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Friday, July 28, 2023
Sravana 06, 1945 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 28, 2023/ Sravana 06, 1945 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION**(Q. 121)***[Translation]***HON. SPEAKER:** Question Hour, Question No.121

Adv. A. M. Ariff Ji

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon.Speaker Sir, the Statement has been laid on the table of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I request you to tell me whether you want the Question Hour to continue or not. The Question Hour is an important time for everyone. I request all of you and as I had said in the all-party meeting also and again I am requesting you all. Don't you want the Question Hour to run? This Question Hour belongs to you, it makes the Government accountable. Don't you want the Question Hour to run?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour go on, and thereafter, I will give the Ruling. The House is run by the rules and regulations.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon.Speaker Sir, we are the Opposition and we also have some demands. I would like to make a small remark. In the year 1978, on May 10, the opposition moved a no-confidence motion in this House itself and the discussions started the same day. Why is it getting so late today? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do you not want to let the Question Hour go on?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will give the Ruling in respect of the request you have made. Don't you want the Question Hour to run?

... *(Interruptions)***11.03 hrs**

At this stage, Shri Benny Behanan, Shri T. N. Prathapan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Speaker Sir, according to the

rules, there is ten days' time. We are ready for discussion whenever you decide. Apart from this, I would also like to say that if you have so much distrust... *(Interruptions)* the Government has the numbers. If they think so, then let them repeal our Bill immediately. If our Bill faces the repeal, then all the hassle will automatically come to an end. *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am requesting you again.

... *(Interruptions)*

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos. 122 to 140
Unstarred Question Nos. 1381 to 1610)

HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 12 O'clock.

11.03½ hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

*** For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.
You can also visit <https://sansad.in/lis/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.**

12.00 hrs

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

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motion on some subjects. Hon. Speaker has not allowed any notice of Adjournment Motion. The ruling has already been given.

... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Dr. Amar Singh, Shri B. Manickam Tagore and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.01½ hrs**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the papers to be laid on the Table.

Item No.-2, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik ji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM

(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Marine Aids to Navigation (Accreditation of Training Organizations) Rules, 2022 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.178(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th March, 2023, under Section 51 of the Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9734/17/23]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2023/01 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated April 6th, 2023 notifying amendment to Statute 7(1), Ordinance No. 02 of 2020 and Ordinance No. 04 of 2019 relating to Indian Maritime University, under sub-section (2) of Section 47 of the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9735/17/23]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Gautambudh Nagar, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Gautambudh Nagar, for the year 2021-2022.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9736/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL): Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers: -

- (1) A copy {Hindi and English versions) each of the following notifications under Section 44 of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021 :-
- (i) The Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.269(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2023.
- (ii) The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.493(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9737/17/23]

- (2) A copy [Hindi and English versions] each of the following Notifications under Section 52 of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021: -
- (i) The Surrogacy Regulations, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.270(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2023.
- (ii) The Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.415(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th June, 2023.
- (iii) The Surrogacy (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.494(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9738/17/23]

- (3) A copy [Hindi and English versions] of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.400(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st May, 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 31 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9739/17/23]

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA): Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers: -

- (1) A copy [Hindi and English versions] each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955: -
- (i) The Drugs (Prices Control) Amendment Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.2165(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th May, 2023.
 - (ii) The Drugs (Prices Control) Second Amendment Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.2324(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th May, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9740/17/23]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9741/17/23]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2021-2022.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9742/17/23]

- (4) A copy [Hindi and English versions] of the Annual Report of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9743/17/23]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9744/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH (DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy, Shillong, for the year 2021-2022, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy, Shillong, for the year 2021-2022.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9745/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

12.02 hrs

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA ***

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha: -

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2023.”

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 2023.

... (*Interruptions*)

*Laid on the Table

12.02½hrs

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

20th and 21st Reports

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes: -

(1) Twentieth Report of the Committee (2022-23) on the subject 'Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) and Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)' pertaining to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

(2) Twenty-First Report of the Committee (2022-23) on the subject 'Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)' pertaining to Ministry Labour and Employment.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.03 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

23rd Report

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on External Affairs (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report on the subject 'India's Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy: Prospects & Limitations'

... (*Interruptions*)

12.04 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

(i)(a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 27th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, MES, ECHS and Sainik Schools (Demand Nos. 20 and 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence *

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (ADV. AJAY BHATT): Hon. Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 27th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, MES, ECHS and Sainik Schools (Demand Nos. 20 and 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on Capital Outlay on Defence Services, Procurement Policy, Defence Planning and Married Accommodation Project (Demand No. 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (ADV. AJAY BHATT): Hon. Chairperson, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on Capital Outlay on Defence Services Procurement Policy, Defence Planning and Married Accommodation Project (Demand No. 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services) – New DPSUs, Defence Research and Development Organization, Directorate General of Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps (Demand Nos. 20 & 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence1*

□ Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9745-A/17/23, LT 9745-B/17/23 and LT 9745-C/17/23 respectively.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (ADVOCATE AJAY BHATT): Hon. Chairperson, with your permission I lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants (2022-23) on Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination and Services) – New DPSUs, Defence Research and Development Organization, Directorate General of Quality Assurance and National Cadet Corps (Demand Nos. 20 & 21) pertaining to the Ministry of Defence.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 31st of July, 2023 will consist of: -

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper: - [it contains: - Consideration and passing of the following Bills: - (i) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023; (ii) The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023; and (iii) The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023] ... (*Interruptions*)
2. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 (No. 1 of 2023) promulgated by the President of India on the 19th of May, 2023 and consideration and passing of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*)
3. Consideration and Passing of the following Bills: -
 - (i) The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
 - (ii) The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
 - (iii) The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
 - (iv) The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
 - (v) The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
 - (vi) The Inter-Services Organization (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023;
 - (vii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and
 - (viii) The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*)
4. Consideration and passing of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023, *as passed by Rajya Sabha*. ... (*Interruptions*)

5. Consideration and passing of the Mediation Bill, 2021, *after it is passed by Rajya Sabha. ... (Interruptions)*
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, *after they are introduced, considered and passed by Rajya Sabha: -*
 - (i) The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and
 - (ii) The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023 ... *(Interruptions)*
7. Consideration and passing of the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 *after its introduction. ... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 12, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji.
... (Interruptions)

12.07hrs

**INDIAN INSTITUTES OF MANAGEMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023 ***

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The motion was moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017."

Shri Manish Tewari Ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Sir, first, No Confidence Motion on Manipur... *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017."

The motion is adopted.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I introduce** this Bill... *(Interruptions)*

□ Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part – II, Section 2, dated 28.07.2023

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

12.08 hrs**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today, may lay their approved text of the matter in person within 20 minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

(i) Need to expedite the construction of Bihta International Airport in Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): The Government of India has granted the approval for the construction of an international airport at Bihta in Patna district under my parliamentary constituency Patliputra a long time ago. The Government of Bihar has acquired the land and handed it over to the Airports Authority of India. The boundary of the acquired land has also been completed. However, the construction process has not started yet. NH No. 30 Patna-Buxar road is passing near the Bihta International Airport approved by the Union Government. The process of construction work on the elevated road from Bihta to Danapur has started on that road. Bihta-Sarmera road, which is also a part of 6 lane Patna Ring Road, is being constructed at a very fast pace. Several other government and non-government educational institutions including IIIT, NIELIT, ESIC Medical Colleges and Hospitals, Private Medical Colleges and Hospitals, NIT, Footwear Designing Institute, Dry Port, and several industrial parks are functioning or are under construction in Bihta. The Capital Patna is rapidly expanding from Danapur to Bihta and its adjoining areas. Apart from this, NH number 30 Patna-Buxar, Bihta-Sarmera, Ramnagarkanhaul 6 lane road, proposed construction of a bridge over the Ganga River in Sherpur will provide easy, smooth and fast connectivity to Bihta Aurangabad, Airport to Ara, Buxar, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Arwal, Jehanabad, Rohtas, Nalanda among other districts. It is evident from what is mentioned above that all the desired prerequisites for the construction of an international airport are being fulfilled by Bihta International Airport. However, why is there a delay in the commencement of construction work?

Therefore, it is a humble request to the Hon. Minister that prompt action should be taken to start the process of construction of Bihta International Airport at the earliest.

*Treated as laid on the Table

(ii) Need to start construction of AIIMS in Darbhanga district of Bihar

SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR (DARBHANGA): Construction of a 750-bed AIIMS in Darbhanga, a major city of Mithila and North Bihar, has been ensured at a cost of 1264 crore rupees for which approval has been given by the Union Cabinet under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of the country Shri Narendra Modi, on 15 September 2020. Even, the Government of India has appointed a Director so that AIIMS can be constructed at a rapid pace, but due to the Government of Bihar's apathy towards Darbhanga AIIMS and its policy of creating hindrances in execution of tasks, the construction of Darbhanga AIIMS has not started till date. The Government of Bihar, in their cabinet, passed 200 acres of land on the DMCH premises for Darbhanga AIIMS and sent the same to the Government of India, where the work pertaining to soil, levelling of land and removal of old buildings was in the final stage. Then suddenly, the Government of Bihar reversed the decision of its own Cabinet and decided to allot land for the same at Shobhan on the banks of the Bagmati River, which was not suitable for AIIMS. It is even confirmed by a letter written by the JD(U) MPs and the statement given by the Congress MLC in the Legislative Council. Later on, the technical team also considered the said land as not suitable for AIIMS. This issue is related to the health of the general public as well as basic healthcare facilities for them. Therefore, it is necessary to build it within a fixed time limit so that crores of Mithilites can avail benefit from the same. But unfortunately, due to the ill -will and hatred of the Bihar government towards the general public of Mithila, the construction work of Darbhanga AIIMS has not started till date.

(iii) Regarding construction of a bridge to connect Chatham Island and Bamboo Flat Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[English]

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): The Chatham-Bamboo Flat Bridge-Andaman and the Nicobar Islands involves the construction of a 1.6km bridge worth Rs. 2,000 Crore to connect Chatham Island and Bamboo Flat Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which belong to Port Blair group of islands. At present, people need to travel about 48 kms to reach from one point to another by land. The construction of a bridge will bring the two regions closer. The task of implementing it has been given to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. The groundworks for the proposed Chatham-Bamboo Flat Bridge were on halt during the Corona pandemic, which affected the progress of DPR preparation. The delay in the construction of the Chatham-Bamboo Flat Bridge is causing great concern among the residents of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Draft DPR has been forwarded to HQ, NHIDCL on 25.02.2023, which is under examination for obtaining sanction from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. I request the Government to intervene and pass necessary orders to speed up the construction of this bridge, which will bring a sea change by enabling convenient vehicular traffic movement from a major part of the South Andaman region to Port Blair City, and reduce the travel time for the commuters from several villages.

(iv) Need to introduce subsidies in the rubber industry in Idukki Parliamentary Constituency

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Rubber has emerged as a dominant cash crop in many regions in the country, especially in the high-range of Kerala. This is a very important economic factor in the lives of many people who live in my constituency, Idukki. However, many policies of the Government as well as international market situations have led to a fall in rubber prices in the past. This has severe implications for the long-term growth of our country. This is because Rubber is a very important ingredient in many consumer products and also Industrial processes. If rubber cultivation is not remunerative, many farmers will be forced to shift their cultivation away from it. This will lead to severe shortages in the domestic market and also an unhealthy dependence on foreign economies. Hence, the policy of low import duties to rubber imported from abroad is actually not in the interest of the country. The Government should introduce subsidies so that the price of rubber is raised to INR 300 per kilogram in the domestic market and also import duties must be adjusted to achieve this price. I urge upon the Government to do the needful so that this price is achieved at the earliest.

(v) Need to replace the existing National Exit Test (NExT)

DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):

The National Exit Test (NExT) has been clouded by conflicting claims from the National Medical Commission (NMC). Confusion continues to engulf the students. According to NMC's announcement, the test will be held for the 2019 batch of students. A mock exam was announced with no previous notice, almost as though the test was foisted on the students. NExT, as an exam, is solely based on multiple-choice questions (MCQs). When studying for the exam, students will have to concentrate solely on the MCQ format and not on clinical knowledge. The present university curriculum assesses both practical and academic knowledge. Furthermore, students will also have to seek independent NExT tutoring, which will burden the students further more. The students of various government medical colleges in Thanjavur, Chennai, Thiruvarur and Trichy had staged a demonstration in July beginning, demanding withdrawal of the same. The government of Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed the implementation of NEET for UG and PG medical seats and adding one more exam is absolutely unnecessary and untenable. In this light, I urge the Union Government to place a ban on the National Exit Test and refrain from introducing any such exams in the future.

(vi) Need to connect all competitive examinations for recruitment in government services by union recruitment agencies and give priority to local people

DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI (KALLAKURICHI): Tamil Nadu has more human resources with comparatively higher knowledge and skill sets both in technical and academic areas and they can be utilized well. Priority in appointment in Union Government offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings in Tamil Nadu to people from the State may be given to ensure adequate opportunities for native Tamils. The annual report of the Staff Selection Commission has clearly indicated that the number of qualified candidates from the Southern Region is only 4.5% of 28,081 total qualified people. Similarly, most of the people selected for various posts in the Southern Region are not from Tamil Nadu. This causes huge disappointment among the unemployed youth and which also causes a lot of concern among socio-political circles. I urge that a system should be facilitated for conducting all examinations by the union recruitment agencies.

**(vii) Regarding construction of ROB/RUB on priority basis in Machilipatanam
Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM): There are 34 railway gates between my Parliamentary Constituency i.e., Machilipatanam and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh which need to be taken up for construction of either Rail Over Bridge (ROB) or Rail Under Bridge (RUB) whichever is feasible on a priority basis. These gates are: 1. Machilipatanam to Chilakalapudi-5 gates 2. Chilakalapudi to Pedana- 2 gates 3. Pedana to Vadlamannadu- 2 gates 4. Vadlamannadu to Kavatram- 2 gates 5. Kavatram to Gudlavalleru- 1 gates 6. Gudlavalleru to Nujella- 1 gates 7. Nujella to Gudiwada - 2 gates 8. Gudiwada to Dosapadu - 6 gates 9. Dosapadu to Ventrapragada - 2 gates 10. Ventrapragada to Indupalli -2 gates 11. Indupalli to Tarigoppula 1 gate 12. Tarigoppula to Tennuru - 2 - gates 13. Tennuru to Uppaluru - 1 gate 14. Uppaluru to Nidamanuru - 3 gates 15. Nidamanuru to Ramavarapadu - 2 gates. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to get feasibility reports for these gates and take up construction of ROBS/RUBS at these gates on a priority basis, please.

**(viii) Regarding introduction of AC local train services at
Badlapur, Ambernath and Dombivli Railway Stations**

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): AC local train passengers on Central Railway and Western Railway have been growing exponentially but are still low compared to the overall passenger count owing to the lack of more trains and other related factors. Passenger numbers have increased by 228 per cent on CR and 309 per cent on WR compared to May 2022. However, the daily average number of passengers using AC locals is still close to about 2 lakhs, compared to the nearly 75 lakh passengers a day on the full suburban section. I represent the Kalyan Lok Sabha Constituency where Railways are the lifeline for the commuters and there has been an increase in demand for AC local trains from the passengers. In the past, new AC locals, including those from Badlapur were introduced in August 2022 but were subsequently withdrawn. The demand for AC local from stations like Badlapur, Ambernath and Dombivli is increasing and there is an urgent need to restart the AC Local operations on this route. I request the Government to kindly intervene and examine the feasibility of introducing AC local train services at stations like Badlapur, Ambernath and Dombivli between 8.00 am and 8.30 am which will benefit maximum commuters.

(ix) Need to start train services in Koshi and the border area of Bihar

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Due to the devastating earthquake of 1934 and the devastating flood of 2008, many railway lines in Kosi and border areas in Bihar were damaged. Survey work is underway for the rail line damaged since then i.e. from Pratapganj to Bhimnagar under East Central Railways, covering a distance of 57 km. Besides, surveys are being conducted for a new railway line between Bihariganj and Beerpur. But due to the very slow pace of surveys and other work, there is a lot of resentment among the general public of the area. The general public in the area is suffering a lot due to the fares being arbitrarily charged by the owners of private vehicles plying on the road for passengers. There is no other option for travel amenities for passengers except Railways. Kindly start the operation of trains at the earliest in public interest on the said railway section from a strategic point of view.

(x) Need to implement appropriate policies to provide coverage and support for the mental well-being of people and to revisit the Acts related to mental health

[English]

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): I draw the attention of the Government towards the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Act 2021 and its implications on Clinical Psychologists. The Act aims to provide regulatory bodies for various healthcare professionals, except Clinical Psychologists, who remain under the purview of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) through the Mental Health Act 2017. This raises the question of why Clinical Psychologists have been excluded, infringing upon their right to equality. I urge the Government to revisit the Acts related to mental health and make necessary amendments to ensure comprehensive care, define temporary mental health conditions, and safeguard patient rights. A study of the existing mental health laws, spectrum of mental healthcare, and patient protection for undefined conditions is essential to address this issue adequately. Once the Acts are amended, non-disabling or temporary mental health care and therapy should be included in insurance policies with support from the Finance Ministry. With the rising prevalence of mental health issues, it is crucial to implement appropriate policies to provide coverage and support for mental well-being services. I seek clarity on the Government's policy regarding insurance coverage for mental health services and its commitment to the inclusion of such services in the existing insurance packages. The holistic well-being of our citizens must be a priority, and by addressing these concerns, we can take significant steps towards building a mentally healthier society. I implore the Government to act swiftly and diligently in this regard, promoting mental health care and its related services.

(xi) Need to restart Passport Seva Kendra at Kottayam

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): The functioning of Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) Kottayam was suspended temporarily on February 16, 2023, due to technical and functional reasons. On writing to the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs about it, I was informed that the building in which the PSK was being run was not in conformity with the safety standards. The appointments of applicants for PSK Kottayam have been diverted to PSK Allapuzha (47 kms), PSK Aluva (77 kms) and PSK Tripunithura (54 kms). It is causing great inconvenience to the applicants, especially from district Kottayam. The Hon'ble Minister had given the assurance that the RPO Cochin and the service provider are looking for an alternate location for the PSK Kottayam. However, even after around five months, there is no clarity on alternate locations for the PSK yet. Through this submission, I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to consider making the arrangements for restarting PSK at Kottayam at the earliest by speeding up the process so that inconvenience caused to the applicants can be avoided.

12.09 hrs

MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2023

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 14, The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023.

Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration.” ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration.”

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Sunil Kumar Singh Ji.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*) The exploration of minerals as well as mining in India has been acutely facing problems for a long. But to simplify this process, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, there have been many amendments in the years 2015-16, 2020 and 2021. (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request all the Hon. Members to go back to their seats. Discussion is going on a very important Bill. You please participate in it and listen to the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please go back to your respective seats. Please cooperate with the Chair. This House is yours.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Sir, steps are being taken to promote domestic production, strengthen self-reliance, reduce dependence on imports and foster the progress of industries

strategically through the proposed amendment. ... *(Interruptions)* It will enable India to become self-reliant and world-class country in the fields of space, electronics, communications, energy, electric batteries etc. This amendment is being done for this purpose. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, through this, the government has suggested removing six minerals from the prescribed list, so that they could be excluded from the nuclear-related list and the mining and production of mineral items may be accelerated significantly through these amendments. Through this, the Union Government will get the benefit of releasing it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, the mining activities, such as regional, atmospheric, geographical, weight indicating surveys, geo-scientific mapping, pitting, trenching, drilling, and ground-level excavation will be facilitated. This Bill will be an important step towards making India self-reliant. ... *(Interruptions)* So, we can say that this amendment will result in more investment in the field of minerals and mining along with better infrastructure and technological development, that will improve the production capacity. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, by encouraging indigenous exploration and mining, India's dependence on imports will be reduced. We will be able to achieve the Hon. Prime Minister's goal of making an Atmanirbhar Bharat. Along with this, India's position in the global market will also be strengthened. Through this, it will become easier for companies to obtain permissions and licenses and the bureaucratic hurdles that existed there will also be eliminated. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, through these amendments, mining companies will especially benefit from the revenue-sharing system by which they can earn revenues by way of exploration in the mining sector. The amendments to make some minerals important and strategic give powers to the Union Government to give concessions to mineral companies in public and private sectors, thereby encouraging this sector. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023 has been introduced in the House. It will enable India able to meet global challenges and will be successful in achieving the Hon. Prime Minister's goal of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". Concluding my point, I expect from the entire House that we all unanimously support this Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I want to say two things. You moved a no-confidence motion and it has been adopted. There will be a discussion on that. The Hon. Speaker will give a ruling with regard to that.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Secondly, a ruling has been given on the point of order that you raised. There is no sense in raising the same point of order again and again. When the ruling has been given by the Chair, then please respect it.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy ji.

[*English*]

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): Sir, I would like to highlight issues relating to the Indian mining industry. I would also urge the hon. Minister to note down the issues being raised during the debate. ... (*Interruptions*)

On the issue of the reservation of iron ore in AP in favour of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), I would like to inform the Government that the Andhra Pradesh Government established YSR Steel Corporation Limited for the development and operation of a new steel plant in Kadapa district. ... (*Interruptions*)

The steel plant will have a capacity of up to three million tonnes per annum and will focus on producing high-grade steel products. The steel plant aims to create sustainable employment and livelihood opportunities for the people of the Rayalaseema region. ... (*Interruptions*)

On reservation of Beach Sand Mineral areas in favour of A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC), I would like to state that the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has proposed the reservation of 16 Beach Sand mineral (BSM) bearing areas covering 16,604 hectares in favour of APMDC. ... (*Interruptions*) Currently, clearance for 14 mineral-bearing areas is pending with the Department of Atomic Energy. The AP Government plans to develop an Integrated Beach Sand Minerals Project with downstream plants for value-added products to utilize these minerals. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you, hon. Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, you please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, coming to lithium reserves discovery in India, the Geological Survey of India has, for the first time, established lithium inferred resources (G3) of 5.9 million tonnes in the Salal-Haimana area of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this is a very important Bill. It can also be a game changer, on one side. It is very unfortunate that when I brought this Bill in the year 2020-21, the situation was the same at that time also. At that time also, this Bill had to be passed in the din. Even at that time, some people from that side had opposed the Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say that after the years 2015 and 2020-21 and after amendments to it, 276 blocks have been auctioned. In this, 168 blocks were auctioned during a period of about two years from 2021 to 2023... *(Interruptions)* This means that under the guidance of Modi ji, we are bringing in changes in every sector. Whatever changes we are bringing in, ranging from foreign affairs to the biotechnology sector and the production in the mineral sector, are in the interest of the country. There is a visible change and development in the country. *[English]* There is a visible change. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

In the year 2014, the country's economy was in the list of five fragile economies, and India was in the list of five fragile economies. Today, under the leadership of Modi ji, India has become the fifth-largest economy. *[English]* Today, we are the fifth largest economy in the world.

[Translation] That is why, with a clean heart, with a clear vision and clear mind, whatever changes we are trying to bring in, we never thought of giving any benefit to anyone based on nepotism, rather we thought in the interest of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* During their tenure, in the case of coal allotment one of their MPs was awarded punishment, who is on the verge of going to jail. As regards the progress that India is making today under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of India, we have brought such a big change in the coal sector also.... *(Interruptions)* During their tenure, only 567 million tonnes of coal was produced in the coal sector. Today I would like to say with pride that by producing more than 1000 million tonnes i.e. one billion tonnes of coal this year, we are going to make the energy sector of this country self-reliant. You have asked me to conclude soon, whereas keeping all this in view, I had a lot to say. ... *(Interruptions)*

Whatever changes have taken place in this country, right now we are talking about electric vehicles, we are talking about lithium. ... *(Interruptions)* Earlier we used to talk only about importing coal, today we are producing so much coal that within a year to come, we are moving forward by deciding to stop the import of thermal coal by the year 2025-26. ... *(Interruptions)* Keeping all this in mind, about the changes we have brought in, I just want to say that we have brought three changes to it. ... *(Interruptions)* Earlier, we used to issue composite licenses and mining licenses. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, we have added a provision for

the grant of an exploration license. ... *(Interruptions)* The provision of granting an exploration license has been made because all over the world junior miners carry out exploration and mining companies do the mining. ... *(Interruptions)* This provision was not there in our country. ... *(Interruptions)* In this, we have made a provision that along with ML, and CL, we should also make provision for giving exploration license, which will be done through the route of transparent auction. ... *(Interruptions)* There is also a provision for revenue sharing, which too will be entirely through the auction route. ... *(Interruptions)* These people went by taking the discretionary route in allotment, so resultantly; their MPs and many officials have to be sent to jail because of the acts of these people. ... *(Interruptions)* We are not doing this, whatever we are doing, we are doing it transparently. ... *(Interruptions)* We are currently exploring potash also and there will be mining of potash also. ... *(Interruptions)* Along with this, with your permission, I lay on the Table the remaining details. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say one thing there were 12 minerals in our list of atomic minerals, out of which we are removing 6 minerals including Lithium from that list because their non-atomic application is more. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, by removing those 6 minerals, we are bringing 18 minerals in its Part-D, which are critical and deep-seated minerals. The minerals, which we are bringing in Part-D, will be auctioned through the Central Government. ... *(Interruptions)* Its mining lease and concession will be given by the State Government. ... *(Interruptions)* We will bear the burden of the auction. ... *(Interruptions)* *[English]* The responsibility of the auction will be taken by us whereas the entire revenue will go to the States. This is the approach of the Modi Government ... *(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* What used to happen earlier? ... *(Interruptions)* Only royalty was paid through the allotment route. I would like to tell you what changes have taken place in it through premium and auction. ... *(Interruptions)* Before 2014, the revenue of Odisha was only 5000 crore rupees, today it has increased to 49,000 crore rupees. I am just telling you about revenue from mining. ... *(Interruptions)* This change has taken place. ... *(Interruptions)* I have mentioned about three areas – one, we are removing 6 minerals from the list of atomic minerals. We are auctioning all 24 minerals by including them in the category of critical and deep-seated minerals in Group-D. ... *(Interruptions)* The state is getting its revenue. ... *(Interruptions)* Having said this, I just want to say that we have not included Beach sand minerals in this. ... *(Interruptions)* Beach sand minerals will be reserved for the public sector. ... *(Interruptions)* For this, our Hon. Minister Muraleedharan ji, who comes from Kerala, and Premachandran ji had also requested me, and we have accepted that request. ... *(Interruptions)* We have kept Beach sand minerals out of it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, with this, I would like to lay the rest of my speech on the Table, requesting for passing this Bill unanimously. ... (*Interruptions*)

* In our motherland i.e. in our country, there is a huge amount of minerals. We call it the Ratna Garbh Vasundhara.

- It is both a challenge as well as a necessity to find ways to extract these natural assets and resources while keeping the environment in mind.

- You all are aware that mining boosts our economy and also provides employment. One direct job in the mining sector creates 10 indirect jobs.

- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become the fifth-largest economy. The Hon. Prime Minister has also set the target of bringing it to third place.

- For this, there is a need to create a huge amount of modern infrastructure and along with this, we also have to bring a lot of change in transportation with EVs.

- To achieve all this, the minerals available in the country have to be mined and utilized sustainably.

- Due to the huge demand and supply gap in India, the allotment of mines has to be done with transparency.

- In the previous government, the allotment was done arbitrarily through a discretionary allotment route following the policy of First Come First Serve. There was a lot of corruption in this. CVC report came, and CBI cases were filed. Many people had to stand in the dock of the court.

Ultimately, this also had an impact on production.

- We have to import even the mineral resources that we have.

- Keeping all this in mind, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we adopted an auction-only regime in 2015.

- We started this system in coal blocks and other mineral blocks also.

- Before 2014, the progress of the mineral sector was also negligible, the State Government also got less revenue, and at that time there was only royalty.

- Due to the Auction regime, states started getting premiums and their revenue started increasing in large amounts.

- So far 276 mineral blocks have been auctioned.

- Even when we brought a proposal in 2021 to amend the MMDR Act, some people had opposed it. But it gives me immense pleasure to tell this House that after the amendment of

*This part of the speech was laid on the Table

2021, 168 mineral blocks have been auctioned in the last 2 years only (61 %).

- In many states like Orissa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, their revenue has increased manifold. For example, the mining revenue of the State of Orissa has increased from 5798 crore rupees in 2015-16 to 49,858 crore rupees in 2021-22. This is an 8-fold increase. Similarly, there has been considerable improvement in revenues in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh also.
 - We do not deny the fact that mining does not have any negative impacts. However, to deal with the little negative impact, we established the District Mineral Foundation (DMF). You will be happy to know that 77,000 crore rupees have been collected in this Fund so far.
 - Before Modi ji assumed office, OGP in our country was only 5.7 Lakh Sq Km. So, we established NMET and because of our emphasis on mineral exploration, the OGP has now increased to 6.88 Lakh Sq Km. As of date, we have done 30% exploration.
 - As I said earlier, we have handed over a large number of Geological Reports to the states. In the last 1 year, we have submitted more than 250 Geological Reports to the states.
 - The result has been that our OGP has increased from 10% to 30%. All this has been possible only because of Modi ji's guidance.
 - Another positive result of this is that Iron ore production has increased to 258 MT. The rampant corruption was prevalent during your regime. In these 9 years of Modi ji's regime, coal production has increased by 47% and this year, for the first time in this country, we will exceed 1000 MT i.e. 1 BT production. States are also getting its benefits. As I have already said, revenue has also increased in large amounts.
 - During your tenure, even MPs were also sentenced to jail for committing corruption. During Modi ji's tenure, block allotments have been done through an undisputed auction route in a transparent system and as a result of this auction, the revenue of the states has increased manifold.
 - I would like to tell you that some State Governments have auctioned the mines immediately after the Geological Report is handed over, but the auction is yet to take place in many states.
 - Despite this, gold, diamond, copper, and rock phosphate have been auctioned in large quantities for the first time.
 - I am also very happy to inform you that the auction of 14 gold blocks has been done and the auction of the remaining 12 blocks is currently under process.
- India is the largest importer of gold. Every year, we import 800 to 900 tonnes of gold.
- A few days ago, the Government of MP has auctioned 51 blocks and this is the largest mineral block auction in one go till date. Despite doing all this, we should do more exploration

to make the country self-reliant. We should increase exploration, especially in critical and deep-seated minerals. Because, due to the global situation in the world, its supply chain is not assured and is very risky.

- These critical and deep-seated minerals are very essential for the development of the country.
- We also have to understand that exploration of deep-seated minerals like gold, diamonds etc. is very expensive and difficult.
- It is much harder to obtain critical and deep-seated minerals than what we call surficial minerals. For this reason, we import all these minerals.
- In the modern world, for building a modern India, these minerals are essential for the country. This is essential for us to achieve Net Zero.
- Keeping all this in mind, under the leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, we have brought the MMDR Amendment Bill.

At present, we give CL, otherwise we give ML, but to carry out this mining, exploration is necessary first. As I told earlier, very little exploration is being done in our country. Before 2014, it was only 10% but now it is 30%. Deep-seated and critical minerals involve a lot of investment and expense.

- So, because of this amendment, just like we do CL and ML auctions, we will also give EL for exploration and that too through a transparent method of auction.
- As of date, there is no provision for granting full exploration license and for auctioning.
- If there is more exploration in the world, there is a concept of Junior Miners in many countries. *[English]* There are 600 listed Junior Mining Companies in Australia, which is geographically vaster than our country is. It has achieved an OGP of nearly 100%, with the help of exploration done by these Junior Mining Companies.
- *[Translation]* Through the amendment, we are releasing this concept of Junior Miners through the transparent auction route.
- With this, people from the private sector will take an interest in exploration and will also bring new technology. Moreover, the entire data of the exploration that is done by them will have to be given to the state. After giving the data, the auction will have to be done within 1 year. Out of the premium that the state gets from the auction, there is a provision to give revenue share to the junior exploration companies, which have invested their money, this revenue sharing is also through the transparent route.

[English] This Bill proposes that certain minerals (6 out of 12) be taken out from the list of atomic minerals specified in Part B of the 1st Schedule. *[Translation]* Minerals like Lithium

play a very important role that will help in achieving our Energy Transition and Net zero Emission target. In the year 2022-23, India has imported lithium worth 23 thousand crore rupees. Its demand is going to increase by a huge amount, it will increase by 965% by 2050, according to the World Bank report.

- In India too, investment is being made in Renewable Energy, EVs and High-end Defence Equipment. We want to set up a semiconductor fab and battery gigafactory in this country. Critical minerals like Lithium are essential for all this.

- As of date Titanium, Beryl and Beryllium-bearing minerals, Niobium-Tantalum Zirconium including Lithium are in the list of atomic minerals.

- These minerals also have non-atomic applications in large quantities. Besides, these minerals are also not fissile or radioactive in nature.

- These minerals were kept in the list of atomic minerals because they were used for the manufacturing of nuclear reactors. But now they are used in many other sectors including energy.

- Due to their being on the atomic minerals list, their exploration and mining have also been limited.

- For this reason, it is very essential and in the interest of the country to bring these 6 minerals out of the list of atomic minerals and they are being used more in non-atomic than atomic activities.

- Several Hon. Members have expressed their concern about its handling. As I have already clarified these minerals are not fissile and are radioactive in nature.

[English]

- I would also like to clarify that the rules already provide that if any atomic minerals occur in association with other non-atomic minerals the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has power to terminate such mining leases.

- There are sufficient safeguards in place if at all there are any atomic minerals present. Hence, the removal of these minerals will not have an impact on national security and strategic interest. Rather, the proposal will encourage the production of these minerals and their downstream industries including high-end electronics and defence manufacturing which will strengthen national security and contribute to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

- *[Translation]* There is also a provision in this Bill that a new Part D of 1st schedule should be created. *[English]* And in this part D, 18 critical Minerals and 6 minerals which have been removed from the atomic minerals list are included, as mentioned in the Bill. As there would

be a huge demand in the present and in future it will continue to increase, exploration and production of these minerals is crucial.

[Translation]

- Some state governments have not yet auctioned a single critical mineral block. GSI and MECL have handed over more than 160 Geological Reports to many states. Despite this, not a single auction has taken place till date.
- Some states have conducted very few auctions, which are almost negligible.

[English]

- As these critical minerals are indispensable for the growth of our economy, authorizing the Central Government to auction concessions for these critical minerals would increase the pace of auction and early production of the minerals.

[Translation]

- Therefore, there is also a proposal in it that the Government of India will bear the burden of auctioning this critical mineral. *[English]* The responsibility of the auction will be borne by the Central Government.
- Even in the case of conduct of auction by the Central Government, the mineral concession shall be granted to the selected bidders by the State Government only and the auction premium and other statutory payments shall accrue to the State Government.
- Including premiums, all revenue will go to state governments only. The Central Government will not take a single penny from this. We are here to only assist the state governments.

[Translation] Therefore, I request the Government to pass this Bill unanimously. *[English]* Any ambiguity regarding the mining of Beach Sand minerals will be clarified in the rules being framed.

[Translation] I request to support the Government to make India self-reliant in the mineral sector, and also request to pass this Bill unanimously. *

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON.SPEAKER: Now the House will take up the Bill for clause-by-clause consideration.

Clause 2

Amendment of section 3

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 1 and 2?

[*English*]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 4, -

After

“licence granted”

insert

“to Public Sector Undertaking under the direct control and administration of Central Government or State Government”.

(1)

Page 2, line 10, -

After

“undertaken”

insert

“by Public Sector Undertaking under the direct control and administration of Central Government or State Government”.

(2)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, I put to the vote of the House Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran in Clause 2.

The amendments were put to vote and negatived.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 8 were added to the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

Clause 9

Insertion of new section 10BA

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N. K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 3 to 11?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, *for* lines 21 to 23,-

Substitute

“(3) The Central Government shall not modify the entries in the Seventh Schedule without obtaining the consent from all the State Governments.”. (3)

Page 3, lines 24 and 25,-

Omit

“after obtaining the previous approval of the Central Government and” (4)

Page 3, lines 25 and 26,-

For

“Central Government”

substitute

“State Government” (5)

Page 3, line 28,-

For

“may”

substitute

“shall not” (6)

Page 3, lines 29 to 32,-

Omit

“within such period as may be fixed in consultation with the State Government, and in case the State Government does not notify the area within such period, the Central Government may, after the expiry of the period so fixed, notify the area for grant of exploration licence.”

(7)

Page 3, *omit* lines 37 to 48 (8)

Page 4, *omit* lines 1 to 11 (9)

Page 4, line 12,-

For

“Central Government”

substitute

“State Government”. (10)

Page 4, line 43,-

Omit “the Central Government or”. (11)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, I put to the vote of the House Amendment Nos. 3 to 11 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran in clause 9.

The amendments were put to vote and negated.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adv. Dean Kuriakose ji, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 15, 16, 18 to 21?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 stands part of the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 19 were added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

Clause 20

Amendment of first schedule

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 12 and 13?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, for lines 37 to 39,-

Substitute “Beach sand minerals and Beach sand containing titanium, ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, garnet, monazite, zirconium, sillimanite.”

(12)

Page 7, for line 23,-

Substitute “Beach sand not containing any of the minerals such as titanium, ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, garnet, monazite, zirconium, sillimanite.”

(13)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, I put to the vote of the House amendment Nos. 12 and 13 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran in clause 20.

The amendments were put to vote and negatived.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 20 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

Clause 21

Insertion of new seventh schedule

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move amendment no. 14?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 8, *for* line 20,-

Substitute

“Beach sand not containing any of the minerals such as titanium, ilmenite, rutile, leucoxene, garnet, monazite, zirconium, sillimanite.”

(14)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I now put to the vote of the House amendment no. 14 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran in clause 21.

Amendment was put to vote and negatived.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 21 to stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title of the Bill were added to the
Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, now please move the motion for passage of the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I rise to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Items 15 and 16 shall be taken together.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.28 hrs

**NATIONAL NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COMMISSION BILL, 2023 AND
NATIONAL DENTAL COMMISSION BILL, 2023**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): Sir, I beg to move the motions:

"That the Bill to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals, assessment of institutions, maintenance of a National Register and State Registers and creation of a system to improve access, research and development and adoption of latest scientific advancement and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

and

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the profession of dental in the country, providing for quality and affordable dental education, facilitating high oral health care and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Speaker, Sir, both the National Dental Commission Act and the Nursing Commission Act are associated subjects.... *(Interruptions)* We know that we brought the National Medical Commission into the country... *(Interruptions)* With the National Medical Commission in place, we experienced that MBBS i.e. medical education has been systemized in the country... *(Interruptions)* The drawbacks that existed therein were removed... *(Interruptions)* With the new Medical Commission, education is provided today in a transparent manner in the country... *(Interruptions)* Good quality education is provided properly.... *(Interruptions)* At that time, there was discussion that the Dental Commission Act and Nursing Act would also be brought in future... *(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Standing Committee has also recommended this from time to time, as both the Acts had become obsolete. ... *(Interruptions)* It was necessary to change the 60–70-year-old Act... *(Interruptions)* With changing times, changes took place in nursing education. Changes were made in qualification. International demand increased. International education specifications changed.

Keeping this in view, there is a need to provide quality education in the country. We should provide nursing education through a distance system.... *(Interruptions)*

Similarly, the second one is about dental. Earlier, the dental industry was only one branch... *(Interruptions)* Today, many new branches have been added to it. Dental colleges have also increased in number in the country... *(Interruptions)* Making changes with the time is the need of the hour. Keeping that demand in mind, we have brought two Bills.... *(Interruptions)* Its objective is that in future, both nursing education and dental education should have a well-framed regulatory framework system so that good and quality education is provided.... *(Interruptions)* Resultantly, as an output, it would produce such nursing students and dentists who can provide their best services in the country and also in the world besides fulfilling the country's requirements also, thereby making India feel proud. ... *(Interruptions)* Both these Bills have been brought with this objective.... *(Interruptions)* The House should discuss and pass these Bills. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals, assessment of institutions, maintenance of a National Register and State Registers and creation of a system to improve access, research and development and adoption of latest scientific advancement and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. " "

The motion was adopted.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the House will take up the Bill for clause-by-clause consideration.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 57 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, now please move the motion for passing the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating the profession of dental in the country, providing for quality and affordable dental education, facilitating high oral health care and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. "

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the House will take up the Bill for clause-by-clause consideration.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 59 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 59 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, now please move the motion for passing the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

—————

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sit down, please. Let us do some other work.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sit down, please. Today, there is also the Private Members' business.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 31, 2023.

12.34 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Monday, July 31, 2023/Sravana 9, 1945 (Saka).*

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