

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XXIII No.13

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Phalguna 24, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Eleventh Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 15, 2023/ Phalguna 24, 1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour, Q. No. 201

Shri C.P. Joshi.

... *(Interruptions)*

11.00 hrs

At this stage, Adv. A. M. Ariff, Shri T. N. Prathapan, Shrimati Kavitha Malothu and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would like to request you that this House is meant for holding dialogues and discussions. Let us talk about policies and let there be extensive discussion on the issues concerning public welfare. This House is meant for the same.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I request you that if we are really inclined to do something concrete aimed at public welfare and look upon this House as a temple of democracy, I would urge you to at least not to make comments with respect to the House. This is your temple of democracy and a center of faith for all of us. You ought to refrain from

casting aspersions or making comments on this House whether it be inside the House or outside the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Once again I request all of you that this House is meant for holding discussion on policies. One ought to put forth one's views on policies and refer to the issues concerned. It is improper to carry placards along with you in the House. I am requesting you again, warning you, this House is meant for discussing issues and not for bringing placards.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All of you are requested to go back to your respective seats. You will be afforded ample time and opportunity to put forth your views. This is not the right way. I am urging upon you that placards and sloganeering are never allowed in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Piyush Goyal.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Hon. Speaker, this is a very serious issue. ... *(Interruptions)* Stringent action should be taken against them. ... *(Interruptions)* A Member of the House visits abroad and insults the Indian Parliament. ... *(Interruptions)* Unless he tenders an apology, all these members may be held responsible for such undesirable conduct. If they do not find this humiliating and behave like this, then to my mind, all such Members who are carrying placards with them ought to be placed under suspension from the sittings of the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is the House. In a democracy one can exercise the right to hold placards and raise slogans outside the House. India holds the distinction of being the largest democracy of the world. What message do you want to send across the country? Does this behove you? Is it fair for a Member to conduct himself or herself this way? Hon. Members, all of you are requested to go back to your respective seats.

... (*Interruptions*)



***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos. 201 to 220

Unstarred Question Nos. 2301 to 2350)

*** 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.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2:00 p.m.

... (Interruptions)

11.04hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs

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

(Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

14.0^{1/2}hrs

At this stage Shri S. Venkatesan, Shri Ravneet Singh, Shri B. Manickam Tagore and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

14.02hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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

Item No 2, Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

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

(I) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudam, for the year

2021-2022

(II) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudam, for the year 20212022, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) A copy of the Output-outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2023-2024.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9117/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PARKASH): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Anupriya Singh Patel, I beg to lay on the Table:

-

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the State

Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9118/17/23]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2021-2022.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9119/17/23]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 3 of Section 19 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992:-
- (i) (S.O.383(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th January, 2023, notifying certain amendments in import policy condition of Urea [Exim Code 31021000] in. the ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy).
 - (ii) S.O. 678(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2023, notifying certain amendments in import policy and policy condition of ITC (HS) Code 080280 of Chapter-08 and ITC (HS) Code 21069030 of Chapter-21 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy).
 - (iii) S.O.796 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2023, notifying certain amendments in import policy condition of Cashew Kernels (broken/whole).
 - (iv) S.O.679 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th February, 2023, notifying certain amendments in Export Policy of Biomass.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9120/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKARAM JARDOSH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, 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 9121/17/23]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Jute Board, Kolkata, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Jute Board,

Kolkata, for the year 2020- 2021.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9122/17/23]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9123/17/23]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 20202021, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Textiles Committee,

Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9124/17/23]

- (9) A copy of the Notification No S.O.6172(E) (Hindi and English Versions) published in Gazette of India dated 30th December, 2022 making certain amendments in the Notification No S.O.5421(E) dated 27th December, 2021 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9125/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PARKASH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9126/17/23]

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (Hindi and English versions) for the Scheme of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications for the year 2023-2024.

[Placed in Library, See No LT 9127/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

14.02^{1/2} hrs

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE MULTI-STATE CO-
OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022**

(i) Report

[Translation]

SHRI C.P. JOSHI (CHITTOORGARH): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee (Hindi and English versions) on the Multi-State Cooperative Society (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

.

... (Interruptions)

(ii) Evidence

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Hon. Chairperson, I lay on the Table the Record of Evidence of the Joint Committee on the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

... (Interruptions)

14.03hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 113th Report of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2022-2023) pertaining to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No Lt 9115/17/23

contained in the 113th Report of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2022-2023) pertaining to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

...(Interruptions)

14.03 ^{1/2} hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 170th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on 'Implementation of Districts as Export Hubs (DEHs) including One District One Product (ODOP) Initiatives' pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PARKASH): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Anupriya Singh Patel, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 170th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on 'Implementation of Districts as Export Hubs (DEHs) including One District One Product (ODOP) Initiatives' pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No Lt 9116/17/23

14.04 hrs**MOTION RE: 41st REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM
MEGHWAL)** Sir, on behalf of Shri Pralhad Joshi, I beg to move the
following: -

“That this House do agree with the Forty-First Report of the
Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on
14th March, 2023.”

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the 41st Report of the Business
Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 14th Day of
March, 2023.”

(The motion was adopted.)

... (*Interruptions*)

14.05 hrs

INTER-SERVICES ORGANISATIONS

(COMMAND, CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE) BILL, 2023*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (ADV. AJAY BHATT): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rajnath Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to empower the Commander-in-Chief or the Officer-in-Command of Inter-services Organisations in respect of service personnel who are subject to the Air Force Act, 1950, the Army Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957, who are serving under or attached to his command, for the maintenance of discipline and proper discharge of their duties, and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to empower the Commander- in- Chief or the Officer-in Command of Inter -

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 2 dated 15.03.2023

Services organizations in respect of Service personnel who are subject to the Air Force Act 1950. The Army Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957 who are serving under or are attached to his command for the maintenance of discipline and proper discharge of their duties, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

ADV. AJAY BHATT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request all of you. I have something to tell to all of you and let me send the message to the entire House that we are sitting to transact legislative Business.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This Parliament is meant to transact Legislative Business. In this regard, I request all of you that this is not the only system to bring order in the house, each and every Member

of the House is supposed to contribute to this work.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the hon. Speaker has received notices of Adjournment Motion from some Members on different issues. Hon. Speaker has disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.06 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are a large number of hon. Members who want to submit their matters under Rule 377. I will request all the hon. Members to lay their matters under Rule 377 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

* Treated as laid on the table

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

...(Interruptions)

(i) Regarding restoration of operation of Okha-Dehradun train service pre-Covid period

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA (RAJKOT): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the following important issue.

The Okha-Dehradun Express used to ply twice a week before Covid, with higher load capacity. But now post Covid, this plies once a week due to which the pilgrims of Saurashtra going to Haridwar and Rishikesh are facing a lot of trouble.

The requests submitted by the public representatives to ply this train thrice a week should not be ignored.

Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to immediately grant approval to ply this train three times a week in public interest.

**(ii) Need to depict the images of Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil,
Thakur Roshan Singh and Ashfaq Ulla Khan at the
Shahjahanpur Railway Station**

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR (SHAJAHANPUR): My Lok Sabha constituency Shahjahanpur, of Uttar Pradesh, is also known as the city of martyrs. Shahjahanpur Parliamentary constituency, is the birthplace of Indian freedom fighters Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, Thakur Roshan Singh and Ashfaq Ulla Khan and these brave sons played an important role in liberating the country from the shackles of slavery. The Indian freedom struggle is full of the deeds of such revolutionaries who have illuminated the youth with their spark and given a new direction to the country by igniting revolution and awakening world consciousness.

Today, railway transport is an important means of transportation in the country. People use railways to travel from the length and breadth of the country. There are railway stations in different states of the country which are named after revolutionaries or freedom fighters. In fact, many people made unprecedented contribution to the country's independence, but still people know less about them. It is a pleasure that the railway stations of our country help in keeping such freedom

fighters and their sacrifices alive forever.

It is requested that on the auspicious occasion of 75th anniversary of the country and Amrit Mahotsav, adequate action should be taken to carry out the work of beautification at Shahjahanpur railway station by adorning it with the paintings of freedom fighters Pandit Ramprasad Bismil, Thakur Roshan Singh and Ashfaq Ullah Khan of Shahjahanpur parliamentary constituency in their memory and honor.

(iii) Regarding implementation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana

[Translation]

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): The Government of India is extending all sorts of medical facilities to the poor- indigent and the deprived section by providing them a health cover of up to Rupees 5 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the amount is charged upon the Government of India but sadly, a whopping number of 7500 Hospitals have not yet admitted even a single patient right since its affiliation to the Ayushman Bharat if the report of NHA has anything to go by. Due to non-payment to the hospitals providing treatment, the beneficiaries are not getting full benefits of the scheme. Due to this negligence of the concerned hospitals, many patients face harassment for not getting treatment and also have to bear additional financial burden. The hospitals that

provide treatment do not get paid. Payment is made by the Government of India, but these do not get payment by the state government. My request is that the affiliation of those hospitals which have not admitted even a single patient till date should be cancelled and the new hospitals that want to be empaneled under this scheme should be registered so that maximum beneficiaries could be benefitted. State governments are requested to issue instructions to make payments to these hospitals.

(iv) Need to provide insurance cover to the crops produced by farmers against natural calamities including 'frost' in Rajasthan under Fasal Bima Yojana

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): I want to highlight the shortcomings in the notification issued by the Government of Rajasthan for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The details of weather based hazards are given on Page 4 & 5 of the notification against which claim is given by the concerned insurance company in the event of damage of crops. The word "Hailstorm" does not find mention therein while the fact remains that many parts of Rajasthan experience freezing and below zero-degree temperature. The loss attributed to hailstorm has been covered under the risk (hazards) based on weather figuring on page 55 of the Operational Guidelines issued by the Government of India and only wheat is being insured among the Rabi crops of the farmers in Ramgarh Shekhawati and Fatehpur tehsil of Sikar district. Whereas in Fatehpur tehsil, gram and mustard are also produced by the farmers and the Banks are providing KCC facility to the farmers growing these crops on the recommendations of the district level technical committee. The insurance company is keeping these crops beyond the ambit of insurance to deprive the farmers of claims.

I would like to request the Government to take cognizance of these shortcomings and remove them so that full benefits of the scheme accrue to the farmers.

(v) Need to upgrade district hospital in Ashoknagar district headquarters to Medical College and establish an AIIMS in Guna district headquarters

SHRI KRISHNAPALSINH YADAV (GUNA): Guna and Ashoknagar, the two districts under my parliamentary constituency, lack intensive healthcare facilities. Guna has also been included in the list of aspirational districts by the Government of India and at present there is only one district hospital in Ashoknagar where the number of daily patients is very high due to which they are not treated on time. Even during the Corona pandemic, many patients died due to lack of health facilities and people of Guna Lok Sabha have to go to other cities for treatment of serious diseases, which causes inconvenience to them. I would like to request the government to upgrade the district hospital in the Ashoknagar district headquarters into a medical college and grant express approval for the setting up of an AIIMS in the Guna district Headquarters under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha

Yojana so that the residents of my Lok Sabha constituency do not remain devoid of basic health services and health schemes rolled out by the government and the benefits of the schemes like Ayushman Bharat are accessible to each and every person leading to the escalation of the tempo of overall development of Guna.

**(vi) Regarding establishment of a Sainik School in
Godda/Deoghar**

[English]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I wish to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the backwardness of Santhal Pargana region in general and the area(s) of Godda and Deoghar, in particular which happens to be my Lok Sabha constituency. The overall condition of Education in this region is a subject-matter of utter neglect in spite of the fact that since time immemorial, the entire region was considered to be a harbinger of ancient education practices and dissemination of social norms and mores. There has been a vociferous demand of establishing a Sainik School in Godda/Deoghar so that this area could also share the pride of having quality education to their children.

In February 2016, the then Hon. Defence Minister, visited my

Constituency and after acknowledging the backwardness of the region, he was kind to announce the setting up of a Sainik School in Godda/Deoghar. Further, as a consequence to the said announcement, the Project for establishing a Sainik School was immediately sanctioned by the Ministry of Defence. However, it is a matter of concern that since then, more than seven years have elapsed, but the entire Project has not witnessed any visible progress. I, therefore, request the Government to expedite the Project.

(vii) Need to set up an AIIMS in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Many developmental works like Highways development, water management, development of industries etc. are being undertaken by the Central and State Governments in Bundelkhand and the situation in Bundelkhand is improving. With all these efforts, the possibilities of tourism development in Bundelkhand have also increased rapidly, but even after development in all these sectors, patients still go to the surrounding areas of Bundelkhand for health facilities, especially for treatment of serious diseases. Among these, the number of patients

going to other areas for treatment, especially for cancer and kidney diseases, is highest. These treatments are costly. Most of the people of my parliamentary constituency Hamirpur (U.P.) are poor and they have to wander around the big cities for treatment. Although every possible assistance is provided by the Central and State Government for the expenditure incurred on treatment but in big cities, apart from the amount of expenditure incurred on treatment, the patient as well as his or her attendants are subjected to a host of other practical problems including the allied miscellaneous expenditure. And in case the patient happens to be a daily wager or even a small businessman for that matter, they are faced with far more issues. This situation becomes even more complicated in women related diseases. In most of the cases, women are taken to big cities only in the last stages of their illness or may not at all be admitted in the hospitals has its deleterious impact on the health profile of women.

The availability of facilities for the treatment of severe diseases in the local area itself shall not only facilitate people to receive immediate treatment but the patients shall not be faced with the other allied issues let alone the other expenditure involved in pursuit of receiving treatment and more so in case of female and kids. For this, there is a great need for the setting up of an AIIMS in Mahoba. By

setting up of an AIIMS, treatment facilities shall not be limited to the chronic diseases only. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take steps for the setting up of an AIIMS in Mahoba for the treatment of deadly diseases like Cancer and for the treatment of the other diseases as well as soon as possible.

**(viii) Regarding establishment of an Indian Agriculture
Research Centre or Agriculture University in Ganganagar
Parliamentary Constituency**

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR): My parliamentary constituency district, Sri Ganganagar is a border and agricultural district, where crops of wheat, mustard, barley, gram, cotton and kinnow are grown in abundance, hence Sri Ganganagar is called the 'food bowl'. Despite farming on such a large scale in this border area of the country, till date no Indian Agricultural Research Center or Agricultural University has been established here, which is very unfortunate for this agriculturally rich district. Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, the Central Government is laying great emphasis on doubling farmers' income and employing new

technology in the field of agriculture, so that the farmers can get the enhanced remunerative price for their crops. In this context, I urge upon the Central Government to establish an Indian Agricultural Research Center or Agricultural University in my parliamentary constituency Ganganagar, so that the farmers of this area can avail the benefits of the latest agricultural research. Alongside, the students of this constituency may be enabled to receive higher education in the field of agricultural sciences.

**(ix) Regarding concessional toll for the media persons at
Raiganj toll plaza**

[English]

SUSHRI DEBASREE CHAUDHURI (RAIGANJ): I request the Government to provide concession to all the local reporters who travel on regular basis through the newly installed toll plaza in Raiganj, West Bengal.

(x) Regarding inclusion of traditional craft in the educational syllabus

[Translation]

SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR (GWALIOR): For two to three centuries, the artisans and craftsmen engaged in working with various equipment and tools manually have always brought laurels to the country traditionally. Their art and skills have left an indelible imprint on India's great culture. This time, 'PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana' has been launched in the Budget.

With this scheme, these people can increase the quality, reach and quantity of their products. Apart from financial assistance, they will have access to advanced skill training and cutting-edge impactful and digital technologies. The government will guarantee their connectivity with local and global markets, brand promotion and social security. The products manufactured by them will promote the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Among these Vishwakarmas, most of the people belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, women and weaker sections of all sections of society. Through this scheme, a very large section of the economically weaker section will get the opportunity to raise their standard of living and move along

with everyone else. For this, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the country's illustrious Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

Is the Government considering inclusion of traditional crafts in the educational curriculum?

(xi) Need to provide better railway connectivity to Maldaha Town Railway in West Bengal

[Translation]

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU (MALDAHA UTTAR): The Maldaha Town Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency is a very busy railway station where thousands of people travel every day, especially for medical treatment and for their other business purposes. Thousands of people travel to Delhi, Bengaluru and other cities of South India. There are very few trains going to these cities via **Maldaha** Town and among the trains that do run, passengers are not able to get confirmed tickets and face a lot of difficulty in commuting by train for the reasons of the quota meant for **Maldaha** Town being quite fewer in terms of berths. In view of these elements, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways to the following proposal.

Maldaha Town Railway Station should be made like a model

railway station and Vande Bharat Express (Guwahati to New Delhi) should be provided with a halt at **Maldaha** Railway Station. A superfast train should be introduced originating from **Maldaha** with destination to New Delhi and Bengaluru. One separate coach (**Maldaha** Town quota) should be provided in all the trains passing through **Maldaha** Town. If it is not possible, the maximum possible quota should be allotted to **Maldaha**.

(xii) Regarding effective 4G Network in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): I represent Gorakhpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Even today 4G network is not available in the far flung areas of Gorakhpur, leading to huge constraints being faced by the people in general and the students as well as those associated with academia and trade of divergent kind belonging hailing from my constituency. Students studying online are particularly faced with severe difficulties attributed to the unavailability of 5G Network. Our illustrious Prime Minister's dream of DIGITAL INDIA depends on the success of 4G and now 5G network has also been launched. If this network does not work

properly across India, then there will be digital divide created in the country which will hamper the progress of the country. Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that 4G network should work effectively and this calls for an immediate action by the Ministry of Communications. In this era of information revolution, our life is completely dependent on the internet and mobile phones. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that 4G and 5G work effectively in the national interest and the Central Government should immediately take concrete steps so that this network works at an uninterrupted pace and makes an invaluable contribution to the progress of the country.

**(xiii) Regarding construction of a Railway Underpass at
Wadakkanchery, Kerala**

[English]

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS (ALATHUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards one of the major issue in my Parliamentary constituency. About 10 years ago, the Wadakkanchery ROB has been inaugurated and consequent to it the old railway level crossing at wadakkanchery 09(WKI) closed for ever. Due to the closure of the level crossing the residents of Pullanikkad, Mangalam,

Engakkad, Panangattukara and Kallampara, more than 8000 people have to travel about 2 Kilometre to reach their nearest town at Wadakkanchery on which they depend for their daily needs.

In this area, there are 3 Primary schools, 6 places of worship including churches, Temples and mosques, two major hospitals and 5 anganawadies. The main higher education institutions, government offices and business establishments are situated at Wadakkanchery town. The people of this area either cross the railway track or go around two kilometer distance to reach at wadakkanchery town. During the last 10 years, nearly 50 people died while crossing the track in this area.

Hence, I humbly request the Government to solve this problem, take necessary initiative to construct an under pass in the Wadakkanchery old level crossing location to prevent the sacrifice of further valuable human lives.

(xiv) Regarding review of airfare for critical patients availing passenger aircraft for evacuation

SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated nearly 1200 KM away from nearest Airport in Mainland India-Chennai and Kolkata. For critical medical cases, evacuation in passenger aircraft is the only option and the family members of the patient have to pay Rs. 1, 32,000 one way, excluding cost of tickets for patient attendants. However, rate of tickets for stretcher patients has been almost doubled without any valid reason to nearly Rs. 2, 41,000. The steep hike is a cause of concern for islanders most of whom can't afford to buy tickets for stretcher patients at such a high rate. Charging such an exorbitant amount from stretcher patients during the time of medical emergencies is unethical and can also lead to death of the patient, if there is failure in paying such huge amount. Government had fixed the rate for stretcher patients from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under which a stretcher patient had to pay only Rs. 29,000 which was issued through ANIIDCO and was revised in 2007. I request the Government to intervene in this matter and give special concession to all stretcher patients of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and issue

necessary directions to all private Airlines Companies to allow evacuation of stretcher patients as presently only Air India is allowing these services.

(xv) Regarding reported violence against Christian minority

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): There is increase in targeted violence and hostility against the Christian minority. It started off as incidents of hate speech, but now it has grown into widespread attacks across the Country. People of the community are targeted by hate groups and in many cases, disruption of worship, desecration of churches, vandalism of property and even physical attack on worshipers are reported. Many State Governments are arresting preachers and priests, for exercising their right of propagating their faith. The arrest of a preacher and his wife at Ghaziabad this month has led to widespread outrage. These actions are meant to have a chilling effect on religious freedom and the fundamental right to faith and worship enshrined in the Constitution.

During 2022, a total of 1,198 incidents of violence against Christians were reported till December, 2022. There is a consistent pattern to all these cases. In almost all incidents reported across the

states, the pattern is of threats, coercion and aggression by vigilante mobs comprising religious extremists. I urge upon the Government to take immediate action and protect the fundamental right to practice and freely propagate their religion for the Christian minority.

(xvi) Need to increase efficiency of Ports

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Tamil Nadu has the country's third largest coastline with a highly urbanized population. This locational advantage has enabled rapid industrialization within the State along with air and water connectivity. Tamil Nadu has three major ports namely, Chennai port, Tuticorin Port and Ennore Port along with many minor ports. Chennai port also happens to be the second largest container handling port in India. This makes the State a business conducive location.

However, the ports have started to face a serious lack of capacity to carry the container volumes leading to more congestion. This has led to reduction in the efficiency of operations at the ports even in Tamil Nadu since the requisite infrastructure is seriously lacking. Moreover, Indian ports experience high turnaround times for ships. Even though the turnaround times have reduced from 62.11 hours in 2019-20 to 55.99 hours in 2020-21, they are still higher compared to

those of many South-East Asian countries like Singapore, which is only 48 hours.

I would, therefore, like to reiterate the impact of economic activities happening in port towns and cities which in turn add value to the State and national Domestic Products along with providing employment opportunities to the population residing there. Thus, I urge that the matter may kindly be seriously looked into.

(xvii) Need to release funds for payment of wages to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in West Bengal

SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED (ULUBERIA): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government towards the delayed payment of wages to beneficiaries under the MGNREGS in West Bengal. As of the Financial Year 21-22 and 2223, there are dues totaling Rs. 7029.00 crore in West Bengal, out of which Rs. 3286 crore constitutes wages owed to workers of the MGNREGA. The MGNREG Act mandates that workers are entitled to payment of wages within a fortnight of completing their work. Failure to comply with this provision results

in the worker being entitled to compensation. Thus, any delay in payment of wages violates statutory provisions. The Honorable Chief Minister of West Bengal has already requested the Union Government to address this issue, and a delegation of seven Members of Parliament has also met with the Union Minister of Rural Development regarding this matter. Delayed payment of wages is unacceptable and can unnecessarily increase the compensation bill, thereby placing an avoidable financial burden on the Centre. It is important to note that any reasons for the delay in receiving wages are not the concern of the worker. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to release the payment for MGNREGS work in West Bengal without any further delay.

(xviii) Need to establish 'SC/ST/OBC Welfare and Grievance Redressal Committees' in higher educational institutions

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH): The cases of student suicides are on the rise and between 2014-21, the reported number of suicides in higher educational institutions is 122 . It is shocking to note that out of the 122 student who committed suicides, 41 students are from OBC community, 24 from SC community, 4 from ST community, and 3 from religious minorities. The case is even

worse in premier institutes such as IITs, NITs, IIMs, and Central Universities which are essentially hostile spaces for students from marginalized communities.

This fact unveils the reality that reservation alone is not enough for guaranteeing the rights of marginalized communities, but comprehensive psychosocial efforts are the need of the hour. Therefore, I request the Government to intervene in this matter and immediately establish 'SC/ST/OBC Welfare and Grievance Redressal Committees' in every higher educational institution for safeguarding their rights before more lives are taken.

(xix) Regarding sanction of an ECHS referral Hospital in Ongole, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): My Parliamentary constituency is having approximately 13105 Ex-servicemen and approximately 20,000 serving personnel. Most of their dependents are living in this Prakasam district. My District is having maximum number of ex - servicemen in Andhra Pradesh. Giddalur town is part of Markapur division with six mandals and mostly Ex-Servicemen are residing in this area. Giddalur is 145kms

away from district Headquarters. There is no empaneled hospital in Giddalur as it is a small town.

The District Collector is ready to sanction 37 cents of land for Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). Verification of land is done by Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) and Revenue Divisional Office (RDO) and provide NOC for providing site under survey no 441/3 of pernammitta for ECHS center. A suitable building is readily available for immediate opening of ECHS Referral Hospital in front of Unit Run Canteen (URC) canteen.

As per the data provided to me approximately 158 Ex- servicemen expired because of the lack of ECHS facilities in this area.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Defence to kindly sanction an ECHS referral Hospital in Ongole on priority basis as this is under consideration within the Ministry of Defence.

(xx) Regarding protection of vulnerable coastal regions

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM):

As per a report by the World Meteorological Organization, India is one of the few countries that are at the greatest risk of experiencing rising sea levels worldwide. Rising sea levels have a subsequent effect of loss of coastal ecosystems and ecosystem services, as well as groundwater salinization and an increased risk of flooding that causes immense damage to life and property in these regions. This is already being experienced by states like Andhra Pradesh which has the second longest coastline in India, and wherein several building and road networks are at risk of submergence in coastal cities like Vishakhapatnam by 2050 according to RMSI, a risk management firm. It is, therefore, crucial to tackle the effect of the climate crisis by supplementing state efforts with national policies that enhance resilience against climate change and by investing in national projects like the application of Space Technology, as recommended in a report by Niti Aayog as such technology can be adapted to provide real-time information on major disasters like floods and cyclones. Therefore, I request the Government to take steps in this direction to ensure the protection of vulnerable coastal regions.

**(xxi) Need to increase wages and work days under the
MGNREGS**

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Rural Development for increasing the wages and working hours of the workers under MNREGA. Alongside, I want him to make payment of the amount outstanding with the Government. Ever since the outbreak of Covid pandemic in the country, this has been the only means of livelihood for laborers in the rural areas. During the Corona period, workers were getting proper work in MNREGA, but now for about a year, on an average, they are being given work only for 28 to 30 days. They are not able to survive due to this inflation. And adding salt to injury, MNREGA funds are not being paid to the States by the Central Government. The dues of the states are obstructed year after year. Statistics show that the state of Bihar has the highest number of landless workers in the country. This number is around 88.61 lakh. They should get guaranteed 100 days' work under the MNREGA, but due to paucity of funds they are getting only 28 days of work on an average. Also, there is a need to fix wages under MNREGA in Bihar at more than Rs. 300/-, on the lines of Haryana. This time there has

been an increase of only Rs 12/- in Bihar. Earlier Rs. 198/- was fixed and it is from the month of May, 2022 that it has been increased to Rs. 212/-. In other states the Union Government has increased it by 7 percent. Bihar Government has been continuously making request to the Central Government to increase the MNREGA wages and the pending amount to the tune of Rs. 1900 crore be released. This demand should be accepted without any further delay and alongside, 100 days' work should be assured to all the workers.

(xxii) Regarding augmentation of guaranteed wage employment under the MGNREGA Scheme

[English]

SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM): I request the Hon'ble Minister that the number of working days under MGNREGA scheme be increased to 150 as against the present count of 100 days. In this regard, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already tabled a proposal to Honorable Prime Minister. Most of the landless villagers are solely depending on this income and that too women are more predominantly benefited out of this.

So, I kindly request the Union Government to increase the same to 150 days and there is a long pending demand to hike the wages also.

Hence, considering the present economic situation and the cost of living, I request the Government to increase the number of days along with revision of the wages.

Moreover, this scheme is not efficiently managed at all levels. So there should be a policy framework with rules and procedures for the assigned time bound execution of the projects at all levels like desalination of river beds/removal of 'Prosopis juliflora' etc.

(xxiii) Regarding filing of Annual Return under the Goods and Services Tax

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): GST objectives, such as cascading effect of indirect taxes; Uniform taxation; Reduction of multiple documentation for compliance; Easing tax administration, expanding tax net etc., have been achieved. But, registered persons under GST could not file their GST Annual Returns/Final Returns within time due to pandemic and restrictions. Considering hardships, Government of India provided relief by waiving late fee/reducing interest rate for delayed payments in filing GSTR-3b & GSTR-1. However, no similar relief given to GSTR-9 & GSTR-9C. Clause 134 of Finance Bill, 2023, proposed that registered person shall not be allowed to furnish Annual Return U/s 44(1) of CGST Act after expiry

of three years from due date. But, proviso to 134 says that GST Council may exempt and allow filing Annual Return under 44(1). Hence, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to look into this genuine issue and take it to GST Council for positive resolution for registered persons under GST.

(xxiv) Regarding revision of Pension of BSNL employees

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): When BSNL was formed on 01.10.2000, the employees of Telecom Department were unblock transferred to the new entity with the assurance that their pension will be paid by the Government. Necessary amendment was also made in the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 to ensure it. Accordingly, the absorbed employees are being given pay and pension on IDA pay scales. Last pension revision was implemented from 01.01 .2007 with 30% fitment, the maximum fitment recommended by the 2nd PRC. So the next pension revision was due from 01.01 .2017 with 15% fitment recommended by the 3rd PRC. Unfortunately, initially the Government took the stand that pension revision is possible only after pay revision of BSNL employees and pay revision is being delayed due to the affordability condition stipulated by the 3rd PRC. Pension revision is no way linked to the pay revision of BSNL employee as

pension is being given by the Government and the entire liability of pension lies with the Government after annulment of 60:40 condition in 2016. The pension contribution for the combined service of the absorbed BSNL pensioners have been paid to the Government at the maximum of their pay scales whereas the pension contribution from Central Government employees are being collected only according to the actual pay. Further, their counterparts, the Central Government pensioners were given pension revision with effect from 01.01.2016 as per the recommendations of 7th CPC. The assurance given to the absorbed BSNL employees of better prospects during the formation of BSNL thus stands violated. It is now understood that the Department of Telecommunication has decided to delink pension revision from wage revision. But the issue is further delayed as no decision on the fitment factor is taken. The absorbed BSNL pensioners are fully justified to get 15% fitment for pension revision due to the aforementioned facts. Therefore, urgent intervention of the Hon'ble Minister of Communications is warranted for early settlement of the long pending issue as thousands of pensioners have expired without getting the benefit and it is continuing. An early revision of pension w.e.f. 01.01.2017 is needed.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, as per my information Members are allowed to carry papers with them and not the placards.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Hon. Speaker has directed very categorically.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation] Hon. Speaker has directed that the Members are not to stage a stir or protest carrying placards and signboards. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, I urge that the information that is being received today and the calls that we are getting from the diaspora all over the world, that a leader and member of this House, Shri Rahul Gandhi is insulting India ... *(Interruptions)* He has cast aspersions on the Hon. Speaker ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation] He has levelled allegations against the Speaker. ... *(Interruptions)* Not Just that, *[English]* "Our mikes are not out of order; they are functioning, but you still can't switch them on."

[Translation] What is this allegation? ... *(Interruptions)* This is a direct reflection on the Speaker and the institution. He has remarked

outside the House that this is the height of insult to the parliament, Sir. While doing this, these Members choose to carry placards with them and enter the House... *(Interruptions)* it is not all that he has remarked, he goes on to observe that even the MPs who stand outside the Parliament have also been arrested. Where have they been arrested? He makes false allegations on his visit abroad... *(Interruptions)* India is a sovereign country. Intervention by other countries is a grave insult to India. ... *(Interruptions)*. They carry placards into the House rather than tendering apology for such undesirable acts. Action should be taken against the Members carrying placards, this is our demand. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.00AM, Thursday, the 16th March, 2023

14.11hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday,
March 16, 2023/Phalguna 25, 1944 (Saka)*

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