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Thursday, July 20, 2017
Ashadha 29, 1939 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXV contains Nos.1 to10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

**Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXV, Twelfth Session, 2017/1939 (Saka)
No. 4, Thursday, July 20, 2017/Ashadha 29, 1939(Saka)**

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 61 and 62	10-22
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 63 to 80	23
Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920	

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	24-27
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT 291 st to 293 rd Reports	28
MOTION RE: 44th REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	29
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	30
(i) Regarding inclusion of aborigines of Santhal Pargana in the list of Scheduled Tribes	
Shri Nishikant Dubey	31
(ii) Need to develop Sikarhana, Madhubani and Bhelwa villages under Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar as tourist places	
Shrimati Rama Devi	32-33
(iii) Need to provide adequate wages to contract labourers engaged by BSNL in Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Ajay Misra Teni	34
(iv) Need to make motorable steep slope on National Highway No. 3 near Ganpati Ghat in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh	
Shrimati Savitri Thakur	35
(v) Need to embark on the proposed Yamunanagar - Chandigarh railway line project	
Shri Rattan Lal Kataria	36

- (vi) Need to review the system for fixation of price of agricultural produce and fix MSP for all agricultural produce

Dr. Virendra Kumar 37

- (vii) Need to convert N.H. 84 from Buxar to Patna into four lane and to construct four-lane bridge on river Ganga including repair of N.H. 30 between Mohania and Arrah

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey 38-39

- (viii) Need to extend the dam on river Kosi in all the areas located along the course of the river in Supaul and Madhubani districts, Bihar

Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 40

- (ix) Need to withdraw increase in user development fee for outgoing passengers from Thiruvananthapuram airport, Kerala

Dr. Shashi Tharoor 41-42

- (x) Need to withdraw the decision to discontinue serving of non-vegetarian food to economy class passengers in flights

Shri K.C. Venugopal 43

- (xi) Need to review the decision to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dr. P. Venugopal 44

- (xii) Need to redress the grievances of contract employees of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited, Tamil Nadu

Shri A. Arunmozhithevan 45

20.07.2017

- (xiii) Need to take steps for welfare of farmers in the country

Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad 46

- (xiv) Need to withdraw the order imposing stricter conditions on insured persons to avail medical facilities extended by ESIC

Shri N. K. Premachandran 47

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 20, 2017/Ashadha 29, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour, Question No.61, Dr. J. Jayavardhan.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*Translation*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not being taken up right now.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*English*)

HON. SPEAKER: That is after the Question Hour. Please sit down. Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*Translation*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*English*)

HON. SPEAKER: That is after the Question Hour. It is not like this.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not now. It is after the Question Hour, please.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, it is not now. There is nothing now, please.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*Translation*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not being taken up right now.

... (*Interruptions*)

(*English*)

11.02 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

11.02 ½ hours**ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION****HON. SPEAKER:** Q. No. 61, Dr. J. Jayavardhan.**(Q.61)****HON. SPEAKER:** Please go to your seats. No, it is not now. There is nothing now, please.*... (Interruptions)***HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, you put your supplementary.**DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in consultation with the Home Ministry, has done away with handbag tags in a few major airports by making changes in the security setup and also by infusion of new technology thereby a step forward has been taken to provide air passengers a hassle free journey.... *(Interruptions)* Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, hon. Speaker Madam, as to when it will be implemented on a pan-India basis covering all categories of airports used by the passengers.... *(Interruptions)***SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU:** Removal of baggage tag has been well received. It requires a little work, and slowly and steadily more airports within the country will get covered. ... *(Interruptions)* Ultimately, it is to be reached out everywhere.... *(Interruptions)***DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:** Hon. Speaker Madam, my second question, though deviates from the primary question, remains to be an important question to be asked with the permission of you, Madam.... *(Interruptions)* Madam, Air India's total debt burden has crossed several thousand crores; and the Government of India has proposed for disinvestment and privatization of Air India. There is a report that a section of the staff members of Air India is

20.07.2017

protesting against the proposed privatization over fear of large scale job losses.... (*Interruptions*) What I would like to ask the hon. Minister is this. Instead of disinvestment and privatization, has the Government of India and the Ministry thought of taking necessary steps in terms of administrative reforms and increasing the market share, rather than resorting to disinvestment and privatization? ... (*Interruptions*)

I would also request the hon. Minister to throw some light on the frequent falling of glass panels at Chennai Airport. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: He has put so many questions. You can give answer to only one question.

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: On Air India, there is another Question which is coming up today. So I think when that Question comes up, we can come to Air India.... (*Interruptions*)

But regarding those glass panels at Chennai Airport, they did fall once upon a time. I understand that the incidents are becoming less.... (*Interruptions*) An Inquiry was done on the quality of glass and action was taken at that particular point of time.

(*Translation*)

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to ask a question about safety and convenience of passengers at the airport. The Hon. Minister has given a detailed reply that there is a technical committee constituted for passenger safety which continuously upgrades the technology for passenger facilitation as per suggestions received. The passengers face the biggest inconvenience at the time of security check at the airport when they have to take out their laptops and ipads from their bags. My question is: can we have such technology which can do away with the requirement of taking out the laptops and ipads? It will not only save time but also ensure that the

20.07.2017

security check is not compromised in any way. Our country is progressing in the field of technology. Therefore, my suggestion is that we should use the technology in such a way that the laptop and ipads may go through security checks without being taken out from the bags and without compromising with security.

Hon. Speaker Madam, the senior citizens face a lot of inconvenience while standing in queues, particularly during peak hours. My question is: can there be a separate queue for senior citizens for their convenience?

(English)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Constant improvement is a thing that happens in one's lifespan. There are problems. Technology keeps changing. We keep adopting latest technologies available, not only with us but from everywhere in the world. The idea is to give a passenger a seamless experience and thus reduce the hassles that the passengers encounter.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: In the reply the Minister has stated that the Ministry has constituted three Committees, out of which a Committee is discussing with stakeholders the reasons also. I wanted to know regarding the flexi-fare. There is no control on private airlines. Suppose in the Lucknow-Delhi circle, if the only fare is Rs.5,000, sometimes, they take Rs.15,000 or Rs.16,000 or Rs.20,000. This holds good for the 'economy' class also. Out of the three Committees, are you thinking of bringing about a rationale concerning increase of air fares by private airlines and improving the quality of service also?

Now, the Government of India has decided to make a priority Buddhist Circuit also. There are four or five important places in Uttar Pradesh like Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sravasti and Kapilavastu. Is your Ministry considering about connectivity of all these four places to provide the facility to the

20.07.2017

Buddhist pilgrims from Japan, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore by Pawan Hans Helicopter Carrier?

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: These are commercial decisions taken by the airlines. As far as Government is concerned, we work with the State Governments to increase the connectivity. We want more areas to be connected because it promotes the economy. Like tourism, as the hon. Member has mentioned, we are with it and we are in touch with the State Governments. We take everybody on board. With regard to ticketing, we have done an analysis and we find that 98 per cent of the tickets are towards the lower end. So, floor rate, cap and simplistic solutions push up the cost for 98 per cent; it benefits less than two per cent. This is, I think, an incorrect thing. We have tried other strategies by which rates of tickets can be kept under control. But 1.7 per cent of the ticketing in a year is a matter of concern. ...

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): I am on my legs.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: They just do not want to hear anything.

... *(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I request the Congress Party and the rest of the Members of the Opposition to participate in the discussion. I would also like to thank you because last night till 10.30pm this House discussed about the farmers and the agrarian crisis and that meaningful discussion took place under your leadership. ... *(Interruptions)* Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

20.07.2017

Speaker Madam, MPs of Congress and Opposition are now coming to the well and raising the issue of agrarian crisis and other problems faced by farmers. They could have discussed about these issues yesterday. But when this discussion was going on late at night, only two Members from the Opposition were present there. ... (*Interruptions*) They are just shedding their crocodile tears about farmers and it is nothing more than that... (*Interruptions*) If they had any sensitivity or concern about the farmers... (*Interruptions*) Like our MPs of Bharatiya Janata Party, NDA and all other parties, who sat till 10.30 pm ... (*Interruptions*) and discussed about the implementation and execution of the ongoing schemes for the benefits of farmers, they could have also participated. There were only two Members from the Opposition belonging to Congress party, and they too walked out. I request them to go to their respective seats and participate in the discussion. This Government is always ready to hold all kinds of discussions, as per the rules. Thank you.

(English)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. This is not the way.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1130am.

11.12 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

20.07.2017

11.30 hours

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ... Contd.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

(At this stage, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

(Translation)

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 62, Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

(Q.62)

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: The Ken - Betwa river linking project is a very important project of this country. Our colleagues from the Congress party and the Opposition are discussing the issues of farmers, and this is a very important project for the farmers.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker Madam, this project to link Ken-Betwa rivers can be very helpful in developing Bundelkhand, the poorest area of the country, and alleviating the poverty there.... *(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to say that this project was launched in the year 2002 during the tenure of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's Government... *(Interruptions)* But during the last 10 years between the year 2004 and the year 2014, these people just indulged in appeasement politics and did nothing on this scheme. ... *(Interruptions)* I express my heartfelt gratitude to both Hon. Prime Minister and our Didi Uma Bharti ji, the Hon. Minister who worked on this important project where earlier no work had been carried out during the 10 years.... *(Interruptions)* If you go through this reply, everything will become clear to you. Within a year only, the Ministry of Water Resources on 8th July, 2016 and the Ministry of Environment on 21th September, 2016... *(Interruptions)*

20.07.2017

HON. SPEAKER: You ask your question. Speech is not given during Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: I am asking question only. This is related to the question only. I want to say that this will irrigate more than 6 lakh hectares of land. Millions of people will be benefitted from this... (Interruptions) I want to directly ask the Hon. Minister the question that when the government has worked very hard on the project, when our Prime Minister, has worked on such first ever international scheme for India. ...(Interruptions) under which the work of inter-linking of rivers is being done. For this, I congratulate the Prime Minister. No other person could have done that. I want to directly ask the Hon. Minister the question that as all the preparations have been made on this project which is worth lakhs of rupees then by when is this project going to be completed, in how many days is it going to be completed and by when will it start benefitting so that we can avail full benefits of irrigated land. I want to ask the Hon. Minister this question only. ...(Interruptions)

11.33 Hours

(At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Speaker Madam, it is a matter of great regret that when this House is discussing the issues of the farmers of Bundelkhand - the region which badly needs water, the commotion is being caused by the Opposition Members in the House...At least, at this time... (Interruptions) when it comes to the farmers of Bundelkhand, when it comes to water, the Opposition Members should cooperate. ... (Interruptions) Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell that this is the most unique initiative of our Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji which meets the biggest

20.07.2017

requirement of water for the farmers of this country. Water will be supplied there through Ken-Betwa rivers. Nine thousand hectares of land will be submerged. ... (*Interruptions*), but 6 lakh 35 thousand hectares of land will be irrigated and you can say that drinking water will be provided to about 14 lakh people through this project. This is the first of the 31 river interlinking projects. The Supreme Court has also ordered that Ken-Betwa rivers should be interlinked first. All the formalities have been completed. The taskforce formed in 2004 also had ordered that Ken-Betwa rivers should be interlinked first. All the formalities have been completed. The Prime Minister has paid special attention to this project... (*Interruptions*) He has repeatedly said that this project should be started soon. The MPs and all the people of Bundelkhand understand how badly Bundelkhand needs water. All clearances have been made. ... (*Interruptions*) it was declared as the National Project. We want and even NITI Aayog also supported it that this project should be implemented in a 90:10 ratio, as this national project is currently being implemented in a 60:40 proportion. However, all of us want that it should be implemented in a 90:10 ratio. We have just received a letter from the Madhya Pradesh Government... (*Interruptions*) Otherwise, the project was nearing completion. Cabinet note has been circulated. We were hopeful that we would start working on this project very soon. ...(*Interruptions*)

We have just received a letter from the Madhya Pradesh Government stating that Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Ken-Betwa Rivers Link Project should be combined. An agreement was reached in 2010 to combine Phase 1 and Phase 2, but the formalities of Phase 2 have not been completed yet. Hence, when the formalities of Phase 2 are completed, both the phases will be started together. ... (*Interruptions*) A letter has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government stating that both the phases should be implemented

20.07.2017

together and the issue of sharing of water from Uttar Pradesh should be reconsidered as this matter pertains to both the State Governments. An agreement was reached between the two Chief Ministers in 2005. The Central Government wants both State Governments to resolve the issue quickly so that this project can be started soon. The Ministry wants to start the project with immediate effect. We just need to receive the letter from the Madhya Pradesh Government so that we can work on the 2005 agreement. We are ready to work on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, go to your respective seats. It is not proper.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that this concept of interlinking of rivers is primarily aimed at mitigating the effects of droughts and floods. Many such projects were held up by our UPA colleagues during the last ten years. Even today, the kind of attitude they are having towards the project, the farmers of this country including Bundelkhand will not forgive them. ... *(Interruptions)* Please let me have the reply to my question. I directly want to know from the Hon. Minister whether, just as we have started the work of linking the Ken-Betwa rivers to save Bundelkhand from drought, similarly, there are also many such rivers in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Floods and erosions also occur due to the rivers flowing down from Nepal. Whether our Government will also connect those rivers in the coming times?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI): Madam Speaker, through you, I request the hon. members of the Opposition that they talk about the poor and the farmers but the issue on which we are replying right now is also related to the poor and the farmers only. So I would request them to sit down peacefully and let the country know about

20.07.2017

it. The Hon. Member's question is that the part of Uttar Pradesh where he comes from faces both floods and droughts and where only linking of rivers is a solution to both floods and droughts. We are ready to consider even new proposals along with other proposals to be received from the states.

Madam, secondly, I want to say is that I want to compliment Hon. Prime Minister. He had made this announcement in the Mahoba rally and upto four months the work was done at a great pace. I express my gratitude to the Ministry of Environment, NITI Aayog, the environmentalists and also to the Ministry of Finance that today, the interlinking of Ken-Betwa rivers is about to happen and I am sure that the issue that has been raised suddenly by the Madhya Pradesh Government, we will also find a way out to it. Six lakh hectares of land will be irrigated by it and 70 lakh people will be benefited from it. In the records that we have, after independence, there was a discussion on it once in 1972, then in 1977 and then during the tenure of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, a task force was formed under the leadership of Suresh Prabhu ji. The first recommendation given by the task force pertained to Ken-Betwa river. After that, the UPA Government came and put all the work on the back burner, and the saddest part was that their leader, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, kept visiting Bundelkhand and indulging in appeasement there, but he never raised the issue of Ken-Betwa. This is the first government led by Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi which has started work on Ken-Betwa project within three years. This will alleviate poverty and hunger in Bundelkhand, end the helplessness of the people of Bundelkhand, and Bundelkhand will thrive with water.

Through you, I urge the people of Congress that the sin they committed for ten years and did not even mention Ken-Betwa, they should at least repent for it now and sit down peacefully, listen to us and support us. Thank you.

20.07.2017

Dr. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, linking of the Ken-Betwa River project is the most ambitious project of the Central Government. After every two-three years of rotation, Bundelkhand has to face a drought situation. For this very reason, the previous Government announced the Bundelkhand package, but with that package there was no development of Bundelkhand. Through you, I want to say that both Ken and Betwa rivers flow through my parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh. The implementation of this project will lead to expansion of irrigation facilities in both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. As the Hon. Minister pointed out, clearances from the Forest Department, Green Panel and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have been obtained and all the bottlenecks related to the project have now been removed.

Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how many villages of Tikamgarh and Chhattisgarh districts will be submerged by the excess water? ...*(Interruptions)* How many hectares of land in Tikamgarh and Chhattisgarh will be irrigated and whether the Government has any plan to install power plants on this project? ...*(Interruptions)*

SUSHRI UMA BHARTI: Madam Speaker, it has a power project and the power project will be of about 78MW. About seven thousand families will be affected due to this, but 70 lakh will be benefitted. The people who are going to be affected by this are willing to leave their places. Six lakh hectares of land will be irrigated under the project out of which two lakh hectares belong to Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh while four lakh hectares belong to Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh. Districts like Chhattarpur, Tikamgarh and Panna etc. of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh will be benefitted and Mahoba, Banda, Lalitpur, Jhansi and Hamirpur of Uttar Pradesh will be benefitted. Altogether, a total of six lakh hectares of land will be irrigated. About seven thousand people will be displaced and seventy lakh people will be benefitted.

20.07.2017

Madam, I also belong to Tikamgarh district. Tikamgarh, Chhattarpur and Panna are the districts of Madhya Pradesh which are going to be affected by this. I have given the figure of the districts of Uttar Pradesh. About seven lakhs families who are going to be affected by this are willing to leave their place happily because they are facing extreme poverty and starvation there. The maximum number of laborers in Delhi belong to Bundelkhand. They are leading a hellish life by living in slums along the dirty drains. As soon as this project is implemented, they will all get a chance to return to their places. Therefore, the way the Hon. Prime Minister has promptly taken up this issue and the way the things are moving now, I am sure that a solution to the problem will be found out very soon, and we will launch Ken-Betwa project. I assure the hon. Member that both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh will have full freedom in using their respective share of water.

(English)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you do not want to hear anything. You do not want to get the work done.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am allowing all types of discussions. Still you are not ready to hear anything. You do not want to do work at all.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.00 Noon.

11.43 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hours

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion. So, there is no Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Piyush Goyal ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 63 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920

*** For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.**

You can also visit <https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.

12.01 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7075/16/17]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.411(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 27th April, 2017, reserving the area of 1738.04 hectares through M/s NALCO, a Public Sector undertaking own and controlled by the Central Government, for prospecting or mining operations in respect of bauxite deposits in the Taluk of Pottangi of Koraput District in the State of Odisha for a further period of five years *w.e.f.* 27.04.2017 under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7076/16/17]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-

- (i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2017

published in Notification No. L-1/18/2010-CERC in Gazette of India dated 19th April, 2017.

- (ii) Notification No. L-1/18/2010-CERC published in Gazette of India dated 16th May, 2017 notifying for the information of all concerned that Regulation 6.3B of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Indian Electricity Grid Code) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2016 and the detailed operating procedure on reserve shutdown and mechanism for Compensation shall come into force with effect from 15.5.2017.
- (iii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Tariff determination from Renewable Energy Sources) Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. 1/21/2017-Reg. Aff./(RE-Tariff-2017-20)/CERC in Gazette of India dated 19th April, 2017.
- (iv) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. L-1/01/2017-CERC in Gazette of India dated 22nd June, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7077/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

12.01 ½ hours

(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (*Interruptions*)

20.07.2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-

- (1) G.S.R.544(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd June, 2017, approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Contributory Medical Benefit after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (2) G.S.R.545(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd June, 2017, approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (3) G.S.R.506(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th May, 2017, approving the Kolkata Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (4) G.S.R.568(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2017, approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Pension and Gratuity) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (5) G.S.R.304(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th March, 2017, approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
- (6) G.S.R.305(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th March, 2017, approving the Chennai Port Trust Employees

20.07.2017

(Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

- (7) G.S.R.306(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th March, 2017, approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7078/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

(Translation)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Textile Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2017-18.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7079/16/17]

... (*Interruptions*)

12.01 ¾ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
291st to 293rd Reports**

(English)

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:-

- (1) 291st Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Seventieth Report on the ‘Performance of National Sports Development Fund and Recruitment and Promotion of Sportspersons (Part-I)’.
- (2) 292nd Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Seventy First Report on the ‘Performance of National Sports Development Fund and Recruitment and Promotion of Sportspersons (Part-II)’.
- (3) 293rd Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Eighty First Report on the ‘Performance of National Sports Development Fund and Recruitment and Promotion of Sportspersons (Part-III)’.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.02 hours**MOTION RE: 44th REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE***(Translation)***THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND FARMERS WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S.****AHLUWALIA):** Madam, I beg to move the following:-

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th July, 2017."

*(English)***HON. SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 19th July, 2017."

The motion was adopted.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yesterday only, we have discussed agrarian crisis. There should not happen something like this. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

20.07.2017

12.02 ½ hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

*Treated as laid on the Table

20.07.2017

(i) Regarding Inclusion of aborigines of Santhal Pargana in the list of Scheduled Tribes

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I refer to the matter raised under Rule 377 regarding inclusion of Khetauri, Ghatwal-Ghatwar and others as Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and received a reply from Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. But, no development has taken place in this regard so far.

Therefore, I want to place a piece of great historical record - a book titled: "The Little world of an Indian District Officer", written by R. Carstairs and published by Macmillan & Co., London in 1912. In this book there is a detailed, historical record of the fact that the Santhal Pargana was created and named in 1855, and thus was the youngest of the Bengal districts. The writer provides a wonderful account and description of the Ghatwals (guardians of the passes) and the Khetowrie (Khetauri) and how at the time of the Permanent settlement in 1790, every part of the territory was occupied. It is stated that at the time of the Permanent Settlement that there was NOT a single Sonthal in the whole of this area. "Bhunyas, Khetowries, Hindoos, Mahomedans, Highlanders - yes, but Sonthals, no".

It is a fact that when these findings were recorded and when the book in question was published, the dispensation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes did not exist in the context of what it means administratively today.

Thus, the aborigines of the region are the ones who have been deprived of their rightful status and claim to be recognized as Scheduled Tribes.

20.07.2017

(ii) Need to develop Sikrahana, Madhubani and Bhelwa villages under Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar as tourist places

(Translation)

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Sikrahana in Sheohar, my parliamentary constituency, is a region that actively participated in the freedom struggle. It is a place where Mahatma Gandhi had raised his voice against the atrocities committed by the British on the farmers. However, for various reasons, Sikrahana has not found its due place in the history of freedom struggle. On November 13, 1917, at Barharwa Lakhansen village in Sikrahana, the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, established the first school cum ashram to create awareness and fearlessness among the villagers against the British. Similarly, in Madhubani village under Chiraiya Block, Mahatma Gandhi had himself investigated the atrocities committed by the British on the farmers on November 17, 1918 in the Neerpur Nilha Kothi. A proposal in this regard has been submitted by the local administration to make the aforementioned villages a tourist place. Mahatma Gandhi had visited the Bhelwa village in the Bagahi Bhelwa Panchayat of the Ghorasahan Block, which falls under my parliamentary constituency Sheohar. Here, the Nilha Kothi still stands, where processing for indigo production was once carried out by the British. It is highly regrettable that the Bhelwa village of the Ghorasahan Block has not been included as a tourist place, and the entire history with respect to the contribution made by this region in the freedom struggle has not been properly recorded.

I request the Ministry of Tourism to develop Bhelwa village in Ghorasahan Block of Sheohar district as a tourist place. The remnants of the atrocities committed by the British in processing for indigo production exist

20.07.2017

even today. If the region is developed as a tourist place, it will be a true tribute to those who fought for freedom.

20.07.2017

(iii) Need to provide adequate wages to contract labourers engaged by BSNL in Lakhimpur Kheri district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): The Department of Telecommunications (BSNL), in the Lakhimpur Kheri district, has been engaging labourers for a long time to carry out tasks such as operating computers, connecting cables, digging trenches, office cleaning, ensuring the security of exchanges, operating generators and running mobile towers. These tasks are carried out by the officials of the concerned department round the clock. The workers are being exploited by the officials as the former are being paid only Rs 1200 to Rs 1600 per month for these works. The payment to these workers has been pending for years, while the BSNL despite being their primary employer as per prevailing labour laws, has been continuously exploiting and harassing these contractual labourers in the Lakhimpur Kheri district by ignoring the letters sent by the CMD, New Delhi, and Chief General Manager, Lucknow regarding payment of minimum wages, EPF/ESI, and other social security provisions to these workers. The labourers who raise demand for minimum wages are thrown out of the work. In this way, the contractual labourers in Lakhimpur district are being exploited on a large scale. In the absence of any other option, these labourers are extremely distressed. It is not only morally, socially and legally wrong but also an infringement of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution. This is unfortunate and condemnable.

I urge upon the Government and the Hon. Minister of Communications to take cognizance of the issue of the contract labourers working for BSNL in Lakhimpur Kheri and make efforts to provide them with attendance registers, identity cards, and health security along with fixing minimum wages for them

20.07.2017

(iv) Need to make motorable steep slope on National Highway No. 3 near Ganapati Ghat in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR (DHAR): In my Parliamentary Constituency Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), due to the steep slope of Ganapati Ghat on National Highway No.03, which runs from Agra to Mumbai, through the Vindhyaachal Mountains, accidents occur there almost every day resulting in loss of life and property. I request for a technical team to be constituted to prevent accidents on National Highway No.3 Agra to Ganapati Ghat in Mumbai. Apart from this, a separate bypass road should be constructed for Light Motor Vehicles (LMV). Until this arrangement is fully made, the arrangement of speed control equipments or other necessary arrangements should be made.

20.07.2017

(v) Need to embark on the proposed Yamunanagar-Chandigarh railway line project

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways towards the need for a railway line from Yamunanagar to Chandigarh in my Lok Sabha constituency Ambala (Haryana). The project is approved on social and economic basis. An allocation of Rs.25 crore has also been made for the main project in the last year's budget. A consensus has also been reached between the Centre and the State Government of Haryana over 50-50 per cent cost sharing. However, there is a deadlock between the state and central governments over the price of land for the project, so the work is currently stalled. I request that just as consensus has been reached on a 50-50percent cost sharing basis on the remaining costs of the project, similarly, the Central and State governments together should find out a way forward so that work can commence on this project.

(vi) Need to review the system for fixation of price of agricultural produce and fix MSP for all agricultural produce

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): The issue of suicide by farmers in different parts of the country is a matter of grave concern for all of us. Due to lack of improvement in the situation despite various packages being announced by the Central Government and State Governments, this problem has assumed alarming proportions. Providing guaranteed prices for agricultural products is a solution to the problems of farmers. Farmers are unable to bear the shock of not being able to achieve anything despite their hard work and are inclined towards suicide due to the depression caused by the burden of debt. I urge the Government to seriously reconsider the pricing system of agricultural products and try to determine the statutory minimum price for all agricultural products.

20.07.2017

(vii) Need to convert N.H. 84 from Buxar to Patna into four lane and to construct four-lane bridge on river Ganga including repair of N.H. 30 between Mohania and Arrah

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): After receiving approval from the Central Government for the construction of the four-lane NH-84 from Buxar to Patna, the foundation stone was laid by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi two years ago. The construction work of the Buxar-Bhojpur NH-84 (48 km, which was supposed to be constructed at a cost of 595 crore rupees) has not yet commenced. The main reason for this is the discriminatory attitude of the district administration of the State Government in the matter of payment of adequate compensation to the farmers. Kisan Sangharsh Samiti has been in agitation mode over other demands.

A new two-lane bridge parallel to the current Veer Kunwar Singh Setu was supposed to be constructed over the Ganga River on NH-84 but the work on it hasn't started yet. As the old bridge is in a very dilapidated condition, the district administration has imposed restriction on the movement of heavy vehicles and small commercial vehicles on the bridge. Due to all these circumstances, the people related to this business have been rendered unemployed. This is hampering the development of the district. The map of the old bridge is not with the State Government, hence it is difficult to repair the old bridge with modern technology. Therefore, it will be useful in the public interest to build a new four-lane bridge and old bridge parallel to it.

The condition of NH-30 from Mohania to Arrah has been extremely dilapidated for years. The situation is that the road has turned into potholes, resulting in significant increase in the vehicle accidents. People have lost their lives too in accidents. The situation has become critical due to the dispute case

20.07.2017

between the State Government and the contractor being pending in court, and public protests are underway, which is also negatively impacting the image of the Central Government.

Therefore, in view of the gravity of the aforesaid issues, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways should promptly take necessary actions in the public interest.

20.07.2017

(viii) Need to extend the dam on river Kosi in all the areas located along the course of the river in Supaul and Madhubani districts, Bihar

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Kosi river starts from the Barah region of Nepal and enters the Indian border near Bhimnagar Kosi Barrage, passing through Supaul, Madhubani, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Khagaria, Madhepura and joins the Ganga river near Kursaila in Katihar district. A safety dam has been constructed from Sikarahata-Majhari in Supaul district upto the border of Madhubani district. This safety dam has also been made 'pucca' which not only protects the said areas from floods but also facilitates transportation. If this dam is extended to intersect with the State Highway near Pranpur, passing through various villages such as Gadagawn, Basipatti, Mahesha, and Sonbarsa in Madhubani district as well as Gonwa, Simraha in Supaul district, Devka, Jharwa, Partaha, Badhara, Darahar, Naula, Lalpur, Sataur, Kundah, Baliya, and Simar in Saharsa district, it would not only ensure the safety of the common people living in between from floods but also provide them with better transportation access. Besides, crops grown in thousands of acres of land will also get protection every year, which will make the farmers here prosperous.

Therefore, I demand from the government that this very important safety dam should be extended from Garhgaon in Madhubani district border upto the state highway near Pranpur in Mahishi Block of Saharsa district and the dam should be made 'pucca' so that along with protection from floods, it also facilitates transportation.

20.07.2017

(ix) Need to withdraw increase in user development fee for outgoing passengers from Thiruvananthapuram airport, Kerala

(English)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The sudden and unilateral decision by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to increase the 'User Development Fee' for outgoing passengers from Thiruvananthapuram airport is matter of serious concern which needs to be reconsidered urgently as it poses a great risk to the airport's growth and function.

Most of the passengers who use Thiruvananthapuram airport are low wage earners who work in the Gulf to provide vital income back home. In addition to this, it is a fact that neither of the two other major international airports in Kerala, namely Kochi Nedumbassery and Kozhikode Airports, charge such a fee. The proposed increase from rupees 575 to rupees 950 would mean that a family of three or more would find more economical to drive to Kochi airport and fly from there than fly from the airport that was built for them at great expense to the tax payer. This is needlessly counter-productive if the objective of the exercise is to facilitate the development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport.

Thiruvananthapuram airport has been functioning profitably for over 27 years, during this time the AAI has been very slow, if not complacent, in developing the airport. It is only in recent times that basic provisions have been provided with minimal upgrades that stand far below the comparative upgrades provided to the other airports in the region.

Most importantly, the international airport in Thiruvananthapuram is a major employer in the local economy from casual workers to full time staff with hundreds of families dependent on the airport's smooth functioning. I,

20.07.2017

therefore, raise this issue as a matter of the utmost urgency seeking the immediate reconsideration of the proposed increase of the User Development Fee.

(x) Need to withdraw the decision to discontinue serving of non-vegetarian food to economy class passengers in flights

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): In a very controversial step Air India has stopped providing non-vegetarian food for economy class passengers. With an immediate effect, the national carrier has stopped serving non-vegetarian food in the economy class for all flights in the domestic sector. It has been argued that the move is seen as one of the many cost-cutting measures adopted by the company facing a debt of around Rs. 55000 crore. The move is coming when most low-cost carrier planes are giving the passengers the option of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. This is highly condemnable. Moreover, with this move one can suspect this as a part of government policy on curbing the choice of one's food. Hence, it is requested to withdraw the decision with immediate effect.

20.07.2017

(xi) Need to review the decision to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): We are shocked to hear that the Government of India has decided to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL), a Rs.20 crore worth profit making port in Chennai in my Tiruvallur Parliamentary Constituency.

KPL is the lifeline of Tamil Nadu and the first and unique Government-owned Corporate Port developed by the Chennai Port as a satellite Port. KPL is functioning without grant-in-aid from the Government of India. KPL has the capacity to handle 44 MTPA. The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is developing a captive LNG Terminal in KPL to handle 5 MTPA with a re-gasification facility.

KPL is the highest dividend payer. If such a well-established profit-making Port is privatized, it will affect the growth of the State. It will help the private players to have stronghold in the shipping industry. First of all, such a move will affect the livelihood of tens of thousands of direct and indirect employees of this port.

So, it is pertinent that this profit making KPL is allowed to remain in the hands of the Government. In view of this, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Shipping to re-visit his decision to divest the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

20.07.2017

(xii) Need to redress the grievances of contract employees of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited, Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC India Ltd) employs about 20,000 workers including 10,000 contract workers on a daily wage basis in the Mines. Most of them are working in NLC for the last 20 years with a hope that their employment will be regularized and they will be absorbed as permanent employees. During a prolonged agitation in 2014, an agreement was reached between the Contract Labour Union and the NLC Management to regularize them in a phased manner and also for extending the medical facilities to them. But till now, only 200 workers got regularized.

Meanwhile the NLC Management suddenly had reduced the shift of duty from 26 to 19 shifts in Mine 1A since 13th July 2017. This is completely against the interest of the lowly paid and long serving Contract Labourers. An agitation is going on to revert back to the original number of shifts that existed prior to 13-07-2017. The contract labourers are suffering a lot and thousands were arrested. As a result of this a serious law and order problem has arisen.

As a Member of Parliament of the concerned Parliamentary Constituency, I urge the Union Government to intervene immediately into this serious issue for starting reconciliation talks and persuade the Management to immediately enter into a negotiation with the agitating Contract Labour Unions to arrive at an amicable and acceptable solution for this long standing vexed issue.

(xiii) Need to take steps for welfare of farmers in the country

(Translation)

PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD (OSMANABAD):

Today, due to lack of rain in many parts of the country, especially in Marathwada (Maharashtra), the condition of farmers is becoming miserable. The Government should be vigilant and take certain steps for the upliftment of farmers. Primarily the loans of all the farmers should be waived off; farmers should get fair price for their produce, and they should determine the price of their produce themselves; electricity used for farming should be made available free of cost and medical treatment and medicines should be provided to farmers' families, agricultural labourers, women, and children free of cost for ensuring their better health.

20.07.2017

(xiv) Need to withdraw the order imposing stricter conditions on insured persons to avail medical facilities extended by ESIC

(English)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The implementation of stringent conditions by ESIC has resulted in denial of super specialty treatment for insured persons and their family. The conditions imposed such as two years with 156 attendance out of which two contribution periods with not less than 78 attendance, continuous remittance of four contribution periods are against the interest of insured persons. The conditions are imposed vide order No. V-14/11/5/2012/Med 1 (policy) dated 7/11/2016. The cashew industry is facing crisis due to non-availability of raw materials and the cashew workers lost their employment due to the reason beyond their control. By implementing this new condition, employees including cashew workers lost their benefit for super specialty treatment. The present order is against the interest of insured persons.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the order no. V-14/11/5/2012/Med1(policy) dated 7/11/2016, stop the implementation of letter no. V-14/11/5/2012/Med 1 dated 09/03/2017 and restore the earlier benefits and ensure SST.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, the 21st July, 2017 at 11.00 am.

12.03 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 21, 2017/Ashadha 30, 1939 (Saka).

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