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Thursday, March 30, 2017  
Chaitra 09, 1939 (Saka)

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(English Version)**

**Eleventh Session**  
**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. II Contains Nos. 21 to 30)*

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**NEW DELHI**

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## **CONTENTS**

**Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXIV, Eleventh Session, 2017/1939 (Saka)**

**No. 22, Thursday, March 30, 2017/Chaitra 09, 1939 (Saka)**

### **SUBJECT**

### **PAGES**

#### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

16-60

\*Starred Question Nos. 401 to 406

#### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

61

Starred Question Nos. 407 to 420

Unstarred Question Nos. 4601 to 4830

---

\* 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** 62-77

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER** 78

Status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the 228<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping

**Shri Pon Radhakrishnan** 78

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 148 DATED 02  
FEBRUARY, 2017 REGARDING  
CONNECTIVITY OF TOURIST CENTRE** 79-85

**SUBMISSION BY MEMBER** 85-99

Re: Failure of the Government to address agrarian distress leading to alarming increase in farmer suicide

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

100-142

- (i) Need to probe the issue of alleged overpayment to a company entrusted with the task of construction of fourlane road from Baghpat to Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh

Shri Raghav Lakhanpal

101-102

- (ii) Need to set up sugar, timber and food processing industries in Balrampur and Shrawasti districts of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Daddan Mishra

103-104

- (iii) Need to release balance fund to Government of Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete

105-106

- (iv) Need to expand the airport at Buxar in Bihar and also set up a new international airport at

Buxar

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey 107-108

- (v) Need to permit Ayush doctors to practice Allopathy after one-year certificate course in Allopathy

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil 109

- (vi) Need to conduct skill development programmes and set up small scale industries in hill states

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank 110-111

- (vii) Regarding setting up of AIIMS at Deoghar, Jharkhand

Shri Nishikant Dubey 112-113

- (viii) Need to create a new State of Poorvanchal

Shri Chhedi Paswan 114-115

- (ix) Regarding polluted water bodies in Begusarai district, Bihar

Dr. Bhola Singh

116-117

- (x) Need to improve the service condition of Aanganwadi workers in the country

Shri Nana Patole

118-119

- (xi) Need to provide environmental clearance for construction of Memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Arabian Sea in Mumbai, Maharashtra

Shri Gopal Shetty

120

- (xii) Need to provide environmental clearance for construction of road from Maharajpur to Tendukhera in Madhya Pradesh

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

121

- (xiii) Need to ensure free admission of children belonging to economically weaker sections in private schools in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bundelkhand region

Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma 122

- (xiv) Need to ban cow slaughter in the country

Dr. Virendra Kumar 123-124

- (xv) Need to extend Bundelkhand region like benefits to areas along river Yamuna in Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Devendra Singh Bhole 125-126

- (xvi) Regarding pending railway projects in Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka

Shri D. K. Suresh 127



- (xvii) Need to set up a CGHS Wellness Centre in Calicut district of Kerala

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran 128-129

- (xviii) Need to rename the Central University of Kerala after Sree Narayan Guru, a great social reformer

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh 130

- (xix) Need to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in Salem and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu

Dr. K. Kamaraj 131-132

- (xx) Need to develop and upgrade Royapuram railway station, Tamil Nadu as a railway terminus

Shri T.G. Vankatesh Babu 133-134

- (xxi) Need to curb the increasing air pollution in the

cities

Prof. Saugata Roy 135

- (xxii) Need to build a flyover at level crossing between Adra and Joychandi pahar in Purulia district of West Bengal

Dr. Mriganka Mahato 136

- (xxiii) Need to establish a Venom Research Institute and Snake Park in Ramsai, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal

Shri Bijoy Chandra Barman 137-138

- (xxiv) Need to set up a Super Speciality hospital at Paradip in Odisha

Dr. Kulmani Samal 139-140

- (xxv) Need to provide clean drinking water in villages in Buldhana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

Shri Prataprao Jadhav 141

(xxvi) Need to handover the land occupied by Indian Rare Earths Ltd. for mining beach sand mineral to the land owners in Kollam district of Kerala

Shri N. K. Premachandran 142

**FINANCE BILL, 2017** 143-218

**(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)** 143

Motion to Consider 144-147

Shri Deepender Singh Hooda 148-159

Dr. Kirit Somaiya 160-165

Prof. Saugata Roy 165-171

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab 172-179

Shri Jayadev Galla 180-182

Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy 183-184

Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan 185-186

Shri N.K. Premachandran 186-191

Shri Anandrao Adsul 192-193

Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy	193-194
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	195-197
Shri Arun Jaitley	197-201
Amendments – Rejected	202-218

<b>DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193</b>	219-322
----------------------------------	---------

<b>Sustainable Development Goals - Way forward for Health and Well-Being for All</b>	219-224
--	---------

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	224-253
Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	254-270
Prof. Saugata Roy	270-285
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	286-322

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, March 30, 2017/Chaitra 09, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA):** Madam, it is a very important issue.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will allow you after the Question Hour, not now. Please take your seat.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will allow you after the Question Hour, not now. Please take your seat.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**11.02 hours**

## **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Question No. 401. Shri Rajesh Kumar Diwakar.

**(Q. No. 401)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak .

Madam, I am impressed by the answers given by the Minister. They reflect far-reaching results. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister through you that when the government starts the process of allocating coal blocks, the technical committee is formed at that time , on what basis is it formed and the details of the increase in percentage that is taking place under the block allocation process as compared to earlier?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** I would like to inform the Hon'ble MP that the Technical Committee is made up of technical experts. Collaboration is sought from various types of departments for the same. For example, there is steel, cement, or other departments where



coal is used. Officials from various departments also take part in the committee meeting and determine which block will be allocated for which end-use. This technical committee decides through a well-defined process where each block will be allocated. After conducting the auction process, there have been two outcomes. Firstly, due to increased transparency, new investors have become interested in entering this field. We have also increased the production of old Coal India in a big way, due to which the production of coal has also increased a lot. Today the problem has become that coal is not sold as much as we want to sell. Coal stocks have increased and we hope that we will be able to reduce the import of coal in future.

**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR:** Madam, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether after allocation of coal block the company protects the employees on all parameters. Sometimes it is seen that there is no guarantee of the safety of the employees. What effective steps are being taken to address this?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, the safety of employees is the priority of this government and there is a legal provision for the legal workers of coal mines to ensure their security as well as to take care of their safety. All their various benefits are well-defined. As far as

private mines are concerned, they are also included in it, private mines are included in the committee on safety, and when the mine is auctioned, a coal mines development and production agreement is formulated, this provision was not there earlier, the new government has started it. On the basis of CMDPA, provisions have been made in it that coal workers should be protected and their employment should also be protected.

*[English]*

**SHRI BIJOY CHANDRA BARMAN:** I would like to draw your attention to two issues. How many open cast projects have been outsourced by ECL in the last three years and whether the target of production has been achieved in those OCPs?

How many projects in coal mines are running behind their target production in the country?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no shortage of coal today. So, obviously every company is performing quite well and we are producing more than the demand for coal. Coal stocks are going up.

As regards the specific MDO contract in ECL, which he has referred to, I would provide the information to the hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:** Hon. Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the Hon. Minister and express my gratitude to him that he deserves to be congratulated for the transparency and rationalisation that you have brought in his plan, which is the coal policy of the government, but I would like to ask the hon . Minister that during the time of previous governments, earlier captive blocks and methane blocks were allocated, on which no work was done for 10-12 years.

I would like to ask the Minister through you that in the new policy, he has implemented completely transparent system, rationalization has been done and it has also been beneficial. I want to know that by reviewing the past mistakes which have caused losses, will he again work to rectify them under this scheme?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, there is no benefit in going back to the past issues time and again , we should look ahead now, but in the future we will allocate all the coal mines to the private sector through auction and maintain transparency in the process .In the government sector, sometimes mine is allocated to fertilizer company, any power company, which is under the government, state

government or union government, we definitely allocate it through direct allotment.

As far as coal bed methane is concerned, perhaps a project has been started so far, other projects have also come up, new technology should be used in them, for that we are constantly in discussion and any mine which will be found technically viable for CBM, we will also auction it and allot it further.

(Q. 402)

*[English]*

**SHRI Y. S. AVINASH REDDY:** Madam, thanks for this opportunity.

In order to resolve the Krishna Water disputes, the Union government has introduced the Bachawat Tribunal in 1969 and the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal in 2004 in accordance with the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956. Madam, both these tribunals, while sharing water to different projects in different riparian States, have allotted assured water to only then existing projects and only focused on existing ayacut protection. Both these tribunals have completely ignored ongoing projects in the lowest rainfall districts or drought-affected districts like Rayalaseema, Prakasam, and Nellore etc, where getting drinking water itself is a very big challenge. We cannot blame these tribunals for this mistake. It is because the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act itself talks about sharing of water to different projects in different States but, it does not take drought-affected or lowest rainfall areas into consideration.

Madam, the situation in our Rayalaseema, Nellore and Prakasam districts is very alarming. Thousands of villages and towns do not have proper drinking water. The lives of our farmers are also

miserable. The outcome of the crops, sown by the farmers, is entirely dependent on the rainfall. Rainfall is very low there. So, over the last several years there has been a demand from our farmers to allocate assured waters to the projects like GNSS, HNSS and Veligonda, and also provide drinking water for these severely drought-affected districts and ID crop for the livelihood of farmers.

Madam, the Union government can give special endorsement to the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal. This is possible. If giving special endorsement to the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal to this effect is legally not possible, then the Government must issue an Ordinance to that effect to consider water allocation to these drought-affected areas and to protect the very primary right of these people, that is, 'Right to Live'. My question is this. Is the Government prepared to give such special endorsement to Brijesh Kumar Tribunal before the official Gazette notification is issued by the Government of India?

*[Translation]*

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam, the first Tribunal award came in the year 1976, on the basis of which this water distribution took place. After that the second award, the Brijesh which is being talked about, the interim order was passed on 30-12-2010, on which the Andhra Pradesh government took a stay. After that, the distribution is

still going on, on the basis of the first award. If within the state, the decision on which district should get water and which district should not, the union government has recently instructed the tribunal that it should be decided soon, because the Supreme Court had ordered that the government should first talk to both the parties, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Apex Committee meeting was held in the 11th month of last year. When the two governments could not find a solution, we have again referred it to the tribunal and the tribunal has been instructed to act on it at the earliest. It is the responsibility of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments to determine their priorities regarding which district should receive water and which project's water should be provided.

*[English]*

**SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:** My second question is this.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, only ask the question. The Minister knows the things.

**SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:** During 1970s, when the Bachavat Tribunal awarded allotments, the calculation that was taken into consideration was that one TMC of water is used to irrigate 6500 acres of land. But, with new technologies coming into place like sprinkler, drip irrigation, etc. and with new seed technology also

coming into place, the crop duration has come down, and with one TMC of water today, we can irrigate 10,000 to 11,000 acres of paddy. If it is ID crop (Irrigated Dry Crop), we can irrigate nearly 15,000 to 16,000 acres of land.

So, keeping this in view, will the Government of India give a special endorsement to the present Brijesh Kumar Tribunal to study on this and to redistribute the Krishna Water by adding new projects and by allocating assured waters to these projects in these drought-affected districts?

*[Translation]*

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam, 800 TMC water has been distributed in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, 299 TMC in Telangana and 500 TMC in Andhra Pradesh. Along with this, separate instructions have been given for minor irrigation projects. Wherever the union government is helping in new projects, and we have specifically said that minor irrigation should be promoted.

*[English]*

**SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:** Madam, in part (c) of the question, it was asked whether Telangana has raised certain objections and made complaints to the Government over the issue and if so, the details



thereof. The hon. Minister has replied that no such objection or complaint has been received regarding the functioning of KRMB. However, certain issues have been raised by Telangana State over some matters.

Madam, after the formation of the State of Telangana, within a month, the new State Government of Telangana had filed a petition before the Government of India under Section 3 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. We had requested the Government of India to refer our complaint to the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal-II headed by Justice Brijesh Mishra.

Madam, till now the Government has not taken any steps to refer that petition. Moreover, the Minister of Law had endorsed that it should be referred to the Tribunal. I would like to know from the Government whether they are going to refer it to the Tribunal. In the undivided State of Andhra Pradesh, the people of Telangana fought for their due share of Krishna river.

Madam, they have their own rivers called Pennar and Krishna, which have its own territorial jurisdiction where the water should be given. But because of various pressures from the other parts of the then Andhra Pradesh, water which was to be allocated to Telangana has not been allocated to it.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You ask the question.

**SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:** So, this has to be re-visited. The water of Krishna should be shared among Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. So, this should be referred once again to the new Tribunal... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do not quarrel like this. Otherwise, the river may change its course.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record. This is not proper. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)* ... \*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam, the question now is about the partition of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and not other states. A meeting of the Apex Committee was held on 21-09-2016 under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Minister, in which the Chief Ministers of

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\* Not recorded.

both the states were present to look into objection that was raised. Bajaj Committee was constituted on 09-01-2017 when consensus could not be reached. The committee was given three months time to submit its report on how water distribution should be done.

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Madam, let me ask a question related to this.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do not quarrel over rivers.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Madam, I would like to ask the Minister that it has already been listed in a Bill, it has been listed in Inter State Water Disputes and within that hon. Minister has written that all the tribunals which are on each river, Krishna river, Tungabhadra river, rejecting all these, hon. Minister will form a new Tribunal and appoint Members in the same. Are you going to take up this dispute inside it and solve it from there or solve it with the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal itself?... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** There is a preparation to constitute a tribunal and the rest of the tribunals will act as benches of a main tribunal. A tribunal of the entire country should be set up and as

separate benches, smaller tribunals will act as benches of a main tribunal.... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Don't argue too much over this. If you quarrel too much, rivers like Saraswati might disappear.

(Q. 403)

**[English]**

**SHRI B.V. NAIK:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, according to news report of *The Statesman*, dated 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 under the heading “Government to modernize all power plants” it has been mentioned that “in its aim to provide 24x7 supply of electricity the Centre plans to modernize all power plants in the country to increase their capacity as well as reduce pollution levels”.

I would like to mention the pathetic condition of the people of my Raichur Parliamentary Constituency in Karnataka. In Raichur, there are two thermal power stations – (i) Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS); (ii) Yeramarus Thermal Power Station. The RTPS is producing 1720 MW of power and YTPS is likely to produce 1600 MW of power which is a super critical thermal power station. Both are situated near Raichur. RTPS plant is an old one which was established some 25 years back.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please ask your question.

**SHRI B.V. NAIK:** RTPS is a very old unit and causing a lot of pollution. Modernisation of this plant is expensive for the State Government. Even though the power station is meant to supply power to all the districts of the State, the people of Raichur is facing

high level pollution. The people of this area are facing a lot of health related problems due to this high level pollution.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do you have any question to ask?

**SHRI B.V. NAIK:** Keeping in view the above, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will ensure that modernisation of RTPS would take place immediately.

My second question is this. I would like to know whether the Union government would provide financial assistance to the State in this regard or not.

**HON. SPEAKER:** If you do like this, then I will go to the next Question. This is not the way.

Mr. Minister, if you answer it in a minute, then you will accept it.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** It is a very good question. This Government has appreciated the serious concerns that the local people face when there is a thermal plant, especially when these plants which are 25 years old create pollution levels which are far more than the modern super critical plants. In the earlier days, when a plant became 25 years old, there was a system of modernizing those plants and expanding its life from 25 years to maybe 35 to 40

years. But in the process, the pollution levels were not reducing. It was only extending its useful life. Pollution continued to be there. This Government has taken a decision that we should not encourage any more of R&NM of these old plants. NTPC, which is a central utility, has taken a decision to replace 11000 MW of such 25 years old plants. State Governments also have been advised that wherever their plants have become more than 25 years old, instead of modernizing them, they should replace them with modern super critical 600 MW or 800 MW plants which will not only increase the capacity to serve the people, but also will reduce pollution level.

**SHRI B.V. NAIK:** Madam, the Government of India has launched a scheme by providing support from Power System Development Fund (PSDF) for operationalization of stranded gas based generation.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Just put the question.

**SHRI B.V. NAIK:** The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has identified Sharavathy Hydro Project for capacity enhancement from 700 MW to 1000 MW; and Varahi Hydro project with a capacity of about 700 MW. The preliminary estimated cost for implementation of the Sharavathy project is about Rs. 4,000 crore and for the Varahi project it is about Rs. 2,800 crore. The State Government requires

funds from the Union government for implementation of these two projects. I would like to know whether the Union government would give support from PSDF to the State of Karnataka.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam Speaker, PSDF is a fund which helps to strengthen the power system. So far, there is no proposal that the hydro projects should also be covered under PSDF.

As regards these two particular projects that the hon. Member is referring to, they are free to approach the financial institutions like REC, PFC for financial assistance. The Government is also very keen to promote more hydro capacity and I am sure if the projects are viable and State Government is willing to buy that power, there shall be no problem in financing any project. We are looking to encourage the hydro sector. Several ideas are under consideration of the Government to bring down the cost of hydro power generation, particularly amortizing depreciation over a much longer period, allowing financing for a much longer period than the traditional 12 or 15 years.

Also, we are looking at escalating tariffs. Rather than front ending the entire cost of hydro projects, we are looking at a gradual escalation so that we can back end some of the costs and make hydro



power more viable in the current scenario where we are trying to keep affordability of power as the central theme of all our projects.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Madam, it is reported that amendments have been proposed to the Mega Power Policy in order to push around 31 gigawatt stuck projects entailing an investment of Rs.1.5 lakh crore.

Is it correct that the Government is contemplating a change in the Mega Power Policy to help the ailing thermal power plants, may be because of age or any other technological problem, to improve its capacity?

As far as Karnataka is concerned, he has detailed out many projects. He is doing an excellent job. In spite of that, many of the State Government-owned projects are going out of schedule or going beyond schedule. What is the reason for it?

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas invested more than Rs. 6000 crore as far as gas pipeline is concerned, KPTCL was in agreement with GAIL India Limited to start a gas-based power project in Bidadi of Karnataka but they are now going back. That Rs. 6000 crore of money is going to be wasted.

Is the hon. Minister going to have a talk with the Government of Karnataka and convince them to start that project so that the

investment that is made by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will not go waste?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam Speaker, I am delighted to inform the House and the people of Karnataka through you that despite the fall in hydro power in the last two years, it has come down to almost to half of what it was three years ago, and we have been able to supply sufficient power to the people of Karnataka. In fact, in the last three years, because of the major thrust given to transmission capacity, we have been able to give special allocation of additional Central sector power to Karnataka to overcome these shortages.

I am happy to share with the hon. Members that as against significant power shortage that existed before this Government at the Centre came in, today the power shortage in Karnataka, despite hydro falling to half, is less than one per cent. It is probably about 0.6 per cent.

Having said that, we are also looking at Ultra Power Projects, which is a new regime and a new framework where there will be more bidders. In the last framework, almost all the bidders had dropped out and the bidding documents were found to be not bankable, as discussions with the bankers explained to us.

Therefore, we are looking at revising the UMPP documents but we are not doing it in a hurry. As I have given in the written reply, there is almost 68,000 plus MW of thermal power projects which are in the pipeline. We have already added about 50,000 MW of conventional capacity in the last two and a half years. A lot of it is not getting enough supply or sale because the installed capacity base is increasing faster than the demand. At some point of time, I think, wrong calculations or planning was done and too much capacity has been expanded even beyond what the nation requires.

Even the gas based plants that you are referring to, to my mind, is not viable. India's own domestic gas production started falling around four to five years back and today, it is at abysmally low level that we will not be able to feed even the existing plants.

Therefore, I would recommend that the Karnataka Government should not invest any further in a gas based plant. Rather, they may use that money to give piped gas connections to the people of Karnataka using that pipeline to get benefits.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:** Madam, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards the under construction hydro-electric project. Koyna hydroelectric project is the

oldest and largest power generation project in Maharashtra. The project of generating electricity in its next phase is pending since last several years.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister the reason for the next phase not being started yet. There are many leakages in Koyna Dam. Due to leakages, it is becoming very difficult to keep water, so there is also a need to repair the Koyna Dam. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the work of generating hydro-electricity from Koyna Dam will be started on time?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam Speaker, as far as the question of coal being old is concerned, it is true that there are many such hydro projects in the country which were set up many years ago. We have started a technical team of NHPC under the chairmanship of Director (Technical) to study all the old hydro projects and introduce some new technologies. As you mentioned about the leakage, this is correct.

I had gone to Salal. There it was found that the reservoir behind the dam, which was 21 kilometers long, has reduced to only one kilometer today. Desilting work has not been done in the same for the last 40-50 years. Thus, by taking each project, improving it, using new technology, replacing the equipment, we have set a target to

increase the output of existing hydro projects. Today, the cost of setting up new projects is high, there are problems in rehabilitation programs like land acquisition, relief, rehabilitation. If we look at new hydro projects across the country, many hydro projects are stalled due to various reasons like forest clearance, ecological balance, environmental studies etc.

(Q. 404)

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Madam Speaker, I would like your protection. There is a strange perplexity throughout the country. Where on one hand the hon. Minister and this government say that there is a situation of power surplus in the whole country, the reality is something else. The Ministry of Power measures the power surplus based on the demand of the discoms. Even today, there are so many consumers in the whole country who do not get enough electricity. There are 6 crore households across the country, of which 80 per cent are in Bihar, 45 per cent in your and my state Madhya Pradesh, 70 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and 65 per cent in Jharkhand. On one hand, the plant load factor of these plants has fallen by 60 percent, on the other hand, the discom states, which is already reeling under loss, coal which is available in sufficient quantity under UDAY, now the Minister said in reply to another question, even on the basis of that PPA is not being signed today. 'UDAY' which he launched in a state like Jharkhand where the average loss was 90 paise per kilowatt has increased to Rs 2.5 today. Losses have increased in 7 states after launch of 'UDAY'. AT&C

losses, transmission losses which were supposed to decrease by 15 percent have become sixteen and a half percent today. There is an illusion of power surplus in the country, consumers do not get electricity, power cuts are happening, SEB is not signing PPA, coal is being procured in sufficient quantity and our AT&C losses are increasing. How will this Ministry strengthen the country's electricity system and discoms so that consumers get adequate power in our country?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam Speaker, it is very good that the former Minister of Power explained in detail about the work of his own government that despite 50 years of Congress government rule in this country, the condition of the country was so bad that when I became a minister, crores of houses did not have electricity.... *(Interruptions)* There was no electricity supply in thousands of villages.... *(Interruptions)* DISCOMs had an annual loss of Rs.60-65 thousand crores.... *(Interruptions)* There was a very good analysis of the misdeeds of the Congress and their work.... *(Interruptions)* How the Congress deprived the people of electricity for ten years in this country.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Bhuria ji, don't interfere in the disagreement between two youths.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** You spoke correctly about it. It is commendable that you mentioned that the condition of discoms is very bad.... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Please talk about power surplus.... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** I am telling you now. I'll tell you in detail.... (*Interruptions*) You have the protection of the Hon. Speaker.... (*Interruptions*) Will explain to you in detail how a sensitive government works.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Only the Minister's statement will go on record.

...( *Interruptions*)... \*

[*Translation*]

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** When this government took over responsibility, it found... (*Interruptions*)

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\* Not recorded.



**HON. SPEAKER:** Listen to one thing. Understand the question-answer method. Ask questions and listen to the answers. In between, arguments don't look good.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, when actual details come to light, feelings get hurt.... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hit but don't hurt.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Today the situation is that the state which needs electricity in the country has sufficient power available. We have provided information to the entire country through a mobile app. When the DISCOMs were in a huge economic crisis, we announced the UDAY scheme to relieve them from the economic crisis, but this was not done in the UDAY scheme when Vasundhara ji's government came to power in Rajasthan, a loss of Rs 15000 crore per annum was caused by the previous Congress government. The state government took that load upto 75 percent in its Budget, planned it so well that it came down from Rs 15000 crore to Rs 4.5 thousand crores to 5 thousand crores this year, each and every government is doing such a good job. This is also true, when I became a minister, I also got the figures of the year 2011 and got the

census.If I drink water, it causes you a lot of discomfort because you have to listen even more. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Drink water, offer it, do everything, but do it peacefully.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, the public has taught them a lesson , I do not need to offer water or comment in this regard .The public has given them its mandate.When I became minister, thousands of megawatt plants were stranded in various situations, stalled, not functioning properly, not being able to be set up, facing various issues.We have commissioned power plants worth around fifty thousand crore rupees . Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was already there for 32 years before I took charge, earlier it was a department, later it became a ministry, work was going on at a slow pace, solar power capacity was 250 MW which became 10,000 MW on 10th March.The capacity of power generation has increased so much across the country that today if the demand of the country increases by even 50 percent, we have enough capacity and the DISCOMs can buy it and give it to the public.

The new Uttar Pradesh government has decided that crores of people in Uttar Pradesh could not be provided electricity for many years, we will provide electricity to all those houses before the year

2019. The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to improve the electrification infrastructure and infrastructure to provide round the clock ,24-hour, electricity. We have got a situation created due to last 68 years, which we have resolved by providing sufficient amount of electricity to every discom in just three years.

They talked about PPA signing, PPA signing will happen when the entire existing PPA is used. I do not have information about the reasons due to which the previous governments signed so many PPAs, only those state governments will have to answer. There could be some illegal reasons due to which the state governments signed so many PPAs, anything can happen, I don't know why so many PPAs were signed.

Continuation of the practice of paying the fixed cost has resulted in increasing the price of electricity at present. Discom is facing losses because fixed charges have to be paid as PPA has already been signed. States have full freedom to sign PPA for as much electricity as they need. The union government will not force anyone to sign by pressurizing them; it is the independent thinking and decision of the state government.

Today the whole country knows that there is enough electricity, there was a shortage of coal in two-thirds of the thermal power

plants, there were critical stocks. Today there is not a single power plant in the country which has critical stock of coal, all have stock of 20-25 days.

In ten years of PPA 2004 to 2014 CAGR was 6.3 per cent crore, in the first two years 6.6 power demand has increased and will continue to grow. Hon. Member gave the figure of seven crores, today it has come down to 4.7 crores. All the states have given information, if this information is needed then it will also be provided i.e. figures with regard to every state. I understand that the way the State Governments have taken up this electrification responsibly under the supervision of the Union government, the target that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has achieved... *(Interruptions)* It was placed before the country that by the year 2022, when the country will complete 75 years of independence, every household, and every farmer will get as much electricity as they need.

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Madam, I have not yet got the answer as to how they will strengthen the discoms, because till date not every household in the country is getting enough electricity. You can ask the farmer, ask in the rural areas, even today there is a

power supply cut for four to eight hours in every village. ...  
*(Interruptions)* Look at the situation in any state. ... *(Interruptions)*  
 The Minister of Power should kindly visit and see in the villages  
 what the ground reality is ... *(Interruptions)* Let me ask a  
 question. Why are you being so ...\*? Have some patience, listen to the  
 question. Drink some water. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, my question is that in your city Indore...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The state also has a responsibility.

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Today there is talk of uninterrupted power supply in Indore by the government. Power cuts are happening every day there. Madhya Pradesh has a capacity of 17 thousand MW, but there is a demand of 7 thousand MW. Power cuts are still taking place there. He rightly said that in states where PPAs have been signed illegally, like in Madhya Pradesh, PPAs worth Rs 50 thousand crore have been signed with six companies. Three thousand crore rupees are given to those companies every year without procuring power. This was revealed in the C&AG report. I want to know if he will take action against them?

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\* Not recorded.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is yet to notice the reason behind the situation that has arisen. The electrification infrastructure that had to be improved over the years has not been worked out. ... *(Interruptions)* After the year 2014, the way Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is rapidly improving with Integrated Power Development Schemes... *(Interruptions)* Because of that AT&C losses in DISCOM were 25-26 per cent during the time of Congress... *(Interruptions)* Now it has come down to 22-23 percent. ... *(Interruptions)* We have made a plan to bring it down to 15 per cent. ... *(Interruptions)* I understand that Hon. Member has not yet noticed the PPA signing as well. ... *(Interruptions)* According to the way industrialization has happened in some states, those states have signed their PPAs. ... *(Interruptions)* But in a government like Uttar Pradesh, where their work shows a certain picture, where they and their friends worked together, they still tried to sign PPAs even when there was enough electricity. It was good that the elections were declared and it could be stopped. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, it is a state which is providing adequate amount of electricity. ... *(Interruptions)* Providing electricity throughout the state. ... *(Interruptions)*

Perhaps they are not even aware of their area that even in Guna, everyone is getting enough electricity. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kumari Sushmita Dev - not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now you all talk about water and water conservation.

Question No.405, Shri Mahesh Giri.

(Q. 405)

**SHRI MAHESH GIRI:** Madam Speaker, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream plan is that drinking water should reach every household. ... (*Interruptions*) I am coming to the point that if it is not happening, then why is it not happening. Today there is a serious water problem in the country. The struggle for drinking water is very painful. When I visit rural areas, it hurts to see pits dug everywhere. On enquiry, it was found that these pits were dug under MGNREGA. Now it is not known why the pits were dug, but they have been dug. Seeing the view there, it feels like 'the land is dug up here, 'the land is dug up there, wherever you look on this land, it is dug up everywhere.' We came to know that the previous government

only did the work of digging pits through MGNREGA.No drinking water supply was provided to the households.

I want to ask the hon. Minister; what technology is the government adopting for water conservation? Is any research being done on this? What efforts are being made to provide water to every household? What are the efforts that government is making to ensure that water reaches every poor household, as Prime Minister Ji desires with sensitivity?

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Madam Speaker, it is certainly the concern of all the Members and the Government that everyone should get drinking water.In view of this, the Government of India had earlier set targets that by 2017, 50% of the habitations should have access to clean drinking water.I am happy to say that so far 53% of the habitations are getting clean drinking water through piped water.It is definitely going to take time to achieve the objective that every household gets clean drinking water, every household gets a domestic connection of water and the cleanliness of drinking water is guaranteed.In this regard, the Indian government is making efforts in collaboration with state governments.

Recently, we had a big conference with the ministers and officials of all the states. In the conference, all the following topics



came up such as; what efforts can be made by the states to provide clean drinking water to every household, how can the union government be helpful in it, how can new technologies be used and what efforts can be made for water conservation? States are also working hard to provide clean drinking water. The state of Telangana recently launched the Bhagirathi Mission and aims to ensure that clean drinking water reaches every household.

Hon'ble Member has talked about water conservation from same point of view and intent. To make drinking water available in every household, two things are necessary. One, the availability of drinking water should be in adequate quantity. Recently, the Central Ground Water Board conducted a study in which they identified an area of 9,42,000 sq km where groundwater is not available. We consider the ideal situation of drinking water when surface water is treated and given to the people. Providing drinking water from groundwater is not proper in a way, but the availability of surface water is not that much, so they try to provide drinking water by combining both groundwater and surface water. From this point of view, they have prepared a plan and a complete reference document. The reference document has been given to all concerned departments such as Department of Agriculture, Department of

Water Resources, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. I am happy to inform that everyone has come up with a joint strategy for this.

You must remember that last time when there was drought, the Prime Minister had called the Chief Ministers of the states and interacted with them and whatever work could have been done at that time was done. At that time, the Prime Minister had also instructed that if there is a possibility of drought for the next year, then we should plan in advance to tackle the same. I want to tell you that advance planning has started.

Regarding MGNREGA, as Hon. Member was just saying that pits were dug at various places and they were of no use, I would like to say that in the years 2016-17 and 2015-16, the work done in terms of management of this natural resource is continuously increasing. In 2016-17 and 2015-16, 5,43,000 ponds and 1,54,000 ponds have been constructed respectively. If there will be waterlogging, then definitely the water below will also be managed. Based on the document of Central Ground Water Board, 2,264 development blocks have been identified. With a view to conserve water in these development blocks, work is being done on a large scale under

MGNREGA. Continuous efforts are also being made to spend 67% of the total amount of MGNREGA on water conservation. Many research and techniques have emerged with regard to issues of waterlogging and water conservation and their resolution, which everyone is trying to use in different states and that is also going to benefit in this program.

**SHRI MAHESH GIRI:** Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for his detailed reply and efforts. He has responded regarding providing water to every household. I would like to ask about quality of water. You must have seen many times on TV that there are areas where drinking water is called Amrit Jeevan, but where water is taken from a dirty drain for drinking, the quality is sometimes not upto the mark, so I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether any strict and expeditious steps are being taken to improve the quality of drinking water in rural areas.

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Quality of drinking Water is also an important question and there are 63968 habitations in the country where the quality of drinking water is not good. There are issues like arsenic in some places, fluoride in others, nitrate, and so on. However, I am pleased to say that under the National Rural Drinking Water Program, typically 5% and 3% funds

are provided by the people to the state, which enables the work of maintaining quality and its monitoring, but I understand that this amount is also insufficient as these two things, arsenic and fluoride are very dangerous for humans. Arsenic can even cause cancer to humans and conditions such as tooth decay, bone weakness, disability arise where the amount of fluoride is high. Especially, arsenic is very high in West Bengal and fluoride is very high in Rajasthan. There are other areas on the banks of Ganga ji, there are also some districts of Uttar Pradesh, but these two states are suffering a lot, so when this came to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister, and as there are 28000 habitations affected by arsenic and fluoride in the country, therefore, to provide clean drinking water to these 28000 habitations by the year 2021, the National Water Quality Sub-Mission ....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Arsenic in West Bengal. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir Ranjan ji, everyone knows, you sit down.

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Water Quality Sub-Mission was announced and its work has started. We started giving money to the states. Work has started. Our effort is to eliminate fluoride and arsenic from the country by the year 2021.

**SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:** Hon. Speaker, my question to the hon. Minister is that especially in areas like the Kosi region which are always affected by floods, similarly, there are many flood-affected areas in our country, especially Kosi provides water to 9 districts, but during floods and heavy rains, this water gets wasted, and we are unable to conserve it. Is there any specific plan for Kosi because there is a lot of iron and fluoride there. Time and again this question arises. Due to the high amount of iron in that water, all the ongoing plans for the filtering of drinking water have failed because there is so much iron that it breaks that filter, that lattice.

Secondly, for water harvesting, regarding which Mr. Jaitley was also saying that 10 lakh ponds have been built. I doubt the same, and would like the government to investigate whether 10 lakh ponds are built on the ground or not?

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Ranjeet ji has asked a very good question. This is a problem in the Bihar region, but when we give money to the state, then definitely the state should plan for that region on a priority basis. I am happy to say that we have given more than 50 crore rupees to Bihar than the actual

share of Bihar.I would urge them to discuss with the Chief Minister, make plans in that area and get them implemented.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Santosh Ahlawat ji, you have a question related to drinking water, let them ask.

**SMT. SANTOSH AHLAWAT:** Hon. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to you.Hon'ble Minister in his statement acknowledged that there is a serious problem of drinking water in some parts of Rajasthan.I want to ask the Hon. Minister through you, because my Parliamentary Constituency has come in the dark zone.There is not only non-availability of drinking water but at the same time the highest level of contamination has also been crossed.That is, the water we are drinking, is going to cause diseases and two assembly constituencies are in a state of migration.I would like to humbly request you, to make any arrangement of surface water in my Parliamentary Constituency in future.

**HON. SPEAKER:** If you have given a project, let us know.

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Speaker, I had already expressed that we have identified 2264 development blocks under 'MGNREGA' for water conservation.There are development blocks of Rajasthan as well as development blocks of the entire

country included in it .We are going to do water conservation work through ‘MGNREGA’ in those areas.

As far as the issue of contaminated drinking water is concerned, undoubtedly, Behen Ji's constituency will also face the problem of fluoride. For fluoride, a project worth ₹25000 crores has been initiated, which includes significant funds allocated specifically for fluoride and arsenic mitigation. These funds are primarily allocated to West Bengal and Rajasthan.If the Rajasthan government forwards that project, it will definitely be approved.

**SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY:** Hon. Speaker, my question to you is, how many times will they be giving letters to how many ministers, how many times will projects be given , how many times would projects be received and when will they start working then ? That's what I need to know from you.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** That's not how it is done. As soon as they have money, time, they will work accordingly. This is not the way.  
 . .... *(Interruptions)*

**(Q. 406)**

*[Translation]*

**SMT. REKHA VERMA:** Hon. Speaker, the Minister has given a good answer, yet I would like to ask the hon. Minister how much employment has been created in rural areas through Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes since 2011, please give year wise details.

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:** Hon. Speaker, the amount allocated under the Ministry of Rural Development, through various schemes, especially those that have a vision regarding poverty alleviation and take action on poverty alleviation, overall there are 5 important schemes that lead to poverty alleviation - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme. In detail, a list of funds given to various States every year has been made available, with details , to the Hon. Member.

I would like to inform that the most important programmes in poverty alleviation are being undertaken through 'MNREGA'.



Overall, I would like to point out that a research institute has assessed that 34% of poverty has been eradicated by the amount being allocated in 'MGNREGA' alone.

The impact is being felt through other programmes. The Budget of the Ministry of Rural Development is continuously increasing. It increased to Rs.59000 crore in 2013-14 from Rs.52000 crore in 2012-13. In 2014-15, more than Rs.68000 crore was allocated. A little over Rs.77000 crore was allocated in 2015-16. An amount exceeding Rs.96000 crore was given in 2016-17. There has been a historic growth in this financial year. In the year 2017-18, a total amount of more than Rs.1,05,000 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Rural Development for poverty alleviation and to improve the standard of living of the people living in the villages, to provide them employment. Hon. Prime Minister is always concerned about the villages, the poor people, and the farmers and in comparison to the money allocated by the previous regime we have almost doubled the money, till this financial year, in the last three years programme due to the concern and instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister. Our priority is to alleviate the poverty of villages and to upgrade the villages so that the people of the villages can live in the villages and they do not migrate to the cities.

**SMT. REKHA VERMA:** Hon. Speaker, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a total of 11 proposals till the year 2011-17 for the Women Farmers Empowerment Project of The World, NR, and LM out of which only one has been approved. What is the cause of that?

**12:00 hours**

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:** Madam Speaker, if proposals come at the right time through the State Governments, the Union government takes action on them as soon as possible. Certainly the previous government in Uttar Pradesh was irresponsible and careless, but I understand that the new government that has come to power now will send proposals at the right time and the union government will give money on priority basis for the programs being run through the Ministry of Rural Development for the people of Uttar Pradesh and for the other people of the country. Definitely, if the government of Uttar Pradesh sends the proposal on time, then the amount will be given through the department after taking an appropriate decision at the appropriate time, so that action can be taken there.

***[English]***

**HON. SPEAKER:** Venugopal Ji, you put a short question.

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** The Hon. Minister replied to the previous question that conservation of water can be done by MGNREGA. I am totally agreeing with that. But the problem is that in Kerala, water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink anywhere. This is the situation. There are a lot of ponds and lakes. We have to conserve that water. Now in MGNREGA, a lot of jobs have been cut off. Man days have been cut off by the Government of India. I raised this issue in 'Zero Hour' also. Is the Government rethinking on this? Will the Government allow all the job days, which was proposed by the Government of Kerala?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:** Madam Speaker, based on the demand, funds are allocated under MGNREGA, labor Budget is prepared for it, and demand is made. We have worked to provide financial assistance based on demand from some state governments.

...*[(Interruptions)]* ... I am just telling you. ... *(Interruptions)*

I am happy that Kerala is less in demand as compared to other states due to less poverty, thus lesser amount is sent there . ...  
*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** What is this answer?

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Question is on poverty alleviation.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** He is misleading the House. What is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question Hour is over.

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## **\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 141 to 160

Unstarred Question Nos. 1611 to 1840

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**\* 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.**

*[English]*

**12.02 hours**

## **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-

- (i) The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees (Amendment) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 39(E) in Gazette of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.
- (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in inter-State Transmission and related matters) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2017 published in

Notification No. L-1(3)/2009-CERC in Gazette of India dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6781/16/17]

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

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-
  - (i) G.S.R. 211(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.
  - (ii) G.S.R. 212(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

- (iii) G.S.R. 213(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6782/16/17]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:-

- (i) The Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims) Amendment Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 153(E) in Gazette of India dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017.
- (ii) The Merchant Shipping (Levy of Seamen's Welfare Fee) (Amendment) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 232(E) in Gazette of India dated 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6783/16/17]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-



- (i) S.O. 3424(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (ii) *[Translation]* S.O.3510(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, entrusting National Highway No. 44 (Sabroom-Indo/Bangladesh Border Section) in the State of Tripura to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.
- (iii) S.O. 3511(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (iv) S.O. 3512(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, entrusting stretches of National Highways, mentioned therein, to National Highways Authority of India in the State of Karnataka.
- (v) S.O. 3513(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.

- (vi) S.O. 3514(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, declaring new National Highway No. 365B in the State of Telangana.
- (vii) S.O. 3515(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016, declaring new National Highway No. 716 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 3586(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.
- (ix) S.O. 3587(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, entrusting stretches of National Highways, mentioned therein, to National Highways Authority of India.
- (x) S.O. 3588(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xi) S.O. 3590(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

- (xii) S.O. 3673(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, declaring new National Highways No. 21 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 3688(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, declaring new National Highway No. 516D in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O. 3689(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xv) S.O. 3690(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, entrusting stretches of National Highways, mentioned therein, to National Highways Authority of India in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xvi) S.O. 4149(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1760(E) dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.
- (xvii) S.O. 4150(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.

- (xviii) S.O.4151(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, entrusting National Highway No. 31A (Rangpo-Gangtok Section) in the State of Sikkim to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.
- (xix) S.O. 4152(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xx) S.O. 4153(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 815(E) dated 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2007.
- (xxi) S.O. 4154(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, entrusting National Highway No. 53 (Imphal-Jiribam Section) in the State of Manipur to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.
- (xxii) S.O. 4155(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.

- (xxiii) S.O. 4171(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, declaring new National Highway No. 363 in the State of Telangana.
- (xxiv) S.O. 4172(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xxv) S.O 4173(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, entrusting the stretches, mentioned therein, of new National Highway Nos. 21 and 22 to National Highways Authority of India in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O. 4174(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xxvii) S.O. 13(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017, declaring new National Highways, mentioned therein, in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxviii) S.O. 14(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017, declaring new National Highways, mentioned therein, in the State of Maharashtra.

- (xxix) S.O. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xxx) S.O. 29(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.
- (xxxi) S.O. 30(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, entrusting the stretches, mentioned therein, of new National Highway Nos. 5 and 6 to National Highways Authority of India in the States of Odisha and Jharkhand.
- (xxxii) S.O. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, entrusting the stretches, mentioned therein, of new National Highway No. 166A to National Highways Authority of India in the state of Maharashtra.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 377(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005.

- (xxxiv) S.O. 95(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxxv) S.O. 167(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 regarding rounding off fee to nearest Rs. 5/- in nearly 45 BOT (Toll) Project, mentioned therein.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 168(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 112 (Bagundi-Barmer Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxvii) S.O.169(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 11B (Karauli-Bari-Dholpur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 478(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 458 (Ladnu-Khatu-Degna-Merta City-Lambia-Jaitaran-Raipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxix) S.O. 479(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 15 (Bikaner-Phalodi Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6784/16/17]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:-

(i) S.O. 3423(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, rescinding Notification No. S.O. 1301(E) dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

(ii) S.O. 3691(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, regarding delegation of powers of Highway Administration.

(iii) S.O. 378(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, appointing the Officers, mentioned therein, of the National Highways Authority of India to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control



of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6785/16/17]

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
  - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6786/16/17]

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA):** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table: -

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

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
6787/16/17]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the

working of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
6788/16/17]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur for the year 2014-2015.

- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the

year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6789/16/17]

- (3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Jute Board, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the National Jute Board, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6790/16/17]

- (5) A copy of Notification No. O.O.4157(A)(Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 published in Gazette of India dated 23rd December, 2016, and by which certain amendments have been made in Notification No. O.O.126(A) dated 14th January, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6791/16/17]

- (6) A copy of Notification No. O.O.472(A) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 16th February, 2017, nominating two Members of Lok Sabha, mentioned therein, to serve as Member in the National Jute Board for a period of two years from the date of notification issued under sub-section 4(b) of Section 3 of the National Jute Board Act, 2008..

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6792/16/17]

**12.03 hours**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

*[English]*

**Status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in  
the 228<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Transport,  
Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2015-16)  
pertaining to the Ministry of Shipping\***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD  
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON  
RADHAKRISHNAN):** I beg to lay the statement regarding the  
status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the  
228<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and  
Culture on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry  
of Shipping.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6793/16/17.

**12.03½ hours**

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED  
QUESTION NO. 148 DATED 02 FEBRUARY, 2017  
REGARDING CONNECTIVITY OF TOURIST CENTRE\***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN):** I beg to lay the statement correcting the reply given on 02 February 2017 to Unstarred Question No. 148 by Adv. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar, MP regarding ‘Connectivity of Tourist Centre’.

Annexure to the reply of the above question has been revised and a copy of the same is enclosed.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6794/16/17.

### **Statement**

The State /UT -wise details of funds allocated for development of NHs during 2016 -17

(Amount in Rs. crore)

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/Agency/Particulars</b>	<b>Allocation<sup>\$</sup></b>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,010
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100
3.	Assam	247
4.	Bihar	1,397
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,323
6.	Goa	700
7.	Gujarat	251
8.	Haryana	150
9.	Himachal Pradesh	250



10.	Jammu & Kashmir	49
11.	Jharkhand	200
12.	Karnataka	983
13.	Kerala	262
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,725
15.	Maharashtra	1,851
16.	Manipur	30
17.	Meghalaya	41
18.	Mizoram	30
19	Nagaland	50
20.	Odisha	983
21.	Punjab	2,675
22.	Rajasthan	1,276
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	430

25.	Telangana	475
26.	Tripura	40
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,334
28.	Uttarakhand	342
29.	West Bengal	1,355
30.	Chandigarh	2
31.	Delhi	2
32.	Puducherry	20
33.	Other projects under NH (O)*	2,142
34.	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)-Cess*	7,476
35.	NHAI-Toll	7,500
36.	NHAI –NH (O)	3,750

37.	Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East Region (SARDP-NE) including Arunachal Package*	4,520
38.	Special Programme for development of Roads                      in Left Wing Extremism affected Area	760

	(LWE) including Development of Vijayawada-Ranchi Road*	
39.	Externally Aided Projects -Head Quarters	116
40.	IEBR/Borrowings by NHAI	59,279
\$ - Provisional till December, 2016		
*-State/UT wise allocations are not made		

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, we have received some Motions For Adjournment, but I have not allowed anyone .

**12.05 hours**

### **SUBMISSION BY MEMBER**

**Re: Failure of the Government to address agrarian distress  
leading to alarming increase in farmer suicide**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA(GUNA):** Madam Speaker, it is well known that unless the farmer of our country is happy, the country will not be happy. The UPA government had brought a loan waiver scheme of Rs 71 thousand crore during its tenure. This gave relief to three and a half crore farmers and also increased the support price.

Madam, the current government says that ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’, but today the farmer is on the verge of committing suicide because the farmer is in debt. The government has stated that

farmers' income will be doubled by the year 2022. However, at present, farmers are suffering and facing severe crises and pleading for the solution of the same, to alleviate their distress. The government is completely ignoring the farmers. You see the plight of Tamil Nadu farmers. Tamil Nadu is going through a severe drought. It has received 62 per cent less rainfall. In Delhi, farmers from Tamil Nadu are sitting on a dharna with the head of a dead body, but the government is not listening to them. They have demanded 40 thousand crore rupees, but the government has not been able to give even two thousand crore rupees.

Madam, during the elections in Uttar Pradesh, it was written in the Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra that a loan waiver scheme would be initiated and relief would be provided to two crore farmers. However, even today, the government is only stuck on promises and is not taking any steps in this direction. Fifteen thousand farmers have committed suicide in Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra.... *(Interruptions)* Farmers are taking out a struggle yatra there, but there is no response from the government.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have made your point, please sit down.

Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav.

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Madam Speaker, the situation is the same in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. We demand that the loan waiver scheme should be implemented soon. The Prime Minister talks about New India and New Year, I want to ask when will the loan waiver scheme for farmers be implemented? ...  
(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Permission is granted to Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena to associate with the subject raised by SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA.

. . . (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav.

. . . (Interruptions)

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister has replied with regard to the constitution of National Commission for Backward Classes, constitution of National Commission for Scheduled Castes & National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. ... (Interruptions) I would like to ask the Hon. Minister the time by when the National Commission for Backward Classes will be constituted. ... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR):** Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh is present in the House, he will reply to the Hon. Member....  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please be seated, everyone. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is answering your question.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

**Hon. Speaker:** Don't show me the posters, listen to what the Hon. Minister is going to say.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Would you will keep showing papers throughout the day, it is not a good thing to do so in the House.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Madam, most of the Hon. Members were present during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture in the past and I had raised



issues in the House. The natural disasters that are occurring in Tamil Nadu or the country today. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is not a good thing for everyone to comment from here or from there in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Madam, I said that Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are part of our country. The Hon. Member has particularly discussed the issues of farmers of Tamil Nadu and the country. I would like to inform the House that the states have money under the State Disaster Response Fund. Prior to the Modi government, the entire country's allocation to the State Disaster Response Fund for five years was 24 thousand crore rupees. The Modi government has increased this amount to 47 thousand crore rupees, this amount is a record in itself.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, all the Members who are speaking while sitting, they will not be replied to, in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Okay, Madam.

Tamil Nadu was given an amount of Rs 1083 crore in the National Disaster Response Fund in five years and after the Modi

government came to power, this amount was increased to Rs 3,000 crore for five years. As I informed that the allocation for the entire country for five years was 24 thousand crore rupees and it has been increased to 47 thousand crore rupees, so naturally the allocation has been increased in all the states. After this, if there are more disasters, then there is a demand from the state government. I would like to bring to your notice that in the years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14, twelve thousand crore rupees were given to the states from the National Disaster Response Fund, but their demand was 92 thousand crore rupees. I'm talking about four years. If we talk only about the year 2014-15, then nine thousand crore rupees were given to the National Disaster Response Fund. 12 thousand crore rupees in four years and nine thousand crore rupees in one year i.e. 2015 and 15 thousand crore rupees in 2015-16 were given from the National Disaster Response Fund. Among the demands we have received from the states in 2016-17, Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned Rs. 518 crore and Tamil Nadu Rs. 1748 crore from NDRF.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Tell me about Bihar also.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are doing the same again.

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** We will give you the details about that.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, in the year 2012-13, Tamil Nadu had demanded 19 thousand crore rupees, out of which it was given six hundred crore rupees. This time we have given them Rs 1700 crore. This is the biggest aid amount ever. The farmers who are sitting on dharna there, I have met the Hon. minister Shri Radhakrishnan ji once and I have also met the Hon. Vice President ji with the farmers there.

**MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE ( SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** Once I have also met.

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Our Minister of Finance has met, Uma Bharti ji has met, Nirmala Sitharaman ji has met.... *(Interruptions)* As far as loan waiver is concerned, *(Interruptions)* Rajnath ji has met,... *(Interruptions)* I am telling you that the Government of India has full sympathy and support with them and we are also helping.

As far as loan waiver is concerned, you might remember that earlier when farmers used to take loans, they used to pay nine percent interest. When Hon. Rajnath ji was the Minister of

Agriculture, at that time the rate of interest was reduced by two percent and the amount was given from the treasury. Later, it was reduced by three percent and more money was given from the treasury. Farmers pay only four per cent interest rate. But many state governments from their state treasury, the government of Madhya Pradesh,... *(Interruptions)* In Karnataka, your government is in power, it also gives money from its state treasury. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat also give and now Maharashtra has also started paying three percent interest rate from its state treasury. ... *(Interruptions)* One percent interest rate has to be paid to the farmer.

You might also remember that I have figures regarding the extent to which amount has been increased by the 14th Finance Commission. I have data from all over the country.

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Hon. Minister, those are the figures of only cooperative banks. You talk about the loans of the rest of the banks, because 80 percent of the farmers also take loans from other banks.

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Any farmer, whether taking a loan from a cooperative bank or a loan from any bank, was given

five percent assistance from the treasury of the Government of India and four percent was contributed by the farmer. Many state governments have started providing assistance from their own coffers. After increasing the amount for the states by the Finance Commission, many states are moving in this direction. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, it was discussed by the Hon. Members on that day, the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh in its manifesto said that if our government is formed, we will waive off the loans of small and marginal farmers. I would be happy that any state government will help from its treasury, since the amount of states has been increased in the 14th Finance Commission, if the state governments help, we welcome that. The Government of India is not only standing with the farmers, but a variety of schemes have been launched. The results of the efforts will come to light.

As far as you talked about loan waiver, you waived off the loan in the year 2008. Of the total suicides that took place in the country in 2005, 15 per cent were farmers and agricultural workers. Of the suicides reported in 2008, 13 per cent were farmers and agricultural labourers. After you waived off loans, in 2009, the figure went up to 13.7 per cent. As on date, it has come down to 9.4%.

I request that all the schemes that have been launched by the government, I have the statistics of Tamil Nadu, the money for micro-irrigation went there. When the amount was given, nine crore rupees could not be spent in the year 2014-15, 22 crore rupees could not be spent in the year in the year 2015-16, 51 crore rupees have not been spent yet in the year 2016-17.

The funds are not being spent on the schemes being run in the states for the strengthening of farmers. I will also raise this topic after 31th March. I say that we all should work together to speed up the implementation of the schemes that are under progress for the farmers so that the condition of the farmers improves. This is the priority, commitment of our government and we are working on it.

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**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Sir, the constitution of National Commission for Backward Classes and National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Give me one minute brother. Sit down for a minute.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, what are you doing? Jai Prakash ji, you may speak. You have just arrived. A detailed answer has already been given. Don't say the same thing again.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, I am not speaking again and again. I have just come.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have just come, but your party has spoken. You just arrived, that is why you do not know.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are also speaking; they are speaking too. Who all will speak? You should sit down. That doesn't happen, I'm sorry. This will not be discussed at the moment.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, I have met the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare two or three times with regard to this subject. I have also spoken to the Home Minister, but as per the assessment he has made... *(Interruptions)*

**HON.SPEAKER:** No, it does not happen like that. Please sit down.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

### **12.16 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon.*

*Members left the House.)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Formation of the National Commission for Backward Classes ... *(Interruptions)* The Hon. Minister has replied to this. I congratulate them. I want to know the number of days the National Commission for Backward Classes will be constituted? ... *(Interruptions)* We have received information that there is a conspiracy to add affluent castes other than those included in the Mandal Commission. ... *(Interruptions)* If this is done, there will be a fight from Parliament to the



streets. Reservation is our birthright. If any changes are made or amendments done to the reports of Mandal Commission, affluent castes are inserted into it, then there will be a big fight from Parliament to the streets.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, no affluent caste other than the castes in the Mandal Commission for youth, students of universities, farmers, labourers should be added to the reservation of backward classes. ... *(Interruptions)* This is what I have to request you, otherwise there is going to be a big fight. I conclude by saying this.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** SHRI M. B. Rajesh

*[English]*

**SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** Madam, in my Constituency, farmers are committing suicide. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri M.B. Rajesh, do you want to say something?

... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):** Madam Speaker, we fully agree with what the hon. Minister has stated in the House. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, our humble request to the

Government is that in Kerala more than 30,000 hectares of crop has simply vanished because of the severe drought. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):** Yes, Madam, they are committing suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* It has become a big crisis situation in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. A. SAMPATH:** Madam, now, the banks including the public sector banks are hesitant to give agriculture loan to the poor farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* How can they go in for farming? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, nothing will go on record about the farmers.

...*(Interruptions)*... \*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You had a different topic, if you have to speak regarding that topic , you can speak, otherwise sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

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\* Not recorded..

*[English]*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ):** Madam, let the hon. Minister respond on the drought situation. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Will resume the remaining Zero Hour later.

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*[English]*

**12.18 hours**

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \***

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Need to probe the issue of alleged overpayment to a company entrusted with the task of construction of four-lane road from Baghpat to Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the construction of four lanes on paper in Uttar Pradesh. In 2011, the then Uttar Pradesh Government decided to construct a four-lane 206 km stretch of the road leading to Yamunotri via Delhi, Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli, Saharanpur. Under which, on 01st August, 2011, the Uttar Pradesh Highways Authority entered into a contract with a company for construction at a cost of Rs.1735 crore, with a time limit of 900 days fixed.

The said contractor company got loans sanctioned from 14 nationalized banks for the construction of this route. Whereas on 01st April, 2012 the company started the work and stopped the work in November, 2013 and only 13.33% of the total work was completed by the company. The company requested the UPSHA (UP State Authority) to extend the deadline for the construction work, citing lack of permission from the Ministry of Environment for the erosion

of green trees on the route. Upasha extended the deadline further by 721 days.

This is where the game of alleged collusion of the officials of the said contractor company and officers of UPSHA and the officers of those 14 banks started wherein, the company received payment of Rs.603 crore from the banks against the work done by it. While the said company had done only 13.33% of the total construction work at a cost of Rs.148 crore. This means that the company received an excess payment of 455 crores beyond the value of the work it had completed. After this, the company gradually started removing its equipment and other materials used in the construction from the site. One day, the company completely packed up and absconded, but the state government and the officials from UPSHA remained silent and merely acted as mute spectators in the situation.

I request the Union government to investigate the said matter.

**(ii) Need to set up sugar, timber and food processing industries  
in Balrampur and Shrawasti districts of Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAWASTI):** I am drawing the attention of the government to the district of Shrawasti in my Parliamentary Constituency , which is a very backward district. Nestled on the Indo-Nepal border, this district has immense potential for development, but due to the continuous neglect of the union governments, no such industry has been established in this district so far so that the local people can get employment and the resources of the region can be utilized properly. Sugarcane is widely cultivated in Shrawasti district. The sugarcane of Shrawasti is supplied to Bahraich, Balrampur, Barhani, Chilwaria, Kaiserganj, Tulsipur, Nanpara Nepal. If a sugarcane mill is set up in Shrawasti, farmers will not have to go far and wide to sell their sugarcane. The mill will get sugarcane at the right time and the farmers will get the right price of sugarcane at the right time.

Due to the abundance of forest area, both Shrawasti and Balrampur districts have abundant quantity wood. Therefore, wood based industries will also be of great help in changing the condition and direction of Shrawasti and Balrampur. There is neither shortage of land nor shortage of workers in Shrawasti and Balrampur districts. Water is also present in abundance under the ground. Despite all the favourable conditions required for the industry, the lack of will of the Union governments has not helped Shrawasti and Balrampur to overcome the backwardness in region till date.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to kindly get the survey done by the competent team and establish sugar industry/wood industry/food processing industry etc. in Balrampur and particularly in Shrawasti.



**(iii) Need to release balance fund to Government of Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**

***[Translation]***

**SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR):** The Government of Maharashtra has written to the Department of Land Resources, Union Ministry of Rural Development on 11.8.2016 and 19.09.2016 requesting to allocate Rs. 648 crore for the year 2016-17 under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP).

The Union government has so far allocated only Rs.186.95 crore to the State Government of Maharashtra for the year 2016-17. The Union government is yet to allocate an amount of Rs.461.05 crore to the State Government. Due to non –allocation of this amount the proposal related to Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in the state is still pending. Therefore, this amount needs to be allocated expeditiously so that the development of the state is made possible.

I request the Union Government to release the amount of Rs. 461.05 crores of its share, not yet allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), to the State Government. Please release this amount to the State Government at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to expand the airport at Buxar in Bihar and also set up a new international airport at Buxar**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY(BUXAR):** Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram's Deeksha Bhoomi, my Parliamentary Constituency Buxar, which is the Tapobhumi of Maharishi Vishwamitra and the place of birth of Mata Ahilya and also the birthplace of Lord Vamana, which is very important from the religious point of view about which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had also talked about developing it as mini Kashi from all angles. Being a central hub, it has also been decided by the union government to include it in the Ramayana Circuit. At the same time, Chausa, Buxar has been well known as a revolutionary and historical land of the freedom struggle. It may be noted that Buxar is a religious and tourist place as well as a business center where the work of Mega Power Project (1360 MW power generation) by the Union government is also in progress. Therefore, I specially request the government that there is a great need for expansion and beautification of the state government's airstrip located in Buxar and

air connectivity should be established from Buxar to Patna, Bhagalpur, Deoghar (Jharkhand), Purnia, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Gaya and Banaras through non-service or under-service airports. Along with this, a new international airport should also be constructed in Buxar.

**(v) Need to permit Ayush doctors to practice Allopathy after one-year certificate course in Allopathy**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):** Today, there is an acute shortage of doctors, nurses and support staff in district level hospitals and primary health centres, sub-centres of the country, due to which the mortality rate due to disease and tuberculosis is increasing in rural areas. If it is not checked in time, it may result in a lot of loss to the poor people of the country.

Therefore, I request the government that under the new health policy, AYUSH doctors should be trained for one year in (allopathy) course, AYUSH doctors should be given the right to allopathy treatment and appointed in military hospitals, district hospitals and primary health centers so that health facilities can be made available to the rural people of the country.

*[English]*

**(vi) Need to conduct skill development programmes and set up small scale industries in hill states**

*[Translation]*

**DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** The entire Himalayan region is very important strategically. Over the past few decades, the entire mountainous region has been facing a severe problem of migration. While the uncontrolled exodus is threatening our national security on the one hand, it is causing unprecedented damage to the efforts to preserve and promote our culture. The main reason for the migration is severe lack of employment opportunities in the hilly region. Weather change, lack of basic amenities and severe natural calamities from time to time have devastated the lives of the people of the region. The tragedy of Kedarnath in the past years and the subsequent devastating deluge in Jammu and Kashmir is a living example of this.

I request the Union government that in view of the basic needs of the Himalayan region, which is very important for the country and the world, along with providing basic facilities in this region, various types of skill development programs should be run which are in

accordance with the needs of the local people. In this series, special emphasis will be given to the production of herbs, organic farming, floriculture, horticulture, food processing, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and production of Ayurvedic products so that the serious problems of the Himalayan region can be addressed.

**(vii) Regarding setting up of AIIMS at Deoghar, Jharkhand**

*[English]*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Deoghar is one of the centre points of Santhal Pargana region and as you are aware the entire Santhal Pargana region is backward, poor and deprived. This area does not have any medical facilities at all and needless to say the reduction on public health spending and the growing inequalities in health and health care are taking its toll on the marginalized and socially disadvantaged population of Santhal Pargana. This area is prone to malnutrition, with an estimated 75 per cent of children and mothers being anemic.

A recent report says that “a child in the low standard of living” economic group is almost four times more likely to die in childhood than a child in the ‘High standard of living’ group. Children born in the tribal belt are one and half times more likely to die before the fifth birthday than children of other groups. Children below 3 years of age in scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are twice as likely to be malnourished than children in other groups. A tribal mother is over 12 times less likely to be delivered by a medically trained person. A tribal woman is one and a half times more likely to suffer



the consequences of chronic malnutrition as compared to women from other social categories.

The State Government of Jharkhand has worked towards the AIIMS plan by allotting land including the availability of 200 acres of land available at Deogarh, which is a district in the state and home to the famous Dwadash Jyotirling and Shaktipeeth, where 5 crore pilgrims visit every year, as well as the site for an upcoming international airport.

My insistence for setting up the AIIMS at Deogarh is mainly on account of its geographically central location and ease of communication on Kolkata - Patna main rail route and also connected with three National Highways.

Accordingly, I would like to once again request that given the availability of earmarked land, the central location, transportation infrastructure and the needs of the people of Jharkhand- it is eminently desirable that the AIIMS be located at Deoghar, Jharkhand and a decision to this effect be taken at the earliest.

### (viii) Need to create a new State of Poorvanchal

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM):** I would like to request for the formation of Purvanchal State for the overall and balanced development of the country. The provision for requirement of formation of a new State for the Union of India is mentioned in Article 3 of the Constitution of India. The Union of India has 29 States and 7 Union Territories. India is the most populous country in the world. Despite the decreasing population of the United States, the number of states there is 50. Decentralisation of power is essential for the overall and balanced development of the country.

Different regions of the country have their own cultural, economic and social characteristics in the context of which those areas can be upgraded through quick and close efforts of governance through their own governance system. It is essential to form the Purvanchal state today by including the Bhojpuri-speaking districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, such as Kaimur, Rohtas, Buxar, Siwan, Gopalganj, Chhapra district areas and Chandauli, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Ghazipur, Bhadohi, Varanasi, Ballia, and Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh, with Varanasi, a global cultural site, as

its capital. The long-awaited demand of Purvanchal state is now expected to be fulfilled soon and the citizens of Purvanchal region have given full support to the party with this hope.

Therefore, it is my special request that positive action should be taken through the House for the formation of Purvanchal state by merging Bhojpuri language-speaking districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at the earliest.

**(ix) Regarding polluted water bodies in Begusarai district, Bihar**

**DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI):** Begusarai district in the state of Bihar has a human population on 2/3 area of the banks of rivers Ganga, Burhi Gandak, Balaan, Bainti, Baya and Bagmati. The water sources in hundreds of villages situated on the banks of these rivers have become poisonous due to the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers. Millions of people are facing acute shortage of drinking water due to arsenic pollution. Forest animals are already suffering, now the animal and human society is not only troubled by its poison, but are also falling prey to many terrible diseases. In this land area on Ganga banks, the birthplace of the ‘rashttrakavi’ of Barauni block Simaria, Malhipur, Vishanpur, Jagatpura, Rachiahi, Ulaav, Kailashpur, Ramdiri Singhma, Matihani Chowk Chhitraur, Maniappa, Nayagaon, Sonapur, Bharaath, Mahendrapur, Dariyapur, Godargama, Kharagpur, Mathiyar, Lal Diara, Gokhale Nagar, Nauranga, Bhagatpur, Paharpur, Manesarpur, Parmanandpur, Shadipur Diara and Barauni Sokhara of Teghra block, Phalwaria, Madhurapur, Bajalpura, Ayodhya, Jhamatia, Dadupur, Chirayakot, Chamtha, Fateha, Rani, Narepur and dozens of villages of Virpur block and Naavkothi and Bakhri block i.e. three parts of Begusarai

district are affected by arsenic water. There is no water for cattle, no drinking water, no food. The hand pumps Members of Parliament are also filled with arsenic-contaminated water. Dozens of industries are being set up in Begusarai district.

Therefore, I urge the Government of India that a high level technical investigation team should examine the drinking water along the banks of the rivers of Begusarai district and take action by making a comprehensive plan.

**(x) Need to improve the service condition of Aanganwadi workers in the country**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA):** There is an urgent need to improve the condition of Anganwadis operating under the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the country. There is a shortage of buildings for about 12 lakh Anganwadi Centres in the country. However, the government has planned to construct the building for the Centre by amending the construction manual rules for the building, wherein any time-frame has not been fixed and the government has sought help from MGNREGA and ICDS for the construction of the building.

Women taking care of small children in rural areas and inaccessible areas in these Anganwadis of the country are deprived of salary payment for 6-6 months. The workers working in Anganwadis continue to work with their full efficiency, dutifulness and honesty despite not getting their salaries paid on time. There is no provision to give pension to these employees after retirement. Sometimes there is a question mark over the quality of nutritious food given to children in anganwadis.

I would like to urge the government to provide good pay scale, regular posting and timely payment of salaries to the employees working in these Anganwadis so that they can serve the small children of the country with more hard work.

*[English]*

**(xi) Need to provide environmental clearance for construction of Memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Arabian Sea in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (M.C.Z.M.A.) has sent a proposal, dated 5-2-2014 , to Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for granting special exemption under CRZ Notification, 2011 for construction of international level memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Arabian Sea at Mumbai but the proposal has not been approved till date.

I request the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to grant special exemption under CRZ Notification, 2011 regarding the construction of an international level memorial of Chhatrapati Maharaj in the Arabian Sea in Mumbai and to try and provide directions to the project proponent / planning authority at State level by empowering Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (M.C.Z.M.A.).



**(xii) Need to provide environmental clearance for construction of road from Maharajpur to Tendukhera in Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH):** The process of construction of Tiger Sanctuary between Damoh and Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh has started. Land acquisition has been completed. But before the notification of the tiger reserve, there was movement through a paved tar road between Tendukheda tehsil of Damoh district and Maharajpur of Sagar district, but after the notification, the forest department is not giving permission for the reconstruction of the road from Tendukheda to Jhabhara on the border of Damoh district. Whereas further ahead on the border of Sagar district, permission has been obtained from the Forest Department, as a result the Maharajpur to Tendukheda road is not being completely constructed.

I request the Hon .Minister to consider the plan of complete permission on such inter-district or inter-state roads so that there is no delay in the construction works.

**(xiii) Need to ensure free admission of children belonging to economically weaker sections in private schools in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bundelkhand region**

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN):** My Parliamentary Constituency, Jalaun-Garotha-Bhognipur, falls under the Bundelkhand region, where lack of education is a major obstacle to the overall development of the area.

Under the Right to Education Act, every private school will have to provide free education to 25 per cent of the poor children under the EWS category. But there are huge irregularities in the admission of this category in private schools, which have become a source of income across the country, including Uttar Pradesh, due to which the children of poor labourers, farmers and the Dalit class of this country are being deprived of education.

I request the union government to form an investigation committee in Uttar Pradesh, especially in Bundelkhand, to examine admissions under the EWS category in private schools. This is necessary to ensure that economically weaker section children are not deprived of quality education.

**(xiv) Need to ban cow slaughter in the country**

*[Translation]*

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** Just as the Directive Principles of the Constitution speak of prohibition of alcohol and other drugs which are hazardous to health, similarly prohibition of cow slaughter has also been mentioned. Article 47 deals with prohibition of alcohol and other harmful substances and Article 48 deals with prohibition of slaughter of cows so that cow progeny is protected. Under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, under the division of legislative powers between the Union of India and the States, cow-animal protection is a matter on which the legislature of the States has special powers to make laws. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the states to enact a law for a complete ban on cow slaughter.

In our country, the common man respects the cow as a mother and takes care of her and the offspring with the same spirit. Cow is a very useful animal in our everyday life. It not only provides life nourishing milk but also provides fertilizer in the form of cow dung to increase the productivity of crops and cow urine is also used as a

treatment for all serious diseases. Besides this, when the calf of the cow grows up to become bullocks, they are used for cultivation of fields and bullock carts etc. The cow is a very straightforward and loving animal. Many times we have seen that Mother Cow sheds tears witnessing the suffering of those in pain. It is not just a part of our culture but a significant aspect of Hinduism that many of our successful national leaders have emphasized cow protection. The sage-like Prime Minister of our country Shri Narendra Modi ji has also been a strong supporter of cow protection. Even today, cow protection remains a matter of his concern. Recently, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh has taken immediate steps towards cow protection and issued orders for an immediate ban on cow slaughter.

In this regard, I urge upon the Government to enact a strict law for cow protection in the entire country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to ensure the protection of the cow progeny.

**(xv) Need to extend Bundelkhand region like benefits to areas along river Yamuna in Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

*[English]*

**SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding providing facilities like Bundelkhand to the area of Yamuna Patti under my Parliamentary Constituency due to Bundelkhand-like conditions.

I represent Akbarpur, a large and extended Parliamentary Constituency of Kanpur city and rural areas. Its large area is connected to the coastal rugged rivers of Yamuna, Ganga, Rihand, Sengur, Pandu and Sai. Yamuna river divides the boundary of this region from Bundelkhand. There is no doubt that the conditions in Bundelkhand are extremely adverse and worrying. However, it is worth noting that in 1954 a proposal was made in the then Uttar Pradesh government highlighting that the geo-physical, social, and economic conditions of the areas along the Yamuna bordering Bundelkhand are similar and despite having a uniform cultivation boundary standard within 16 km south of the deep Yamuna channel, the facilities are different, a point I have mentioned several times in

the House. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt similar measures and program for the development and welfare of this region along with Bundelkhand. It has become extremely necessary to address the plight of the helpless and destitute farmers living on this side of the deep Yamuna channel, spanning just a few meters. This includes the farmers of Kanpur Nagar and Dehat, as well as the entire stretch between Agra and Allahabad, who are living in similarly dire conditions.

I would like to urge upon the Government that the initiative of developing this inaccessible Yamuna belt from Agra to Allahabad on par with Bundelkhand should be taken through the State Government and in this partnership, the Centre should take the initiative to change the ground situation by playing the role of vigilant monitoring.

**(xvi) Regarding pending railway projects in Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka**

*[English]*

**SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** Three major railway routes which connect Bangalore with different destinations pass through my Constituency i.e. Bangalore Rural Parliamentary Constituency. There is a long pending demand from the people for construction of several ROBs and RUBs across these routes and they are pending approval from the Railway Board since long. The main works which are pending are construction of new ROBs at Yarab Nagar LC 37 & 38 on Mysore Line. Aldenahalli Village LC 112, Samanduru Village LC 109 and Marasuru Village at LC 116, Iggaluru Depo at LC 117, are on Bangalore—Chennai Line and widening of five RUBs in Maranayakanahalli village LC 108, Channena Agrahara LC 110, Bidaregere Village LC 111, Aravantigepura Village LC 114, and Avaradenahalli Village LC 115 are on Bangalore-Chennai Line in Anekal Taluk. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to sanction and release necessary funds to execute these pending works.

**(xvii) Need to set up a CGHS Wellness Centre in Calicut district of Kerala**

*[English]*

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):** CGHS is a commendable scheme offering comprehensive healthcare facilities to Union government employees, pensioners and their dependents. But its benefits are not reaching majority of those entitled to be covered by the scheme. Kerala is having CGHS clinic only in Thiruvananthapuram in the southernmost tip of the State. Thousands of Union government employees and pensioners are spread across the State and it is impossible for them to reach Thiruvanthapuram to avail the CGHS facilities or claim reimbursement under the scheme.

There is an urgent requirement for CGHS facility when one is sick and advanced in age. There is a genuine long pending demand to set up a CGHS clinic in the Malabar region of Kerala.

Time and again I have taken up the matter with successive Ministers but CGHS facility is yet to reach Malabar.



I request that a CGHS wellness centre may be established anywhere in Calicut District of Kerala to help beneficiaries of Malabar.

**(xviii) Need to rename the Central University of Kerala after Sree Narayan Guru, a great social reformer**

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** The Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam in Kerala has demanded to name the Central University after Sree Narayana Guru, one of the greatest social and spiritual reformers in India. He stood for one caste, one religion and one God.

From the date of inspection of the University in 2009, SNDP Yogam is urging the Government of India in this regard. During the election period the NDA had committed to people of Kerala that University will be named after Sree Narayana Guru, but so far no action has been taken.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take immediate steps and name the Central University of Kerala after Sree Narayana Guru.

**(xix) Need to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in Salem and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu**

*[English]*

**DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI):** The total tribal population in Tamil Nadu is about 8 Lakh. Of this nearly 25% ie., 2 Lakh tribal people live in Salem and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu particularly in my Kallakurichi Parliamentary Constituency. They are traditional inhabitants of Kalvarayan Hills, Chinna Kalvarayan Hills, Shervaroys Hills and Pachamalai Hills of the Eastern Ghats. More than 60 per cent of the tribal people are living below poverty line.

Article 46 of the Constitution requires the State to promote with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as well as to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. To improve the literacy rate and educational standards of the tribal students especially the girls, Government of Tamil Nadu is running many schools including Ashram and Eklavya Schools. In order to provide quality CBSE

system of education and to make tribal students match with the students in cities and towns, they require Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs to sponsor for establishment of two Kendriya Vidyalayas, one each at Shervaroys (Yercaud) Hills and Kalvarayan Hill of Salem and Villupuram District respectively to impart quality education to the tribal students.

**(xx) Need to develop and upgrade Royapuram railway station, Tamil Nadu as a railway terminus**

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** In my North Chennai Lok Sabha Constituency, south India's first Railway station Royapuram is located just about 5 kms. From Chennai Central Railway Station. It has the potential to be developed into a third terminal after Chennai Central and Egmore. The station has large stretch of land spread across 72 acres, in which 16 platforms can be constructed and presently it is lying with under-utilised platforms, unutilized lands/buildings, shrubs and dilapidated buildings. Parking bays for both public and private vehicles can also be created in north and south blocks of Royapuram. At present, 16 long distance express trains bound for eastern and western parts of the country are passing through Royapuram Railway Station. People from all walks of life, passenger organizations, Chambers and various Associations have since long been demanding that Railways should consider developing Royapuram as the third major terminal of Chennai.

Chennai Central Railway Station is already over-crowded. Congestion at Chennai Egmore station is due to shifting of departure of about ten north bound trains from Chennai Central besides about the same number of trains bound for northern States are passing through Egmore. To overcome this problem, Royapuram is the ideal place for declaration as New Modern Third Rail Terminus. Hon'ble Madras High Court has also suggested that the Railways expand the Royapuram Railway Station by preserving its heritage portion and such expansion is always possible even while preserving the heritage portion, the Bench said.

Keeping in view of the above, I humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways that Royapuram Railway Station should be developed and upgraded as the Third Terminus of Chennai.

**(xxi) Need to curb the increasing air pollution in the cities**

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** A recent report of Greenpeace India shows that deadly air pollution is not a problem confined to Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region or to India's Metros. It is a national problem that is ailing 1.2 million Indians every year and costing the economy an estimated three per cent of Gross Domestic Product. If country's development is important, fighting the pollution has to be a priority.

Data gathered from the State Pollution Control Boards shows that there are virtually no place in India complying with WHO and National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards and most cities are critically polluted. To meet this problem it is necessary to:-

- (1) institute robust maintenance of air quality across the country;
- (2) implement pollution reduction strategies to improve public transport and reduce petrol/diesel vehicle use and to get polluting vehicles off the road etc.

**(xxii) Need to build a flyover at level crossing between Adra and Joychandi pahar in Purulia district of West Bengal**

*[English]*

**DR. MRIGANKA MAHATO (PURULIA):** Between Adra and Joychandi pahar in Purulia district of West Bengal, there is a level crossing which remains closed for hours together frequently causing great problems to the people and movement of vehicles on both sides of the crossing. This crossing is crucial in connecting both sides where a large number of people reside. Joychandi pahar is also a renowned tourist place in that area. A large number of tourists visit this place but they face a lot of problem due to this level crossing.

So, I urge the Government of India to build a flyover at the above mentioned level crossing for smooth and speedy traffic movement.



**(xxiii) Need to establish a Venom Research Institute and Snake Park in Ramsai, Jalpaiguri in West Bengal**

*[English]*

**SHRI BIJOY CHANDRA BARMAN (JALPAIGURI):** I wish to draw the attention of the House towards an issue which is both ecologically and economically important.

Apart from many creatures that dwell in its vast range of forests, Jalpaiguri is also very famous for the multiple species of snakes that are hugely available in the entire district. Today, snakes and few species of wild lizards have gained a huge market value internationally for their venom and different body parts. But mostly it is an unorganized market in the hands of international smugglers of snake venom. Alone in my constituency, there are two recent cases of recovery of venom that grossly had a market value of Rs.250 crore and which was being carried from France. Today all over India, snakes and wild lizards are on the verge of extinction because of the poachers and illegal merchants of venom. What is most alarming and unfortunate is the fact that local snake charmers are also involved in this illegal trade of venom ever since their occupation has been banned.

Ramsai, a small Gram Panchayat in Jalpaiguri is always in the headlines because of the availability of hundreds of species of naturally bred poisonous and deadly venomous snakes and also the home of thousands of snake charmers. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to establish a Venom Research Institute and a Snake Park at Ramsai, Jalpaiguri on the line of similar establishments like Haffkine Institute in Pune and CMC Venom Research Centre in Visakhapatnam. The logic of this proposal is multiple: it will not only curb or rather stop the illegal poaching of snakes and wild lizards but will also be a revenue generating source; it will help in restoring the ecological balance which is already imbalanced there; it will save the lives of the snakes which die by the unscientific method of venom extraction.

**(xxiv) Need to set up a Super Specialty hospital at Paradip in Odisha**

*[English]*

**DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** Paradip Port region in my Constituency Jagatsinghpur is an industrial area. The pollutants emitted from the industrial set ups here are very harmful and employees of all the industrial set ups as well as local inhabitants do suffer from cardiovascular and other serious diseases. On many occasions in the past, employees working in industries have faced industrial accidents or suffered pre-mature heart attacks resulting into loss of their lives due to lack of immediate life saving medical care facilities in the locality. Though Paradip Port is a major port and the surrounding area is mushroomed with many world-class industries having workers from all parts of the country, hospitals namely port hospital and state hospital which are existing in this port area are not equipped with modern infrastructure, technology and intensive care units.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister of Shipping as well as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to take urgent step to set up a Super Speciality Hospital in Paradip, Odisha at the earliest.

**(xxv) Need to provide clean drinking water in villages in  
Buldhana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA):** People of 200 villages in three tehsils Shegaon, Sangrampur and Jalgaon (Jamod) in my Parliamentary constituency Buldhana, are forced to drink salty water with TDS grade more than 500 and as a result, thousands of people have died due to kidney failure. Thousands of people are suffering from kidney disease. In Buldhana district, the machine at the dialysis center is not functioning. The government has prepared a plan to provide pure drinking water in 140 villages which should be worked out immediately and a dialysis centre should be set up in each tehsil and machines and doctors should be arranged there.

I request the Government to expedite the scheme of providing pure drinking water in the villages affected by salty water in my Parliamentary Constituency Buldhana.

**(xxvi) Need to handover the land occupied by Indian Rare Earths Ltd. For mining beach sand mineral to the land owners in Kollam district of Kerala**

*[English]*

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IRE) has taken over the land for mining beach sand mineral. The land was taken over for mining with specific condition that the land will be given back to the owners after mining. The IRE agreed for rehabilitation also. The land in Puthenthura in Neendakarra Village, Karithura and Kovilthottom in Chavara Village, Vellanathuruth in Alappattu Village in Kollam District, Kerala were taken over by IRE. It is pertinent to note that the Puthenthura School land was also taken for mining. Though the mining process was completed decades back, but, IRE failed to handover the land to the owners and implement the rehabilitation scheme as per the agreed terms and conditions. The local people have been put to untold hardships due to the violation of agreement condition by IRE. It is highly necessary to give back the land and implement the rehabilitation to safeguard the interests of the local people.

**12.19 hours**

**\*FINANCE BILL, 2017**

**(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)**

**\***

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, we are taking Item No. 8. The hon. Minister to move the Amendments.

*[English] ... (Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** I beg to move:

“(a) that the following amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Union government for the financial year 2017-2018, be taken into consideration:— ”

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\* The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017 and transmitted to Rajya Sabha on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017. Rajya Sabha returned the Bill with recommendations on 29th March, 2017, which was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on the same day.

**CLAUSE 51**

1. That at page 26, Clause 51 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 52**

2. That at page 27, Clause 52 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 53**

3. That at page 27, Clause 53 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 154**

4. That at page 52, line 34, *after* the word “section”, the words “which shall not be above 7.5 per cent of net profit of the last three financial years,” be *inserted*.



5. That at page 52, after line 40, the following proviso be inserted, namely:-

“Provided further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of the political parties to which contributions have been made by it”.

(b) that the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha be rejected.”

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, do you want to say anything on this right now or not?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Let anybody who wants to speak on this issue speak and then I will reply, Madam.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“(a) that the following amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Union government for the financial year 2017-2018, be taken into consideration:— ”

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“Provided further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of the political parties to which contributions have been made by it”.

- (b) That the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha be rejected.”

... (*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Deepender Hooda ji please come. Discussion on the Finance Bill has started, Tariq Ji, please have a seat.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK):** Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

Rajya Sabha passed the amendments yesterday and gave an opportunity to express views on the same. The Finance Bill, especially this year's Finance Bill, has become a topic of discussion in the country. A very wide spread criticism be it in the media, in the civil society or in the debate inside the Parliament. The manner in which Parliamentary Practice, through this Finance Bill, amendments have been brought in four different Bills or Acts. In a way, these were hidden within the Finance Bill, the Money Bill passed after including it in Finance Bill, and the route of Finance Bill was taken due to which, somewhere, the rights of the Rajya Sabha have also been attacked. That is why, I understand, a historical discussion is taking place. I have been in this House for the last 12-13 years, I do not remember that Rajya Sabha had passed such an amendment bill on Finance Bill and we had to discuss the Bill again in House. As per my memory it is the first time such a thing has happened. Today I hope that the Minister of Finance will respond to my words. First of all, I would like to bring 4-5 subjects to the notice

of the Minister of Finance. We hope that the government and the Hon. Finance Minister will reply.

Firstly, even at that time we had raised the question as to what kind of legislative practice this was. Wherein, we are amending around 40 Acts. Whether it comes under the definition of Money Bill, Finance Bill or not. This question was raised in front of you. We wanted to see changes on such a large scale, from the Representation of People Act to the tribunal there were changes. We wanted different legislations to be introduced on which this House should discuss, but Article 110 of the Constitution was resorted to. Article 110 of the Constitution states that, *[English]* 'For the purposes of this Chapter, shall be deemed to be Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters'. There are sub-sections (a) to (f) to deal with taxation, to deal with Consolidated Fund of India and Appropriation etc. Section (g) deals with - the language of such deals with - 'any matter incidental to any of the matter specified under clause (a) to (f)' *[Translation]* Today a big debate has erupted across the country on the definition of incidental as to what is incidental ? It is true that the Constitution has given you the final authority to decide what is incidental and what is not. I raised this issue that day as well. I want

to point out one more thing in this today i.e. which word has been used in the Hindi copy of the Constitution. The word 'incidental' is not there. A more clear word is used. We are proud that Hindi is our official language. I understand that more clear words can be used inside it than in English and that has happened. The word used inside the Hindi copy .Article 110 subsection (g) states what is the meaning of 'any subject incidental to any matter specified in sub-clause (a) to sub-clause (f)' incidental thereto. Ancillary means from one action which takes place from the other. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA):** Anushaangik means 'connected' to it. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Go beyond 'connected'. From one action that germinates from the other..... *(Interruptions)*  
That is correct. I would like to thank that he has made it even clearer that it is absolutely connected.

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you, stay calm. Hon. Finance Minister also knows Hindi very well. Why are you worried?

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** I would like to seek your protection because it is necessary to discuss these matters in detail in this assembly. 'Connected' means that one action which germinates from another. It means all subjects related to taxation, appropriation

from contingency fund of India .It can be included in the Money Bill if it relates to them, is connected with them, or if any matter related to them arises.As far as electoral funding is concerned, it is about bringing transparency in it.We do not want to impose any taxation on the country, the government will not collect any tax from it.There is no Budgetary provision being made from the Contingency Fund of India.Only the Reserve Bank of India will issue bonds, companies will buy those bonds and donate in the form of bonds to political parties.It is nowhere a subject arising out of or connected with taxation, Budget, consolidated funds, appropriation, it is only a banking process in the bank.This is like, if someone opens his bank account, that would also come under the Money Bill.I understand that banks are only supplementing that process.But please understand the spirit of this word.We will once again urge you and also urge the Minister of Finance that the government should also soften their stance .Government should soften their stance on the matter of such extensive definition of the word ‘incidental’.

Second thing is whether it is good practice or not, whether it is Money Bill or not, that is a different thing. Amendments in forty acts, many tribunals have been merged through the Finance Bill.The

Representation of the People Act was amended. Wide ranging changes have been made in the IT Act. Is this a good practice or not?

Article 80, Rajya Sabha is related to it. Yesterday Moily ji raised the right question that Rajya Sabha is being suppressed under the definition of 'incidental', so I think Rajya Sabha has also become incidental in our country. The entire Council of States, Article 80 has also become incidental. The spirit of Article 80, Article 81, Lok Sabha was formed from Article 81 in the Constitution, Article 80 came earlier. The voices coming from the Council of States, states, regions, those voices are equally important in making the policies of our country, in making the laws and constitution of our country. I understand today that this government has also neglected the sentiment of Article 80 in some way or another. Hence, the government should reconsider this.

Now the question arises that the amendments that took place in Rajya Sabha. Mr. Digvijaya Singh made the first amendment move on behalf of the Congress party, which is an amendment related to tax terrorism. I've spoken about it before. The amendment that the government brought on, it is a Draconian amendment. I would like to read Article 132 of the Income Tax Act which was brought by the Government of India.



*[English]* “For removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the reason to believe as recorded by Income Tax Authority under the sub-section shall not be disclosed to any person or any authority or the Appellate Tribunal.”

*[Translation]*

What is the spirit of this Amendment? If the Income Tax officials do a search, seizure or raid action, then there should be something on the file. To prevent them working by their own will, checks and balances were kept under this law. They should also tell that person and if the person is not satisfied then he can go to the court, go to the tribunal and before the judiciary the income tax officials will have to tell on what basis the search, seizure or raid was done. You repealed it and retrospectively brought this retrospective amendment in Sub-Section-1 from 1962 and in Sub-Section-1A from 1975. We again strongly oppose it, the amendment which has come from the Rajya Sabha, this House should consider it, pass that amendment, because something should be on file, there is a well settled legal principle.

*[English]* There has to be something objective on the file, and only then any subjective decision can be taken by the Income Tax officials. But without having anything on the file, you cannot give a

blank cheque to the Income Tax officials to walk into the doorsteps of any individual or an institution and conduct search, seizure and raid and having no accountability. *[Translation]* Let us admit that you do not tell the person, but tomorrow that person goes to the court and pleads that he is being harassed without any reason and you want that no information is given in the court also. So, we do not agree at all with what your amendment is, please take back this amendment.

Secondly, I would like to say that Shri Sitaram Yechury ji also moved amendments regarding electoral funding. And I think that is also a very serious issue. What is the reason that if we look at the editorials of the last three-four days, an editorial has been published in 'Mint' i.e. - Body attack for political transparency; this is today's editorial. 'Undermining Accountability' is the Editorial published yesterday in *The Business Standard*. It was a matter of transparency, transparency about funding of political parties. When the Minister of Finance was delivering his Budget speech, Hon. Minister had said, I also, as an idealist, when I heard your Budget speech, I thought something good might be happening, talking about reducing it by 20 thousand rupees, talking about digitization....

*(Interruptions)* But what happened? *(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister brought two amendments in the last minute. What did Hon. Minister do through those amendments? Sitaram Yechury's amendment has done the work of repealing them.

Hon. Minister brought the first amendment, during our time a law was made that a company cannot donate more than seven and a half percent of its profit, for the last three years, to any political party. Hon. Minister changed it, repealed it. Now any company, whatever profit it has made, can also donate the entire amount to any political party. Hon. Minister repealed it.

Secondly, Hon. Minister had said that there is no need to declare the name of the person who donates an amount below the cap of twenty thousand rupees and can donate anonymously, Hon. Minister has reduced it to two thousand rupees. I understand that today it is also being discussed that there will be no benefit of decreasing the cap from twenty thousand rupees to two thousand rupees, because it will only increase the work of chartered accountants, instead of one, ten names will have to be given, etc. But that sentiment was that there should be some restriction on anonymous funding. Hon. Minister did it, but what did the Hon. Minister do on the other hand? This is the most serious issue. Now,

if any company wants to donate to a political party through electoral bonds. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are done with your point.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Madam, this is a very serious matter. Let me speak.

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is a serious issue, but you have to speak in your allocated time.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Madam, we are speaking on the amendments. If any company wants to donate to a political party through electoral bonds, then you have made a provision that it does not need to declare in its profit and loss statement the details regarding how much it has donated to whom and the political party also does not need to inform from whom it has received how much donation.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please conclude. The next Hon. Member also has to speak.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** You have done this work of concealing instead of transparency. No one will know whose company, which company, how much donation is being given to

which party by them. ... (*Interruptions*) Just give me two minutes. It is a very serious issue. [*English*] There is no need to declare from any company how much donations they are giving to any political party.... (*Interruptions*)

**12.33 hours** (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair.*)

There is a complete opacity that has been created by this particular piece of amendment which you brought in at the very last minute. [*Translation*] I consider it serious because, see, only two types of people would like to give you their full profits. Either those shell companies will remain, what is the sentiment behind the abolition of this cap or the first provision that the authority is in your hands, income tax will reach the office of a company without any reason and you have revoked the provision of giving the reason. In a way, your government is doing the work of opening the doors of political extortion. You should do this very thoughtfully, because I want to say with regard to this provision.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have finished your speech.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** It has become clear that this is a case of "all show and no substance," where appearances are deceptive. Make pious appearances while pocketing the company's goods. Today Jai Shri Ram chants were being uttered, now Hon. Minister is saying Lakshmi Maa Ki Jai.

**HON. SPEAKER:** HON. Member, now conclude your statement.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Our demand is, we want transparency. This is your chance, we demand that you bring a bill.

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is the matter? You have spoken. How many times will you repeat the same thing? You keep repeating your statements.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** You bring the Political Funding Transparency Bill. A new law should be enacted that includes all these points.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Somaiya ji.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Hukm Narayan ji. Hon. Speaker, let me speak for a minute.

**HON. SPEAKER:** How much time will you keep extending, sometimes 5 minutes, sometimes 2 minutes, how much will you repeat the same thing? Now say the last point.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister has brought a new Bill.... *(Interruptions)* These things should be seriously considered. We are not doubting their intentions, but there are many doubts in the whole country about the manner in which this has been done.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You conclude now.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Sir, another topic which has caused serious discussion across the country is the linking of Aadhaar card and PAN card numbers. This was also discussed in the Rajya Sabha. And I think that's the right direction. Aadhaar card should be used, widespread use should be there, maximum use should be there.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Somaiya ji, you begin.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** But, at the same time I would like to say that there is no data privacy law in our country....  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Speaker, Hon. Member of Rajya Sabha is our elder brother. Therefore, the Rajya Sabha has requested us again, so we must reconsider it. But, while doing that, we will also have to try to fulfill the responsibility that is on the younger brother. What are the amendments proposed by Rajya Sabha? They are basically two amendments. The main points of both the amendments are security. I will only speak on those two amendments.

Hon. Speaker, what is the objective behind both the amendments that Hon. Member has made? If objective is security, who do you want to protect? Our Hon. Member or my friend Hooda ji here has talked about security. Who do we want to protect? Do we want to protect those who have black money? Do we want to protect the abnormal deposits that took place due to demonetisation in 18 lakh bank accounts? The dormant accounts, the accounts which were suddenly opened in the month of November-December and the people who deposited lakhs of crores of rupees in them, and whether the Assistant Commissioner of our Income Tax Department writes a letter to those account holders, then should he not even write a letter? What is this amendment? I would request the Hon. Minister



of Finance to give complete information about this amendment to the House and the entire country in his reply.

According to what I have understood, one amendment is about sending such a letter, only about the right to write a letter. In fact, I would not call it a right, but responsibility. This responsibility has been given to the Assistant Commissioner. My friends in this House and some other experts are saying that we have given all the powers of the Commissioner and Director General, who had the powers of search and survey, to a much junior ranked Assistant Commissioner. According to my information, writing a letter, asking for information from them, starting an inquiry, this responsibility is being put on those people by the House. What is that also, please understand for instance, someone deposited Rs 48 lakh cash in one of his bank accounts, deposited old notes. He can write in his reply that this 48 lakh rupees is my earning of ten years. Thus these rupees were cash-on-hand in my income tax return. He has to answer that and there is so much discussion going on for that. I would also like to ask the Minister of Finance clearly whether even today after this amendment, if any junior ranked officer has to take permission to get the right to search, conduct a survey or search somewhere, will he have to take permission from the officer above him or not? To the

best of my knowledge, the Income Tax Act, 1961 has not made any major changes in that provision through this Finance Bill.

Yes, one thing is certain that there is a lot of mention about the so -called Charitable Trusts. We have a Public Accounts Committee of Finance, whose chairman is a Member of our opposition. We recently presented a CAG report in the House. In the name of charitable trusts, several educational organizations are purely running a non-transparent business. There are many such educational trusts that are conducting their business under the guise of being charitable trusts. They take donations of ten lakh rupees, twenty five lakh rupees and fifty lakh rupees from the poor students of your and our region and then they adjust this donation. Shouldn't they be enquired? The charitable trusts which are honest and authentic, questions have to be asked to these charitable trusts, there should be a right to raid and conduct surveys on charitable trusts if questions have to be asked .If an income tax officer approaches a charitable trust, what is wrong with it? On one hand, we demand that these education trusts, which have become a business, should be investigated and stopped. The government and the Finance Minister must do this. If our Minister of Finance mentions the survey (not

read) keeping in mind the spirit of Parliament, then we must think about it.

I want to say that, whom do we want to protect. We want to protect those doing business in the name of education, we want to protect those who have opened lakhs of benami accounts and indulge in practices of black money and money laundering. I once again congratulate Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji that all of us and the entire country are with them in the fight against black money.

Another thing, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance that somewhere someone raided, searched, surveyed and tried to find out the truth, today a lot of discussion is going on about it. I would like to ask the senior Members and friends and request the Hon. Minister of Finance that from the year 1961 to 2014, his government was in power for many years, how many people/assesses have been told these types of reasons. Will my friends from the Congress or any friend from the Communist Party name anyone? You say income tax payers abuse their rights. In your administration, where raids were conducted, where surveys or searches were carried out, you haven't provided the reason for any single one of them. You continued the same provision.

In the meantime, an observation of the court came and due to this an attempt was made to change a minor technical thing. Our Minister of Finance, whom does he really want to protect? On one hand, we say that the Lokpal Bill should be brought in, and whistleblowers should be protected. The Finance Bill approved by Hon. Finance Minister with your help aims to protect whistleblowers. Anyone who provides information, whether it is an employee of the company, a client, a former chartered accountant, or an activist, if they provide information, even today the provision in court is that when the High Court requests it, the reasons are provided in a sealed envelope. Now, even after this amendment, such reasons will be provided to the High Court in this manner. There won't be any difference.

You are talking about SAIL Company, the current Government, the Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry have constituted a Task Force to take action against SAIL Company in the convenership of Revenue Secretary. This SAIL company was born under your rule. We want to shutdown this SAIL company, SAIL companies are only used for non-transparent transactions and money-laundering.

I will conclude by saying the last point. The second issue came up - election funds, bonds. I would like to share secret knowledge in this regard. We want to protect you. Today we are in power, tomorrow there will be someone else. Tell me that if we are in power at the Centre, elections are being held in the state, if someone gives corporate election donations, the names of the party will appear in his company's balance sheet, then automatically the person who has power will try to suppress it. We are bringing transparency. We are securing you that no matter how much donation someone gives you through electoral bonds, the government will not even know which company gave it. There is a saying that after committing bad deeds acts as a saint. This is how they are. I appeal to the House that we support the amendment brought by the Narendra Modi government for transparency and fight against black money and reject the Rajya Sabha amendment.

*[English]*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Sir, yesterday the Rajya Sabha took up discussion on the Finance Bill and they have sent back the Finance Bill with altogether five different amendments. What is the procedure in this case? Since this is a Money Bill, article 109(4) of the Constitution says:

“If the House of the People does not accept any of the recommendations of the Council of States, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by the House of the People without any of the amendments recommended by the Council of States.”

So, the House can reject the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha. There is a provision for that in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Rule 108 states:

“If the House does not accept any of the recommendations of the Council, the Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses in the form in which it was passed by the House without any of the amendments recommended by the Council and a message to that effect shall be sent to the Council.”

But there is also another provision in the Rules to which I draw the attention of the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister can also accept some of the recommendations of the Council. Rule 107 says:

“If the House accepts any amendment or amendments as recommended by the Council, the Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses with the amendment or amendments recommended by the Council ...”

That means, this House can also accept the amendments that have been placed by the Rajya Sabha. Now the question is whether the Government should respond to the call of the Council of States and accept some of the recommendations that have been made.

What are the recommendations that have been made? Before I speak on that, let me point out that at the time of discussion on the Finance Bill we had [*English*] mentioned that many Acts have been amended through the Finance Bill which should not have been done. Apart from 10 Acts listed in the Bill, a large number of changes in the matter of tribunals were made. We had said that this need not have been included in the Finance Bill which is a Money Bill. The Government rode rough shod over all our amendments and went ahead.

One of the provisions in the Finance Bill is to link the Aadhaar to PAN and we had objected to it. But since then, the Supreme Court has given an observation that for opening of bank accounts or for

having PAN, Aadhaar can be made mandatory or can be allowed, but for any further public welfare programmes or subsidies, Aadhaar should not be made compulsory as the Government had done in mid-day meal scheme. So, I repeat the point that we had made with regard to the Aadhaar being all-powerful.

Another point has been made that whether overuse of Aadhaar is leading to leakage of data and breach of privacy of individuals. It is because Aadhaar contains all the details of an individual and if everything is linked to Aadhaar, Government will have at its fingertips any facts about the private accounts of any individual and we object to it.

Another thing we had objected at the time of passing of Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha was the matter of electoral bonds and electoral funding which has been included in this Bill. As Shri Shri Deepender Hooda eloquently mentioned, there should be a separate law for ensuring transparency in electoral funding. It should have been done but it has not been done. It has been included in the so-called omnibus Finance Bill.

Having raised these points, I would like to come to the actual amendments made by the Rajya Sabha. According to the Rajya Sabha, Clause 51 is to be deleted. Clause 51 deals with Section



132A of the Income Tax Act which gives power to requisition books of accounts etc. Now, in the Finance bill as it was introduced, it was mentioned that for the removal of doubts it is hereby declared that the reason to believe as recorded by IT authority under this Section shall not be disclosed to any person or any authority or the appellate tribunal. So, the power to requisition books of accounts will be there and it will not be revealed to any individual. It is a direct assault on the right of the individual. The Rajya Sabha had recommended that this assault should not be there.

**12.54 hours**            (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

The Rajya Sabha has also recommended that Clauses 52 and 53, both of which deal with Sections 133 and 133A of the Income Tax Act should also be removed. Section 133 of the Income Tax Act gives the power to call for information. This power has been given to certain more officers. Section 133A is with regard to power of survey. For this, more officers have been authorized. These are vitally important points. We have to accept that it is draconian that somebody will have the power to move anything, to requisition books of accounts etc. but he does not have to disclose this. This goes against the right of an individual. In that sense, I think the hon.

Finance Minister should accept the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha.

The main objection that we have is with regard to electoral funding as has been mentioned in Clause 154 of the Finance Bill as passed by the Rajya Sabha. The amendment has suggested that it shall not be above 7.5 per cent of the net profit of the last three financial years. The Finance Bill as placed by the Finance Minister says that every company shall disclose in its profit and loss account the total amount contributed by it under this section during the financial year. The amendment says that it shall not be more than 7.5 per cent; otherwise, as Shri Deepender Hooda has said the company may contribute the whole of its profits to the Ruling Party and that would be legally sanctionable. The Rajya Sabha amendment calls for restriction on the contribution to political parties.

The other issue is that the Rajya Sabha has suggested further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of the political parties to which contributions have been made. This is what the Rajya Sabha has suggested. There is no such restriction in the present law. You can see that after line 40, it says, “Provided that a company may make contributions through any instrument issued pursuant to any scheme notified under any law for the time

being in force for contribution to the political party.” The main demand of the Rajya Sabha is that the names of those who are contributing should be revealed. I think, this is a very reasonable amendment. The Finance Minister himself belongs to the Rajya Sabha. He may once bow to the wishes of the Council of States and agree to at least one of the recommendations of the House to which he belongs. It will only be democratic. The bicameral system is there for checks and balances; just because a party has a majority in the Lok Sabha, it should not ride roughshod over the opinion of the other House. That is why this is my humble submission.

I have mentioned the different manners in which this has been done. I am again saying that the procedures of this House are being violated in the sense that we are making the Finance Bill a comprehensive compendium of different laws instead of a plain Bill to announce the tax proposals of the Government. In general, we have objected to it. Again, I support the amendments made in the Council of States towards an amendment of this matter.

Thank you.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam Speaker, the scope is very limited. Of course, you have allowed us to participate on these amendments as a discussion. Our scope is limited to the five amendments that have been effected in the Council of States, the Rajya Sabha. But while discussing these amendments, as all political leaders do, we digress and also migrate to other issues.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You can avoid that.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I will try to avoid but certain things come to the mind. I was in this block in the last Lok Sabha. The Congress has changed sides and so also the Bharatiya Janata Party. But at that time something else was happening outside the Sansad Bhavan, in Ramlila Grounds. A number of leaders also went to meet Anna Hazare. What was he striving to achieve? The whole conscience of the nation was against corruption. The whole nation wanted transparency in administration and that is what was reflected in 2014 elections.

### **13.00 hours**

People sided with those political parties who vouchsafed themselves that they want transparency, they are against corruption and they want action against corrupt people. It is a different matter

that the person who was next to Anna Hazare is now leading a Government in Delhi. A new political party has come into existence. But that issue remains.

When these 190 amendments were circulated, at that time I was told that in the Business Advisory Committee it was argued to give one more day so that the House can deliberate on these amendments. Time also was very limited when we deliberated on the Finance Bill. There were a number of issues. My friend, Shri Pralhad Joshi was Chairing at that time and I said that I have some more points to raise. He said every Member has certain points and certain points were also not deliberated. But, thankfully in the Rajya Sabha at least some issues came to light. One of the major issues was relating to transparency in political funding. This was also raised by BJD when the Budget was taken up for discussion.

I am grateful to the Finance Minister, at that time in his reply he said, and also called upon the Congress Party to sit together and discuss how transparent we can make our political funding mechanisms? We need a consensus on this. Those were good and wise words. But what has happened? These amendments to the Finance Bill, which were passed in the Lok Sabha, were also

discussed in the Rajya Sabha and they have made certain other amendments.

Before coming to that, the first amendment that has been affected in the Rajya Sabha, as has been said, is relating to Section 51, amendment of Section 132(a) of the Income Tax Act. This was also deliberated in this House. I am not going to elaborate on it. I hold my view. I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister, since when this provision of revealing to the person whose house is being, English is a very funny language, raided or searched? For me it may be a raid and for the officer who will be raiding my house will say, 'I am searching'. It is a very funny language as such. Raid, search or whatever name one may give... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR):** The effect is the same.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Yes. But the question here is, Madam, I am not asking for the person who has reported it, since when this provision was incorporated in the Income Tax Act. Was it there since 1961? Or, was it incorporated at a later stage, which now is getting deleted? This needs to be told to the House and also to the nation.

Being a Member of the Finance Committee and also the Public accounts Committee, my experience is that this information is also with the Finance Ministry and also with many Members who are in these two Committees. The major problem lies in the fact that a large number of cases are pending at the appellate level. It takes years altogether but decision does not come. Of course, there are cases pending in the High Court and the Supreme Court but at the appellate level a large number of cases are pending for various reasons but one of the reasons is the person against whom the case is there, is running from pillar to post and is put to a lot of difficulty.

What has been told by our good friend, Shri Kirit Somaiya? The basic idea is that the safety of those who provide information is paramount. That is the priority. I thought the Government, as an instrument of statecraft, has to protect the citizens of this country. That should be the primary objective of the Government. But, what is happening? Attempts should be made to make it minimum. The people should not be put to difficulty and should be at the minimum. But, that is not happening. I would like to understand this. I am not leading that this Clause should be included or should not be included. These two informations will reveal many things as to why there is so much of pendency up to the Appellate level and as to

what steps the Government is taking to bring it down. That will also ease a lot of difficulty of the citizens who are put to difficulty. I am not insisting the other two issues.

The other issue is related to political funding. Our Party has repeatedly said that we want transparency in political funding. When the matter was there before us in the Budget, it was that till Rs.20,000 nothing should be revealed but now it came down to Rs.2000. It was just a clerical calculation that needs to be done as to how to add more vouchers into it. But, the major change that has been effected here is the amendments to the Companies Act of 2013. Shri Moily is here. He was the hon. Minister during that time. The Finance Committee had seized off the matter not only once, but twice. For two times, the Companies Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance by this House. Why? It is because the first recommendation of the Finance Committee was accepted by the UPA Government to a great extent and subsequently, some more amendments were also added and again it came back. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ahluwalia is here. He was also a witness to it. So, it became another Bill. At that time, Shri Yashwant Sinha was the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. A large number of hon. Members, who are present today



in this House were Members of that Committee also. There it was mentioned that any company, which is going to donate or going to provide funds for political purpose to any political party, that should be reflected in their balance of accounts. Once it is reflected in the balance of accounts, anybody who wants to know which company has donated what and to which political party, it is there in the public domain. Now, that gets deleted. That amendment that has been effected and passed by the Lok Sabha, has been negated and another has been added by the Rajya Sabha.

Secondly, should our political system run with the finance of the corporate sector? Should we? Ours is a vibrant democracy. I remember in 1977, in Odisha, when Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh asked the college students, like us, to take out their *kurtas* and move around the crowd. We collected one, two or five rupees. That was all crowd-sourcing. Now we are not going to allow individual donation and want to restrict it to a great extent. But here you are opening the flood gates for corporate funding for political purpose. At this point of time, any political party which is in Government may reap benefits but tomorrow when that Party will be out of power, will they have the same benefit? More grievous thing is that people will not know what benefit a Government does

for that corporate sector in its Budget making. Are you going to provide better facilities to that company? People will not be able to know it because they do not have the information. This is a very serious thing. That is why, the Biju Janata Dal Party will insist for retention of the amendment that has been effected in the Rajya Sabha relating to Clause 154 through which it seeks to insert the words 'which shall not be above 7.5 per cent of the net profit of the last three financial years'. This is necessary for transparency.

I am really intrigued to know why this has happened. What was the necessity? Is it only to protect the donor for political purpose? But in a way, you are denying the general public of the information that is supposed to make the system more transparent.

I would not go into FCRA. Some Members, of course, mentioned about it. As far as I understand, I think the learned Finance Minister is aware of it that a decision was there from the Delhi High Court. Then Congress Party or some one else went to the Supreme Court. There is a restriction on getting foreign donations from foreign companies. The FCR Act denies it. It was supposed to be deliberated in the Supreme Court but at some point in time, that was withdrawn. I would like to understand whether the decision of the Delhi High Court stands or it was deleted in the last year's

Finance Bill when it was approved by Parliament. It is because that came into effect in the Finance Bill of 2016.

I am not a lawyer. I am not a student of law but sitting next to Mr. Kalyan Banerjee, as far as I understand – there may be two opinions on it – the pronouncements of the court of law has only one opinion. As far as the Delhi High Court decision is concerned, that still stands. The decision which the Government had effected in 2016 does not delete the decision of the Delhi High Court. As has been advised, there should not be any attempt to nullify that decision. We need an answer from the Finance Minister.

We insist that transparency is necessary in political funding. Every money and every rupee that comes to a political party should be open. I believe in German Law. I had mentioned about it. In regard to political funding, Germany has clear openness. Let us adopt that. If you want to expand it, let us do it. It is necessary to make our political system corruption free.

*[English]*

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Madam, the Telugu Desam Party supported the Finance Bill, 2017 when it was passed in the Lok Sabha last week. We reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.

Having said that, I would like to make two points. One is that TDP supports transparency in political and election funding and we look forward to working together with the Government towards legislation and electoral reforms that lead towards this transparency.

The second thing that I want to mention is that income tax returns are being filed by just about three per cent of our population. But to my understanding, only about one per cent is paying income tax. So, for a country like India to have just one per cent of our population paying income tax, we cannot sustain ourselves in this manner. If we look at China, the figure is at eight per cent. Eight per cent of the Chinese population is actually paying income tax. We need to work towards how we actually increase our tax net. While compliance is important, expanding the tax net is equally, if not, more important.

Madam Speaker, I have a couple of suggestions on how tax payers can be recognised and motivated. One suggestion is that

perhaps we can consider issuing a privilege card for tax payers, who are paying tax above a certain limit. This can give them priority for railway bookings; it could give them access to airport lounges; it could give them subsidised medical facilities, such type of things, to motivate people to pay right amount of tax.

Another thing that we could offer is some type of insurance. Perhaps, two times the gross income for medi-claim, or ten times the gross income for life insurance, something of that sort. We could also think about introducing a pension scheme after 65 years on the basis of tax paid by the tax payer over his life time. So, that is another suggestion.

The second suggestion is on demonetisation. I did not have a chance to make the recommendation earlier but it is a novel idea which I would like the hon. Finance Minister to consider. We have already suggested from the Telugu Desam Party that 2000 rupee notes be withdrawn and perhaps 200 rupee notes can be introduced in its place. We still make that recommendation. But in addition to that, why do we not consider the idea of an expiry date on large currency bank notes? We can have an expiry date so that hoarding of cash can be eliminated and there will be on-going demonetisation on a regular basis. That could be considered. So, I would like the hon.

Finance Minister to kindly consider expiry date for large currency notes.

Madam, with those few suggestions, we reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.

Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR):**

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Yesterday I did not get a chance to speak on the GST Bills. I also submitted amendments, but since yesterday it was the Ugadi day, I had to be there and I could not move my amendments.

However, today, on the five amendments that have been proposed by the Rajya Sabha, I would not like to elaborate much on that, but I know that the amendments would be rejected on a voice vote. But I would like give my views on this. So, one amendment that says that the ceiling shall not be above 7.5 per cent of the net profit of the last three financial years is also a progressive step as this is a process to cap political funding to only 7.5 per cent of net profit of companies of the last three financial years. The cap will enable efficient and effective utilisation of resources by the parties and reduce unnecessary harassment of business in our country and will bring a structure to political funding. This is what I feel on that.

The amendment number 5 says: “provided further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of political parties to which contributions have been made”. It is a progressive step forward in the domain of political funding by

business. This step, in my opinion, will bring transparency in the process of contributions to political parties and will enable both the parties and companies to disclose the funding information and boost accountability. So, this amendment can be incorporated for greater good and it will be a step forward towards cleaning up political funding. This is my submission. It may be taken into consideration.

Thank you.



*[Translation]*

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):**

Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on this Bill. My thoughts and those of my party are that corporate political funding should stop. Even today corporate political funding is done in the country, but it is done secretly. Anytime someone's name comes up. The name of our Prime Minister also comes up that so much money was taken....

*(Interruptions)* The name of the Prime Minister has come up. If the bill is passed, it will be legalised. Earlier such things were done covertly, now it will be done overtly and there will be no difference between bribe and donation. This will convert black money into white money. Some companies will be opened and black money will be converted into white money and will be donated to political parties. With this, political parties will work for the corporate sector. If it is done that corporate funding starts and there is no upper limit, no name will come out who gave money to whom, then every political party, especially the party in power, will work for the corporates. In a democratic system, the government is by the people, for the people and of the people. After this bill is passed, the

government will be by the corporate, for the corporate and of the corporate. We are moving in the wrong direction. We have repeatedly tried to raise this issue in the House.... (*Interruptions*) In the last Lok Sabha elections, it appeared in the newspaper that 35 thousand crore rupees were spent, 21 thousand crore rupees of the BJP and 14 thousand crore rupees of the opposition. This was not public money. This money belonged to corporates, that is why you are going to legalize it.

Madam, this should not happen and black money should not be converted into white money. Our Prime Minister has said that 'I will not take bribe nor let anyone take bribes', but the gate is being opened in such a way that the way to make black money white money is being opened again. I and my party have an opinion that this Bill has been considered in the Rajya Sabha, it is correct and there is no need to reject it here.

[*English*]

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Madam Speaker, on 21<sup>st</sup> March when I was on my legs to raise a Point of Order and making an objection to the consideration and passing of the Finance Bill, my voice was very feeble and I got only little

support from this House. But now I am very proud to say that the entire country is discussing and debating the Finance Bill and the proposed amendments made by the hon. Finance Minister that are being rushed to the House and being well discussed.

Today we are getting this opportunity to discuss about political funding by the corporates only because the Upper House, the Rajya Sabha, has made some amendments to the Finance Bill passed by this House.

I would like to quote some news. As rightly said by Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, it is mentioned in almost all the main newspapers of our country including *The Times of India*. *The Times of India* has put an editorial. They have used the same word which I have mentioned in the House that it is a backdoor legislation. As regards bulldozing the legislation, yesterday hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu was speaking that it is unparliamentary and it is not heard of.

But I would like to say that it is a backdoor legislation because on the pretext of the Finance Bill, so many other legislation are being amended behind this legislation. That is also being accepted.

I would like to quote one line. The editorial written by *The Times of India* is “Making the Finance Bill a grab bag of legislations runs counter to Government accountability” on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. Since I do not have the time, I am not going to read the editorial of *The Times of India*. It is very important and this back door legislation is well enunciated in the *Times of India*, dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. That is applicable to this case also.

Eminent citizens, including noted jurist ... \* has written to Vice President, \* expressing concerns over the classification of the Finance Bill as a Money Bill. These eminent citizens also include ... \* and 200 other citizens have expressed their concerns over the way by which the Finance Bill is being introduced in the House.

I am coming to the amendments.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The names will not go on record.

... \*

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Shri Fali S. Nariman is an eminent jurist in our country.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know.

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\* Not recorded

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:** It is part of the news. I am not quoting the proceedings. I am only saying Vice President. I am not even saying Vice Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

We discussed this on 21<sup>st</sup>. Why now is it being discussed? I have already said that it is because the Rajya Sabha has made some amendments. So, the right of the Members of the Lok Sabha is being denied by the Government. The way in which the Finance Bill is being brought to the House should never happen in future and we are seeking protection from the hon. Speaker.

Coming to the amendments, it is a very important matter. I will not repeat the matters which have already been mentioned by Shri Mahtab, Prof. Saugata Roy, etc. I am fully supporting what they have said.

Totally five amendments have been made by the Rajya Sabha. The first one relates to Clause 51. I would like to make only one point. In Clause 51, that is the right of the citizens to be protected, in which Section 132 (a) of the Income Tax is being amended. The amendment will be having retrospective effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1975. We are making an amendment regarding the disclosure to the income tax authorities, that is being given effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October,

1975. What is the meaning or what is the impact of giving such retrospective effect?

I am coming to the next amendment. It is very important. That is regarding the Section 182 of the Companies Act which relates to political funding by the corporates. We are always speaking of transparency and accountability in our democratic system. Transparency and accountability are the essential features of a good democratic system. Section 182 of the Companies Act is being amended incorporating a new sub-section 182 (3) (a) and taking away two provisos of the original Section 182. What does sub-section (3) (a) say? If a corporate wants to finance there was a ceiling. The maximum amount that a corporate can donate to a political party is limited to 7.5 per cent of the total or the average of the net profit of the last three financial years. That ceiling has been taken away. It means the corporate houses in our country will have absolute freedom to finance as much as they want to without any limit. Along with it, another Section is also being added. They need not disclose which political party is being funded. It is not required.

I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to accede to our request. You leave all other amendments. We will support you. We will negate all the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha. We will

support. But accept the Fifth Amendment. The Prime Minister always speaks against corruption, against black money. ... *(Interruptions)* So, my submission is that the Government must accept at least the last amendment made by the Rajya Sabha regarding the political funding by the corporate houses.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, Rajya Sabha has given some suggestions on the Finance Bill that we passed. We are discussing that. There's always a question in my mind. We are elected to this Lok Sabha. It is called the Lower House. Those who do not face people are called upper houses. It is called the House of Scholars. I have never understood why this is so.

Madam, there are learned people in our House also. I am not, but Mahtab ji, Premachandran ji and there are many people who participate in the debate here. These people raise their issues, but because we have the majority, we ignore it and pass bills.

Madam, the same issues arise in the Rajya Sabha. They are forwarded here again as amendments. This too has been enshrined in the Constitution. If they suggested some amendments, it is up to the Lok Sabha to accept or not accept those suggestions. There are some such issues today. Being part of the government, I am with the government. This is an important amendment which was mentioned by Hooda ji, Bhartruhari Mahtab ji. I was sitting and was not going to participate in it, but while sitting I felt there was merit in it. There should be transparency. There should be transparency in political funds. There should also be a limit on who gave how much funds and



how much funds should be given. Hooda ji had suggested that you bring the Political Transparency Bill. Along with this, I think we should accept the amendments given by the Rajya Sabha on this.

Madam, I have put my point here. I also oppose the other suggestions and amendments. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Y V Subba Reddy ji.

*[English]*

**SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE):** Madam Speaker, at the outset I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject and my Party supports the various initiatives taken by the Government in expanding the formal economy. Reducing the cash in daily transactions is also a welcome move. In the Budget, an idea has been incorporated to ensure economic growth and prudent fiscal management. This will certainly help in the development and improvement of social security.

There is also a need to rethink about the Government's decision to link *Aadhaar* with the opening of bank accounts and filing of income tax returns. This may have serious consequences on the data theft. It can jeopardize the privacy and security of citizens.

The Government has said that the tax regime will be user friendly and non-adversarial. In this country, only 1.5 lakh people declare income of over Rs. 50 lakh and only around 20,000 people declare income above Rs. One crore. How many of these high net worth individuals are scrutinized? I am asking this question because what happens is that here the security rate goes up to 30 to 50 per cent and that is where corruption begins. The Government needs to address the issue.

Then, political funding should be made more transparent so that corruption can be totally avoided.

Lastly, I request the hon. Finance Minister to accord Special Category Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh as promised in this august House. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD):** Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Madam, on Clause 154, I have an apprehension that we are heading towards a conflict wherein the Speaker would be in conflict with the Supreme Court. Please allow me to say, Madam, unfortunately this Government has reduced this Lok Sabha to a sausage making machine. Elections will come and go. But elections should be vibrant and political funding should be transparent. I can quote you an example wherein this Government allowed foreign funding to political parties where both the Congress and the BJP agreed to rectify their mistake. Now, a person sitting in US, may be in Pentagon, can fund a political party in India. But an NGO cannot get funding from any foreign country. Madam, Rs. 2000/- is the limit. But here, you have corporates, who can give unaccounted money to political parties.

Madam, may I know? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please, do not disturb.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:** Madam, about removing the 7.5 per cent limit, may I know the rationale behind it? How that is a

corporate would definitely fund the Congress and BJP only? The biggest sufferers would be the regional parties. Why? It is because, they know for a fact, somewhere they will be in power. Now, nothing comes free. Lunch will not be free anymore. So, why is it that this Government is insistent, and that too, Madam, no mention should be made about the corporate company who has funded what?

When you are ready for transparency, why do you not accept this Rajya Sabha Amendment?... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, Rajya Sabha is a House of Reason... *[Translation]* *(Interruptions)*... \* Will also fund sitting in our village, you will not know. That's what you want, right? *[English]* Now, I know that you want ... \* to fund you. Congratulations to you. You want ... \* to fund you. I am quoting them.

Madam, you see 7.5 per cent ceiling. The Government wants to delete it. Why?

Moreover about clause 51, for six months, the property would be seized; and the High Court also should not know. The Finance Minister has been an eminent lawyer. Then, Tribunals would be

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\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

formed; you would appoint them; you would give them the terms of qualification. Is it not a clash?

I agree, Madam Speaker that you have classified it as a Money Bill, but I am of the opinion that this is unconstitutional and illegal. We are sacrificing political transparency.

I hope that the Government would once again apply their mind, because they are bringing in this Amendment; tomorrow they will not be in power; power is not eternal. Believe me, any Government, who wants to take away this legislation, will have to get your type of majority, which I am sure, in 2019, you will not get; no Government will take that kind of majority in 2019.

What you are doing now, is that you are creating a precedent, by which everyone will suffer. You are acting in haste; and the people of India will repent in leisure. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Madam Speaker, I am sorry that the Rajya Sabha has suggested five amendments. I cannot give my or the government's approval to them. Let me explain the reason for this clearly that sometimes we accept the propaganda that takes place in relation to the subject and do not understand the logic behind

it. Section 132(A) was the most talked about thing, what is this? From the year 1961 till date, there is a provision in the Income Tax Act, if a person has undeclared income and his information is with the tax department, then there is intelligence/surveillance on him, where did that information come from is known. All this forms a satisfaction note in writing. In that, identity of informant, nature of information, intelligence information, whatever verifications were done about that person. After that, the high-level officer of the department reaches the decision that the person should be searched. This law has been in place since 1961 till date, there is no change in it.

*[English]* There still will be a Satisfaction Note. It still will be, in writing. So, let us not give these fictional arguments there would not be a piece of paper, you can barge into any property. You cannot do that.

*[Translation]* There has not been a single example since 1961. Any party that has been in the government should give a copy of this note to the target of investigation. It would be disastrous to do that. First, the person, regarding whom we are conducting a search, should be told what information is there against him/her, what intelligence information is there, what information is there about undisclosed income, who has given that information and what

verifications have we given. Without understanding the seriousness of the subject, someone wrote an article that it is a human rights issue and that is why it is not rights of a citizen. The person who is breaking the law, against whom the department has information, it is in a satisfaction note, which has never been given to that person till date. To whom is it given, if the court asks for the same to view the same, what reasons did you have. *[English]* How did you achieve this satisfaction? So, we give it to the court. It has always been the position. That will continue to be the position.

*[Translation]*

But why this change was needed, it was necessary because many times the courts give their judgments. A judgement was given by court in favour of the government and also said that it does not need to give any paper. In it, the court wrote an obitor sentence, which was not related to that case. This led to confusion that at the assessment stage the person could ask for this copy. Whistle blower should be protected, what information whistle blower is giving, its protection should be ensured, this is happening all over the world. Mahtab ji, that whistleblower is also a citizen. That information also has a value. *[English]* Why do we say that journalist must not disclose their source or the information that they get from their source? It is

because if sources dry up, if sources are exposed, then information will never come. That is the rational. There is a larger public interest. As far as an economic offender is concerned, a hue and cry is being raised by some people that that economic offender must be told as to what the source is or what the content of the information is. This has never been done and only so that this judgement of the court's observation should not be misunderstood, this amendment has come only as a matter of abundant caution.

*[Translation]*

Just now Owaisi sahab said that you have made provision for seizure and attachment for six months. If someone searches and finds an unauthorized asset, then there is a power to seize it. You can take jewellery, you can take gold, you can take an asset, you can take a painting, you can take valuables, they can be taken by the department. If you do not want to take it, then you attach it and give a prohibitory order that keep it here, do not sell it further till the assessment is completed. *[English]* Now, this additional power is being taken so that you physically do not take it away. It remains with the assessee with one limitation that it remains attached. He will not sell it. So, this is to the benefit of a person who is being searched.



*[Translation]*

Now this is the second suggestion why you made a provision for this power. I am sorry that I cannot accept these two suggestions of Rajya Sabha.

A lot of discussion has just happened with respect to tribunals, 40 acts are there. What is the actual situation today, every law we make has either a regulator, its appeal provision or any other administrative machinery, its appeal tribunal is there. If there is an administrative body, then the government appoints, if there is a regulator, then the government appoints one. If the judge has to be appointed, then he is appointed on the advice of the Supreme Court. *[English]* This is the existing position. This will remain the position. So, nobody is going to choose judges. They will be appointed on the advice and recommendation of the Supreme Court.

*[Translation]*

What is the situation today, there are so many tribunals that in every tribunal, in some tribunals there is work and in some there is no work. Now suppose the Department of Petroleum has a tribunal, for pricing, for tariffs or for air tariff authority. For each, you have to pay from the government revenue for housing, administrative offices, staff, salaries, etc. Now the situation has come that so many retired

judges are needed for all this and the retired judges also have options to do arbitrations now.

*[English]*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** The more the merrier....

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** The more the merrier; Kalyan is right and that is lucrative. Public service is not lucrative. Private business is always more lucrative.

There are important tribunals where retired judges have to be appointed. I am in receipt of communications from the Judiciary that nobody is agreeing to join this. So, under these circumstances, what does the Government do? So, for a long time, the Government has decided, let us start amalgamating two-three of them so that each tribunal has sufficient work and the number can be curtailed.

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** Why this belongs to the Finance Bill?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** It is because, it involves money; it involves expenditure; it involves saving of expenditure. Shashi, this is not the first time that merger of tribunals has taken place in the Finance Bill. There are precedents.

Let me tell you the point that Deepender raised just now, even on electoral reforms, in 2001 when Mr. Vajpayee's Government did it and in 2010 when the UPA Government did it, took some steps, they were under the Finance Bill. I will just explain to you when. So, those tribunals are under different Acts. So, you have only one amendment and that one amendment is that a number of tribunals are being merged into one. So, instead of doing the work of one tribunal, one tribunal will have to do the work of two or three tribunals. There will be uniform salary conditions. There will be uniform perquisites and services. That one amendment will be in all those parent Acts under those tribunals have been created. So, there is just one amendment merging multiple tribunals into lesser number of tribunals, saving on Government expenditure. And mind you, most of these tribunals are in the business of tariff fixation. So, they deal with revenue matters, squarely within the definition of Article 110. So, all that has been done is – there is a hue and cry – 40 Acts have been amended. Actually it is an administrative exercise for good governance which has been done.

Now, let us come to your last and big question on electoral funding. *[Translation]* Madam, what is the status of electoral funding. There is a simple task in this country, writing editorials or

making speeches. This work is very simple, because some terminology is like this, there should be honesty, there should be transparency, it is very simple and both of these are good fantasies.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is not said for you. It is not for you.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** It goes with responsibility and accountability. You are responsible to your readers; you are accountable to your readers. That is how you survive. I am talking about writing editorial. Of course, giving *bhasan* is one thing.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ):** His question is valid. Some give speeches, some write editorials and some people do both.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Mahtab ji, we will discuss accountability in some other context. At the end of the day, it is only elected institutions who are accountable. The level of accountability of others is always limited.

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Please put in a word and reiterate to the Law Minister. This morning we have already addressed this in the

Consultative Committee meeting at 9:30, please communicate that to the Law Minister.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** I invite all of you, not only you, but also others outside who suggest anything , editorial writers and column writers, please suggest a better system.what is the present system? the present system has two features - unclean money and total non-transparency.Today the present system is that most of the political funding is happening in cash.Tax evaded money is there and transparency is nothing, because no one discloses.Neither the candidate declares how much money he got in the election, nor the political party declares the whole.... *(Interruptions)* You assume that the reality of today's system is that there is neither transparency nor clean money.

In the year 2001, we took the initiative and in that initiative, clean money should come and transparency should also be there. We have made a provision that if any person gives money to any political party and gives it by cheque, then he will also get tax exemption and political party will also get exemption.

*[English]*

Deepender Ji, this was done under the Income Tax Act and the

Finance Bill and corresponding changes were made to the Representation of People Act and in the Companies Act.

*[Translation]*

Now what was its effect? Some people started giving, but in a very limited amount you got success. Those who gave it said that if our name comes and it will be clear on the balance sheet that we gave and to which party, then the adverse consequences of that transparency will be on me.

Let us understand that the system, governance and the country have to be run by this House. Using only idioms in an article will not run this country. We felt the problem and its effect was that, I will disclose, if any other political party comes to power, then they will say that you gave it to another party last time. Not only this, there was another consequence, suppose your party was in power at the state government level in Haryana, it gave it to the Congress party. After two years, they got the contract to build a highway in Haryana, then there used to be a PIL that money was given in the elections, that is why they got the contract. It has happened, so that person said that this cleanliness and transparency is costing him a lot. So they continued to carry forward the system which was neither clean nor transparent. When the UPA government was in power,

disclosure of name should not be done , today you have become attached to transparency, we do not need to be hypocritical in this.The current President was the Finance Minister, so I wrote a letter to him that if the problem, whose name comes up, is not ready to give, then bring an amendment in the Finance Bill that if a donor gives money through an electronic trust and that electronic trust becomes a pass-through, then his balance will come in the balance-sheet of paid-to-electoral trust and the trust is not a company, so there will be no disclosure.You brought it and I don't think it's wrong.It was expected that after this the system of donating by cheque would increase further.When we brought it in 2001, Congress supported it, when you brought it in 2010, we supported it.The intention behind this was that people should start giving by cheque, inculcate that habit.Not much success was achieved in that .Therefore, this time we have introduced four provisions, those who want complete transparency and cleanliness, they should give it by cheque, they should disclose their name, even today this provision is there, no one has stopped them.If the Congress party has a problem with bonds, then please receive it only in this manner.Then let's see how many people donate to you.... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Now they are giving you.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Deepender Ji, it is one thing--and I have used this phrase repeatedly--to have a problem for every solution. So, do not get into that mould. Give a solution. The second is, the Election Commission said [*Translation*] that you can take up to two thousand rupees in cash. If workers of a political party do a program in a village and if they take small donations then there is no problem in it. If you want to eliminate that cap of two thousand rupees, then you can do it if there is a consensus. But, there was a recommendation of the Election Commission, we accepted it.

Thirdly, this was also said that you take small amounts of mass donations online. There is no problem in this. We conceived electoral bonds because today's system is uncleaned and non-transparent. In this, the buyer of the bond will buy it with clean money. The party which receives it, will also receive clean money. There will be part transparency. Who bought how many bonds is known to the bank and since the account of this party will be pre-declared account, Congress party or BJP or BJD party can take it in only one account,



which will be with the Election Commission, then it will also declare which party got how many bonds. How the buyer of that bond distributed it after purchase will be in its knowledge.

*[English]* So, this system will ensure clean money. I concede it is only partly transparent. But those who want full transparency have the cheque option but that full transparency and clean money option is a tried, tested and failed system. It has not worked in this country.

*[Translation]*

Therefore, to say why you made these amendments, Mahtab ji raised the issue of FCRA. Last year I did this and Mahtab ji said that an attempt was made to give the Congress party its benefit. Please understand the reason for this. Today, if someone makes an individual donation, there is no cap on it. Partnership gives donations, no caps. HUF gives donation, no cap. However, various types of caps were placed on other companies. *[English]* If we want clean money, should we narrow down and restrict the constituency of donors? ... *(Interruptions)*

I will tell you. It is not foreign. That is the misconception, and that is where Mr. Owaisi was totally wrong. The FCRA defined the words ‘foreign source’, and in the foreign source, they said it includes a company where current shareholders could be non-

residents. Majority 51 per cent could be non-residents. Now, as economic liberalization took place and sectoral caps of FDI in each sector were liberalized, companies registered in India doing 100 per cent business in India, Indian companies, because they had an FII investment or a foreign fund as an investment, became foreign sources, and prosecutions were being filed. Now somebody, let us say, gave to the Congress Party a donation by cheque. It was an honest donation. They took it. *[Translation]* Now the Congress party has not asked to make a list of its shareholders. Turns out, that day foreign shareholders were not 49%, but 50.2%, because it was 50.2% and it fluctuates in the stock market then someone filed a PIL and said make the cases.

*[English]*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** There is a Delhi High Court decision.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** The decision is in this context. Do I now get a sadistic pleasure and say, well, they have been prosecuted? Tomorrow my Party will be prosecuted. Yours will be prosecuted. I can name to you. You name any 10 Indian companies which are capable of giving a donation, and eight out of them will come within

that defective definition. So, you take a cheque donation for clean money.

### **14.00 hours**

The ultimate thrust of your argument is – debar all these companies; put a cap on all these companies; if somebody gives, disclose his name. So, at the end of the day, the net effect of all this is that you go back to the present *status quo*, which is, cash is the safest means, no question will be asked, nobody will come to know. Let us take an honest and bold decision whether we want to clean up political funding or not.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Sir, after withdrawal of the case from the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court decision stands.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Look, that case will run automatically. We changed the definition of FCRA a few years ago only so much that no person sitting in the US, an American can make donation because he is a foreign source. If an Indian company does 100 per cent of its business in India and gives a cheque for any political purpose, then it is not a criminal offence and it was a fair amendment. If we keep on reducing the constituency of donors and there will be no one to give, then the harsh reality is that we should

continue to do politics on the basis of undeclared money, because if we will do politics on the basis of declared money, then the way I told Shri Deepender ji, 'somebody will write an editorial and he will have a problem for every solution we offer.'

*[English]*

Today we have given the option – receive it by cheque. There is total transparency and it is clean money. Then, there are options such as receive small donations by cash of less than Rs.2000; you can receive donations online and do it by bonds, which is clean money.... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Then, what is 7.5 per cent?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Again, the same rational, Deepender ji. Today there is no restriction on individual partnership. If a donor wants to give a donation, if we continue to restrict the constituency and the number of people, who can donate, the quantum they can donate, then the tendency to move towards cash donations will always be higher. So, let us take a bold decision whether we want a tendency where people are incentivised and encouraged to give by check.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** But why is it not getting reflected in their balance sheet? How will anyone know as to who is donating?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** The balance sheet will always reflect the amount of electoral bonds that he has purchased. *[Translation]* I want to say that what will be given by cheque will be disclosed in the balance sheet and what will be given by bonds, the quantum of bonds he has purchased will be reflected in his balance sheet. That will be the factual position. So I guess there is no need to be hypocritical. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Everyone is not allowed to question at the same time in this way.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Mohd. Salim sahib I can understand your distress. I can understand your problem because the rest of the parties will not have any problem on ideological grounds. These parties reflect that we have received donations, but you have an ideological problem.... *(Interruptions)* You will find it difficult to write in your balance sheet, but other parties will not have any problem. you have a problem with ideology, so you have been opposing it since 2001.

*[English]*

I have an open invitation to all, please suggest to me a better system which can ensure clean money and transparency to the extent possible. I am yet to receive a single suggestion in this regard. I am only hearing adjectives like – it must be clean, it must be transparent. Please give me the ideal combination of the two. We are willing to consider it. But the fact is, under the circumstances, these are four options which we had, these are four options which emanate from a scheme, which will be drawn under the Income Tax Act. I once again tell the Congress Party or the Biju Janta Dal or others, if you can think of a better system, please suggest to us.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Many people, including the Election Commission, have suggested government funding. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** He is not yielding.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** I will wait for a specific suggestion, which I am still to get.

Madam, with these few observations, I commend to this hon. House that the amendments suggested by the Rajya Sabha be rejected.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question is:

“(a) that the following amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Union government for the financial year 2017-2018, be taken into consideration:— ”

**CLAUSE 51**

1. That at page 26, Clause 51 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 52**

2. That at page 27, Clause 52 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 53**

3. That at page 27, Clause 53 be *deleted*.

**CLAUSE 154**

4. That at page 52, line 34, *after* the word “section”, the words “which shall not be above 7.5 per cent of net profit of the last three financial years,” be *inserted*.

5. That at page 52, after line 40, the following proviso be inserted, namely:-

“Provided further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of the political parties to which contributions have been made by it”.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. SPEAKER:** We shall now take up the amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha.

The question is:

### **"CLAUSE 51**

1. That at page 26, Clause 51 be deleted.

### **CLAUSE 52**

2. That at page 27, Clause 52 be deleted.

### **CLAUSE 53**

3. That at page 27, Clause 53 be deleted.



### **CLAUSE 154**

4. That at page 52, line 34, **after** the word “section”, the words “which shall not be above 7.5 per cent of net profit of the last three financial years,” be **inserted**.
  
5. That at page 52, **after** line 40, the following proviso be **inserted**, namely:-

“Provided further that there shall be a requirement for a company to disclose the names of the political parties to which contributions have been made by it”.”

*The motion was negatived.*

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Madam, I beg to move:

“That the amendment Nos. 1 to 5 recommended by Rajya Sabha be rejected.”

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the amendment Nos. 1 to 5 recommended by Rajya Sabha be rejected.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. SPEAKER:** In accordance with clause (4) of Article 109 of the Constitution, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by Lok Sabha without any of the amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.05 p.m.

**14.08 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Five Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

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**15.10 hours**

*[Translation]*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Ten Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair.*)

## **DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

#### **Way forward for Health and Well-Being for All**

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:**Hon. Members, we will now begin a discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals under Rule 193, particularly on the specific topic of “Way Forward for Health and Well-Being for All” health.The Speaker does not have to speak on this, but I would like to discuss with the Members.You all know that in September 2000, all the nations gathered at the United Nations and held a Millennium Summit, eight goals were set at that Millennium Development Summit, which were to be completed by the year 2015.When it was mentioned that there should be discussion about poverty, hunger, education and gender equality.Again in the year 2015 this subject was looked into, analysed.It came to mind that whatever achievements have been made, there is inequality with regard to the same in different nations and it is necessary to work on

it now, so it is also necessary to sustain the achievement achieved on January 1, 2016. How it continues is also necessary, so the Millennium Development Goals were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals.

By the year 2030, 17 targets were set, that is discussed in great detail. All the nations should move forward to think about it in their own way, make plans, all these things have started. We expect after development to bring positive and qualitative change in man, to bring qualitative change in society, in human life, that is its aim. Not only the government, but all the arms/institutions of the government, be it the union government or the state government or the local bodies, Parliament are an important part in itself. Members of Parliament were also considered to have their own obligation, with this view when the agenda was accepted. You must have noticed that the sustainable development goal, when something needs to be done here, is referred to within the family. There will be so much wealth for seven generations or we want the sanskars to go on from generation to generation, it is not a matter of one life for anyone, it is continuity. It has the same expectation. Ministerial level meetings are held, the nation holds its own meetings, on the Speaker level as well discussions are held in an Inter-Parliament Union. All the countries

in Asia, whose conditions are similar, also discuss on their levels. A consensual idea was formed that Parliament should also discuss it in detail because the government has made many plans in this regard.

I am talking to you today because what is our responsibility? There should be a positive discussion, because it is not about any one government. It is not the union government or the state government. Together, it is the responsibility of all of us to find a way to take the nation forward, to move towards development and to sustain development. Separate meetings are held from time to time, but it was decided when the government considered, in the parliamentary meeting, in the business advisory meeting, everyone together thought that once in every session of the Parliament, we should discuss this topic, that in a way we should also become aware of our duties i.e. what are our duties? What we can do? What is happening in our own region, what is happening in our own state? Which programs should be implemented and which programs should not be implemented? There should be a positive discussion on which program is flawed and how we take it forward. If we just discuss the whole topic, then you know that there are 17 goals and further many smaller goals are kept in line with them. It will become very detailed,

so it was decided that if we discuss each goal at a time , that discussion will be more positive and more appropriate.

Therefore, the topic of discussion that has been raised today, which is our number three goal, is about health. Today we will discuss the goal of health. I have told you so as to discuss it from this point of view. It is not a criticism. To say one thing, it is one's own test of how we do, how our country moves forward. What can we do to make our country move forward or achieve this goal and what the government has done, how we can supplement. What can happen in this plan, I would like to have a little positive discussion about this. You all know that we have established the Speaker Research Initiative. You all keep taking part in it. And we've given books regarding the same . And we're discussing that. Somewhere the Members get detailed information about the subject, so they try. I would like to start this topic with a view to have a constructive discussion here today.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir ji, you have something to say in this also?

. . . (Interruptions)

*[English]*

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):**

Madam Speaker, I must appreciate you lavishly because after a long time we have heard your speech from the Speaker's Chair. We have got the privilege to hear the Speaker's mind on this issue.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; AND  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI**

**ANANTHKUMAR):** Madam Speaker, just as Adhir Ranjan ji was welcoming you, after a long time, that is, after three years, the whole House has got the opportunity to hear your melodious speech in this session in this Lok Sabha. That too with regard to a topic that the UNA has put before the whole world in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals i.e. with regard to development goals. We are discussing this for the first time. You have proposed it. Every Member of the House, every party welcomes it. I assure you that every party will participate in a positive discussion on this subject, that is, our Parliament will also contribute in achieving these goals of the world and for the same objective we would take part in positive /constructive discussion and achieve these goals. Especially this time you have kept the topic of health safety - "Healthcare and

Well Being for All.” This should be everyone’s goal. As much as you are eager to achieve it, so are all of us.

Once again we wholeheartedly welcome your proposal.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I do not scold the rest of the time, I speak politely.

Okay, now let us start the discussion on this topic.

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** Hon. Speaker, First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you on behalf of the entire House that not only today, but in the last three years, whenever there was a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and the rest of the topics came up for discussion under Rule 193, then it was highlighted from your side that we should discuss these topics. I am happy that the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved only when we achieve the goal number three, which is for the healthy life of all Indians of every class. I think we cannot express enough amount of gratitude to you for this.



You have said that taking collective responsibility, for the healthy life of all Indians, we all should discuss this today.*[English]* Because Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to ensure healthy life and promote well-being for all at all ages. This goal is essential for achieving overall sustainable development. To some extent, global efforts have been successful in increasing life expectancy, and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, Polio and other diseases, which were major causes of infant and maternal mortality.*[Translation]* Although there has been some reduction in them, it is also very important that we have to not only reduce the mortality rate but also make a lot of efforts to give a healthy life, a quality life and a healthy life. For this, it is important that things like family planning are also considered, on which we often get divided politically. When it comes to family planning, there is talk about religion, caste and states. If we look at the data, how many doctors should be in proportion to how many thousand people, that number is very less here. The population continued to grow, but doctors and health centres could not be built in that way. We also have to pay attention to the prevention of drugs, its treatment, stop the youth from growing towards drugs.

India features in the list of name of countries with highest number of road accidents in the world. Half of the world's twenty most polluted cities are in India. This is a matter of great concern as more than ten lakh people died in the year 2015 due to pollution alone. Road accidents are also increasing by eight percent every year, due to which people are dying. In 2015, about 1.5 lakh people were killed in road accidents. Almost ten lakh people have lost their lives due to tobacco consumption. Moreover, lakhs of people have lost their lives in the last few years due to harmful chemicals, air and water. Therefore, we must strive to provide clean air and water to every Indian and focus more on the cleanliness drive. Sanitation facilities should also be provided. After 70 years of independence, a poor, helpless, person from backward class or any class expects from the government that he gets clean air, clean water, two meals a day and a hope for a good life.

We have many challenges ahead. If you look at the burden of diseases around the world, then *[English]* India accounts for more than 20 per cent of the global disease burden which is one-fifth of the total. India accounts for 27 per cent of the neo-natal deaths and 21 per cent of all the child deaths. *[Translation]* That is, 27 percent of those who die in less than 28 years and 21 percent of those who

die in less than 5 years are in India. These are very disturbing figures. If we see that millions of people die every year due to communicable diseases like TB, diarrhea, malaria, the main reason for which is cleanliness and sanitization, but when the Prime Minister of this country talks about cleaning the country with a broom in his hand, when he talks about building toilets for the poor in every corner of the country, then many times an attempt is made to raise a question mark on that too, but the Prime Minister is concerned about cleanliness as well as good health and I think this government has taken a very big initiative, which everyone should welcome.

Not only this, the non-communicable diseases are also 52 percent and 60 percent deaths are due to non-communicable diseases. What is worrying is that the ‘madhumeh’ disease, which we call diabetes, has been found in about six and a half crore Indians. These are the figures which are diagnosis based and those that have not been diagnosed yet, are also in large numbers. What are the reasons for this and how much of the burden of these non-communicable diseases is going to fall on us in the coming years? This is also worrying.

According to an estimate, by the year 2030, there will be an impact to the tune of 6.2 trillion dollars on us, that is, about 6 trillion dollars. Our GDP will be three times more and it is a matter of concern for all of us, but another major concern is that while we consider ourselves equal to other countries in the BRICS Nations, India lags far behind. When we talk about life expectancy, IMR, MMR, under five mortality rate, we are lagging behind in these parameters also. Even in terms of children who are malnourished or underweight for their age, under the age of 5, we are behind even sub-Saharan Africa, so somewhere we have eye-opening data and we need to worry about it.

We usually leave Bangladesh far behind in GDP growth rate, but they are ahead of us in many parameters and health related sectors. As far as health care institutions are concerned in Hindustan, the difference between Bharat and India, which Hukmdeo ji says many times, is seen. *[English]* There is a strong bias between rural India and urban india. *[Translation]* 80% of doctors and 75% of dispensaries and 60% of hospitals are in cities only, but 70% of the population lives in rural India. Perhaps that is why the migration is increasing from village to city because even today there is a lack of facilities like roads, education and health in villages. What is the

reason that many governments want to appoint doctors in the states, but there is a huge shortage of doctors.

Hon Health Minister Nadda ji has also been the Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh for a long time. He has his own experience. At that time also, during the time of our government, efforts were made to invite more doctors by giving more incentives so that people living in hilly areas living in rural areas can get good health facilities. We got the benefit of giving incentives but we did not get the benefit as much as we expected. What steps does the Government of India, along with the State Governments, want to take to meet the shortage of doctors in rural and backward areas? *[English]* As per recent studies, there is a high shortfall of doctors, specialists and surgeons. *[Translation]* There is a shortage of 83.4 per cent surgeons, 76.3 percent gynecologists and 83 per cent physicians and 82.1 percent pediatricians. There is also a disparity between health centres in villages and cities. There is difference in outcomes in health institutions from one state to another, from one city to another, from one hospital to another. Because it depends not only on the building but also on how many doctors, nurses and medical practitioners are there in it. Due to this variation, it is observed continuously all over the country.

When we talk about infant mortality rate I am happy to point out that there has been continuous effort in this regard and it has come down from 58 to 38. In Kerala it is only 12, while in many large states it is up to 52 and 54. What steps are the state governments taking in this direction? Is it not the responsibility of all of them to save the newborns? Continuous efforts have been made to improve the health facilities. There are many states which are put in the BIMARU category, such as Odisha, UP, Bihar or Chhattisgarh. Just recently, a video was shown on TV that a man's wife died in Odisha, he was carrying his wife on his shoulder and taking her home. Can we not even make such arrangements that a person is carrying the dead body of his family on his shoulders does not have to do so and there are appropriate ambulance facilities for same, we should think about this matter very seriously. Be it Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh,... *(Interruptions)* The major reason for this is that we spend very little on health. This public expenditure should increase. From 2009 to 2016, only 1.3 per cent of our GDP has been spent on this, but in the 2017-18 Budget, a target has been set to spend 2.2 per cent of the Budget and 23 per cent more money has been kept by our government in this year's Budget than the revised estimate of 2016-17, for that I express my gratitude

to the Modi government. He has kept Rs 48,853 crore for health, but it is still low. In China it is 3.1 per cent and in Brazil it is 4.7 per cent. According to the economic survey, we have set a target of spending two and a half percent on it in the year 2025, but it is less for that time. If the country's growth rate does not increase much, then we will not be able to spend much for it, so the development of the country is necessary. If the health of the country's economy and people are to be kept healthy, then our GDP should increase. We should also make efforts to ensure that a large part of our GDP is spent on the health department.

Madam Speaker, it is not that everything is going bad in our country. I think it is necessary to give credit to the previous government and today's government for this. *[English]* We have eradicated small pox and Guinea worm; WHO has declared India polio free and free of maternal and neo-natal tetanus; the spread of HIV AIDS has been contained; life expectancy has gone up from 32 years in 1950 to 67 years in 2014. *[Translation]* In 1950, life expectancy was only 32 years of life age, today the life expectancy is 67 years and this has happened because work has been done in this direction for a long time and as well as last few years, but I have a question about this also. As we say in the field of education our focus

has been on the literacy rate rather than the quality of education. Our focus has been more on literacy and less on qualitative education. Are we working here to reduce the mortality rate, or have we actually succeeded in providing a healthy and robust life? And I think we need to think about that.

Madam, we can see that there are very large number of malnourished children in the country. When I talk about sub-Saharan Africa, it is very unfortunate that we lag behind even them, but on the other hand, statistics show that whether it is adults or children, not lakhs but crores of people are suffering due to obesity. Has our lifestyle become so bad that on one hand we are malnourished and on the other we are obese? On one hand we are dying of sugar or heart attack and on the other hand some people are dying due to hunger. There is a need to worry and discuss this issue because it is not only related/limited to the health department. I feel that the Hon'ble Minister should also talk to the HRD Ministry, Ministry of Skill Development, Industry etc. departments about how we can bring changes in our lifestyle and make more and more people aware. We need to make the general public aware of everything from sports to health, to enable everyone to live healthy and successful



life. My question is, is the ministry going to take any step in this direction?

Madam, being young, I would like to say that for the last eight years we have worked in the National AIDS Control Organization regarding the topic of HIV, AIDS. The Members of Parliament of the country have started an awareness campaign among the people. There was no discussion about malnutrition earlier. Many young Members of Parliament like Supriya Sule ji, Shahnawaz Hussain ji, Sachin Pilot ji, Jay panda ji, Kalikesh ji formed a group among themselves in the 14th-15th Lok Sabha, we started holding meetings with some more people on the subject of malnutrition and came up with an independent report on how we could work for the malnourished children and the government of that time and the present government worked on that subject because the Members of Parliament had contributed by coming forward and showing initiative.

I want to say in the House today that as the Prime Minister has said that the aim of TB free India should be achieved by the year 2025, Indian Members of Parliament are going to play cricket match with Bollywood team on 8th April so that an awareness campaign can be run all over the country and India can be made TB free. We

would like your cooperation in this regard as well. Amitabh Bachchan ji tweeted, 'the match is about to take place'. If everyone is spreading awareness for this and if you also do it, then it will benefit all of us in spreading awareness. Madam, today the situation is that 80 percent doctors, hospitals, dispensaries, are in most of the cities but not in villages and in many places they have to be treated quacks and vaidyas. Somewhere the gap between the city and the village has increased a lot, this gap needs to be reduced. Urbanization causes migration and causes pain in people. The people of Delhi say that people from other states have started settling here, the people of Mumbai say that North Indians have started coming more. But the truth is that if employment, education and health facilities will be in cities, then who will remain in villages and backward areas. An educated youth, who comes from a rural background, does not want to go to villages even after becoming a doctor because there are no facilities for his wife and his children. Therefore, we should provide facilities and incentives to those people so that they can go there and provide services and the people living in the villages can also get proper benefits. Given both the things, we need to make it an incentive based programme.

Even today, there are eight crore families who are below the poverty line. One of the major reasons why about five crore people fall below the poverty line every year is that when they have to go to a health centre for treatment, the doctor first says that if you deposit the fees, then you will be treated, otherwise you will not be treated. What is the fault of the poor helpless person who cannot feed his family, cannot earn bread for two times and when he goes for treatment, he does not get adequate facilities in his state and here as well. There are many Members of Parliament here who spend most of their time in addressing problems of people and are not able to sit in the House because people come from their Parliamentary Constituencies to request a bed for them in AIIMS. They cannot get a bed and their lives are lost, they die. We feel so unsuccessful and helpless that people from our areas come to the capital of the country by sitting in the bus all night, sitting in the trains for two days thinking that they will be treated here and they will return healthier. But how many people are recovering? I think other Members of Parliament would have the same problem.

**HON. MEMBERS:** This is a problem with everyone.

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** Perhaps that is the reason why there is repeated pressure in every session that either PGI or

AIIMS should be opened in their areas. I was watching my friend Nishikant ji, running from pillar to post to get AIIMS opened in his area for the last three years. I am happy that this time Gujarat and Jharkhand have also got AIIMS. In the year 2014, when I came as an MP, I ran a lot from pillar to post for three months so that first of all I could get AIIMS for my area. I am thankful to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji that they have already given AIIMS hospital in my Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh in the Budget. It was even much more a reason of happiness for me that after a few months, Shri Nadda ji was made the Health Minister from my own state. But three years have passed and that AIIMS hospital is running only on paper; in reality, it is not functioning.

The Health Minister is not responsible for this. Non-availability of land from the state government and its non-clearance are reasons behind it. And it's not just one project. Be it Central University, Triple IT, Hydro Engineering College, AIIMS hospital, the union government has made provision three times in the Budget for all the projects, but if the state governments remain asleep, then what will the union government do? It pains me to say this because Shimla, which was considered the summer capital during the British era,

does not get clean drinking water even today in that capital of our state. A year ago, hundreds of people died there because of dirty water. We talk about the poor, but even in the capital of a state, clean water could not be provided. The water scheme, which was running since the time of the British, is still running there. During this discussion, I said the first word that do not divide this discussion politically, I also want to request all the Members of Parliament and governments of the country that where it comes to development, where it comes to roads, education and health, we should leave politics behind and take decisions in the interest of the nation. We need to try for that.

We should not do politics in development. That hospital is not being built for me, nor for anyone else. I never see which person of which ideology has brought application to me. The person who needs help through me is poor. I would like to thank that the Prime Minister has tried to save the lives of hundreds of people through his assistance fund. I would like to thank him very much for this.

Madam, 'Universal Access to Health' is also mentioned here. Jaitley ji was talking a lot about transparency and accountability on the subject of the GST Bill. I don't want to go there. Which facilities

can be provided to people practically ? Is there so much money in our country that people can be given all this? We lack planning. Are we able to make the system accountable? I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for spending the amount of money given to his Ministry. For this reason, the Budget has been increased by 23 per cent. It still needs to be increased a lot.

Madam, with the money that is provided from the Centre, buildings are built, but the union government leaves other responsibilities to the states. The union government says that the state should keep doctors, nurses, compounders, male and female health workers at their own level. The states fail to do so. Many schemes of the Centre fail because even after the money provided by the Centre, the state governments are not able to put money in those schemes. If the central and state governments come together to take an important decision on GST in the interest of the country, can't the union government and state governments come together for 'Universal Access to Health'? Can't we together assemble doctors, nurses and bear other responsibilities along with building infrastructure?

Madam, the Economic Survey stated 'Universal Basic Income'. What is the Prime Minister's view on this? Is the government

thinking about it? Is the government ensuring that every person has at least enough income so that he can get his health insurance done with his own money so that when he goes to any hospital, no doctor in this country has the courage to say deposit the money first, then I will treat you. In this direction, we should try to get the treatment done first, money can be deposited later. To do all this we need to move towards 'Universal Basic Income'. How many people have insurance in our country today? 80% of people do not have insurance. 80 per cent are those who fall below the poverty line.

Madam, under the National Rural Health Mission, 10 thousand rupees used to be given for spraying DDT. I don't know how many Members of Parliament would have gone and asked in how many panchayats DDT have been sprayed. One must attend the meeting of 'Disha' and ask because most of the diseases are caused by water, air and dirt. If we do not wake up even today and make people aware, then it will not work. We should worry whether the money that is being given is being spent or not. We need to worry about that. I am confident that when we will be celebrating 75 years of independence in 2022 and Nadda ji will be the Health Minister even after the next 5 years, we will be able to fulfill the targets that we have set for the next 5 years.

Madam, 2022 is an important year. Hon. Prime Minister has said that he will give roof to everyone to cover their heads. We have also fulfilled our resolve to provide electricity to all. Certainly, we have a huge role to play in the health sector today. Today, there are many young doctors in our country who have come from abroad after studying. Here, they have to appear for a test, only after passing the said test, there is a provision to give them a job. On one hand, thousands of people are waiting in line with medical degrees, who do not have jobs, who have come from abroad, on the other hand, there is a shortage of thousands of doctors and every Lok Sabha constituency. Does the government see that they should be given a chance to serve in rural India and after five years it should be studied how well they have done so that they can be provided regular practice, are you thinking about it?

Madam Speaker, many schemes remain on paper. They are not implemented on the ground. I also want to ask fellow Members of Parliament. It happens that there is such a long list of schemes of the Health Ministry, when we take it up in meetings. Many Members of Parliament do not even get to know about most of the schemes. The direction is different, I take it along with the direction. First of all I take the schemes of the Health Ministry. One of the major reasons for



this is that information about schemes is not available, there is lack of awareness, there is no awareness. If you ask for the data of the cards made for free treatment to the people, then only 10 percent of the people can take advantage of it. They can also benefit from good states. What steps is the government going to take in that direction that the awareness campaign should be better? You started vaccination work under Mission Indradhanush. I would like to congratulate, because it has more than 5 percent coverage, it has more than two and a half crore beneficiaries. *[English]* The government has also introduced many new vaccines into the UIP such as the Inactivated Polio Vaccine, Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine and Measles Rubella Vaccine. *[Translation]* A lot of such efforts have also been made by the government, but a very big program whose impact is seen on the ground, that is the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan. In which, this scheme has contributed a lot in reducing infant mortality rate. I would like to congratulate the department for this that about 3200 private doctors have also registered themselves under the same. Under this, more than 11,000 facilities have been provided and 33 lakh anti-natal checkups have been conducted on it. Through which earlier the pregnant woman used to get 4 thousand rupees, now that pregnant

woman gets 6 thousand rupees.I congratulate the government for this.

The National Dialysis Services Program was launched in the Budget for the year 2016-17 due to the personal efforts of the Hon. Prime Minister as there were poor people in the country who could not get dialysis facility.A provision of thousand crore rupees has been made in this, more than one lakh patients have benefited from it and 11 lakh dialysis sessions have taken place.For this also, I would like to congratulate the government and the Hon. Prime Minister.I want to do such things in future also.The prices of the stents, the facility of same, have been discussed in detail here. So that is all I want to say that the government has taken a commendable step in this regard.Earlier lakhs of rupees had to be spent, today that drug aluting stent and beer metal stent are available for only 29,600 rupees and 7,260 rupees.For this, I thank the government on behalf of the poor people of the country.

Madam, we have a huge pharmaceutical industry here.The commerce committee of our Lok Sabha, when Hon. Shanta ji was the chairman of that committee, in the report of that committee, all the party Members of Parliament have said that we should instruct the doctors to recommend generic drugs, so that the poor man does

not have to bear the burden of buying expensive medicines. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that a system should be made in the whole country and the state governments should also be asked to recommend generic drugs more, so that the poor people are not overburdened, they get affordable medicines.

Our government has taken many steps as well. We have to import sixty percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients called APIs and we have to import them from China. Our government has made an effort in this regard that this should also be manufactured here so that there is an opportunity to grow more and more in the pharmaceutical industries. A lot of announcements have been made in this year's Budget. From eliminating TB to making an action plan, efforts to eliminate diseases like Kalazar, Leprosy, Measles between 2017 and 2020 and also to transform 1.5 lakh health sub-centers into Health and Wellness Centres. This is a very big step. Five thousand PG seats have been said to be created more for medical courses every year, this is also a big step.

Madam, Aadhaar based smart card has been mentioned, so that senior citizens can also get benefit from it. I think data and technology can play a huge role in this. If a person's complete data is included in his Aadhaar card, details of his disease and his full

health card, then if he goes to any corner of the country, he will only give his Aadhaar number, then he will get his complete information. If you install a computer sitting in a rural area, then a person sitting in the dispensary can take advantage of it by getting his minor to major disease treated with help of a doctor by accessing e-medicine in a hospital like AIIMS. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to pay attention to e-medicine so that people can reap its benefits.

National Health Policy, 2017 is an extremely important and major topic. I would like to congratulate the government, Hon. Prime Minister was trying for the last one-and-a-half years that the National Health Policy should be introduced and after a long wait, now the National Health Policy has been introduced and commendable effort has been made in this, for which I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister. An approach of holistic view has been adopted about the health system.

*[English]*

The Policy will help in achieving better health outcomes by ensuring accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all. The Policy looks to increase access to care by expanding coverage to the under-privileged and under-served.

*[Translation]*

Modi Ji had said that my government will be for the poor and the helpless, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, the government will think about Antyodaya, so in true sense this health policy has been made while factoring in Antyodaya .I want to congratulate you for this.You have talked about spending 28 percent of the money in GDP up to 2025.And I want to congratulate you for that as well .*[English]* Free drugs, diagnostics and emergency services would be provided to all in public hospitals. *[Translation]* This is a very big step.Because unless that happens, nothing will happen.Therefore, the focus of the government towards primary health centers is that two-thirds of the money will be spent there, so I think that when diagnosis starts first, treatment starts at primary health centers, then its pressure will be less on big hospitals, this is also a big step that has been taken.

*[English]*

The Policy also envisages coordinated action on seven priority areas for improving overall health.In the same, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, balanced healthy diets and regular exercise, addressing issues of tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse *[Translation]* Passenger safety, deaths due to traffic and road accidents and Nirbhaya Nari, Action against Gender Violence, this is also a very big thing,

reduced stress and improved safety in the workplace. Who knows better than us Members of Parliament how many diseases are caused due to anger if the workload is high. Therefore, good sports facilities have been created here for your health... *(Interruptions)* You did not come to the tournament, we missed you a lot in badminton, but the Madam Speaker has made very good facilities for all of us there, for that I thank the Madam Speaker. *[English]* The idea is to create a social movement for health. *[Translation]* We need to run a healthy citizen campaign, so that there is a healthy India, a strong India and for a clean, healthy and disease free India, the government has tried to achieve this through the National Health Policy. Healthy people live longer and more productive lives and can contribute more to nation's prosperity. If we are healthy, strong, we will contribute even more to nation building.

### **16.00 hours**

*[English]* Helping the nation's citizens stay healthy, will help nation be healthy and grow healthy. It is rightly said that Health is wealth. *[Translation]* When 65 percent of our people are young, we have to keep the youth healthier. Hon. Minister, I would like the participation of the youth here. *[English]* Youth being the largest stakeholder should be involved in creating more awareness about the

National Health Policy; should be involved in leading a healthy lifestyle; should be involved in creating a new, healthy and strong India and for this, it is very important that today's youth should be connected here for this aim. This is what you have said about your early intervention, timely intervention, timely screening, comprehensive health care and the policy says very clearly, the shift from sickness to wellness, I think, it indicates very clearly what the intention is and I think, that is the right intention to tackle the challenges from HIV to TB and to help in managing chronic condition such as hypertension, diabetes and common cancers.

*[Translation]*

Madam, this is also very important because the disease of diabetes and cardio, how to prevent diseases like diabetes and heart attack, it cannot be done only with the help of health centers, it can be prevented by good lifestyle. Participating in sports, the environment should not be polluted, clean water should be given, clean air should be given, we have to make efforts towards it. I talk about Corporate Social Responsibility and PPP model.... *(Interruptions)* I will conclude in 10 minutes. Both Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Private Partnership will play a very important role. We have seen that through CSR, Hon. Prime Minister gave a call that toilets

should be built in every school of the country where our daughters go to study, lakhs of toilets were built within a year, which could not be built in 70 years. I want to thank the industry in the country, I also want to thank the Prime Minister for that. Who has benefited from this, my sisters have benefited. After Class 5, most girls used to skip school because there was a shortage of toilets. Most women eat and drink less so that they do not have to defecate in the open. It also affects their safety. When the toilets were built, their safety and security were also addressed. At the same time, those who were anaemic, those who had anemia, today that figure has also decreased, so the main reason for this is the construction of toilets and sanitation facilities. Therefore, we feel that it is very important to look towards a clean India as well as a healthy India.

**SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL):** Thakur Sahib, just give us a chance to speak.

Madam, I would like to draw a little attention of the Hon. Minister regarding Ayurveda and Naturopathy.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please speak.

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** Madam, allopathy, homeopathy, unani, siddha, ayurveda, I want the Hon. Minister to



explain why they are looked at separately. From AYUSH to ASHA workers to doctors, make a complete plan for all of them that at least this facility will be available in PHCs. This facility will be available in dispensaries. There they will be connected with AIIMS or other hospitals through technology, so that the patient who goes there can see it on the internet, if a senior doctor is sitting in AIIMS, then he can instruct the doctor sitting in the rural area that this patient should be treated. Is the government going to do something in this direction in the future through Digital India? As far as the norms of W.H.O. are concerned i.e. that there should be 23 health workers, doctors, nurses and midwives at a population of ten thousand, we are far behind in that. How are we going to achieve this goal? Are there any plans to achieve this goal? The previous government said run a 3.5 year medical course for rural India, did anything happen on that, run a four-year course, and did anything happen on that? Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal ji talked about NEET that day, I say that the judiciary interfered in that too. Why should there be judicial intervention before the government? Are we lagging behind? Madam, the medical colleges which were sanctioned, 'Hindustan Times' and many TV channels also showed that sting operations took place in them that they were recognised by an ad hoc committee formed by

the court. There is no furniture, no doctor, or anything and they were allowed to run the medical college. What kind of doctors will you get out of there? Will no one ask about the committee formed with the retired judges, what they thought and took this decision? There was some rigging, corruption, something like this happened, will no one discuss it? Does the media also fear to write about it that there is a committee of retired judges, it should be thought about? There are many allegations against it.... *(Interruptions)*

The new health policy of the government in New India is going to play a big role. I would say that "hygiene and sanitary conditions" play a crucial role in the environment, Healthy India, and Swachh Bharat initiatives. With this vision of the Prime Minister, I just want to say that with regard to the digital medical records, please link them with 'Aadhaar'. Connect the younger generation with its awareness campaign. Can we give a checklist to the students through our schools where the students can provide their information about cleanliness and living a healthy lifestyle there? Apart from this, what are the Sustainable Development Goals, should we not limit it only to the governments, as the Hon. Speaker said that Members of Parliament should take their responsibility in their areas, from elected panchayat pradhans, parents and a doctor should assume

their responsibility? Every Indian should take responsibility that what we could not do in the Millennium Development Goal, we will do in the Sustainable Development Goal. In 2030, India will show the rest of the world that we are no less than anyone.

Madam, you have given me ample time to speak on this, I am grateful to you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Show your work also.

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** Madam, in the end I would like to say with regard to the attacks on doctors in Maharashtra and in many corners of the country, I want to urge the people of our country to not attack the doctors. Go to any government hospital. There is so much pressure on them, so much pressure that instead of eating at one o'clock they go to eat at four o'clock. After God, doctor is given importance and after Prime Minister, Health Minister Nadda ji is given important status. What else are you going to do for the country in the next five years by the year 2022, the responsibility we have entrusted on you for 75 years of independence, till the year 2022? *(Interruptions)* Not only providing the infrastructure, but if the medicine for T.B. and AIDS

discontinues midway, then the effect of multi-drug resistance is more, so there should not be any shortage of those medicines. This causes huge problems. I also request the government to ensure that there is no shortage of Budget.

Madam, antibiotics are available in every shop in our country in such a way that anyone can buy them and consume. The superbugs and drug resistant bacteria that we talk about, 'rise-of-superbugs and antibiotics resistant' what is the government going to do on this, what is your policy? Antibiotics are not used in other countries. Anyone can go here, anyone can get it. What prevention will you put on this so that the human body does not at least become such that these medicines do not work on human body in future.

Organ donation and organ transplant is an issue. Organ donation is very much needed. I am ready to donate my organs on my behalf. I also tell you all to donate organs so that many more people get a chance to live even after we leave.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, in M.M.R. also our rank is 167. This is due to some states, which 15 states and UTs have done. The rest of the states which have been left behind, their data should be taken every year, so that they can do it.

Madam, you have given me ample time to speak on this, I thank you from the bottom of my heart and hope that every Indian, every state will take advantage of our government's National Health Policy and we will definitely achieve the goal of Sustainable Development Goal-2030.

Thank you very much, because you also got this topic discussed and held the government accountable that we have to achieve the goal of the year 2030. Earlier in the year 2022, when it will be the 75th year of independence, on this occasion, our Hon. Health Minister will give information on how our Government and the State Governments together have taken appropriate steps in the Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. Thank you.

[English]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):**

Today we have witnessed that the Discussion under Rule 193 on Sustainable Development Goals has virtually been initiated by you, Madam Speaker. So, it is a new precedent. We are all enthused by your emotional appeal to all the Members of this House.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 one Question was asked in this House. In the reply it has been stated that a study titled ‘Measuring the Health Related Sustainable Development Goals in 188 countries : A Baseline Analysis from the Global Burden on Health Study 2015’ published recently in the Lancet placed India in 143<sup>rd</sup> position below Syria and Iraq. The Study provides an analysis of 33 health related Sustainable Development Goal indicators. That means the Government has acknowledged the fact that we are seriously lagging behind the objective of Sustainable Development Goal.

Madam, you have exhorted us to dwell on this issue dispassionately. I am not here to heap the blame upon this Government or that Government. But from the statement it has been established that we are lagging even behind the war-ravaged Iraq and Syria. The entire world knows the cruelty and the devastation that is being perpetrated by the *jihadists* and by various other forces

resulting in the death and depredation of those two countries. However, they are ahead of us. It is really a disgraceful fact which we are observing that one out of two children is anemic, one out of two children is malnourished and under-weight and one out of five children is wasted.

The Delhi Declaration was signed by Secretaries of Health of States, UTs wherein they committed to work collaboratively towards achievement of the SDG -3 acknowledging that health and well being are core pillars of happier society, economic growth and sustainable development. That means already the Government has taken initiative to achieve this SDG. All the stakeholders have been included in this Mission. We have already negotiated the Millennium Development Goals. Now, we have been undergoing the phase of Sustainable Development Goals which has fixed 17 targets. Out of 17 targets, here we have singled out Goal No. 3, that is to ensure health and well-being.

According to the latest Sample Registration System Statistical Report released by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, under five mortality rate of India was 43 in 2015 indicating thereby that the country was very close to achieving under five mortality rate. That means everything is not adverse to us.

We are also progressing towards the objective. However, we have to navigate miles after miles to reach the destination. In the answer, it has also been mentioned that the total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP is 4.02 per cent, Government's health expenditure as a percentage of GDP is 1.15 per cent, out of pocket health expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure is 64.20 per cent, which is quite untenable, and the Government's health expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure is 28.6 per cent.

*[Translation]*

We all know that health is wealth, but health is wealth does not mean just talking about health. Along with health, we should also think about mental health, social health, financial health, physical health. *[English]* We are all aware of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, TB etc. A number of issues have been raised by my esteemed colleague, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur. He has raised various pertinent points and I must appreciate his observations in this House.

*[English]* But, Madam, have you ever heard that India is a country which has been suffering from sleep deprivation? Yes, 93 per cent of our population has been suffering from sleep deprivation.



So this is a new phenomenon which we have to confront in future. Due to this sleep deprivation, various diseases are caused namely, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, obesity, mental health etc. Children need 9 to 11 hours sleep, teenagers need 8 to 10 hours sleep, and adults need 7 to 9 hours sleep. This is a new situation which we are facing. So we have to innovate ourselves, we have to explore various innovative approaches in order to reach the goal.

**16.18 hours**      (Dr. Ratna De (Nag) *in the Chair*)

Madam, it is stated that to achieve the goal, we need Rs. 55 lakh crore. A number of issues are related with Goal 3 which mentions about reducing maternal mortality and preventable deaths of new-born and children under five years of age, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria by 2030, because Sustainable Development Goals are set to achieve the objectives, as has been fixed, within a duration of 15 years, that is, by 2030 we have to achieve 17 Goals. Out of them, one is, strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse, harmful abuse of alcohol, and halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030.

Madam, today, we are registering the death due to road accidents to the alarming number of 1,50,000. It has to be reduced by half. It is a very strenuous job that has to be done by this Government.

Madam, the Goals say:

"By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care"

"Achieve universal health coverage."

"By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water soil pollution and contamination "

"Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries. "

"Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases. "

"Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries. "

"Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks "

Madam, first of all, I would appeal to this Government. As the earlier national Government had taken the initiative for offering the constitutional right to the people of India, and a number of Acts were conceived and implemented under various nomenclatures, such as 'Right to Food', 'Right to Education', 'Right to Information', and 'Right to Work', in the same way, I would demand that the Government should come forward with a legislation, which may be called 'Right to Health'. That means, 'Right to Health' should be given a constitutional status, a Fundamental Right, to all the people

of our country. I think, that will be a great initiative to achieve the desired goals.

Madam, the health outcomes of India have made a substantial progress over the last two decades with improvement in living conditions, public health interventions, progress in medical healthcare. There is no dispute of it. But despite this progress, the health indicators are far from desirable benchmark.

Life expectancy as was stated by Anurag-ji, has been raised to 67 years. However, it is 14 years lower than OECD average of 80.2 years. India's infant mortality rate at 43.2 deaths per 1,000 live birth in 2012 still lags behind the average of low and middle income countries at 33 per 1,000 in 2015.

Healthcare infrastructure and system form a foundational basis for access to and availability of healthcare services for all. The availability of healthcare facilities in India is comparatively much lower. Bed and population ratio is meager 1:1000. In the developed nations, it is 7:1000.

Similarly, the number of allopathic doctors, nurses, midwives in India is less than quarter of the World Health Organisation Benchmark.

Madam, according to the facility survey conducted by the International Institute of Population Science, the healthcare spending in India accounts for five per cent of the country's GDP, of which public spending is around one per cent of GDP. Public expenditure on health accounts for 33 per cent of the total health expenditure in the country. Only a few countries have such lower ratios of public to total expenditure on health. The world's average is 63 per cent, and even the average of Sub-Saharan Africa is 45 per cent. It has clearly exposed the lacunae and deficiencies of our health management system.

Madam, India need to increase the health index, which includes health check up of population, quality of healthcare institution and financial instrument for access to healthcare. Health outcomes of population are closely linked with the access to an availability of nutritional food, – Madam, you are also a doctor; you are well versed with this issue – clean drinking water, healthy and hygienic environment. What I would like to mention is that Goal 3, which is related to health, is, therefore, closely related to India's position of food security, water and sanitation for all and green infrastructure system that is under Goal 6, Goal 11, Goal 2, Goal 12, Goal 13, Goal 14 and Goal 15. All are to be kept abreast with the progress of the

healthcare system. Therefore, we need a holistic approach and we need a comprehensive mechanism in order to reach the destination.

Madam, here we know that in our country there is a severe shortage of doctors. *[Translation]* I come from Bengal, today there is an atmosphere of confidence between the doctor and the patient in Bengal. It is not right to attack a doctor in Maharashtra, I accept that as well, *[English]* but today a section of this fraternity has become so indifferent, so casual or so supercilious to the plight of the patients.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** There may be exception. All doctors are not the same.

*[English] ... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Madam, I have mentioned it by saying ‘A section of’. That is why I told: “I section of doctors.” *[Translation]* Whether we should give incentives or what to do is a different matter, but apart from this, we have to tell the doctors, *[English]* we have to say to our doctors that you have to pay back something to the society. *[Translation]* We educate doctors by taking money out of our pockets, doctors become doctors at subsidized rates. This means that doctors become doctors with the

help of taxes paid from the pockets of common people. When the doctor passes, take the Oath of Hippocrates.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** They have no right to take leave in the hospital. Do you know that?

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Madam, I am not criticizing you. *[Translation]* What does the Oath of Hippocrates mean? Providing service to common people, but doctors forget everything after leaving the college and start a business.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** They have been permitted to do the private practice. They have been allowed and that is why they are doing the private practice.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** My colleague Anuraj Thakur ji has also said that in our society doctors are considered as a demi God. We have some expectations from demi Gods, but if demi

Gods start crushing us, where will we go? You say, I have simply mentioned my friend's observation.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** There is also an example of Vidhan Chandra Rai ji, who used to treat people for two hours every day without taking any money while being the Chief Minister. There are doctors too.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** I am saying the same thing that there is a section of doctors. I don't say anything about fraternity. I am saying that a section of doctors spoil all the fraternity. Some doctors tarnish the image of all fraternity. You were just talking about stents. The stent will be very beneficial for the patient, but if the doctors start doing angioplasty and add other expenses to it, then it will be useless to apply this stent. In view of all these things, we should formulate our policy. Like I said about sleep deprivation. Today, due to air pollution in India, a big global burden of disease has to be taken.

*[English]*

Madam, 1.1 million deaths happen in India as estimated by US-based Health Effect Institute. The rate of increase in early deaths in India is alarming. While early deaths due to PM 2.5 in China have



increased by 17.2 per cent since 1990, in India these have increased by 48 per cent. Similarly – again I am referring new phenomena *Nadda ji* – early deaths due to ozone in China have stabilised since 1990, but India has registered astounding 148 per cent increase highlighting the need for urgent action. Can you imagine that we are destined to be suffered by ozone, by air pollution in a mind-boggling way? In 1990, ozone related deaths in India were far less than in China. Today the country stands at 33 per cent higher than those recorded for China. India also recorded a faster rate of increase in ozone related deaths than China. On an average, cases of early deaths due to ozone rose by 20 per cent in India since 1990 as opposed to 0.50 per cent in China. Ozone deaths in India are 13 times higher than in Bangladesh and 21 times higher than in Pakistan. Population increase and aging are partly responsible for the increase in ozone related deaths in India. *[Translation]* We should think the next day not only in terms of health, but also in terms of water, pollution, air quality etc. If health is singled out separately, our aim will not be fulfilled.

*[English]*

Madam, I would like to refer to a few observations made by the Standing Committee on Health. The Standing Committee on Health

has stated that India's health care is falling way below the global benchmark and the country is lagging behind on health goals such as maternal and infant mortality and is having a lowly ranking even than the developing countries on health care parameters. Our level of public spending on health is one of the lowest in the world which has further exacerbated the dismal state of health care sector. Despite of all key policy documents like the National Health Policy of 2002, the Draft National Health Policy of 2015, the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and the Report of the High Level Expert Committee emphasising the need to reach 2.5 per cent of the GDP, India's total Government expenditure on health languishes at 1.15 per cent. As per the National Health Accounts, 2013-14, a rigorous estimate on health expenditure in the country is way less than the world average of 5.99 per cent. The squeeze of public finances has resulted in the appalling state of our health care system and has given birth to impoverishing out of pocket health care expenditure which is as high as 64 per cent of the total health expenditure due to which about seven per cent population is pushed below poverty threshold every year.

*[Translation]*

This means that the people of our country are forced to withdraw money from their pockets to get good health, so 70 percent people

go into BPL category, so we will have to think for food, for food grains, for farmers, for the poor, for everyone. I would like to advise the government that our health infrastructure is very limited, more attention will have to be paid to the service at the grassroots level. If 72 per cent of our population lives in villages, we need to pay more attention to it. We know that all doctors prefer to live in urban areas, so I recommend posting a bare-footed doctor. Let's utilize barefoot doctors. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Will you go to a barefoot doctor for your treatment?

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Yes, if it is effective, why not? If we resort to AYUSH, if we resort to Homeopathy, then why should not I resort to barefoot doctor? The health infrastructure in the rural India is basically dependent on the quackery.

Madam, is it right or wrong? Basically, rural India is largely dependent upon the quackery. So, quacks are ruling the roost in stead of doctors in the rural India. Quacks are ruling the roost. You cannot say anything against them because if you say, then the entire rural population will get agitated. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Quacks are working under a renowned doctor or physician in the rural area.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** The Committee observed that acceleration in economic growth by itself will not translate into higher public spending on health. The Government will also have to demonstrate a strong political will to value health as societal imperative for development and alter the Government health financing landscape in a fundamental way of providing a much larger resource envelope for health financing. If countries like Thailand and Brazil are close to achieving universal health coverage for their population, there is no reason why India cannot accomplish this role. But for that to happen, the urgency of raising public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent should not be lost sight of. In this context, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the Government to its draft national health policy, 2015 which states that global evidence shows that unless a country spends at least five to six per cent of GDP on health and major part of it from Government expenditure, health care needs are seldom met. The Government should address this critical policy challenge of raising the Government health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of GDP and chalk out a solid roadmap for earmarking more financial resources for the

health sector. *[Translation]* We know that in the federal structure of our country, half of the public health services are in the hands of the states and half is in the hands of the union government. This means that one subject came under the state list and the other came under the concurrent list. So when we ask something from the minister, he says that this is a state subject, it should be looked into by the state and when we ask the state government, they say that they are not given money from the union government, if the union government does not give money then how will their work be done? It is a matter of great pain for us that the problems of common people are increasing day by day while being entangled in all these problems, so the ratio of nurses, doctors and hospitals should be increased in our country. Doctors in our country should express their desire to do something for the country as a service. Therefore, the government can also bring a law for this if needed, but I do not say that it should be a draconian law.

I want that no coercive policy should be adopted rather persuasive policy should be adopted, otherwise the doctors themselves will be agitated. I want that by adopting a persuasive policy, if the doctor of India is sent to the village and we are able to provide service to the villages, then we will be able to fulfill our goal

of sustainable development, because still with regards to infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, we are far behind, so I want the government to take a holistic step.

Nadda ji, taking cognizance of this matter on comprehensive lines, you go ahead. If a pit comes, cross the pit. We're with you.

‘Na sangharsh , na takleef , maza kya hai jeene me  
Bade- bade tufaan tham jaenge , sirf aag laga scene me ’

*[English]*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Madam, we are discussing a Motion under rule 193 brought by Shri Anurag Thakur on Sustainable Development Goals—way forward for the health and wellbeing for all. We have already heard two Speakers.

Before I begin, I must thank the hon. Speaker that she has been pursuing this issue of Sustainable Development Goals with persistence. Not only in Delhi but she had a Commonwealth Women Members of Parliament meeting at Jaipur in August, 2016 where this was highlighted. Then, again in Indore, she had an ASEAN Speakers' Summit in this year where she highlighted these

sustainable development goals. So, here, through the intervention of the hon. Speaker, we have made progress.

Madam, you know the issue of sustainable development goals came up during the Presidentship of Jo Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister who provided the definition of sustainable development that was used for the next 25 years. This intergenerational concept of sustainable development was adopted at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development at Rio in 1992. The definition of sustainable development has evolved to capture a more holistic approach linking the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. This three-part vision of sustainable development was emphasized at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. So, Rio Conference was in 1992 and Rio+20 Conference was in 2012.

I need not speak what are the 17 goals for sustainable development. They are, (1) no poverty, (2) zero hunger, (3) good health and well-being, which we discuss today, (4) quality education, (5) gender equality, (6) clean water and sanitation, (7) affordable and clean energy (8) decent work and economic growth, (9) industry and infrastructure, (10) reduced inequalities, etc.

*[English]* You will notice that all the 17 goals are interlinked. For instance, the goal of good health and well-being is linked to clean water and sanitation. Even gender equality is linked to this. Unless women get equal attention in health matters, how will maternal health improve? All this is linked again to economic growth. So, the point is to have a holistic view on the whole matter. That is why, it is necessary to discuss the goals at length.

Let us see as to how progress has been made in this matter. In child health, throughout the world, 17,000 fewer children die each day than in 1990 but more than 6 million children still die before their fifth birthday every year. So, around 60 lakh children are dying before their fifth birthday.

Maternal mortality has fallen by almost 50 per cent since 1990. In the Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, maternal mortality has declined by about two-thirds. But, the proportion of mothers who still do not survive childbirth compared to those who do is still 14 times higher in under-developed regions than in the developed countries. Only half of women – we are talking of gender equality – in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care. Lastly, the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) from 437 per lakh live births in 1991 came down to 167 in 2009. In 2009, 72



per cent deliveries were institutional. So, there has been a big progress.

The next big challenge to our health is HIV/AIDS. By 2014, there were 13.6 million people accessing antiretroviral therapy, which is an increase from just 800,000 in 2003. India has made significant strides in reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS across various high risk categories. Adult prevalence has come down from 0.45 per cent to 0.27 per cent in 2011. So, we have made progress in bringing down the number of those affected by HIV/AIDS.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The number of new cases is 28 lakh.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Madam, I will give you the figure. The new HIV infections, in 2013, were estimated at 2.1 million which is about 38 per cent lower than in 2001. Newer cases are also coming down with antiretroviral therapy. At the end of 2013, around 2,40,000 children in India were infected with HIV through their parents.

Having said that, let us judge as to what are the big goals for 2030 for India. One goal for India and the world by 2030 is to reduce Global Maternal Maternity Rate to less than 70 per lakh child birth. The second goal, by 2030, is to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under-5 years of age. The third goal is to end the

epidemic of AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases. To reduce one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases is our next goal. One other target to achieve by 2030 is to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse including narcotic drug abuse and alcohol.

Another Sustainable Development Goal is to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education. Then, the target for 2030 is to achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases, substantially increasing health financing, to strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for *[English]* early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

Madam, I have more or less tabulated or formulated the big problems today. Healthcare is not about doctors only. Madam, I know that you are a reputed paediatrician yourself and a dedicated

person, who still does a lot of *pro bono* work for poor children. We admire you for that. But as has been stated earlier, doctors are considered demi Gods by the patients and their relatives, but they do not act as demi Gods.

In India, especially in my State of West Bengal, 90 per cent of the people are still dependent on government hospitals and public healthcare. The big hospitals and nursing homes, like Apollo, Fortis, MAX, have all come up in big cities and they are money punching machines. They are not giving people treatment; they are sucking money out of the system. Madam, you know that in West Bengal, the situation became so bad that there were several attacks on hospitals after patients died and huge bills were imposed on them. The West Bengal Government enacted a Clinical Establishment Act according to which there will be a commission to go into the bills raised by the hospitals. I think, it is very essential for the Government to keep a check on their bills. I ask Naddaji also. Delhi is the centre of the big fish of the medical industry. It is time that some control may be brought on them.

Still, in Delhi, people come from all over India to AIIMS or to Safdarjung Hospital. Such people constitute 90 per cent of the patients coming to these hospitals. You can see people lining up in

AIIMS from 2.00 a.m. in the night just to get a ticket because most people cannot afford these big hospitals. They are only related to big hospitals if you say that you have got health insurance which allows you for cashless treatment. Then, your bill is raised. So, this is the condition of hospitals today. That is why, I feel that there should be prescribed some standard practices as to in which condition, what investigations can be done, whether a patient should be put on ventilator without any reason or whether a patient should be sent to ICU. A standard protocol should be devised to control this.

Madam, you know that we have discussed in this House how Government has controlled the prices of stents. The stents actually costing Rs. 40,000 were being charged at from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh. Government has taken some steps to control that. You know that because of WTO regulations, price of drugs has gone up very much. We have to pay for the patent of the foreign drugs and they are abnormally costly. The Government has the Drug Prices Control Order. I want that to be implemented strictly so that the prices of drugs, especially those manufactured by multinationals, are suitably brought down.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, we have very good pharmaceutical companies in our country.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Yes, we have Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI):** Prof. Roy, already the prices have been brought down by this Government with the introduction of *Jan Aushadhi*. ... *(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** I do not know about Shri Narendra Modi, but there has been an effort by the Government to bring down drug prices, which I appreciate. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:** In the name of *Jan Aushadhi* the prices of drugs have come down as a result of the efforts of this Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** He is talking about generic medicines. ... *(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Madam, I will tell you. You are from West Bengal. You know about the main effort that the West Bengal Government has done in the field of medical treatment. Altogether, 100 Fair Price Medicine Shops have been opened in West Bengal where generic medicines are being distributed at 66 per cent lower cost.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** In some cases, it is up to 70 per cent.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Yes, Madam, you are very right. Madam, you also know that in West Bengal in the Government hospitals all treatment is free including renal transplantation, cardiovascular surgery and open-heart surgery. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You cannot judge by seeing only one hospital.

... *(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Mr. Supriyo is a ‘flying visitor’ to Bengal. He does not belong to Bengal. He stays in Mumbai. He does not know the ground realities in Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO):** Madam, he has taken my name. So, I need to give the answer. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would love to be a ‘flying visitor’ in West Bengal because it is important that someone from the Ruling Party gets a bird’s eye view while flying from above. ... *(Interruptions)* I get a bird’s eye view of what exactly happening in West Bengal is. Whatever he is saying is half-true and not correct. ... *(Interruptions)*

I thank you so much for allowing me to speak. He is a senior Member. I will not say anything else, but please do not call me a 'flying Member' because my voice probably rings in every house in Bengal, which *dada* also knows. My songs are there in his mobile as well. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** It is okay.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:** Babul ji's voice hurts them, one MP has been elected, so you feel so much pain, if another Babul happens, it is going to be very heavy.... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** The problem of Babul ji is that Babul ji lost in all the seven assembly constituencies falling under his Lok Sabha constituency. He also lost in the corporation elections. He remained in lurch and the whole Trinamool occupied the space . ... (*Interruptions*) I would ask Anurag ji to go to West Bengal and contest elections there.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO:** Madam, he has taken my name. I would love to have his comments go on record because what he is saying is

absolutely right. If he has taken my name, then please allow me *dada* and if you could please sit down for a while. ... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** How many times should I yield? ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO:** No, you have taken my name and you have said certain things. So, please let me answer. I am a newcomer and if I make a mistake, then you can reprimand me. ... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Okay, answer to it.

**SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO:** Madam, what he has said is absolutely right. What I need to say is that taking a leaf out of what he said earlier that I am a ‘flying Member’ in West Bengal. It is a true fact that the ... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** There are no ‘true facts’. There are only facts. Let us correct the English.

**SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO:** No, taking a leaf out of what you just now said about hospitals, there are true facts and there are facts. So, I would just say that the seven Assemblies are definitely not with us, but I need to be a ‘flying visitor’ in West Bengal to get a bird’s eye view to ensure that if I cannot get it, then I at least put in a very good



fight and that is all that I am doing with every respect to him. I think that a man or a politician is defined by the fight he puts in against anything that he feels is wrong that is being done with him or with his Party. As long as I am a warrior, I do not mind being a bird because as a singer I have always been a bird and I have sung like a bird. Thank you so much.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, thank you.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Madam, now that the irrelevant talk is over, I can get back to the issue.

### **17.00 hours**

Madam, now I will slowly conclude. One thing is that here in this House while pursuing Sustainable Development Goals let me condemn all attacks on doctors anywhere. Doctors are human beings. They are the ones who save us. They are humans, they make a mistake. But I do not believe that any doctor would let a patient die willingly.

What happened in Maharashtra, in Dhule, was that an orthopaedic surgeon was beaten up. He is fighting for his life. I wish for his quick recovery. In Bengal also, whenever such attacks happened, our Chief Minister has taken the strongest possible action.

We are ready to pull up doctors and to punish doctors through legal means, not by these types of attacks.

Lastly, I will end with your father Dr. Gopal Das Nag who was also a high class GP. We are forgetting the concept of GP or the family doctor. Madam, nowadays, there are only specialists and super-specialists. There are no family doctors who advise a person on his health status. I think we need such people. In my childhood, I once went to see Dr. B C Roy for an ailment that I had with my father. You know what he prescribed? He said, “take a green coconut in the morning every day for a month, you will be cured”. I was cured. Doctors those days were not greedy for prescribing costly medicines. Doctors like Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and your father prescribed simple medicines. They prescribed mixtures. Now, mixtures are altogether forgotten. They prescribed ways in which people could recover quickly without spending too much money. We need specialists and super-specialists, but not every disease needs a super-specialist.

Secondly, you know, there is an adage called ‘prevention is better than cure’. It is necessary to educate people on health habits. When I was in the Ministry of Urban Development, we started a competition called ‘handwashing competition’. There was just one

simple thing that wash your hands before you eat which may prevent many diseases.

I have differences with the ruling party. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that is preventing open defecation is one of the main sources of preventing diseases like hookworm and other diseases which have spread. So, we must pursue clean habits.

Lastly, I want to say one thing that women are neglected. You are a woman yourself. 65 per cent of women in India suffer from anaemia. Why does the Government not give them iron tablets like Fetol free of cost? That is something which is most essential. Our women are all anaemic. We have recently passed the Mental Health Bill. It was a debate in which you also participated, Madam.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** In the government hospitals, mothers are getting Ferric Acid tablet of 5mg, Folifer. In all the government hospitals, mothers are getting Ferrous Sulphate tablet of 5mg for free.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:**  $\text{Fe}_3\text{SO}_4$ .

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Folic Acid, Folifer.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Folic Acid is very iron rich.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You cannot give Folic Acid to a thalassemic patient.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Then that is a problem. There is no cure to thalassemia.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You cannot give iron to a thalassemic patient but they are supplying mixture of the iron and Folic Acid.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** That you prescribe, Madam, as and when thalassemic patient comes to you.

Lastly, that day, the Health Minister while replying said that he was not in favour of psychotherapist. I do not think that. In villages, we find in every *mohalla*, there are some mad people and people with mental problems. What we need is to train the ASHA workers in curing mental health and in meeting mental health challenges. We need people with a healthy body and a healthy mind. Let it be our sustainable development goal.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** How many works they will do? They are already overburdened.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Asha workers should be given more work and more money. In West Bengal, all Asha workers have been given Rs. 500 rise by the State Government. Let the Centre give us

more money and they will work more; we are prepared. You should give them some responsibility. You should make drugs cheap; you should make the hospitals approachable; and they should not be butcher houses where poor patients' families are murdered. Let us march towards a disease free, and healthy (physically and mentally) India.

With these words, I thank you for giving me the time.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** Madam, at the outset, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to our most valuable colleague, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, who has in the BAC, at least, for the past two years had been at it that we must discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG is a major issue. In a country like India where the population is burgeoning -- every year we see millions of children being born and thousands dying every day -- his effort is extremely laudable. There are Members of Parliament like him, maybe, very few because others may not actually grasp all subjects, who are taking things very seriously. I thank you Anurag Ji for this effort of yours.

I thank Madam Speaker and the present Chair for your patience and Madam Speaker's persistence and support to Anurag Ji to bring about this Discussion under Rule 193 and make it a reality.

It is not that a lot of change will happen just because of all these talks that we are giving. My colleagues -- senior colleagues, junior colleagues and respected colleagues -- starting from Anurag Ji to the Congress Speaker to Saugata Babu have given a lot of data. I would not like to delve into that again. We all, more or less, are aware of what the goals are pertaining to health sector in the SDG window and everybody knows how India has fallen far behind, apart from

statistics and juggling of data -- which is now the domain of Anurag Ji's Party and nobody else dares to get into that and that is going to be your private limited property – in reality, at the ground level, we see that in the sector of health, India has not fared as successful or as well as all of us in this House would like it to do.

Now, there are many problems; there are some which are inherent, some which are our customs, our religion, our attitude to life and some which are man-made which have come into lifestyle over a period of time. For instance, I have seen and in my family I try to go against that, my son who is about 11 years old and goes to a school in Bhubaneswar, the pressure there on him is to study. His mother is in half a mind because all his other classmates are proud that somebody has come first, somebody has come second, or somebody has scored very high marks. He does well in studies. But we also insist, since he likes basketball, since he likes roller-skating, we tell him, "You skip studies today. Go and play basketball." I am surprised and I am happy that other kids in the school, seeing him, are telling their parents, "that let us go and play when they are under pressure to study." It might be a little mischievous, but in some ways, I think it is good. We are not an outdoorsy race. Indians as such have never been outdoorsy. If we would have been outdoorsy, I

would not be sitting in this air-conditioned Chamber of Lok Sabha the whole day expecting potbelly to grow. If I was in any western country or in the US, I would probably be taking my child mountain hiking, snow skiing, or mountain climbing, or doing something outdoorsy, which we do not do. That is an inherent customary or a custom or a societal drawback which we have to deal with. That is why, it was said, and 'all work and no play makes Sam Goodring Junior a sick person Go and google to know who is Sam Goodring. When we are not outdoorsy, we have other problems such as obesity, goitre.

Many middle Indians, in the middle ages, have stiff joints. That is because movement is extremely limited. So, ill-health settles in very early in life. You would not be bothered because you are a doctor. You see this happen every time, and you would be resisting to that. But I have to admit that it is a very sad thing that I am going to say now. All of us in this House - nobody should get angry with me - are going to die one day. It is a terrible news that *[English]* I am breaking in this House. I beg pardon for that. Keeping that as the ultimate goal that all of us will die, what is our effort? *[English]* Our effort is not only what kind of lifestyle that I lead, but what kind of a lifestyle I am able to offer to my people who look up to each one of



us as an example. Have we failed as examples? Or we successes in examples?

It is not only giving out the MPLAD fund for community centres. It is not only cutting down thousands of trees to build highways because everybody talks about infrastructure.

**17.13 hours** (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

This Government is so keen on economic reforms but Nadda *ji*, who has done yeoman's service - I mentioned about him once when he was not in the House – the kind of work that he, his Ministry and his Secretary has done, is something that needs praise.

Are we actually considering any laws for social change where children will not be burdened with too much of studies and they will have time to play? I went to a school in Pondicherry, Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education. There, if we bunk the class, the teachers never reprimanded us; but if we bunk what was called 'Group', which started at 4 pm, and it was physical activity till 6 pm, then, we were pulled up in school the next day. That was 'physical

activity', you cannot miss. So, we learnt swimming, we learnt hiking, we learnt football. We were not keen on '*memsahib ki game*' of cricket. So, medicine and healthcare is something that is evolving.

I remember when I was younger, there were people who used to tell us that if children have diarrhoea, do not give them water; if they have fever, do not give them rice. But today, the doctors tell us that if we have fever, the first thing to be done is this. We, who have progressed in age – I am not saying ageing – we ask them, what can I eat, and what can I not eat? What is that question? You can eat anything you like. Just take your medicines on time. So, medicine also, like all of us, is evolving.

Since our young colleagues are so worried, please remember one thing. Generic medicines which were started much earlier, I do not want to name a party that I never wish to blame, was something that a lot of people had high hopes on.

But, since the Modi Government has come to office, the stress on supply of generic medicines to States has gone down. Believe it or not, I am not making this a political issue. But, please go back to your constituencies, please check with Government hospitals where they have outlets for generic medicines, mostly none of the important medicines are available today. That is a sad part. I am not

reprimanding anybody; I am not pulling up anybody. I would insist the hon. Minister for Health that he should ensure that supply of generic medicines continue unabated and in full quantity to all the States that require it. Maybe, somewhere a commercial name, a pharmaceutical name and the corresponding generic name could be put up on a board where, if the doctors do not prescribe generic medicines, the educated patients at least can help somebody else that this is an alternative that one can purchase. Somewhere it could be done like that.

Now, all of us are aware about clandestine agreements being made with US pharma companies. The less said the better because US is US. ... (*Interruptions*) He is aware about it. Those agreements are eventually going to cost us very dear. Medicine prices will go up and in about a year or so, we will see as to how, if we are alive, how negative these things will be.

I would like to address the question of population. I remember, during Emergency, there was the five point programme of the then Prime Minister's son, the late Sanjay Gandhi. ... (*Interruptions*) I think, his history is messed up. He does not know.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please address the Chair.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Yes, Sir. You are my inspiration. He had made family planning mandatory. As usual, like today also, we are passing laws. We do not know as to how they are going to be implemented at the ground level. Similarly, he might have had a good reason. I do not know. I do not vouchsafe for anybody. But what happened was that there was misuse, compulsion and forcible sterilization campaigns which were carried out. Where were they mostly? They were in Uttar Pradesh – where today, you cannot eat meat, you cannot have so many other things. That is what is of concern. What is of concern is that which puts scare in the minds of the average politician of India. When Shri Raj Narainji came as the Minister of Health defeating Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the first thing he did was to change the name of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning into the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. So, what has ‘welfare’ led us to? ‘Welfare’ has led us to allow women to have 26 weeks of pregnancy leave after the second child, after the third child, and after the fourth child. That means, we are encouraging women of this country by force of their family or social pressures from their in-laws to have more children. By that, we are encouraging the growth of the population.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Sir, I have quite a few points to make. There is enough time. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please go ahead.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Sir, I am a very nervous kind of a person and my heart starts beating harder when you say this. So, I will only request you that I will not take unnecessary time. I will quickly run through my points. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You are wasting time in talking to them. Please address the Chair.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** I am talking to you. I heard it somewhere. I am getting distracted.

Sir, we are talking about cleanliness. The whole country was excited. Everybody in this House thought that this is a great move, that this is a move which all of us wanted. You do not have to go far, you do not have to go to Karnataka or to Odisha or to Kolkata. All you have to do is go four kilometres from the Parliament building near New Delhi Railway Station. That side or this side, no matter where you come out from, it is full of filth. I thought about it when I came by train month before last from Bhubaneswar.

I wondered what is wrong with our population! When a Prime Minister, such a beloved Prime Minister, so popular, so liked, is giving a call, why is society not responding to him? Is he not being heard by society? Is it somehow that they manipulate votes but the social acceptance is not there? Then I realised that the problem is very deep seated. The problem is, if I tell you to have a bath everyday and then ... *(Interruptions)* The problem is, if I tell somebody that you please come clean everyday when you come to Parliament [*English*] and then I put a tax on him for his cleanliness, the common man's mindset says, 'I am paying. If I am paying, then it is your responsibility. You clean up this place.'

It is a good move, it is a welcome move. On one hand we want that the country should develop but on the other hand by putting a tax, by putting a cess on Swachh Bharat we are also giving out a message, a very subterfuge message, that it is not necessary for you to do anything, the Government will do something. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not criticism. I am not criticizing anybody. I am talking about a flawed mindset.

Similarly, in my Constituency I see how NTPC is creating toilets. I am naming the company. I went to some of the rural areas. One of my voters, an old lady, had a toilet built in her backyard by

NTPC. The lady had gone to use it and when she got up, because she is old she put her hand on one of the walls. Those are like little cubicles. She put her hand on the wall, that wall collapsed and the lady fell, the wall on the other side fell on her, and she was hospitalized for two months because she was such an old lady. This is not a general thing.

When we started we said we will give them Rs.9, 500, then we said we will give them Rs.12, 000 per toilet. And when we saw the Budget we saw that if you divide the number of toilets with the amount sanctioned, it comes to barely Rs.8, 000.

Then the question is of doctors. Why do doctors not go to rural areas? There are two reasons that I find why doctors do not go to rural areas. The first is that there is no attractive infrastructure. By infrastructure I mean they do not have homes in rural areas first of all where they can stay. In a government hospital in a rural area there is no place to stay, no running water, no electricity. That is something that puts them off. Secondly, because of lack of education facilities their children do not get a future. So, to maintain two establishments doctors have a problem to go to rural areas. That is one problem.

The second problem is there is a general feeling that if I leave an urban area, my private practice will go, I will not be in touch with the Ministers, the Health Minister or the Secretary and so my transfer and posting will be a problem. This is there all across in every State. So, they prefer to be in the urban areas so that they have access and they can give favours. When the Minister falls ill, there will be a flock of doctors attending upon him. They do not allow space for the nurses. They do not give a walkway also for the nurse to go and give an injection. The doctors want to do everything.

In a country where the MCI says that we have only 9.29 lakh doctors registered, some 7 lakh doctors at any given point of time are actually available for Government jobs. So, it is easy to criticize Government doctors; it is very easy to say they are callous, they are bad, they are cold, they do not care when we fall ill. One thing I have noticed even in Odisha is that doctors get assaulted. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur was right when he appealed to every citizen not to assault doctors. I would like to join my voice with him. Hon. Chairperson, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur is the initiator; he is the fire starter. You always have to pay due respect to the fire starter. What happens is that when you criticize a doctor, you have to think of the background. They go to very many quacks and very many half-



demented practitioners. When they fail with everything, they come to a Government hospital.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude. Listen, currently zero hour is in progress, and many people are waiting to speak. You are also speaking in zero hour.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Sir, I am always ready to conclude. The relatives take the patient to a Government doctor. At that time, the patient is in terrible condition and is about to die. So, if the death occurs, which one day will occur even to us, the hon. Members of Parliament, it incites the relatives to commit violence and to do things that we would really not like to do even in the case of our great grandmother also.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank the initiator; I thank hon. Madam Speaker for allowing this discussion on SDG and I am sure that no matter which political party is in power, the citizens of this country are above all of us. They will become conscious and they alone will change this country and change it very soon.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The discussion on SDG will continue.

Now we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

---

*[Translation]*

**DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL:** Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir. Yesterday we passed the GST Bill in this holy House and for this I congratulate our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon. Minister of Finance and the entire House. I also congratulate all the countrymen for this.

This GST Bill will bring a big change in the economy of our country. The biggest problem of our country is heavy traffic jam, this Bill is also going to solve this problem and the commute of people will be facilitated easily. I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Railway Minister for ease of movement of people of my Parliamentary Constituency Bhavnagar and Botak.

I come from Bhavnagar area. Ahmedabad is a central city for all of us Gujaratis and similarly it is a central city for the people of Bhavnagar and Botak. We are connected with Ahmedabad like twin city. Thousands of people travel by private buses and vehicles to Ahmedabad. There is always heavy traffic on the road to Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad. Due to heavy traffic, there are many accidents.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please state your demand.

**DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL:** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, there we have also lost a lot of precious human lives there. I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Railway Minister through you that I have been demanding an intercity train for Bhavnagar Ahmedabad for many years, some of our promises were also fulfilled in the past, but so far the promise of intercity train has not been fulfilled. Kindly run a Bhavnagar - Ahmedabad Intercity train to ensure the convenience and development of the people of our Bhavnagar. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Bhartiben D. Shyal.

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. The Prime Minister of our country Narendra Modi ji decided to launch Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana three years ago and he had made a good announcement. There are many villages in the rural area that some planning was needed to develop the village. Through the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, many inaccessible areas and areas where some means and development had not reached, there was a huge opportunity to select such villages and develop them through this Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

Sir, this scheme has started getting good success in many ways. Many states have tried their best to implement the scheme. At the behest of the Prime Minister, the time was fixed to adopt another village, but unfortunately the other village has not been selected by many states till date. Our state of Maharashtra has not done that.

I want to draw the attention of the government through you for this important scheme in Zero Hour that the Prime Minister has an ideal scheme, an ideal decision. Direct all the states to implement it properly and make arrangements for proper implementation of Pradhan Mantri Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, right planning decision.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

*[English]*

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Thank you.

My 'Zero Hour' submission is regarding the return of land to the people of Chavara village in my constituency taken over by the Indian Rare Earths Limited. Many decades ago, land of the poor fishermen was taken for beach sand mineral mining. Even after

mining was completed, the land was not returned to the honest, poor fishermen in Chavara Village as well as Nendakara Village, Karithura and Kovilthottom in Chavara Village and Vellanathuruth in Alappattu in Kollam district of Kerala. The mining has been completed but the fishermen have not been given back their land. There is a specific agreement with the people of that locality that land would be given back after mining. Even a decade after completion of mining, land has not been given back. To my knowledge, it has to be decided by the Cabinet. The Union Council of Ministers has to decide about it. For every public sector undertaking if a transaction involving a property has to be done, the opinion or approval of the Union Council of Ministers is required and it is pending. I urge upon the Government to expedite the process so that the poor fishermen of this area will get their land back. So, immediate steps have to be taken by the Government for this. This is my demand and submission.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):**

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House through you to an important issue today. These days we are all coming across an ad with a slogan, "My country is changing and progressing." This ad is

good and the country should also progress, but are we really changing? Our Prime Minister gave the slogan of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The slogan is good and the role of the Prime Minister is also good, but do we do anything that aligns with this announcement? It is a question.

Today female foeticide has become a very big issue. What happened in Mahisal, Maharashtra, makes our heads bow in shame. The reprehensible work done by a doctor named Ridrapure, like a monster, raises the question, are we really making progress? Before Dr Ridrapure, Dr Sudam Munde had done the same in Beed, Maharashtra. There are many such doctors in different parts of the country. We consider the doctor as a form of God. Such doctors have defamed their profession by doing demeaning work.

Sir, female foeticide is a serious crime. Through you, my demand to the government is that the government should take necessary steps to stop this and make a provision in our law to take the strictest action against the culprits.

Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Shrirang Appa Barne and Shri

Bhairon Prasad Mishra are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Shewale.

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance related to my constituency.

Out of the Support Price of paddy fixed at Rs.22.50 per kg. For the year 2016-17, Rs. 14.70 was to come from the Union government and the rest would come from the State Government. No decision has been taken in this regard for the year 2017-18.

In Kuttanad, Kerala, 46,840 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured so far which comes to 70 per cent of the total production. About 9512 farmers are engaged in paddy cultivation in Kuttanad. The price of Rs.22.50 per kg., which farmers are getting, is not sufficient. Recently, the Government of India enhanced the price of Copra but the Support Price of paddy was not increased.

In open market in Kerala the price of rice has shot up to Rs.50 per kg. but the farmers are getting very low price for their produce. Presently, the State of Kerala is facing severe drought and there is alarming water scarcity everywhere. The climatic change has adversely affected the farmers in Kuttanad. Besides, the labour



charges have gone up and other miscellaneous expenses have increased. I am talking about the farmers... *(Interruptions)* I am concluding, Sir.

Due to severe drought in Kuttanad, paddy crop is affected by *munja* disease. Other diseases like *Pattlapuzha* and *Varinellu* have adversely affected the paddy crop. Due to spread of disease to thousands of acres of cultivable land under paddy, the farmers have suffered heavy losses. The Government of Kerala has not given any assistance to face this calamity.

Thousands of paddy farmers have suffered heavy losses as sea water has entered their fields. The Government of Kerala has not given any assistance to mitigate the loss.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Your point is being brought up. You tell me your demand.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** I am concluding, Sir.

The paddy farmers in Kuttanad have suffered huge losses due to rains during the harvesting season.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You are reading. You just place your demand.

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Sir, because of the extraordinary situation being faced by paddy farmers, they are suffering serious financial crisis.... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** Thank you, Sir. It was the long pending request of the people of my State, West Bengal to set up Ruplal Nandy Memorial Cancer Research Centre at Chandernagore, Hooghly district, West Bengal. Since it has been closed, a lot of people are put to hardships.... *(Interruptions)*

It is to be noted here that this Centre is a unit of Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre, Kolkata. Before its closure, it was taking care of a large number of below poverty line people in and around Howrah, Hooghly and 24 Parganas. Since its closure they are forced to travel 50 kms. to get themselves treated for a dreaded disease like cancer.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, let me make my request to the hon. Minister. Under these circumstances, I would like to urge and plead the hon. Minister to come to the rescue of the large number of people of West Bengal

and reopen the Ruplal Nandy Memorial Cancer Research Centre at Chandernagore, Hooghly district, West Bengal.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Ratna De (Nag).

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Sir, the chilli farmers in my constituency of Guntur are on the roads again. India is the major producer and dominant player in the world chilli market due to its superior quality. AP tops the list in the country and Guntur tops in AP with 26 per cent share as far as production of chilli is concerned.

Sir, chilli production has gone up by 40 per cent in the last one year from 1.56 lakh hectares in 2016 to 1.86 lakh hectares. Looking at the price my farmers have got last year, they have extended their crop in anticipation of getting a better price. But, the prices of bright, medium and low grade chillis have fallen steeply. Last year, the chilli farmers got Rs.14,000-15,000 per quintal, but now they are forced to sell it for just Rs.6,000 to Rs.8000 per quintal resulting in substantial losses to them. It is not just happening in AP. But, the case is the same in other chilli producing States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and a few others as well.

The second problem that the chilli farmers are facing is due to the failure of the Government of India to capitalize the market and

export more chillis to other countries. It is all due to unorganized way of production, storage, marketing, R&D, etc.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Place your demand.

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:** In view of the same, I demand Rs.12,000 to be fixed as a Minimum Support Price for chillis. Special attention should be paid on small and marginal farmers. Cold storage facilities have to be provided exclusively for small and medium farmers. The Government of India should implement market intervention scheme and purchase chillis from farmers at Rs.12,000 per quintal. There is a need to develop new market avenues, promotion of exports, capacity building of the stakeholders, access to post harvest technology and infrastructure and also to regulate the market.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODARMA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to such a problem across the country and especially in Jharkhand and demand the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Conversion programmes are held across the country. People are converting from their community to other communities. There is no restriction on that. There is a problem, converted people, who are from SC/ST or Dalit class or tribal society, convert to Christian community or convert to another community. They get double benefit of being a tribal and a minority. In this House, senior Congress leader Shri Kartik Oraon ji used to be a Member of Parliament. He had demanded a ban on it by bringing a private bill, but then that private bill was returned during the Congress rule and it has been continued till now.

Today there is a movement going on in Jharkhand, this is a problem faced by the people of Sarna religious followers. The movement of the people of Sarna religion is that if they get any one benefit, if they live in Sarna, they get the benefit of Sarna Adivasi or if they convert, they get the benefit of minority, but they are getting both the benefits, the government should impose a ban on such practices or bring a Bill on it and stop it by making a law. Today, anarchic situation is arising in the country, please work to stop it.

Thank you, Vande Mataram.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sunil

Kumar Singh, Shri Pashupati Nath Singh, Shri Laxman Giluwa, Shri Rameshwar Teli and Shri Harish Chandra Meena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NABA KUMAR SARNIA (KOKRAJHAR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very important issue of my Parliamentary Constituency, Kokrajhar, that the allegations of corruption and economic irregularities in BTC are talk of the town in Assam, like the allegations of corruption of one thousand crore rupees in Dima Hasau, Assam. Many schemes have not been completed there and it has remained confined to paper.

Similarly, despite not having any financial approval authority, the supply of thousands of crores of rupees or construction work has put BTC in financial crisis. Thousands of TET and OBB teachers are forced to work without salaries due to non-payment of salaries for years.

As per their allegations, the funds for the salary of those people are being siphoned and it is being spent on other works. The Special Central Assistance Fund allocated by the Centre should be closely monitored intermittently, which has not happened yet. It has not

happened even once, especially during my tenure, so the manner in which each of the funds allocated by the union government should be spent, should be brought under 'Disha'. Alongwith this I request the government through you to conduct an inquiry by the CBI or Parliamentary Joint Committee in all the four districts of BTAD.

**SHRI DASRATH TIRKEY (ALIPURDUARS):** Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Water Resources. My area falls in North Bengal Terai Doos of West Bengal. My Lok Sabha constituency is Alipurduars. There are many big rivers which during monsoon which overflow due to heavy rains and cause the erosion of farmers' land causes huge loss of land, damage to tea gardens.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister through you, what provisions are being made to save those people from huge economic losses?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dasrath Tirkey.

**SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. These days, there is a lot of discussion in the media about banning illegal

slaughterhouses in many states of the country. We will welcome the ban on illegal slaughter houses, because the unhygienic condition is never good from the point of view of health, it is not appropriate. But it would also not be appropriate to harass the legal units on flimsy grounds under the guise of illegal Slaughter House. We request that the state governments should prepare a blue print in it and efforts should be made to run this business in a modern way.

Hon. Chairperson, this meat business is an industry worth about 50 thousand crore rupees. If we keep it in an atmosphere of fear and trepidation, this industry will suffer a lot. I am of the opinion that the Union government should intervene and direct all the States in this regard. Before the atmosphere deteriorates, it should be our endeavour to find a solution by making a blue print as soon as possible.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Jitendra Chaudhury and Shri P.K. Biju are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Tariq Anwar.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Sir, Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport in Patna, the capital of Bihar is one of the busiest airports in the country. According to AAI, by the year 2035, the pressure due to footfall of about 30 lakh



passengers will remain here. At present, about 35 airplanes are operating from here, but this airport does not have that much capacity. Airbus A-320 and Boeing aircraft cannot land at this airport. There is a zoo on one side of the airport and a railway line on the other side. Apart from this, the development of the airport is also not possible due to the dense population around it.

I want to demand from the government that the proposals of the Bihar government with regard to Nalanda and Bihta that have been forwarded, should be accepted and the same should be made modern international airports immediately. Thank you very much.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):** Hon. Chairperson, I come from Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency of Jharkhand. I want to place before you a very important topic that Jaduguda is known as the mother of uranium. It has mines like Turmadih, Bhatin, Narwa and Mahuldih. Jaduguda Mines are closed due to non-availability of No Objection Certificate by Forest Environment Department for nearly three years. Recently, Chairperson, Atomic Energy Commission, Shri Shekhar Basu ji visited that area. It was surveyed by the Atomic Minerals Division,

MD and found that there is a deposit of uranium accumulated since last 700 years to one thousand years.

Along with this, I also want to tell you that the pay revision of the labourers in UCIL is pending for the last three years. Nearly 5 lakh labourers have been affected. I would like to request the Hon. Minister through you that an important uranium industry, which is lying closed due to non-availability of No Objection Certificate from Forest Environment Department, should be given No Objection Certificate and the pay revision of the labourers should be given as soon as possible.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

*[English]*

**SHRI GEORGE BAKER (NOMINATED):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Through you, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by workers who have been working for more than 10 years in the MES who are outsourced at Air Force stations at Kalaikunda and Panagarh. They are not getting their salaries through the banks. They are not getting Government approved labour benefits like Provident Fund and ESI. Most of the outsourced workers, although they work

as plant operators, are not getting their salaries due to them as per the Labour Commission. The contractors are also giving different wages to different people for doing the same job. In 2016, ever since contracts have expired, these people have not been getting any remuneration and they are having to work without any duty rosters.

My demand is that the contractors be given or be compelled to give labourers their pay through banks and they should be given Provident Fund benefits. They should be given rates as prescribed by the Labour Commission and they should also ensure that they work as plant operators and not as housekeeping staff of officers of that Department. This is taking place particularly at Kalaikunda and Panagarh. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri George Baker.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JANAK RAM (GOPALGANJ):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to raise an important issue of my Parliamentary Constituency, Gopalganj.

Sir, for the last several days in Gopalganj, Bihar, Secondary Teachers and Employed Teachers Association, Anganwadi Sevika, Sahayika, Teachers not receiving salary and Bihar Grih Raksha

Vahini (Home Guard Jawans) are fasting peacefully for their demands for equal pay. In Bihar, the responsibility of security, education, health of women, care of newborns, rural development etc. rests on these people. Demonstrations are going on in many democratic ways against the weak system of Bihar government for equal work and equal honorarium. Despite holding talks with the hunger strikers, the Bihar government is trying to suppress their demands with the help of lathicharge in barbaric manner.

I would like to draw your attention through the House that the Bihar government should be immediately ordered to accept the demands of these employees. There is a Supreme Court order on this, yet the Bihar government is not ready to accept it. The children and families of all the employees are on the verge of starvation.

I request you to instruct the Bihar government to fulfill their demands immediately. Thank you.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Janak Ram.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (MAHARAJGANJ):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh received

heavy rainfall and severe hailstorm in the afternoon on 21th March, 2017 due to sudden change in weather. Thousands of villages in Sadar, Nichnaul and Nautanwa tehsils of the district were devastated. Crops like wheat, mustard, pulses, vegetable and mango orchards spread across thousands of acres of farmlands have been damaged. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is implemented all over the country, but due to lack of decision with regard to proper agency in Uttar Pradesh, many people have still not been able to get crop insurance. The present state government is conducting a survey, but this hailstorm has caused huge losses to the farmers.

I request through you that the Union government should send a central team to assess the damage caused by hailstorm there and make arrangements to provide financial compensation to the farmers.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Pankaj Chaudhary.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAWASTI):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue during Zero Hour.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, recently one of our fellow Members of Parliament had asked the Railway Minister whether there is a provision for us Members of Parliament to get confirmed train tickets at the time of departure of the train, at the last moment. As people's representatives, all of our travel programs are made suddenly, so in the current system, all of us Members of Parliament get confirmed tickets, in order of preference, in the higher category on providing information before the chart is ready. During the train journey and during the interaction with their military families, it was learnt that due to deployment in remote areas and last-minute leave, their travel schedules are also made suddenly. In such a situation, most of the military personnel get concessional tickets on military warrants only in the waiting list. In such a situation, when a soldier posted in Kashmir or the North-Eastern region, after a journey of two-three days, reaches the nearest railway station for an advance journey in different corners of the country, then in case his berth is not confirmed, he has to face a very pathetic situation. In such a situation, many times there are incidents of violence and even assault between army personnel and regular passengers. Therefore, I request the government, especially the Railway Minister and the Defence Minister, that soon such a system should be made so that the army

personnel can be provided confirmed reserved berths on their demand. In such a situation, when the whole country is saluting the bravery and valor of our soldiers all over the world, then it will be a respectful step for our brave soldiers deployed on duty while staying away from their homes in the service of the country. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Daddan Mishra.

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, Sikkim is inhabited by two Scheduled Tribe communities namely Limbu and Tawang. The Scheduled Tribes Amendment Bill, 2002 was passed in Parliament, which was notified on 8 January 2003, but when the Legislative Assembly elections were held in 2004, those communities did not get reservation in the Legislative Assembly, then they went to the Supreme Court. A petition was filed in the Supreme Court in 2006 and in January 2016 the Supreme Court ordered that the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that the Scheduled Tribes of Limbu and Tawang in Sikkim are included in the Scheduled Tribes within four months. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs through you, which is also the order of the Supreme Court and the Bill passed in the Parliament, to be implemented in Sikkim and to ensure that Tawang and Limbu

Scheduled Tribes are given rights in the Legislative Assembly .Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr.Udit Raj.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the suicides being committed by the handloom weavers especially in Kurnool Parliamentary Constituency where weavers constitute a sizeable population of around 2 lakhs.

The basic reason for these tragic incidents is poverty. The handloom weavers are not able to sell their products and are not getting remunerative prices. There is a dire necessity to include handloom sector in MNREGA. Unable to survive in this industry, many are diverting to other activities and converting as labour.

There is a need to entrust marketing of handloom products to National Textile Corporation so that these products can be marketed throughout the country.

I strongly request this Government to re-introduce house-cum-work shed scheme for handloom weavers. Further, the weavers shall be encouraged to use modern equipment for weaving.



In the light of the above, I strongly urge upon the hon. Prime Minister of India and hon. Minister for Textiles to take immediate steps and come to the rescue of handloom weavers by devising necessary schemes to bring them out of poverty and take suitable steps for the upliftment of handloom weavers.

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri P.K. Biju is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Butta Renuka.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I request the Government through you that the area of water in my Churu Lok Sabha constituency is very less. We are trying to promote horticulture in that area, in the variety of plants, in which we take horticulture plants from the government agency, many times they do not get the right subsidy. My only request to the government is that the departments of the private sector should also be allowed by the government so that those people can benefit in getting plants from there. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan.

*[English]*

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

**17.58 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday,  
March 31, 2017/Chaitra 10, 1939 (Saka).*

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