

English rendering of PM's reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in Lok Sabha

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Respected Chairman,

I am present here to express my gratitude to the address of the honourable President. Yesterday and today till late at night, all the honourable MPs enriched this motion of thanks with their views. Many honourable experienced MPs also expressed their views, and naturally, as is the tradition of democracy, where there was need, there was praise, where there was a problem, there were some negative things, but this is very natural! Mr. Speaker, it is a great fortune for me that the people of the country have given me the opportunity to sit at this place for the 14th time and express my gratitude to the address of the President, and therefore, today I want to express my gratitude to the people with great respect, and I also express my gratitude to all those who participated in the discussion in the House and enriched the discussion.

Respected Chairman,

We are in 2025, in a way 25% of the 21st century has already passed. Time will decide what happened in the 20th century after independence and in the first 25 years of the 21st century, and how it happened, but if we study this President's address closely, it is clearly visible that the President has told the country about the next 25 years and a new confidence-building speech for a developed India. In a way, this speech of the respected President is going to strengthen the resolve for a developed India, create new confidence and inspire the general public.

Respected Chairman,

All the studies have repeatedly said that in the last 10 years, the people of the country have given us a chance to serve them. 25 crore countrymen have come out of poverty by defeating the poverty.

Respected Chairman,

For five decades you have heard slogans of eradicating poverty and now 25 crore poor people have come out after defeating poverty. It does not happen just like that. It happens when one spends one's life for the poor in a planned manner with full sensitivity and dedication.

Respected Chairman,

When people connected to the land spend their lives on the land while knowing the truth about the land, then change on the land is certain.

Respected Chairman,

We have not given false slogans to the poor, we have given them true development. The pain of the poor, the suffering of the common man, the dreams of the middle class are not understood just like that. Respected Chairman, this requires passion and I have to say with sadness that some people do not have it.

Respected Chairman,

How difficult it is to live under a thatched roof with plastic sheets during the rainy season. There are moments when dreams are crushed every moment. Not everyone can understand this.

Respected Chairman,

Till now the poor have got 4 crore houses. Those who have lived that life do not understand what it means to

get a house with a concrete roof.

Respected Chairman,

When a woman is forced to defecate in the open, she can either go out before sunrise or after sunset after facing a lot of difficulties to do this small daily ritual, such people cannot understand what trouble she has to go through, respected chairman.

Respected Chairman,

We have solved the problems of our sisters and daughters by building more than 12 crore toilets. Respected Chairman, these days there is a lot of discussion in the media. It is happening more on social media. Some leaders are focusing on Jacuzzi and stylish showers in homes, but our focus is on providing water to every home. After 75 years of independence, 70-75% of the country's population, i.e. more than 16 crore households, did not have tap water connection. Our government has provided tap water to 12 crore families in 5 years and that work is progressing rapidly.

Respected Chairman,

We have done so much work for the poor and because of this, the honourable President has described it in detail in his speech. Those who keep themselves entertained by having photo sessions in the huts of the poor will find it boring to talk about the poor in the Parliament.

Respected Chairman,

I can understand their anger. Respected Chairman, identifying the problem is one thing but if there is a responsibility then you cannot leave it after identifying the problem, you have to make dedicated efforts to solve it. We have seen, and you must have seen our work of the last 10 years and also in the President's address, our effort is to solve the problem and we make dedicated efforts.

Respected Chairman,

There used to be a Prime Minister in our country, it had become a fashion to call him Mr. Clean. It had become fashionable to call the Prime Minister Mr. Clean. He had identified a problem and he had said that if 1 rupee comes out from Delhi, then only 15 paise reaches the village. Now at that time, from the Panchayat to the Parliament, there was rule of one party, from the Panchayat to the Parliament, there was rule of one party and at that time he had publicly said that 1 rupee comes out and 15 paise reaches. It was an amazing kind of sleight of hand. Even a common man of the country can easily understand to whom the 15 paise used to go.

Respected Chairman,

The country gave us an opportunity, we tried to find solutions. Our model is savings as well as development, public money for the public. We created the Gem Trinity of Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile and started giving direct benefit, direct benefit transfer through DBT.

Respected Chairman,

During our tenure, we deposited Rs 40 lakh crore directly into the accounts of the people.

Respected Chairman,

Look at the misfortune of this country, how the governments were run and for whom they were run.

Respected Chairman,

When the fever rises, people say anything, but when along with it, frustration and despair spreads, even then they say a lot.

Respected Chairman,

10 crore such fake people who were not born, who had not appeared on this land of India, were taking benefit of various schemes from the government treasury.

Respected Chairman,

So that the right does not face injustice, without worrying about political gain or loss, we removed these 10 crore fake names and launched a campaign to find the real beneficiaries and provide help to them.

Respected Chairman,

When these 10 crore fake people are removed and the accounts of various schemes are calculated, then almost 3 lakh crore rupees were saved from going into wrong hands. I am not saying whose hands were involved, it was from the wrong hands.

Respected Chairman,

We have also made full use of technology in government procurement, brought transparency and today even state governments are using the Gem portal. The purchases made through the Gem portal cost less than what is usually made and the government has saved Rs 1,15,000 crore.

Respected Chairman,

Our Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was ridiculed a lot, as if we had committed a sin, a mistake. I don't know what all was said, but today I can say with satisfaction that due to this cleanliness drive, the government has earned 2300 crore rupees in recent years from the junk sold from government offices alone. Mahatma Gandhi used to talk about the principle of trusteeship. He used to say that we are trustees, this property belongs to the people and therefore we try to save every penny on the basis of this principle of trusteeship and use it at the right place and only then 2300 crore rupees are coming into the government treasury by selling junk from the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Respected Chairman,

We made an important decision of ethanol blending. We know that we are not energy independent and we have to import it from outside. When ethanol blending was done and our income from petrol and diesel decreased, that one decision made a difference of Rs 100000 crore and this money of almost Rs 100000 crore has gone into the pockets of farmers.

Respected Chairman,

I am talking about saving, but earlier the headlines of newspapers used to be, scams worth so many lakhs. Scams worth so many lakhs, scams worth so many lakhs, it has been 10 years since these scams were not committed. By not having scams, lakhs and crores of rupees of the country have been saved, which are being used in the service of the people.

Respected Chairman,

The various steps we have taken have saved lakhs of crores of rupees, but we have not used that money to build a palace for mirrors. We have used it to build the country. The infrastructure budget was Rs 180000 crore 10 years ago, before we came. Respected Chairman, today the infrastructure budget is Rs 11 lakh crore and that is why the President has described how the foundation of India is getting stronger. Be it roads, highways, railways or village roads, a strong foundation of development has been laid for all these works.

Respected Chairman,

Savings in the government treasury is one thing and that should be done as I said about trusteeship, but we have also kept in mind that the general public should also get the benefit of these savings. The schemes should be such that the public also saves and you must have seen the expenses incurred by the common man due to illness under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. On the basis of the people who have taken its benefit till now, I would say that due to taking benefit of Ayushman Yojana, the expenses that the countrymen would have to bear from their own pockets, like this, Rs 120000 crore has been saved for the public. It is necessary that now like Jan Aushadhi Kendra, today in the middle class families, all the gentlemen are of 60-70 years of age, so it is natural that some disease or the other comes, there is also the cost of medicines, medicines are also expensive, since we have opened Jan Aushadhi Kendras, there is 80% discount and because of that, the families who have taken medicines from these Jan Aushadhi Kendras have saved nearly Rs 30000 crore on the cost of medicines.

Respected Mr Chairman,

UNICEF also estimates that they have done a big survey of the families whose homes have sanitation and toilets, that family has saved about Rs. 70,000 in a year. Be it the Swachhata Abhiyan, the work of building toilets, the work of providing pure water, our common families are getting huge benefits.

Respected Mr Chairman,

I mentioned tap water in the beginning. There is a report from WHO, WHO says that because of getting pure tap water, the average family has saved Rs. 40000 on expenses incurred on other diseases. I am not counting much, but there are many such schemes which have saved the expenses of the common man.

Respected Chairman,

Free food grains are given to crores of countrymen, and the family saves thousands of rupees. PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme: Wherever this scheme has been implemented, those families are saving on an average 25 to 30 thousand rupees on electricity every year, there is saving in expenses and if there is more electricity, then they are earning money by selling it. That is, there is also saving for the common man. We had run a campaign for LED bulbs. You know that before we came, LED bulbs were sold for Rs. 400 each. We ran such a campaign that its price came down to ₹40 and because of LED bulbs there was saving of electricity and more light was also available and about 20,000 crore rupees of the countrymen were saved in this.

Respected Chairman,

Farmers who have used Soil Health Cards scientifically have benefited greatly and such farmers have saved Rs 30,000 per acre.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In the last 10 years, by reducing the income tax, we have also worked to increase the savings of the middle class.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Before 2014, such bombs were hurled, such bullets were fired that the lives of the countrymen were shattered. We gradually moved ahead by filling up those wounds. 200000 rupees, in 2013-14, ₹200000, only ₹200000, there was income tax exemption on that and today 12 lakh rupees are completely exempted from income tax and in the intervening period also in 2014, in 2017, in 2019, in 2023, we have been doing this continuously, healing the wounds and today the bandage that was left has also been done. If we add 75000 standard deduction to it, then after 1st April, the salaried class of the country will not have to pay any income tax up to 12.75 lakh rupees.

Respected Chairman,

When you were working in Yuva Morcha, you must have heard and read about a Prime Minister who used to say 21st century, 21st century almost every day. In a way, it had become a memorized phrase, it had become a catchphrase. He used to say 21st century, 21st century. When it was said so often, R K Laxman had made a great cartoon in Times of India. That cartoon was very interesting. In that cartoon, there is an airplane and a pilot. I don't know why he liked the pilot. Some passengers were sitting and the airplane was placed on a cart and workers were pushing the cart and 21st century was written on it. That cartoon seemed like a joke at that time, but later on it proved to be true.

Respected Mr Chairman,

This was a sarcasm; it was a cartoon that demonstrated how disconnected from ground reality the then Prime Minister was that he was engaged in baseless talk.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Those who then talked about the 21st century were not even able to fulfill the needs of the 20th century.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Today when I see that I have got the opportunity to look closely at all the things that happened in the last 10

years, I feel very sad. We are 40-50 years late, the work which should have been done 40-50 years ago, and hence this year when the people of the country gave us the opportunity to serve from 2014, we focused more and more on the youth. We emphasized on the aspirations of the youth, we created more opportunities for the youth, we opened many sectors and due to which we are seeing that the youth of the country are waving the flag of their capabilities. We opened the space sector in the country, opened the defense sector, brought the semiconductor mission, we gave shape to many new schemes to promote innovation, completely developed the Startup India ecosystem and in this budget also, respected Chairman ji, a very important decision has been taken. Income tax exemption on income of Rs 12 lakh, this news became so big that many important things have still not been noticed by some people. That important decision has been taken; we have opened up the nuclear energy sector and the country is going to see its far-reaching positive impacts and results.

Respected Mr Chairman,

We are also among those who are making efforts to discuss AI, 3D printing, robotics, virtual reality and what is the significance of gaming. I have told the youth of the country that why should India not become the gaming capital of the world and the creativity capital of the world and I see that our people are working very fast. Some people use this word when it is in fashion, but for me there is no single AI, there is double AI, India has double strength, one AI is Artificial Intelligence and the other is AI Aspirational India. We started 10000 tinkering labs in schools and today the children coming out of those tinkering labs are surprising people by making robotics and in this budget, provision has been made for 50000 new tinkering labs. India is a country about whose India AI mission the whole world is very optimistic and India's presence has gained an important place in the world's AI platform.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In this year's budget, we have talked about investment in the domain of deep tech and I believe that in order to move ahead at a fast pace in deep tech and the 21st century being a completely technology driven century, it is necessary for us that India moves ahead very fast in the field of deep tech.

Respected Mr Chairman,

We are constantly working keeping the youth's future in mind, but there are some parties that are constantly cheating the youth. These parties will give this allowance or that allowance during elections, they make promises but do not fulfill them.

Respected Mr Chairman,

These parties have become a disaster for the future of the youth.

Respected Chairman,

The country has just seen in Haryana how we work. We had promised jobs without any expenditure and without any slips. As soon as the government was formed, the youth got jobs. This is the result of what we say.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Grand victory for the third time in Haryana and victory for the third time in the history of Haryana, this is a historic event in itself.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Historical result in Maharashtra too, blessings of the people, for the first time in the history of Maharashtra the ruling party has so many seats, we have achieved this with the blessings of the people.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In his address, the Honourable President has also discussed in detail the completion of 75 years of our Constitution.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Apart from the clauses in the constitution, there is also a spirit of the constitution and to strengthen the

constitution, the spirit of the constitution has to be lived and today I want to explain this with examples. We are the people who live the constitution.

Respected Mr Chairman,

It is true that in our country, when the President addresses the House, he gives details of the government's tenure for that year. Similarly, in the state, when the Governor addresses the House, he gives details of the activities of that state. What is the spirit of the Constitution and democracy? When Gujarat completed 50 years, we were celebrating its Golden Jubilee Year and luckily I was serving as the Chief Minister at that time, we took an important decision. We decided that in this Golden Jubilee Year, all the speeches of the Governors in the House in the last 50 years, that is, the governments of that time are praised in it. We said that all the speeches of the Governors in those 50 years should be prepared in the form of a book, a treatise should be made and today that treatise is available in all the libraries. I was from BJP, in Gujarat, there were mostly Congress governments. There were speeches of the governors of those governments, but the job of making them famous was being done by the BJP, this Chief Minister from the BJP, why? We know how to live the Constitution. We are dedicated to the Constitution. We understand the spirit of the Constitution.

Respected Mr Chairman,

You know that when we came in 2014, there was no honourable opposition. There was no Recognised Opposition Party. No one had come with even that many marks. There were many laws in India that had complete freedom to work according to those laws, there were many committees in which it was written that the Leader of the Opposition would be in them. But there was no opposition, there was no Recognised Opposition. This was our nature of living the Constitution, this was the spirit of our Constitution, this was our intention to follow the limits of democracy, we decided that even though there would not be an honourable opposition, there would not be a Recognised Opposition, but the leader of the largest party would be called in the meetings. This is the spirit of democracy, it happens then. Committees of the Election Commission, respected Mr Chairman, earlier the Prime Minister used to file it and issue it, it is we who have included the Leader of Opposition in it and we have also made a law for it and today when the Election Commission will be formally formed, the Opposition Leader will also be a part of its decision making process, we do this work. And I have already done this, we do it because we live the Constitution.

Respected Mr Chairman,

You will find many places in Delhi where some families have built their own museums. The work is being done with the money of the people, what is the spirit of democracy, what is it called living the Constitution, we built the PM Museum and the life and work of all the Prime Ministers of the country from the first to my predecessors have been made in that PM Museum and I would like that the families of the great men who are in this PM Museum should take out time to see that museum and if they feel like adding something to it, then they should draw the attention of the government so that the museum is enriched and inspires the new children of the country, this is the spirit of the Constitution! Everyone does everything for themselves, the group of people who live for themselves is not very small, people who live for the Constitution are sitting here.

Respected Mr Chairman,

When power becomes service, nation building happens. When power is made a legacy, democracy ends.

Respected Mr Chairman,

We follow the spirit of the Constitution. We don't do politics of poison. We give utmost importance to the unity of the country and that is why we build the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and we remember the great man who worked to unite the country with the Statue of Unity and he was not from the BJP, he was not from the Jan Sangh. We live the Constitution, that is why we move forward with this thinking.

Respected Mr Chairman,

It is the misfortune of the country that these days some people are openly speaking the language of urban Naxals and the things that urban Naxals say, like taking on the Indian State, these people who speak the

language of urban Naxals and declare war against the Indian State can neither understand the Constitution nor the unity of the country.

Respected Mr Chairman,

For seven decades, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were deprived of the rights of the Constitution. This was injustice to the Constitution and also injustice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. We broke the wall of Article 370, now the citizens of those states of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are getting the rights that the countrymen have and we know the importance of the Constitution, we live by the spirit of the Constitution, that is why we take such strong decisions.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Our Constitution does not give us the right to discriminate. Those who live with the Constitution in their pockets do not know what kind of problems you forced Muslim women to live in. We have worked to give rights to Muslim daughters in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution by abolishing triple talaq, and have given them the right to equality. Whenever there has been an NDA government in the country, we have worked with a long vision. I don't know what kind of language is being used to divide the country, I don't know how far frustration and disappointment will take them, but what is our thinking, in which direction do the NDA partners think, for us, we pay more attention to what is behind, what is last and what Mahatma Gandhi had said and the result of that is that even if we create ministries, then which ministry do we create, we create a separate ministry for the North-East. We have been in the country for so many years, till Atal ji came, no one understood, he kept giving speeches, NDA created a separate ministry for the tribals.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Our southern states are connected to the sea coast. Many states in our east are connected to the sea coast. Fisheries work and fishermen are a very large part of the society there. They should also be taken care of and in the areas where there is a small amount of water inside the land, there are fishermen from the last section of the society too. It is our government which has created a separate ministry for fisheries.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The downtrodden and deprived people of the society have a potential within them, if emphasis is laid on skill development, new opportunities can be created for them. Their hopes and aspirations can create a new life and hence we created a separate Skill Ministry.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The first duty of democracy in the country is that we should give power to the common man and keeping this in mind, there is an opportunity to connect crores of people of the country to make the cooperative sector of India more prosperous and healthy. The cooperative movement can be increased in many areas and keeping this in mind, we have created a separate cooperative ministry. What is the vision is known here.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Talking about caste has become a fashion for some people. For the last 30 years, the MPs from the OBC community who have been coming to the House for the last 30 years, have been demanding for the last 30-35 years that the OBC Commission be given constitutional status by rising above party differences. Those who see profit in casteism today, did not remember the OBC community at that time, it is us who gave constitutional status to the OBC community. The Backward Classes Commission is included in the constitutional system today.

Respected Mr Chairman,

We have worked very strongly in the direction of providing maximum opportunities to SC, ST and OBC in every sector. Today, through this House, I want to put forth an important question before the countrymen and Mr. Speaker, the countrymen will surely ponder over this question of mine and will also discuss it at crossroads. Someone please tell me, has there ever been three SC MPs from the same family in the Parliament at the same time? Have there ever been three SC MPs from the same family? I want to ask another question, can someone please tell me whether there have ever been three ST MPs from the same family in the

Parliament at the same time and in the same period?

Respected Mr Chairman,

I got the answer to one of my questions about the difference between the speech and behavior of some people. The difference is like the difference between the earth and the sky, the difference is like the difference between night and day.

Respected Mr Chairman,

How are we empowering SC ST society? Respected Chairman, I will give you an example of how the welfare of the deprived society is done while maintaining the spirit of unity without creating tension in the society. Before 2014, the number of medical colleges in our country was 387. Today there are 780 medical colleges. Now that the number of medical colleges has increased, the seats have also increased. This is a very important angle, Respected Chairman, and hence the colleges have increased and the seats have also increased. Before 2014, the MBBS seats for SC students in our country were 7700. Before we came, there was a possibility of 7700 youth from Dalit society becoming doctors. We worked for 10 years, today the number has increased and arrangements have been made for 17000 MBBS doctors of SC society. Where is 7700 and where is 17000, if there is any welfare of Dalit society and if there is no tension in the society while increasing the respect of each other.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Before 2014, there were 3800 MBBS seats for ST students. Today this number has increased to around 9000. Before 2014, there were less than 14000 MBBS seats for OBC students. Today their number has increased to around 32000. 32000 MBBS doctors will be made from OBC community.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In the last 10 years a new university has been established every week, a new ITI has been built every day, a new college has opened every 2 days, just imagine how much growth has taken place for our SC, ST, OBC young men and women.

Respected Mr Chairman,

We are behind every scheme- 100% saturation, implement it 100%, the beneficiaries should not be left out, we are working in that direction. First of all, we want that the one who is entitled to it should get it, if there is a scheme, then it should reach him, the game of 1 rupee 15 paise cannot work. But what some people did is that they made a model that gave to only a few people and torment others and did the politics of appeasement. To make the country a developed India, we will have to get rid of appeasement. We have chosen the path of satisfaction, not appeasement, and we are walking on that path. Every society, every class of people should get what is their right without any discrimination, this is satisfaction and according to me when I talk about 100% saturation, it means that it is actually social justice. This is actually secularism and in fact it is respect for the constitution.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The spirit of the Constitution is that everyone should get better health and today is also Cancer Day. Today, a lot of discussions are going on about health in the country and the world. But there are some people who are creating obstacles in providing health services to the poor and the elderly and that too due to their political interests. Today, 30,000 hospitals in the country and good specialized private hospitals are associated with Ayushman. Where Ayushman card holders get free treatment. But some political parties, due to their narrow mindset, due to bad policies, have kept the doors of these hospitals closed for the poor and cancer patients have suffered the loss. Recently, a study by the public health journal Lancet has come out, which says that cancer treatment is starting on time with the Ayushman scheme. The government is very serious about cancer detection. Because the sooner the detection is done, the sooner the treatment starts, we can save the cancer patient and Lancet has given credit to the Ayushman scheme and said that a lot of work has been done in this direction in India.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In this budget too, we have taken a very important step towards making cancer medicines cheaper. Not only this, an important decision has been taken in the coming days and since today is Cancer Day, I would definitely like to say that all the honourable MPs can take advantage of this for such patients in their area, and that is the patients, you know that due to lack of enough hospitals, patients coming from outside face a lot of problems, a decision has been taken in this budget to build 200 day care centers. These day care centers will provide great relief to the patient as well as his family.

Respected Mr President,

While discussing the speech of the President, foreign policy was also discussed and some people feel that unless they talk about foreign policy, they do not look mature, so they feel that foreign policy should be talked about even if it causes loss to the country. I want to tell such people, if they are really interested in foreign policy subject and want to understand foreign policy and want to do something in future, I am not saying this for Shashi ji, so I would tell such people to definitely read a book, maybe they will understand what to say where, the name of that book is JFK's forgotten crisis. It is about JF Kennedy. It is a book named JFK's forgotten crisis. This book has been written by a famous foreign policy scholar and important events are mentioned in it. This book also mentions the first Prime Minister of India and he also led the foreign policy. This book also describes in detail the discussions and decisions taken between Pandit Nehru and the then President of America, John F. Kane. When the country was facing a lot of challenges, what game was going on in the name of foreign policy then, is now coming to light through that book and so now I would say that please read this book.

Respected Mr Chairman,

After the President's speech, it is your wish if a woman President, daughter of a poor family, could not be respected, but she is being insulted by all sorts of things being said. I can understand political frustration and disappointment, but what is the reason against a President, what is the reason.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Today India is moving ahead by leaving this kind of distorted mentality and thinking behind and following the mantra of women led development. If half of the population gets full opportunity, then India can progress at twice the speed and this is my belief, after working in this field for 25 years my belief has become stronger.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In the last 10 years, 10 crore new women have joined Self Help Groups (SHGs), and these women are from underprivileged families, from rural backgrounds. The strength of these women sitting at the bottom of the society has increased, their social status has also improved and the government has increased their assistance to Rs 20 lakh, so that they can take this work forward. We are making efforts in this direction to increase their work capacity, increase its scale and today it is having a very positive impact on the rural economy.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The President has discussed the Lakhpati Didi Abhiyan in his speech. According to the information registered so far after the formation of our new government for the third time, we have received information about more than 50 lakh Lakhpati Didis and since I have taken this scheme forward, till now about 1.25 crore women have become Lakhpati Didis and our target is to make three crore women Lakhpati Didis and for this, emphasis will be laid on economic programs.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Today, Drone Didi is being discussed in many villages of the country, a psychological change has come in the village, seeing a woman flying a drone in her hand, the villagers' view of women is changing and today Namo Drone Didi has started earning lakhs of rupees by working in the fields. Mudra Yojana is also playing a very important role in the empowerment of women. Crores of women have stepped into the industry for the first time with the help of Mudra Yojana and have come into the role of industrialists.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Out of the houses given to 4 crore families, approximately 75 percent of the houses are owned by women.

Respected Mr Chairman,

This change is laying the foundation of a strong India of the 21st century. Respected Speaker, the goal of developed India is the rural economy, without strengthening it we cannot build a developed India and therefore we have tried to touch every sector of the rural economy and we know that agriculture is very important in the rural economy. Our farmers are a strong pillar among the four pillars of developed India. In the last decade, the budget for agriculture has been increased 10 times. Let me tell you about the period after 2014 and this is a very big jump.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Those who talk about farmers here today, before 2014, they used to be beaten up for asking for urea. They had to stand in queues all night and that was the time when fertilizers were issued in the name of farmers, but did not reach the fields, somewhere else in black millet and the game of sleight of hand of 1 rupee and 15 paise was going on. Today farmers are getting enough fertilizers. The great crisis of Covid came, the entire supply chain got disturbed, the prices in the world increased unreasonably and the result was that because we are dependent on urea, we have to import it from outside, today for the Indian government a bag of urea costs ₹ 3000, the government has borne the burden and has given it to the farmer at a price less than 300, less than 300 rupees. We are continuously working to ensure that the farmer gets maximum benefit.

Respected Mr Chairman,

In the last 10 years, 12 lakh crore rupees have been spent to ensure that farmers get cheap fertilizers. Around 3.5 lakh crore rupees have been transferred directly to farmers' accounts through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. We have also increased the MSP on a record basis and have procured three times more in the last decade than before. Farmers should get loans, easy loans, cheap loans, and that too has increased three times. Earlier, farmers were left to fend for themselves during natural calamities. During our tenure, farmers have received 2 lakh crore rupees under PM Fasal Bima.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Unprecedented steps have been taken for irrigation in the last decade and it is unfortunate that those who talk about the Constitution do not have much knowledge. Very few people would know that in our country, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision regarding water schemes was so clear, so comprehensive and so inclusive that it inspires us even today. We launched a campaign to complete more than 100 irrigation projects that were pending for decades, so that water reaches the farmers' fields. Babasaheb's vision was to link rivers, Babasaheb Ambedkar advocated linking of rivers. But for years, decades passed, nothing happened. Today we have started work on the Ken-Betwa Link Project and the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project and I have also had a successful experience of working to revive extinct rivers by linking many rivers in Gujarat in this way.

Respected Mr Chairman,

This should be the dream of every citizen of the country. It should be the dream of all of us that there should be Made in India food packets on every dining table in the world. Today I feel happy when along with Indian tea, our coffee is also spreading its fragrance in the world. It is making a splash in the markets. Even our turmeric has seen the highest demand after Covid.

Respected Mr Chairman,

You will definitely see that in the coming times, our processed seafood and the Makhana of Bihar, which some people are worried about and don't know when and why, is going to reach the world. Our coarse grain i.e. Shri Anna, will also increase the prestige of India in the world markets.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Future Ready cities are also very important for a developed India. Our country is rapidly moving towards urbanisation and this should not be considered a challenge or a crisis. It should be considered an opportunity and we should work in that direction. Expansion of infrastructure leads to expansion of opportunities. Where connectivity increases, possibilities also increase. The first Namo Rail connecting Delhi-UP was inaugurated and I also got the opportunity to travel in it. Such connectivity, such infrastructure should reach all the major

cities of India, this is our need in the coming days and our direction.

Respected Mr Chairman,

Delhi's network has doubled and today the metro network is reaching tier-2 and tier-3 cities as well. Today we can all be proud that India's metro network has crossed 1000 km and not only this, work is currently underway on another 1000 km. That means we are progressing so fast.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The Government of India has taken many initiatives to reduce pollution. We have started running 12 thousand electric buses in the country and have also done a great service to Delhi. We have given this to Delhi as well.

Respected Mr Chairman,

A new economy has always been expanding from time to time in our country. Today, the Gig Economy is developing as an important area in big cities. Lakhs of youth are joining it. We have said in this budget that labour! Such Gig workers should register themselves on the e-Shram portal and after verification, how can we help them in this new age service economy and they should get an ID card after coming on the e-Shram portal and we have said that these Gig workers will also be given the benefit of Ayushman Yojana so that Gig workers will move in the right direction and it is estimated that today there are about one crore Gig workers in the country and we are also working in that direction.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The MSME sector brings a huge number of job opportunities and this is a sector that has immense employment potential. These small industries are a symbol of self-reliant India. Our MSME sector is making a huge contribution to the country's economy. Our policy is clear, simplicity, convenience and support to MSMEs is a sector that has employment potential and this time we have emphasized on Mission Manufacturing and in a Mission Mode, we are moving forward by giving emphasis to the entire ecosystem of manufacturing sector i.e. giving strength to MSMEs and giving employment to many youth through MSMEs and preparing youth for employment through skill development. We have started working on many aspects to improve the MSMEs sector. The criteria for MSMEs was made in 2006, it was not updated. In the last 10 years, we have tried to upgrade this criteria twice and this time we have taken a very big jump. For the first time in 2020, for the second time in this budget, we have tried to promote MSMEs. They are being given financial assistance everywhere.

The challenge before MSMEs has been the lack of formal financial resources. During the Covid crisis, MSMEs were given a special emphasis. We have given special emphasis to the toy industry. We gave special emphasis to the textile industry, did not let them face cash-flow shortage and gave loans without any guarantee. Possibilities of lakhs of jobs were created in thousands of industries and jobs were also secured.

For small industries, we took steps in the direction of Customised Credit Card, Credit Guarantee Coverage, due to which their Ease of Doing Business also got a boost and by reducing unnecessary rules, their administrative burden, they had to pay one or two people for work, that too was stopped. You will be happy to know that we have made new policies to promote MSMEs, there was a time before 2014, we used to import things like toys, today I can proudly say that the small toy-making industries of my country are exporting toys to the world today and there has been a huge decline in imports. There has been an increase of about 239 percent in exports. There are many sectors run by MSMEs that are making their mark across the world. Made in India clothes, electronics, electrical goods are today becoming a part of the lives of other countries.

Respected Mr Chairman,

The country is moving ahead to fulfill the dream of a developed India and is moving ahead with great confidence. The dream of a developed India is not a government dream. It is the dream of 140 crore countrymen and now everyone has to give as much energy as they can to this dream and there are examples in the world, in a period of 20-25 years many countries of the world have shown that they have become developed, so India has immense potential. We have demography, democracy, demand, why can't we do it? We have to move ahead with this confidence and we are also moving ahead with the dream that by 2047, when the country will become independent, it will be 100 years of independence and by then we will become

a developed India.

And Honorable Chairman,

I say with confidence that we have to achieve bigger goals and we will achieve them and Honorable Speaker, this is only our third term. As per the requirement of the country, we are going to remain dedicated for many years to come to build a modern India, a capable India and to realize the resolution of a developed India.

Respected Mr Chairman,

I appeal to all the parties, I appeal to all the leaders, I appeal to the countrymen, everyone has their own political ideologies, their own political programs, but nothing can be bigger than the country. The country is paramount for all of us and together we will fulfill the dream of a developed India, the dream of 140 crore countrymen is also our dream where every sitting MP is working to fulfill the dream of a developed India.

Respected Mr Chairman,

While expressing my gratitude for the President's speech, I also express my gratitude to you and the House. Thank you!

DISCLAIMER: This is the approximate translation of PM's speech. Original speech was delivered in Hindi.

MJPS/VJ

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