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Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Agrahayana 9, 1938 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXI contains Nos. 11 to 21)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri Anoop Mishra

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 30, 2016/Agrahayana 9, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 1. Secretary-General.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Shri ParthaPratim Ray.

Shri ParthaPratim Ray (Cooch Behar) Oath Bengali

Shri DibyenduAdhikari (Tamluk) Oath Bengali

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Speaker Madam, ... (Interruptions) I was reminding you.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, wait a minute. I know. I know it. I also have it. I remember but in that case I am taking some more information. I always do that.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Obituary, not now. About what? Adjournment?

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I know, what do you want to say? Listen to me. you have asked for obituary, I've also told S.G. because from what I'm hearing, combing is on. Let's get that complete information first, let it finish. There is no issue in giving an obituary. Let the full report come. I know it. What happened to you today?

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We always offer obituary. All I have said is to let me have the complete information. I know that seven soldiers have been martyred. If combing is on, let it complete and we will.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, this does not happen. The soldiers of the country have laid down their lives while safeguarding the country.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Has anyone refused for the obituary?

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a matter of dispute.

. . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Kharge ji, this should not be a matter of dispute. Safeguarding the country should not be a matter of dispute.... (Interruptions)

11.06 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav and some other hon'ble Members then left the House)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to make one thing clear to everyone that there should not be any dispute on this. It is not a matter of dispute. Till now we have always given obituaries.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VANKAIAH NAIDU: Doing politics about the country's defence is not in the interest of the country.... (*Interruptions*) Once we get the full details.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What's happening here? I do not understand.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not fair. I have only one thing to say that combing is on.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam, there is tribute from all of us to the soldiers who were martyred on the border.... (*Interruptions*) This tribute is from the whole country, from the Government of India....(*Interruptions*) Currently, the combing operation is going on and after receiving its complete details, we are going to move a motion on obituary in the House.... (*Interruptions*) This should not be a matter

of dispute. It is very sad that such a sensitive issue is being made a subject of controversy by the opposition.... (Interruptions) This is not at all right.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a political matter. We have always been doing obituaries. We have paid tribute to every soldier. It is really very sad that this issue has been raised in the House in this manner. Everyone is feeling sad for them.

Question 201 – Dr. Virendra Kumar.

11.07 hours**ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION***[Translation]***HON. SPEAKER:** Question 201 - Dr. Virendra Kumar.**(Q. 201)**

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam, on the initiative of the respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, a lot of progress has been made in programmes like 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'. Hon. Minister has given a very good reply and in which he has mentioned that Indian IT companies have created substantial employment opportunities domestically as well as in the USA. According to NASSCOM, the average growth of employment generation in the USA as well as at local level has been registered between 8 percent to 10 percent.

Madam, the number of Indian people in American IT companies is increasing. The growing dominance of the Indian people remains a gritty eye for many Americans. I would like to know from you, Hon. Minister Sir, whether America has increased the US visa fee to check the number of Indian IT professionals and how many IT professionals have been thus prevented from going to America due to increase in

the said fee? Whether the Government has taken any initiative in this direction by talking to the American administration to provide shield to Indian IT professionals?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, the country should be proud of India's IT sector. We have IT companies in 200 cities across 80 countries of the world and India has 56 percent of Global Tel. I am very happy to inform the House that 35 lakh people have got jobs in this field in the year 2015 under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister and it is going to increase to 37 lakh number in the year 2016. It is a direct appointment and about one crore people have got indirect jobs.

Madam, I am very happy to tell you that 30 percent of them are women. The IT sector has worked on a large scale in every area and our full cooperation is with them. We will work further in this direction through 'Digital India', 'Skill India', and 'Start-up India'. I have one more thing to say about this that in the last one year, forty mobile manufacturing companies have come into the country....(Interruptions) People have got jobs in them. As far as the Hon. Member's question about America is concerned, it is true that there has been an increase in the fees for L-one visa, H-one visa. In this regard, the Hon. Prime Minister himself has raised this issue on

behalf of the Government. We are discussing and we have a structured dialogue with them. We have good relations with America. We will do more in this regard.... (Interruptions)

It is important to tell one more thing to the House that in the last three-four years, Indian IT companies have invested two billion dollars there and have paid twenty billion dollars as taxes. I would also like to tell that Indian IT companies are doing well in America....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Whichever way it is, don't make any noise, please sit down .

. . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, the information given by the Hon. Minister is really commendable. ... (Interruptions) A large number of jobs have been created in this sector. There may not be greater risks in outsourcing in this field but in future, Indian IT Companies are likely to face challenges.... (Interruptions) Many nations of the world, such as China, America, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Mexico etc. are making systematic efforts to challenge India in this field.... (Interruptions)

11.11 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Md. Badruddoza Khan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Through you, my second supplementary question to the Hon. Minister is that whether the Government proposes to train IT professionals in digital technologies and device thinking by promoting new technologies so as to give Indian IT professionals a new identity on the global scene....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The Hon. Member is absolutely right, till now we have promoted software services a lot.... (Interruptions) We are holding public discussion to make a new policy so that software products of India can also be promoted, a field in which India is creating a niche.... (Interruptions)

Apart from this, IT Services in India should grow further, I am pleased to tell you that today the number of smart phones in India is more than thirty crores.... (Interruptions) In India, more than fifty

crore people use the internet, widespread use of Aadhaar card is taking place and now the use of new interface of Cashless Payments is growing rapidly, new services will keep on adding to it through the use of new technology and IT will further empower the people of India... (Interruptions)

I would like to tell you one more thing that there are about two lakh Common Service Centres in our country and we are going to increase them to two and a half lakh.... (Interruptions) women, Dalits and others are employed in this sector. Those people have also given jobs to about five lakh people.... (Interruptions) In this way, the entire IT eco system of India will move forward through Digital India. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 202 to 220

Unstarred Question Nos. 2301 to 2530

[English]

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

11.12 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

* * 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.

12.04 hours

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Four Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Sarvashri Mallikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, K.C. Venugopal, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Kodikunnil Suresh, Dharmendra Yadav, Prof. Saugata Roy, Smt. P. K. Sreemathi Teacher, Sarvashri P.K. Biju, Jitendra Chaudhary, Shailesh Kumar *alias* Bulu Mandal, Sarvashri N.K. Premachandran, Adv. Joice George, and Md. Salim on demonetization of Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 currency notes.

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

12.05 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE***[English]*

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

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

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5535/16/16]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5536/16/16]

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

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885-

(i) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 653(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2015.

(ii) The Indian Telegraph (Second Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 241 in Gazette of India dated 10th December, 2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5537/16/16]

(3) One copy each of the following letters (Hindi and English versions)-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5538/16/16]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information

Technology, for the year 2016-2017

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5539/16/16]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chandigarh Waqf Council, Chandigarh, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chandigarh Waqf Council, Chandigarh, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5540/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M.J. AKBAR): Madam, on behalf of General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5541/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5542/16/16]

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5543/16/16]

- (3) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5544/16/16]

- (4) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hassan Mangalore Rail Development Company Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5545/16/16]

- (5) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5546/16/16]

- (6) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5547/16/16]

- (7) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5548/16/16]

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

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5549/16/16]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5550/16/16]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Nano Science and Technology, Mohali, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5551/16/16]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5552/16/16]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5553/16/16]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5554/16/16]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5555/16/16]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technology Information, Forecasting and

Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5556/16/16]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Science and Engineering Research Board, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Science and Engineering Research Board, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5557/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Film Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5558/16/16]

12.07 hours**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA***[English]*

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

- I. I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 8th August, 2016 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs):-

“That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee, and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from amongst the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee.”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above Motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri Narendra Budania
2. Shri Hussain Dalwai
3. Shri Ram TaranDudi
4. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
5. Shri Ahamed Hassan
6. Dr. Vikas Mahatme
7. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
8. Shri Rajaram
9. Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth
10. Shri Ram Nath Thakur.'

II. I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 9th August, 2016 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit:-

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect one Member of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri K.C.Tyagi from the Rajya Sabha and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to said Joint Committee, to fill the vacancy.”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance to the above Motion, Shri Sharad Yadav, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.

12.07 ¼ hours

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

27th Report

[English]

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Madam, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.07 ½ hours

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

14th and 15th Reports

[Translation]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Madam, I present the 14th and 15th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.07 ¾ hours

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): I beg to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 5559/16/16.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I am sorry, what we raised here in the morning during the obituary reference was not against you.

HON. SPEAKER: It's Ok.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Government should have given you the input.

HON. SPEAKER: The obituary was from the Speaker's side.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Because of not giving that input, due to their mistake such an incident happened.

HON. SPEAKER: No, not input, there is no such thing. There is no question of inputs from the Government.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I want to clarify that I am not against the Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Ok.

12.08 ½ hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Impact of demonetisation

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): This is one thing. The second thing I want to put before you is that this House has not been functioning for at least 13 days. We are also sad you are also sad.... (Interruptions) The whole country is sad.... (Interruptions) You people listen to us.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You're sad, it is a matter of concern.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I request you as you have supreme power, you are the head of this House and you can suspend all the rules, you have this much authority. Rule 388, Rule 389, in both these rules this House has given you so much power that you can suspend any rule. I only request you that we want discussion on our Adjournment Motion under Rule 56, but they do not want that discussion. Therefore, I request you to allow a discussion under any rule in which debate and voting can be taken up.... (Interruptions) Let there be debate and voting.... (Interruptions) I'm ready for it. You have

been given the power by the House under rule 388 and rule 389 that you can suspend any rule. We have left this on your discretion....(Interruptions) We are ready for debate, we do not want to escape from debate.... (Interruptions) We want to raise the problems of the people before the House.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: When your leaders have spoken, what is the use of making noise, don't you believe him? Gaurav ji, you have grown up a lot. He has spoken all the points on your behalf. I'm listening.

Sudeepji, you speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, today morning, we wanted to have an obituary reference for the jawans who have lost their lives.

Our walking out was not an attempt to hurt you. If it has hurt you, we express our regret and we still feel that the Government could not supply you the required information. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Don't put the wrong thing on record. I said that combing is on. That is why I didn't. That's my personal opinion. Don't say that whether the Government gave information or not. The

obituary is always from the speaker. Both of you, please do not bring a different matter on record. There is no question of Government in this regard.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The Government wants your support. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no question of governance in this. All I said was because combing is on, there are families as well, all this is going on. We are always giving obituary. They have said something wrong, so does you.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Well, I do not go into it. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no question of the Government in this. The obituary is from my side.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The pain you expressed is correct. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is not about defending. I am saying what is fact. I am not defending anyone. I'm ready to defend you too, I'm talking about the whole house. I never said that.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Regarding the functioning of the House, it is absolutely correct that we have also given notice for Adjournment Motion under Rule 56 and they are for discussing the issue under Rule 193.

I am of the same opinion that there should be an immediate discussion. You may scrap Rule 56, you may scrap Rule 193 and you have every authority to find out the third way. Why is the Government, in spite of having a brute majority of more than 300 Members in the House, fighting shy to go for voting? What for? That has to be clarified.

We are for the discussion. We will make our observations, we may shift from Rule 56 for the sake of the country, if necessary, and they should also withdraw their demand for Rule 193 but they should come to a position where you can take a decision. You can endorse any rule which provides for voting.

Discussion with voting is our only demand. You may give your consent and let the discussion start from tomorrow morning. Let us exchange our views and ideas wholeheartedly and in full spirit and then come to a conclusion. We are committed against black money. We are committed to fight black money. We are committed to see that black money holders are sent to prison for their life.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mohammad Salim ji, what would you say about this? Everything has happened.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this? Is this the method whatever is happening behind you? I am giving you a warning. Why show this? Don't show. You cannot show something like that. I am sorry.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): When Madam tells you to sit down, please sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: When Madam says not to show something like that, then do not show it. That is also there.

. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Madam Speaker, you are getting angry. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: There is definitely something to be angry about. The whole country is angry. It should also be reflected here. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please take a seat.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: I haven't said a word yet. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Speak quickly.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Hon. Speaker, everyone agrees that this is an important decision, whether you call it demonetization or note ban, it is a historic decision. In Parliament, everyone wants a discussion on this but it depends on you under which rule the discussion will take place. We **gave** the adjudication motion. Now we are coming here daily from the 16th. My aim is not just to create a commotion. ... (Interruptions) The effort is to find a solution, and how will this solution come about?... (Interruptions) Bhartihari Mahatab ji stood up yesterday and said that it is not a matter of ruling party or opposition. He said that this initiative should have come from the Government's side. There was a lot of uproar over GST but an

initiative was taken by the Government. Everyone said that a historic decision has been made. People are worried. In the Lok Sabha, we as representatives should bring that issue to light, like Hon. members are saying that there are '80' deaths, then how many deaths will it take for us to accept that some deaths have occurred? How much pain will it take for us to accept that people are in pain. How many troubles will it take for us, as representatives in the Lok Sabha, to be able to say that people of our constituencies are troubled? Whether the Government accepts it or not, this is the reality. You will take the decision under the rules but you will certainly give priority to the Government's intention. However, I say that the Lok Sabha should not become a mere follower of the Government's intentions, otherwise democracy will come to an end. It will be a black day. You will have to make the decision on how, in what manner, the representatives express the sentiments of the people here. When I'm saying this, they also have many people from their constituencies who have sentiments, it should be raised here, that's why I'm calling for an adjournment motion.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, you have been bestowed upon you immense power to

conduct parliamentary proceedings through democracy and through the constitution. Our demand is that there should be a discussion under Rule 56 but if it's not accepted then according to the section which allows for a division of votes, a debate should start without any delay. I want to say that this is a democracy, not a monarchy. We don't shy away from debate and the ruling party should not shy away from it either. The people have given you an unbeatable majority. If you have an unbeatable majority then why do you shy away from a division? The nation wants to know that the decision taken for demonetization is impractical, it has been made without considering upon the consequences so there should be a debate on this. We will represent the voice of the people, the poor, we will represent the voice of the villages and we will work to address the grievances. If the opposition does not shy away from discussion then the ruling party should also not shy away either; the debate should start and there should be a division on it.

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ANANTHKUMAR):** Hon. Speaker, there are two points. Firstly,

Khadge ji expressed his views here on a painful subject. I would like to submit that when there is action going on at the border, a combing operation is underway, it is not appropriate to politicize the martyrdom of our brave soldiers, to talk about their tribute, it is not right, it should not be done. ... (Interruptions) Action is still going on there. ... (Interruptions) Combing operation is going on. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No politics. Okay, sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: Our brave soldiers are fighting. ... (Interruptions)

Secondly, these people are talking about debate, I would like to tell them that from the 16th, the Government is ready for the debate. ... (Interruptions) against black money, against corruption, the campaign we started, the struggle we initiated, has benefited the common people, the poor. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No politics, sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: The entire country is with the Modi Government. We are ready to discuss this from the 16th. Every day we are ready to discuss. ... (Interruptions) But it's a matter of agony, you initiated the discussion in the other house. A six-hour discussion was conducted there, it was interrupted in between but the discussion has not started here yet. ... (Interruptions) You should discuss. ... (Interruptions) Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji said that we will start from tomorrow. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What happened?

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: Hon. Speaker, if Mr. Kharge and Mr. Jyotiraditya agree, then let's start the discussion from now on, we are ready to discuss. ... (Interruptions) We will give reply of every aspect. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What happened? Sit down. What happened? Sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No Politics.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: Hon. Speaker, if Kharge ji wishes to walk in, walk out whenever he wants, it will not benefit the Parliament. When they want to walk in, when they want to walk out, we are ready to provide full support, we are ready to discuss. ... (Interruptions) There cannot be two different voices in this, two tunes cannot be played in the Parliament (Interruptions) The entire country is united against black money, the entire house is one, that's what we believe. ... (Interruptions) The opposition is also there, against corruption, against everything, against terrorism. ... (Interruptions) When this is the case, dividing it under voting, giving a divided message to the country, is not right, it's not appropriate.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, what happened now?

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: They will say something then you will say something, I will have to let everyone speak.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Whose name did you take?

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We do not want to speak anything.... (Interruptions) We have repeatedly requested you to start

the debate under any provision, have a voting on it, have a division, we are ready for that.... (Interruptions) They say we are avoiding it.... (Interruptions) We are ready to answer all your questions, but you are avoiding.... (Interruptions) By strangling the poor... (Interruptions) 82 people have died, lakhs of people have been injured.... (Interruptions) **SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR:** Hon. Speaker, if they had remained ready then from the 16th to the 30th, 12 days have passed.... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Poor people are losing their lives standing in line for two thousand rupees.... (Interruptions) You are wrong.... (Interruptions) We are ready.... (Interruptions) We are ready for every discussion.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, all of you sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't keep saying something from here and there. Kharge ji, I have heard what you said, that I can keep all the rules separate, that's my power. My humble request today is, if you are ready, then one thing can happen. I have declared Zero Hour anyway. You know everything. Joshi ji can tell you better. If we start from zero, we can reach the universe and beyond.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Therefore, I keep everything separate because you are not ready under Rule 193, Rule 56, etc., under any rule. Set aside all rules and start the discussion immediately. Let's try to explore something from zero. I'm ready now. You start. I am ready.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you wish, let's set aside everything else and try to explore from zero.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: We are fully prepared to participate in this discussion.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No one is ready for discussion under any rule. If you don't want to debate, it is alright.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to debate, I am ready.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: We are ready, Madam.... *(Interruptions)*

Let's get everything out in the open.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want I am ready.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Everything can be sorted out by setting aside all rules.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, the whole House can understand your anguish when you say that nobody is prepared – neither from this side nor that side – to go along with the rules. Every Member is aware of the anguish that you have expressed from the Chair. It is a caution to every Member who is present in this House. My request to you, Madam, is this. When the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said today that we cannot divide this House on black money, I would like to know who is dividing it. Neither from the Opposition nor the Leader of the Opposition nor leader of the Trinamool Congress Party is saying that we want a 'Division' on black money. We are asking a discussion on the predicament that the people of this country are facing relating to demonetization. That is the issue I think the Government should agree to have a discussion. Every State, every citizen of this country is going through hardship. That is the reason why we want to express ourselves. We don't want a 'Division' on black money. ...

(Interruptions) On the black money issue, yesterday we have said that the whole country and every political party is one with the Government. We don't want any 'Division' on black money. But it is a discussion or a debate..... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jaitleyji, let him complete. Then, you can speak. I will call you.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I would also say that our party is not against demonetization. It is the trouble that the citizens of this country are facing every day is the reason why we want a discussion. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Hon. Speaker, Mahatab ji has talked about the public's concerns, everyone wants discussion ... *(Interruptions)*, so there is no question of division in this. ... *(Interruptions)* Everyone wants the issue to be resolved. You should immediately start the discussion on Mahatab ji's proposal. ... *(Interruptions)*

12.26 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Shri Sunil Kumar Mondal and Shri P.K. Biju and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss the issue, you can start it just now.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It shows that you do not want to discuss the issue.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now we take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Srinivas Kesineni.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an issue that is in the hearts and minds of every person of Andhra Pradesh, that is providing legal sanctity for the Special Assistance Package which the hon. Finance Minister had announced on 7th September, 2016. ... (*Interruptions*) The Special Category Status had been promised by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha on the demand of the Opposition leaders at that time and it was also put in the Andhra Pradesh Re-Organisation Act, 2014. ... (*Interruptions*) But after the scrapping of the Planning Commission and coming into place of the *NitiAyog*, the Government is now telling that no State will get the Special Category Status. ... (*Interruptions*) After a lot of deliberations and a big exercise, the hon. Finance Minister had announced a Special Assistance Package for Andhra Pradesh. ... (*Interruptions*) But I would like to point out that it has been 2 ½ months since the announcement made by the Finance Minister. ... (*Interruptions*) No further information has been forthcoming since then. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Finance Minister, through you, as to the legal status of the Special Assistance Package promised to Andhra Pradesh. ... (*Interruptions*) The Central Government must assure the people of Andhra Pradesh that their commitment will remain legally valid throughout the entire period of the package. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Hon. Speaker Madam, I come from the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha constituency. I want to speak in my mother tongue, Assamese.

[*English*]

*Bogapani is an important tea garden in Tinisukia district of Assam. There is a Railway station in Bogapani. But to the utter dismay of Railway passengers travelling to and from Bogapani, the station has remained shut for past several years for the reason best to the Railway Ministry. The sudden closure of this important Railway station has caused serious inconveniences to the railway commuters of the locality. Moreover, various anti-social elements are also using the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese

abandoned railway properties for their dirty activities. ...
(*Interruptions*)

I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Ministry to re-open the Bogapani Railway station in the greater interest of the railway commuters.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Rameshwar Teli. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention towards the gauge conversion work from Udaipur to Ahmedabad in my Lok Sabha constituency. It should be completed soon. ... (*Interruptions*) In the year 2016-17, an allocation of approximately seven hundred crores was made for this purpose, yet the work is progressing at a slow pace.... (*Interruptions*) Udaipur is a city of lakes. Udaipur city has also been included in the Smart City initiative. If the Udaipur to Ahmedabad via Himmat Nagar Broad Gauge line is completed promptly, it will facilitate transportation to the southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra, as well as to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.... (*Interruptions*)

I, through you, request the Government to prioritize the work of Ahmedabad via Dungarpur, Himmat Nagar rail gauge conversion project.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Joshi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Arjun Lal Meena.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak on a very important subject. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation through the House towards the alarming report of American agency NASA. ... (Interruptions) NASA has conducted a study on groundwater levels from 8 December, 2009 to December 2015. NASA scientists have taken images using NASA's satellite Gravity Recovery and Climax. The report states that the water level in the three districts of Jhunjhunu, Churu and Sikar in Rajasthan is not only decreasing at the fastest pace in the country but also in the world. ... (Interruptions) The report stated that if the situation of groundwater extraction remains the same then apart from these three districts in North India, close to ten crore population in Haryana and Delhi will

have to face water crisis. Previously, Syria was ranked number one in terms of depleting water levels worldwide and now these regions of North India have been declared number one.... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, I would like to request, through you, to the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to pay attention to the NASA report and provide assistance to the residents of Jhunjhunu, Churu, and Sikar by making available drinking water through the Yamuna basin as per the 1994 agreement.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri C.P. Joshi, Shri Alok Sanjar, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I want to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that there are about 400 ground handling companies

appointed at the Airport, which employ close to three lakh people; and as per the new policy, its para 19 authorizes the airport operators to choose, and only through them, appointments can made... *(Interruptions)* Through those appointments, if the number of companies is restricted, then it would lead to a lot of unemployment amongst the people who are handling the ground handling services. ... *(Interruptions)* If the policy authorizes the airlines to do it, then it would be an unwholesome burden on the airlines to deal with the ground handling services. Better option is to allow the airlines to pick up their own ground handling company and, in return, get the handling done by those people. In that view, para 19 needs to be re-looked. Thank you... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri Devji M Patel, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Alok Sanjar, Dr. Kirit P Solanki, Shri C. P. Joshi and Shri Arjun Lal Meena are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

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

12.33 hours

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

12.45 hours

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Sudip ji, what is it?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Hon. Speaker, Ananth Kumar ji said that in Rajya Sabha discussion had started taking place. But what I want to say, [*Translation*] criticism began immediately upon the notice that was issued in the Rajya Sabha... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: No, I do not think so.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: The discussion had taken place on the basis of the notice given in Rajya Sabha.... (*Interruptions*) So, naturally, it is not implied to us. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am not initiating discussion on that.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I have given you one chance that *[Translation]*

I am still ready to hold the discussion during zero hour.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: We want discussion for the interest of the common people. . . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I know that. But now, do not disturb other hon. Members. *[Translation]* Zero hour is for all Members and everyone has to express their problems *[English]* and that is why I am allowing them.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

12.46 hours

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

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All those who want to speak during Zero Hour are your colleagues. I said that*[English]*

I am ready to allow you.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If you want, we can start the discussion right now.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour' – Dr. Sunil Gaikwad.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. ... (Interruptions) The state highway from Latur, Maharashtra to Tembhurni is in very poor state. ... (Interruptions) I demand it to be converted into a national highway. ... (Interruptions) Tembhurni - Latur should be declared a national highway and work should commence immediately. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to appeal to the Hon. Minister of Transport, Hon. Nitin Gadkari, to start the work on all national highways in my Latur constituency as soon as possible. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad.

[English]

Shri Rahul Shewale – not present.

Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the matter of pensioners of the private sector banks.

I had sent a representation of All-India Bank Retiring Federation, Indore along with demands of pensioners like enhancement of their Family Pension, removal of discrimination in DA among retired persons and holding discussion and meeting with the Federation on a regular basis for the redressal of their grievances immediately on humanitarian grounds.

In view of the prevailing economic situation, the demands of these pensioners are genuine and need to be looked into favourably. As the pension in the bank is payable as per the provision of the Bank Employees Pension Regulation 1995 of the respective bank, therefore, I request the Minister of Finance to take up the issue of retiring fellow and there should be immediate Changes in the pension scheme with the mandate from the bank at the earliest so that the pensioners can be benefitted.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Harish Chandra *Alias* Harish Dwivedi, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Subhash Patel and Shri Sudheer Gupta are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an important issue regarding ancient communication and postal services. ... (Interruptions) The Government has made significant decisions related to communication and postal services in the past, be it installing ATMs in post offices or initiating core banking services. ... (Interruptions) But before Independence, the Gramin Dak Sevak who used to work as a link to facilitate the end user, that Dak Sevak still gets six thousand rupees.... (Interruptions)

The recommendations of the Talwar Committee formed earlier were not fully implemented. Now, the Hon. Court has also recognized them as civil servants. ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I demand from the Government to grant these postal workers the status of Government employees so that their long-standing demand can be fulfilled. Thank you.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Balbhadra Majhi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Harish Chandra alias Harish Dwivedi are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS (WARDHA): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the life-saving and ambitious crop insurance scheme for farmers. This scheme has come as a boon for farmers....
(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb like this. This is not fair.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS: Madam Speaker, there is a need to publicize it in order to bring it to success.... (Interruptions) Currently, the dissemination of this scheme is being done through Krishi vigyan kendras at the district level. However, there is a need to organize

camps, morning rallies and similar events at the grassroots level for the promotion of this scheme.... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Saumitra Khan, don't do that. *[Translation]* They are also your colleagues, they are also raising the voice of the people of their area. *[English]* Please do not do that.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS: Madam Speaker, publicity through advertisements and in regional languages, farmers will be able to receive information about this scheme, enabling them to improve their financial situation by benefiting from it.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Speaking in this manner is not a good thing.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS: As a result, the Government will succeed in preventing farmers from committing suicide. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture for inaugurating this program....

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Shri Harish Chandra alias Harish Dwivedi are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Ramdas C. Tadas.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Not present.

Shri P. K. Biju – Not present.

Shri Rajeev Satav – Not present.

[Translation]

DR. ANSHUL VERMA (HARDOI): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Human Resource Development Minister that 19 Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas in my Parliamentary Constituency are run by the Government of India. ... (Interruptions) In these schools, there is a significant issue with electricity supply and bed kits, which adversely affects the education of girl students ... (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, I also want to bring to your attention that an estimate of Rs. 41,000 was approved for electricity connections along with building construction in approved schools. ... (Interruptions) There are some schools where the estimated cost for electricity connection is coming to Rs. 2,40,000. Due to this, it is not possible for the local administration to arrange for electricity connections in schools. ... (Interruptions) Additionally, very poor quality of food is provided in the schools. ... (Interruptions) This is the problem of schools in almost every district of the state.... (Interruptions) I also want to bring to your attention that children receive only Rs. 750 per child for bed kits, which is very less. Questions are also raised on its quality.... (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, through you, I request the Hon. Human Resource Development Minister to conduct an inspection of the quality of food and bed kits provided in established schools of the state. Additionally, considering the future of the children, I urge for a re-estimation may be made based on their requirements and accordingly funds may be allocated to address this issue in the public interest.... (Interruptions) Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Subhash Patel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Harish Chandra alias Harish Dwivedi and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Dr. Anshul Verma.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY (VALMIKI NAGAR):
Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important subject. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, I belong to West Champaran, and my Parliamentary Constituency is Valmiki Nagar, which is known as the karmbhoomi of Gandhi ji.... (Interruptions) two blocks in my Parliamentary

Constituency are such, where due to unfavorable geographical conditions of some villages electrification is not feasible for some panchayats. These include Banakatwa-Karmahiya and Naurangiya villages in the Ramnagar block of the Ramnagar Vidhan Sabha constituency and Motipur, Thakuraha, Koiripatti, Dhumanagar, Harpur-Shrinagar, Bhavanipur-Jagaran, etc., in the Thakuraha block of the Valmiki Nagar Vidhan Sabha constituency.... (Interruptions) These villages are surrounded by rivers.... (Interruptions) Solar power plants should be installed there for electrification, otherwise even providing solar power alone won't suffice. ... (Interruptions)

I urge through you to get this work completed. This is an important task.... (Interruptions) Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Satish Chandra Dubey.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena – Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE (THANE): Madam Speaker, Navi Mumbai, which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency, is a city which connects several cities and districts. ... (Interruptions) As a result, traffic congestion is often a problem there. ... (Interruptions) Besides, development of surrounding cities such as Thane, Kalyan, Ambernath and Badlapur are also progressing rapidly.... (Interruptions) Every day, thirty to thirty-five thousand people commute for employment and business to various locations in Navi Mumbai. These roads are proving insufficient for vehicles. ... (Interruptions) An international airport is in the offing here.... (Interruptions) After the construction of this airport, the number of vehicles will further increase.... (Interruptions) Therefore, it is necessary to start the construction of Coastal Road right away to alleviate the problem of increasing traffic congestion in the city.

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has proposed to develop an approximately 10.5 kilometer stretch from Belapur to Vashi and a 16.5 kilometer stretch from Vashi to Thane, each with 8 lanes, along the coastline in two phases... (Interruptions), which was also presented before the Coastal Zone Management in May 2014, requiring an estimated funding of around Rs. 5038 crore....

(Interruptions) Such a huge amount cannot be spent by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Therefore, in this context, MMRDA is unable to make the entire funding of the project.... (Interruptions)

I request the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, through you, that Union Government complete this important project and roads with the help of MMRDA. Thank you.... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Subhash Patel and Shri Arvind Sawant are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Rajan Vichare.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri - Absent.

SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJASMAND): Hon. Speaker ji, the distribution of water resources provided by nature has become a contentious issue in many states.... (Interruptions) In such a situation, the Hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan has taken a resolution to make Rajasthan a self-reliant state, in terms of water resources by formulating a very important *mukhyamantri jal swavlamban yojana*, instead of extending hand before other states for water and to utilize the available water resources efficiently in her own state....

(Interruptions) This resolution has also been praised by our Hon. Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions) In the first phase of this yojana, three thousand villages have been selected.... (Interruptions) and by properly managing water through planned methods, where previously only 25 blocks in Rajasthan were in the safe zone and the rest of the state fell under the dark zone, now, due to the implementation of the *mukhyamantri jal swavlamban yojana*, all 50 blocks have come into the safe zone.... (Interruptions) The increased water availability has benefited nearly 41 lakh people and 45 lakh livestock. ... (Interruptions)

The second phase of this scheme, commencing on December 9, aims to select 6-6 thousand villages over the next three years for water and soil conservation.... (Interruptions) A resolution has been made to extend this yojana to 21000 villages in the state within four years. Despite the state's limited financial resources, Hon. Chief Minister has successfully completed the first phase of making the state self-reliant in water by urging the public to contribute funds.... (Interruptions)

Through you, I would like to request, to the Union Government to take a decision on providing special financial assistance for the successful completion of such important schemes. Thank you. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Shri Subhash Patel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Hariom Singh Rathore.

12.58 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—LAID*

[English]

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

... (Interruptions)

*Treated as Laid on the Table

(i) Need to regularise the services of Aanganwadi workers as Group 'D' employees and also give them adequate wages and allowances and social security benefits as applicable to Group 'D' employees.

[Translation]

Shri Sunil Kumar Singh (Chatra): In the year 1975, the Government of India started the Integrated Child Development Fund (ICDS) scheme. The main objective of this scheme is to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the 0-6 age group, to lay the foundation for their psychological, physical and social development and to reduce mortality, illness, malnutrition and the number of cases of dropping out of school. Under this scheme, integrated services are provided including supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-ups, referral services, pre-school informal education and nutrition and health education etc. One of the key people engaged in the implementation of these schemes is Anganwadi workers. The list of works of Anganwadi workers is very long. Their main tasks include - vaccination of all children up to 6 years of age, vaccination for all pregnant mothers, supplementary nutrition for children, conducting health education and check-ups for women, pre and postnatal care for pregnant mothers, caring for newborns, and managing Anganwadi

operations along with organizing informal pre-school activities for children aged 3 to 6 years. One Anganwadi worker serves a population of 1000 people. Currently, there are more than thirteen lakh Anganwadi centers operating in the country, with millions of Anganwadi workers working in these centres. Anganwadi workers are doing a tremendous job in addressing issues such as malnutrition, hunger, high infant mortality rates, lack of sanitation, diseases and lack of education etc. in the country. ICDS is one of the largest child care programs in the world.

Anganwadi workers are working on very low wages. Anganwadi workers are not considered Government employees by either the Union or state Governments and they do not receive salaries, allowances or other benefits like Government employees. They are not provided with any facilities such as pension, medical benefits, compassionate appointments, dearness allowance, etc. In the 15th Lok Sabha, the Committee on Empowerment of Women presented its 8th report in August 2011 on the "Working Conditions of Anganwadi Workers". The Committee made a total of sixteen recommendations to the Government but so far recommendations have not been implemented.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to consider Anganwadi workers as at least fourth-class employees and provide them with corresponding basic salary, allowances, medical facilities, pension, and other benefits. Also, the Government should implement the remaining recommendations of the 8th Report of the Parliamentary Committee presented in August, 2011.

(ii) Need to check the industrial waste and pollution caused by industrial factories in Ujjain Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN): In my Parliamentary Constituency, there was an accident at the Grasim Industries Group on 17.11.2016, resulting in the death of a factory worker due to toxic fumes, along with 10 other workers were affected. The unbearable odor and pollution emanating from the Grasim Industries Group's waste discharge are becoming increasingly harmful to public health and the environment. The debris is basically chemical. The lack of proper handling of this chemical poses a threat not only to health but also to the environment. Employees working in the company suffer from various skin-related diseases, heart-related ailments and diseases such as cancer. Every month, at least one worker working in this factory dies from these diseases. Not only that, due to the negligence of ensuring the safety of the workers in this factory, fatalities continue to occur among the workers due to accidents every day. Due to this, the Kshipra and Chambal rivers are polluted in the Ujjain district. The unit is discharging effluent directly

into the Chambal River. Due to water pollution, the Chambal River is not only contaminating Ujjain but also Morena and Bhind districts.

I demand that the Government should constitute a joint investigation committee comprising the Ministries of Chemicals, Environment, and Labour to conduct a proper investigation into this matter and impose appropriate penalties on the culprits.

**(iii) Need to impress upon Government of Uttar Pradesh to
enhance the rate of sugarcane and also ensure payment
of arrears of sugarcane by sugar mills to farmers in
Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR): Sugarcane farmers are facing a double blow in Uttar Pradesh. Neither the price of sugarcane has been satisfactorily increased, nor the payment is being made for the previous dues along with interest. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take this exploitation of sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh seriously and instruct the Uttar Pradesh Government to reconsider the price of sugarcane. Also, necessary steps should be taken by sugar mills to ensure that farmers are paid their previous dues along with interest.

(iv) Need to open a railway station in Riddhpur at Wardha

Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS (WARDHA): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Wardha in order to address the long-standing demand for a railway station in Riddhpur on the Narkhed-Amravati railway line. Shri Kshetra Riddhpur is often referred to as the Varanasi of the eminent Path community. There are approximately 800 temples of the eminent Path community located in Riddhpur, and thousands of pilgrims from India and abroad visit here for pilgrimage. Shri Riddhpur region has been accorded the status of a "B" grade pilgrim age site and Shri Kshetra Riddhpur has already been declared a tourist destination. Despite being an important location on the Amravati-Narkhed route, Riddhpur does not have a railway station. Having a railway station at Riddhpur will benefit 15 to 20 villages.

Therefore, keeping in mind the public interest and the demands of the people, I urge the relevant authorities to take appropriate steps

to expedite the process of constructing a railway station in Shri Kshetra Riddhpur so that the issue can be resolved promptly.

**(v) Need to ensure timely payment of pension and gratuity to
retired employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation
Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand**

Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary (Ranchi): The payment of gratuity, arrear of pay revision and other allowances to the retired employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HECL) located at Dhurwa in my Lok Sabha Constituency, Ranchi, is pending for many years. I would like to inform the Government that the employees of HECL who retired between 1 January, 1997 and September 2008 have not yet received payment of their gratuity, arrear of pay revision and other allowances. HECL is an establishment of the Government of India. At one time it was considered the largest industry of Asia but due to lack of purchasing power, this PSU is not able to produce in proportion to its capacity. Many of the retired employees are not able to get their treatment. There are many retired workers who have died due to lack of adequate treatment because of financial constraints. The tripartite agreement between the management of HECL and the retired employees' union took place regarding the payment of gratuity, arrears of pay revision and other allowances, in which officials of labour department were also included. So far, all the CMDs of HECL

have talked about the payment of gratuity, arrears of pay revision and other allowances.

Therefore, I request the Government to kindly expedite the payment of the outstanding amounts such as gratuity, arrear of pay revision and other allowances to the retired employees of HECL Company in Dhurwa, Ranchi. If the outstanding amount is not paid, people will be compelled to protest.

**(vi) Need to accord environmental clearance to Uranium
Corporation of India Limited mines at Jaduguda,
Jharkhand**

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): The Jaduguda, tribal dominated poor and insurgency affected area of my Parliamentary Constituency Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) is a very backward area. The Jaduguda mine of Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL) was started here in the year 1967 which is lying closed since September 7, 2014 due to non-issuance of environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The issue of unemployment has arisen among the people there. I have previously met with the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and informed him about the issue but so far, due to the lack of any action, people are facing significant difficulties.

Therefore, I demand from the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India that in view of the above subject, the Jadugoda mine of UCIL, which is lying closed, should be given the due approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

**(vii) Need to develop necessary mechanism to enable people
migrated to other States to exercise their right to vote
during elections**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): According to an estimate by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, approximately 3 crore people leave their homes every day in search of employment in various parts of the country. During elections, these people are usually away from their homes and are unable to exercise their voting rights due to lack of proper arrangements.

I request the Government to make arrangements, such as postal ballots or any other system for this large migrant population of approximately 3 crore people so that they can exercise their voting rights in elections.

(viii) Need to reintroduce free Monthly Season Ticket to students for rail journey

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi (Chittorgarh): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that the Railway Department used to issue free monthly pass (MST) on "0" balance to rural students for pursuing higher education. However, in 2015-16, the Railway has completely discontinued this arrangement due to which rural students are facing difficulties. As a result, a large number of economically weaker sections and SC/ST/OBC students are unable to access education in urban areas.

Therefore, I demand from the Hon. Railway Minister that the Railway Department may start issuing Monthly Season Tickets (MST) to students on "0" balance to students as per past practice so that rural students can come to cities to pursue higher education in premier collages.

**(ix) Need for development and operation of Vadiya Devli
Railway station in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency,
Gujarat**

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): The work has been started after the tender has been floated for the broad gauge project of Jetalsar-Dhasa rail line between Amreli district and Rajkot district of Gujarat at a length of 80 km. Earlier, this was a meter gauge line and work to convert it into broad gauge is underway.

Vadia Devli, which is a tehsil, used to have a railway station that has been closed by the railway department for some reason. The railway station in Vadia Devli tehsil has not been included in this tender. This 80 km. line has 8 stoppages which cover 2 tehsils. Therefore, the reconstruction of the Vadia Devli (tehsil) station should be included in this tender. When I contacted the concerned contractor in this regard, I came to know that this station was not included in the tender. The exclusion of this station from the tender could pose several challenges for the residents of my constituency, and it may render many of the efforts made by me futile.

Therefore, I humbly request the Government to consider re open the Vadia Devli Tehsil railway station and provide stoppage of trains here in order to facilitate the residents of my constituency.

**(x) Need to enhance the Minimum Statutory Price of Moong Dal
(Green Gram) in Nagaur, Merta and Degana in
Rajasthan**

SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND): I would like to express my gratitude to the Government for providing relief to the farmers of the Medta and Degana Assembly constituencies in the Nagaur district of Rajasthan, by deciding to procure moong crop at minimum support price. This decision reflects the resolve of Hon. Prime Minister to increase the income of farmers.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some problems being faced in Government procurement of moong which are as follows:-

1. The support price, which is 5250 rupees, is expected to be increased.
2. Increase in the number of weighing scales for pulses so that farmers can sell their produce in time.
3. Due to natural reasons, there has been a decline in production of the variety of moong, either the Government procure it at

minimum support price or provide compensation to the farmers through grants.

I urge the Government to consider sympathetically the above three points and make a decision to provide relief to farmers so that they can sell their produce conveniently and get remunerative price for their produce and thus ensuring relief for themselves.

**(xi) Need to formulate a fair and transparent system under
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to ensure meticulous
execution of the scheme**

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE (AKBARPUR): I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Petroleum Minister towards the challenges, problems and discrepancies being faced in the implementation of ambitious Ujjwala scheme of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

This ambitious scheme of the Prime Minister's dreams is truly revolutionary in many ways. Through this, the Prime Minister has resolved to provide healthy, clean and dignified living conditions not only to the women of the poor families of the remote villages but has also revived the eternal Indian tradition of sacrificing something for others. The abandonment of gas subsidy by crores of consumers on one of his appeals is unmatched but it is quite challenging to provide these connections to the poor families. The Government has made arrangements to provide cooking gas cylinders to extremely poor families by identifying them. However, it has come to the notice that in villages having populations ranging from four to five thousand, where the number of BPL families is quite considerable, only about

ten to twenty families are being included in the beneficiary list. This is leading to various discrepancies, resentments and prejudices. The challenges of law and order are also arising at many places. Taking advantage of these discrepancies, the gas distributors of the rural area have started earning illegally. Due to this, the negative effects of this project are also visible everywhere. Collecting money from the beneficiaries listed by gas distributors is completely unjustifiable.

I would like to urge Hon'ble Minister to implement a comprehensive and transparent process towards the implementation of this scheme in line with the name of Ujjwala so that more and more people can get the benefit of this scheme.

(xii) Need to formulate a scheme for development of agriculture-based industry, dairy, horticulture sector and small scale industries in Banswara Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA (BANSWADA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Banswara Parliamentary Constituency. Where there is an abundance of natural resources, yet there is extreme poverty. Most of the people here do not have permanent assets and the people are living in extreme poverty. There is no industry of any kind in the area and the condition of agricultural products is also disappointing.

I request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing to create a special scheme for setting up agro-based industries, dairy and horticulture in the region. I would also like to request the Hon. Minister of Industry to encourage cottage industries and help in setting up industries in this area. Apart from this, the Government should formulate a strategy to implement other schemes based on the resources of this area so that living standard of the people of this area can be improved and the concept of inclusive economic development can be implemented on the ground.

(xiii) Regarding drought situation prevailing in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI D. K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): Karnataka is having drought for a third year and apparently its worst in about four decades. Farmers missed sowing during both the kharif and Rabi seasons. Out of 176 taluks, 139 have been declared drought-hit, leading to migration of thousands to cities. Only the coastal districts have escaped the water problem. The rain fall in the state is 31 per cent less than normal. The total estimated loss due to drought in the state is Rs. 17,193 crore and Government of Karnataka has submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance of Rs. 4,702.54 crore for drought mitigation measures in Karnataka during Kharif 2016. Therefore, I request to the Union Government to give immediate attention to this matter and take necessary steps to release the money at the earliest.

**(xiv) Need to sanction additional funds for construction of
fishing harbours at Arthungal and Thottappally in
Alappuzha district, Kerala**

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): The construction activities of two major fishing harbours, Arthungal and Thottappally in Alappuzha district has to be finished immediately. For the construction activities of Arthungal fishing harbour the Central Government has already sanctioned Rs. 49.39 crore but it has been estimated that an additional amount of Rs. 61.57 crore has to be sanctioned considering the coastal settings at the site. Thottappally fishing harbour was inaugurated in 2011 and due to siltation it has not been functioning. It is recommended to sanction Rs. 77.72 crore for the maintenance activities at the site.

(xv) Regarding problems faced by farmers of Tamil Nadu due to demonetisation of currency notes

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): The problems faced by farmers due to demonetisation and the Reserve Bank of India's restrictions on cooperative banks & societies had hit very badly the agricultural operations in Tamil Nadu. The people in rural areas, mostly farmers and agro workers, bank with 4474 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACC) for their time-bound agricultural activities.

Therefore, the Government of Tamil Nadu has rolled out a special package for farmers through cooperative institutions to mitigate the hardships faced by them due to demonetisation. The success of special package would depend solely on availability of adequate currency notes with cooperative institutions.

MPs from our party have requested the Finance Minister for immediate release of Rs. 3000 crore in currency notes for crop loans in Tamil Nadu during November-December, the peak agricultural season. This should be in addition to the regular flow of currency notes at par with scheduled commercial banks. The PACCs should be

allowed to accept repayment of loans by cash (including old Rs 500 and 1,000 notes). The District Central Cooperative Banks should be permitted to disburse money to PACCs without Rs. 24,000 cap per week to support agricultural operations with immediate effect.

I urge the Union Government to take a serious note on the plight of farmers in Tamil Nadu and take necessary steps in this regard.

**(xvi) Need to set up Food Park and Agri-Export Zone in
Theni district of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI): Theni District in Tamil Nadu is famous for the produce of mango, grapes, banana and spices. There is also a great potential for organic farming in Theni and Usilampatti region. Though there has been an action plan to ensure forward and backward linkage by adopting cluster approach under the National Horticulture Mission, there has not been any active support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. I request the Government to aid/support in setting up of Agri-Export Zone (AEZ) for production and cold-storage facilities for fruits such as mango, grapes etc.

The Government should also set up a Horticulture Institute at Usilampatti. Post-Harvest Management facilities should also be set up for various fruits and vegetables in Theni district as part of the National Horticulture Mission.

Farmers have already organised themselves into grape growers Association, Mango Growers Federation etc. to take up

organised cultivation and marketing of the produce. There is also great potential for processing of chilli, coriander, and tamarind, etc.

I, therefore, humbly urge the Government of India to set up linkage such as cold storage facilities, Food Park and Agri-Export Zones in this region for promotion of fruits and vegetables.

(xvii) Need to provide medicines to poor at affordable prices

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Prices of medical drugs are sky rocketing. There seems to be no relief to the poor, who cannot afford them to save their lives. There is a need for intervention by the Government to bring down prices of essential drugs and make them affordable to poor and needy. Health infrastructure needs to be modernised and small and medium health centres across the country be set up with sufficient storage of medicines. This is the most essential of all other important things to be done by the Government. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to look into the aspect of providing affordable medicines to the poor and ensure that medicines are available at affordable prices.

(xviii) Regarding timely execution of renovation and conservation of Gadakkhai Heritage Project in Cuttack, Odisha

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has requested the Archaeological Survey of India time and again for early execution of work pertaining to the renovation and conservation of Gadakkhai Heritage Project under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) Programme of Cuttack City. However, the ASI has not taken any action on the requests of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) so far. The CMC cannot take up the work of beautification, development of infrastructure and illumination till the ASI completes the work of renovation and conservation of Moat wall. I, therefore, urge the Government to impress upon the ASI to take immediate necessary steps for timely execution of the said project.

**(xix) Need to enhance the rate of pension under Employees’
Pension Scheme, 1995**

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA): The Employee Pension Scheme-1995 has been implemented in the country to provide security to retired employees during their elderly life. At present, this pension scheme is unable to ensure the welfare of retired state Government employees. last year retired employees had staged a protest at Jantar Mantar against this scheme. In my Parliamentary Constituency, there is a public outcry against the Employee Pension Scheme of 1995, especially among retired employees of organizations like Maharashtra State Transport, Maharashtra State Electricity Board and cooperative societies. They receive a pension ranging from 300 to 500 rupees only after retirement, which is significantly low considering today's cost of living. This amount is also much lower than the financial assistance provided under the elderly welfare schemes in the country. Central employees of the country get a boost in their pension by increasing every pay commission. Today, they are getting pension from 15 thousand to 50 thousand. The Employees’ Pension Scheme-1995 was implemented 21 years back but in today's scenario, the Employees’ Pension Scheme-1995 has no significance

for the retired employees as they are getting only Rs. 500 after 20 years of service. Given the current situation, it is necessary to revise the pension scheme for retired state government employees.

I urge the Government to provide a minimum pension of at least 5000 rupees per month to retired employees of organizations such as the Maharashtra State Transport, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, cooperative societies, etc. Additionally, appropriate revision should be made to the Employee Pension Scheme of 1995 for this purpose.

**(xx) Need to establish a cluster-cum-handloom park at
Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Mangalagiri is world famous for handloom products especially cotton sarees, and these exquisite sarees are having huge demand globally. Nearly 4,000 weavers are depending on weaving on self-owned 1,000 looms and 2,800 hired looms. Out of these 4,000 weavers, about 2,000 are enrolled under co-operative fold and others are still outside co-operative fold. Secondly, about 40% of people from Mangalagiri are dependent on handloom weaving and allied industry i.e., yard dealers, traders, wrappers, dyers etc. Thus, around 4,000 looms and 10,000 people are directly or indirectly dependent on the industry for their livelihood.

There is no problem as far as raw material is concerned since Guntur district is a large cotton growing area in Andhra Pradesh and there are about 80 spinning mills around it.

Unfortunately, these skilled weavers are committing suicides as they are not having required infrastructural facilities, proper guidance from experts and marketing facilities. Their problem aggravates

during monsoon as water enters pits and looms are immobilized and thus their work is affected.

Mangalagiri has close proximity to NH 5, Vijayawada and Guntur. If Handloom Park is established, it would attract weaving and garment industries which, in turn, bring in customs, containers, banking and quality control facilities under one roof.

In view of the above, I request Government of India to kindly consider setting up of Cluster-cum-Handloom Park at Mangalagiri with processing and other units which will not only push the world famous Mangalagiri cotton sarees but also help in providing gainful employment to thousands of youth and to keep the tradition alive.

(xxi) Regarding pending projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): I wish to bring to your kind notice the functioning of Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) in my constituency, Araku as well as in the Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh.

As the chairman of the DISHA committee of Visakhapatnam district, I have been conducting meetings at the district level as it has come to the notice that Visakhapatnam has not been allocated works under PMGSY since 2013. Many works to the tune of Rs. 230 crore are left unfinished due to non-performance of the contractors or no-response to tenders.

Due to these factors, further works are being affected and hence the connectivity issue is being stalled. Hence, I request the Ministry of Rural Development through you, that such works which are held up due to non-performance should be immediately given to others on supplementation basis and also action be initiated against such contractors who have defaulted.

Further, I also request the Ministry to issue necessary instructions to the district authorities to take measures in resolving the pending projects, so that fresh approvals are accorded.

(xxii) Need to address the problems of farmers in the country

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): The plight of farmers across the country today is not a secret anymore. The farmer who is the annadata of the country is forced to lead a life of hunger and misery. Farmers themselves often go to bed hungry but their concern is always about filling the stomachs of others. It is the duty of the Government to solve the problems of our farmers properly. Our country is an agrarian based country. Although we have achieved self-reliance in food production, the plight of the farmers getting worse day by day. This is a question to ponder over.

About 68 percent of the farming in the country depends on rainfall and if the rainfall is scarce or heavy, it directly affects agriculture. Proper arrangement for irrigation has not been made yet. The farmer is always suppressed due to the burden of middlemen and moneylenders. When large parts of the country are flooded, large tracts of land remain vulnerable to drought. Natural calamities continue to occur. Fertilizers and seeds are not available on time. There is a lack of good variety of seeds and due to its high price, the farmers are not able to buy it. Pesticides have also become extremely expensive. The crop insurance scheme has failed to prove its role in

helping the farmers in any way. The farmers do not get remunerative price for fruits and vegetables and are not preserved properly. There are no buyers when the crop is ready, forcing them to sell it at lower prices to middleman. When the produce of the farmers goes out of their hands, the rate in the market doubles. What an irony this is.

I think there is definitely a discussion in every session on some subject or the other about farmers. Hon'ble Members express their views to the Government about the problem of farmers but the Government does not implement it appropriately. As a result, farmers across the country are compelled to commit suicide today. According to Government figures, approximately 21,000 farmers had committed suicide by the year 2014 and this figure is likely to increase in 2015. It is a matter of shame that we have not been able to take any concrete steps to give a happy life to the Annadata of the country.

(xxiii) Need to control Sepsis, a life threatening disease

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): The attention of the Government may be drawn to the emerging medical threat of increased deaths due to Sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the chemicals are released into the blood to fight infection trigger widespread inflammation causing eventual organ damage and death.

A nationwide study in 2012 found a prevalence of sepsis within ICUs of hospitals: one in four patients admitted in ICUs contracted the ailment in emergency department of hospitals. Almost one in two patients with sepsis died. 859 (4209 surveyed) or 27.6% of the patients who died of sepsis were not operated upon and were in hospital for non-surgical treatment.

In the U.S., sepsis accounts for far more deaths than the number of deaths from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined. This has been declared as a leading cause of death in developed nations like the United States and United Kingdom.

The reasons for the rising incidence could be poor hospital hygiene, abuse of antibiotics or rampant self-medication among

people. I, therefore, urge the government to take immediate steps to sensitize the masses on the subject of sepsis and undertake studies to estimate the impact of the medical condition. Continued surveillance, effective infection control programmes, rational use of antibiotics and enhanced public awareness can reduce the incidence of sepsis and hospital-acquired infections, improve patient care and help better prioritization of resources.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You do not want to discuss anything.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 1st December, 2016 at 1100 a.m.

12.59 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 1, 2016/Agrahayana 10, 1938 (Saka).

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