Agrahayana 10, 1938 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXI Contains Nos. 11 to 21)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 01, 2016/Agrahayana 10, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Martyrdom of 7 brave army personnel and injuries to several others in a terrorist attack in Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir on 29th November, 2016

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received information about the martyrdom of 7 brave army personnel and injuries to many others in a cowardly terrorist attack in Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir on 29th November, 2016.

The House strongly condemns these terrorist attacks and expresses deep condolences on pain and suffering of the bereaved families. We pray for the speedy recovery to those injured.

Now, the House will remain silent for a short while in the honour of the departed souls.

11.01 hours

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.02 hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

(i) Re: Reported delay in landing of a private aircraft carrying Chief Minister of West Bengal and other passengers due to air traffic at Kolkata airport

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, I

want to raise one important issue. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sudip ji, you speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, yesterday Mamata Banerjee, our Chief Minister, was coming back from Patna to Kolkata. It was 7.30 p.m. The aircraft was scheduled to halt in the city of Kolkata, but due to traffic, the aircraft was hovering in the sky for a long time of 30 minutes. Then, the pilot sent a signal to the ATC that there was only seven-minute flying fuel reserve and that immediate landing was very important at that juncture, but the ATC gave permission for landing to another aircraft which was coming from Agartala and it was the second one.

While landing, it was found that all emergency landing positions were ready over there – ambulance, fire brigade - as if it was about to crash. The Airports Authority of India has admitted the truth that the fuel left was for seven-minute flying only. After investigation, it can be found out. What we are

asking for is whether there is any motive behind it. It was not an Air India flight. It was an Indigo flight. Ms. Mamata Banerjee normally travels in Indigo flight and ATC is controlled by the Central Government. The concerned hon. Minister is here. Hon. Ananth Kumar ji telephoned me today morning to discuss about today's functioning. I told him about this incident also. He said: "Sudip Da, communicate to Chief Minister that I express my anxieties for this incident." So, I want that the Government should rise to the occasion with all out priority and we want to see that the security of Ms. Mamata Banerjee and life of Ms. Mamata Banerjee is facing some challenges, which the Government of India should take care with all priority.

HON. SPEAKER: Sure.

... (Interruptions)

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND **FERTILIZERS** THE AND **MINISTER** OF **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS** (SHRI **ANANTHKUMAR):** Madam, we pray for the well-being of Ms. Mamata Banerjee and all the air passengers. As the Government of India, it is our responsibility about everybody's life and security and the State Governments also and through Ministry of Civil Aviation all the passengers also. At the same time, our hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is here. Through you, I request him, Madam, to give the factual report and assuage the feelings of the hon. Member Shri Bandyopadhyay and all his friends. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI

RAJU): Madam, with your kind permission ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: No, one is not supposed to speak on this.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a matter of discussion for all. You all please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Madam, with your kind permission, I would like to bring the facts to the notice of this august House. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, everyone has sympathy on this issue.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not react like this on every issue. He has just made his point.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to what the hon. Minister is saying.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Indigo flight 6E-342 departed from Patna at 7.36 pm and its expected time of landing was 8.27 pm at Kolkata. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I want to say that all parties, including Kharge Ji, are sympathetic to this.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: There is some traffic congestion at Kolkata because of repairs in the main runway and use of the secondary runway for arrivals and departures. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please repeat as I could not hear you.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Would you like to say the same thing?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, this is not good. ...(Interruptions) We want to associate with the issue. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: No, it does not happen like this.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Jai Prakash Ji, you also agree with this.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is not good. ... (*Interruptions*) You allow me to express it. ... (*Interruptions*) Shri Bandyopadhyay, this is not good. ... (*Interruptions*) We should all speak and then he should reply. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is it?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is all this?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This matter does not require much discussion.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): We are the largest Party. ...(*Interruptions*) We have got a say. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you have any doubts, then you can ask after he concludes, but not like this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, you allow him for one minute. ... (*Interruptions*) The largest Party should be given half-a-minute to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: I am just trying to bring the facts to the hon. House. ... (*Interruptions*) The pilot of Indigo flight, when it entered Kolkata airspace, was eighth in the landing sequence. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, what is this? ... (*Interruptions*)
This is unfair. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: It reported low fuel and at that time it was third in the landing sequence. ... (*Interruptions*) However, it did not ask for priority landing even though he was asked specifically about it by the Air Traffic Control (ATC). Whenever there is any communication between the ATC Tower and the pilot of a particular flight, the communication can be heard by other pilots also of other flights, which are in the landing sequence. The Air India flight was ahead of Indigo flight in the landing sequence. When the ATC informed Air India pilot about the Indigo flight being low on fuel, Air India pilot also said that he was also low on fuel. Another flight of Spice Jet, which was behind the Indigo in the landing sequence, also reported low on fuel. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): It is very serious. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: However, as per the information available, none of the pilots of the three flights asked for priority landing.

...(*Interruptions*) All the three flights were allowed to land in the normal landing sequence. The Indigo flight had to hover for 13 minutes only and landed at 8.40 pm. It is incorrect to say that the flight was made to hover for 30-40 minutes.

As per the standard flight safety procedure prescribed by the DGCA, any aircraft which takes off from one airport for a second airport, it must carry sufficient fuel which should enable it to reach its destination, to hover for 30 minutes, as well as to reach the notified alternate airport, which is used for such diversion of flight, if required. ... (*Interruptions*)

For Kolkata Airport, the notified alternate airport is Bhubaneswar Airport. Therefore, Indigo flight should have carried sufficient fuel for going to Kolkata, hover for 30 minutes and then for going to Bhubaneswar airport, if the circumstances so required.... (*Interruptions*)Under the circumstances, the DGCA has ordered an inquiry to ascertain as to how these three flights have reported low fuel and whether they have carried sufficient fuel as per the regulatory requirements prescribed by DGCA.

These are the facts of the case, Madam. I thank you for allowing me to bring these facts, through you, to the notice of the august House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): But then the life of the Chief Minister and other passengers was at risk. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Everybody will not speak on this issue.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: He has just spoken about the inquiry. [English] He has said that the DGCA has ordered an inquiry.

Kharge Ji, which issue do you want to speak on?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I want to speak on this issue.

This is a very important matter because in today's circumstances there is agitation going on about demonetization.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Do not make allegations, please.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You please listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You too should speak carefully.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Kumari Mamata Banerjee was moving from Kolkata to Patna, Patna to Lucknow, and she was going to so many other places. So, her life is in danger. ... (*Interruptions*) When the ATC was told that he was hovering for 30 minutes and the remaining fuel would last only for seven minutes, it is the duty of the ATC to allow the flight in which Kumari Mamata Banerjee was there to land first. ... (*Interruptions*) Always, VVIPs' flight is allowed to land first, when the flight does not have enough fuel. When there is no fuel, it is the duty of the ATC to do that. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't make it an issue to create uproar.

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... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, the life and safety of Kumari Mamata Banerjee and all the air passengers is a matter of concern. We are very serious about it; we are responsible about it. At the same time, the hon. Civil Aviation Minister, my dear colleague, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju has mentioned what the safety requirements are, which were laid by the Director General of Civil Aviation. The pilots of all the three flights did not ask for priority landing. Though they said that they were low on fuel, when asked by the ATC, they did not ask for priority landing. However, an investigation has been ordered and the report will come before the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Investigation is taking place. Let the investigation be done. They have already ordered the investigation.

... (Interruptions)

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11.11 hours

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 221 – Shri Hukum Singh.

(Q. 221)

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Madam, I am grateful to the Hon. Minister and the Government for showing interest to promote sports in schools and to youth.... (Interruptions) I had asked very the encourage specific question...(Interruptions) My question was whether you are considering making sports a compulsory subject in educational institutions or not, it was my specific question... (Interruptions) I had asked whether you are proposing to make sports compulsory or not.... (Interruptions) Incidentally, the Hon. Minister said many other things but did not say whether he is going to make sports compulsory or not.... (*Interruptions*) This is what I want to ask the Hon. Minister about.... (Interruptions) Along with this I want to ask one other question. I had already asked about infrastructure all the schools....(Interruptions) Because if you make sports compulsory and encourage the youth in the field of sports, it is necessary that all the facilities required in the school should also be available.... (Interruptions) Let me get the answers to both questions... (*Interruptions*)

11.13 hours

(At this stage, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, Shri Hukum Singh has asked a very good question.... (Interruptions) I think there is a need to discuss this.... (Interruptions) we have said very clearly that our Sports Ministry wants that sports should be made compulsory subject in all schools.... (Interruptions)

We have seen that in schools from 1st to 8th class, with great effort one subject of sports has been included. Sports cannot develop this way. ...(Interruptions)

If sports are to be promoted in the country, we have very clearly said that it should be made compulsory but the Hon. Member should understand that sports is a state subject. The consent of the states is necessary in it. ... (Interruptions) We have met representative of the HRD Ministry and we have written to them that not only should sports be made a mandatory and compulsory subject but the marks given for it should also be added to overall

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister that he is striving and his effort will certainly be successful. Further action needs to be taken in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*) Madam, you will agree that all the talent is in villages and out of all the medals won, 80 per cent of the children awarded medals are from villages. Today, I am pained to say that

percentage so that the students can get admission at higher education level with

the help of those marks. ... (*Interruptions*)

when we go to villages, people there constantly demand that we should be given playground. ... (Interruptions) Once the Government had made provisions and got ponds dug and also gave money. If you have to develop the sports talent among youth in the rural areas, then definitely playgrounds are needed as well. There are no playgrounds anywhere. ... (Interruptions) Madam Speaker, schools do not have playgrounds, there is no infrastructure. If there are no playgrounds in the villages then how will the country develop in sports? ... (Interruptions) I would like to request you to seriously consider this and make it compulsory that the Government should make provision of playground in each village. There should be a clear assurance of this. If you provide playgrounds, our children will definitely get an opportunity to develop.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is absolutely right. There are more than 13 lakh schools across the country and in fact, there is lack of playgrounds in 670 districts, 7000 blocks and 13 lakh schools. That's why we had just convened a meeting of Sports Ministers and they were told that instead of using the vacant field for commercial purpose in urban areas, playground should be developed for the community. For this, the National Playfield Association had also given a report that we also want to increase the number of playgrounds but for that, a culture of sports has to be developed in which parents, school and state government should extend their support to the child. The state government has agreed to work in tandem and as the Hon. Member has rightly said that most of the players come from rural and tribal areas, that's why we are encouraging the ongoing special area game scheme.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, for four terms, from 1998, 2004, 2009 and now 2014, as an MP, this is the first time that my Question has ever come in the first place. This draft is totally my Question. Actually, this is something I asked. So, I thank you very much from the core of my heart for giving me this great day in my life. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: For that, I can give you extra question.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I am sorry, I am not able to hear you. ... (*Interruptions*) I am not getting into all the other issues that have been associated with sports during the last Olympics when people were complaining that there were more officials who went abroad than sports persons. Young girls and boys who had gone from Odisha did not even get over the two day's jetlag period to go across the world. ... (*Interruptions*) In this Khelo India Scheme, a total of only Rs. 500 crore have been allocated. Out of this, you have allocated a mere Rs. 134 crore for the entire country for building of sports infrastructure. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry and the Government of India are serious about encouraging sports. I am not talking about villages. ... (*Interruptions*) It will be a very difficult task. There are 7,000 panchayats. Who is going to look after all of them? ... (*Interruptions*) Are they even willing to set up single sports facilities of world quality in each State? This Rs. 134 crore would not suffice. ... (*Interruptions*) If you are

sincere, tell the House what exactly you plan to do in the next one year. Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, as he asks question less often so please answer the question to his satisfaction.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am also very happy that after a long time, question has come on sports as number one... (Interruptions) I absolutely agree with Shri Satpathy ji that our Sports Budgets are very less. ... (Interruptions) Rs.145 crores have been allocated for Khelo India but still we are constantly trying to promote sports even more. ... (Interruptions) So, right now we have two jobs, one is broad basing of Sports and the other is excellence in Sports. (Interruptions) He is talking about the excellence in sports, last time also we had allocated sufficient budget under the TOP scheme but this time we are already preparing for sports. ... (*Interruptions*) So we will prepare for the years 2020, 2024, 2028, the Tokyo Olympics to be held in 2020 but it is true that we have a budget of just Rs 900 crore. ... (Interruptions) With this Budget, we cannot build infrastructure in the whole country. ... (Interruptions) So, now we have started pin pointing and reconsolidating our resources to search for talent and nurture and train them so that we can get good players. For this, there should be different competitions and we have also called a meeting of PSUs so that we can get maximum funds from the private sector. ... (Interruptions) We had also met the Finance Minister to increase our funds further. ... (*Interruptions*) If you support us then I think that the entire House should be concerned for Sports and cooperate in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*)

Unstarred question number 3999 in the last session in which the Ministry has clearly accepted that [English] "The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is not implementing any scheme at present which provides for release of grants to schools of state governments." ... (Interruptions) [Translation] I come from a state where even in our Olympic team, 21 players are from Haryana state. ...(Interruptions) We had such sportspersons in history too, who have always worked to bring the glory to the nation.... (Interruptions) If we cannot provide grants, to the schools funded by state government, through your Ministry then what kind of future are we foreseeing for our sportspersons? ... (Interruptions)

You just said that we are bringing PSUs, private people, but we will not be able to develop the schools of the Gram Panchayat with their funds. ...(Interruptions) In the last session, while replying to a question Sh. Anurag Thakur, said that the Union Government gave money to only 13 out of 26 Gram Panchayats of the states under PYKKA. Just Rs. 3.34 crore was given to Haryana. I would like to ask you that in the coming years, will your Ministry would like to release more grants at the school level to such states who want to develop more infrastructure for sports?

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, we do not give any grants directly to the schools but we give grants to those schools and Sports Federations which organize Tournaments. We provide grants to the Federations to organize

competition... (*Interruptions*) But if someone needs infrastructure in the government schools, we extend help in this regard as well... (*Interruptions*) Along with this, the Sports Ministry also adopts some schools which have sports structures... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not do this.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There is a question on sports. I will complete it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT: Madam Speaker, I have a small question....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you also play?

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT: I want to express my gratitude to you and through you, just want to ask one question to the Minister. ...(Interruptions) The way land holdings are declining, the way playgrounds are being encroached upon, do you have any plan under 'Khelo India', through which a stadium, equipped with all facilities, should be constructed at the district headquarter so that the children from villages can also come there...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, right now it is not possible that we construct stadiums in every district but where we will see that there is a need and the Hon. Member, state government or any other body approaches us then

we can obviously consider it after seeing its feasibility report and under 'Khelo India' we can sanction it.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anurag Thakur. Cricket is very popular.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, I want to say that cricket is the only game which has never burdened the Union or the state government. ...(Interruptions) The Cricket Associations have built all the stadiums themselves and have won the World Cup many times.... (Interruptions) My question has two parts. Betting and match-fixing is a big problem. ...(Interruptions) Betting and match-fixing are two different problems. ...(Interruptions) I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, whether this Government is ready to make a strict law to prevent match-fixing?...(Interruptions) If a player wants to defame the country or he plays badly due to which the game gets affected.... (Interruptions) whether the Sports Ministry is ready to bring any such law?... (Interruptions)

Second, there is only 10 days' imprisonment for betting. Whether the Sports Ministry is taking any steps to legalise betting?... (*Interruptions*) Is it ever going to happen, that thousands of crores of rupees collected through it in many countries and after it reaches Government exchequer used for development?... (*Interruptions*) I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what steps the Sports Ministry is taking on these two subjects match-fixing and betting?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, Anurag Ji said that financial help was never asked for cricket. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to tell them that you do have a lot of funds, so if you build small stadiums for cricket instead of the big ones all over the country then it will be beneficial for the sports in general and we will also be able to use them for other sports.... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, as far as match-fixing or betting is concerned, it is not only present in sports but also in many other fields...(*Interruptions*) We will consider it but it should be seen that when the Government will ban all types of betting and gambling, I think sports will also be covered in it....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Madam Speaker, I have been a wrestling player and also a farmer.... (*Interruptions*) I was listening to what the Hon. Minister was saying.... (Interruptions) I am still sure that no MP from all over the world can defeat me in wrestling...(*Interruptions*) If you allow me, I would teach wrestling to those who are not allowing the Parliament to function for the whole week. (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, rural games are recognized in the Olympics in which gold medals, silver medals and bronze medals are given.... (*Interruptions*) There is a lot of discussion about it and it is not a minor issue. There are certain types of communities in villages who have been involved in specific sports for generations like the fisherman knows swimming ...(*Interruptions*) the tribal person knows Archery, farmer knows horse riding, some special community in village also know wrestling. ...(*Interruptions*) Children studying in village schools can be selected and given training.

I want to tell the Hon. Minister to formulate a plan for this. An interparliamentary wrestling tournament can be organized all over the world in order to check this uproar in the House ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, this is a different kind of wrestling. I am talking about wrestling as a sport. The Sports Ministry is making efforts to its fullest to promote indigenous sports. ...(Interruptions) Recently, a Kabaddi league was organised and Kabaddi has become very famous. We have schemes to scout talent, Army Boys Sports Company Scheme is one of them. We go to the villages and look for the talent in various sports and then give them training. We are going to start a portal for this. It is in the process and it will be called Sports Talent Search Portal ...(Interruptions) in this portal, any Indian sportsperson, who is eight years old, can upload his biodata or video then we will examine his talent and either give training or scholarship at our SAI center. Talent is searched through district and state level competition ...(Interruptions) There are some other games also. We are also encouraging some games which are played in particular areas. Apart from sports like Malkhambh, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, we are also promoting small games. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam Speaker, the SAI center in my state is on 108 acres of land, which was being encroached which we have stopped. We have made a lot of progress in SAI.... (*Interruptions*) After Patiala, Aurangabad SAI center is the second largest center. Will you make that center a sub-center because 108 acres of land will not be available

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anywhere else. All games are held there, in future we are going to include

cricket also, will you give it recognition?... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Madam Speaker, is this a state government center or

our center? For us, it is not a big deal to recognize any center or make it a big

center, but the expenditure incurred on its maintenance is definitely a huge

task. ... (Interruptions) We will use all the centers if they are quite big they

can be used in a manner so that it can be fully utilized and we will also

encourage if we are able to get some private partners in it. ... (Interruptions)

Send us a scheme, we will see its feasibility report. We have a very good center

in Aurangabad. Perhaps you are talking about the same. We will see what else

can be done in that 108 acres of land.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 222 Shri Suman Balka:- Not present.

Now, the hon. Minister

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister that a fund of two lakh crore rupees has been earmarked for five years to improve the standard of living in the Panchayati Raj system. 'DISHA' Committee has been constituted for the work being done by the Union Government at the Panchayat level. ...(Interruptions) This Committee has been given the powers to oversee the quality and determine the functions.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, whether work can be implemented at the grassroots level for this?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Madam Speaker, Hon. Member has asked about the guidelines of DISHA. This is related to the Ministry of Rural Development. I would definitely like to provide any information required regarding the questions asked for getting basic facilities in the Panchayats. ... (*Interruptions*) 'DISHA' Committee has been formed which is working under the leadership of the Member of Parliament. It also has the right to investigate the quality and to take action on it.... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. A question was asked by my colleague about internet connectivity and satellite connectivity ... (*Interruptions*) As you would know, Gandhi ji said that *Gram Swaraj* is real *Swaraj*. Today for e-governance, e-wallet or e-transparency, the basic requirement is internet connectivity which

may be provided through either satellite or fibre cable... (*Interruptions*) For reasons of demonetization, there is acute urgency for internet connectivity in the rural areas... (*Interruptions*) Is the Government proposing to take this up on a mission mode so that each of the Gram Panchayats is given internet connectivity either through satellite or fibre cable... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Member and the entire House that we want to connect villages to the internet at the Gram Panchayat level using satellite communication and net for information gathering, making the working of the Panchayat transparent and for communication. Currently, there is no internet facility in every village. ... (Interruptions) There are two and a half lakh panchayats, our Government has undertaken a huge initiative to connect all the village panchayats to the net through the Bharat Net Programme. So far, it has been implemented in more than one lakh panchayats.... (Interruptions) We will be able to make good progress by the year 2017. When villages are connected with the internet and broadband, all other work will be done very smoothly. ...(Interruptions)

I am proud to say that Gujarat is the only state where this facility has been provided in every village. The Gujarat government has done this work with its own fund. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN: Madam Speaker, my question is very specific. The 14th Finance Commission has allocated a sum of Rs. 2 lakh. There are some thousand Panchayats in this country ... (*Interruptions*) Even I have adopted one Gram Panchayat, namely, the Sarna Gram Panchayat in my parliamentary constituency ... (*Interruptions*) The place is situated inside a dense forest. There is no road connectivity... (*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister has mentioned about improvement of roads. But in this Gram Panchayat there is no road connectivity ... (*Interruptions*) So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, what action does the Government proposes to construct roads in that area. Here, the hon. Minister has mentioned only about improvement of roads... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Madam Speaker, in response to the original question about the improvement of the road, it has been stated that the funds provided to the Gram Panchayats under the 14th Finance Commission can be used for various purposes by the Gram Panchayats. ... (Interruptions) This fund can be used to improve water, electricity, village road and internal roads of the village. ... (Interruptions) The Connectivity of the Road is under the Department of Road and Housing and the Department of Road and Building. ... (Interruptions) the allocation made on the basis of 14th Finance Commission's, the focus is on improving existing village roads and providing better road connectivity within villages rather than constructing new roads....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Madam, this is a very important issue of rural development. Rural India is facing a serious problem of road connectivity including my constituency as well as many other rural areas....(*Interruptions*) We can see the pictures in the national media of people carrying the children in their hands to go into the villages to avail medical facilities. ...(*Interruptions*)

I would like to know in this regard from the hon. Minister. The Government has approved a beautiful scheme called PMJSY wherein road connectivity is provided to all the villages which are having a habitation of 250 people. ... (*Interruptions*) But PMJSY works that are sanctioned in 2013 have not been implemented till date due to different reasons. ... (*Interruptions*) These roads are yet to be completed. Is the Government proposing a policy to complete the roads which are pending for years together by sanctioning new rates and taking it forward to provide road connectivity to rural India? ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Madam Speaker, I agree with the Hon. Member's concern that there is no road connectivity in his area. ...(Interruptions) He has to say something regarding the road sanction works. ... (Interruptions) But the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is not related to our Ministry. ... (Interruptions) This is an issue of another Ministry. ...(Interruptions) If you want to know about it, you can ask a separate question

to that Ministry. ... (*Interruptions*) If you seek any information regarding the work of the Panchayat Department and the Panchayats, I can provide it. ...(*Interruptions*)

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 223 to 240

Unstarred Question Nos. 2531 to 2760

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

11.43 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

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

 $^{^{\}ast}$ For Questions, please refer to Master copy of English version, placed in Library.

12.00 hours

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

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Sarvashri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Mallikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, K.C. Venugopal, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Jitendra Chaudhary, Rajesh Ranjan, Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Dr. A. Sampath, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Dr. P. Venugopal, Sarvashri N.K. Premachandran, Md. Salim, P. Karunakaran, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, P.K. Biju, Kodikunnil Suresh and Jose K. Mani on different issues.

The matters though important do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised through other opportunities. I have, therefore disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.01 hours

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O.3016(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 21st September, 2016, regarding reconstitution of official members in the National Jute Board for a period of two years with effect from 29th September, 2016 issued under subsection (1) of Section 3 of the National Jute Board Act, 2008. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5560/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2015-2016. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5561/16/16]

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2015- 2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Aluminium Company Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5562/16/16]

- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5563/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2015-2016.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5564/16/16]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2015-2016.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5565/16/16]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5566/16/16]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2015-2016.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5567/16/16]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2015-2016.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5568/16/16]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5569/16/16]

(7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5570/16/16]

- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the ear 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5571/16/16]

(9) A copy of the National Highways Authority of India (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Third Amendment Regulations, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 11012/248/2015-Admn. in Gazette of India dated 17th October, 2015 under Section 37 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5572/16/16]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:-
- (i) S.O.3165(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th October, 2016, appointing Shri Umesh Kumar Sharma, formerly Additional District Judge, Kota, Rajasthan, as Presiding Officer of the National Highway Tribunal at Mumbai w.e.f. the forenoon of 6.9.2016, till he attains the age of 62 years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- (ii) S.O.3166 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th October, 2016, appointing Shri Umesh Kumar Sharma, Presiding Officer of the National Highway Tribunal at Mumbai to discharge also the functions of the Presiding Officer of the National Highway Tribunal at Chandigarh, Kolkata, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Chennai and Guwahati, w.e.f. the forenoon of 6.9.2016, till further orders.
- (iii) S.O.3333(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th October, 2016, superceding Notification No. S.O.1912(E) dated 30th May, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5573/16/16]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension Fund Trust), Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5574/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the WAPCOS Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5575/16/16]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5576/16/16]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the WAPCOS Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the WAPCOS Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5577/16/16]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2012-2013.
- (ii) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5578/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5579/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): On behalf of Shri Ajay Tamta, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith 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, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5580/16/16]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5581/16/16]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2015-2016. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5582/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of Notification No. 36/2016-Central Excise (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 1st December, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 12/2012-Central Excise dated 17th March, 2012 so as to make the NIL excise duty on branded gold coins of purity 99.5 per cent and above [falling under Chapter 71 of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985] subject to the condition that no credit of input goods or input services or capital goods, has been availed under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- (2) A copy of Notification No. 59/2016-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 1st December, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17th March, 2012 so as to withdraw CVD exemption on Gold coins (branded or unbranded) having gold content not below 99.5 per cent and gold findings, both falling under Chapter 71 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the said Act. ...(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5583/16/16]

12.05 hours

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION 16th and 17th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMADNAGAR):

Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (CSL):-

- (1) 16th Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation on Rules/Regulations framed under various sections of Parliament relating to the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy).
- (2) 17th Report on action taken by the Committee on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixth Report (2015-2016).

12.05 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 18th, 27th and 30th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BHADOHI): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the following Reports:-

- 18th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 8th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-2016)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (2) 27th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 16th Report on the subject 'Mega Food Parks' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- action taken by the (3) 30th Report on Government the observations/recommendations contained in the 26th Report on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

12.06 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENVIORNMENT AND FOREST 286th to 291st Reports

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

- (1) 286th Report on the action taken by the Department of Bio-Technology on the recommendations contained in the 278th Report of the Committee on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Department of Bio-Technology.
- (2) 287th Report on proceedings by the Department of Space on the recommendations contained in the 279th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Department of Space.
- (3) 288th Report on the action taken by the Department of Scientific and Technology Research on the recommendations contained in the 280th Report of the Committee on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Department of Scientific and Technology Research.
- (4) 289th Report on the action taken by the Department of Science and Technology on the recommendations contained in the 281st Report of the Committee on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Department of Science and Technology.
- (5) 290th Report on the action taken by the Department of Atomic Energy on the recommendations contained in the 282th Report of the Committee on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Department of Atomic Energy.

(6) 291th Report on the action taken by the Ministry of Earth Sciences on the recommendations contained in the 284th Report of the Committee on demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

12.06 ½ hours

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO.161, DATED 28 NOVEMBER, 2016 REGARDING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Madam, I beg to make a Statement correcting the reply to Standard Question No.161 given on 28 November, 2016 asked by Shri Om Prakash Yadav and Col. Sonaram Choudhary, MPs regarding 'Industrial Development'.

Madam, do you want me to read the Statement?

HON. SPEAKER: No. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

Part (d) of the Statement laid on the Table of the House contained factual mistake in the period relating to GDP Growth rate relating to the Year 2016-17, which needs to be corrected.

(d) Government has been taking steps to boost industrial production and growth. These, inter-alia, include 'Make in India' initiative under which thrust sectors have been identified to provide a push to manufacturing in India, Start Up India' initiative and 'Ease of Doing Business'. Liberalization of FDI Policy and development of Industrial Corridors to provide quality infrastructure for

^{*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 5584/16/16.

development of Industrial Townships are other important measures. Development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC), Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor is at various stages of planning and implementation. Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor and Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor are at early stages of planning. Despite subdued growth in the world economy, India has maintained a GDP growth rate of 7.2% in 2014-15m 7.6% in 2015-16 and 7.1% during April to June of 2016-17.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour'.

12.07 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERSContd.

(ii) Re: Impact of demonetization of 500 and 1000 currency notes

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Jyotiraditya Ji, please sit down.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (**GULBARGA**): Hon. Speaker, we are repeatedly trying to hold a discussion under Rule 56 of the House. You should also agree to this because this is a very big issue, very big... * is, a huge scam.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: ... *is the wrong word.

... (Interruptions) *

HON. SPEAKER: The word ... *

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why we want to tell the public. People are facing a lot of difficulties. Today, people are not getting salaries, people are standing in queue for long hours, they are dying there. ...(*Interruptions*) We want to raise their voice in this House and present their

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^{*} Not recorded.

difficulties before you. The Government wants to escape from this. We want to put people's difficulties before the House.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am ready for a discussion.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: But the Government wants to escape from it. Today the common people, especially the organized labour, government employees and all the contract workers are facing a lot of difficulties. They are not even getting their salary and those people whose hard earned money is deposited in the bank, are facing a lot of difficulties in withdrawing their own money.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed it.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed your notice. Why do you want to raise it again and again?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am ready for discussion... Just now, you start the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: They are getting exhausted in peace meal.... (*Interruptions*) Every day a new order is being issued. The entire country is suffering and the Government is least bothered. That is why I want you to allow this issue for discussion. We will put all the information before you and we are requesting that you consider it under any rule but there should be a discussion on this issue and voting should be done on it. That is what we want.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Jayaprakash Ji, you may please speak but I do not understand that when everyone is ready for discussion, still the same thing is repeated every day. You people are entangled in the rules.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, even today this issue is being discussed. Opposition has always sought that debate should start on this immediately under Rule 56. There should be a division.... (Interruptions) We are not trying to avoid the division. The poor are suffering due to demonetization. The poor are getting ruined. Good days have not come for the poor. Today, people are struggling to get their salary. The poor are being stifled. More than 80 people have died.... (*Interruptions*) Everything is yellow to the jaundiced eye. ... (Interruptions) You are approaching doom. ...(Interruptions) to You are going be ruined....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam Speaker, no move of any Government, however purposeful it may be, should cause any inconvenience

to people. Only in wars and disasters human sufferings are unavoidable. Such mishaps are unexpected. But the determined action of the Union Government taken in the name of war against black money has caused human suffering. After the announcement of demonetization, on behalf of our party, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion. So, we want to discuss this issue in this august House. Under what rule it should be taken up is left to the decision of the Chair.

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed all the notices.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Keeping all rules aside, I am ready for discussion.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you all not yielding?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam Speaker, black money holders are very happy. They are untouched. A ratio has been fixed up saying, 'you deposit your black money, 50 per cent is yours and 50 per cent is with us. This is what is going on. We are actually interested to see that black money holders are properly punished and firm action is taken against black money holders. But what is happening is, the common people are suffering very much and so relief has to be given to them. I told the other day also that apart from Rule 56 and Rule 193, if you have any rule under your

power, you try to convince the Government to agree to that. We simply want a discussion with voting. Apart from Rule 56 and Rule 193, there is a third option and fourth option also. From anywhere we can start the discussion. Time is passing. Let us start from somewhere so that this burning issue can be debated on top priority. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, in addition to that, there is another issue. Shri Rahul Gandhi's mobile was hacked. That is also to be taken up with priority. If the telephones of leaders are hacked and they are used in such a wrong manner, the Government should rise to the occasion and should take care of the situation.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam Speaker, all the Opposition political parties have been demanding a discussion on this issue under Rule 56. But at the same time, the Government is insisting on a discussion under Rule 193. The Chair has the power to take a decision and there is a *via media*. The Chair can take it up under any other section because 16 days have passed now. So, we demand that there should be a discussion. We are not in favour of black money. We should take strong action against people having black money. Therefore, we request you that discussion should be started. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The Government is ready. Everybody is ready. I am ready.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: By setting aside the sub rules, yesterday I made an offer.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yesterday Shri Kharge had said.

... (Interruptions)

12.14 hours

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

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I can withdraw all the rules. By using my power I had said that [English] there will be no rule and you start the discussion. Why are you not starting it?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Madam Speaker, on the first day when all the party leaders met, they have said in one voice that the intention of the Prime Minister to curb black money is welcome. Today also every person is welcoming it in the country; only the execution part has created some hassles to the people. What I would like to submit is, if the Ruling Party and the Opposition Party are not coming to an agreement, you should at least call some other party leaders like Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab and all, make them understand and bring out a rule which is not 56, which is not 184 and which is not 193 and without any rule you can please start the discussion because many of the other parties want to give some suggestions on

how to execute it so that the people in the country should not suffer. We want that a proper transformation should take place. In our Sate, we have already accepted this. Our Chief Minister has already started making Telangana State as a cashless State. So, in this way, every State should come forward and try to do it... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Bhartruhari Mahtab ji, do you want to say something?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Yes, Madam...(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, Parliament functions on conventions, rules and regulations; Parliament does not function on whims and caprices...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, Parliament functions on conventions, rules and regulations; and that is how, our Parliamentary System has evolved itself... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, you had said yesterday that 'We can go from zero to the universe.' That gives a very wide scope to every Member present in this House to deliberate on this issue ...(*Interruptions*) The whole country is under convulsion. That is why the Members are agitated to ventilate their views, to ventilate the anxiety of the people and also to put-forth their viewpoints on the problems, which the people are facing everyday... (*Interruptions*)

That is the reason, Madam, I would request the Government to take the initiative and talk to the respective political parties so that we can come to a

conclusion and start discussion on this very subject, which is agitating all of us... (*Interruptions*)

The Government has come out with a very good proposal with demonetization. Irrespective of any party affiliations, many leaders have supported it. A Chief Minister's Committee has already been formed to go into the difficulties that the people are facing... (*Interruptions*) So, in this respect, I would again make a request. Today is the 22nd day of declaration of demonetization and three weeks have already passed. That is the reason, I would request you, Madam, to make your work more convenient. Let the Government come up with requests to the respective leaders so that we can start this discussion as early as possible and we can come to a conclusion. Thank you... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Ananthkumar ji, request them.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam Speaker, you said yesterday that we can discuss anything in the House....(Interruptions) Through you, I would like to request all the parties, especially the Congress party that we are ready for discussion....(Interruptions) You said that we are ready to discuss everything but the Congress party is not ready to discuss anything but we are ready to discuss. As you said, we can start discussion at the beginning of the

Zero Hour. The Government is ready for it.... (*Interruptions*) As Bhartruhari Ji said that it has been 22 days since November 8 and it has been a long time since the session has begun but the Congress party does not want a discussion.... (*Interruptions*) I once again request the Congress party and other parties not to dare to stop the fight against black money, as the whole country is with Shri Narendra Modi in the fight against black money.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I would like to urge once again that as you have suggested that you have considered suspending the Question Hour to start the discussion from zero hour, the Government is also ready for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*) If you start the discussion now, we are ready to discuss. We are ready for discussion from day one but they are not ready for discussion.... (*Interruptions*) [English]

HON. SPEAKER: The Government is ready and let us start the discussion.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Should we start discussion, just now?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If all of you are ready, we can start it, just now.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If there is a voting, we are ready for discussion... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why voting? What voting?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: So, you do not want to discuss anything!

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Just now, we can start discussion. Are you ready for starting it?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Let us start discussion.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Should we start discussion just now?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If all of you are ready, we can start the discussion just now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Yes, but it should be with voting.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you want voting?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: That means, you do not want to discuss anything.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you ready to start the discussion just now? There is no rule.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Madam, we are ready for discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The Government is ready for discussion. All of them are ready.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We can convert it into Rule 193.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want it?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: They are not ready.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Three-fourths of the House is ready for discussion.... (*Interruptions*) Only Congress Party is not ready. ...(*Interruptions*) All other parties are ready for discussion.... (*Interruptions*) You give a ruling and have a debate. | ... (*Interruptions*) we want debate. ...(*Interruptions*) We want a discussion on this topic. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The Government is ready for discussion.

 $\dots (Interruptions)$

12.22 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members may personally handover the text of the matter as per practice.

... (*Interruptions*)

(i) Need to construct Satluj Yamuna Link Canal

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Water Resources towards the decision given by the Supreme Court in favour of Haryana on the issue of construction of S.Y.L. Canal. It is noteworthy that in the year 2004, the Punjab Government cancelled all water agreements in an unconstitutional manner, against which the Haryana Government had gone to the Supreme Court. On November 10, 2016, the Hon. Supreme Court has struck down the decision of the year 2004 of Punjab terming it unconstitutional but now again the Punjab government has called a session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 16-11-2016 and de-notified the land acquired for construction of SYL. From the constitutional point of view, this proposal of Punjab has no justification. We have met the Governor of Punjab and appealed to cancel any unconstitutional action. Haryana has also requested the Hon'ble President to intervene in the matter. Under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Ji, we have

^{*} Treated as laid on the Table.

resolved to meet the demand of water of southern Haryana by constructing S.Y.L. canal and we will make every possible effort in this direction in a constitutional manner to get this water as per the order of the Supreme Court.

I demand from the Union Government to intervene in the matter and get the S.Y.L. Canal constructed immediately so that Haryana can get its due share of water for irrigation.

(ii) Need to desilt river Gandak in Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI JANAK RAM (GOPALGANJ): In my Parliamentary Constituency Gopalganj (Bihar), the dam from Ahiroli Don to Gopalganj Betia Mahasetu, which is under construction and if this dam is not constructed before time, about 30 to 40 villages will face the terrible floods situation and more than 1.5 lakh people will be affected. I would like to inform the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation that in Gopalganj district, about 15 to 20 thousand houses have been damaged due to floods and erosion for the last several years. People are facing a lot of trouble. People have no land left to live due to floods and erosion. Somehow they have migrated and are living on the canal tracks.

The plain area of the river is very fertile for the farmers. In the plains, the farmers grow sugarcane and many other crops. Floods and erosion cause huge damage. There is no policy to compensate for this type of loss. Lakhs of crores of rupees are lost in large areas of arable land. There is shortage of food and water as well. Lakhs of acres of land has submerged in Gandak River and every year people are suffering huge losses due to severe floods and erosion.

I request the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India that there is a huge amount of silt in the Gandak river in Gopalganj district, the main cause for which is floods and erosion. The dredging of the river should be done through the pilot channel from Balmiki Nagar to Sonpur.

(iii) Need to create awareness about cancer through school text books

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): Cancer has now become the second biggest cause of death in India. After heart diseases, cancer is the most common cause of death. The dangerous thing is that cases of cancer are increasing at an alarming rate. Due to the lack of proper knowledge in the medical field about the cause, there is no sure way to prevent any cancer other than oral and uterus cancer. Even if factors like pollution are attributed to cancer, it is a question of modern lifestyle and there is no easy way to reduce it.

Overall, even in the present era, which is considered to be almost the climax of scientific research, crores of people have no choice but to live with cancer and die. In response to a question asked in the Lok Sabha, the Government informed that eleven and a half lakh cases of cancer are reported in India every year while the number of deaths occurred every year due to cancer is more than five lakhs. Both the numbers are constantly increasing. Most common cancers in men are lung, oral and stomach cancer while in women are breast, uterus and stomach cancer.

If the disease which has already taken the form of a pandemic is not checked on time, it would not be possible to deal with the cancer tragedy even by spending all the budget of India's healthcare sector. In view of this, there is a need to adopt some new methods so that the population of the country can know the threats of cancer, try to avoid it and reach the appropriate hospital by identifying cancer well before time then perhaps we will be able to control cancer.

I suggest that cancer awareness should be included in the school syllabus as a compulsory lesson and basic information like what is cancer, how cancer can be prevented, how to identify cancer and what to do if you have symptoms of cancer, should be included in the new curriculum in regional language.

(iv) Need to establish a railway halt station at Suryakund or Bedi Pulia at Chitrakoot in Banda Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Chitrakoot Dham is a famous pilgrimage and tourist place in my Parliamentary Constituency. Thousands of passengers come by rail every day. They face a lot of inconvenience due to absence of a halt station nearby. The number of passengers touches lakhs every month on Amavasya. I request the Government to kindly expedite the construction of a halt station in the name of Chitrakoot Dwar near Suryakund and Bedi Pulia as soon as possible.

(v) Need to provide additional funds to complete construction of hospital in Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): Construction of 200 bedded hospital at Kurbathang, Kargil at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.17 crore was undertaken with the release of 1st installment of Rs. 5.00 crore under special Task Force by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The entire amount of Rs. 5.00 crore stand fully utilized and portion of building having been constructed. No further fund was released for completion of the project in spite of repeated request from District Authorities. Completion of the hospital building is essential as the present building located in the middle of Kargil town is not able to cater to the need of growing number of patients. The present hospital building lacks basic facilities. I request the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare to sanction Rs. 40.15 crore on priority basis to complete the project.

(vi) Need to take adequate measures for welfare of women prisoners

[Translation]

SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT): The present Government and Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra bhai Modi Ji have laid great emphasis on women's safety and empowerment. I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the women languishing in jail for some reason or the other. I would like to know what is the policy of the Government with regard to the prisoners who are under trial? What steps are being taken? Many times, there are cases of sexual harassment and oppression. How many such cases have been reported across the country during the last 2 years? Also, what is the arrangement for imparting training to the employees so that those women are treated well by the jail administration to meet their psychological and social needs? What steps are the Government taking to rehabilitate them after their release? My suggestion is that the prison administration should appoint students of psychology department from NGOs, society and university department who have interest in such subjects so that these women remain active in the mainstream and do not go back to the path of crime again and their children who are living with them get proper development, education, culture and health, At the same time, the Government should make arrangement in such manner so that a part of financial assistance they receive for their work while in jail can be saved and used for their rehabilitation after release. I also suggest that the Government should make some arrangements for this in the form of credit society so that after release, they can get back the funds available in credit society to support themselves.

(vii) Need to increase the frequency of Bikaner-Dadar Superfast train and also increase the number of reserved berths in all categories in the train

SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL (JALORE): There has been a demand to increase the frequency of Bikaner-Dadar Superfast Train No.12489/12490, which runs twice a week between Bikaner to Dadar. This train is also getting sufficient revenue from the district. Considering the passenger load, its frequency is not enough. If this train is regularized, then the railway revenue will increase as well as passengers will also get relief from the long waiting list.

Most of the passengers travelling in Bikaner-Dadar Superfast Train No.12489/12490 are from Jalore, Bhinmal, Raniwada, Dhanera etc. Although many trains are operated on different routes from Bikaner and Jodhpur to Mumbai yet in this train reservation quota of all stations from Jodhpur, Samdadhi to Palanpur is only 42 berths in sleeper class and only 8 berths in third AC, which is less. Passengers are forced to take tickets from Bikaner or till Bikaner. Therefore, the pooled quota of Jodhpur and the stations beyond it should be increased.

(viii) Need to accord approval to the proposal of D.P.R. pertaining to a project for regular and adequate water supply to Jaisamand lake in Udaipur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI ARJUNLAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Jaisamand Lake, Asia's largest lake located in the Udaipur Lok Sabha Constituency. Jaisamand Lake, which was once full of water, is not able to be completely filled with water today due to many obstructions and small anicuts built in the catchment area. The income of the families of many villages in the catchment area of the Jayasamand Lake is dependent only on agricultural activities. Their livelihood depends only on the irrigation from Jaisamand Lake but many times when the lake dries they get deprived of irrigation.

Udaipur also assumes great significance on the world tourism map. Every year thousands of domestic and foreign tourists come to see this Jaisamand Lake, but seeing the lake empty they have to return disappointed.

In order to keep the Jayasamand Lake filled with water for irrigation and tourists, the Government of Rajasthan has sent a DPR to the Union Government in which the water flowing from Jakham, Anas and Mahi River and not being used will be diverted to Jaisamand Lake by gravitational flow through Nagliya pickup wear and tunnel and open canal and the plan will be completed in four phases and will cost approximately Rs. 963.00 crore.

Therefore, I request the Government to immediately approve the DPR proposal sent by the Government of Rajasthan and provide an amount of about

Rs.963.00 crore as soon as possible so that Jaisamand Lake can always be filled with water and farmers of nearby villages and tourists visiting the lake can get benefits at the earliest.

(ix) Need to monitor the progress of development works in villages under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana particularly in Sant Kabir Nagar Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

shri sharad tripathi (sant kabir nagar): The schemes being run by the Union Government in the states are not being implemented as per the rules by the concerned departments of the state government. The various departments of the state government are not showing enough interest in the development of villages selected by MPs, especially under the "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana". In my Parliamentary Constituency, till date no official has visited the village "Sare Khurd" in Sant Kabir Nagar district (Uttar Pradesh) selected under the "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" and to review the development work there. This is a very serious matter. We demand from the Government that an inquiry should be conducted and action should be taken against the guilty officer.

I also demand from the Government that guidelines should be made for the development of the selected villages under "Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" and their compliance should be ensured by the concerned officials.

(x) Need to set up hospitals having full medical facilities for treatment of Chikungunya and Dengue in Shamli, Muzaffarnagar or Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): In the last 2 months, there has been a massive outbreak of Chikungunya in western Uttar Pradesh. There is not a single village or town left in my Lok Sabha Constituency Kairana where citizens have not been affected by Chikungunya. In many families, all the members suffered from Chikungunya and no one left to take care of them. Unfortunately, there is no facility for treatment of Chikungunya or similar serious diseases in any hospital or institute in any of the district of western Uttar Pradesh. People were compelled to go to Delhi or Chandigarh but even there they faced great difficulty in getting admission. Many people suffered from the disease due to lack of medical facilities.

I urge upon the Government to set up well equipped hospitals or institutions for the treatment of serious diseases like Chikungunya and Dengue at any location in Shamli, Muzaffarnagar or Saharanpur in western Uttar Pradesh.

(xi) Need to establish more number of Post Offices in rural areas of Gujarat

[English]

SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN (KHEDA): There is an urgent need to open new branches of post offices in the whole state of Gujarat, particularly in rural areas of the State and particularly in Kheda, Gujarat. It has been proved recently that only Post offices can cater to the needs of poor people in rural India. Besides this there is also an urgent need to review and revise the rates of rent of the existing post offices as in many cases the owners are not interested to continue with the old rates thus resulting into many legal case, non-maintenance of old buildings, etc.

(xii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Narsinghgarh in Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): In my Parliamentary Constituency Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh, in accordance with the aspirations of the people of the region and with the aim of providing excellent and quality educational system to students, a formal proposal for approval of Kendriya Vidyalaya has been forwarded through proper channel. I have also corresponded with the Ministry continuously but despite assurances, due to delay in approval, children are not able to get adequate and proper educational facilities. Due to lack of quality education and excellent educational environment, the migration of students is taking place towards big cities which is adversely affecting the economic, social and educational activities of the students.

I request the Minister of Human Resource Development to accord early approval for Kendriya Vidyalaya in Narsinghgarh and circulate instructions to start classes from the forthcoming session.

(xiii) Need to review a policy of caste-based regiments in Indian Army [English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): The Chamar Regiment of the Indian Army was disbanded in 1946, one of the few caste based regiments so disbanded. A plethora of caste based regiments continue to be in service, including the Rajput and Jat regiments, amongst others. Why alone was the Chamar regiment disbanded? If the aim of the Ministry of Defence is to disband all caste based regiments, then the Jat and Rajput regiments should also be immediately disbanded. If this is not being done, then representation of Scheduled Castes in the Indian Army should be ensured by raising regiments such as the Chamar regiment, Khatik regiment, Valmiki regiment, Dhankar regiment etc.

(xiv) Regarding alleged restrictions on media to cover Kerala High Court Proceedings

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I would like to invite the kind attention of the Government regarding the virtual ban on journalists from entering the premises of the Kerala High Court and various courts in the State. This unofficial ban has been in force since 19th July, after a clash between the journalists and a group of lawyers in the premises of the High Court. Following the clash, journalists have been denied entry to the premises of the High Court of Kerala. For gathering news from the High Court, now the journalists are depending on the press releases issued by the Public Relations Officer of Kerala High Court. The Judiciary and the media known as the third and fourth estates respectively are the pillars of democracy. An environment, which ensures free, fair and fearless functioning of judiciary and media, is the vital for the survival of democracy. Therefore, I request the Government to kindly intervene in the matter.

(xv) Regarding inclusion of Manipuri language on the new currency notes

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): The Eighth Schedule lists languages that the Government of India has the responsibility to develop. The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Act, 1992, amended the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution so as to include Konkani, Manipur and Nepali languages. Konkani ad Nepali have already appeared on the currency notes.

There has been a persistent demand for inclusion of Manipuri language on the currency notes. Earlier the language was written in Bengali script. Now, the original script is being used to write the Manipuri language and the students of Class X had appeared in their HSLC Examination using the original script from 2015. We were expecting that the new Rs. 2000 and Rs. 500 currency notes shall have Manipuri script printed on it. Unfortunately, it did not happen. We do feel really neglected.

Hence, I do strongly urge upon the Union Government to include Manipuri language on the new currency notes.

(xvi) Need to provide additional funds for National Rural Drinking Water Programme in Kerala

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The National Rural Drinking Water Programme is the principal means through which Rural Water Supply Coverage is achieved. The State of Kerala is reliant on this program to ensure that its citizens have permanent access to safe drinking water.

The State of Kerala's allocation of funds under the Programme have fallen dramatically. The Rs. 170.78 crore in 2012-13 is now just Rs. 45.28 crore in 2015-16. The 73.49 percent decrease is followed with a change in funding pattern that collectively affects the effectiveness of the programme.

The other major concern is the revised guidelines that limit new projects to quality affected areas and the Saansad Adarsh Grama Yojana Panchayats.

The coverage of treated water is only 30 per cent in Kerala's rural areas, and therefore in the need of urgent investment to meet the growing water demands.

Therefore, I urge the Government to urgently increase the quantum of funds to the State of Kerala towards the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

(xvii) Need to establish an AIIMS like medical Institute at Thoppur in Virudhunagar Parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The Union Government has announced in its last Budget that AIIMS will be established in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalavi AMMA had immediately identified 5 suitable locations in Tamil Nadu, including Thoppur in my Virudhunagar constituency in Madurai District. The Central team which had inspected the proposed location in April last year, but the Union Government is yet to announce the location selected for establishment of AIIMS in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had already urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure establishment of AIIMS Hospital in Tamil Nadu without any delay.

The Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai provides medical care of around 2 crore people in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. With the rising demand for medical care, there is a huge expectation for the establishment of AIIMS like Medical and Research Institution in Thoppur to provide best medical facilities and services to the people of this region.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to expedite the announcement for setting up of AIIMS at Thoppur in my Virudhunagar Constitution and establishment of AIIMS be initiated without any further delay.

(xviii) Regarding problems faced by farmers of Tamil Nadu due to demonetization of currency notes

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI): The demonetization move of the Central Government left the rural people especially the farming community stranded. They are unable to exchange their hard earned money which is in old currency notes. They are unable to even exchange. The RBI's no exchange rule for cooperative banks hits farmers. The Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies and other co-operative banks are the back bone of rural economy. Lakhs of farmers totally depend on these societies/banks. So is the case of exchanging the old currency notes.

As the Government is aware, this is the sowing season. The farmers require to purchase seeds, fertilizers, etc. Most of their transactions are on cash basis. The technology of paying through cards/payment wallets etc. has not yet penetrated to that extent into the villages. They are not getting the necessary support of the cooperative societies/banks as they are hard pressed due to non-availability of new currency notes.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take up the matter with the RBI and direct RBI to supply adequate number of new currency notes to the Cooperative Societies/banks to ease the cash flow in the rural areas and among the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Further, the RBI has to relax its rules and regulations and allow the cooperative societies/ banks to enable the farmers to exchange their old notes currency.

(xix) Need to install vending and incinerator machines in schools to provide sanitary napkins to girl students

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Adolescent girls do not feel comfortable to attend school during the period of menstruation. They mainly use home-made napkins especially in rural and suburban area which makes it even more inconvenient for them to have a normal social life during this period. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to take initiative for installing vending machine and incinerator machines in schools so that girls can avail facilities during time of need, thereby we can ensure good hygiene of our girls and help them to attend school without any worries. I myself have already taken initiative to install vending and incinerator machines in schools in my Parliamentary Constituency but our MPLADS Fund is not sufficient enough to provide all basic needs to girls.

(xx) Need to construct multipurpose check dams over river Pilla Salki in Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha

SHRI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH (KANDHAMAL): I wish to draw kind attention of the Government regarding the construction of multipurpose check dams on Pilla Salki river of Kandhamal Constituency in Odisha. This project will provide pure drinking water to more than lakhs of people of five gram panchayats of Khajuripada Block and thirteen Wards of Phulbani Municipality in Kandhamal district of Odisha. In view of the importance of project, I request to construct 200 multipurpose check dams for conservation of water for irrigation, drinking water, mini hydro-power generation and other purposes for the development of Kandhamal district. Besides these two hundred dams, three check dams over Pilla Salki River at Phulbani and construction of a canal linking Salki River at Phulbani will solve the problems of drinking water, irrigation and other purposes. I shall, therefore, be grateful if this is considered in public interest.

(xxi)Need to transfer the vacant railway land near Lonawala Railway Station to Government of Maharashtra for setting up vehicle parking facility for tourists visiting Lonavala and Khandala

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): There are hill stations named Lonavala and Khandala in my Parliamentary Constituency. Lakhs of tourists visit these hill stations every year and the number of tourists are increasing every year. These hill stations are located between Pune-Mumbai. Tourist have to park their vehicle at Lonavala railway station between Pune-Mumbai owing to this, incidents of vehicle theft occur more often and also due to lesser space for parking vehicles, the problem of traffic jam is also increasing here. Whereas the Railway Department's land near Lonavala railway station is vacant. Many illegal businesses are going on at this place and this Railway land is being used for operating illegal business.

I suggest that if this vacant land is given by the Railway Department to the Lonavala Municipal Council or to the state government of Maharashtra for parking then the problem of traffic jam can be addressed. The tourists coming here will get huge relief and as a result the number of tourists visiting Lonavala, Khandala will increase and the local people will also get employment.

(xxii) Need to provide salary, allowances and other service benefits to personnel of para-military forces at par with personnel of military forces.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGLE): We all Indians are proud of the country's armed forces. All ex-servicemen will support hon. Modi Ji for the provision of 'One Rank-One Pension' (OROP) made by the Hon. Prime Minister and the Department of Finance to solve the long pending issues of the armed forces.

Today I would like to raise some important issues about the Central Armed Police Forces. You all know that the officers and employees of Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Force (ITBP), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) play an important role in maintaining security within the country and protecting the country's borders and their role and contribution cannot be undermined in any way.

When the personnel of these armed police forces look after the borders, their family members face a lot of difficulties in their villages and towns. In the last two months, three brave soldiers hailing from my Parliamentary Constituency Hatkanangle (District Kolhapur and Sangli) laid their lives on the line of duty. Though the Government immediately gives some financial help to the families of the martyred soldiers but does not make any arrangements to protect their property such as houses, land etc. On the other

hand, these people do not get salary, timely allowances and canteen facilities like armed forces.

Today, all these paramilitary forces personnel are deployed side by side with the soldiers of our three armed forces on the borders of the country, so we can take a sigh of relief here. We should not forget this. Along with this, if the soldiers of these four police forces attain martyrdom then they should also be given the status of martyr as it is given to the soldiers of armed forces. It is the need of the hour that Government should take immediate steps to amend or make any provision in the law in this regard.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 2^{nd} December, 2016 at 1100 a.m.

12.22 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 2, 2016/Agrahayana 11, 1938 (Saka).

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