off for days. The State capital was till recently cut off for over three days. Prices of commodities have risen. The poorer sections of our population have been hard hit.

I request the Government of India to immediately send a team to inspect the extent of damage to life, property and State assets and help the State Government in coping with this crisis. These are short-term measures that need to be taken up forthwith.

What in my opinion is a more important one are the long-

term measures for securing the security of life and property in mountain States like Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh. Mountain specificities are clearly being ignored in current planning. More and more mountain specific planning and programmes need to be initiated in light of the fact that more and more of these cloud bursts and peculiar rainfall are happening in the mountain States. Delhi and the plain-centric thinking will only aggravate the situation.

I would like to request the hon. Speaker Madam for a full discussion on this issue during the next Session of Parliament on a priority basis.

19.19 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS - Contd.

(iii) Re : Need to construct a Memorial in Honour of Late Shri Rajguru, an eminent freedom fighter in Maharashtra.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would have been better if the Cabinet Minister who was in this House just a short time before, had responded, but I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to lend his ears and, if possible, may respond to this important aspect.

Seldom anyone will remember Shivaram Hari Rajguru today. But he is remembered as only Rajguru along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Last Tuesday, that was 24th of August, his native village celebrated his 101st Birth Anniversary. They have kept his name alive. But what efforts have been made by the nation to remember him?

Today, a proposed international airport, a residential school, an SEZ and acres of farm land are Rajguru Nagar's current claim to fame. Yes, the people of his village have named their village as 'Rajguru Nagar', which is 45 kilometres from Pune, in Maharashtra. The memorial to freedom fighter, Rajguru is nowhere near complete.

Most of the 'Wada' as they call it in Maharashtra, where he lived, is dilapidated. Only the room where he was born in 1908 and the outhouse have been restored, and the retaining wall along the Bhima river has been built. The rest of the work on the place, it seems, has been abandoned.

In 2008, during the monsoon Session, I had drawn the

attention of this House about the Centenary Celebration of Rajguru. I do not know what steps have been taken by the Government. Do we not remember that Rajguru was sent to the gallows by the British in 1931 along with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev? Is it not necessary to keep alive the memory of our freedom fighters and martyrs for the future generation?

I do not belong to Maharashtra but Rajguru belongs to this country, to this nation, and he gave away his life for our freedom. I would like to get a response from the Minister and the Government. If only he can speak a few words, at least what I have uttered here can be circulated tomorrow. We should have discussed this matter, and for the last one week I have been trying to raise this matter. I would like to get a response from the hon. Minister.

DR. TARUN MANDAL : Sir, I would like to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mahtab.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very serious issue of the freedom fighter. According to the hon. Member, his Centenary was celebrated last year. Whatever possible could be done will be done. We will take it up with the Ministry concerned, we will see that his original house is restored and also he will be remembered by the society.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hansraj G. Ahir and Dr. Tarun Mandal are associating with the issue raised Shri B. Mahtab.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise an issue relating to my state. There has been a BPL survey in Jharkhand after its creation. Nearly three months ago the survey was conducted and after the survey and subsequently it was sent to the Central Government. At present, it is under President's Rule. The Additional Secretary in the Rural Development Ministry too visited there and we had a discussion with him. Jharkhand is currently faced with draught and it has been draught hit even last year. BPL booklet of BPL families has not yet been issued here. As a result, those who are poor and actually belong to APL or BPL families are being deprived of

the relief and subsidy being provided by the Government of India. These days people are dying of hunger. In our Giridh Lok Sabha constituency there are three districts, Bokaro, Giridih and Dhanbad where as many as 12 persons here died. Fodder is not being made available for animals. I urge upon the government to get subsidy commenced under public distributor system without delay. You will be surprised to know that it was 8 years back where APL and BPL families were provided with ration cards and has not been renewed since. Here importantly, labourers are migrating from here and insurgency is on the rise. You will be surprised to know that the MCC had called for two days' Bandh in the state. In the name of draught. I would urge upon the government to take an action immediately. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. I would like to request him to contemplate over it.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, in our Maharashtra nearly eight thermal power plants are such that are coal based. Coal is supplied there by the coal India. Last month power generation has been severely affected due to bad and muddy coals being supplied to the power plants. These days 40% power is being generated there.

Through you I would like to apprise the Central Government and particularly the Ministry of Coal that coal is supplied there by the WCL unit of coal India. Presently, all the racks comprising coals are not being evacuated for being wet or muddy. The amount of coal being left unused or going waste can be gauged from it. As a result, Maharashtra government used oil instead of coal in power plants which led to increase in the price of electricity.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to direct coal India on its DCL unit to supply Qlty coal. Besides why is it that such type of coal is being supplied there. A team of enquiry should be sent to look into it so that Maharashtra which is already facing the scarcity of six thousand MWTT. Electricity may not be subjected to severe power crisis in future. I would like the Government to pay attention to it immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, 31st August, 2010 at 11 am.

19.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 31, 2010/Bhadrapada 9, 1932 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Twelfth Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, New Delhi-110002
