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Thirteenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXVIII, Thirteenth Session, 2017-2018/1939 (Saka)

No. 11, Wednesday, January 3, 2018/Pausha 13, 1939 (Saka)

SUBJECT

PAGES

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Starred Question Nos. 221 to 225 and 235 17- 62

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 226 to 234 and 236 to 240 63

Unstarred Question Nos. 2531 to 2760

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

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 65-71

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA 72

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

38th Report 73

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

9th Report 73

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

11th Report 74

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

56th Report 74

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

21st and 22nd Reports 75

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

36th Report 76

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

48th and 49th Reports

77

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology'

Dr. Alphons Kannanthanam

78

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Functioning of Petroleum Conservation Research Association', pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal

79

- (iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications

Shri Manoj Sinha

80

- (iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 297th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology

Shri Y.S. Chowdary

81

**MOTION RE: FORTY-NINTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

82

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 104-140

- (i) Need to allot plots to those candidates whose names came in draw of lots for land plots conducted by Jharkhand State Housing Board

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 105-106

- (ii) Need to extend army benefits to paramilitary forces

Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi 107-109

- (iii) Need to release scholarships to girl students of senior secondary schools in Dausa Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

Shri Harish Meena 110-111

- (iv) Need to provide compensation to villages of Garhwa district of Jharkhand falling under submergence area of Kanhar dam in Uttar Pradesh

Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram 112-113

- (v) Need to establish a research centre of Yoga and AYUSH in Uttarakhand

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' 114-115

- (vi) Need to expedite development works in Maghar, a place associated with sufi saint Kabir in Uttar Pradesh

Shri Sharad Tripathi 116

- (vii) Need to establish airports in Dhanbad and Bokaro in Jharkhand

Shri Pashupati Nath Singh 117

- (viii) Need to implement Diamond Quadrilateral project of Indian Railways

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel 118

- (ix) Need to display reservation chart at railway stations and in trains coaches

Shri Kaushal Kishore 119

- (x) Need to establish a memorial in honour of poet Dr. Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in Begusarai district, Bihar and also establish a University in his memory.

Dr. Bhola Singh 120

- (xi) Regarding recruitment in army from Chambal region

Dr. Bhagirath Prasad 121

- (xii) Need to construct a permanent bridge on Gangotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand

Shrimati Mala Rajyalakshmi Shah 122

- (xiii) Need to construct an over bridge at Jugsalai in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato 123

- (xiv) Need to provide stoppage of Utkal Express (Train No. 18477/78) at Sonua Railway station in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.

Shri Laxman Giluwa 124

- (xv) Need to set up consulate offices of ASEAN and other East Asian countries at Guwahati

Shri Rameshwar Teli 125

- (xvi) Need for special funds to improve rural road connectivity in Manipur

Shri Thangso Baite 126-127

- (xvii) Need to fix a minimum 120 sittings of Parliament per year

Shri Gaurav Gogoi 128

- (xviii) Need to extend Salem-Karur Passenger Train upto Trichy

Shri P.R. Sundaram 129

- (xix) Need to restore the earlier sharing pattern of funding to Centrally sponsored Schemes

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab 130

- (xx) Need to allow Bullock Cart race celebrated in Pune district of Maharashtra

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao 131-132

- (xxi) Need to set up a National Cancer Institute at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh

Shri M. Murli Mohan 133

- (xxii) Need to restore services of earlier operational trains on Palakkad-Pollachi Railway line

Shri M. B. Rajesh 134

- (xxiii) Need to remove the cap on number of applications recommended by Members of Parliament for seeking financial assistance under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

Shri Kaushalendra Kumar 135-136

- (xxiv) Need to check the polluted waste material released by Hindalco company in Ranchi district, Jharkhand and also provide full service benefits to the workers of the company

Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak 137-138

- (xxv) Need to start a Passport Seva Kendra at Kattappana in Idukki district of Kerala

Adv. Joice George 139

- (xxvi) Need to allow Government Medical College Parippally to admit students for MBBS course

Shri N.K. Premachandran 140

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017 142-144

**CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD
AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha	147-152
Motion to Consider	153-159
Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot	153-159; 160-166
Shri Rajeev Satav	106-171
Shri Ganesh Singh	172-180
Shri Kalyan Banerjee	181-189

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, January 3, 2018/Pausha 13, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: You can raise it after Question Hour.

[*Translation*]

Why do you raise wrong issues? You know it is not allowed like that. Please raise it after the Question Hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 221, Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

(Q. 221 and Q. 235)

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: The Coal Ministry has fixed the target to bring down the requirement of coal to zero through imports by central public sector companies like NTPC and other State PSUs. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the percentage of the fall of coal imports in the year 2016-17 as compared to last year. With this pace, by what time the import will be brought down to zero and what would be its impact on the generation of power?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: It is a matter of pride for the nation that after years of being dependent only on increasing imported coal, the country has now been able to increase the supply of coal or the production of coal within the country. We have been able to reduce the import of coal over the last three years consistently. We have given the statistics also. But we believe that it is very unfortunate that in the earlier years, in the last 10-15 years, the country never planned for

enough coal production so that power plants could also be designed to use domestic coal. Today, we are largely importing coal only for those plants where we are unable to use domestic coal technically. Other than that, all the plants where we are able to use domestic coal technically, we have been able to replace imported coal with domestic coal. The imports are coming down every year except for those plants where we cannot use this coal technically.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: A new coal allocation policy framework, SHAKTI 2017, was approved by the Government in May 2017. It was expected that there would be a major shift in allocation and supply of coal to power sector entities and further, it will cut down the import of coal. What are the new dynamics of coal allocation linkage, pricing structure in the new policy framework and how far it has progressed since implementation in May 2017 in the cases of the State/Central Gencos, as per the recommendation of the Ministry of Power, Independent Power Producers' Agreement, having Power Purchase Agreement without PPS?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, Speaker, it is for the first time that the country has started allocating the natural resources of India in a very transparent manner with an equal opportunity for all to participate and discover the true price. We started with the process of

coal block allocation which was done through transparent auctions. We took that to the next level by also making the linkages available to power plants through transparent auctions, which had never been done for many years in the country.

The Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India (SHAKTI) has provided that all Government PSUs and Government companies will get coal at the notified price through the direct allocation because they are Government companies. Other than that, there were a number of Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs), which were signed in prior years. Since they are in the nature of a contractual obligation of the Government, we recognized and respected those contracts and made coal available to those companies which had a Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) under the SHAKTI policy. All other power producers have now been brought under the framework of auction.

Hon. Madam, I am delighted to inform the hon. Members through you that so far we have already given an assured supply of coal for 3,570 megawatt power plants, which earlier had Letter of Assurance. We have given coal allocation through transparent auction process for about 11,550 megawatt of power plants, which had Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

The Central and State PSUs with 9,740 megawatt of capacity have been allocated coal linkages based on the SHAKTI policy and the process for linkages of IPPs without PPA has already been initiated.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Pritam Gopinath Munde – Not present.

Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Thank you, Madam, for giving me an opportunity. Coal is very important for the production of electricity. The Government of Karnataka and the Minister of Power have repeatedly requested the Central Government for regular allotment of coal, which is required regularly in the State. But, that is not given. This is the main problem in the State.

Agro production is going down; industries are suffering without power. Even it has become difficult for the State Government to supply regular power through the *Niranthara Jyothi* scheme, which is the State Government initiative especially for students who study at night.

The hon. Minister of Power of the State of Karnataka has come twice and repeatedly requested the hon. Minister of Power and Coal in the Union Government to allocate whatever is the regular allotment

for the State of Karnataka. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to provide it to the State of Karnataka.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, Speaker, the hon. Minister of Power from Karnataka usually met me only for renewable energy and to get guidelines fixed up so that more and more PPAs in terms of renewable energy could be signed by the State. Unfortunately, they were not being done through a transparent process as they were done through contractual arrangements. Therefore, probably, the regulator was creating a problem and he had to come.

So far as coal supply is concerned, the hon. Minister has never discussed it with me because the ball lies in the court of Karnataka. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, Speaker, I have allocated six coal mines which were situated in my home State of Maharashtra to Karnataka. Unfortunately, they have not been able to manage the affairs well. They landed up in a dispute with the MDO, their own partner company because of which they are not able to start those mines for more than two years of allocation to the State of Karnataka. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has raised a question and he has to listen to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is replying. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Despite that, I am happy to share with the hon. Members, through you, Madam, that coal supply to Karnataka from Coal India has consistently increased. Despite our persuading State of Karnataka to accept more and more coal for the year 2016-17, they regulated the coal supply because they had sufficient stocks. In 2017-18, so far we supplied more coal than what was supplied last year. The increase is about 2.3 per cent to the State of Karnataka. The aggregate increase of coal supply across the country to power plants in the current year is nearly 9 per cent over the previous year.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Madam, first of all, I would like to especially thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask a question on a matter that involves both grime and energy. I would especially like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his efforts to make full use of coal as an energy source in a transparent manner. In the same context, I would like to inquire through you from the Hon. Minister regarding the irregularities proven in the coal allocation in the investigation conducted by the CBI: what is the difference between the country's losses and gains?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, it is very unfortunate that in earlier times, when lot of irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks came to the notice of the country, the CAG report said that there has been a potential revenue loss of about 1 lakh 86 thousand crore rupees in the allocation of coal, especially because many individuals, who were not even eligible and should not have received these blocks, were also allocated these blocks for free. Due to this, the country incurred heavy losses. After the cancellation of allocation of 204 blocks by the Supreme Court, the new Government has ensured that allocation of these coal blocks in a transparent manner, draws approximately more than three lakh crore rupee profits, royalties, and prizes through auctions in future in the states where the coal blocks are located. The CBI is conducting its investigation in a different manner, which has been going on for almost five years. Recently, the special judge of the court has given a verdict in which some people have been found guilty. The court has taken action against them; they have also been sentenced, and I am sure that the court will take action against those who are guilty.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Madam, first of all, I congratulate the Government for increasing the production of coal and

rationalizing the distribution of coal and making a successful transparent policy in block allocation and linkage.

Madam, my question is related to WCL. On one hand, we are increasing coal production, but the sudden closure of mines in the WCL's Pench Kanhan coalfield of Chhindwara district has been reported last month. Even before that, the opening of new mines in the Pench Kanhan coalfield was proposed last month, but suddenly, the closure of one mine was reported. I firmly believe that when a plant like Sarni in Madhya Pradesh, which is of NTPC, then the nearest area of supply would be Pench Kanhan coalfield, which is the old mining area. There is a large established system. Suddenly, when such a thing as closure of mines is reported, it surely leads to discontent among the workers.

I would like to inquire through you from the hon. Minister that notwithstanding the fact that all the policies are substantially goods, would an immediate action be taken regarding existence of the Pench Kanhan coalfield and the possibility of new mines there?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, the Government never interferes with the decision pertaining to the closure of a mine. If a decision has been taken to close certain mines in Madhya Pradesh, it is generally due to safety and security reasons. The Government has prioritised

that if safety or security is compromised anywhere, we will never take risks; we will not tolerate it. Some mines had to be closed due to safety reasons. I believe that the hon. Member and the House would also agree that the safety of the workers should be the top priority, and the workers' security should be ensured. I would like to assure everyone that no harm will come to any worker. Their job is also secure, their work is safe, and that is why Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) may have shut down that mine for safety reasons, we have decided to allot them four new mines. These are Rampiya, Dip Side Rampiya, Ghogarpalli and Dip Side Ghogarpalli. There would be 50 million tonnes of coal production every year including the production from these four mines, which will also enhance the capacity of WCL and its profitability. This will create new job opportunities and provide employment to new individuals. The mine, which has been closed, did not produce a total of even one million tonnes and has been replaced by new mines generating 50 million tonnes of coal.

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Madam, is the Power Minister aware that the Telangana Government under the leadership of our Chief Minister has launched and is providing 24-hour electricity to the farmers from the 1st of January 2018? I do understand that the

Telangana Government is the first government in the whole country to provide 24-hour electricity to the farmers. Will our hon. Prime Minister appreciate this and encourage our Chief Minister by complimenting him in this House? I think the Prime Minister has already left but he may be hearing it from his office. I request him that he should compliment our Chief Minister for providing 24-hour electricity to farmers; he is the first Chief Minister who is providing 24-hour electricity. I would like to ask the Minister whether sufficient coal is being supplied from Singareni coalmines to provide 24-hour electricity to the farmers.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: It is a prerogative of every State Government whether they give free power to the farmers or not.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: I request you as the Power Minister that you should also compliment this.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: He is not Power Minister.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: He is Coal Minister; he is a former Power Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: That is all right.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, it is the prerogative of each State, but as the former Power Minister, my only appeal to hon. Member

Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy and the State Government is that they should make adequate provision of funds so that the State discom does not once again go back to the pre-Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana era and start making losses. It would be good if the State Government ensures the profitability and viability of the power discoms for sustainable long-term regular power supply and it should not be for a short-term political gain. But I am delighted to share with the hon. Members, and particularly with the Members from the State of Telangana that the increase in coal supply to the State of Telangana from 2016-17 to 2017-18 is 23.19 per cent. Whichever State demands more coal, we ensure that they get adequate coal.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I club Question No. 235 with the same question. It is also related to coal reserves.

[English]

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Hon. Speaker Madam, I will be very very short. There are seven independent units of Coal India Limited and there is a proposal by NITI Aayog in their draft energy policy to make them independent for efficient functioning. Is the Government going to consider this?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government now. NITI Aayog is a think-tank. It comes up with new ideas, new policy suggestions. But at present, there is no such proposal. All these companies remain independent as subsidiaries of a larger holding company Coal India Limited.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please present Question No. 235 as well.

Shri Sudheer Gupta.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for consistently working to improve the coal policy. He has also tried to prevent theft and spoilage of coal in the country. However, I am interested to know if the Government has formulated any policy to prevent the spoilage of coal and its sustainable use?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, the hon. Member of Parliament has asked a very important question. In fact, it is related to inter-generational equity and is also the constant concern of the Government lest the entire country should exhaust coal at one time or within a few days or a few years, and coal is not left for future generations. NITI Aayog is constantly deliberating on this matter.

However, it is heartening to note that India has an adequate amount of coal, and for many decades, India should not be facing shortage of coal. We keep discovering sufficient quantities of new coal reserves. We establish reserves by drilling new coal mines. This year, we have achieved nearly 120 percent of the target set for exploring new reserves and drilling. I am confident that coal will be conveniently made available in sufficient quantity in the country.

(Q. 222)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Hon. Speaker, in the answer given by the Hon. Minister to this question, no fixed time limit has been given. Basically, until we construct blast-proof and bulletproof bunkers for the army in the times to come, we will not be able to do justice to the martyrdom and valour of the soldiers.

The statement released by the Army in March 2017 is mentioned in the Army Design Bureau Future Co-Technology and Problem Statement. The university in Coimbatore, India, has also patented it. The Dhruv project was discussed by DRDO in 2012. In 2012, the DRDO stated about the Dhruv project, *[English]* “Project Dhruv is aimed at environment enrichment within the shelter. This is one of the components for removing stress in isolated and forward areas.”

[Translation] This is the statement of DRDO for the year 2012. Will the Government fix a time limit for the bunkers that are going to be built in this regard, and would the collaboration on the Dhruv project also be discussed?

[English]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Madam, through you, I would like to tell the House as well as the hon. Member that we are aware of all these problems.

Coupled with the threat to the borders from unfriendly neighbours, inhospitable and unique terrain along the borders necessitates the need to maintain 24X7 vigil along the borders. In order to ensure that our borders, especially the Line of Control and Line of Actual Control are guarded day in and day out, there is a requirement to construct bunkers. That is why the Army is looking for composite material in the form of panels which can be easily carried up mountains, and like 'Lego toys', be quickly set up into bunkers.

A leading university recently offered a composite material made of hollow steel, filled with plywood to withstand shell as well as weapon firing. The proposal for Light Weight Material Permanent Defence has been placed in a document 'Future Core Technologies and Problem Statement' released under the aegis of the Army Design Bureau and this was shared with the industry.

The proposals have come from different universities. There are four universities which have come up with the proposals. The first is the Amrita University; the second is the DRDO. This is under

consideration and is included in the TDF which is funded by the Defence.

I was just telling you the number of universities which have come up with the proposals. These are the four universities. The Army as well as the Ministry of Defence is working on them. It is included in the TDF. Very soon, we will be approving this because the Army requires these bullet-proof bunkers. We are going for that. The Government is very sensitive. The Government is well aware of the needs of the Armed Forces and is trying to provide them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Hon. Speaker, my question was not answered by the hon. Minister. I asked about the time limit. DRDO has been working on this since 2012. Now 2017 has also elapsed, yet he couldn't confirm the time limit. This is the first issue.

Secondly, it is taking time to make the bulletproof bunkers. I am a member of the Standing Committee. In the reply given by the Government to the Standing Committee, 1 lakh 86 thousand bulletproof jackets were mentioned. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Has the report of the committee you are referring to been presented here?

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam, this is a published report. The published report of the standing committee mentioned about 1,86,138 bulletproof jackets. One of the observations of the standing committee, *[English]* which I would like to quote:

“The Committee are of the view that a timeframe must be worked out for procurement of the bullet-proof jackets at the earliest. They also wish to be informed about the variations/differences in the quality of bullet-proof jackets procured on the basis of both the above GSQRs in terms of body coverage, etc.”

[Translation]

He is not telling about the time limit of the bunkers, but at least the number of bulletproof jackets that we have to give, 50 thousand have come. Our army is so large that we won't be able to fully protect it with 50 thousand jackets, so have we fixed any time limit for purchasing bulletproof jackets?

[English]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Madam, the hon. Member has asked about the time limit. I would like to inform him that there is a proposal from Amrita University to develop the light weight bullet- proof material which has multi-faceted applications and Rs.9.81 crore has been sanctioned as TDF (Technology Development Fund) for this research. We will be getting that very soon. Besides IIT

Guwahati, MIT Pune, Purandar University and Amrita University have also sent their proposals. Amrita's second project is proposed to be carried out in collaboration with Tata Steel.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen. I understand.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: We are processing it. We will get it as early as possible. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: It does not happen like that; this is research. You cannot say that in research.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Say it later while having tea.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Madam, I would like to share the information regarding bullet-proof jackets. The procurement of 50,000 bullet proof jackets is made through Indian manufacturers.

A supply order of 50,000 bullet proof jackets was made through fast-track procurement by delegating power to the Vice Chief of Army. Besides that, fresh RFI is sent for 1,86,000 bullet-proof jackets and the trials are going on.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM: Madam, massive bunkers made of mud and stone have caused a large number of casualties to Army as they tend to collapse if enemy weapons fire accurately. In this regard I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these modular bunkers have the potential to withstand the enemy fire. What is the amount incurred in developing these modular bunkers? I would also like to know whether any private firm will be involved in developing these modular bunkers. Has any compensation been given to the soldiers from Tamil Nadu who have laid down their lives.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Madam, I would like to inform the hon. Member that no stone-mud-log shelters are being constructed. Presently, steel, concrete hollow block and stone masonry is being utilized. We are looking for the modular type of bunkers and the Ministry of Defence is processing that. We do not have any bunkers made of mud. We have steel bunkers. Army Design Bureau has mentioned in its report about modular bunkers. We are in

the process of exploring its feasibility in the market. The Twelfth Army Plan has proposed for construction of more than 8300 bunkers.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jugal Kishore – Not present.

SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL: Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want to ask the question? Why are you talking to them? Please ask the question. [*Translation*] Please discuss this over tea.

[*English*]

SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL: According to the data given by the Government, there are more than nine lakh strong para-military forces. It consists mainly of CRPF which guards the borders of our country. However, the allowances paid to the military are much more than what is paid to the CRPF personnel. Therefore, more than nine thousand personnel from CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and SSB have already resigned from their services.

Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Home Affairs have proposed to the Seventh Pay Commission for a special pay for these para-military forces on par with the Army. I would also like to know whether they have proposed for a better leave

structure for the personnel who are deployed for counter insurgency operations across the country. If so, I would like to know the details thereof.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Madam, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that this is not related to the main question. This is related to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question No. 223, Shri B. Sriramulu. Not present.

(Q. 223)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA: Madam Speaker, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister through you that the replies given by him are quite appropriate. There are foggy conditions these days; trains are often running late, and we're not able to reach on time. Trains are running four to five hours late. Is there any plan in the future to deal with this fog so that our trains run on time and we can complete our work on time?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Member has said something quite important. I would like to inform the House through you that it is regretted that the issue of fog has been existing for so many years, but before the year 2014, no attention was given to it and no solution was found. Hon. Sadanand Gowda ji was the Railway Minister...*(Interruptions)*, and thereafter, Suresh Prabhu ji assumed office and paid a lot more attention to this issue as to how to introduce anti-fog device in trains to solve this problem through modern technology, RDSO was engaged for fog safety devices. I am glad to inform you all that fog-safety devices are currently installed in large quantity in Northern India. Nowadays, you would come across lesser news items reporting delay of trains in the newspapers in comparison

to the flights, whereas the number of trains is multiple times higher than the flights.

Madam Speaker, we are not satisfied with this. The menace of fog becomes more intense, and also poses a threat to safety. The Government is conducting a rapid study to make decisions. Broadly, we have taken a decision, and now we will finalise it and present it before the Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet. Across the entire country, the signalling system is still operating on old technology. I am not sure if it is 100 or 150 years old. Even today, the train signalling system relies on the four colours of red, yellow, green, and amber. Electronic interlocking has been implemented in some stations, but the entire system has not been improved. If old signals reappear in between, *[English]* it does not impact the entire system. *[Translation]* Now, we are attempting to make the entire system a modern technology-controlled signalling system for trains controlled by computers. In fog, it is difficult to determine when the signal comes or what the signal is, and the train has to move at a very slow speed, lest a signal should be missed and an accident occurs ahead. Keeping all these problems in mind, trains will now be able to know through a new signalling system via computer at what distance they need to stop and when to proceed. When we are no longer dependent on the old

signalling system, the chances of running on time in the fog will significantly improve.

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for apprising the entire nation that new technology is taking over and that he has also contemplated this matter. He also told that if it had happened earlier, there wouldn't have been a need to ask this question. He should also agree that if this had been done earlier, the country would have moved on in the direction where he is heading today. It's for everyone; it's for the whole country. We also wish for this to happen as soon as possible; the direction in which the minister is working should be done as soon as possible.

I commute mostly by train, and it is often observed that people in the general compartment climb on each other's backs to enter through the window. Tickets should be given to as many seats as there are in general. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if there is any plan in place to ensure that tickets should be sold in proportion to the number of available seats. In addition to it, is he planning to add more coaches?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Speaker, there are more passengers in the country, than the number of trains. The number of tracks has not been laid at the desired pace. I would like to inform the Members

of the House through you that due to the failure to make capital investment in the railways at the desired pace, there is a shortage of train lines, tracks, bogies, and locomotives, which is the cause of this problem. Tickets are given in the reserved compartment for as many seats as are there. But after all, what should the passengers do? They also need to reach their destination, so they end up boarding the trains because they too have their own issues. The ultimate solution is investment. The capital investment in the railways over the past three years has been historic. Between 2009-14, the average annual capital investment in the railways, whether it was for security, doubling, electrification, or railway lines, was approximately Rs. 46,000 crore.

You all will be glad to know that this year the Government is investing Rs. 1,20,000 crore in the railways. We will increase this further next year. The Government is making efforts to increase rail facilities and capacity in the country. I fully believe that just as India is progressing towards New India 2022, the railways will also work swiftly towards New Indian Railways 2022.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Madam, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important question.

The Railways must be service oriented. Now-a-days, the Ministry wants to raise income through hidden services. I would like to know the number of trains introduced in the Southern Railway with flexi fares. Will the Government attach additional coaches under this Scheme?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, it is a continuous process to keep reviewing how many trains need to be increased and what services are to be given where there is more demand. But all of this is also linked to the line capacity and availability of infrastructure.

I would assure the hon. Member that we are very concerned about all parts of India. 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' is our credo. We work on that and South India is also continuously benefiting from the expansion of the Railways.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, the question is about flexi rates. As per the reply given by the hon. Minister, after the introduction of flexi rates, the occupancy rate has not increased. That is why, the Government is going to review the flexi rate system.

As far as late running of trains is concerned, the question asked by the Member was very relevant. Now how can the people depend upon trains which are running very late? In Kerala, all the trains including passenger trains, are running late. Now the Government of

Kerala has introduced punching system in its Secretariat. Now the employees are facing a lot of difficulties in reaching office in time because all the trains reach only after 11 o'clock.

Therefore, this is a very major area of concern. I think the Minister should look into this matter and take necessary action as these things are not happening because of technical faults. There are some errors or mismanagement on the part of officers.

I would like to know whether the Minister is going to review the flexi rates. The flexi rates are not helping in increasing the occupancy.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, I hope the hon. Member is not unhappy that the new Government of Kerala has introduced biometrics and making people come on time. I hope that is not the sense of his question that they should not have introduced that.

Having said that, I think, it is very important that trains have to reach on time. Hon. Members often come to me asking for more stoppages and more frequency of trains. Ultimately the line capacity is limited. If we keep adding stoppages; if we keep adding trains, then it affects the regular usage of the infrastructure. More importantly, there is one factor which has certainly had an impact in the last few months. There has been a deep focus on safety. I have given instructions to all zones that wherever track renewal work is required,

even at the cost of punctuality, we should first focus on safety because it has a long-term sustainable benefit of safe passenger travel and because of that there are certain additional traffic blocks which we have had to bear with. But, I think, it is in the overall interest of the Railways. This short-term pain will give far greater gain for the nation.

Madam, as regards the flexi-fare scheme, if you look at the answer, almost uniformly -- the data is available for three months -- the occupancy has either increased or remained stable. So, flexi-fare has not resulted in any reduction in passengers in a macro context. Having said that I would like to mention that we had introduced flexi-fare in September last year. We had said after one year we will review it. Accordingly, an eight-member Committee is sitting and reviewing the entire structure holistically. We are now also thinking in terms of dynamic pricing by which it will not just be a one-way entry, we may actually be able to give more concessions in the off season when the occupancy in trains is low so that in the overall budget of a person there is more balance. So, we are making every effort to be responsive to citizen's concerns. We are very sure all these efforts will bear fruits in the services to the passengers.

As regards the State of Kerala, if all the Members of Parliament stop asking for more stoppages, then we can improve upon punctuality. Since the hon. Member has raised the issue, I would urge all the hon. Members from Kerala to help us get land for expansion and doubling of Railway lines. The biggest challenge in Kerala is to get land irrespective of which Party is in power. It is not a question of which Party is in power. If we can get land we can expand the railway network faster.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Madam Speaker, the Railway Minister has tried to provide convenience or better options to passengers travelling through the Flexi Fare Scheme. I wish to submit that the number of passengers on all the trains that ply under Konkan Railway is increasing day by day. The former Railway Minister proposed the doubling of tracks before the central government to meet the demand of passengers on the Konkan Railway. I want to know from you: what is the progress of the proposal of doubling?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a very important question. Some time ago, my health was not good, so while sitting at the hospital I reviewed the Konkan Railway

for five to six hours. I can answer all the questions you want to ask about Konkan Railway.

Konkan Railway is a single line, but there are very large tunnels and critical curves on that line. The proposal for its doubling is before the government, but considering the passenger traffic there, the proposal for doubling is not immediately economically viable. There is not much freight traffic to bring in revenue. To provide convenience to passengers and increase facilities while keeping investment low, I have discussed and thought about the idea of making a siding at different distances so that the trains can pass. They are yet to send this proposal. In a route of approximately 700 kilometres, it's possible that we will take a siding in 50–60 places, which would facilitate the passage of trains. Some more stations will be added, which will facilitate local passengers. Stations will also be built near the village. About 12 new stations are going to be built. I believe that after this, many of Konkan's issues will be resolved.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to ask a supplementary question. Flexi fare scheme, in the first place, should not have been introduced because for people whose only means of transport is the Railways, they are

deprived of seats. They are taken away by persons who are privileged and who can afford them.

Through you Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Government is allowing ten per cent seats to be sold at the normal rate and thereafter, increase it by ten per cent for every ten per cent berths sold. For whose benefit has it been done?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I would like to inform the hon. Members through you that Flexi Fare Scheme has been introduced only as an introduction barely in 146 trains out of thousands of trains that are running in the country. It is covering only 4.22 per cent of the trains. When we look at the number of passengers who come under the Flexi Fare Scheme, it is barely 0.22 per cent of the passengers. I do not know which class of this country and which poor people of this country are affected by the Flexi Fare Scheme which the hon. Member is raising. It is only 0.22 per cent of the passengers and that too, it covers only those who mainly travel in the upper class. No second class seat has been brought under Flexi Fare Scheme and no increase has been done in the fares of the second class except in a few Durgam Cheruvu trains. Ordinary passengers are protected from any increase. However, as I said earlier, we are very open to feedbacks and we are responding to the concerns of the people.

A Committee is studying the entire Scheme to make it even better both for the passengers' convenience and railway revenues.

(Q.224)

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Madam Speaker, Hindi is the third-most widely spoken language in the world. We have taught the world the lesson of non-violence through the Hindi language. Hindi is not only the pride of India; it is India's pride across the world. Our popular Prime Minister is the best orator of Hindi language and has allocated a good amount of funds for organizing Hindi conferences worldwide. Despite many efforts, it's regretted that even after 70 years, Hindi could not be recognised as an official language in the United Nations.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, as to the difficulties being faced in securing official status for Hindi in the UN, and the efforts that are being made by the Government to overcome these challenges?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon. Speaker, it's good that the Hon. Member of Parliament has raised this question about the difficulties being faced. Otherwise, the general assumption prevails as to why Hindi has not been recognised as the official language of the United Nations. Today, I want to inform the House through you, and the country through the House, that the biggest challenge in not making Hindi the language of the United Nations is the process

involved therein. The process there is such that the country proposing to make its language an official language incurs expenses, and the amount spent is not borne solely by that country. If the process were such that if India proposes to make Hindi an official language and bears all the expenses, then the Government is ready to incur any expense to bestow the prestige on the official language of our country, but the United Nations' process dictates that whatever amount is spent must be borne by all 193 member nations of the United Nations. For this, there is a voting process where a two-thirds majority is required, which is 129 votes. You are aware that we have no difficulty in gathering 129 votes. We rallied support from 177 countries to declare 21st June as International Yoga Day. We have just gathered support from 183 out of 193 countries in the recent ICJ elections. So, there is no difficulty in gathering support from 129 countries. The challenge arises when countries are burdened with the financial implications of supporting the proposal. The economically weaker countries that support us hesitate to support us here because they have to bear the burden of expenditure. We are making efforts in this direction. We are making efforts to gather support through countries like Mauritius, Fiji, and Suriname, which have Indian-origin population, and to somehow obtain support from those smaller countries. The day we get support

from 129 countries, along with their agreement to pay the money, Hindi will become an official language.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Hon. Speaker, my second supplementary point is that today the Hindi language is being used in 170 universities around the world. Hindi conferences are being held in every corner of the world. Several committees and sub-committees have also been formed to make Hindi a language in the UNO. It costs around Rs.41 crore every year to make Hindi an official language in the UNO. I would like to inquire through you from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is shying away from making Hindi an official language in the UN due to the associated expenses and concerns about the use of Hindi. What is the reaction of the Government on this?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon. Speaker sir, I have already answered this. Hon. Member is saying that it will cost Rs. 40 crore for this. It is not a matter of spending Rs 40 crore. Even if it costs Rs.400 crore, the Indian Government is willing to bear the expenses if getting Hindi recognised as an official language can happen solely from India's contribution. So I have answered his first question in detail that there is no question of expenditure. If the expenditure is to be borne only by the Government of India, we are willing to spend anything for

the pride of our language. The problem is that according to the UN procedure, all Member Nations will have to share that amount, and all will have to pay some money. That is why voting takes place, and if the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority, then it is made the official language. The day 129 Member Nations are willing to pay the amount, it will become the official language. We still agree to pay the full amount. I am standing in the House and saying that there is no question of Rs.40 crore, and there is no question of retreating. Whatever the expenditure, if Hindi becomes the official language by taking money from the Government of India, then the Government is ready to do it today.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Hon. Speaker sir, based on the data from 2017, India's population constitutes 17.74 percent of the world's population, making it the second most populous country in the world after China. Yet even today, Hindi has not gotten the desired place in the United Nations. The Government says it has been taking the required measures to make Hindi an official language. On the other hand, it is said that if Hindi is included as an official language, provisions need to be made for additional costs of basic equipments. Diplomatic missions and centres are not functioning in Hindi, whereas whenever our esteemed Prime Minister has gone on foreign visits, he

has consistently used Hindi language, due to which he has earned considerable respect from Hindi-speaking individuals. This has enhanced the pride of our country.

The hon. External Affairs Minister has satisfied the House with her reply, and it seems that we do not need to ask any questions, but still, I venture to ask if our External Affairs Minister has held any talks with the Finance Ministry to make Hindi an official language in the United Nations and to provide the estimated cost of propagating Hindi in the world? ... (*Interruptions*) Well, the External Affairs Minister has said that if need be we will not hesitate to give Rs.400 crores and not just Rs.40 crores. It is a good thing. But there is a consensus there. If it happens, then it can be considered.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon. Speaker, I have already answered all her questions. It is in everyone's mind that due to expenses, Hindi is not being made the official language, and the Government is not ready to bear the expenses. I am repeatedly saying that the Government is ready to bear the entire cost. If the UN says that if India gives us this amount, then we will make Hindi the official language, then we are ready to give that amount tomorrow, but since I told you that the process is difficult. Despite that, you would notice that even though Hindi is not the official language of the United

Nations, when the Prime Minister spoke in the United Nations General Assembly, he spoke in Hindi and I spoke three times and all the three times in Hindi. When the Hon. Prime Minister spoke at the UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit, he spoke in Hindi. When our special guests visit us, if they speak in English, we respond in English; otherwise, we talk with everyone in Hindi. They speak in their own language and we speak in our own language. As far as enhancing the pride in the world is concerned, the use of Hindi is concerned; the use of Hindi in the Ministry of External Affairs has been phenomenal. In missions, posts, headquarters, and files, a lot of work is being done in Hindi. However, the only challenge in the United Nations is to ensure that even 129 member nations agree to bear the burden of the cost. The day they agree and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority, we will also make it the official language.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shashi Tharoor.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Gaurav ji, you are looking quite smart today, but first let Shri Shashi Tharoor ask questions.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, I am a bit puzzled by the Government's answer. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You ask questions in Hindi. [English]

You can speak Hindi.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam, in the United Nations, there are six Official Languages and two Working Languages. Now, the six Official Languages are used for formal speeches and translations and the work is done in the two Official Languages, which are English and French.

Similarly, in India, our Foreign Minister says *Bharat ki Rajbhasha*. *Bharat* has no *Rajbhasha*. Article 343 of the Constitution makes it very clear that Hindi is an Official Language. The Official

Languages Act of 1963 says that Hindi and English are both Official Languages of India and the Gujarat High Court ruled in 2010 that Hindi is not the National Language of India. So, for us to be spending Government resources in seeking to promote Hindi in this manner raises an important question. Why do we need Official Languages at the United Nations? It is because a number of countries speak them. Arabic does not have more speakers than Hindi. But Arabic is spoken as an Official Language by 22 countries whereas Hindi is only used as an Official Language by one country, which is our country. In Mauritius, Surinam and in some other countries, it is not the Official Language.

Therefore, the question that comes up is, what purpose is being served by this. If, indeed, we have a Prime Minister or a Foreign Minister who prefer to speak Hindi, they can do so and we can pay for that speech to be translated. Why should we put our future Foreign Ministers and Prime Ministers who may be from Tamil Nadu or West Bengal in a position where they are condemned to be speaking a language for which we are paying? The Government has to defend its position. I understand the pride of Hindi speakers in this country. But people in this country who do not speak Hindi also take pride in speaking other Indian languages.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If you allow this question, because this question is quite contrary. The question is, why aren't we making it the official language? He is saying that there is no need to make an official language. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is his own view.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: As far as official language is concerned, he has lived abroad. People who know our country visited India. Hindi is the official language of Fiji, so do not say that it is the official language only in India. All the indentured countries where there have been rulers of Indian origin—Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ghana—have Hindi-speaking people of Indian origin. ... *(Interruptions)* People who became NRIs in America still speak Hindi. When the Prime Minister addresses such a large number of Hindi-speaking Indian diaspora, he speaks in Hindi. He speaks Hindi only when they understand Hindi. ... *(Interruptions)* People in Nepal speak Hindi; saying that Hindi is spoken only in India is not a symbol of anything other than his ignorance. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 225 – Shri B. Vinod Kumar -Not present.

Mr. Minister, you can lay the reply on the Table of the House.

(Q.225)

[Translation]

SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH: Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to know from the Minister that the IT sector has played a very important role in the economy and employment of this country, but the changes that have taken place in technology and technology at present raise the big question of whether automation will affect the revenue and job market of the IT sector?

12.00 hrs

In this regard, a survey also indicates that changes in technology bring changes in employment and the economy. Is there any such survey or analysis by the Government or other intellectual institutions through which we can convert this challenge of automation into an opportunity and prepare the youth of our country for the fact that automation or change is coming in the IT sector so we can take advantage of it and create employment opportunities in the country?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: If automation eliminates some jobs, it also creates new ones. Our Government is making full use of new technologies. BPOs are being opened in small towns. BPOs are also being opened in Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Raipur, Tiruchirappalli, Gwalior, Raisen, etc. Approximately 2,70,000 CSCs

have opened up, and a large number of startups are emerging today. I want to inform the Hon. member that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, our efforts are focused on achieving digital inclusion, creating more jobs, and fostering greater expansion through technology.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Deepender Hooda. You ask questions very briefly because the Question Hour is about to be over.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Madam, the IT sector is becoming an important sector in terms of generating our country's revenue. Our country has emerged as an IT hub, not just for our nation but for the entire world. I want to say that the IT sector should not only be seen as revenue generating sector but also from the perspective of lakhs and crores of youth who are employed in the IT sector. About 70 percent of our revenue comes from the US market. The Trump Administration's protectionist measures are the Buy American, Hire American, Protect, and Grow American Act. The H1-B visa has come under pressure. The Hindustan Times newspaper has reported today that around 7 lakh IT engineers are in the United States on H-1B visas, and preparations are being made to deport them.

The IT sector is a source of aspiration for crores of our youth....

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You ask your question. Question hour is over.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: I remember the feeling of freedom... *(Interruptions)* Or it happened when I worked at Infosys. Recently, Ivanka Trump came to India for entrepreneurship. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The time is over; please sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Whoever will be deported will have an impact on his entire life, so give me one minute to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot give even one minute after the Question hour is over.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: What does the minister have to say about the Trump administration preparing for the deportation of seven and a half lakh IT and computer engineers from the US?

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you have anything to say?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: No, Madam... [*Translation*] If there was time, I would have answered. (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

[*Translation*]

I told you to ask in brief.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 226 to 234 and 236 to 240

Unstarred Question Nos. 2531 to 2760

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

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motions on various matters. These matters are important, but do not warrant interruptions right now. These matters can be raised on other occasions; hence, no notice of adjournment motion can be allowed.

. . . (Interruptions)

12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

(DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the workings of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8362/16/18]

(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) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) Annual Report, Audited Accounts of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2016-2017 and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8363/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:-

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8364/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

1. A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rail Land Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
2. A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rail Land Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8365/16/18]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL VIJAY KUMAR SINGH)**

(RETD): Hon. Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:--

1. The Extradition Rules, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Extradition Act, 1962 published in the Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2017 notified under Notification No. S.O. 830(E) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8366/16/18]

2. A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 35 of the Extradition Act, 1962-

- (i) 418(A) published in the Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2017 on the Extradition Treaty between India and Thailand signed in Bangkok on 30.5.2013 and came into effect from 29.6.2015.
- (ii) 419(A) published in the Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2017 on the Extradition Treaty between India and Vietnam signed in New Delhi on 12.10.2011 and came into effect from 12.08.2013.

- (iii) 420[A) published in the Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2017 on the Extradition Treaty between India and Malaysia signed in New Delhi on 20.01.2010 and came into effect from 13.02.2011.
- (iv) 421(A) published in the Gazette of India dated the 1st 2017, relating to the Extradition Treaty between India and Brazil signed in Brazil on 16.04.2008 and came into effect from 20.08.2015.
- (v) 566(A) published in the Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2017 on the Extradition Treaty between India and Azerbaijan signed in New Delhi on 13.04.2013 and came into effect from 20.06.2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8367/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):

Madam, 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) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

(2) Annual Report of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8368/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 13th Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Pending Law Commission Reports-(December, 2017).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8369/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Madam, 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) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017.

(2) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8370/16/18]

12.04 hrs

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

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report that Rajya Sabha has returned the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, with amendment.

Madam Speaker, I also lay on the Table the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017, as returned by Rajya Sabha, with amendment.

* Laid on the Table

12.05 hrs

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

38th Report

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.05 ½ hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES

9th Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.06 hrs

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

11th Report

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2017-18) on the Subject 'Women's Health Care: Policy Options'.

12.06 ½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

56th Report

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR): I beg to present the Fifty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the subject 'Transformation towards a Digital Economy'.

12.07 hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS**

21st and 22nd Reports

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

1. Twenty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)'.
 2. Twenty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report 6 (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2016-17) on 'Centre for High Technology'.
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12.07 ½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL

36th Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to present the 36th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on the subject ‘Coal Production, Coal Marketing, and Distribution of Coal’ relating to the Ministry of Coal.

12.07 ¾ hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT**

48th and 49th Reports

[English]

SHRI RAMESH BAIS (RAIPUR): Madam Speaker, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2017-18):-

1. 48th Report on Implementation of Scheme of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for procurement/fitting of Assistant Materials/Equipment (ADIP) relating to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Persons with Disabilities).
 2. 49th Report on 'Academic Schemes for Tribals' of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
-

12.08 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM): On behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology'.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 8371/16/18.

12.08 ½ hrs

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Functioning of Petroleum Conservation Research Association', pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): On behalf of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on the subject 'Functioning of Petroleum Conservation Research Association', pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8372/16/17.

12.09 hrs

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 8373/16/18.

12.09 ½ hrs

(iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 297th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARCH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY):

I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 297th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 8374/16/18.

12.09 ¾ hrs

**MOTION RE: FORTY-NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ANANTHKUMAR):** I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the Forty-ninth Report
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House
on the 2nd January, 2018.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Forty-ninth Report
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House
on the 2nd January, 2018.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to me for a minute.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotiraditya, I am considering the privilege motion that you have given, so I think you do not need to speak about it.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have not yielded.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not denying anyone.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is my request to the entire House.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Saugata Roy, please listen to me for a moment.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You all want to speak in the context of whatever has happened in Maharashtra. I will not stop anyone from speaking.

My only request to all of you is to please pay attention to certain things while discussing all these matters and whatever is happening.

There was a time when the British divided us, defeated each of our rulers, and established their rule over our country. We all are public representatives. We represent the people of our respective regions and the entire India. Just as we say- "Swadharma Nidhanam Shreya Parmodharma Bhyawah", similarly I will say something, which you all need to remember- "Swarajya Nidhanam Shreya Parrajya Bhyawah" All of us have experienced this.

Today, whatever matters you will raise here, you may raise them in your own unique ways. But we must remember one thing: in the end, we all represent the people. At some point of time we all have to unite to protect this nation. We are here for that. The problem, which is emerging, will not be solved by making allegations and counter-allegations. We all have to sit together and solve this problem. Whatever I felt, I am sharing with all of you.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Suresh ji, please listen to me.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not blaming anyone. I am saying that whatever problems the country is facing today, will not be solved by mere allegations and counter-allegations. So all of you, please raise these problems as a responsible public representative. For this, I can only request all of you with folded hands. I request all of you to do this for the country.

Before you all speak, today Mulayam Singh ji wants to express his views on the matter of defence. He had also requested yesterday. He has again requested it today. Let them speak first, then I will allow you.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, he made this request yesterday. You should also understand his point. He wants to say something. Let him speak.

Mulayam Singh ji, please be brief.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. I will say it in brief. I will not make a long speech.

I want to raise my point in front of you. I have a simple question about the problem. Today, our soldiers are continuously being

martyred on the border of Jammu and Kashmir and further on the border of China. Pakistan and China are trying to enter our country. This is a serious problem. I am not saying this out of party sentiment. I agree with what you said. I agree with you that a debate should be held in the House about the entire country.

I also got a chance to take charge of the defence ministry, but at that time they could not occupy even an inch of the country's land. Whenever they tried to occupy our land, our army went to their border and attacked them, resulting in heavy casualties on their side. There are not one but many such incidents. I do not want to make a long reference to these events.

Madam Speaker, you may recall that at that time, this entire House had congratulated me. Hon. Atal ji had also congratulated me. Our Indian Army is the bravest army. It is unparalleled in the whole world. I am not accusing anyone, but the Government should tell us why our soldiers are getting martyred. I have also said earlier that when we are such a powerful country and our army is also so powerful, why are our soldiers getting martyred? Is the Government in any dilemma?

It seems to me that the Government has not given a free hand to our soldiers so that they could do something in self defence. I had given freedom to the soldiers that if someone attacks them, they

should enter their house and attack them. You may recall that our army went to Lahore and defeated them in the battlefield. Our Government had given them orders. We want to know why our country's soldiers are getting martyred today. Our country is seven to eight times larger than theirs, and our army is so brave, yet today, we are defeated by them.

Our country is being defamed in the world that Pakistan and China are not only attacking the Indian army but also capturing our land. We are being insulted all over the world. That never happened. When this happened, it turned into a war. But today our soldiers are being killed. My point is that the Government should not keep the army in a dilemma. They should have clear orders that, if attacked, they should also explicitly retaliate.

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you have stated your point.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I had given such a written order. You may look at it. This is not an ordinary question; this is not an ordinary event. Our country's prestige is belittled in the world because we are being beaten and our brave soldiers are being martyred.

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, your sentiments have reached everyone. Please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Government should respond as to what is its dilemma? Our soldiers are placed in a quandary when they are being attacked. I have information that, so far, no clear orders have been given to the army that if they are attacked, they should also retaliate.

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please take your seat.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: When seven of our soldiers were martyred, I said that you retaliate four times; we are eight times more than them. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, your statement has been recorded.

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Hon. Speaker, the Government should answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dharmendra ji, please be seated.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Speaker, it is a very serious matter. The Government should answer why our soldiers are not being given autonomy. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All of you may take your seat.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon. Speaker, the Government must reply. This is a question of the country.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot do that. I cannot force an answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: The stakeholders of the Government should answer why our soldiers are being martyred.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dharmendra ji, please be seated. I cannot force anyone to answer.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot ask them for a reply every day.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, the reply should come from the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Your statement has come on record. It does not happen that way.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, we had given notice of the adjournment motion under Rule 56. But that adjournment motion was rejected.

HON. SPEAKER: Adjournment Motion has not been accepted. I have said this during Zero Hour.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am saying 'Rejected'. Even I know a little bit Hindi.

HON. SPEAKER: You know better than me. May be I am having trouble listening, and it's because of you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I will recommend you a good doctor.

Madam Speaker, you have given me permission to raise an important issue in the Zero Hour. For this, I am thankful to you, and I want that if the Government replies to this, especially the hon. Prime Minister, who himself came here today, then a good message will be sent to the whole country. Atrocities against Dalits are on the rise in the country. ...*(Interruptions)* Incidents of atrocities are not decreasing. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have already said that I am giving time to speak, but everyone should observe decorum.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Some fascist forces want Dalits to remain at the lowest echelon of society. The violence in Una, Rohith Vemula and now Bhima-Koregaon are examples of atrocities against Dalits. Atrocities against Dalits have increased in rural as well as urban areas, which is quite worrisome. Madam Speaker, I am saying this because whenever Dalits rise to live with dignity and when their self-respect is awakened, they organize some program. Some people attempt to foil that programme and divide the community by interfering with or inciting a few people. Today, the same thing has happened in Bhima Koregaon. There is a memorial commemorating the battle fought by the Dalit soldiers in the year 1818. There is an annual celebratory gathering of Dalits to pay homage to the soldiers. No untoward incident happened there until today. What happened today and why it happened, who interfered in it, who incited it, and who instigated it—we need to think about it. Dalits were banned from joining the army for thousands of years because they could not take up weapons in their hands.

HON. SPEAKER: I don't think it was banned for thousands of years.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: In our country, from Manusmriti till the arrival of the British, no Dalit could take up arms because there was a prohibition.

HON. SPEAKER: There were Dalits in Shivaji's army.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Don't make any such statement.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I have complete information. What happened during Shivaji's regime and what happened to the Peshwas. Let me speak about both the things. ... *(Interruptions)* During the time of Shivaji, there were Dalits, but during the time of Peshwas, a broom was put behind them and two people put a mandi to spit on their mouth.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, everyone knows.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You know, right?

HON. SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: These acts were perpetrated by the Peshwas. After Shivaji, they were banned from joining the army. When the ban was lifted by the British government... *(Interruptions)*,

those people were recruited not just in the Mahar Regiment; it was the Rajput Regiment and the Jat Regiment. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, please conclude your submission quickly. There should not be a long speech during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep in mind that, if I am not wrong, then perhaps there was judicial inquiry in the matter. Keep all the points in mind and speak briefly.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Everyone has to be taken care of.

HON. SPEAKER: Please express what you want to say, considering today's date.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is what I am saying today. Whatever happened in Bhima Koregaon. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am not holding discussion on it. You raise the matter; otherwise, I will have to call another Member.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I have raised the matter. But what has happened in Koregaon, those hardliner Hindutva supporters who want to divide the society and sow discord between the Mahar

and Marathas... *...(*Interruptions*) are behind this... People of *... have a hand.

MAJ. GEN. B.C. KHANDURI AVSM (RETD.) (GARHWAL): Madam, this should be expunged. What he said should not go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: They have a hand in the matter. They have done it .

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. Do not make allegation, please.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I am not saying this.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No allegation, please. I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Shri Sharad Pawar himself has said this. He lives in Pune. He has said this. Madam Speaker, please listen. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy Ji.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, let him complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I speak with a deep sense of responsibility. You have already said... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There won't be a long speech. Raise as briefly as you can during Zero Hour.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : You have already said that we should say nothing here that will disturb the situation.

Our leader, Mamata Banerjee and our party believe in unity among all classes. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please complete your speech.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to one thing; long speech is not allowed in Zero Hour. Please conclude your speech in a minute. Please speak as much as you are allowed during Zero Hour.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I am keeping the facts from all sources.

HON. SPEAKER: Do not show it, please complete it within one minute. That is okay.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You would have read that is why ...(*Interruptions*) on Dalits.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I can give you so many examples, but time is not sufficient. But be it in Gujarat's Una, Maharashtra, Rajasthan....

HON. SPEAKER: It shouldn't be, please put your sentiments here.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: At every place where...* is the government of..

* Not recorded

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No allegation will be allowed.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Many atrocities have been perpetrated there.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go in record.

... *(Interruptions)* *

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow any allegation.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have already said that there is a judicial inquiry, so there should be no allegation.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I want that a Supreme Court Judge should be appointed. ... *(Interruptions)* He should inquire this

* Not recorded

and not the State Government. The State Government has taken a decision. That is a different thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

It is my demand that the Prime Minister should come in the House and make a statement because he is always keeping quiet when such incidents happen. ... (*Interruptions*) He does not take any action. ... (*Interruptions*) He keeps mum. He used to say others ... * He is a ... * regarding *dalits*. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: This will not go in record.

... (*Interruptions*) *

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ANANTH KUMAR):** Madam, I would just like to say that Hon.

* Not recorded

Mallikarjun Kharge does not want to diagnose the problem that has cropped up in Maharashtra but wants to incite it. ...*(Interruptions)*. He wants to politicize it. ... *(Interruptions)* There is frustration in Congress today. Congress has lost Gujarat, Himachal. Congress is facing defeat everywhere.

12.28 hrs

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

... (Interruptions)

So, one should pray for peace and order in Maharashtra. As you said British came and introduced the policy of divide and rule in India. Today, instead of the British, the Congress is following the policy of divide and rule.... *(Interruptions)*. They are disintegrating the society and spreading hatred. If today, someone is taking the whole country forward with the idea of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, then it is our leader, Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Madam, under your leadership, this Lok Sabha as a forum, should spread the message of peace, and everyone should live there in a spirit of brotherhood. Instead of dousing the fire there, Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and the Congress party are inciting fire...

(Interruptions) We condemn this act. The country will not tolerate this. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated, I have already told everyone not politicize the matter. *[English]* This is not fair on your part.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You want neither the welfare of Dalits, nor discussion, this is not the way. I'm sorry. That's why I made the request, this is not correct.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy ji, do you want to speak?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: But, please mind your language.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion under Rule 56 on the clashes that broke out in Pune, Maharashtra on January 1st. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, that day the dalits had gathered in Bhima Koregaon to celebrate the visit of Dr. Ambedkar in 1927 to the spot where the dalits had fought the peshwas. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You do not know the incident.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, let me complete in two minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, our party and our leader, Mamata Banerjee, believes in harmony between classes. Any clash between two groups or two castes is condemnable. I think that the Maharashtra Government failed totally in anticipating the situation and preventing the violence which led to stone-throwing and arson. Many cars and vehicles were put on fire. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, today there is bandh throughout Maharashtra. ... (*Interruptions*) There is a possibility of further violence. ... (*Interruptions*) We want this House to ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: They are doing it. The State Government is there. Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): Hon. Speaker, for the last two days, violence has been taking place at Bhima-Koregaon in Maharashtra, which is in my constituency, and thirty kilometres from Pune. ... *(Interruptions)* Bhima-Koregaon has a history of two hundred years and since 90 years every 1st January is celebrated there. ... *(Interruptions)* But the incidents that have taken place in the last two days have nothing to do with Dalits or others. ... *(Interruptions)* Just to politicize the matter, some people have deliberately tried to increase tension between Maratha and Dalit communities. ... *(Interruptions)*. That is why this tension has been created. ... *(Interruptions)*. Despite this, I demand from the Government that it should give suggestions to the government of Maharashtra on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The judicial inquiry is taking place, right?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam, there has been some failure on the part of the police department for the last two days. ... *(Interruptions)* [English] Police Department could not control the mob and clashes have just taken place.

HON. SPEAKER: Rao Saheb Danve Patil ji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE (JALNA): Madam Speaker, we do not support the incident that happened in Bhima-Koregaon near Pune, we condemn it. ...(Interruptions) Two hundred years have elapsed since the war between the Britishers and them. ... (Interruptions) This time there was a huge crowd to commemorate the war. ... (Interruptions) But political language was used there, due to which this riot took place there. ... (Interruptions) It seems to me that the Maharashtra government has also ordered judicial inquiry. ... (Interruptions) Madam, our government has been in Maharashtra for the past three years. ... (Interruptions) Not a single riot has taken place in Maharashtra in these three years. ... (Interruptions) Our agenda is development. ... (Interruptions) They cannot stop our development agenda. ... (Interruptions) That is why they have started fueling such riots. ... (Interruptions) Our government fully supports the idea that this should not happen. ... (Interruptions) I think our government is trying its best to maintain peace in Maharashtra, there is no doubt about it. ... (Interruptions) But these people are using unruly language to stop the agenda of development. ... (Interruptions) The Maharashtra government will not allow any such incident to happen there, and there is judicial inquiry. ... (Interruptions)

12.34 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

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

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

... (Interruptions)

* Treated as laid on the Table

(i) Need to allot plots to those candidates whose names came in draw of lots for land plots conducted by Jharkhand State Housing Board

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Application for allotment of land plots was made by Jharkhand State Housing Board, Ranchi through advertisement published on 25 and 29.06.2011. The lottery for allotment of land plots was organised by the Housing Board on 20-08-2011 in the presence of hundreds of applicants and their representatives. The entire proceedings of the lottery were conducted in a lawful, reasonable and transparent manner through videography. It was the employees of the housing department who requested cancellation of allotment in the lottery, on which the inquiry committee examined and justified the lottery and allotment process. Despite this, the Department of Housing issued an order cancelling the allotment on 21.03.2015. This order was quashed by Writ Petition No.WPC 1346/2015 Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi on 08.04.2015.

It is mentioned that the amount was being continuously deposited by the allottees in the Housing Board for the land properties allotted by the lottery process. About 70% of the total amount has been paid

in full. The agreement of many allottees has also been made, and the land allotted to many allottees has been measured and given to them for the construction of boundary wall.

It has been more than six years that the draw of lots took place as on 20.08.2011. But the Jharkhand State Housing Board is not giving land to the allottees. Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that the Jharkhand State Housing Board issue the necessary instructions to make the land available to all the concerned allottees as per the lottery dated 20.08.2011.

(ii) Need to extend army benefits to paramilitary forces.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): As per the rules, next of kin of all regular personnel of the paramilitary forces like CRPF, BSF, CJSF, JTBP, SSB among others get Rs 15 lakh as compensation if one dies in fighting terrorists or Maoists or any adversaries. According to government data, the nine lakh personnel-strong paramilitary forces, with the CRPF being the largest, is currently deployed in more insurgency affected areas than the army. When it comes to fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, tackling Naxals in dense forests of Chhattisgarh or facing attacks of hardcore insurgents in places like Manipur, the first person to be rushed is either from the Central Reserve Police Force or some other paramilitary force.

While in the Army an officer is entitled to 20 casual leave and jawans are entitled for 30 casual leave, in the CRPF all the personnel are entitled to 15 days casual leave. At entry level, jawans in paramilitary get a gross salary of Rs 21,000 while an Army jawan gets Rs 35,000. A large number of paramilitary forces officers have quit in the last five years due to stagnation and tough working conditions.

Around 9,000 personnel quit BSF, CRPF, ITBP, CISF and SSB due to unfavourable working conditions.

The ministry of Home Affairs, through the office Memorandum dated 23.11.2012, directed the state governments that they 'may' extend to these retired people all benefits that they've extended to the retired members of the defence forces. However, through an RTI reply from the MHA, it has been revealed that no state other than Goa, has extended these benefits to the retired paramilitary personnel and this happened because of the non-mandatory nature of the said O.M. After much pressure, the government, on 27.09.2016, announced in the print and electronic media that all the facilities available to the retired Defence personnel shall be extended to the retirees of paramilitary forces as well. But, the same has still not been implemented and as a result of this, some of such retirees have also sent a legal notice to the concerned government departments and Ministries.

There needs to be a policy to extend the army benefits such as canteen facilities or martyrdom status to the paramilitary forces as well. Agreed that the army protects the borders of the country but the paramilitary forces fight the anti-national elements within the country. A fort needs to be defended by the sentries but it also needs watchful warriors who keep an eye out for insidious traitors within the

kingdom. This is exactly what the paramilitary forces do. They too risk their lives for the well-being of the citizens just like the army men. When the risk and the devotion is the same, then why this difference in the pay!

(iii) Need to release scholarship to girl students of senior secondary schools in Dausa Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA): I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government and state government of Rajasthan towards the scholarships given by the Central Government to the students belonging to Scheduled Caste/Tribe categories, Other Backward Classes and the poor section under various schemes.

The Central Government provides financial assistance through scholarship schemes to students belonging to SC/ST categories, OBCs, and poor sections studying in the school to promote education. This assistance is provided to the students through the state government.

On visiting the Government Higher Secondary Schools in my parliamentary constituency, Dausa, it was found that poor girl students are not getting the benefits of the scholarships given by the Central and State Government for the last two years, which is adversely affecting the future of these students. To address this situation, a letter was written to the Hon. Prime Minister and the

concerned ministers, requesting them to release the benefits of the scholarship to the girl students at the earliest.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to look into the matter and issue necessary instructions to all the State/UT Governments to ensure proper utilization of the amount released by the Central Government and monitor that the allocated amount is utilised in a proper manner and that it reaches out to the needy students on time.

(iv) Need to provide compensation to villages of Garhwa district of Jharkhand falling under submergence area of Kanhar dam in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue that the Government of Uttar Pradesh is constructing a dam on the Kanhar river at Amwar in Paddi under the Sonbhadra district. It is known that Garhwa district of my parliamentary constituency, Palamu (Jharkhand), is adjacent to Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, due to which four villages in Dhurki block of Garhwa district are drowning due to the construction of a dam in Amwar. The flood-affected people of these four villages of Jharkhand have not received compensation so far, while the Uttar Pradesh government has paid the compensation amount to the flood-affected people there, and the Uttar Pradesh government has also given the compensation amount to them on the demand of the Chhattisgarh government. But the villagers of these four villages of Jharkhand are troubled by the fear of displacement and are demanding compensation by conducting their survey soon. The cost of construction of this dam is Rs 2239 crore. About 62 percent of construction has been completed and is to be completed by 2019. The dam will irrigate 35467 hectares of land in the Paddi, Kon,

and Kachnarwa areas of Sonbhadra district. As per the agreement between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of Jharkhand, 7000 cusecs of water will be supplied to Jharkhand from this dam. This will irrigate the areas of Kharondhi and Ketar blocks.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that necessary action be taken to provide immediate compensation to the flood-affected people of the above four villages in Garhwa district of Jharkhand.

**(v) Need to establish a research centre of Yoga and AYUSH
in Uttarakhand**

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): I come from Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand, and it is my great fortune that in this august House I represent Haridwar, the capital of Yoga and Spirituality of the world, where people from all over the world come and enjoy Yoga and Spirituality.

Ayurveda, the science of life, is an eternal system of medicine that talks about healing not only the body but also the heart and mind. More than 60 percent of the world's population uses traditional medicines. The Charkasamhita and Susruta Samhita describe thousands of plant families, and mainly the Himalayas are their origin. More than 40 percent of people in developed countries consume herbs. More than 70 percent of India's rural population is dependent on ayurvedic medicines. The popularity of Ayurveda is consistently increasing worldwide. We are fortunate that Nature has given us an immense treasure of Ayurvedic herbs. The Ayush sector has seen a growth rate of 20-25 percent over the last few years, which is extremely encouraging. Uttarakhand, being known as the land of gods, is extremely sensitive to environmental concerns. In terms of biodiversity, this state, surrounded by the Himalayas and one of the

best in the world, is covered with more than 65 percent forest area. In such a scenario, it is a natural choice for any ambitious Ayush-related plans. In view of the importance of Sanskrit in Yoga and Ayurveda, we have increased the pride of the state and the country by making it the second official language in Uttarakhand. My parliamentary constituencies, Haridwar and Rishikesh, are the yoga and spiritual capitals of the world.

Therefore, I humbly request the Central Government to establish an International Research Institute of Yoga and Ayush in Uttarakhand. Since it will facilitate collection of international level resources for research on Yoga and Ayurveda in the said research institute and shall render the welfare of human beings around the world, including India, possible.

(vi) Need to expedite development works in Maghar, a place associated with Sufi Saint Kabir in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Due to the special interest of the Prime Minister of India in Nirvana Sthal, Maghar, on the completion of five hundred years of Nirvana of the great Sufi Saint Kabir of the world, the foundation stone of tourism related schemes was laid by Dr. Mahesh Sharma as Tourism Minister on 9th October, 2016 in the Nirvana Sthal Maghar of Saint Kabir. But due to the negligence of the executive body, developmental work is not being done even after more than one year.

I request the Government to complete the tourism-related development works announced in Maghar (Uttar Pradesh), the nirvana place of Sant Kabir, at the earliest.

**(vii) Need to establish airports in Dhanbad and Bokaro in
Jharkhand**

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): The two districts under my parliamentary constituency Dhanbad, Dhanbad and Bokaro, are important and industrial districts of Jharkhand state. Dhanbad is considered the coal capital of the country. There are many central establishments including the headquarters of Coal Mines Provident Fund, Central Research Station and two projects of IIT, Indian School of Mines, DVC, Methane and Panchet and Bokaro Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India in Bokaro and many industries and collieries nearby. There is an urgent need for air services through modern airports in both the places. However, Dhanbad has an old and outdated technology airport and airstrip, and BSL's old airport is also located to the east. The modernisation of which is the need of the hour.

Therefore, I demand from the Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India, that a modern airport be built at both the places in my parliamentary constituency, Dhanbad and Bokaro, and air service should be started, which is very much needed in the present times.

**(viii) Need to implement Diamond Quadrilateral project of
Indian Railways**

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): There is a lack of rail routes in Bundelkhand, Mahakaushal, and Vindhya regions in a state like Madhya Pradesh. Many surveys like Jabalpur-Patra-Damoh, Khajuraho-Bhopal, Ramtek are available from Sridham. But there is no progress of work on them. After the NDA manifesto and formation of the government, it was resolved to make the diamond quadrilateral of the railways. Therefore, I humbly request the Government of India to launch this scheme, which will reduce the distance from north to south in the diamond quadrilateral of the railways, at the earliest.

**(ix) Need to display reservation chart at railway stations and
in trains coaches**

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Railways to not pasting the reservation charts in trains. In the past, reservation charts were put up in all trains and on the chart board at the station, reserved seats were shown on the digital display platform, and details of travel tickets were shown, but now the passengers are facing problems for not pasting reservation charts on trains and on the chart board of the station. The details of confirmed seats are also not being sent to mobile phones completely, due to which all classes of passengers are facing unnecessary inconvenience.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that the Hon. Railway Minister may kindly explain the reasons for not putting up the chart.

**(x) Need to establish a memorial in honour of poet Dr.
Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in Begusarai district, Bihar and also
establish a University in his memory**

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar has been shining on the national horizon after Tulsidas. His poems and compositions have been translated into 34 languages around the world. In South India, he is revered like gods. The then Prime Minister of India, Shri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has written the role of four chapters of Dinkar's composition culture. The present Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Damodar Das Modi, has given the ornate form of Dinkar's compositions in his speeches on many occasions. In the list of the Soviet Union, the soil of his birthplace and his statue are placed in the National Museum, along with the Chekhov Tolstoy of the Maxin Board, with reverence. Dinkar is the illuminated lamp of the cultural soul of India, but his birthplaces, Simaria and Begusarai, are still waiting to establish the nature of his cultural soul. No national university or educational institution named after Dinkar has been established in Bihar or at the national level. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Education and the Prime Minister to this matter.

(xi) Recruitment in army from Chambal region*[English]*

DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (BHIND): From the last two years, the recruitment of soldiers in the army from the Chambal region is banned. The reason is that in 2015, the candidates from Chambal region created a chaos in Gwalior during the process of selection of soldiers. In fact more than 50 thousand candidates were called for the selection. The army official could not manage the crowd and failed to ensure fair process of recruitment. Thus the entire responsibility rests with the army personnel engaged in the process of selection. But the youth of Chambal region, who have the best credentials during the last 150 years, are being deprived of the opportunity to serve the nation. There is serious discontentment among the youth of the area.

**(xii) Need to construct a permanent bridge on Gangotri
National Highway in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MALA RAJYALAKSHMI SHAH (TEHRI GARHWAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Uttarkashi district of my parliamentary constituency. The motor bridge on the Gangotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district was washed away in the devastating floods and disasters of 2017 and since then BRO constructed the “Bailey Bridge” at Gangotri which was temporary. But on December 14, 2017, the “Bailey Bridge” also collapsed, due to which the army deployed along the China border, including hundreds of villages along the China border and Gangotri Tirtha, was cut off by road from the country. Due to the receding of water in the Assi Ganga, the B.R.O. has made temporary arrangements for commuting. But if the water level rises during the rainy season, the local public, pilgrims and the army deployed on the border will face a lot of inconvenience.

I request the Union Road Transport Minister to kindly take necessary steps to construct a 'Pucca' permanent motor bridge in place of the damaged bridge on Gangotri National Highway.

**(xiii) Need to construct an over bridge at Jugsalai in
Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand**

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): The construction of Jugsalai overbridge under my parliamentary constituency, Jamshedpur, is not commencing due to the wrong decisions of railway officials. Earlier, the railway officials had fixed Rs. 7 crore for 10 thousand square feet of railway land. When the state government agreed to give the said amount and also floated the tender, the value of the same land is now being demanded at Rs. 12 crore by the railways in the name of GST. The demand for this overbridge has been there for the last 70 years, but no concrete action has been taken by the Railway Department in this direction. If there are difficulties in the construction by the railways, then the freight train should be stopped there considering the heavy influx during the day because accidents occur frequently while crossing the railway line daily.

Therefore, on the above-mentioned subject, I request the Hon. Minister to kindly expedite the construction of the Jugsalai overbridge without delay, in view of public welfare and safety.

(xiv) Need to provide stoppage of Utkal Express (Train No. 18477/78) at Sonua Railway station in Singhbhum

Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM): Sonua Railway Station under the Chakradharpur Railway Management Office under South Eastern Railway falls under my parliamentary constituency of Singhbhum (Jharkhand). There is a huge industrial area around this railway station where labourers from Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar work. This railway station is considered as a sightseeing place. The people around Sonua railway station have great reverence for the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the Konark Temple, and the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and often visit Puri and Bhubaneswar. Many people from other states come with their families to visit the sightseeing places in the vicinity of Sonua railway station. The stoppage of Utkal Express Up 18477 and Down 18478 running between Nizamuddin-Puri at this Sonua railway station is absolutely necessary. This has been a demand for many years, but the stoppage of train has not been implemented yet.

The Government is requested to provide stoppage to the Utkal Express Up 18477 and Down 18478 running between Nizamuddin-Puri at Sonua Railway Station.

**(xv) Need to set up consulate offices of ASEAN and other
East Asian countries at Guwahati**

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Assam is known as the Gateway to the East. An enhanced economic relation with the ASEAN and other East Asian Countries in terms of investment and technology would ensure greater economic activities in the region. In terms of geographical proximity also the North East is nearer to the ASEAN and the South East Asian Countries. For development of tourism and economic co-operation, it is essential to have regular communication facilities between the North Eastern States and all the above mentioned foreign countries. This would be in consonance with the Government's Act East Policy too. In order to facilitate greater economic activities as well as for the development of tourism, we need to have Consulate Generals of ASEAN and other East Asian Countries in the North East. Assam being the gate way to the North East, I would like to request you to take appropriate steps for setting up of Consulate Generals of these countries at Guwahati.

**(xvi)Need for special funds to improve rural road
connectivity in Manipur**

SHRI THANGSO BAITE (OUTER MANIPUR): Manipur shares about 400Km long border with Myanmar. The topographical situation of the State comprises 10% valley regions and 90% hilly regions. The hilly region is inhabited predominantly by the tribals. As per the recent District reorganisation in the state by the state government, seven more new districts have been created in addition to the existing nine; which comes to a total of 16 districts in the state.

The bold step taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, which sanctioned for the construction of important highways in the state has been appreciated. In spite of that, the district Headquarters and Sub-Division Headquarters, Block Headquarters and villages are unconnected till today. It is a well known fact that the state is financially dependent on the Centre as the state resource is very limited. The road connectivity particularly in the hill districts is very poor and is in a pitiable condition. Owing to that, it is not possible to take up proper health education programmes which are the prime need of the people living in those areas.

As a matter of fact, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Rural Development to extend all possible help by providing special financial package to the tune of atleast Rs. 50,000 crore for rural connectivity in the ensuing financial year 2018-19.

(xvii) Need to fix a minimum 120 sittings of Parliament per year

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): It is a matter of concern that the number of Parliament sittings per year has been decreasing since independence. During the first two decades, Lok Sabha met for an average of over 120 days. This has come down to 70 in the last decade and 50 for this year. In countries like US, UK and Canada, at the beginning of the year, a calendar of sitting days is formalised where legislative and other businesses are programmed in with an average of 100- 150 sittings a year. The volume of pending legislation is a reminder that our Parliament needs to be more proactive. The legislature is the seat of decision-making and its convening shouldn't be subject to flexibility. I request the Minister of Parliament Affairs to ensure that the Parliament sit for a minimum period of 120 days in a year.

(xviii) Need to extend Salem-Karur Passenger Train upto Trichy

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Salem - Karur Passenger Train No. 56105 is in operation since long. Traders, students, working people are largely benefitted by this train. This Train connects temples in Salem, Raipuram, Namakkal & Karur. Many passengers have expressed their concern that the Southern Railway doesn't operate Trains in Salem Division.

I wish to state that Salem - Palani Express was extended upto Palakkad. When this train can be extended upto Palakkad, why not Salem - Karur Passenger upto Trichy?

It is said that Railways have a proposal to discontinue the operation of this train due to revenue loss and other reasons. I wish to bring to the notice of Railway Ministry that if this Train is extended upto Trichy, Railways will get more revenue and this train will generate profit.

I have spoken about this on many occasions in the Parliament and met the Hon'ble Railway Minister and requested him to extend this Train from Salem to Trichy.

I once again, request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to kindly look into this matter and extend Train No 56105 Salem - Karur Passenger to Trichy.

**(xix) Need to restore the earlier sharing pattern of funding to
Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The State Governments welcomed the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission which inter-alia increased the devolution of Central Taxes from 32 to 42 per cent to States. But the effect of such increased devolution has been offset to a large extent by several policy decisions of the Union Government which include delinking of eight Centrally Sponsored Schemes from Central support, abolition of Normal Central Assistance and a steep increase in State's share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which was earlier fully funded by the Union Government is now required to be funded 40 per cent by the concerned State Government. Similarly, the State's contribution to National Health Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been increased from 25 to 40 per cent. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to restore the sharing pattern of the said Centrally Sponsored Schemes, to enable States to utilize increased devolution of Central Taxes for State's Schemes.

(xx) Need to allow Bullock Cart race celebrated in Pune district of Maharashtra

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): I wish to draw the kind attention of the Government towards a very important and sensitive issue pertaining to Bullock Cart Race or Bail Gada Sharyat, as locally called, which is celebrated extensively in the District of Pune in Maharashtra. This traditional festival has a history of being celebrated for the last many centuries.

However this has been banned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests citing provisions of Section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The Hon'ble Supreme Court also gave similar judgement on 7th May, 2014. It is pertinent to mention here that a similar ordinance was passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in the case of Jallikattu, in which bulls are used, which was earlier banned along with Bullock Cart Race. This was approved by the Hon'ble President of India and has been implemented in Tamil Nadu. Jallikattu, is regularly held in Tamil Nadu now. Keeping the sentiments of the people in mind, the Maharashtra Government had also passed a resolution and issued an ordinance as in the case of Tamil Nadu, which was sent for the kind approval of the Hon'ble President of India. The Hon'ble President had given his approval.

However, this could not be implemented on account of the intervention of the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay on an appeal fixed the by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Thus, the people of Maharashtra have been deprived of the celebration of their festival and cultural heritage.

The farmers are agitated a lot and are taking out processions, staging agitations and other unlawful activities. They are planning major agitations throughout Maharashtra in the near future.

In view of the above, there is no other way except passing an amendment to the Act in the Parliament. Keeping in view the above, I earnestly request you to kindly table a bill of amendment to the Act in both the Houses of Parliament in the ongoing session itself so that this cultural festival is allowed in Maharashtra also as in the case of Tamil Nadu.

**(xxi) Need to set up a National Cancer Institute at
Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDY): The Union Government is implementing Tertiary Care Cancer Centre Scheme in the country under which State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) are being set up in different parts of the country. These Centres shall mentor all Cancer related activities including research and treatment. I understand that the Union Government had already approved in principle, the setting up of 11 State Cancer Institutes and 13 Tertiary Care Cancer Centres covering entire country except in the State of Andhra Pradesh. I would, therefore, earnestly urge upon the Union Government to set up such National Cancer Institute at Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh as the incidence of various types of cancer related cases is very much prevalent in all the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh particularly in East and West Godavari Districts including Rajahmundry.

**(xxii) Need to restore services of earlier operational trains on
Palakkad-Pollachi Railway line**

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue of Palakkad-Pollachi Railway line. The gauge conversion of this line was completed at a cost of Rs. 400 crore over a period of 7 years. However, despite one year after the completion of gauge conversion work, no new trains have been introduced on this line. Not only that, even the existing trains which ceased to operate temporarily due to the work have not resumed their services. This line connects Southern Tamil Nadu with Kerala. There is immense potential for new trains connecting pilgrim centres like Pazhani, Madhura and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu and Guruvayur in Kerala. Introducing new trains connecting these destinations will be of great help to tens of thousands of pilgrims. This will be beneficial for Railways too. Hence, I request the Railways to restore all the previously existing operations of trains on the Palakkad-Pollachi route.

(xxiii) Need to remove the cap on number of applications recommended by Members of Parliament for seeking financial assistance under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Financial assistance is provided to patients from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Though MPs send the applications of the poor patients of their area to the PMO, it is being seen that the applications of the last 2–3 years are pending in the PMO. In this way, incurable patients die due to lack of treatment. Here, I have been informed that this month, 12 or 20 of your cases have been completed, so now my application will not be considered. This is not fair to the poor patients, it seems to be a grave injustice. You have put a cap on the application of MPs. This is not at all fair. Another problem with poor patients is that those very poor rural patients, who are suffering from serious and incurable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neuro, kidney, liver, and ortho, die due to lack of money but cannot get treatment, even if it is government or government aided hospital. At present, the PMO pays only half the cost to the said patients, or the maximum limit has been fixed at Rs 3.00 lakh. Now the question arises that the patient cannot

afford the remaining amount, but it has been fixed by the PMO. Now the question arises that the remedy for the remaining amount is not able to be met by the patient, and the assistance given by the PMO is also not useful to the poor. In some cases, the delay is so much that the money goes to the hospital after the death of the patient. The hospital demands payment from patients upfront.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Prime Minister to pay special attention to this very humanitarian issue and request that he removes the cap, facilitates full assistance, and at the same time the application is disposed of within a maximum period of 15 days of its submission. If the application is rejected for any reason, it should be notified within a week's time.

(xxiv) Need to check the polluted waste material released by Hindalco company in Ranchi district, Jharkhand and also provide full service benefits to the workers of the company

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unfair work being done by Hindalco Company at Muri under Ranchi district. A 60-foot-high mountain has been built by the company on 100 acres of land through caustic mud, which is completely in violation of the pollution parameters. Due to this, the people of the area are suffering from various pollution-related diseases, the animals of the farmers are dying, and the agricultural land is becoming barren. During the rainy season, the untreated wastewater of the company is being released directly into the Swarna Rekha river, and the caustic mud is also flowing into the river, due to which the river water is no longer potable. The iron production, in that area, which was a pioneer has now become negligible. Apart from this, contract workers and daily wage workers are being exploited in the company. They are being paid less than the permissible limit. Workers are also deprived of their job security through social security schemes. The rest of the workers are also being deprived of the benefit of PF by showing less than the

actual number of workers. Due to lack of protest by the workers, about 3000 workers in the company are not getting the benefit of social security. The displaced people have not yet been given compensation or job benefits by the company, which has caused dissatisfaction among the people against the company. In this regard, 6 months ago, I sent a letter to the Forest and Environment Minister and the Labour and Employment Minister of the Central Government regarding the above irregularities, which have only been acknowledged and no action has been taken till date.

The Government is requested to conduct a high-level inquiry on the unfair activities of the company and the role of the censors in the company.

**(xxv) Need to start a Passport Seva Kendra at Kattappana in
Idukki district of Kerala**

[English]

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): The Government has sanctioned a Passport Seva Kendra at Kattappana in Idukki District of Kerala. As of now the people living in Idukki district is depending on Cochin Passport Office for the entire passport related services, which is about 150 kilometers from the district border. So the new Passport Seva Kendra will be of great help for the people living in Idukki district. The new Passport Seva Kendra is proposed to be started with the collaboration with the Postal department. The project was sanctioned 6 months ago and unfortunately it has not yet been started. As per the information received from the concerned authorities, the postal department has not yet been provided the building for the purpose. So I request the Government to intervene in this matter and do the needful.

(xxvi) Need to allow Government Medical College Parippally to admit students for MBBS course

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The LoP for Government Medical College Parippally was issued on 31.05.2017 as per the directions passed by oversight committee and GOT. The MCI conducted inspection on 14.09.2017 and found that the College has failed to abide by the undertaking given as per the directions of oversight committee and GOI. The executive committee of MCI held on 25.10.2017 decided to debar the College from admitting students in MBBS course for a period of two academic year 2018-19 and 2019-20. Most of the deficiencies noticed in the inspection report are operational deficiencies. The deficiencies are easily rectifiable. If the College is debarred, it will adversely affect the functioning of the College and hospital. It is pertinent to note that 35 percentage of the seats are reserved for the children of insured persons. Most of the students and patients who depend on this College and hospital are from the weaker section of the society.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now we are taking the bill, all of you may kindly go to your seats.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: We are taking the Bill. There will be no 'Zero Hour' now. Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

12.35 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment)

Bill, 2017

Amendment made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before we take up Item No. 22, that is, consideration of Rajya Sabha Amendment to the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017, I have to inform that there is a minor printing mistake in the Government Amendment to the Bill printed in today's revised List of Business.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: At Page 7, below "Clause 1", "2017" has been misprinted as "201".

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Members are requested to read it as "2017".

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is the only thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.36 hrs

(At this stage, Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri N. K. Premachandran.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, this is the first time in the legislative history of the Indian Parliament that the Government is moving an alternate amendment to the amendment carried out by the Council, that is, the Rajya Sabha. ... (*Interruptions*) It has never happened before to my information or knowledge. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: So, I raise a Point of Order under ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.45 pm.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.36 ½ hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five Minutes past
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.48 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Eight Minutes past Twelve
of the Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, this is a very important issue. I want a reply from the Prime Minister on this issue. This is very important. Hon. Prime Minister should come and make a statement because such things are happening throughout the country. ... *(Interruptions)* I would request through you, Madam, the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What would you like to say?

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I can understand that. But Maharashtra Government is doing something.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: When a judicial inquiry has been announced, let's not do so. Please sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You have spoken! What do you want to say now?

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, this is a very important issue. The Prime Minister should interfere in this matter, and he should keep his point as to what he wants.... *(Interruptions)*

12.49 hrs

**CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD
AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017 ...Contd.**

Amendment made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Premachandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): My point of order is there, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*) My point of order is under Rule 100 (2) of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*) This is the first time in the legislative history of Indian Parliament that the Government is moving an alternate amendment to the amendment carried out by the Upper House, Rajya Sabha. ... (*Interruptions*) It has never happened before to my information and knowledge. Here, in this case, you may kindly see Lok Sabha has passed the Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 and transmitted it to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. ... (*Interruptions*)

What is the amendment in Clause 3? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): The Prime Minister is here. You can call him and ask him to appoint a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court to enquire into this. This is very important because it is not one incident. It is a failure of the Government. It is a failure of the Maharashtra Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Aren't you done yet?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: What is the amendment made by the Rajya Sabha? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not allowing him. [*Translation*] Have you finished? Now I have started taking the bill.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: You can please go to your seat now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Clause 3 is the heart and soul of the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) I cannot understand the rationale of legislative wisdom of the Elders by deleting Clause 3 and returning to this House. ... (*Interruptions*)

My point of order is whether the proposed amendment is an alternative amendment. According to me, the answer is 'no' because the Government is reproducing the same section of the original Bill with minor changes, which were deleted by the Rajya Sabha. Hence, I seek a specific ruling on this point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.52 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon. Members left the House.)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a point of order has been raised that the new clause 3 being now proposed by the Government in place of amendment made by the Council for omission of clause 3 does not fall within the meaning of amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha. In regard to Bills returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments, sub-rule (2) of Rule 100 of the Rules of Procedure provides that three types of amendments to an amendment made by Rajya Sabha can be moved in Lok Sabha. The first being amendment relevant to the subject matter of an amendment made by Rajya Sabha,

the second being amendment consequential upon an amendment made by Rajya Sabha and the last being an amendment alternative to an amendment made by Rajya Sabha. In the instant case, the Rajya Sabha has returned the Bill with an amendment seeking omission of a clause from the Bill. Hon. Members would appreciate that to an amendment seeking omission of a clause, no amendment or consequential amendment can be moved since there is no text before us for agreeing or disagreeing to such amendment. The dictionary defines the word “alternative” as “available as another possibility or choice”. The Government has proposed that in place of omission of clause from the Bill, the same clause be restored with some changes. In a way, the Government has proposed another choice in place of clause being omitted. In my opinion, therefore, the amendment tabled by the hon. Minister for restoring clause 3 with some changes falls within the category of amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha.

I, therefore, rule out the point of order.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling now.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the House would now take up consideration of the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha. As you are aware, the hon. Minister has given notice to move an amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha and also further amendment regarding change of year from 2017 to 2018. I may inform you that in case the House adopts the alternative amendment, the original amendment made by Rajya Sabha would stand substituted by the alternative amendment. As such, the original amendment made by Rajya Sabha will not be proposed for vote of the House. Hon. Members, the alternative amendment seeks to insert a new clause 3 in the Bill. In this regard, I would like to invite your attention to Direction 31, which provides that “when an amendment for insertion of a new clause in a Bill is adopted by the House, the Speaker shall put the question that the new clause be added to the Bill”. Therefore, in case the alternative amendment is adopted by the House, I shall also propose the new clause 3 to the vote of the House.

Hon. Members, since we are to consider a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, I shall propose the Motion for consideration of Rajya Sabha amendment, the motion for adoption of amendment

alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha, adoption of new clause 3, adoption for further amendment for change of year and the motion for passing of the Bill to the vote of the House by division through special majority as required under Article 368 of the Constitution. Keeping in view the spirit of Rule 156, amendments given notice of by private Members to the alternative amendment proposed to be moved by the hon. Minister shall be decided by simple majority.

Now, I call Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, hon. Minister, to move that the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT):**

Madam Speaker, I propose:-

(i) that the following amendments made by the Rajya Sabha in the Bill* to amend the Constitution of India further, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration:

* This Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 10th April, 2017 and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for their concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with an Amendment at their sitting held on the 31st July, 2017 and returned it to Lok Sabha on 1st August, 2017

Clause 3**Insertion of new article 338 B**

that pages 2 and 3, clause 3 to be omitted.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister to move the alternate amendment to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam Speaker, I propose:-

(ii) that in the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by the Lok Sabha, amendments made by the Rajya Sabha to pages 2 and 3, clause 3, should be omitted and the following alternative amendments to the amendment made by the Rajya Sabha should be substituted:-

that pages 2 and 3, the following may be inserted-

3. After article 338A of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:-

“338B. (1) There shall be a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine.

(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

(4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

(5) It shall be the duty of the Commission—

(a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;

(b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;

(c) to advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;

(d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

(e) to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and

(f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

(6) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the

Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(7) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(8) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (5), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:—

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;

(e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and

(f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.

(9) The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting socially and educationally backward classes.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister to move further amendment regarding change of year.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam Speaker, I beg to move:-

(iii) The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha and returned by the Rajya Sabha, further amending the Constitution of India, shall be amended as follows:-

Clause 1 Short title and commencement

in page 1, line 4,-

in place of "2017"

"2018" to be substituted.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premachandran – Not present.

Now, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab to move his amendment no. 3 to the alternate amendment moved by the hon. Minister.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Yes. While moving my amendment because last April, when this Bill was moved, there was a full-scale discussion.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you only move the amendment.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Okay. I beg to move:

“That in the amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha, page 1, in the proposed new article

338B, *after* clause (2),- "

insert “Provided that at least one from amongst (3) the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and three other members shall be a woman”.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury – Not present.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I beg to move:

“That in the amendment alternative to the amendment made by Rajya Sabha, page 3, in the proposed new article 338B, *after* clause (9),- ”

insert “Provided that such consideration (5)
shall not be mandatory for a State
Government in respect of policy matters
affecting socially and educationally
backward classes, which are included in
List II-State List of the Seventh Schedule
to the Constitution.”.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister, say something about this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam Speaker, when this Bill was sent to the Rajya Sabha, a resolution was passed to delete Clause III, which contained a provision relating to its composition, specifying the number of members and the type of members.

13.00 hrs

However, it was recommended that it is mandatory to have a female member and a minority member. Such an amendment was introduced, which was not accepted by the Government, so it was decided to delete it through voting. In this regard, we are going with the alternative that we are not making any amendments to clause 3 which was passed by the Lok Sabha, we are making the same provision. Members are nominated on the basis of merit. I had also given an assurance in the Lok Sabha that when the rules will be framed, we will make provision for a female member, and on that basis, the Lok Sabha had approved it, but they did not agree in Rajya Sabha, they recommended that there should be a female member, a provision to this effect should be made in this regard. Similarly, they recommended that there would also be a minority member. When the OBC Commission is constituted, there is a provision to make members from the OBC category only. Both of these points were

rejected in Rajya Sabha. The minority commission is set up separately, the SC commission is made separately, and the ST commission is also made separately, and they are automatically represented in that commission.

Now we have proposed an amendment to clause 5. Earlier, there was a provision that the Commission would only give advice and thereafter submit its report to the Governor. Many Hon. Members in the Lok Sabha raised such matters. In the Rajya Sabha also, it was said that the Governor would ignore the state government, this kind of sentiment is reflected. We have provided an option to replace the term 'Governor' with 'Government,' meaning that the commission will prepare its report based on the government's opinion. This kind of provision has been made in 338 b and 5 c. Similarly, while presenting the amendment, we said that the Commission shall act only as an advisor. This power is not sufficient; we said that where any such report or part relates to a matter relating to the state government, a copy shall be sent to the Governor of the State, which shall be placed before the State assembly, including a memorandum clarifying the action to be taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the state and the reasons for rejection of any such recommendation, if any. A copy of the report shall be sent to the state

government which shall place it before the Legislature of the state including a memorandum clarifying the action to be taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendation relating to the state and the reasons, if any, for the acceptance of any such recommendation. We have made three types of provisions in it, it has been discussed in detail in the Lok Sabha. I would like to request that this be passed.

HON. SPEAKER: The motion moved:

"(i) that the following amendments made by the Rajya Sabha to the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration:-

Clause 3

that pages 2 and 3, clause 3 to be omitted.

(ii) that in the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by the Lok Sabha, amendments made by the Rajya Sabha to pages 2 and 3, clause 3, should be omitted and the following alternative amendments to the amendment made by the Rajya Sabha be substituted :-

that pages 2 and 3, the following be inserted:-

3. After article 338A of the Constitution, the following article shall be inserted, namely:-

“338B. (1) There shall be a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as the National Commission for Backward Classes.

(2) Subject to the provisions of any law made in this behalf by Parliament, the Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members and the conditions of service and tenure of office of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members so appointed shall be such as the President may by rule determine.

(3) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and other Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

(4) The Commission shall have the power to regulate its own procedure.

(5) It shall be the duty of the Commission—

(a) to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the

time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;

(b) to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;

(c) to advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;

(d) to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

(e) to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and

(f) to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

(6) The President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(7) Where any such report, or any part thereof, relates to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, a copy of such report shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(8) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in sub-clause (a) or inquiring into any complaint referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (5), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and in particular in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
 - (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
 - (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
 - (f) any other matter which the President may, by rule, determine.
- (9) The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting socially and educationally backward classes.

(iii) The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha and returned by the Rajya Sabha, further amending the Constitution of India, shall be amended as follows:-

Clause 1

in page 1, line 4,-

"2018" to be substituted for "2017".

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Hon. Speaker, it was already discussed in the House. Today 3rd January is the birth anniversary of the first teacher of the country, Savitri Bai Phule, and on this occasion, we all bow to her. The way the bill has been brought. The Minister has brought the amendment on behalf of the Government. I have been

working as a member of the Standing Committee on Welfare of OBCs for the last three years. Members of the House are in it.

The Standing Committee on OBC gave its recommendations in the House for the last several days. We have met the Hon. Prime Minister twice. The Government has not taken cognizance of what the OBC Standing Committee had put before the Government and the request placed before the Government. We recommended OBC ministry because the country has more than 50 percent population. There has been a demand of the OBC Standing Committee, there has been a unanimous demand that unless a separate ministry is formed for OBCs and a separate budget is given, we cannot really talk about the upliftment of OBCs.

Today there was a discussion in the House about Bhima Koregaon, I would also like to express my dissent about the incident that has happened. Here, the issues that have been raised for the last three years, Hon. Minister, has been giving very good replies, but there are very few facts in them. How the facts are missing, like the way the OBC scholarship of postgraduate and graduate students was reduced in the last three years, it was never reduced before. It is requested that the amount of scholarship may kindly be increased and not decreased. There is a scholarship of Rs. 25 in the school for OBC

children. If there is a scholarship of Rs. 25 then what will they do with such a meagre amount? Which book or pen can they buy? You are bringing this bill, which we will definitely get support; however, the Government is only making rhetoric about the upliftment of OBCs, it is not being implemented in the true sense. The Government is giving an assurance of setting up a commission, it is quite praiseworthy, the OBC committee has been insisting it for so many years. Why is it taking three years to pass this bill? That's also a question. The Government has not been able to act as seriously as it should have.

We had said last time also, the OBC committee had clearly said last time that the income limit of OBC inclusion should be increased. Our unanimous recommendation was that unless the income limit is increased, the OBCs cannot get justice in the true sense. The Government is doing nothing in this regard. I request the Government through you that it needs to ponder over it.

Now, the Hon. Minister has given a very good argument that there is a minority commission, so there will be no minority member; there is a SC commission, so there will be no SC member. Similarly, there is a women's commission, will there not be female members? Female members have to be included; they comprise 50 percent of the

population. I do not understand the logic behind why you do not want to represent 50 percent of the population.

I had humbly given the amendment last time, he said that the Government would think about it positively, so we had withdrawn. Shri Venugopal and I had moved the amendment. I do not understand if Rajya Sabha has accepted this amendment that provision should be made for a woman member, then why justice is not being done to 50 percent of women? He is saying that they want to bring a rule. Why do they want to bring it under a rule? Why don't they want to make a provision in the Act? That's the question. If any good suggestion has come here from the opposition or someone else, then it should be accepted. A woman member should be added to it; if this amendment is of Rajya Sabha, then accept it. There is no need to make it a prestige issue. On one hand they give the rhetoric of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao," "Women Empowerment," on the other hand they are not making provision for women in the Act. I don't understand the logic in this. Whatever they say will not become law just like that. If there is a good suggestion from our side, then accept it, this is my point.

On April 6, 2017 I made these suggestions, the Hon. Minister said that he would incorporate it in the rule. I want to give an example here, during discussion on the Mental Health Care Bill I gave certain

suggestions, the Hon. Minister replied that he would include them in the rules, but nothing has been added to the rules. The rules were made and the amendment that I had proposed was not accepted by the Government. Please don't do that, take from us whatever is good.

The discussions took place here, the amendment was passed in the Rajya Sabha, but the Government is not willing to accept those recommendations. If 50 percent of the country's population is from OBC, then the NCBC commission may have seven members, eight members, or even ten members instead of five. Then I do not understand what is the problem of the Government.

If there are more members, there will be more representation. If there is more representation, then everyone will get a chance there in the true sense. Therefore, I request the Government that the population has increased. It is being said here that there is commission on SCs and STs, so we want to set up OBC commission, what is the logic in this statement.

Madam Speaker, I want to say through you that there is a need to increase the membership. If the Government is in the process of appointing the members by increasing the membership, then it will also have to make some rules regarding their removal. The Government may reward the members who are doing good work,

those who are performing well, and even the Chairman who is doing good work. But if no one is working, then the Government should think about it. The Government did not pay heed to the recommendations of the OBC committee. Again, I want to bring this matter before the Government through you, that we must talk about this commission. Though, renaming of the commission was also discussed in the Rajya Sabha. We also want clarification from the Government on this matter that what is the problem if we talk about educationally and other backward classes?

Hon. Speaker, I will not take much time, but the Government is not paying attention to the interests of OBCs as it should be. On Savitribhai Phule's birthday, it is doing injustice to women. It is not appropriate. So, I request the Government to pay more attention to the OBCs. That's my humble request here.

Hon. Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on a very important Bill. This is a historic moment in the history of independent country, which has been in demand for a long time. The backward class population in the country is more than 52 percent, but till now this class was not getting justice. A commission was formed in this regard, but the commission had no authority. Many political parties in the country kept raising the demand that the Backward Classes Commission should be given constitutional status, but till date no one has thought about it. I would like to thank the Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi. He decided in his cabinet that the way the SC Commission, Minorities Commission, and ST Commission have been empowered, in the same way the Backward Classes Commission should also get constitutional rights ...(*Interruptions*). Backward Classes are not even mentioned in the Constitution, but the Prime Minister directed the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to make 123rd amendment in it. The Bill was then introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 10 and had a lengthy debate on why the Commission should be accorded constitutional status, and on the basis of that, the House passed it with full majority. But in the Rajya Sabha, an attempt was made to delay the bill again. There was a debate in the Rajya Sabha

and amendments were brought in the debate. After the amendments, it was stated that the Bill was first referred to a Select Committee. The bill went to a select committee. The Select Committee sent its recommendations, after which it was passed by the Rajya Sabha. The amendment that has been made in it is not a very significant one, despite this, it was the desire of the Congress to stop it, to delay it. This attempt was made. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for making some more amendments in the Bill to fulfil the promise made by him. The Hon. Minister has reintroduced this Bill here. At first, I would like to thank them very much. Just now Shri Rajeev Satav was saying that today is Women's Day. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Today is not Women's Day but Smt. Savitri Bai Phule's birth anniversary.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: He was saying that today is the birth anniversary of Smt. Savitri Bai Phule.

In honour of the womenfolk, provision should be made for female membership. I want to tell them that the Hon. Minister has clearly stated that female members will also be appointed in it, and provisions for this will be made in the rules that will be formulated because their population is 50 percent. As far as minorities are concerned, the list

of backward classes consists of several communities and religions; there are also people of Muslim community. Whoever comes in the backward class will definitely have the right to be appointed as a member. No separate provision is required for this. I want to clearly state which political party is concerned for the interests of this class. The Bhartiya Janata Party Government has proved that it will not tolerate injustice being done to the backward people and will continue to give them full rights, and progressive work has been done in this direction. I would like to submit that the amendments made to it had some justification, otherwise, the Commission would have been constituted by now. The Hon. Prime Minister has stated that even among the backwards, those who are the most backward should be given their rights. Therefore, they have formed a committee that is going all over the country to study and identify the people to whom the benefit of reservation has not accrued or are not getting justice, and after the submission of the report of that committee, a separate provision will be ensured for them. This Commission is entitled to constitutional powers. No one listened either to the grievances of the employees of the backward classes working in various organizations or registered them. The SC Commission had jurisdiction, but the SC Commission always says that they lack resources, so they cannot

listen to their grievances. There were thousands of such complaints. Please look at the condition of those employees in all departments where not even their nodal officers have been appointed and their complaints are not being addressed. There were many such problems. Where will they go? There was complete disappointment. Look at the schools and colleges today, reservation is not being fully followed there. There has been improvement in the appointment of professors in many central universities to a certain level, but the reservation policy has not been complied with after that level. It was not complied with even at AIIMS, Patna. Wherever AIIMS has been opened, there should also be provisions for reservation, but that's not the case. I have also seen many such institutions in the state governments where the backward class children are not getting their right to 27 percent reservation in admission. After all, where do they go? Those who fall in the merit category are put in the OBC category, whereas they have the right to go to the general category many times in the merit category even if they are OBC. Who will address all such complaints? Today, in the whole country, ever since the Hon. Prime Minister expressed his intention of awarding constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, it has been a topic of discussion all around. I went to many states of South India, major delegations

used to visit and say that it was really needed. Who is fulfilling that need? Today, our Government is fulfilling it. A hope has been generated in the people, trust and confidence has been generated that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi supports all sections. As he has said - 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' literally he is not discriminating against anyone. I have seen such a Prime Minister for the first time in this country. He has been fulfilling the commitments he has made since the first day. The triple talaq case has come up. Shouldn't triple talaq be made illegal? When the Supreme Court gave an order, our Government presented it as a bill. It was definitely his right. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment always strives to ensure that everyone gets social justice. I had sent the recommendation to the ministry on the basis of the committee's report.

In that recommendation, I said that the scholarship given to the backward class children is quite meagre. The considerable amount used to go towards the children of the Scheduled Caste category. Because there was no classification. I have no objection to the SC students. It's good, they should get more. But there should be a separate arrangement of funds for OBC children. When we said that, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister and the Ministry of Social

Justice because they have arranged for it this time. This time he has also made arrangements for them. I want to tell you all that this bill is really very important.

At first, the Mandal Commission was formed; the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was formed; and after that, many states formed commissions. All of them had said in their recommendations that justice should be given to this class. This class is entitled to justice. It is a socially and economically backward society. The census was released in 2011. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that when the census was conducted in 2011, it was first conducted in 1931. And then it happened in 2001. This was followed by 2011. When the enumeration started in 2011, the senior Member Hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was sitting in this House, and there were more members in it. The issue was raised in the House at that time. Hon. Ram Vilas Paswan is also there, and everyone had said that the census being conducted should also include a census of the backward classes, and it should be declared. Hon. Pranab Mukherjee was the Leader of the House at that time. He acknowledged this and issued instructions too. As far as I know, the census was not disclosed, and the committee that was formed for the survey, those who got the authority, have given

their recommendation to the Ministry of Social Justice that they can issue it.

Today, in this House, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to declare this census as soon as possible, make it public, and publish it so that justice can be provided to the backward class people. There is a need today for pass-out students from the colleges and universities in this country. When they sit for I.A.S. and I.P.S. exams or other services exams, I see that they are restricted to the category of creamy layer. The situation of the creamy layer is such that if the creamy layer remains, then he will not be appointed, just like in the case of Indira Sawhney, where the Supreme Court had only indicated that the government can put economic grounds in it if it wants. It is true that those who got one chance in reservation should not get it again and again. But if there is a Class IV peon, then he will start receiving the benefits of Seventh pay commission, and if under the seventh pay commission, his salary, along with his agricultural income, is added to his earnings, the peon's child can never become an I.A.S. officer. That is why an issue like creamy layer should be removed.

The committee formed by the Hon. Prime Minister to identify the backward class of OBCs which has not been benefited yet will be identified by that committee. That is correct. Those who have got the

opportunity of reservation once, they should not get it again and again. When we are doing something I suggest that the creamy layer should be removed. Removing the creamy layer should be on a social and educational basis, but it should be seen that the one who has got the opportunity once does not require it again.

I'm an MP. I don't need reservation. And my kids don't need it. However, for those who have not had the opportunity, if someone belongs to my community, is of the Yadav community, or belongs to any other community, it's fine; they can progress in the political field or even in the service class. He may also be strong on economic grounds, but if he never gets a chance for reservation, then he can never take advantage of it in life by staying within the limits of the creamy layer. This is not justice. It should be brought under the category of social justice. If he does not get a chance once, he definitely has the right to get a chance, no matter who he is.

Today, there is a need to consider the reservation system on the basis of population as well. There are many brothers and sisters in the SC and ST category, who should get full rights.

I went to Tamil Nadu recently. There are many sections of people in Tamil Nadu who want to be included in OBC category, people from Andhra Pradesh want to be included in OBC category, people from

Uttar Pradesh want to be included in OBC category, people from Rajasthan want to be included in OBC category, people from Madhya Pradesh want to be included in OBC category, and people from other places want to be included in OBC category too. When this commission will be constituted, they are definitely going to get the right to consider these issues. After consideration, if it is the subject of the state government, they will send it to the state government, if it is related to the Centre, they will send it to the Parliament. Here they will have the authority to add and remove them.

This is definitely a very important bill. I wholeheartedly welcome this bill and urge all the Hon. Members of the House and all the political parties to extend their full cooperation for the backward classes.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan Banerjee.

I am not stopping anyone, but my only request is that when this bill has been fully discussed, if you remain confined to the amendment, our work will be done soon.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Madam, the Chief Whip of the BJP came to us and said that it should not take much time and that we will complete it quickly. But now I find that they have changed their stand as their speaker has spoken for 30 minutes. Nobody is opposing the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: I am not objecting you also. I am saying that it is only an amendment.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Now this amendment has been brought to the Bill. I had also objected to it earlier. You do not claim that these facilities are being given to the OBCs by the present Government. There was almost a revolution in the country. The Mandal Commission was implemented. The matter was referred to the Supreme Court of India under article 143. The Supreme Court of India had passed the order. So neither it has been done by Modi Ji nor any other Ji. *[Translation]* This has not been done by any Hon. Member, it has been done by the Hon. Supreme Court. *[English]* So you do not claim that you have done this.... *(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* Where have you been for ten years?*[Interruptions]* What has happened in the last ten years, what do you know?...*[Interruptions]*

HON. SPEAKER: There will be no discussion while sitting.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: You do not claim credit for something which you have not done. So as far as OBCs are concerned, the beginning point is the judgment of the Supreme Court. A Constitution Amendment was brought in the month of April 2017. The OBC Commission wanted to have constitutional status and nothing more than that. We had agreed to it that it should be given constitutional status. At that time also I participated in the discussion on that amendment. At that time also I asked as to why the report should be sent to the Governor. I had said that it should be sent to the State Government. Now good sense has prevailed on the Government and they have come up with this amendment. At that time, they did not like it but good sense has prevailed now that the report should be placed before the State Government and the State Government will forward it to the State Legislature. That was our demand. [*Translation*] You people did not think, we thought, and later it came to your mind that this should be done. You didn't think that way. [*English*] So many tall claims are being made.

The Sachar Committee had pointed out that there are OBCs in the Muslim community also and they too have to be included.

[Translation] Modi ji didn't bring it, you didn't bring it, *[English]* It was pointed out first by the Sachar Committee. You must tell the truth. The nation should know. ... *(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* You may shout.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have high decibels, but don't do it repeatedly.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: The Sachar Committee report speaks about earmarking OBCs of the Muslim community also.

In 2011, when our Party came to power, hon. Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, started the process of identification of OBCs among Muslims. It has been done in 2011 itself and not in 2014. It was done long before 2014 when the Prime Minister had seen the dream, the dream itself got fulfilled in West Bengal. Long back, it had been done. Therefore, do not make tall claims. If you want to give an election speech, go there and do it.

You have faced the situation in Gujarat. What have you done there in the case of OBCs? Why are the OBCs now fighting against you in Gujarat? They are vociferous against you in Gujarat and the result has

shown on how you have gone down there. It is because you have not accommodated the OBCs in Gujarat. This is the reality.

Madam, I want to point out one thing. The Commission will make the investigation – the hon. Minister is here – under article 338(5) of the Constitution. The provisions are made to investigate and monitor. There, you have not given any scope for the State Governments to speak or press the case of the State Governments. The State Government represents its own people. They understand and they know as to who will be categorized as OBCs. That opinion should be given by the State Governments. There is no scope at all in the amendment to call for the opinion of the State Governments for consideration of the National Commission.

Under Clause 7, when the Report is placed before the State Government, the State Government will place it before the respective Legislature. Acceptance and non-acceptance will be given by them. What would be the effect of it? If the State Government is not agreeing to it, what is the scope of it? Where will the State Government raise their objection? You have not made any provision for it in the amendment.

Now, there is a contra-provision. There is no scope under this Constitution Amendment at any stage for the State Government to

place its view before the Commission but you have made a provision under clause 9 that the Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes. When you are thinking about OBCs, you are not taking the views of the State Governments but you are telling that the State Governments have to take decisions in consultation with the National Commission. This is a contradiction. And you are talking about cooperative federalism! Is this an illustration of cooperative federalism? Rather, it hits cooperative federalism itself. You have to take every party into confidence. Every State should be consulted. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Hon. Speaker, Kalyan Banerjee is misreporting.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Where is the provision? Do not say like this. Let the hon. Minister give the reply on this point. Where is the clause for this in the Bill? ... (*Interruptions*) You cannot prevent the Opposition speak. You cannot prevent the Opposition view. You have to take note of the view of the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*) You cannot shout in this way. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, what is happening here? Madam, kindly tell me as to why he is disturbing me. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Only Shri Kalyan Banerjee's statement will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: He is a Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

Is this the way the Minister would speak in the House?

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Kalyan Banerjee's speech.

... (*Interruptions*) *

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: I am very sorry. ... (*Interruptions*)

See the body language of the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) This is the body language of the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) I am very sorry.

HON. SPEAKER: Only Shri Kalyan Banerjee's speech will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: I have not said that. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You can make your point when your turn comes.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

* Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan Banerjee, please conclude.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: How can I speak if the Minister intervenes in this way? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair, looking at this side. Every Member should not speak up.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): You are misinforming the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: We have not said anything wrong. You said the wrong thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't fight among yourselves.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Ganesh Singh ji, please be seated.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Madam, see how the Opposition is being threatened. ... (*Interruptions*) This is not the way. ... (*Interruptions*) A Minister cannot behave in this way. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Thursday, the 4th January, 2018 at 11 a.m.

13.38 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, January 4, 2018/Pausha 14, 1939 (Saka).

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