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Ninth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 29, 2016/Shravana 07, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (RATLAM): Women were stopped and beaten up at Mandsaur railway station.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Not now.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Question no. 181, Shri Kalyan Banerjee.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No Adjournment Motion can be allowed during the Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.01 hours

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan Banerjee.

(Q. 181)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Madam, as reported on 31st May, 2016, 130 tonnes of anti-tank mines blew up at the Army's ammunition depot at Pulgaon near Wardha, Maharashtra, killing 19 people including two Army officers.... (*Interruptions*)

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

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

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: The Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon, which is located about 100 kilometres from Nagpur, is spread over an area of more than 7,000 acres, and stores a variety of ammunition and explosives in a large number of sheds. CAD comes directly under the Army Headquarters and is responsible for the all-India supply of ammunition and explosives, after receiving them

* Not recorded

from the Ordnance factories and other sources.... (*Interruptions*) CAD then supplies these items to various ammunition depots and Field Ammunition Depots for replenishing their stocks. Five villages around CAD were evacuated immediately after the fire had taken place. It is also reported that the Hon. Defence Minister had visited the spot also.

Madam, I want to know from the Hon. Minister through you whether any full-fledged inquiry has been made by the highest level of Army Officers to know the cause of such fire. If so, what is the fate of this inquiry report? I would also like to know whether any reason has been identified and accountability has been fixed or not.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam, as given in the reply, the Court of Inquiry has been constituted. A detailed review or deliberation has been carried out by them. They have given their recommendations and based on their recommendations, we have already taken actions which are quoted in the reply itself, wherein 125 various instructions have been issued.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Madam, in his reply, the Hon. Defence Minister has just referred about the recommendations. My question was not related to the recommendations. I would like to know as to what were the reasons of such fire. My question was

whether you have identified the persons responsible for such fire or not. But you are referring to the recommendations.

Madam, my second supplementary question is that the Hon. Defence Minister has said that during the last three years only one incident has taken place. But on the basis of the reports which are available with me, there were other incidents before the incident of August 31st, 2016. On 8th December, 2015, five persons were injured when a fire broke out during a regular exercise in Vishakapatnam.

So many incidents had taken place earlier also. I can give you the dates. On March 26, 2010, Panagarh, West Bengal, a major fire broke out at the Panagarh depot. No casualties were reported but the depot suffered huge losses.

On December 4, 2008, Bhuj, Gujarat, two army men were killed in the blaze at the Bhuj depot after a bomb exploded during the routine inspection of old and outdated ammunition.

On August 12, 2007, two army men and one civilian were killed and over 40 others injured in a major blaze at the Ordnance Depot in south Kashmir. On April 29, 2001, a huge fire broke out in the ammunition dump of the Army's Mamoon Cantonment near Pathankot in Gurdaspur district. There were no casualties. On 2nd May 2000, three civilians were killed due to surface splinters in the

nearby villages after fire erupted at the ordnance depot. These repetitive fire disasters in the ordnance factories show slackness and carelessness of the Government to look into the matter for more than one decade. Do these repetitive fire disasters at the Indian Ordnance Depots happen only because of laxity of the Central Government and deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures in installation? Or is there any sabotage or not? That is my question.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: First of all, the replies say that it is for the last three years. Apart from the fire accident in the Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon, Maharashtra which occurred on 31st May, 2016, no other fire accident had taken place in any ordnance depot of the Indian Army during the last three years. It is only about the Army. What has been quoted is for the last decade. There were incidences during 2007 and 2010. But this is for the last three years only. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: A fire accident occurred in Visakhapatnam in 2015. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: It is related to the Navy. I am replying in regard to the Army. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: I am asking a question to the Defence Minister.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: The reply and the Question very clearly mention about the Indian Army because this is regarding the Pulgaon Depot which belongs to the Indian Army Central Depot. There were small incidents which happened in various installations. These were accidental. The one, which you referred to happened basically while they were disposing of a particular ammunition. It had resulted in one casualty but it happened in the Navy. The most probable cause of the fire, as brought by the Court of Inquiry, was excessive exudation, that is, bleeding of TNT reacting with the metallic container leading to self-ignition of segregated mines held in Store House 192. Basically, it is a real accident and there is no sabotage angle which had been brought out. They have checked every aspect of sabotage.

[Translation]

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG: Hon. Speaker, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the Defence Minister, on the occasion of Diwali last year, an incident took place at the Army Ammunition Depot in Nubra Valley, which necessitated the evacuation of residents from three villages - Khalsar, Tirit, and Sathi. They could not return for three to four days.

Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the Defence Minister that there is no shortage of land for an Ammunition Depot in Ladakh. If the right place is selected for the Ammunition Depot, then there cannot be any danger to the villagers. Is there such a place available, where the Ammunition Depots will be safe and the local people will also be safe?

I would like to ask the Minister whether will you enquire about this and take a decision to transfer those Ammunition Depots to an appropriate place?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: This decision can be taken only after conducting an examination there. If Hon. MP has any solution, please give it to us. I will study it and make a decision.

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Thank you, Madam. The Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that storage of ammunition is inherently a risky proposition, that too, in a thickly populated urban area and it is more dangerous to the public. WHO has been staying in the vicinity of ammunition storage depots and ammunition factories.

For example, there are more than 80,000-90,000 properties, houses, Government projects, SEZs and MIDCs in the vicinity of the

Ammunition Factory at Khadki as well as Dehu Ordnance Depot at Dehu. These people have been staying there for more than 50-60 years. However, the Government, the Ministry of Defence has identified the Outer Safety Distance (OSD) much later, that is, very recently, about 10 years ago. So, I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister. If there are more than one lakh properties or there are three lakh population which live there and there are two important magazine depots and ammunition factories, is the Government considering shifting the magazine depots? In this case, it is a storage depot, and I am not talking about the manufacturing depots. The storage depots were discussed, and the Government, at that point of time, maybe, 10-15 years ago, was considering that proposal.

I would also like to know this from the Hon. Minister. Since the population, the number of people living there, is much more than three lakhs, can you scientifically reduce the distance? It is because there are many options available worldwide to reduce the Outer Safety Distance to see the security of the people living around is ensured by using the latest techniques. Is the Government thinking of reducing the OSD of these two ordnance depots?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam, most of the ordnance depots are storage facilities which were created many years ago

when there was no population around. I myself am aware of Dehu Road and I used to travel on that road about 30 years back and there was hardly any population around that ordnance depot. Of course, as the demand for land increased and as more and more people settled, this 'red zone', as they call it, is causing problems in many areas. So, we are trying to find out 3-4 solutions to the issue. First, improve the storage facility, go for upgraded storage facilities and go for underground so that the risk itself is reduced and better storage improvement takes place but that requires a lot of money. Second, we are also considering the distance parameter, which is decided by an expert committee. The committee reviews the situation based on international norms. The current distances are based on a century-old norm. They are already quite advanced in their studies, and they are in the process of considering recasting the distances required. And, the third one is measuring the distance, not from the outer boundary of the property but from the outer boundary of the storage facility. These are the three aspects which are at various levels of consideration, and very soon some decision, which would probably reduce some hardship to the people, would be taken.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Respected Madam Speaker, it is very astonishing that despite warning by the Comptroller and Auditor

General of India, 1,20,805 anti-tank rejected mines worth Rs.47.29 crore due to manufacturing defects were stored in the 16 ammunition depots across the country. The Government has not taken any action on it, which resulted in such a tragedy at Pulgaon. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to comply with the C&AG report to prevent such recurrence in future.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, we have already taken a decision that disposal of all the defective segregated mines which are found defective from the year 2009—they were oozing out TNT and, therefore, they could not be used and were segregated and kept aside—will be held at various locations. This work will be undertaken by the Army Headquarters. This has already begun and the Army has started disposing of the old defective mines. The Ordnance Factory Board will replace or repair, wherever possible, all the defective mines as early as possible within possibly three months.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for disposal of defective ammunition in a fixed timeframe, fixing up of responsibility for defects and regularisation of laws is under formulation, which will be issued very soon. In fact, we are trying to ensure that no defective

material is supplied to the Armed Forces from ordnance factories. At present, many schemes for this are under implementation.

(Q. 182)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE: Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to inquire about my question regarding FDIs and domestic investment. The government's response indicates clearly that despite efforts, FDIs are decreasing. In the year 2012-13, FDI decreased by four percent, in 2013-14 it decreased by 4.8 percent, and in the year 2014-15, it decreased by 3.7 percent. Therefore, if we are to continue fostering the development of our nation, then we must pay attention to domestic investment.

My question is that Domestic Investment includes valuables stocks and other small savings from the Government's perspective, and these valuables and stocks and shares mostly involve wealthy individuals investing their money. The small savings should contribute to the development of our country. The benefit of investing in FDI has to be given to foreigners, but the benefit of domestic investment goes to the citizens of the country. The small savings, meaning the people who save small amounts, their savings contribute to the development of the country. If we look at the numbers, the interest rate on small savings and the inflation rate, if we consider this, it feels negative. Therefore, what schemes does the

Government have to promote small savings, and if there are any, please provide information.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, the question asked by the Hon. Member is related to Domestic Capital Investment. I would like to inform the Hon. Member, that Domestic Capital Investment i.e. Investment in the Economy, which is called the Gross Capital Formation, is a part of Gross Fixed Capital Formation. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that if you look at the figures, as the Hon. Member has mentioned the figures of three years, our Gross Fixed Capital Formation has increased in the last three years. If you talk about the year 2012-13, it is Rs. 33,21,413 crore. If you talk about the year 2013-14, it is Rs. 35,64,320 crore and if you talk about the year 2014-15 then it is Rs. 38,44,366 crore. If we talk about the year 2015-2016, it is Rs. 39,72,401 crore, which means we are around Rs. 40 lakh crore. It is an increasing trend. The increase in gross fixed capital formation is a sign of strengthening the economy.

Regarding the question raised by the Hon. Member about the percentage decrease in FDI. I want to inform the Hon. Member that he had asked for the figures for three years in this too. It is linked to gross savings. When the people of the country are saving, and yet there is a shortfall in investment, then Net Capital Inflow from the rest of the world is utilized to bridge that gap. FDI is one of its components. Total FDI is not the only part. First is FDI, the second is portfolio investment, and the third is external commercial borrowing. Given this, you see that in the year 2012-13, where our gross savings were 87.6 percent, the gap was 12.4 percent. We have reduced it in the year 2013-14, and this gap has been reduced by 95.2 or 4 percent. The gap has been further reduced in the year 2014-15. Our gap remained at only 3.4 percent. This decreasing trend also strengthens the economy.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, let me provide a clarification to Hegde ji.

The figures that you have considered as FDI are not FDI, they are Net Capital Inflows from the rest of the world. The total capital inflow from the entire world into the country includes FDI as one of its components. The FDI component has increased by 53 percent in the last two years. It is the highest record. Apart from that, there are

other components - Portfolio Investment, External Commercial Borrowings, Borrowings from Multilateral Agencies. When we feel shortage of capital in the country, we have to borrow from others. Today there is no need to borrow, that is why this number has decreased and the number of FDI has increased, hence the net capital inflow is less, because the amount we used to borrow has reduced and FDI component has increased.

SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the statement of the Government, but my second question is, the Minister said that FDI has increased by 53 percent. Have we been paying the returns on FDI over the past three years through technology fees, dividends, or brand royalties? How much money has been transferred to foreigners in the form of technology fees, royalties, or dividends from the FDI received in the last three years? Can the government provide an answer to this?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker, whether a person makes a local investment or a foreign investment, the dividends or any other charges due, from that investment will be taken by any investor. It should be clear that when anyone makes a business investment, they do not do it for charity; their objective is to gain from it. If they do not gain, they will not invest in your country; they will invest

elsewhere. If the domestic industry does not benefit from it also, it will not invest domestically but will go and invest in another country.

Looking at the current situation from this perspective, Domestic Investment, which should have come from the private sector, has not been at the expected level in the past three to four years. The private sector is somewhat stressed, and therefore, the two main engines of investment that are required to drive the economy forward; one is public investment, where the government is spending on infrastructure and other means, which is propelling the economy rapidly; and two, the inflow from foreign sources. It's natural that those who invest will receive dividends if there's a profit, and it's natural that if there's a technology transfer, they will also benefit. I believe that whether an investor is domestic or foreign, expecting dividends or charges from it is not against business rules and is not against the laws of the country. If we say that, one cannot take any profit, then no one will invest in this country.

[English]

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA: Respected Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to ask this supplementary question.

Foreign Direct Investment has been showing a declining trend as far as FDI investment in India is concerned. We were placed at seventh place way back in 2014. But at present it is far below in ranking. This is as per reports appearing in many leading newspapers.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government to make India the most favourable destination for FDI, as is being claimed by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister has responded regarding FDI, and I believe the Hon. Member must be satisfied with that.

Hon. Member has asked what efforts the government is making to increase domestic capital investment, resulting in higher Gross Capital Formation. There is a Make in India program for this. There is a Skill India Program.

PROF.SAUGATA ROY: Tell us about FDI.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I am going to tell you that as well. There is a Digital India program, a Start-up India program,

there is Stand-up India program.... (*Interruptions*) please stay calm, I am referring to it . Saugata Roy ji, in the year 2012-13, the gross savings rate was 87.6 percent and the shortfall was 12.4 percent. How will you meet this? You will do it through FDI, Portfolio Investment, and External Commercial Borrowing. If FDI comes into the infrastructure sector of the country, the nation will progress, investment will come into the country, and employment opportunities will be created in the country. The slogan of the Hon. Prime Minister is that we want to build a better and prosperous India, and by doing so, the fulfilment of that slogan, that vision, will be achieved.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, the Hon. Member has asked what steps the Government has taken. Obviously, the first step in order to ensure that FDI comes into the country is that you have to open up various sectors for FDI. This has been a continuous process. It was started in 1991 and has been continuing. So, we have also opened up several sectors additionally.

In addition to opening up those sectors, there were several conditionalities in relation to each of those sectors. Those conditionalities have also been smoothened.

After you open the sectors, the investors then want an easy entry into the business. The time lag between deciding to invest and the actual commencement of the business has to be narrowed down. India's rating in terms of ease of doing business was quite low as far as global rankings are concerned. Over the last two years, we have taken a series of several steps so that we have eased the whole process of doing business in India, but this is still a work in progress and it has to continue.

Investors then expect stability of the taxation regime – a reasonable and competitive taxation regime – so that there is no element of unpredictability in that.

Thereafter, you have to ensure that the system itself is more transparent. Therefore, various decisions with regard to transparency of resources etc. have been taken. Each of the steps we have taken in the last two years is intended in the direction of making sure that both foreign and domestic investors find India a better place to do business in.

(Q. 183)

[Translation]

SHRI LALLU SINGH: Madam Speaker, I have been looking at the figures for the past two years, in which, the amount given by the Central Government to the states for the prevention of these diseases, only half of that has been spent by the States for the prevention of viral diseases and the remaining amount is returned to the Central Government every year. Whereas, the truth is that the number of vector-borne diseases and patients is increasing every year.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, whether the Government will develop such a mechanism, whereby the full amount issued by the centre is mandatorily utilized by the State Governments. Because when the allocated funds are not fully utilized, there is no control over diseases, and the number of patients continues to rise.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, as far as allocating central funds is concerned, we allocate them considering the population of the state and the health conditions of the citizens. As far as vector-borne diseases are concerned, funds are allocated keeping in mind the areas where it has maximum impact. It is our

endeavour to allocate funds for technical support, financial support, capacity building, etc., and provide funds for tools, kits, testing, and strengthening their labs. We keep reviewing it from time to time and we repeatedly insist the State Governments make full use of this money and increase their capacity building, so that they can help in preventing these diseases.

SHRI LALLU SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, recently the Hon. Prime Minister and the Health Minister have laid the foundation stone of AIIMS in Gorakhpur district of Purvanchal, for this I heartily congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Health Minister on behalf of the people of Purvanchal. I am confident that with the construction of this AIIMS, the poor, farmers, labourers and people living in the slums of Purvanchal will get affordable and good medical treatment.

The number of cancer patients has been increasing rapidly in the last few years in Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, and Faizabad, the capital of Ayodhya, and its surrounding 10-12 districts. My question to the Minister is whether the government has received any proposal to open a cancer research institute and hospital in Faizabad. If yes, then when the government will approve it?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, there may not be an immediate answer to whether there is such a proposal for Faizabad, but there is provision for a cancer unit in All India Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur, and arrangements will be made in such a way that it can cater to the entire region and provide healthcare. As far as this proposal is concerned, I will inform the Hon. member about it after obtaining the information.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kesineni Srinivas – not present.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Hon. Madam Speaker, you have allowed me to speak on vector-borne diseases. As far as these diseases are concerned, malaria is the biggest concern for us. In malaria, Vivex malaria is caused by mosquitoes, and it is known as Vives malaria falciparum. It is quite fatal also. I recall that in the 70s, the Indian government had launched the Malaria Eradication Program. But due to some shortcomings in that program, we did not achieve success in malaria eradication, the way we have achieved success in smallpox and measles. Today, malaria is very prevalent all over the country.

I hereby request the Minister through you, that the Minister launch the National Framework for Elimination of Malaria on February 11, 2016, and in response, it was stated that you have

launched a mission in two states - Madhya Pradesh and Odisha - as a PPP model. My request to you is that, whether the government can implement this Pan-India because if you eliminate malaria from one State, it will spread to another State.

HON. SPEAKER: You may ask your question.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: So will you launch a mission by addressing the shortcomings of the past and integrating the preventive and curative aspects across the entire country?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon'ble Speaker, where we have launched the National Framework for Elimination of Malaria program, we have also enhanced the diagnostic facilities. Our surveillance hospitals have increased from 110 to 527. Similarly, 15 referral laboratories have been developed. Central sites have been increased from 51 to 121. In this way, we have increased the detection. If we look at the figures, we will notice that the number of malaria detections has increased, but the number of deaths has decreased. We have done this now and will continue to do so in the future.

A program which had been closed for a long time, there was a provision for giving long-lasting insecticidal nets. Currently, we have distributed 72.5 lakh nets in the North-Eastern States. These

were for the Seven States of the North-East. Similarly, 50 lakh long-lasting insecticidal nets are under pipeline for Odisha and 35 lakh nets have been given for Jharkhand State, 32 lakh nets have been given for Chhattisgarh State. In this way, our effort is to provide long-lasting nets, so that malaria mosquitoes can also be controlled even in this manner.

HON. SPEAKER: This question is related to health, and many Members wish to ask questions about it. If short questions are to be asked without a speech, I can permit it.

[English]

DR. KULAMANI SAMAL: Madam, the reply tabled by the Hon. Minister mentions that for prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, the Central Government does not provide funds to the urban local bodies directly. I fail to understand the justification for this policy. A lot of people are dying due to this disease. The State Governments are having many health-related challenges to attend to and the Central Government should not restrict itself to issuing advisories. My question is, would the Central Government consider starting a Central sector scheme to provide funds to the urban local bodies directly?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, as far as vector-borne diseases are concerned, health comes under the residual part. When the person gets afflicted with that disease, then he comes to the Health Department. There are many stakeholders involved in this, whom we have to take along with us. This work has to be done through the State government, Municipality, and the Urban local bodies. I want to bring to your attention, that we do not spend this fund, but the 14th Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 69,715 crore for Urban areas and Rs. 1,80,262 crore for Rural bodies, under the Swachh Bharat Mission for Panchayats. The heads under which this is given are basic services like water supply, sanitation, septic management, sewage and solid waste management. Under all these heads, the 14th Finance Commission have given Rs. 69,715 crore for urban areas and Rs. 1,80,262 crore for Rural bodies. *[English]* So, this fund directly goes to the panchayats and urban bodies, and they have to make a micro plan accordingly for septic management, waste management, etc. so that the burden of the disease is reduced.

DR. MRIGANKA MAHATO: Madam Speaker, vector-borne diseases cause a great deal of morbidity and mortality in rural India. It had been found that at the Primary Health Centre level which covers most of the village panchayats, there is no minimum

infrastructure like laboratory facilities or lab technicians. Would the Central Government in coherence with State Governments take up this matter as a challenge to improve the situation further, with regular monitoring and vigilance in this matter?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, we have taken it as a challenge. As I said, we have been able to arrest malaria. We have been able to curtail and bring down kala azar incidents a lot and filaria also reduced. We are trying to do our best, but it is the State Governments who have to take the initiative. If they come out with a programme, the Central Government is always there to help them. We give them technical support and we give them the capacity-building support.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam Speaker, I would like to seek your permission to ask a question from here.

Madam, as the Minister has provided the figures, the mortality rate due to dengue has increased over the past two years. Last year, 137 people died from dengue and the death toll increased to 220 people the following year. Dengue is causing most casualties in many states like Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi, etc.

Through you, I appeal to the government to consider providing more financial assistance and technical support to the states where dengue disease is most prevalent. Is the central government considering any specific measures in this regard?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam Speaker, since January 2016 to till now, we have given about 10 advisories for dengue and have done three video conferencing with eleven states where it has the maximum impact. I have conducted a video conference with ministers and under-secretaries. Our Secretary, have met the Head of vector-borne diseases. *[English]* We have made all types of arrangements as far as the kits are concerned and constantly we are asking them to let us know if they have any problems. We have given them the training also. We have also seen to it that further training is given at the grassroots level by their people. So, we have trained the master trainers and the master trainers have been training them also.

As far as financial support goes, all types of financial support are there. We are vigilant in this regard. *[Translation]* Urban bodies are also involved in eliminating dengue. We have instructed urban bodies to provide information about vector-borne diseases. We have launched an app called, 'Act Against Dengue'. We are also

providing all the information on that app. We are striving to ensure that the Central government provides all types of logistic support to the State government.

[English]

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Minister for his detailed reply. These vector-borne diseases are more prevalent in the rural areas and tribal areas than in the urban areas. Even today the basic challenge in those areas is the diagnosis facilities which are yet to be streamlined. The Central Government launched the National Vector-Borne Diseases Programme in 2015 under the Rural Health Mission. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if that programme, which has already been launched, has made any progress in creating proper diagnostic and treatment facilities in the rural areas and the tribal areas. Many people are dying in the tribal areas because of these diseases. What are the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard with the involvement of the State Governments?

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, in N.H.M. there are larger Economic Action Groups and similarly there are separate programs for hilly states. *[English]* Weightage has been given in

finances as far as NHM is concerned. As far as the diagnosis part is concerned, I said that in 2007 there were 110 sentinel services and now we have 527 sentinel services. We have 15 apex referral laboratories and at the same time, sentinel sites have been increased from 51 to 121. Wherever the States have been asking for capacity building, funds are being given and the States are accordingly responding.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Madam, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, that more than sixty lakh cases of Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis C, which are similar to diseases like malaria and dengue, are detected in the entire country. World Hepatitis Day was celebrated yesterday. Is the Government of India going to celebrate this year as the theme year to eliminate Hepatitis B and C from India and I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to what steps the Government has taken to prevent Hepatitis B and C?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, there is an ongoing awareness program for Hepatitis B and C, and we will provide whatever support is required. I would definitely request all the Hon. Members who are chairpersons of the constituted District Level Vigilance and Health Committees. I would like to request that all

these health issues should be addressed in their respective districts.... (*Interruptions*) Committees have been formed, specific dates have also been given for the same. You may call for a meeting, and after calling the meeting, discuss [*English*] on all issues related to health and NHM, it is your responsibility. Members of Parliament have been given this power. They are the Chairmen of the District Level Vigilance Committees. They have to see whether in their districts all types of activities are going on or not.

(Q.184)

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate the Hon. Minister for taking the initiative for starting 150 One Stop Centres in our country.

The Central Government and the State Governments are the authorities to make sure that no rapist will go unpunished in our country. We want to ensure that the punishment meted out is severe enough and swift enough. Is the Government kind enough to start a fast-track court in each State and see that all the processes take place in that court and punishment is given within one month?

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Madam Speaker, this question is so far out of the ambit of the asked question, and it does not really fall under me. I do not have the authority to ask for fast-track courts or to change the law in any way.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Hon. Speaker Madam, I asked this question because a sum of Rs. 3,000 crore is lying idle with the Government. I do not want to criticize the Hon. Minister because most of the money is pending with other Departments and not with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, even though the Hon. Supreme Court criticized it severely. My question is whether the Hon. Minister and the

Government are ready to utilize the sanctioned money and whether we can start a one-stop centre in each district.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): It is from Madam through Madam to Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is also about women.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the idea is really to start one One-Stop centre in every district. In the first phase, we were allowed 36 centres and we received 33 requests from the State Governments. We sent them the money and 17 One Stop Centres have been built. We did a survey on those 17 centres and we found that they are truly helping thousands of women. So, we entered into phase two and now we have 150 centres which will be ready by April. If that goes well, we aim for 660 or more, if necessary.

There is no unspent money. If the Hon. Member is referring to Nirbhaya Fund which comes under us, it is being used for a variety of schemes all of which are going towards the defence of women. Regarding the Hon. Member's request on Fast Track Courts, I can

only request the Hon. Law Minister and his Ministry and see where it goes.

HON. SPEAKER: All supplementary are from men now.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government for launching the scheme "One Stop Centre" especially for the women affected by violence. Among the proposals that have come from Uttar Pradesh, there is one from my area Banda also. The Hon. Minister has stated in response that it is operational there, but the details have not been received yet. I would like to say that, it has not been properly implemented yet, and there is currently no arrangement there. I would like to ask the Minister to initiate discussions with the State government to start it. Uttar Pradesh is anyway a very big state, where no work is going to be done from one centre. There should be at least four-five such centres in Uttar Pradesh because its population and area are very large. However, a centre has opened in my area, Banda, and I am proud of it. I also want to congratulate the government on the proposal that has come, which includes the opening of at least one centre in Banda. It has not been properly arranged yet. What efforts will the Hon. Minister make for its proper implementation? So that

women can benefit from it, which is the intention of our government. What efforts will you make for that?

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Madam Speaker, this has been appointed for 15 districts in Uttar Pradesh, out of which we have already sent money for Banda. *[English]* The amount of money that is sent is Rs. 81.10 lakh for building it and Rs. 43 lakhs for running it. The point is that the State Government has to run it. We can only give the money. If the State Government is not sending the money and not running it, we will take it up with the State Government, because I am personally, and my Ministry is totally committed to providing this infrastructure for women.

SHRI NINONG ERING: Thank you, Speaker Madam.

I am grateful to the Hon. Minister Madam that out of the Nirbhaya Fund that was allocated these One Stop Centres have started to function; not only in the main cities but all through the country it is being implemented. I would like to put a very small question. I come from the North-East. You would see that there is a lot of discrimination in all the cities whether it is Mumbai, Bangalore, or Chandigarh. There all these One Stop Centres especially for ladies. We have just seen in the recent incident where three Sikkim girls were raped by the owner and the case has been

taken up and also the case of Monica Khangembam who had been discriminated in the airport. These kind of issues are there. So, in these cities can we not have a special for the North-East where these complaints can be looked into? I would also support Madam's case regarding the fast-track courts because our children study here for three years and go back; after that they do not go into cases again. So, I think, you should fast-track courts also.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I think, the first suggestion is a good one but I do not know whether it is practical. We already have for instance in Delhi a Delhi Women's Cell; we have a National Commission for Women. Both take in cases from everybody whether they are from the North-East or South or Delhi itself.

Regarding putting up centres, we have taken up a list of how many of our Centres that are working are actually catering to women. While Raipur is doing the best Meghalaya where we put up our first Centre has got nothing, no one. So, it is up to the States in the North-East how well they do it. For Sikkim, we want one; one for Mizoram; two for Manipur; one for Arunachal; one for Meghalaya; and one for Nagaland. The point is you have to make them work. It has been almost a year since Meghalaya Centre started

but the fact that not a single woman has entered the place means either you have a wonderful track record where crime against women is concerned or it is not working.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): I would like to know whether the Ministry has constituted any committee or panel to ensure proper and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Verma Committee recommendations regarding women's safety.

HON. SPEAKER: There is a Women's Empowerment Committee itself.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: It actually does not come under this Question at all but we have put up a committee to ensure that some of the points made by the Verma Committee are looked into.

(Q. 185)

[Translation]

SHRI ANOOP MISHRA : Madam, today there has been a lot of discussion on health, but one fundamental issue that causes concern to the states is that when the National Health Mission started, the state's share was 15 percent, then it became 25 percent, and now the state's participation has increased to 40 percent.

I just want to know from the Hon. Minister, that in future, will there be parity or will the states have to contribute more and the centre will contribute less? Is there such a plan for the future?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, when the 14th Finance Commission report came, therein the Devolution of Funds increased from 32 to 42 percent, at the same time a committee of Chief Ministers was formed and the same has decided as to how the distribution would be made in terms of centrally sponsored schemes. It was decided therein to maintain the 60:40 ratio, and it is being implemented accordingly.

Shri Anoop Mishra : Madam, considering the increasing impact of the mother-infant mortality rate in the country, it was decided that maternity wings will be upgraded rapidly , effectively and be made ultra-modern and their OTs will be improvised. Under the National

Health Mission, in which the States send separate action plans to the Central Government, will the Central Government make any separate provision of funds to the states to reduce the mother-infant mortality rate? The second thing is that will there be any separate provision made for the district hospitals which were built earlier and where the number of beds is less, but their capacity needs to be increased in proportion to the population?

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda : Madam, there are five components under N.H.M. As far as N.H.M. is concerned, he talked about, *[English]* Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), which means taking care of the mother right from the day she gets pregnant till delivery and after that the child for two years for Immunization Program. After that, give them iron and folic acid. *[Translation]* Along with that, until they become adolescents, we have provided this care system in RMNCH. In addition to this, under N.H.M funding has been provided for all these like taking mothers to delivery institutions for delivery, dropping them back, and taking care of them if there are any complications in between,. There is a PIP, in which the state government makes its own program implementation plans. In that PIP, components like strengthening health facilities, capacity

building, human resource development, their salary disbursement are all part of a flexible pool. We provide funds to states according to the manner they demand for it.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You have asked. Ask later.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sharad Tripathi ji, where is your seat?

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Hon. Speaker, thank you very much. I would like permission to speak from this seat. Our seat is next to the pillar. I have already made a request earlier as well.

HON. SPEAKER: The pillar is over there.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Yes, there too one has to speak from another seat.

HON. SPEAKER: Jumped so high, like Hanuman ji.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: I seek your special grace. Please allow me to speak from here.

HON. SPEAKER: Sure, go ahead. But it's been quite a big leap.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Hon. Speaker, thank you very much. My starred question was being coming for several days, you've given me the opportunity today, special thanks for that.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to say through you, that under the efficient guidance of our Hon. Prime Minister, our Hon. Health Minister has provided extensive figures from Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee to the funds allocated by the Indian government so far to improve the health of the entire country. I would like to say through you that the largest state of the country is Uttar Pradesh, where the maximum population lives. The Hon. Minister has sent the maximum amount of funds there through the health department. I would like to know how much money has been sent by the Centre to the Uttar Pradesh government till now, and how much has been utilized by the Uttar Pradesh Government so far. Also, I'm interested in knowing whether the regular meetings of the health committee are being held or not, and whether MPs are being specifically invited to those meetings or not?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I would like to inform everyone through this question, that the notification has been issued, and you all have received it. You need to look at it. Madam, 645 District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been

constituted. We have also specified the dates. Now no Deputy Commissioner or CMO can say that I am not available for it. For the first quarter, the last Saturday of May is the day on which the District Vigilance Monitoring Committee will meet. For the second quarter, it's the first Saturday of August. This is coming on August 6th. On August 6th, there will be a meeting of District Level Monitoring Committee, whose chairperson is all of you Hon. Members. ... (*Interruptions*) I will answer... (*Interruptions*)

The third quarter falls on the first Saturday of November. The fourth quarter falls on the first Saturday of February. These dates have been specified, and if a Member of Parliament is not available on that day, on his instruction the date will be shifted, to a date suitable to the Member of Parliament. We have given him such huge power from the Vigilance Committee's point of view and from the health point of view. We have also stated that funds will be released accordingly when these committee meetings take place regularly. So, we are also trying to see to it, that they become accountable to you and go through that committee.

12.00 hours

As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, we have given funds to everyone. Hon. Member has asked about the figures till date. I do not have the data till date, but if you ask us about this year, then about Rs.1,431 crore is yet to be spent by Uttar Pradesh, meaning Uttar Pradesh has Rs 1,431 crore unspent, which they should have spent. We want them to spend it as early as possible, so that they can receive the additional funds we have for them.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of several adjournment motions.

These matters are important, but it is not necessary to disrupt the proceedings of the House for them, and I have not granted permission for adjournment motion. I will grant the permission to raise the same later at zero hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 186 to 200

Unstarred Question Nos. 2071 to 2300

*** 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.

12.02 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 462 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) Draft Notification No. F. No. 3/1/2015-CL.I providing exemptions/modifications under Section 462(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 to Specified IFSC Unlisted Public Companies which is licensed to operate by the Reserve Bank of India or the Securities and Exchange Board of India or the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India from the International Financial Services Centre located in an approved multi-services Special Economic Zone set-up under the SEZ Act, 2005 read with SEZ Rules, 2006 (herein after referred to as “Specified IFSC Public Company”).

- (ii) Draft Notification No. F. No. 3/1/2015-CL.I providing exemptions/modifications under Section 462(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 to Specified IFSC Private Companies which is licensed to operate by the Reserve Bank of India or the Securities and Exchange Board of India or the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India from the International Financial Services Centre located in an approved multi-services Special Economic Zone set-up under the SEZ Act, 2005 read with SEZ Rules, 2006 (herein after referred to as “Specified IFSC Private Company”).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4957/16/16]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980:-

- (i) Notification No. ICSI No. 1 of February, 2016 published in Gazette of India dated 5th February, 2016 establishing the Disciplinary Directorate in the Institute of Company Secretaries of India headed by Ms. Meenakshi Gupta, Joint Secretary, designated as the Director (Discipline) *w.e.f.* 4th February, 2016 in place of Shri Ashok Kumar Dixit.

- (ii) Notification No. ICSI No. 1 of April, 2016 published in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2016 establishing the Disciplinary Directorate, mentioned therein, in the Institute of Company Secretaries of India headed by Mrs. Meenakshi Gupta, Joint Secretary, who has been designated as Director (Discipline) by the Council of the Institute as notified in Notification No. ICSI No. 1 of February, 2016 dated 4th February, 2016 for making investigations in respect of any information or complaint received by it.
- (iii) G.S.R.539(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R.490(E) dated 13th July, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4958/16/16]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949:-

- (i) S.O.1634(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th May, 2016 establishing a Tribunal consisting of the persons, mentioned therein, to decide disputes arising under Section 10A of the Act in the matter of election to the Council of

the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India held in December, 2015.

- (ii) S.O.1940(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd June, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1634(E) dated 4th May, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4959/16/16]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959:-

- (i) G.S.R.541(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th May, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R.1693(E) dated 3rd October, 2007.
- (ii) G.S.R.498(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th May, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R.787(E) dated 15th October, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4960/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the

Establishment of New Medical College (Opening of New or Higher Course of Study or Training and Increase of Admission Capacity by a Medical College) Amendment Regulations, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 12-6/2001-CCH(Pt.-II) in weekly Gazette of India dated 13th May, 2016 under sub-section (2) of Section 33 of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4961/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R.443(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th April, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-C.E., dated 17th March, 2012.

- (ii) G.S.R.488(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2011-C.E., dated 1st March, 2011.
- (iii) G.S.R.489(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2011-C.E., dated 1st March, 2011.
- (iv) G.S.R.490(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-C.E., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (v) G.S.R.491(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 49/2008-C.E.(N.T.), dated 24th December, 2008.
- (vi) G.S.R.492(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four notifications, mentioned therein.

- (vii) The CENVAT Credit (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.512(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (viii) G.S.R.525(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-C.E., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (ix) The CENVAT Credit (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.555(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) G.S.R.599(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th June, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 214/86-C.E., dated 25th March, 1986.
- (xi) G.S.R.600(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th June, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 67/95-C.E., dated 16th March, 1995.

- (xii) G.S.R.679(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2016 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-C.E., dated 17th March, 2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4962/16/16]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R.444(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th April, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R.485(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (iii) G.S.R.486(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

- (iv) G.S.R.487(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 24/2005-Cus., dated 1st March, 2005.
- (v) G.S.R.526(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated 23rd July, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R.535(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 96/2008-Cus., dated 13th August, 2008.
- (vii) G.S.R.548(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 27/2011-Cus., dated 1st March, 2011.
- (viii) G.S.R.607(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 27/2011-Cus., dated 1st March, 2011.

- (ix) G.S.R.611(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.
- (x) G.S.R.615(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 96/2008-Cus., dated 13th August, 2008.
- (xi) G.S.R.616(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 53/2011-Cus., dated 1st July, 2011.
- (xii) G.S.R.671(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 27/2011-Cus., dated 1st March, 2011.
- (xiii) G.S.R.678(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4963/16/16]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

- (i) G.S.R.538(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R.550(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 30/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (iii) G.S.R.551(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt such taxable services from whole of Krishi Kalyan Cess leviable thereon which are either exempt from the whole of service tax or otherwise not leviable to service tax and to provide that abatements shall be applicable for computing Krishi Kalyan Cess.
- (iv) G.S.R.552(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in Notification No. 39/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.

- (v) G.S.R.553(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 12/2013-Service Tax dated 1st July, 2013.
- (vi) The Service Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.554(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) G.S.R.575(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (viii) The Service Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.576(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) G.S.R.577(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in Notification No. 30/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.

- (x) G.S.R.623(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable services from the whole of Krishi Kalyan Cess leviable thereon with respect to which the invoice for the service has been issued on or before 31st May, 2016 subject to the condition that the provision of the service has been completed on or before 31st May, 2016.
- (xi) G.S.R.624(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on taxable services by way of transportation of goods by as vessel from outside India upto customs station in India with respect to which the invoice for the service has been issued on or before 31st May, 2016 subject to the condition of production of customs certified copy of the import manifest or import report required to be delivered under section 30 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (xii) G.S.R.510(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum directing that any reference to 'Clean Energy Cess', in the rules,

notifications, instructions, decisions, or orders, made or issued under the Finance Act, 2010 shall be construed as references to 'Clean Environment Cess'.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4964/16/16]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

- (i) G.S.R.696(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 23/2012-Customs (ADD) dated 4th May, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R.697(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 6/2016-Customs (ADD) dated 8th March, 2016.
- (iii) G.S.R.698(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Plain Medium Density Fibre Board having thickness of 6mm and

above' originating in or exported from Indonesia and Vietnam, for a period of five years.

- (iv) G.S.R.442(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th April, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Synchronous Digital Hierarchy Transmission Equipment, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and Israel, for a period of five years from the date of imposition i.e. 26th April, 2016 pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti- dumping and Allied Duties.
- (v) G.S.R.477(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Measuring Tapes, originating in, or exported from Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam for a period of five years from the date of imposition, that is, 2nd May, 2016 pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.
- (vi) G.S.R.509(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to

levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Digital Versatile Discs-Recordable (DVD-R), originating in, or exported from Vietnam and Thailand, for a period of five years from the date of imposition, that is, 13th May, 2016 pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

- (vii) G.S.R.527(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on the imports of "Seamless tubes, pipes & hollow profiles of iron, alloy or non-alloy steel (other than cast iron and stainless steel), whether hot finished or cold drawn or cold rolled of an external diameter not exceeding 355.6 mm or 14 "OD", originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, for a period of six months in the manner prescribed, pursuant to the preliminary findings of the Designated Authority, Director General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties.
- (viii) G.S.R.534(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments

in Notification No. 40/2012-Customs (ADD) dated 30th August, 2012.

- (ix) G.S.R.557(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on 'Coumarin' of all types, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China, for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier).
- (x) G.S.R.565(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on 'Dichloromethane (Methylene Chloride)' of all types, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China or Russia, for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier), from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty i.e. from the 08th December, 2015.
- (xi) G.S.R.566(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on "Methyl Acetoacetate", originating in or exported from USA and China

PR, for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier).

(xii) G.S.R.574(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)", originating in or exported from Russia, for a period of five years (unless, revoked, superseded or amended earlier), pursuant to the final findings of sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General' of Anti-dumping .and Allied Duties.

(xiii) G.S.R.581(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe for finalization of provisional assessments of all imports of Vitrified/Porcelain tiles, produced by M/s Foshan Sanshui Romantic Ceramics Co Limited, China PR (Producer-1), and Heyuan Romantic Ceramics Company Limited, China PR (Producer-2) and exported by Foshan Beyond Import and Export Company Limited, China PR (Shipper) and Thai Impex Malaysia SDN BHD, Malaysia (Exporter) to India, which have been subjected to provisional assessment pursuant to the Notification No. 35/2012-Customs (ADD), dated the 10th

July, 2012. This finalization is consequent to final findings of new shipper review vide notification No. 15/25/2011- DGAD, dated 28th March, 2016 by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties and is to be done as per the rate prescribed by the Notification No. 82/2008- Customs, dated the 27th June, 2008.

- (xiv) G.S.R.582(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 35/2012-Cus.(ADD), dated 10th July, 2012.
- (xv) G.S.R.596(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Pentaerythritol, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 13th June, 2017, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.
- (xvi) G.S.R.622(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on "Poly Vinyl Chloride

(PVC) Paste Resin" originating in or exported from Korea RP, Taiwan, China PR, Malaysia, Thailand and European Union for a period of five years.

- (xvii) G.S.R.664(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid, including its variants Medium Quality Terephthalic Acid (MTA) and Qualified Terephthalic Acid (QTA), originating in or exported from People's Republic of China, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Taiwan, pursuant to Final Findings in anti-dumping investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties, for a period of five years from the date of imposition of provisional anti- dumping duty i.e. 10th December, 2015 (except for the period from 10th June 2016 to 4th July, 2016).
- (xviii) G.S.R.685(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No.7/2016-Customs (ADD) dated 8th March, 2016.
- (xix) G.S.R.675(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to

impose definitive anti-dumping duty on 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane or R -134a originating in or exported from People's Republic of China pursuant to Final Findings in anti-dumping investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties, for a period of five years..

(xx) G.S.R.676(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 61/2011-Cus., dated 15th July, 2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4965/16/16]

(5) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R.630(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 110/2015-Cus.,(N.T.) dated 16th November, 2015 under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4966/16/16]

(6) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R.511(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2016, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 1/2016-Infrastructure Cess dated 1st March, 2016 under Section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 read with sub-clause (3) of clause 159 the Finance Bill, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4967/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Gurgaon, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Gurgaon, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4968/16/16]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Market Borrowings by Central Government during 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4969/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4970/16/16]

12.03 hours**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA**

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

- (i) “In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2016 agreed without any amendment to the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2016.”
 - (ii) In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th July, 2016 agreed without any amendment to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2016.”
-

12.03 ½ hours

NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEE

**Joint Committee on Right to Fair Compensation and
Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and
Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015**

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

"That this House appoint Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Pankaj Chaudhary and Smt. Santosh Ahlawat, to serve as Members of the Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 *vice* Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Smt. Krishna Raj, resigned from the Joint Committee after their appointment as Ministers."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do appoint Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Pankaj Chaudhary and Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat to serve as members of the Joint Committee on The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition,

Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 *vice* Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Shrimati Krishna Raj resigned from the Joint Committee on their appointment as Ministers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to the Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to appoint three members of to serve as members of the Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015, *vice* Shri Jairam Ramesh, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Rajpal Singh Saini, retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to appoint three members of Rajya Sabha to serve as members of the Joint Committee on The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 *vice* Shri Jairam Ramesh, Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Rajpal Singh Saini retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names

of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

12.04 hours

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance¹*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4971/16/16.

12.04 ½ hours**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

*With your permission Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 1st of August, 2016 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills: -
 - (a) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016;
 - (b) The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016;
3. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

* Laid on the Table

4. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment) Bill, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Mental Health Care Bill, 2013, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
6. Discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2016-17.
7. Introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I hereby give notice of my intention to make a submission on Statement by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs regarding Government Business for the following week, commencing from 1st August, 2016, on the following matters, namely –

1. The urgent need for revision of the definition of “River Conservation Zones” under the draft notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the State of Kerala.
2. The need to address the rejection of Indian students’ visas on grounds that they could be involved in “the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” which implies doubts about India’s exemplary record of Non-Proliferation.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam Speaker, I request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week:

1. The funds announced by the U.P.A. government for the library and research centre of the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Foundation, located in Ranip, Ahmedabad, have not yet been allocated. It should be allotted immediately so that the students can get its full benefits.
2. A six-lane National Highway should be constructed connecting Somnath and Dwarka.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray: Not present.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

[English]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Madam, I request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week –

1. Despite several meetings with the mobile operators, directions from TRAI to them, the issue of frequent call drops of cell companies has not been resolved. The mobile companies are

least bothered to adhere to TRAI directives. Consumers are suffering. Harassment of double abnormal non-transparent billing, call drops and exploitation of consumers by these companies. Discussion is needed on the issue.

2. In the name of solar power project some influential people are indulging into land grabbing, money laundering activities. It is observed in Bikaner belt of Rajasthan and Kerala. Discussion is needed to pin down such type of activities and take action against the perpetrators of such scam.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Madam, I request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week :-

1. In my native state Bihar, especially in my parliamentary constituency Sheohar, distribution of nutritious food to the children of Anganwadi centres and mid-day meal schools has not been done for the last three months, even though the Central government has provided equal funding. A commission system has been adopted for nutrition, mid-day meals, and public distribution system in Bihar. For the success of these important schemes of the Centre, a C.B.I. investigation should be conducted.

2. In my native state Bihar, especially my parliamentary constituency Sheohar, there has been below-average rainfall this year, resulting in farmers not being able to access water for their fields. Farmers' fields are drying up. With regret, I must inform the House, that the Bihar Government has not yet declared the drought-affected districts of Bihar as drought-prone areas.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Madam, I request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week :-

1. A proposal to link the Sakri-Nata river in my parliamentary constituency, Nalanda, was sent to the Central Government, which has been turned down. Linking of this river could facilitate irrigation in thousands of acres of land in Nalanda, Sheikhpura, and Nawada, which could have an impact on farmers' productivity. Therefore, I request the Central government to link the Sakri-Nata River under the ambitious river-linking project of the government.

2. The fishing community in Bihar belongs to the Extremely Backward Class, and a proposal has been sent to the central government to include them in the Scheduled Caste category. However, this proposal has not been approved yet. Despite that the promise of their inclusion in the the Scheduled Castes was made by the Hon. Prime Minister Sir during the elections. Therefore, I request the central government to provide approval for including the fishing community in the Scheduled Caste category.

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (MAHARAJGANJ): Madam, I request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business of Lok Sabha for the next week 1.8.16 to 5.8.16:-

The lands of both the Central government and Public Sector Enterprises are lying idle across the country. Encroachment is taking place on vacant lands. Many projects of the Center are pending due to shortage of land. Information about all such lands should be collected and their data should be compiled in one place for their utilization in various schemes.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Madam Speaker, I would request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week :-

1. There is a need to provide a revival package to Instrumentation, a Government of India undertaking in Kota, Rajasthan, to emerge from the economic crisis.
2. The apprenticeship workers of the West Central Railway's Kota Division need to be appointed on par with workers from other zones.

[English]

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Madam, the following item may be taken for discussion during the next week's business:

In my constituency, Krishnagiri, there are 15,000 persons living in 30 villages and surrounding village panchayats like Vadamangalam, Puliampatti, Dhamodarahalli, Kudimenahalli. These villagers do not get mobile network properly. The people of these villages are suffering so much to convey their messages with each other. They had contacted the BSNL authorities but no fruitful action has been taken since then. So they are shifting their BSNL connections to private providers.

Hence, a mobile tower is very important in Pannandur to cover the four village panchayats.

[Translation]

PROF. RAVINDRA VISWANATH GAIKWAD (OSMANABAD): Madam Speaker, I would request you to include the following issues for discussion in the List of Business for next week :-

1. Post offices have their self-owned premises at all places in my parliamentary constituency Osmanabad. However, postal offices have been operating in rented buildings for years. I request the

government to allocate funds for the construction of postal buildings on the land allotted to all postal offices because the construction of postal buildings is extremely necessary.

2. There is an urgent need to open a branch of the State Bank of India in the Lohara tehsil of my parliamentary constituency, Osmanabad. The demand from farmers in the surrounding villages for adequate banking services has been rising for many years. The opening of a branch of the State Bank of India in Lohara will be beneficial for the farmers.

12.12 hours**SUBMISSION BY MEMBER**

Re: Reported attack and hurling of abuse on two Muslim women in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly carrying beef

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, I will speak very politely. You are asking to speak in sweet language. I don't know how to speak sweetly, but the facts are such that the government might get a little upset. When the public is in distress, it is our duty to put forward our views before the House and the people of this country.

This incident happened three days ago. An incident of assault on two Muslim women in suspicion of beef has come to light in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh. ... (*Interruptions*) Allegedly, it was wrongly spread that the Muslim women were carrying beef. BJP workers are targeting Dalits and Muslims under the guise of cow protection... (*Interruptions*) Women have been targeted. It was referred to the Animal Husbandry Department. The doctor there said that this is not cow meat, it is buffalo meat. Despite this, the women were beaten up in front of the police, in the name of cow protection. Despite the presence of the police there, they were beaten up. Even

as per the statement of the two women it was said to them,. They said - “We pleaded with them.” When they were being beaten, they repeatedly requested that they had not done anything. This is buffalo meat, it's allowed... (*Interruptions*) We have purchased this and we have the receipt and permission for it. They showed the receipt. They tore up that receipt and kept trying to beat them. ... (*Interruptions*) The women said, “We pleaded with them that this *pada*, is buffalo calf meat, and not cow meat but they did not listen and kept beating us.”, said the two women who were released on bail.

If the cow protectors and BJP and RSS workers say such things... (*Interruptions*) this has happened... (*Interruptions*) Who gave them the authority... (*Interruptions*) Who gave the authority to do policing... (*Interruptions*) Whatever they have done... (*Interruptions*) Whenever there is support of the Government... (*Interruptions*) And there is the support of the State government as well, such actions can happen at that time only ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No allegations will go on record.

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

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, this is happening everywhere... (*Interruptions*) Dalits of Gujarat are being subjected as well...(*Interruptions*) Today it has happened in UP... (*Interruptions*) Husband and wife were killed for fifteen rupees... (*Interruptions*) their lives were taken for fifteen rupees... (*Interruptions*) These incidents are increasing every day. (*Interruptions*) I want to tell you that every 18 minutes a crime is committed against the Dalits. Everyday three Dalit women are raped; two Dalits are murdered. Two Dalits' houses are burnt in India. Eleven Dalits are beaten. Every week 13 Dalits are murdered. Five Dalits' homes or possessions are burnt. Sikh Dalits are kidnapped or abducted. I want to bring this to your attention. This is not my statistics but those of the National Crime Record Bureau. (*Interruptions*) They have said that so far 47,064 crimes have been committed... (*Interruptions*) That means crimes are increasing, not decreasing.

HON. SPEAKER: This is a social evil.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I know, you will say that these incidents haven't just started today; they've been going on

for a long time. But after you came into power, it has only worsened...* (*Interruptions*) It's on you, it's on your government...* (*Interruptions*) This is happening everywhere in the state... (*Interruptions*) That's why no action has been taken against them... (*Interruptions*).

HON. SPEAKER: No allegations will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down, not everyone will speak, please associate and give your name in writing.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Mohammed Badruddoja Khan, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Dr. Mamta Sanghamita, Shri P. Karunakaran, Shri P. K. Biju, Shri D. K. Suresh and Dr. Thokchom Menya are granted permission to be associated with the subject raised by Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge.

What is this happening? Mr. Kharge, please take a seat, you have made your point.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Home Affairs wants to say something. You should sit down. Please mute the sweet voice. You have made your point, now sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It's not necessary to bring up the same issue every day. This is zero hour, not much happens in zero hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please take a seat, that's not how it works. Everyone please take a seat, when the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is standing and addressing you.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please listen to the Hon. Home Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Only the statement of the Hon. Home Minister will go on record. Nothing else will go on record. Only the statement of the Home Minister will go on record.

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

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH):

Hon. Speaker Madam, I have stood up to respond to the same issue raised by Kharge ji. Shri Kharge ji and the entire House are well aware that the issue of Law and Order is a State subject.

Madam Speaker, another thing to note is regarding the incident which they have mentioned, our Madhya Pradesh Government has taken prompt and effective action and the entire matter is being investigated. I want to assure the House that there will be justice, and those who are guilty will not be spared.

* Not recorded

12.22 hours

*(S/Shri Kalyan Banerjee Mallikarjun kharge and some other
Hon. Members then left the House.)*

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Madam, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the ambitious "Namami Gange" initiative of the Central Government has recently been launched with grand programs organized at hundreds of locations across the country. The central government has currently allocated a budget provision of Rs 20,000 crore for this, out of which Rs 2,000 crore has been sanctioned in the initial phase.

Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to convey that a number of State Governments are taking very little interest in it, which is causing obstacles in work and Bihar and Uttar Pradesh governments are stalling on some of their terms, causing unnecessary delays in issuing no objection certificates (NOCs). Along with this, interference from several municipal bodies is also hindering the work to start smoothly, which is being used by opponents to spread misinformation and tarnish the reputation of the central government and all of the MPs. The intention of these State Governments does

not seem to be right. Despite the generosity of the Central Government, the indifference and non-cooperative attitude of many, especially the Government of Bihar and the district administration glaringly evident in the inauguration of "Namami Gange", which could create significant difficulties in the future.

I would like to request that under the first phase of "Namami Gange" initiative, an estimate should be prepared for Siddhnath Ghat, Laxminarayan Samadhi Ghat, Chausa Ghat, etc. of Buxar, and these should be constructed by connecting them all. Apart from this, electric crematoriums should also be set up along the banks of Ganga at Buxar, Hajipur, Sonpur, Patna, Mokama, Munger, Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahalgaon, and Rajmahal, Sahibganj of Jharkhand.

Madam Speaker, keeping the current scenario in mind, the Central Government should formulate a separate central policy for the success of the "Namami Gange" project and make efforts to bring it as a new bill in the current session itself. Only then the work will be completed well and on time and the dream of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Central Government will be realized.

Madam Speaker, in addition to this, there is a need to urgently discuss and implement the reports of Estimates Committee of Lok Sabha and other relevant committees in order to remove its additional water-disciplinary list from the states and put it in the Central List. A clear policy announcement by the central government is necessary on this matter in order to ensure the uninterrupted flow and purity of the Ganga and other rivers.

Madam Speaker, apart from this, effective steps should be taken to ensure strict compliance at the State Governments and other levels by amending the Water Pollution Prevention and Restriction Act, 1974 as required. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Long pages are not to be read during Zero Hour. How many times do I need to say this?

....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I permit Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri B. Sriramulu, Dr. Manoj Rajoria and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel to associate with the matter presented to the House by the Hon. Member Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

[English]

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU (BELLARY): Madam Speaker, "The Supreme Court on Friday (7 August 2015) slammed railways for the unmanned railway crossings which take a heavy toll of human lives and asked the government why it was introducing new trains without first ensuring the safety of the people.

A social justice bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and U U Lalit said the Law enacted in 1989 for doing away with unmanned level crossings has not been implemented by the railways to give a road map for manning such crossings.

"Why do you bring more trains when you cannot protect the lives of people? Human life cannot be treated so cheaply. Safety is very important and you must take it seriously," the bench said.

Speaker Madam, this is the observation made by Honourable Supreme Court published in Times of India dated 8 August 2015.

On 24 August 2015 early hours, a granite loaded lorry rammed into 16594 Bangalore Purabhani (Nanded Express) at an unmanned Railway level crossing near Panagonda in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh (South Central Railway). The lorry rammed into HA 1 coach killing 6 people in the coach. 3 coaches were off the rake. Mr. Venkatesh Naik who represented Raichur Lok Sabha Constituency for 4 times and also sitting MLA from Devadurga

Assembly constituency who was travelling in this ill-fated train was crushed to death along with 5 other passengers.

Madam, there are 30,348 Railway Level Crossings in the country(as on today) in which 18, 785 are manned and 11,563 are unmanned that is responsible for 43 percent and 57 percent accidents respectively.

I suggest Railway Minister to man all unmanned rail level crossings on priority basis and also fix sensors on the track to a length of 100 meters on both directions of Railway track in all level crossings both manned and unmanned by using solar energy.

Human life cannot be treated so cheaply. Safety is very important and I request you to take it seriously.

Thank you Madam for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri B. Sriramalu.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to add regional languages, along with English and Hindi, in the medium of question papers of National Eligibility Test

conducted by the University Grants Commission in case the centre of examination selected is in non-Hindi speaking States.

A large number of incumbents are appearing in NET every year in all parts of the country to become eligible to be appointed as Lecturers and also for getting Junior Fellowships. Generally, the incumbents complete their Masters Degree course in the regional language of their respective States. Now, the Union Public Service Commission is also conducting the Civil Services Examination in regional languages. Even though the candidates have adequate knowledge in their respective subject, they are unable to succeed in NET mainly because of medium of question papers. This causes severe hardship to students of non-Hindi speaking States and makes them to feel that they are deprived of their rights of getting qualified for NET even though they are well versed in their subjects.

As far as education in Tamil Nadu is concerned, in order to develop infrastructure like providing adequate number of teachers and to improve the learning ability of students, the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has allotted Rs. 84,568 crore during the last five years. During the current financial year, *Amma* has allotted Rs. 24,130 crore to the Department of

School Education. I would like to point out that Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country in the field of higher education.

Therefore, I, once again, urge upon the Government of India to include all regional languages, including Tamil, in the medium of question papers of National Eligibility Test if the centre of examination selected by candidates is in their respective States.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMADNAGAR): Hon. Speaker, Ahmednagar has a protected monument. There is a dense population in the heart of the city. Under the Archaeological Department's Protected Monument Rules, 2010, any new development, reconstruction of old buildings, construction of new houses, or other development activities are prohibited within 300 meters of a protected monument. The importance of the protected monument is significant, but it is also the natural right of the city's residents in densely populated areas to benefit from amenities. I have been continuously striving since 1999, to amend the aforementioned rule and provide facilities to the city's residents, but no decision has yet been made. The Archaeology Department is functioning in a way that requires amendments to the laws made during the British era. It's a small matter, considering the

village is within a kilometre, whereas there's a restriction of 300 meters. Alright, you keep the monument safe. If we request permission, it takes one or one and a half years to obtain it. When you can grant permission, why don't you remove these restrictions? On one hand, you're granting permission, and on the other hand, you're not removing the restrictions.

I suggest that the Archaeology Department should reduce the boundary from 300 meters to 50 meters so that necessary improvements can be made in the city.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Kirit P Solanki and Shri Shiv Kumar Udasi, are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi.

Shri Alok Sanjar : Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak about Bhopal AIIMS today. When the former Prime Minister, Hon. Atal Ji, announced the opening of AIIMS, there was a wave of joy throughout Madhya Pradesh. I feel the need to organize Bhopal AIIMS in a manner similar to AIIMS in Delhi, in order to fulfil his dream. Hon. Lal Krishna Advani ji and Hon. Sushma Swaraj ji laid the foundation stone for this. It saddens me that Bhopal AIIMS has lagged behind by ten years. Bhopal AIIMS

remains incomplete even after a lapse of 13 years. I feel there is a need to focus on providing affordable, accessible, and convenient treatment to patients.

I would like to request the Health Minister through you to pay attention to the fact that for the past several months, or even years, the director-less AIIMS in Bhopal has been monitored by the director of Raipur AIIMS. Speaker Madam, if a full-time director is duly appointed in Bhopal 'AIIMS', then Bhopal 'AIIMS' will get justice. The image of Bhopal's AIIMS is getting tarnished in Bhopal newspapers. Recently, 'Navdunia' newspaper also conducted a signature campaign. I have received not just hundreds but thousands of postcards.

Madam Speaker, I would like to appeal that there is a shortage of doctors in Bhopal AIIMS. This is affecting the quality of medical treatment being provided to patients. During the past three years, a significant number of doctors have been leaving AIIMS. It is absolutely necessary to find out the reason behind this.

Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Government to take corrective steps in this regard at the earliest. There is a need to quickly fill vacant positions of doctors to ensure timely treatment and better facilities for patients. New faculty for increasing the

number of beds in hospitals should be opened so that the people of the region, especially in Madhya Pradesh, can benefit. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Rodmal Nagar are permitted to associate with the subject raised by Shri Alok Sanjar.

[English]

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak during 'Zero Hour'

The flood situation in Assam has worsened wherein 19 Districts with 16 lakh population have been affected. As per reports, at least, 17 people have been killed in these flash floods so far. Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Lakhimpur, Chirang, Baksha, Golaghat, Jorhat and Dhemaji Districts are badly affected. In view of the worsening situation in Assam, the Budget Session of Assam Assembly has been adjourned for four days. Also, a few days ago, devastating hailstorms and floods in three Districts of Barak Valley caused heavy damage taking lives of a few. So many people have lost their livelihood and the situation is deteriorating.

Madam, this has not happened only this year, but it has been happening every year. So, I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to form a special team of experts to find a solution to

eliminate the main barrier against the all round development of Assam and the people's lives there.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Naba Kumar Sarnia and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Radheshyam Biswas.

[Translation]

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR): Madam Speaker, thank you very much, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the important subject of MPLAD. Our government has imposed some restrictions in spending MPLAD funds. A new GR has been issued in this regard. In this provision, it is stated that if we need to build a community hall or cultural building in a village, but a hall has been built there by an MLA or anyone else five to ten years ago, or even twenty to twenty-five years ago, then we cannot build another hall there. There is a need to bring improvements in this provision because the population is increasing, and the community is growing. Hence, there is a need for multiple halls in such areas. We should get approval for this.

Secondly, there is a restriction on building a hall on the second floor as well. If there is no space in a small village and a hall has

already been built there, then there will be a need to build a hall on the second floor. We should get permission for this as well.

Madam Speaker, our country is a land of temples. Even if temples need halls or something needs to be done for the convenience of devotees, there are restrictions on that as well. If you notice, temples are properly cleaned because people worship there. Many devotees keep coming there. There should be permission to spend on temples for the convenience of devotees as well.

Thirdly, there are restrictions on spending even in our government offices. For example, in jails or many government offices, there is a need to provide libraries, books, etc., because there is a shortage of funds there. Therefore, there is a need to spend there as well.

Madam Chairperson, we are allowed to provide computers, but we cannot offer e-learning. E-learning is necessary for providing quality education to school children. There is one more very important topic. If we look at our constitution, it consists of six Legislative Assembly constituencies. In some areas, eight Legislative Assembly Constituencies are represented. Every MLA receives a fund of two crore rupees from the State government.

Madam Speaker, through you, I request the Government that our MPLAD should be at least Rs. 20 crore, so that it can be used to build necessary roads within the village. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Madam Speaker, this is a very important subject. Internal roads within the village are very crucial. It is necessary to have Gutters, STP, ETP plants. The MLA's funds fall short for all this. If we allocate funds from the MP's fund, all these tasks can be completed.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the government to grant us a fund of Rs. 25 crore for all these purposes. Thank you.

HON.SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Rajeev Satav, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri H. C. Meena are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dhananjay Mahadik.

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue concerning my Parliamentary Constituency.

Madam, there is excessive erosion from the Son River, North Koel and Amanat Rivers under the Palamu and Garhwa districts. This is not only eroding agricultural land, but people are being forced to migrate, especially from Kagal village to Salkhani on the banks of the North Koyal river, from Utare Road to Mohammadganj, the entire area of Asinagar in Bhajnia panchayat of Mohammadganj has been hit by erosion. When the water level in the river decreases, sand accumulates in agricultural land, making it unsuitable for cultivation. In such a situation, if timely and effective measures are not taken, a large number of people will be forced to migrate.

Through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, Government of India, to expedite the proposal from the State government and take immediate action thereon. This will help prevent the displacement of people in this area and provide relief to the public.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram.

DR. NEPAL SINGH (RAMPUR): Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I will put forward some problems of the Rampur parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh before you.

Madam, there are about 63 percent backward class and scheduled caste people in this area who have limited land holdings. These people have not yet received compensation for the crops they lost last year due to the weather conditions. The way compensation was politicized, it would not be unfair if I say that compensation has been given on the basis of injustice rather than justice. They are small-scale farmers. Today, the second monsoon has arrived, but these people have not received compensation. The compensation amount that the Central Government had provided has not yet been received from the State Government. In this injustice, the greatest contribution comes from the officials there. Some people have been given double compensation, some have had their rates changed, while others have not received anything at all. I have written several letters to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and Agriculture Minister regarding this matter, urging them to investigate the allocation of assistance funds from the Central Government to the district for compensation distribution. Action should be taken

against any officers involved in these irregularities and corruption. That is my demand.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rodmal Nagar are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Nepal Singh.

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on a special issue during Zero Hour. Arunachal Pradesh and the entire Assam are affected by floods every year. The affected area is still impacted by floods. I have raised this issue several times. The Jangmu Hydro Project has been started in China, affecting the Siang River, known as the Brahmaputra River in Assam, and impacting the environment and residents of the Tibetan region. The people of Tibet are protesting, stating that all these dams should not be built because downstream, which includes Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and other northeastern states, will be affected. There has been no agreement on water cooperation between our country and China. I also need to know about the provisions you are making for this and what special steps the Government is taking in this regard. Dams are also planned to be constructed in areas like Dagu, Jikshu, Jichya, and others. The summit of SEETU will be held in September 2016, and the BRICS

summit is scheduled to take place in Goa in October 2016. Therefore, I request the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to have an agreement with them to solve the water problem in the flood-affected areas of the Northeastern states. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Naba Kumar Saraniya, Shri Rajeev Satav and Shri George Baker are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ninong Ering.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject.

Madam, Delhi has a population of approximately 2.25 million. Registered medical practitioners, doctors, practice here. They come here with a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) degree from Bengal and the Northeast. When they practice in Delhi, the Delhi Medical Association and the Delhi Medical Council declare them illegal practitioners after a petition is filed in the Supreme Court, and they are not allowed to practice. In Delhi's population of approximately 2.25 million, nearly 1.5 million people reside in unauthorized colonies, villages, and slum settlements. Those doctors provide treatment for minor ailments such as viral infections and minor injuries like bruises, charging between 10 to 15 rupees for their services. Since they cannot afford the consultation

fee of Rs. 500 charged by bigger doctors, they resort to these local practitioners for their healthcare needs. Big hospitals charge fees. Government hospitals bear the burden. There are 40 thousand doctors. 10 thousand are practicing in Delhi. It is a question of their livelihood, but if affordable healthcare facilities are made available to the poor, they are banned from using those services by resorting to red tape. My request through you is to consider the livelihood of those R.M.P. doctors. They are a family of 40 thousand. Along with them, there are also millions of poor families who cannot afford treatment due to the high cost of medicines. When they go for treatment, they consult senior doctors at places like 'AIIMS' and others. Under pressure, they issued orders against those poor people. The Modi government is committed to the upliftment of the poor and ensuring they have access to various schemes, whether it's security insurance or life insurance, or providing better healthcare facilities to the underprivileged. Therefore, through you, I request that these doctors, who were health ministers during the Congress era and also during the BJP era, who were MBBS in Delhi, be paid attention to. These M.B.B.S. doctors also do not pay attention to this issue, so they do not think about the poor. Therefore, through you, I request that permission be granted to practice while keeping in mind the interests of both doctors and the poor. An ordinance should be

brought to the Parliament, focusing to pay attention towards the approximately 1.25 million poor people who are availing viral and other treatments at cheaper rates from those doctors. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Please refrain from stating that M.B.B.S. doctors do not treat the poor. Do not speak like that.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri ji.

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): Hon. Speaker, under the guidance of Hon. Prime Minister, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken the initiative to connect all the villages in the country that have not yet been linked to roads by the year 2019. This is a very challenging task, especially for hill states where the population is low and the area is vast. I want to bring to the ministry's attention that the ground-level work required for this task does not seem to be happening. I suspect that this work will not be done on time. In particular, I want to mention the Jammu and Kashmir government that this is the work of constructing the road. Firstly, a project report has to be prepared and submitted. This work has not yet been started there, which makes me sceptical about the

timely submission of the project report. The ministry should establish a regular schedule for reviewing it, so as to compel the state to send the project report to the centre on time.

Secondly, I represent the Ladakh region, which has a vast area but a very low population. Therefore, the settlements are scattered far and wide. The Rural development Ministry is considering to introduce flexibility in the rules of resettlement for Naxal-infested areas and North-Eastern states, with discussions underway to reduce the number from 250 to 150. My Ministry has proposed that there is no such remote area in the country as Ladakh. This area remains cut off from the road for 6 months. Where discussions are underway regarding exemptions in resettlement rules for Naxal areas and North States, I want to request that the Ladakh area should also be considered for exemptions in rules, and the resettlement of 150 should also be connected by road so that the people are not deprived of roads. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Thupstan Chhewang.

Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria - Absent.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK - SAWAI MADHOPUR): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. There is a demand of about 30 villages of Gangapur City tehsil of Sawai Madhopur district of my parliamentary constituency that a government bank should be opened in village Kushay and village Shahrauli. The distance between both the villages is approximately 10 km, and they have a combined population of about 20000 people. There is no branch of either a government bank or a private bank, which necessitates residents of Kushay and Shahrauli, as well as pensioners and government employees of all the departments, to travel to Gangapur City to collect their salaries. This not only consumes their time but also causes financial inconvenience over time. Regarding this matter, approximately 30 gram panchayats have also submitted applications, all of them expressing the same demand. A very popular scheme of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan state has been started during his reign by the name of 'Bhamashah'. The funds from it are directly transferred to bank accounts online. Madam Speaker, when the elderly go to collect their pension, they have to take a motorcycle rider along with them, who charges them Rs. 100 or Rs. 200, and they are unable to receive the full amount.

Through you, I would like to request that there is a large population of five thousand people there, and it's not just a problem in one area but banking is becoming an issue across the country. Banking facilities should be available everywhere so that the common people can access banking services. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is granted permission to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria.

[English]

DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (BHIND): Respected Madam Speaker, in a Parliamentary democracy the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary function in a coordinated manner to ensure purposeful service to the people. Independence of judiciary is an essential feature of our Indian polity. Hence quality education, training and professional efficiency of a high order is required among judicial officers.

After Independence, a need was felt for the All India Services for maintaining unity, integrity and stability of the nation. Accordingly, a provision was made in Article 312 of the Constitution for creation of one or more All India Services common to the Union and the States. The Indian Administrative Service and

the Indian Police Service are deemed to be constituted by the Parliament. After promulgation of the Constitution, a new All India Service namely the Indian Forest Service was created in 1966.

Similarly, Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the creation of an All India Judicial Service common to the Union and the States. I request the Parliament and the Government of India to create All India Judicial Service. The All India Judicial Service will become the feeder cadre for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court. The new system will ensure an experienced and impartial judiciary and will curb the controversial process of appointment of judges.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpender Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Bhagirath Prasad.

Shri Birendra Kumar Chaudhary – not present.

Shri N. K. Premachandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IRE), which is a Central Public Sector Undertaking has taken over the land for mining beach sand mineral. The land was taken over for mining with a specific condition that the land will be given back to the owners after mining.

The IRE agreed for the rehabilitation also. The land comprised in Puthenthura in Neendakara Village, Karithura and Kovilthottom in Chavara Village, Vellanathuruth in Alappattu village in Kollam District, Kerala was taken over by the IRE. It is pertinent to note that the Puthenthura School land also has been taken for mining. The mining process was completed a decade back. But the IRE failed to hand over the land to the owners and implement the rehabilitation scheme as per the agreed terms and conditions. The local people are put into untold hardship due to the violation of agreement conditions by the IRE. It is highly necessary to give back the land and implement the rehabilitation to safeguard the interest of the local people. It is learnt that the permission from the Government, that is, from the Union Cabinet is required for giving back the land and the matter is now pending before the Union Council of Ministers' agenda.

Hence, I urge upon the Government and the Department of Atomic Energy to initiate immediate action or issue necessary orders to give back the land and implement the rehabilitation.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam Speaker, the international border from Gujarat to Pakistan is 512 kilometres long,

out of which 340 kilometres of permanent fencing has been constructed. In many places, fencing has been demolished, and at several locations, it has deteriorated due to land subsidence, allowing infiltrators from Pakistan to enter through those routes. They also bring drugs and engage in smuggling activities. Due to this, the threat of terrorism increases in our country. Our Gujarat government has repeatedly requested for the installation of barbed wire and high-density CCTV cameras which can be monitored even at night. Now, through you, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs to expedite the installation of new fencing and manage high-density CCTV cameras that can operate even at night. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Harish Meena and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki.

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important matter in the House which is related to the beekeepers of the country. The honey from India used to be very famous and in demand Internationally as well. Our honey was used organically as well, but nowadays, there has been so much

adulteration in honey that it has lost all its utility. Various types of syrups like rice syrup, corn syrup, etc., are being imported, especially from China. They have adopted the appearance of honey and are being sold in the market by mixing them with honey. As a result, people's health is deteriorating. Similarly, honey is being sold through advertisements by good brands in the country, but testing has revealed that they too are adulterated.

I urge you that, there are approximately ten thousand beekeepers in my Lok Sabha constituency, Kairana. Today, their livelihood is being severely affected. They are becoming unemployed. The government should take immediate action to stop the syrup coming from abroad and the adulteration of honey in our country as well and make efforts to prevent it. Bees are also very important in agriculture. Due to this adulteration, bees are also diminishing, and our market for honey is also declining. I urge the government to take immediate action in this regard.

HON.Speaker: Shri Rajendra Agrawal, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Hukum Singh.

KUNWAR BHARTENDRA SINGH (BIJNOR): Madam Speaker, the population density in Western Uttar Pradesh is extremely high. Unemployment and population growth are leading to despair and an increase in crime among the youth. After the launch of the Start-Up India program, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises has rapidly initiated efforts to enhance the skills and technical capabilities of new entrepreneurs.

Hon. Madam, this year, the National Small Industries Corporation is contemplating of opening new incubation centres in various states of the country. Given the emphasis on high technology in the Start-up India program, the Corporation has also started focusing on robotics and automation in its incubation centres. Although the Start-Up India program has emphasized skill development and entrepreneurship on a large scale, there is also a consideration for opening special incubator centres for small entrepreneurs. At present, there are 90 incubator centres in different parts of the country, out of which 85 are under the PPP model and five are running under government patronage.

Madam, through the House, I request the Hon. Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Industries that an incubation centre should also be opened in my parliamentary constituency, Bijnor,

Uttar Pradesh. This will benefit the students of my constituency and its surrounding areas the most, providing them with better employment opportunities. Addressing the increasing unemployment and crime in densely populated areas will be meaningful.

HON.SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Kunwar Bharatendra Singh.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAI (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Madam Speaker, the Congress ruled the Andaman Nicobar Islands for many years. The Congress government used to say that it was a backward and remote area, hence no work was done there.... (*Interruptions*) I am stating my point. I will prove that you have not done any work there. The slogan “Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi” was raised. Nitin Gadkari ji became a minister in Modi ji's government. In the year 2004, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government gave the National Highway to Andaman and Nicobar. For ten years, the Congress Party was in power, yet not even a kilometre of national highway was constructed. Nitin Gadkari ji conducted a meeting in the Ministry on 4th July 2016 in which MPs and high officials of the administration were present. The government agency NHIDCL was tasked with the job, and the work on the national highway was set to begin on October 1, 2016. 333-

kilometer long road will be built. Two bridges will be built. Not only that, but they also brought in new technology.... (*Interruptions*) Madam Speaker, I am from the Kalapani region. Please give me just one more minute to speak... (*Interruptions*) Kharge ji, I will prove that Congress has done nothing there. Nitin Gadkari ji allocated Rs. 46 crore for the CRF fund. Apart from this, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received 21 bridges. 90 km State highway has been converted into a National highway. There was no money, no funds, nothing was done to build the State highway. For the first time in the Andaman, 90 kilometres of State highway have been converted into National highway. My Congress friends, whether it's Rahul Gandhi, Nehru ji, Sonia Gandhi, Manmohan Singh ji, or Kharge ji, you have done nothing. You have only shown the achievements of Andaman on paper. Long live Mother India. Vande Mataram.

HON.SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bishnu Pada Roy.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an extremely important matter of public importance through you in the assembly.

It's time for rain. During this season, a large number of cows come onto the roads. The primary reason for this is encroachment on the grazing land in villages. People have built houses on it. As a result, cows come onto the roads. When people drive vehicles on the roads, it leads to accidents involving cows, causing damage to both the vehicles and the cows. Elephants, horses, camels, and other animals are not found on the roads, but only cows are found. People leave them to roam freely on the roads.

I request through you to the central government to take initiative in this regard, and across the country, the grazing land should be freed from encroachment and cow shelters should be constructed there so that cows cannot roam freely and their accidents can be prevented.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sarvashri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Bhianron Prasad Mishra and Dr. Virendra Kumar are allowed to associate with the issue raised.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): Thank you, Hon. Madam, for allowing me to speak on a matter of urgent public importance.

Madam, India is one of the biggest importers of both crude and refined palm oil and other edible oils. We are trying to promote palm tree cultivation as well as improve our refining capacity. But, the major palm oil producing countries like Malaysia and Indonesia are increasing the export duty of crude palm oil and decreasing the export duty of refined palm oil. This will badly affect both our palm tree cultivators and edible oil refining capacity of the country. It will also cause the price to rise of edible oil.

The Government of India should take adequate steps by increasing the import duty of refined oil and decreasing the import duty of crude palm oil.

[Translation]

SHRI R. K. SINGH (ARA): Madam, a terrorist has been nabbed alive in Kashmir. This is a very good thing for us. When he was interrogated, it was found that he is a resident of Raiwind, Pakistan and was a Pakistani. He was given training, armed and with the help of their army he was sent to spread terrorism in Kashmir.

Even before this, the terrorists who were captured alive, who attacked the CRPF bus, were also Pakistanis. Pakistan is sending its people here after training them in terrorism, and their army is involved in this.

I have two things to say to the government. One thing is that it is clear that Pakistani Army is involved in terrorism, so there is no point in holding talks with Pakistan. We tried to negotiate, but in return, there was a terrorist attack in Pathankot, and terrorism has increased in Kashmir. Until we retaliate against the terrorists' attacks, terrorism will continue to prevail. The only way to stop this is to find a way to retaliate and hit back at Pakistan.

HON. SPEAKER: Sarvashri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Jagdambika Pal, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri R. K. Singh.

[English]

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the pitiable conditions being faced by the construction workers and their children across the country.

Madam Speaker, a lot of workers and labourers are working for the development of infrastructure facilities across the country by constructing buildings, houses, bridges, highways, railway lines, etc. both in urban and rural areas. During day time, parents leave their children unattended and no one is there to look after them. They play with other children in mud and unhygienic atmospheres. Further,

these children also do not attend school because their parents are moving from one place to another, one city to another for work and to earn their livelihood.

Madam Speaker, the Union Government has made arrangements for daycare centres for children of the Government employees at their workplace but such facilities are not extended to children of labour or construction workers. Further, the amount allotted for the welfare of the labour and construction workers remains unspent.

Hence, I urge the Union Government through this august House to take necessary steps immediately to set up daycare centres in all construction sites to take care of these children. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K. Ashok Kumar.

13.00hours

SHRI M. MURALI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDY): Madam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned Rs. 274 crore for the acquisition of 857 acres of land for the expansion of Rajahmundry Airport to match international standards. The land will be handed over to the Airports Authority of India which will take up the expansion of the airport. The AAI plans to extend the runway to

3,165 metres from the existing 1,749 metres to enable landing of big or Code-D aircraft.

At present, the airport at Rajahmundry handles eight flights daily. The passenger traffic at the airport is about 2,000 per day. Due to non-expansion of airport and non-operational direct flights, either by Air India or any private entity, from Rajahmundry Airport to New Delhi and other metropolitan cities, the people of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh are suffering a lot to travel.

Rajahmundry is a commercial hub. There are lot of industries located at Rajahmundry, including ONGC, GAIL. I would, therefore, request the Union Government and Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju *garu*, to allocate adequate funds for expansion of Rajahmundry Airport and also to issue necessary instructions to Air India to operate direct flights from Rajahmundry to New Delhi and other metropolitan cities.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the problem faced by poor fishermen in the country.

The Government of India and State Governments are giving amounts for construction of houses by fishmen, but due to the CRZ

norms, they are not in a position either to construct new houses or to alter their old houses.

Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests in the last Session had assured the House that there would be a change in the CRZ norms, but unfortunately, day before yesterday, I got a written answer from the Hon. Minister that there is no such move. This is very disappointing. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to seriously look into the situation and amend the CRZ norms only for fishermen's dwelling houses. Thank you.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I wish to bring to the notice of the House and the Government that the medical students in Delhi under the Delhi University rules have completed their education one-and-a-half years ago and they have also finished their six-month internship. Yet, degrees have not been handed over to them.

The matter is of grave concern because these students need to apply for higher studies. Some of them have to apply to foreign universities also. If the applications are not completed by July, they lose one whole year. The Vice-Chancellor is directly responsible as he is not holding the convocation. Irrespective of whether he holds the convocation or not, the degrees should be handed over so that the

students do not lose their one year. I think, this is a matter of grave concern.

Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Madam Speaker, I am extremely grateful to you for allowing me to speak on a matter of urgent public importance.

Madam, this year alone, 349 children have been admitted to Gorakhpur Medical College in Uttar Pradesh with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis syndrome. It's unfortunate that 88 children died under the roof of that medical college, and the surviving children have become disabled. Five crore rupees have also been given by the Government of India for the Physical-Mental Rehabilitation Centre (PMR) which should be set up for them. But two years have passed, and the construction has not yet been completed. Those children are becoming a burden on poor parents, it's a curse. Until today, the cause of Acute Encephalitis has not been identified, whether it is caused by a virus or viral. A regional

medical research centre should be established for this. I would like to respectfully request the central government, through you, that now this disease is not only in Uttar Pradesh but has also reached in Bihar and West Bengal. The Hon. Minister has provided a detailed account of the deaths caused by this disease today. I would like to request the government, through you, to establish a medical research centre to identify the causes of this disease and to prevent it.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance with regard to the issue pertaining to Mudra loans. The Government has ambitiously launched the Scheme with a view to assist entrepreneurs taking up non-farm activities. This is, indeed, a good Scheme aimed at providing employment and livelihood to a large section of people.

However, in reality, the expected results are not forthcoming due to lack of active participation from the side of the bankers. Some banks, when approached by the official beneficiaries, are feigning ignorance of the Scheme and some are insisting on collateral as a

pre-condition for extending assistance under the Scheme. It is reported that the Scheme has given scope for favouritism, nepotism and discrimination among the participants, even though this has been introduced to assist the needy and make them self-reliant. It is creating a negative feeling on account of the indifferent attitude of the banks.

In the light of the above, I strongly urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance to take immediate steps to rectify the deficiencies in the Scheme and to make it more process-driven, with less scope for discretion and discrimination, and ensure proper implementation of the Scheme so as to benefit the eligible sections of society. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Butta Renuka.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Madam, I would like to raise one very unfortunate incident that has taken place in the Kandhamal District of Odisha. The House might have heard that on 8th July, five innocent Adivasis have been killed by the Police. This is not the first incident in Odisha. During the current financial year, this is the third incident, and everywhere these innocent people are being killed by the trigger-happy Police. The

incident took place in Gungudmaha Village of the Kandhamal District. Seventeen Adivasi people, and most of them are women and children, were returning from a market after collecting their wages under MGNREGS. The Police, without challenging them, have fired at them and five people were killed, and eight people got seriously injured.

Madam, the point of my raising this issue is because I want to know why this is happening in Odisha. Almost one-fourth of the population of Odisha is tribals and their condition is very pitiable. Under the Forest Rights Act, only 0.5 acre forest land has been provided to them, whereas they were deserving 10 acres. Not only that, under MGNREGS, they never get work for 150 workdays in a year. This is happening. Also, there are no roads, no drinking water facilities and nothing is available in the tribal areas. These areas are now being targeted by the Police.

The Hon. Tribal Affairs Minister of the country also hails from the Odisha State, where the state of tribals is like this. I would like to demand that the distressed families should be provided with Rs. 50 lakh compensation and jobs, and also other facilities. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jitendra Chaudhury.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Madam Speaker, Puyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, the ruler of the Holkar Gharana of the Maratha Empire, is one of the greatest rulers of the country. His reign is known for being benevolent and welfare-oriented. People regarded him as an incarnation of God. He not only worked in his own state, but he worked all over the country. Aahilyadevi constructed many ghats and temples, such as the Aundha Nagnath temple, across the country. Ahilyadevi's birth anniversary is celebrated in many states. But I request the government, through you, to issue guidelines for celebrating the birth anniversary at the National level.

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Hon. Madam Speaker, we all are going to celebrate the seventieth Independence Day of our country. On this special occasion, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about Swatantraveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, that Savarkar was a brave freedom fighter, enthusiast, social reformer, dedicated nationalist. He took the pledge to fulfill the incomplete goal of the martyrs by driving the British out of his

motherland and achieving Independence for India. Madam, he was sentenced to Kalapani twice at the age of 27. He was such a revolutionary hero, whom the whole of India knows. Our Andaman's Member of Parliament also talks about Kalapani, saying that I should be given a chance to speak. I myself visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where we spent five minutes in his cell, and we felt how he must have spent those eleven years there.

Through you, I want to draw the attention of the government towards the fact that our revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for our India should be given due respect. The construction of roads, government institutions, and government schemes should be named after this great revolutionary.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Smt. Neelam Sonkar and Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Smt. Anju Bala.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (AMRELI): Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, towards the country's cotton production and the process of regulating it.

In 1951-52, cotton was produced on 65 lakh hectares of land in India, producing 38 lakh cotton bales. Today, in 2015-16, cotton

cultivation in India occurs on 118 lakh hectares of land, resulting in the production of a total of 352 lakh cotton bales.

When the value of cotton goes below the "Minimum Support Price", it is controlled by the Textile Ministry's MSP operations, which may not seem fair. If cotton is brought under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture like other agricultural products, then efforts can be made to enhance cotton productivity, starting from the availability of pure and certified seeds to all policy decisions taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, such as ensuring economic upliftment of cotton producers and ensuring better prices for cotton, etc.

Today, Gujarat is the leading cotton-producing state in the country, accounting for approximately 30% of the total cotton production in the country. Therefore, any decision taken in this regard will impact the interests of cotton producers in Gujarat. At present, farmers have to appeal to the Textile Ministry for the appropriate price of cotton, whereas decisions in the Textile Ministry are primarily based on domestic textile mills.

After 65 years of independence, it is time to remove cotton from the control and regulation of the Textile Ministry and bring it under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. This will enable the

protection of the interests of small and marginal cotton producers and ensure the availability of pure and certified cotton seeds to farmers. Additionally, efforts should be made to provide farmers with better prices for their cotton produce.

In conclusion, I would like to request through you that cotton be expeditiously removed from the control and regulation of the Textile Ministry and brought under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture in the public interest.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is granted permission to associate with the issue raised by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Madam Speaker, you have given me an opportunity to raise a very important issue during the Zero Hour. Madam, on one hand, you talk about enabling Wi-Fi in Parliament, the Prime Minister talks about Digital India, and on the other hand, I sadly inform you that despite my efforts, the MPLAD funds worth one and a half million rupees allocated by me for providing Wi-Fi to the village panchayat have been denied by the Ministry of Planning and Statistics.

Madam, I would like to ask the government through you, that we talk so much about Digital India, we have created multi-spot Wi-Fi

enabled areas within Delhi, but when it comes to providing Wi-Fi to the children of poor farmers and labourers in villages, we face restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Planning and Statistics. BSNL is also an agency of the government through which I was getting this work done.

I urge the Hon. Minister of Planning and Statistics to instruct the authorities to lift this ban and expedite the approval for providing Wi-Fi-enabled equipment to the people of Juglan village as well.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dushyant Chautala.

[English]

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Madam Speaker, the Tamil Nadu Government on 15-7-2016 introduced a new crop insurance scheme for farmers fulfilling the promise made by Amma in her election manifesto. Under the scheme, Tamil Nadu will share the cost in Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme along with the Union Government. Tamil Nadu under Amma's leadership is providing free quality seeds, giving 100 per cent subsidy to small and marginal farmers and 72 per cent subsidy to other farmers and implementing various other schemes

for their livelihood. Soon after taking charge as Chief Minister, Amma announced the waiver of cooperative loans taken by small and marginal farmers.

According to the new crop insurance scheme, the crop loss will be calculated at the village level instead of the block level and the loss due to natural calamities will be calculated right from cultivation till the harvest stage benefiting farmers in nine delta districts. Such estimate will give actual loss suffered by farmers and they would get better relief from the insurance. Farmers will have to pay 1.5 per cent of the total insurance premium from October and March and those who calculate from April and September, two per cent of the total premium. The balance will be spent by the Central and the State Governments. Hence I request the Prime Minister and the Union Government to consider the demands of our Hon. Chief Minister and allocate more funds for Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the notice of this House and the Government that in Kerala and other parts of the country youths are found missing. It is alleged that they have been radicalized and have joined the ISIS in Syria and Afghanistan. This is a very dangerous trend and situation. It has been reported that the Syrian Deputy Prime

Minister said that they have arrested Indian youths who went to Syria to fight alongside ISIS. As many as 23 Indians, six of whom are dead, were fighting for ISIS as per press reports. Who is motivating our educated youths to fight for ISIS? I would request the Government of India to investigate deeply into this matter. I also urge upon the Government of India to act tactfully and aggressively to deradicalize such misguided youths. The Government of India must take steps to monitor cyberspace through which recruitment to ISIS is taking place, and safeguard the interests of the citizens. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Richard Hay.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Madam, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Madam, through you, I would like to mention that under the jurisdiction of Bokaro district in Jharkhand state, the Damodar Valley Corporation is constructing a flyover at Bokaro Thermal at a cost of Rs. 184 crore. The quality of construction is poor and the approximately 39 families were displaced from there during this rainy season. Our request to you and our appeal to Damodar Valley Corporation would be to provide housing to the displaced families

under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Indira Awas Yojana, so that those families who are below the poverty line can find relief. Also, ensure that the quality of construction of the flyover being built is maintained. Thank you very much for the time you gave.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhanron Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURG): Madam, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

My Zero Hour Subject is 'Pension and Other Facilities to Folk Artists'. The identification of a country on the map of the world is due to its culture. The culture of India has been characterized by mutual harmony, brotherhood, and respect. Poets, writers, folk artists, and literary figures have been working tirelessly to bring this work to the masses since the beginning. But the central and state governments are not paying any heed to it. They limit them only to certificates of appreciation and awards.

The current condition of the common folk artists, poets, and writers in Chhattisgarh state is pitiable. Many Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan awardee folk artists are dying of hunger. They do not have money for treatment. The state and central governments don't even have a list of such people. When news appears in

newspapers that recipients of Padma Shri, Padma Vibhushan, etc., honours don't have money for treatment, it's a great humiliation for the country.

Therefore, I request the government that the Central Government, through the State Governments, promptly identify all types of folk artists, writers, and poets within a specified time frame, and create a list of them. Additionally, arrangements should be made for meals, accommodation, and treatment for eligible individuals. Moreover, steps should be taken to provide pensions for them. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu Ji.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Madam Speaker, my father had donated a room of his house to open a post office in his village with the intention to motivate and to encourage the poor villagers towards post office and at the same time to protect them from the private money lenders. Being a public representative of a rural constituency I have seen that most of the rural post offices are running either at the house of the post master or at other villagers' houses.

So, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry has conducted any survey to know the actual number of post offices running in such manner and what steps have been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Madam Speaker, the Government has formulated a policy to integrate the country with international air services, which will undoubtedly be a significant step in connecting the entire country through air services.

Hon. Speaker, Kota is an important city of Rajasthan where more than one lakh students from all over the country study. Kota stone is also a significant business in the industry in Kota. I request the government through you, to start air services in Kota under the inter-state air service policy. This is an important demand of the people of Kota so that we can be connected with the major cities of the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity. The

State of Kerala is having CGHS clinic and dispensary only in the Capital city of Thiruvananthapuram which is located in the southernmost part of the State. Thousands of Central Government employees are spread across the State and it is impossible for them to reach Thiruvananthapuram to avail of CGHS facilities. The requirement for CGHS facility arises when one is sick, especially in the advanced stage. There is long-pending demand to set up a CGHS clinic in northern part of Kerala that is Malabar region. Time and again, I have taken up the matter with the successive Ministers of Health. Unfortunately, nothing has been done. I request the Government that a CGHS centre be established anywhere in Kozhikode district of Kerala so that seven districts of Kerala are benefitted.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):

Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

Bhabha Atomic Centre is located in my parliamentary constituency Mumbai South Central. Government service conditions are applicable in all government institutions, but these service conditions are not properly followed in the Bhabha Atomic Center. After the sudden death of an employee, when their family applies for

a job on compassionate grounds, they are often rejected by imposing various conditions. The salary of the deceased employee and any property, received by the family member employed elsewhere are added together as a basis for the application. However, the application is rejected with the explanation that a job cannot be granted on compassionate grounds. In many such cases, affected individuals come to me and request for employment because they are unable to support their families properly. However, it is clearly stated in the orders of the Department of Personnel and Training, Order no.14014/02/2102-Estt(D), dated 26.1.16, para no.11(a) and 18(c), that any eligible person from the family should be given a job in the same government department, even if someone else in the family is already employed. Furthermore, the income from such sources should not be included in the family's earnings, which are provided by the government as gratuity pension and other welfare schemes for the deceased employee's family.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Prime Minister to form a committee to address such pending cases of BRC and to recommend employment for one person from the family of deceased or retired employees of BRC, providing relief to their families.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANLI): Hon. Speaker Madam, I want to draw your attention to a small issue. With the natural food chain getting destroyed because of forests being destroyed. There are no tigers, no wild animals left. There is a problem that we also face. As a Hindu, I am also saying how our farmers who are very poor and at the lowest level, are not able to take care of cows and buffaloes when the animals are old and are not milching. It is our people, the Hindus only, who sell these off to butcher. So, what is happening is that there is a lot of disquiet all over the country. I will give a notice and I would request others to give a notice and I request you to kindly permit some time for a discussion on safety of cows and what can be done as a policy guideline for the whole country. It is the farmer who is suffering the most. When the bullock is not able to do farming, what will the farmer do? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You give the notice. We will think about it.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot promise it but we must think about it and do something.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Tathagata Satpathy.

Manoj Tiwari ji, speak for half a minute.

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI): Speaker Madam, thank you very much. I want to draw your attention to the pain of 22 crore people of the country.... (*Interruptions*) Bhojpuri is a language whose film industry directly employs nearly four lakh people. However, despite this assurance in Parliament that we will be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, we have not yet been able to achieve that. When our plane disappears, the women of the village still sing songs in the same language to appease God.

We pray to you that the time has come now. This language is spoken in twelve countries outside the country. Any language, be it Rajasthani, Bhoti, at least the language of the country, which is spoken in foreign countries, should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The entire 22 crore people will be grateful to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Chandel are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Manoj Tiwari.

Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR):

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: You are not to read the whole thing.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN: In the Union Budget 2016-17, the Clean India Cess has been increased from Rs. 200 per tonne to Rs. 400 per tonne. Now, the total amount of money that the Government of India is getting from Odisha through royalty is around Rs. 6,400 crore out of 160 million tonnes of coal. But the Government of India has decided that this money will be spent and kept for clean environment cess. This is earmarked for that purpose. So, Odisha and other States which are getting royalty from coal are not going to get a single paisa. Therefore, I request that this Rs. 6,400 per tonne which is fixed and earned by the Government of India, be shared with the different States.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Nagendra Kumar Pradhan.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR):

Madam Speaker, Hon. Prime Minister has implemented 'Crop Insurance Scheme' for the farmers of the country. As per the procedure laid down for that, July 31 is its last date. By the time this crop insurance scheme was adopted in Rajasthan and many other states, the month of July had arrived. This crop insurance scheme has been announced for the first time in the newspapers of yesterday and day before and for that the last date is July 31. This problem is prevalent in many states.

Madam, Ho. Minister of Agriculture, is here. Through you, I want to request him to extend the deadline beyond July 31 for another month because the monsoon is delayed and sowing has not been done yet. This will benefit the farmers a lot.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sharad Tripathi are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):

Madam, Mumbai city has a population of 1.5 crore. Food is supplied there through Food Corporation of India. There is a fifty-year-old depot there. There are 388 permanent workers and labourers working at that depot. They should consider transferring all of them

to an "all-off-the-chain" system and outsourcing all these jobs on a contractual basis. This proposal has been put forward by the local managing director. I have requested Paswan ji for this. I also request through you that permanent employees there should not be disturbed, and the entire work should be carried out through official channels. This is my demand.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.29 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.39 hours

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Nine Minutes past Fourteen
of the Clock.*

(Hon. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

14.39 ½ hours**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a request has been made to the Hon. Speaker that the Half-An-Hour Discussion included in today's List of Business at Serial No.19 which was to be taken up at 5.30 p.m. today may be postponed to 3rd August, 2016.

Hon. Speaker has acceded to the request. In view of this, the Half-An-Hour Discussion will be taken up on 3rd August, 2016.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the discussion on the Railways, we will take up Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. We will take up Private Members Bills and Resolutions at three o'clock and it will go up to six o'clock. As scheduled, the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions will start at 3 o'clock.

Now, we will take up the Government Resolution on Railways.

Railway Minister may kindly move the Motion.

14.40 hours

**RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF FIRST REPORT OF
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

Madam, I beg to move:

“That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paras 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the First Report of Railway Convention Committee (2014), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues and other ancillary matters, which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 22nd December, 2015.”

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon. Chairperson and the Hon. Members of the Railway Convention Committee who have made a recommendation regarding how much dividend the Railways should pay to the Finance Ministry. This is a unanimous recommendation. Normally, on such matters there has never been a

discussion. My distinguished predecessor Shri Dinesh Trivedi also will vouch for it that normally it is passed unanimously because this has already been recommended by the Committee. So, I would like to request the Hon. Members that with a short discussion, before we take the Private Members' Bills and Resolutions, it can be passed unanimously and take it forward.

Sir, I would just like to make one point. This paying dividend to the Finance Ministry is one area which really needs to be looked into. Why should the Railway pay dividend? This has been a recommendation of the Standing Committee. There have been several unanimous recommendations on this by several Standing Committees that the Railways discharge very useful public functions. They are actually working on public service obligation. The burden on the Railways is as high as Rs. 30000 crore. This year the Railways are even more burdened with an additional burden Rs. 30000 crore on account of the recommendations of the Pay Commission. There is already a Bonus Act which we passed in this very House and this has put another additional burden because Railways, as an organization, as India's largest employer has to bear the brunt of it. Now, this is a recommendation of the Committee. I respect it. But over a period of time we really need to look into why

the Railways which is already suffering due to several other problems also be over-burdened with the responsibility of paying a dividend and also how the main Budget can actually subsidise or take care of the subsidies which are already there. So, I think, we need to look into this issue. I urge upon all the Hon. Members of Parliament to allow this Resolution to be passed.

Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paras 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the First Report of Railway Convention Committee (2014), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues and other ancillary matters, which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 22nd December, 2015.”

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion. I think, the Railway Committee has unanimously recommended regarding the issue of dividend. But the Railways are running in public interest and for the common people under certain obligations. So, they could not pay the dividend. At the same time, the Finance Ministry is unable to help the common people of this country. More than 2.5 crore people are using the services of the Railways almost everyday. But the Government is not supporting such a huge organization. Ultimately they have said that the Railways have to take all the obligations and risk to run the railways. This is the situation in the Ministry.

In the last two decades, there has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of passengers in the Railways. It has increased from 1.5 crore to 2.5 crore. There are no proper amenities, food and drinking water. But the surprising thing is that the Government is not coming forward to support the Railways. The projects which have been pending for the last two decades, there has been no thinking on this issue by the Government. The new Planning Commission called the NITI Ayog has not at all given any thought to this issue. For two

decades the projects are pending and the Members of Parliament are requesting for these projects to be completed and want them to be developed and connected with Rail network. They want them completed. For all these things, they are not able to give the required financial assistance to complete the pending projects.

Coming to the most important area of corridors, North-East and North-South, the award is only for 78 to 80 per cent. In the last four to five years, Japan Government is financing it. Till today, they have not started the work properly. The problem is, Maharashtra Government is not willing for it because it is very difficult to give land. Even for Mumbai-Ahmedabad, the pending bullet train project would cost Rs. 1 lakh crore. The average cost for one kilometre is Rs. 200 crore. In spite of that, the Maharashtra Government and Gujarat Government have come to the conclusion that they have to launch this programme.

The common people of India are using trains. As I told, the number of daily passengers come to 2.4 crore. If a person is to use this train, the cost will be more than ten times. We have unanimously decided, under the Chairpersonship of Shri Dinesh Trivedi, for it. What is the total length to be developed to reach the speed of 120 to 150 kilometres? The Board Chairperson and its

members told the Committee that with at least Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 crores per kilometre, we can complete the whole railway network of 65,000 to 66,000 kilometres. With this cost, we can increase the speed from 80 to 90 kilometres to 110-130-140 kilometres. The total expenditure only for this will be Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 lakhs crores upto a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs crore.

Of course, we have to appreciate that we have to compete with international countries like China. I agree with this but what is the financial status of India? When you are spending Rs. 1 lakh crore to cover 500 kilometres from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, the total Indian railway network of 65,000 to 66,000 kilometres can be modernised by Rs. 5 lakh crores. This comparison was made. Then the Committee, under the Chairpersonship of Shri Dinesh Trivedi, unanimously agreed to give priority for this project instead of bullet trains. It is all right that we are not entering the bullet train project, but at least India is capable to show its merit. But financial crunch is there. You are unable to give financial assistance to the Railways. We are in a bad position. We are not able to run the trains. We are not able to provide amenities and even drinking water.

In such a situation, will this dream be possible, will it be viable in India? I want to know it from the Hon. Minister. I think Shri

Suresh Prabhu has left. I do not know why he has left the House. Nobody from the Railways is present.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): I am present here, Sir.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Thank you. Shri Suresh Prabhu was talking high about this issue. We appreciate it. He is very intelligent but there is no money available. What can we do and how to sustain the Railways? We will work together. We are surprised as to how to proceed.

So, the Hon. Minister has to reply about the bullet train project. I think Shri Dinesh Trivedi will also participate in this debate.

I mentioned initially about the North-East Corridor. Even after a lapse of four to five years, no work has started. After the lapse of four or five years the award or work is also pending for Eastern Freight Corridor, which is of 222 kms; and Western Freight Corridor, which is of 237 kms. The progress with regard to the Freight Corridors, according to the records, is 30 per cent and 40 per cent and North-East and North-West Corridors respectively.

The Japan Bank have cooperated and supported it and they have entered into an agreement that they should be completed in stipulated time. But they could not complete these projects. This is

the situation. I think the Hon. Minister should say something as to how he will complete it.

He mentioned that the bullet train will be started by 2023. Even today, even two years after its announcement, neither the Maharashtra Government nor the Gujarat Government has given the land. The preliminary work has not started. But they are claiming that by 2023 the bullet train will start running. All right, we will see whether that comes true. Let the Hon. Minister say what exactly they are doing, and how they are going to complete the project.

The total route kilometre is 66,000. The Board has decided that at least Shatabdi trains, Express trains and Mail trains, should start running at 130 or 140 kms. Now, they are running below 100 kms. In this regard, we have discussed and unanimously decided in the Standing Committee to recommend to the Government to take up this issue for which you have to spend Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 lakh crore. Then, the entire scenario of the Indian Railways will be changed and the common people of this country will get the benefit of this one. Now, the passenger trains are running hardly at 50 kms. The Shatabdi trains are running at 100 kms. The speed of the passenger trains can be increased to 80 kms. and that of the Shatabdi trains to 140 to 150 kms. That is more than enough. If you spend Rs. 4 to Rs.

5 lakh crore on this project, which you plan to spend for running bullet train, the entire country will be benefited. The saving of time, movement of goods, the income, the profit etc. will result in 25 per cent economic growth. This kind of economic growth will take place by spending Rs. 5 lakh crore.

We in the Standing Committee, under the Chairpersonship of Shri Dinesh Trivedi, have unanimously come to this conclusion.

Another most important area to which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister is with regard to the RoBs and level crossings. Even today more than 10,000 level crossings are pending in this country. Accidents take place due to this. So many casualties have occurred and innocent people have lost their lives.

The earlier Governments, including the NDA Government, led by Shri Vajpayee had given Rs. 30,000 crore to complete this project. This was to be given the top priority. The mandate was to see that the level crossings in this country are completed well in time. That should be the top priority. Even our Government was unable to complete this one. Till today, it is pending. When is the Hon. Minister going to complete manning of 10,000 unmanned level crossings? This is one of the most important things rather than the

Bullet Train or any new passenger train or any new express train because life is very precious.

The UPA Government had also allocated money for the said projects but we could not complete these projects. That is why, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to address the matter of manning unmanned level crossings along with other projects like RoBs and RuBs. All the State Governments would share the cost of these projects. Sir, 50 per cent cost would be borne by the State Governments, and the rest would be borne by the Ministry of Railways. Hence, I would urge upon the Hon. Minister to take care of this issue.

About the cost sharing projects, during the time of Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Kumari Mamata Banerjee, myself and Shri Dinesh Trivedi visited the undivided Andhra Pradesh (Telangana), Karnataka, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. We entered into MoUs, with the provision of providing free land. In the case of Jharkhand, they have allocated two-third land meant for the project. The same is the case concerning my constituency also. We had 15 projects in Karnataka; we had 15 projects in Andhra Pradesh. Hon. Chief Ministers themselves have declared that they are ready to provide land free of cost, and also agreeing to the cost sharing. We

together visited these States; States have agreed. Till today, there is no progress.

The Ministry of Railways should reach out to the States, have detailed discussions about the projects to be taken up. These projects have already been announced in the Railway Budget. These projects should be taken up. I think, the Hon. Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu should visit States. I had already requested him in this regard. He should visit the States; sit with the Chief Ministers. By doing so, the burden of the Railway Ministry would be reduced. States are ready to bear the burden up to 60 per cent and the Railway Ministry has to bear only 40 per cent cost of the projects so that all the projects would get completed. These are the areas where the Hon. Minister has to address. These areas are very important. The Hon. Minister has announced many schemes concerning maintenance, cleaning, drinking water, etc. in the Budget but nothing has been done practically.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, you were not present in the House when I was raising the issues of manning unmanned level crossings. Special priority should be given to complete the manning of the entire unmanned level crossings in the country. This is all the more important than any other project which you want to execute with

your vast knowledge. You are planning to reform the Railways. I think, reformation in Railways starts with manning the unmanned level crossings.

I would also like to request him to visit the States where they are ready to share the cost of the projects; make use of them, and ensure that there is progress in the Railways.

Finally, about the Rail Coach Factory in Kolar, an MoU has been signed by the Ministry of Railways when the Hon. Chief Minister of the State was present. Till today, even after the lapse of two years, no progress could be seen. I had already made a request to the Hon. Railway Minister to visit the place once; have a detailed discussion; review the said project, and start the work. The Government of Karnataka is ready to provide 50 per cent land for the project. The Ministry of Railways should come forward by visiting the place, discussion between the Railway officials and the State Government officials should take place to start the project. This is one of the most important events where Shri Dinesh Trivedi was present.

15.00hours

The MoU was also signed for this purpose. So, the Hon. Minister should take it seriously and start the work.

Sir, passenger traffic is increasing by 10 per cent every year in Railways. The Railways have to be provided enough financial assistance from the Government. Without budgetary support from the Government, the Railways cannot improve the facilities to passengers and it will be difficult for them to even carry out normal maintenance work. Therefore, the Government has to give top priority to Railways and extend all the financial assistance required by them.

With these words, I conclude.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Private Members' Business.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission. We were to take up Private Members' Business at 3 o'clock because earlier, in the List of Business the Half-an-Hour Discussion was slated at 5.30 p.m. We have deferred it now. So, we can take up Private Members' Business at 3.30 p.m. because as per the Rules, the last 2 ½ hours on the last working day of the week is allotted for Private Members'

Business. If we start it now, then by 5.30 p.m. we have to adjourn the House. Now it is up to the House to decide whether to continue this discussion till 3.30 p.m. and then take Private Members' Business or to take up Private Members' Business now and adjourn the House at 5.30 p.m.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is for the House to decide. I want to take sense of the House.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, just now we heard a former Minister of State for Railways. We are also going to hear a former Minister of Railways on this Resolution and there is every possibility that some future Minister of Railways will also be speaking. So, let us continue this discussion till 3.30 p.m. and I hope that we can pass this Resolution by 3.30 p.m.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, we cannot finish this item by 3.30 p.m. because many Members want to speak on this Resolution. The time allotted for this item is two hours. So, we can continue this discussion till 3.30 p.m. and then continue it on Monday.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, we cannot take it up on Monday. We have to take it up on Tuesday because on Monday both the Ministers will not be available here.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. We can take it up some other day according to their convenience. Therefore, now we will continue this discussion till 3.30 p.m. and then take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Deputy Speaker, today in the assembly, there is a discussion on a resolution that has been proposed along with recommendations from the Railway Modernization Committee. The Finance Ministry's determination regarding the benefits to be provided to the railways, as mentioned by the Railway Minister, is essential because the railways are a department that is genuinely performing tasks of public importance and is also working to unite the nation through its services. Railways indeed incur significant expenses in many areas where they do not generate any revenue. Railways require more than five lakh crore rupees for all the ongoing projects. In such a situation, instead of giving dividends to Railways, there is a need for more financial support. To earn one rupee, the Railways have to spend 97 paise. This is the current situation of the railways today. The Railway Upgradation Program has proposed recommendations for reviewing the benefits due to the Railways for general revenue and other incidental matters. These recommendations were presented in both

houses of parliament on December 22, 2015. The appointed Railway Modernization Committee, 2014, has made its recommendations regarding the approval of the resolutions contained in paragraphs 5,6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the first report. They have also found that, additional assistance is required by the Railways. Our Prime Minister himself has said that railways are always considered as the lifeline of transportation in the country. We want to see railways as the backbone in the development of the country, and indeed, the development of railways will increase the development of the country. For this reason, when Shri Suresh Prabhu ji came here as the Railway Minister, he has started this ambitious scheme by spending a capital cost of about 8.56 lakh crore, which will be spent between 2015 and 2020. The financial assistance required for this is approximately Rs 2.56 lakh crore.

I am happy that our Ministry of Finance, has so far provided assistance of more than Rs.40000 crore for this work. I want to tell you that our country has the largest railway network in the world. There are about 65000 km railway lines in the country, there are more than 8000 railway stations. 2.5 crore passengers are travelling daily. About 19000 passengers trains are plying currently. There are 7721 goods trains which carry 3 million goods every day.14 lakh

employees are working. The Railways has to bear the burden of salaries, allowances and other facilities of these employees. Currently, the Railways still grapples with the consequence of the 6th Pay Commission. Now, the approved suggestions of the 7th Pay Commission will also result in enduring loss for the Railways. Railways has spread its network in many such areas like strategic area, border areas in the interest of the country.

Now the railway lines that go to the army area where the military is routed, do not generate any income for the railways, and if we say that money given in dividend, from where will the railways bring it? Therefore, in such a situation, considering the issue of passenger amenities, where passenger fares have not increased and freight charges have also not risen, if the railways add up their expenses, they are completely in deficit. I agree that when the Railway Minister says we should not have to pay dividends, it seems reasonable to some extent, and Parliament needs to consider this matter seriously.

In the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15, the funds from the Ministry of Finance were not provided in proportion to the operational expenses incurred on strategic lines and national projects. The Finance Ministry had reimbursed funds of Rs. 652

crore, Rs. 637 crore and Rs. 640 crore, for those years, which the committee has also acknowledged as being very insufficient. The railway needs more assistance. Similarly, the national corridor which was created as a strategic corridor, but it was turned into a commercial national project, for instance, in the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla line, the railway is not earning any revenue, yet by including it in the national project, this route has been opened. The money invested in the railway, the revenue that the railway should be generating, is not being achieved. In this situation, the committee has emphasized with seriousness that the losses the railway is incurring require additional financial assistance. Similarly, the social obligations which the Railway Minister was just referring to, an amount of about Rs 30,000 crore has to be paid to the Railways. After examining nearly 90 percent of the current expenses, it seems evident that the railway truly needs assistance and support. The committee has also acknowledged this fact.

Just as inter-ministerial committees are formed to bring about more productive and qualitative accuracy in public services, there is a need to establish an independent body for the railways as well. Present a proper assessment of the expenses incurred periodically

and identify where additional support is needed. I believe that this is also needed.

The Ministry of Finance had suggested that as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the railways should expect financial support from states as potential sources of funding for state-specific projects. The railway has also acknowledged that we have proposed to the states, and many states have expressed willingness to cooperate. However, the railways will have to contribute its share from its own funds, for that too the railway does not have sufficient arrangements. However, it is true that previously states were allocated 32 percent of the taxes by the central government, which has now been increased to 42 percent. It is certain that the income of the States has increased as a result, and States should contribute to projects that are in the interest of the state and the public. In this regard, the committee has recommended that this matter must be considered upon.

The overall financial situation of the railways, along with modernization and security-related efforts, necessitates the immediate development of the railway's basic infrastructure. Considering the profit rate of five percent for the fiscal year 2014-15 and in anticipation of the impending impact of the Seventh Pay

Commission for the year 2015-16, the committee believes that a profit rate of four percent should be fixed on the entire capital invested in the railways from general revenues. I agree that there should be full consensus on this in the assembly. Regardless of the amount of investment, it should also include a portion that allows state governments to contribute to railway security.

The committee has acknowledged the need to allow contributions in the form of appropriate, basic, reserved funds, and DRF to enhance the capacity of the system to generate economic resources, and I understand that this is necessary. Considering the special context of increase in the number of pensioners, relief rate of inflation allowance, etc., estimated by the Railways, it is necessary to contribute to the pension fund. Now the railways have to pay pensions to employees in a very large quantity, but its income is not proportionate to that. Ultimately, it becomes the responsibility of the Finance Ministry to ensure that just like it disburses the dues of employees of other departments, additional funds should also be made available for railway employees.

The committee has also stated that capital funds should be allocated for the construction of the railway's basic infrastructure. Budget for capital fund in the year 2014-2015, appropriation was Rs.

5662.74 crores. For the fiscal year 2014-15, the revised estimate was increased by Rs. 5919.3 crore. The allocation of capital funds for the year 2015-16 is estimated at Rs. 7,615.71 crore. It is suggested that allocation should be made for planned expenditures and overall resource availability, keeping in mind operational efficiency, so that the railways can effectively carry out its other activities.

Muniyappa ji was also stating that there are nearly more than ten thousand railway crossings that needs to be closed. Accidents are occurring there regularly, and the resources required to curb them are something the railways cannot mobilize on its own.

15.15 hours (Shri Anandrao Adsul *in the Chair.*)

In such a situation, they should be given extra money to construct bridges. Since this matter is related to the safety of the common man, it's necessary to provide assistance to the railways. My suggestion is that the interest rate on the development fund should be the same as the general revenue loan interest rate for development work, and the remaining funds in the railway safety fund should be made interest-free. Since this fund is created through partial contributions from general revenue. The committee has also accepted this, and it is also my demand. I understand that the level of development the railway has achieved in the past two years is

unprecedented compared to previous years. The vision of the railways today is evident because we can see that various improvements are underway in the railways.

Muniyappa Saheb was just saying, "What is the need of a bullet train?" I want to say that the bullet train is necessary because India does not want to be left behind in comparison to the rest of the world. Don't the passengers of this country need such facilities? The U.P.A. government couldn't adopt such thinking, but our N.D.A. government, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, if he has dreamt of such a vision, then this dream should come true.

We always used to discuss in the House that there are no bridges where the National Highway intersects with the railway. The Railways always asserted that they lacked the funds for this endeavour. I would like to thank our Prime Minister, who has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 50,000 crores for the construction of a bridge on all the National Highways in the country in the name of 'Setu Bharatam' and this has fulfilled the huge requirement of railways. Today, railway stations have more amenities than ever before. Passengers are getting good facilities as well. The sanitation standards have improved significantly. There has also been a significant improvement in the catering system of the railways. I

believe that the railway needs more financial assistance. Several projects are underway, and whatever amount of money is being spent on those projects, I understand that it will be very beneficial for the country's development. Instead of the Finance Ministry benefiting from it, financial support should be given to the railway. Through the medium of the assembly, I request the government for this, and I fully support the resolution that has been proposed.

[English]

***SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity. I am very much grateful to Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchithalaivi Amma for this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Report of the Railway Convention Committee for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Sir, Railways are the backbone of our country leading to leading to overall development. It is very much necessary for passenger and freight traffic. Railways cater to different sections of people including poor, middle class, labourers, senior citizens, women and students. It will not be an exaggeration if I say Railways remain as a boon benefitting every citizen of this country.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

The Railway Convention Committee came into existence in the year 1949. And since 1954 we have had one Railway Convention Committee in every Lok Sabha. The primary work of this Committee is to fix the rate of dividends to be paid by Railways to the Union Government. During the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, the rate of dividends was 7 per cent. During the years 2009-10 and 2010-11, it was reduced to 6 per cent. And in the year 2011-12 it got reduced by another 1 per cent and was fixed at 5 per cent. Further being reduced by 1 per cent, the rate of dividend was fixed at 4 per cent for the year 2012-13. But in the year 2013-14, it got increased by 1 per cent to become 5 per cent. It is now recommended by the Railway Convention Committee to fix the rate of dividend as 5 per cent and 4 per cent for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16, respectively.

During the year 1950-51, the investment made by the Union Government in Railways was to the tune of Rs. 827 Crore. During the year 2014-15, the same had increased to Rs. 1,98,009.84 Crore and for the current year it is at Rs. 2,35,328.79 Crore. At the same time, the dividend amount was less than Rs.100 Crore during 1964. But it got increased manifold to reach Rs. 8,008 Crore during the year 2013-14. For the years 2014-15 and 2015-16, the dividend amount was Rs. 9174 Crore and Rs. 10,811 Crore respectively.

The Ministry of Railways, which is under the administrative control of the Union Government, should have robust financial health with sufficient financial resources. At the same time, Railways generate more revenue for the Union Government by carrying passenger and freight traffic. Railways should never be seen as a commercial undertaking as it serves so many social and public service obligations.

During the year 2015-16, Railways would pay to IRFC in 2015-16, an amount of 8,500 Crore as interest component for lease charges. More over the Railways need to bear the additional burden due to the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission. The Railways do not fix the fuel price. Similarly, a major portion of the revenues is spent on Ordinary Working Expenses, Salary and pension liabilities, Safety-related work, etc. besides liabilities on health and education. Railways also provide concessions to 53 categories of people thereby sharing the burden of the Union Government. The dividend to be paid to the Union Government by Railways, if deferred, could be used for various developmental work including laying of new lines and construction of buildings. It would be therefore difficult on the part of Railways to pay dividends in high percentage.

Railways play a major role in leading to the nation's development protecting the interests of the people. Both the Railways and Finance ministries should act in unison as the two eyes of our body. Only then there would be clarity on our vision for development.

An investment plan of Railways for the years 2015-2019, has been chalked out which envisages an investment of about Rs. 8.56 lakh crore over the next five years. The target is to increase daily passenger carrying capacity from 21 million to 30 million; increase track length by 20% from 1,14,000 km to 1,38,000 km; and grow our annual freight carrying capacity from 1 billion to 1.5 billion tonnes. There are set targets for the next five years, for the commissioning of new lines for 4,000 km, doubling of 7653 km; broad gauge conversion of 5,500 km; and electrification of 6500 km of railway lines.

An amount of Rs. 5.19 lakh Crore has been approved by the Union Government under the twelfth five-year Plan. Out of which an amount of Rs. 1.94 lakh Crore is to be financed from Gross Budgetary Support, Rs. 1.05 lakh Crore from Internal Generation and 2.20 lakh Crore from Extra Budgetary Resources. It is targeted

to garner an investment of 11 lakh Cr. through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Railways have provided an amount of Rs. 3,555 Crore to Konkan Railway Corporation Limited. Out of which Rs. 2,755 Cr. was borrowed from the market on the strength of a letter of comfort issued by the Ministry of Railways. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has been able to generate revenue sufficient only to cover its operating expenses, which is inadequate to service interest and debt liabilities. Hence Ministry of Railways had to extend support to KRCL by way of loans. The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation got, in the year 2008- 09, a sanction of Rs. 4875 Crore which was shared between the Ministry of Railways (74%) and Ministry of Urban Development (26%). Kolkata Metro Railway, commissioned during the year 1984, even after more than 30 years of expansion and operations, is yet finding difficulty to earn more revenues.

Railways have been making up the gap in its capital investment requirement by resorting to market borrowings through Indian Railway Finance Corporation. In the year 2015-16, borrowing is fixed at 17,276 Crores. Out of which, Railways would pay to Indian Railway Finance Corporation, in the year 2015-16, an amount of 8,500 Cr. as interest component and Rs. 6,293 Crore as principal

component. Railways constitute more than 40 per cent of the Union Government workforce. After the implementation of recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission, the expenses due to salary, insurance and pension liabilities had considerably increased. This will further increase due to the financial impact of recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. This would drastically reduce the fiscal space of Railways and there would not be any excess money left with the Railways for sharing as dividend with the Union Government.

It is therefore urged to reduce the rate of dividend and to fix it at 4 per cent for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. Moreover the operating losses incurred on the national projects as well as other projects are quite substantial which are being borne by the railways. All National Projects and Projects of National Importance including identified strategic and border area projects may be declared dividend free or eligible for subsidy relief on dividend liability.

The Dedicated Freight Corridors should be considered at par with new lines for relief in dividend payment. And I urge that all special or exclusive coaches provided in trains for physically handicapped and women may be added to list of assets exempt from dividend. Moreover, the dividend should not be computed on the

taxation amount of a project cost and Ministry of Finance should reimburse the GRP cost to Railways.

The total support expected to be given to Railways in 2015–16 from Budget will be of the order of Rs.51,000Crore. This includes Rs.40,000 Crore through Gross Budgetary Support and Rs.11,000 Crore revenue foregone for the public service obligations of Railways. Clearly, any decision to reduce the rate of dividend will increase the Budget support to Railways through enhanced revenue foregone. If it earns profit in excess after meeting all expenses, it would help Railways in paying dividend to the Union Government. Indian Railways have to still extend its services in several parts of the country which may require additional financial support leading for its growth and development.

Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchithalaivi Amma has requested for speedy implementation of all the pending Railway projects in Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Union Government to immediately ensure completion of all these pending Railway projects pertaining to Tamil Nadu.

Sir, in my Krishnagiri Parliamentary constituency, there is no railway line connecting Krishnagiri town. There was a railway line functioning via Krishnagiri during the days of British Rule in India. I

therefore urge that a new railway line be laid between Jolarpettai and Hosur *via* Krishnagiri which is a long pending demand of the people of my Constituency. I therefore urge upon the Minister for Railways to immediately consider the proposal of laying a new railway line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Krishnagiri. Thank you.

15.30 hours**MOTION RE: 22nd to 24th REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We shall now take up Item No. 14 – Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th May, 20th and 27th July, 2016, respectively.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Question is:

“That this House do agree with the Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Reports of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th May, 20th and 27th July, 2016, respectively.”

The motion is adopted.

15.31 hours

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

**Steps to ensure welfare of Employees Provident Fund Pensioners
...Continued**

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution on the Employees Provident Fund moved by Shri N. K. Premachandran. Shri Premachandran is a noted trade unionist from Kerala working in the cashew, coir and other big industries of Kerala. He has brought this Resolution after much consideration and deliberation for which I sincerely thank him.

The Employees Provident Fund Scheme, as you know, Sir, was introduced in 1951 and another scheme, the Employees Pension Scheme, was introduced in 1995. We are also connected with the trade unions. The contribution from the employer is 12 per cent and the same percentage of amount is contributed by an employee. Out of the employer contribution of 12 per cent, 8.33 per cent goes to the pension fund and 1.16 per cent comes from the Government of India to the Employees' Pension Fund. Up to now the Employees' Pension

fund has a corpus of Rs.2,38,531 crore. This is a very big amount, which is there.

Shri Premachandran brings out a few defects in the Employees' Pension Scheme in a very proper manner. I suppose the Hon. Labour Minister must be listening to it. First, our demand is that from 1971 the Government's contribution has remained the same at 1.16 per cent. The contribution of the Government of India must increase.

I agree that the organised workers, who will enjoy the benefits of Provident Fund, are relatively small compared to the unorganised workers. We also know that in many States they have introduced through State Governments some pension or some provident fund schemes for the unorganised workers. But as far as the organised workers are concerned, the EPF remains their main support.

Shri Premachandran also pointed out that after much difficulty the Government of India has introduced the minimum pension as Rs.1000. I thank the Government of India because Rs.1000 per month per pensioner is a good thing. Before that, it was Rs.300 or Rs.400 etc. There is a formula for calculating pension. It is: 'Pensionable Salary x Pensionable Service / 70'. That is the amount of pension. Formally, in many cases, it fell below Rs. 1,000. Now, pension of at least Rs. 1,000 has been ensured. Mr. Premachandran

has made a demand that this minimum pension should be increased to Rs. 3,000. I fully support his demand of making the minimum pension Rs. 3,000.

Now, some big points are there. Formally, there is a provision for commutation from pension fund under which I could take certain amount of money from my pension fund and that would be deducted from the monthly pension payable. Now, even after the commuted amount is paid off by the worker from his pension, this will continue after his death. I think, this formula should be changed. People should be given the benefit of paying off their commutation amount and then enjoy the full amount of their pension.

The other thing is called the return of capital and that is to be restored. Earlier, the amount of pension was based on last 12 months' salary. Now, it is based on 60 months' salary. This reduces the amount of pension. We want the former system of computing pension based on last 12 months' salary to be restored in the interest of the working class.

Sir, you will realize that the pension of pensioners in the Government of India increases with the cost of living index. Also, at the time of every Pay Commission, they are receiving better pension benefits. Nobody should grudge that and they should get it. I would

like that this pension amount should also be linked to the cost of living index. I would like to remind that in the year 1995, when Shri Sangma was the Labour Minister, he introduced this pension scheme. He had promised that this pension scheme would be revised after every ten years, but it is 20 years now and there has been no revision of the pension scheme for the workers.

Now, the Labour Ministry of Government of India has the ESI Scheme. At present, if a worker retires and goes on EPF pension, he gets no medical benefit. I demand that the pensioners of Provident Fund under EPF Pension Scheme should also be entitled to ESI benefits.

Now, I come to the main important questions or controversies regarding the pension scheme of today. I find that the Labour Minister is absolutely helpless in the face of more powerful Finance Minister. Why? Rs. 27,000 crore is the unclaimed amount as far as pension is concerned. Why is this unclaimed amount there? According to rules, pension- EPF savings become inoperative when there is no fresh credit into the account for 36 months. Such deposits remaining unclaimed for over seven years, there is a proposal to divert it to Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. Now, we are totally against that. Whatever amount is received from the workers, that

amount should be spent for their medical benefit and on them. Do you agree, Mr. Premachandran?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Absolutely.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It is very good that you have set up a Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. The Government has many sources of revenue, but they are targeting that unclaimed amount lying in the Employees' Provident Fund Organization and they are trying to divert these deposits. Now, according to law, it cannot be done. So, what did the Finance Minister do? He has brought the Finance Act of 2016, which was passed by the Parliament, and inserted an overriding provision that authorizes transfers from EPF account and making provisions in other laws ineffective. One branch of the Government is making the existing law inoperative.

You will be happy to know that all sections of working class have protested against this. The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh General Secretary, Shri Virjesh Upadhyay has said: "The Government has no right to encroach on workers' money. We welcome the move to set up a Welfare Fund for Senior Citizens created out of budget and not from Provident Fund savings of employees." Who says this? It is the General Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh.

Not only that, the other Central Trade Unions walked out of the meeting held on July 26 protesting against the agenda item informing the Board of the Government's move. Now, AITUC General Secretary, Shri D.L. Sachdev said: "Even the provisions of the Finance Act or any other rule of law cannot take away the fundamental rights. Workers have the right to claim their deposits at any point of time." This was said by AITUC General Secretary, Shri D.L. Sachdev. So, what the Finance Minister has done is against the wishes of the organized Trade Unions in this country. Hence, this move is totally anti-labour.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, the present Labour Minister, was a child worker in Hyderabad. Then, he was involved in trade union activities in the Allwyn Factory. Though age made him less sharp, he should protest publicly against this move of the Finance Ministry.

Sir, lastly, I want to emphasize that this Scheme has been so good and, over the years, the total corpus of the Employees Provident Fund has reached up to Rs. 9 lakh crore. It is a huge collection. Now, the Government is always looking for ways where they can get money from. They are setting their eyes on this. What we want is that total security has to be ensured. That is why, this money should be put in Government Bonds, Securities and, at most,

in the public sector. There is a strong pressure from the corporate lobby and sections of the Government that you should invest a part of this in the share market with all the attended risks. I am totally opposed to putting workers' money in share market and stock exchanges. The benefits that workers have received after so many years of service should not be taken away from them.

It is true that in our country social security is not available for most of the people. This is most unfortunate thing that most of the people have no regular income. There are so many workers in the unorganized sector. There are a large number of construction workers; those who move from place to place. There are small shop workers. In our State, we know there is a special scheme of provident fund for unorganized workers. There is also a special scheme of provident fund for construction workers. But this Employee's Provident Fund Scheme is a Central scheme.

Normally, the Employees Provident Fund Organization is headed by a senior IAS officer and the Government of India started thinking that this money collected with the Employees Provident Fund Organization is their own money. I would urge the Hon. Minister Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, who is from Secunderabad, to take into consideration the workers' worries regarding commutation,

return of capital, our demand for minimum pension of Rs. 3,000, our demand for reviewing the Employees' Pension Scheme, our demand for increasing the Government of India's share, our demand for ESI medical benefits and our demand for minimum Rs. 3,000 pension under the EPF scheme.

I hope that I have been able to put across the main intention of the mover of the Resolution Shri Premachandran. The Hon. Minister Shri Bandaru Dattatreya is supposed to reply to this debate today. I hope that he will respond to some of the people.

Lastly, I would say that these are days when corporates are gaining the upper hand. Ever since liberalization started in this country, workers have been going with their backs to the wall. *[Translation]* People belonging to the labour category are suffering every day. Under the guise of liberalization and modernization, enterprises are shutting down. This results in the deprivation of employment opportunities for the workers. For them, the Provident Fund scheme is the only ray of hope. We will not let it extinguish in any way. Workers from all over the country want the Employees' Provident Fund scheme to be strengthened further and any weaknesses in it to be eliminated.

With this fact,I extend my congratulations to N.K. Premchandran and wholeheartedly support his entire proposal. Jai Hind.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I am to inform the House that the time of two hours allotted for the discussion on the Resolution is almost over. As there are five more Members to take part in the discussion, we have to extend the time for further discussion on the Resolution. If the House agrees, the time for discussion on the Resolution may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: We agree.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. The time for this Resolution is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, I stand in support of the resolution proposed by Premachandran ji, which aims to address the concerns regarding the employees' provident fund and ensure their welfare. The government has considered whatever the concerns of the workers. However, despite these improvements, certain employees have concerns that their substantial deposits, amounting to crores, are lying idle in government accounts. Saugat Roy Ji, who was also a minister in the previous government, never raised this issue, leading to its current neglect state.

The steps initiated by our Hon. Prime Minister for the labour class and for the workers have been taken in the interest of the labour class. Due to the constant communication with the Hon. Minister of Labour, Bandaru Ji, who is also keeping him informed about this matter. In the history of 60 years, people from a particular family who ruled the country and a party continued to govern. ... *(Interruptions)* Saugat Roy ji, the correction in it is that a Jan Dhan Yojana was implemented. If the Jan Dhan Yojana has been executed, then the same working-class individuals who do not hold government positions, nor do they have any income source at home,

engaged in construction work, drive rickshaws, toil as labourers, work in kilns, or run vegetable shops. None of these individuals have received adequate care over the past sixty years. claims were made recognizing that they are the only true advocates for the poor; no one else has demonstrated such compassion over the past six decades. The poor fellow kept thinking that when they were ruling, he wanted nine, he got one, he felt that if he got even one instead of nine, that too would be enough. If we had not given even this, what harm would we have done to them? Those poor people kept thinking while suffering from this mentality. However, through this Jan-Dhan Yojana, they have been considered. The poor man, the labour class, who were barely allowed to climb the stairs of banks, were reached by setting up camps at their doorstep. They were told whatever deposit they had, it might be fifty rupees, hundred rupees, or two hundred rupees get deposited it in the bank. These nationalized banks have been opened for you. If they deposit money and keep that account open continuously for 6 months, then that labourer will not have to run to any moneylender's door for ten rupees, twenty rupees or hundreds. The bank will offer him a loan of up to five thousand rupees, eliminating the need for him to approach moneylenders, a practice that has been prevalent for sixty years, under the auspices of Saugata Roy ji's party, which held ministerial

positions. And the bank will definitely give them five thousand rupees when the time comes. Suppose a family member in their house gets sick, some maintenance has to be done in the house, if relatives come, then they will get that money.

Similarly, there is a Suraksha Bima Yojana. The labourer will get this for just one rupee. Rich people get insurance done and pay premiums. Where will a poor person who doesn't have a regular income think about getting insurance, paying premiums, and worrying about their family after their death? Throughout his life, he did not have enough money to fill his stomach. The Hon. Prime Minister has implemented a security insurance scheme, which is also for the same category, who holds a BPL card, is a poor person, and belongs to a middle-class family. At Rs. 1 per month and Rs. 12 per year, if he also enrolls this in his Jan Dhan account, then the premium of Rs. 12 will automatically continue to be deducted from that Jan Dhan account. He could die unexpectedly. A substantial metro system is under construction in Delhi. How many types of security are there in this metro? The metro is operating in the capital of the country and also in other states. In this area, the railway line has been established by excavating a basement of 70 - 80 feet, but till date no labourer has died. Until today, I haven't heard of anyone

sinking into the ground. They did not let anyone know, no one could find out. However, by compromising, because those poor people didn't know where to go, where they would end up, but today if he dies, then the people of his family will definitely become eligible for that accidental insurance, and the poor man will definitely get his due.

The schemes that are introduced by the Prime Minister, it is not that only the Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party is doing this, but the International Labour Organisation has also appreciated it in the international community. The NGOs and companies that run financial industries like ASSOCHAM have also definitely appreciated these schemes. It's not that Prime Minister Ji hasn't worked. In our NDA government, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, serves as the Minister of Labour, is seated and he has been expressing concerns. In spite of that, if a member of this class's family falls ill or meets with an accident while going somewhere on a bicycle, and breaks his leg, the industry will pay him wages only for the number of days he works as a labourer. He will not get wages. Who will worry about him? His concern was not addressed.

Now another scheme is coming. The Three Ministers Committee has been formed under the leadership of Hon. Jaitley ji. Everyone

has been linked with an Aadhaar card so that any person who gets a card made for 250 rupees and after getting an EAI card, will receive support in case of any illness. This is a government scheme for the labour class. I was saying earlier that if he meets with an accident or someone in his family falls ill, if a labourer falls ill, then understand that the entire family has fallen ill. There is no one to look after their well being. No one has been worried about this in the past 60 years. Under the leadership of Mr. Modi, the NDA government that has come, it's the first time in 68 years that this has happened. It is possible that people might be unaware of this information. Our opponents fled the field. They become well-wishers of the poor. But there is no one in the bench right now. No one even cared today, about discussing the Provident Fund for the workers. They are sitting in the opposition. It was their duty to create pressure on the government regarding the shortcomings and tell the ministers that they are advocates for the welfare of the poor. The resolution has been brought by Premachandran ji. Our colleague has brought resolution, and it is being supported by the people of the ruling party, because this matter is related to the poor, it is a matter of interest of the poor. This government is doing the work positively in the interest of the poor.

The labour class did not know. I am a member of the Consultative Committee of Bandaru ji. The minimum wages that the government decides, were fixed in papers for 70 years. When a poor person goes to work in a factory, if the minimum wages in the capital Delhi are Rs 9,900 then the industry people make the poor work for 6-6 thousand rupees.

In the morning, Hon. Members were loudly saying that a murder had occurred. They were shouting about beef. I suggested that granting the unemployed poor individuals licenses for slaughterhouses could sustain their livelihoods. Give them a resident visa for Pakistan and arrange for it so that they can start settling there. They were merely creating a spectacle, but what tangible actions have they taken in the past 60 years for the welfare of the poor, backward class and scheduled castes. They had no plans for them.

Hon. Saugat Roy ji is a very senior member. I would have liked it if they were present in the House right now. He is a big contractor of labourers in Bengal. They are not guided properly. My point is just that the resolution brought by Mr. Premchandran, perhaps the Provident Fund balance was Rs 27 thousand crores, if the money of the poor was collected, now there is concern for that. Through the

Universal Account Card that has been created, now the poor worker will be able to work in an industry. He is working in Delhi and got work in Kolkata and Chennai. He has been linked with Aadhaar card. After taking that card, if he worked for six or eight months in the first company, his provident fund was deducted there. The poor labourer doesn't go to collect it. His money would have been forfeited. Till date, millions of rupees are dormant in the government's account, a matter that the Prime Minister addressed by facilitating the creation of cards for a fee of Rs. 250. Now, a person working in an unorganized sector organization can only get medical facilities through an ESI card for a premium of only two hundred and fifty rupees, as determined by this government. This Government has worked in the interests of the workers.

For them, Pradhan Mantri Atal Pension Yojana has been launched. When a government employee retires at the age of 60, his life is secured, as he gets a pension. But what about 7-8 crore labour class in the country who works in the unorganized area, what will they do after 60 years. The son turned out to be worthless, daughter in law is not looking after them. What will that poor person do? He can take Rs. 220 scheme. On the day he turns 60, Premachandran ji, the government will give him a pension of five thousand rupees

through banks. If a person getting pension in his name , unfortunately passes away and if their spouse or any other family member is dependent on them, then they will also continue to receive the pension. No one had showed this concern in 68 years. They are merely theatrically claiming it's a government of the wealthy, a government of the elites.

There is a Sukanya Yojana. A person with money does not worry that his daughter has grown up and how will he marry her. This worry is for people living in makeshift houses, slums. A poor man from the labour class in the village would be belonging the Scheduled Caste or OBC. If a daughter was born in his house, she was considered a burden.

16.00 hours

The labourer regarded his daughter as a burden, neglecting to send her for education. The Prime Minister started Sukanya Yojana, if the daughter of labourer becomes nine years old, one thousand rupees per month has to be deposited in her account till the girl is 18 years old. The wives of the wealthy or the wealthy themselves are not worried about their daughters. The poor's wife worries about their daughter's future as she turns ten, pondering how they will

arrange her marriage, when her maternal uncle and relatives visit give her five hundred or two hundred rupees, she uses that money to purchase anklets or a nose ring, thinking it will be beneficial for her wedding. When her daughter grows up, her mother is worried. Instead of worrying, the labour class can deposit money in the Sukanya Yojana. By the time of marriage, they will receive around six and a half lakh rupees from the bank to use for the wedding. The concern of the poor man ended after the Modi government came to power. All these problems were faced by the labourers, who were agricultural labourers and worked in the fields, small farmers who had around one and a half acres of land. He could barely make ends meet. How would they find employment for four sons? So, they would leave their elderly parents in the village and migrate to cities in search of livelihood, believing that only this way would they be able to earn enough to sustain themselves. I have provided information about the Universal Account. If he leaves work from one place and works in another company as well, after linking with Aadhaar, he will be considered as the beneficiary of the previous money. Why was this concern not raised earlier? They say that our leader Rajiv Gandhi ji brought computers to us I don't deny that Rajiv Gandhi introduced this initiative, but it was primarily for the benefit of the elite, limiting access to only a specific community. In

this nation, 70% of the population includes farmers and labourers. If impoverished labourers become self-sufficient and educated, then they will snatch the throne from their hands, so the poor should remain poor, and they will continue to rule. The government kept working with such a mindset. I support Premchandran ji's resolution that he will talk to the Hon. Minister. The government is considering providing assistance through the Provident Fund after losing the job. Premchandran ji will talk to the minister if they meet. All the neighbours of Premchandran ji left the field and ran away, he used to be a well-wisher of the poor. But Premchandran ji is sitting and thinking about the interests of the poor. If there are any deficiencies within the government and if something has been missed out, it should be brought to light. And he deserves gratitude for that.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Deputy Speaker Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for standing up to speak on an important resolution. They bring a resolution regarding the schemes related to welfare, pensions, or provident funds after retirement for all those employees of the country who dedicate their entire lives to the nation's development and contribute to society. I relate myself to Ramesh Bidhuri's sentiments based on what he has said. I would like to say one thing to Premchandran ji that while you stand with the Congress party every day, today when your resolution and proposal have come, BJP people are standing with you, so should this be an eye opener in future. If they cannot stand with the labourers of the country, then you should not stand with them as well. Today is Non-Official Day, no government bill has to come, no government bill has to be passed. Today is the time for us to go to our constituency.

Hon. Speaker, despite this, if the ruling party's MPs are sitting in such large numbers and Premchandran ji, as Bidhuri ji said, you have brought a proposal, the intent, the sentiment behind it, is for the welfare of those millions of employees in the country. So today, undoubtedly, we congratulate them and we support their proposal.

Sir, we would like to say to the Hon. Minister that the resolution presented by Hon. Premchandran ji, which has mentioned eight important points for the government to consider, I believe the government should consider each of those eight points carefully. I want to tell that the Government has given some thought on these points. I feel like today there is a demand that, increase the minimum pension to Rs.3000 per month under the employees' pension scheme, 1995. I understand that what they have demanded today should be a minimum pension of Rs. 3000/-.Through this house, the entire nation knows that the current minimum pension of Rs. 1000/- has been fixed, before this, when the government of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the leadership of Mr. Modi did not come into power, you cannot even imagine the pension to these employees. At that time, some received Rs. 50/-, some received Rs. 75/-, and some received Rs. 100/-.

Sir, you may recall, at that time as the Labour Minister, Hon. Narendra Singh Tomar was there, and the government was formed on May 26, 2014. Within four to five months, Modi ji made the first decision for those employees from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and he said that our government will provide a minimum pension of at least Rs. 1000/-. The decision was made by the government of the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under the leadership of Modi ji, in this very assembly. We issued a notification for the Employee Provident Fund scheme in September 2014, and on that day, standing in this very assembly, the honourable Narendra Singh Tomar ji made the announcement and said that many welfare-oriented governments have come in this country, but until our government came, no one did anything for these people. However, today we have resolved to provide them with a minimum pension of at least Rs. 1000/-.After retirement, they don't have a house. If they fall ill, they might receive basic treatment from ESI, but they might not have money for treatment in case of a serious illness. They don't have money for their daughters' weddings or for their daughters' education. Considering how assistance can be provided to them, this government has naturally done good job today by thinking about their assistance. I understand that Premchandran ji will accept this, and they also have expectations from this government because the minimum pension provided by this government after the retirement of those employees is Rs. 1000/-.This is definitely a welcome step.

Sir, through this resolution, we request the Hon. Minister to increase the pension of those employees of the country in line with this resolution. Surely, that will be a welcome step in itself.

Sir, as our Hon. member, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri ji just mentioned, and he also said that today there is an unclaimed fund of Rs. 27 thousand crores. They have written about, implementing welfare schemes for pensioners' benefits, including a housing scheme, by utilizing the unclaimed Provident Fund amounting to Rs. 27000 crore.

The funds, amounting to Rs. 27 thousand crores, were difficult to claim previously due to complications. For instance, if an employee worked somewhere for a few months and then moved to another job, their provident fund deductions would start from the day they began working, but claiming those funds, whether for two months or four months, was challenging. This was because many employees were either uneducated, unskilled, or lacked the knowledge to follow up on their provident fund contributions. The accumulated amount has increased to Rs. 27 thousand crores in this manner. It is natural that online processes have begun today, so employees can also withdraw their provident fund online. As on date, the corpus is Rs 27,000 crore, be it Employee Provident Fund, out of which Rs 27,000 crore is unclaimed. In many post offices, there are a lot of people who get their N.S.C. made. There are people who deposit money in the form of savings, whether it is a Kisan

Vikas Patra or a National Savings Certificate. Our government has proposed, Mr. Nishikant is sitting, you will remember, the entire assembly witnesses, in the budget of 2015-16, Mr. Arun Jaitley, as the Minister of Finance, had said. Whether it's unclaimed money in the post office or in the provident fund, the country had around Rs. 45,000 crores as unclaimed money with the government, whether it was during the UP government's tenure, this money was lying in the government treasury. Our government has decided, the Minister of Finance said in his budget speech that unclaimed money, whether it's in the provident fund, bank, or in the post office, will be spent for the senior citizens of the country. It's a very historic decision.

I want to talk about senior citizens who live in homes, what their situation is in villages, despite having children, they are pushed out of their homes. They don't have any security in old age and they somehow become helpless. They don't have money for medicine, food, or shelter. Sometimes we talk about Kashi, where all the widows reside. We talk about Mathura, we talk about Vrindavan, we talk about all the temples in the country where senior citizens reside. There was no social security for them in the country, and there was no proper arrangement for old-age homes. It is beyond imagination

how the women senior citizen ,if they pushed out of the house, used to live and perhaps living helpless, compelled and powerless life.

Considering the situation of senior citizens in villages, cities, and all areas, this unclaimed money will be spent. I think the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken this commendable step. The post office has farmers' money, savings certificates, NSC, Provident Fund. Can the Labour Minister consider segregating the provident fund money from this? Employees can be helped with that provident fund money. The government will take responsible steps by making serious efforts to utilize unclaimed money in the provident fund for the welfare of employees, for the employee housing scheme, to provide security for their future. This request has come through the resolution. If the government considers this matter seriously, in the coming days, we can succeed in helping all employees of India who are facing challenges and difficulties in their lives, as mentioned by previous speakers. We can alleviate their sense of insecurity.

[English]

Shri Premachandran has told to restore the benefits of commutation and return of capital to the employees provident fund pensioners and to ensure payment of full pension to pensioners as per the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 after realizing the full

amount of commuted pension from pensioners. He also told to revise the whole Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 on the basis of past experience and extend the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 to various other Legislatures.

[Translation]

The mention of commutation refers to the fact that our employees have the right to commute one-third of their pension from the day it begins. However, when employees commute one-third of their pension, they receive the commuted amount in a lump sum. If a government employee, whether working for the state or central government, wants to commute one-third of their pension amount after retirement and receive it as a lump sum, they have the right to do so, just like our employees do. Yes, that's correct. If a government employee's pension is Rs. 3,000, they can commute one-third of it, which amounts to Rs. 1,000. Let's assume that if he commutes one-third of his pension, he receives a hundred times more, meaning he will receive one lakh rupees. Now, our employees will also receive one lakh rupees in this manner. However, after 15 years, the employee's money will not be included. But government employees have the facility from the government that after 15 years, a thousand rupees will be added to their pension. Then they will start

receiving a pension of three thousand rupees. Government employees who commute their pension after retirement start receiving their full pension after 15 years, so why don't these employees receive their full pension after 15 years as well? We are not making any new demands through this Resolution. If our employees commute one-third of their pension after retirement, then even after 15 years, they will continue to have a deduction of one thousand rupees, and they will receive two thousand rupees. However, government employees will receive more than that.

Mr. Chairperson, he has said in this that -- provide pension to the beneficiaries of Employees Provident Fund Scheme on the basis of the average salary of 12 months, immediately preceding retirement. This is not a new thing.

Hon. Minister, you should consider it. Premachandran ji said that if an employee retires, then calculate his pension based on the average of the salary for the last 12 months. I understand that it is based on his contribution. The calculation of your pension under the current Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1995, is based on the total contribution made by the subscriber throughout their service. The pension calculation is based on the contributions made by the individual as part of their service towards the PF. Naturally, when a

man starts a job, his salary is very low. When he completes his service 30-35 years, his salary also increases and his contribution also increases. Why not assess his pension based on the contribution made by his last year's salary? I understand that when we are talking about 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', then in the case of government employees, the calculation is based only on their last year's 12 months' salary. I support this notion that if we consider the highest salary of a government employee in their retirement year, on which they are contributing to the Provident Fund, and if the calculation is based on those 12 months, then it should definitely be included in the provisions of the Employee Provident Fund scheme. This will certainly fulfil the expectations of all those people in this government or in this country. It seems that they feel there is discrimination against them in some way. If we could not become a government employee today, we spent our entire lives as an employee in some other establishment, with all the hard work we have done in that establishment we did whatever we could do for our country, for the GDP of the country. People from the agriculture sector, industrial sector, service sector and all other sectors contribute to the country's GDP. Based on their contribution, we will definitely calculate the salaries and contributions of our employees for the last years of their service, so they will surely benefit from it.

He wrote in his point 6: Revive the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 on the basis of past experience. I understand this implies creating a comprehensive employee welfare scheme, considering the experiences from our past and the challenges faced by employees, the difficulties and societal disparities they encounter after retirement, aiming to address discrimination and ensure the well-being of our employees. Naturally, this work needs to be done today.

Today, they have a separate scheme for their pension, medical facilities are provided to them by ESI, and they have to go to the labour court for compensation. In this way, there are different arrangements for an Employee. He has to move from pillar to post to avail medical facilities, pension, etc. In the end, I would like to request that whether it's about medical facilities, pension schemes, or addressing their dues, if we bring all these different arrangements under one comprehensive scheme, perhaps all welfare benefits could be provided to the employees more conveniently and efficiently. Hon. Sir, you would agree that whether it's about their pension, welfare schemes, medical schemes, or other schemes, it will be quite convenient for them.

Similarly point 7 states that extend the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 to Various sectors. It is natural that he has talked

about expanding it, he must have mentioned it in his speech, but as far as I understand, the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 should be implemented in other sectors also. It's natural that in this assembly where we address the concerns of the organized sector, all Hon. Members also express concerns for the unorganized sector. Today, the way outsourcing is happening in the country, the way labour is being hired on contracts, whether they are agricultural labourers or security guards, it has become a significant industry in the country. In this way, all sectors of the country, which are unorganized sectors, are not receiving the facilities for their welfare like those in the organized sector. I believe that in our country, there is a very large sector which is more in the unorganized sector than in the organized sector. If the youth of this country, the employees of this country, are not working in the organized sector due to certain circumstances and are working in the unorganized sector, then those people in the unorganized sector who have not yet benefitted from the schemes, they have not yet received the benefit of.

Our government has recently introduced a new pension scheme because there is a large segment of self-employed individuals who do not currently have any social security coverage. Today, Modi Ji's focus is indeed on all sections of the country, whether it's our

women or daughters. I don't want to go anywhere. The biggest provision in the Jan Dhan Yojana is the provision of maximum security, where an account can be opened at any time with zero balance, and occasionally, if a person deposits 50-100 rupees intermittently, some amount will be accumulated. With this, one can face any situation at any time.

In villages, as we often see, when someone faces an urgent need, such as if a woman's husband falls ill or a child in the family gets sick, they often have to pawn their jewellery like anklets, chains, mangalsutra, or silver and gold, to borrow money, sometimes ranging from one to two thousand or three to four thousand rupees. This is a reality. Understanding this reality, people should get social security and every person of the country, who is a citizen of India, should also have the right to safety. Modi ji's government has done this work which should not only be limited to the Article of the Constitution, but it should get some rights on the ground of reality. Millions of people have benefitted from this scheme. Today, our government has provided banking security to millions of people in the country. Many people would never have imagined that they would have a bank passbook or a bank account. Based on that

account, we can receive some money at zero balance if we ever find ourselves in difficult circumstances. This is also a scheme.

Today, there is also a scheme of Mudra Yojana and people can get loans ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh without guarantee. This is also a huge thing. Our government can initiate large-scale schemes and empower every citizen with the right to stand on their own feet. If they are just a citizen, they are not passive citizens, rather, they can contribute to India's future as empowered, capable citizens. For this, we have introduced a new pension scheme. Any person in the country can avail this.

Hon. Minister of Finance had mentioned the scheme in this House. In this New Pension Scheme, it is provided that any person can be a participant in this scheme, if he wants, he can contribute together, and the maximum contribution can be up to Rs 70,000. A private individual can contribute more than 70 thousand rupees, and they can choose to contribute monthly, which also provides tax benefits. We have included the common man in this new pension scheme. I will request the Hon. Minister to make it comprehensive so that it covers both organized and unorganized sectors. This will provide security to our poor labour brothers in the unorganized

sector, and the Indian government can also contribute according to their contributions.

Hon. Minister should consider this. I would like to draw his attention to the Family Pension Scheme of the year 1971, it became an Act in this House in the year 1971. Under that law, the Government of India's contribution is 1.16 percent. For the Family Pension Scheme, the Government of India will also contribute 1.16 per cent relatively to your contribution. That year was 1971, but today we are in the year 2016. Even today, the Government of India is contributing only 1.16 per cent to the Family Pension Scheme. Where the salary of the Employees increased by two and a half, today the rate of interest of the provident fund of the Employees has gone up to 8.33 per cent. Hon. Minister, consider increasing the pension. If you also consider increasing the contribution of the Government of India to the Family Pension Scheme from the year 1971, then undoubtedly in the coming days, our labourers and employees will benefit from it.

The money in the E.P.F. is the biggest concern for employees today because they retire but do not have their roof over their head. I am grateful that after becoming Prime Minister, Modi ji has committed our government for providing home to every family in

India, who still doesn't have one by the year 2022. This is a significant step. This government has pledged, it's a decision of our Honourable Modi Ji and our central government, that our Hindustan will be a country in the world where if any person doesn't have their own home if they don't have a roof over their head, and if today they are still living in makeshift shelters, many families are still living on the streets, if you go to big cities, they live on the roadside in shanties with their entire families, huddled under a tarp. Whether it's Mumbai, Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, or Patna, today not everyone has access to housing. As a result, families feel that they don't have their own home, their own shelter. Our government has decided that we will provide a home to every family. Hon. Minister, whenever you respond to this, you can certainly say that the unclaimed 27,000 crore rupees in the Provident Fund will in a way support the government. We will use this unclaimed fund for housing schemes for our employees who still don't have a roof over their heads. This is the demand of this resolution. In the coming days, the government will launch several schemes using its resources or budgetary provisions to provide housing to the many homeless families across the country. If we accept this resolution under this scheme, the remaining 27,000 crore rupees that we have can be allocated to the housing scheme if we want a significant amount.

Today, this subject is not a political question. The subject that has come before the House today concerns the millions of employees in this country. For their welfare, security, and future, I would go so far as to say that when it comes to their livelihoods, the government is certainly taking effective steps. When we consider those effective steps, we will also contemplate the implementation of housing schemes for those employees and ensure their welfare. This will definitely be beneficial in the coming days. Hon. Minister also mentioned in his response the number of subscribers under the Central Government, State Government, Corporate, and All Citizens categories, totalling 99 million subscribers. The defined contribution system in place also pertains to the inclusion of new members. Regarding this matter, I assure you that if you consider regulating the pension fund, it will certainly contribute to the development of employees. The government recently decided to bring the EPFO under the Ministry of Labour. Regarding the expected returns for employees upon refund, we aim for approval ranging from 5 to 15 percent. This investment will be made to yield returns. This initiative is aimed at addressing the future concerns of the country's employees.

Sir, the sentiment behind this initiative is to ensure their security and provide housing arrangements for them. They can sustain their family's livelihood with the pension. They can pay for their children's education fees and ensure the security of their family. On September 1, 2014, our Government has made some amendments. Premachandran ji, you will feel this. All amendments have been made keeping in mind the interests of all employees. *[English]* The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India has, with effect from 1st September 2014, brought into force several important amendments to the schemes framed under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. we have made this amendment in the EPF Act, 1952. We made the second amendment. The Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 (PF Scheme). Then the third amendment was made, The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 ("Pension Scheme"). Then the fourth amendment was made, The Employees' Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 ("Insurance Scheme"). Our government has made these amendments. Imagine the year 1952, there was the EPF Act. In the Act of 1952, we made amendments on 1st September, 2014. Similarly, there was Employees Pension Scheme, that was in the year 1955. We made an amendment to it. A provision for insurance was made. The definition of 'excluded employee' has been amended whereby the members

drawing wages exceeding Rs. 15,000 per month are excluded from the provisions of the PF Scheme. Accordingly, the wage ceiling for an employee to be eligible for the PF Scheme has been increased from Rs.6,500 per month to Rs. 15,000 per month. This amendment we made in the PF scheme and it is natural that today lakhs of employees of the country are getting benefit from this amendment. Similarly, we have made an amendment in the pension scheme also. Our government has said since the day we amended the Act on September 1, 2014. New Members (joining on or after 1 September 2014) drawing wages exceeding INR 15,000 per month shall not be eligible to voluntarily contribute to the Pension Scheme.

Similarly, the maximum pensionable salary for the purpose of determining the monthly pension has been revised from Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 15,000 per month.

The third amendment is, the pensionable salary shall be calculated on the average monthly pay for the contribution period of the last 60 months (earlier 12 months) preceding the date of exit from the membership.

The fourth amendment is, the monthly pension for any existing or future member shall not be less than Rs. 1,000 for the financial year 2014-15, as I mentioned. *[Translation]* In this pension scheme,

we have also made four amendments, wherein it was decided that a minimum of one thousand rupees pension will be given to any labourer. Where previously it was that nobody would come to claim the pension, in the same manner, the date of exit for him within 12 months would be at most 60 months.

Similarly, we have amended the insurance scheme. The contribution payable under the Insurance Scheme shall now be calculated on a monthly pay of Rs. 15,000, instead of Rs. 6,500.

Sir, this is significant. You come from the same area where you fight for the rights of the employees, their rightful entitlements. If my voice is being heard in this house today, it is to advocate for the protection of the rights of the millions of pensioners in the country. Surely, this will send a strong message across the nation. If today there is concern for the pensioners and employees of the country, then it is the responsibility of the government of Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Our Government is concerned. Except Shri Premachandran ji, the entire Bench is vacant, whether it is Communist Party people or Congress Party people. They only shed crocodile tears and do not work for the welfare of their employees.

Thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have to inform you that the time allotted to the discussion on the Resolution is over. As there are three more Members to take part in the discussion, we have to extend the time for further discussion on the Resolution. If the House agrees, the time for the discussion of the Resolution may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time is extended by one hour.

17.00 hours (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

***SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST):** Sir, if your sagacity permits, I would like to speak in my mother tongue Bengali.

Respected Chairperson Sir, today a very important private members' resolution is being discussed in this House. Hon. Member Shri N.K. Premchandran has brought this resolution i.e. steps to ensure welfare of Employees Provident Fund Pensioners, and for us those who want overall welfare of the common people, it is a very significant matter. Our brothers and sisters, who are workers or employees, deposit money in their Provident Fund. The main objective behind it is that at the time of superannuation or after retirement, they can run their families without much problem. In an estimate of 2014-15, it can be seen that 3 crore 49 lakh persons have their PF accounts through 3 lakh 60 thousand organization. And the quantum of deposit is also not very less sir, it is to the tune of rupees 3 lakh 79 thousand 485 crores. Now, who is the beneficiary of this fund? It is for those people who have deposited the money, for their welfare and subsistence after retirement. They also expect that in case, the earning member dies, the members of his / her family,

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bang

should not face any problem and do not starve. But in reality that is not happening. Shri Premchandran has brought this resolution to 'Restore the benefits of commutation and return of capital to the Employees' Provident Fund Pensioners' and our party Communist Party of India (Marxist) entirely supports this resolution. We hope that Government of India will accept this. Our Hon. Minister of Labour is present here. He is very considerate, he thinks about the welfare of the workers so we expect that he will put forth a clear view of the Government on this issue.

The resolution to 'provide pension to the beneficiaries of EPF Pension on the basis of average salary of 12 months immediately preceding retirement moved by our Hon. Member Shri Premchandran, is a very justified demand. Sir if this is accepted then the employees will get a lump sum amount when they retire, from their own fund, which they had created while they were working. This will mitigate the problems which people generally face after retirement. I hope respected minister will keep this in mind.

The third demand i.e. 'Ensure payment of full pension to the pensioners as per the Employees Pension Scheme 1995 after realization of full amount of commuted pension from pensioners is

also highly justified and I fully endorse this demand. I hope that Hon. Minister will look into this aspect as well.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the fourth proposal which he has placed i.e. to increase minimum pension to Rs.3000 per month under EP Scheme 1995, is also a very reasonable demand. It does not merely affect the pensioners. People are raising a slogan saying that the sum of Rs.1000 which is being paid now is not adequate. Sir, kindly think, we are Members of Parliament, sitting here and discussing issues. If we go out and try to return home, Rs.1000 will be spent on transport by the time we reach the airport. Therefore how can a pensioner or his family survive the whole month on this sum of Rs.1000? Employees of the organized sector may be getting a little more amount, but what about the unorganized sector? Remember, today is July 29, bank employees of the entire country are on strike. Why? Earlier in my state, and I don't know about Maharashtra, the IAS – IFS officers were first considered to be well – off, thereafter, the doctors and engineers used to earn well and next in line were the employees of the banking sector. But today, see their plight. Right from the top officials down to the group D employees had to resort to strike. What are their demands? They are not merely fighting for themselves. They are not only asking for enhancement of their own

salaries and perks; they are fighting for everybody. Chairperson Sir, you are associated with labour movements, you are better aware of these issues. In our country about 40 to 42 crores workers belong to the unorganized sector. When these workers grow old, they do not have anyone to look after them. The person who has worked as a daily wage labourer, as a farm labourer, as a construction worker, as a carpenter, as a blacksmith, as a clay modeler, as a handloom weaver, when he becomes old do you think sir, that his family members or children have enough means to look after that person properly? They do not have money to even have two square meals a day. Therefore minimum pension should also be paid, not only to the people linked with Provident Fund or EPF Scheme but also to these poor, hapless people of the unorganized sector. This is a very justified demand of Mr. Premchandran. As a primary step; at least Rs.3000 should be paid to them. You are conducting the business of the House today and you would also appreciate the intention of this resolution. The Government should pay a minimum amount of Rs.3000 in order to help the poor labourers run their family. This is a reasonable demand which should be met. I hope that Hon. Labour Minister who is a sensitive person will offer his considered opinion in this regard and will ensure that the money is disbursed as early as possible.

It has been observed that after opening the PF accounts, everybody does not deposit money regularly, sometimes due to financial constraints they are not able to deposit. Moreover the problem arises when the account holder dies. The family members are then not always capable of claiming the money as they may not be aware of the procedure and rules. The paper work may be cumbersome and they have to run from pillar to post to get the claim cleared.

They write letters, once, twice or thrice but when they still don't get the deposit back, they give up. As a result the fund lies idle in the account. The amount of such unspent, unclaimed fund has touched about Rs.27,000 crores. Thus we should try to utilize this huge unclaimed sum for the welfare of the families of the pensioners. As Shri Premchandran has proposed, that a housing scheme can be started for these people, so that they get roofs over their heads. No one else can use this money, no other department is allowed to touch this fund. The sum of Rs.27,000 crores should be utilized for the benefit of the pensioners only, those who do not own a house, and those who have no proper shelter. I wholeheartedly support this proposal of my fellow members.

In the year 1971, there was a provision in this scheme that ‘Government of India will provide 1.16% of those amount which are being given by the persons inclined with the Provident Fund’ which means Government would contribute 1.16% of the money being deposited. In the present scenario, employees’ share of 1.16%, employer’s share of 1.16% and Government’s share of 1.16%, in total 3.48% is a meager amount Sir. So the share of the Government must be enhanced. Much water has flown through the Ganges since 1971. 29 years of the 20th century have passed. We are in the 16th year of the 21st century. So about 45 years have elapsed. But the old rate of 1.16% still continues. I think it will be increased and our Hon. Labour Minister will look into the matter and Government of India will look into the matter and it would be a very good decision from the side of the Government. The Government must take some steps in this regard.

Sir we have a good scheme in place, the Employees’ State Insurance Scheme. The workers covered under this scheme get a health benefit which helps numerous workers. Sir can’t we link this ESI Scheme with the persons covered by Provident Fund? I would request Hon. Labour Minister to consider this proposal so that the health facilities are extended to the PF beneficiaries. It is true that

when people are young, they do not easily fall ill, but with old age, come various diseases. Thus the persons who sacrifice themselves for the country, who contribute to nation building should get health care benefits when they are not able to work anymore. The state should be a welfare state and if the common people get some assistance from the Government the dream of welfare state, in the true sense of the term, can be realized.

Now, I would like to say that we are pained to see the people of Ahmedabad purchasing tomatoes at Rs.80 per kg, people of Surat Purchasing tomatoes at Rs.100 per kg. we are pained because we can recall that in the year 2011, our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat was the Chairperson of a Committee. UPA Government was in power at that time. People of the country were very annoyed with UPA Government because prices of essential commodities were sky-rocketing.

To pacify the people, very intelligently, the UPA Government constituted a committee comprising 4 Chief Ministers of 4 states. Who were the members? The CM of Maharashtra Shri Prithwiraj Chauhan, CM of Andhra Pradesh Shri Kiran Reddy, CM of Tamil Nadu Shri Karunaidhi were the members of that Committee which was headed by our Hon. Prime Minister, the then CM of Gujarat,

Shri Narendra Modi. The UPA Government gave them the responsibility to look into the reasons behind price rise. They did their job well and came out with 63 proposals to deal with price rise and to check escalating price. If I go on explaining those 63 proposals, this day will pass. So I will not go into the details. But one of the proposals highlighted the fact that the price of oil was one major cause of inflation. Only 20-30% of petrol, diesel, kerosene etc. which we require can be extracted from our indigenous sources, rest 70-80% have to be imported from outside. Price of oil in the international market fluctuates. Sometimes it rises to 135 to 140 dollar per barrel, sometimes it come down to 26 dollars per barrel. Naturally when international oil price goes up, India has to purchase it paying a steep price and when price comes down, India has to spend less. Therefore the Chairperson of the said committee Hon. Modiji had proposed that a static fund should be created so that the Government could contribute to it. At the time of oil price hike in the global market, that fund could be utilized for payment of bills and in the case of lower oil price, the fund would increase and in turn would act as a cushioning mechanism; the burden would not be on the common people. This was the contention. It was a very good proposal. Such a proposal was given to both UPA Government and the present Government by our party CPIM. But unfortunately, now

after assuming the highest office of the state, Hon. Prime Minister of India, seems to have forgotten his own ideas. When he took oath on 26 May 2014, the global crude oil price was 126 dollar per barrel and in January 2016, oil price was 26 dollar per barrel. At present, the crude oil price is as low as 35 to 40 dollar a barrel. So sir, please think, when the global price was 126 dollars, what was the local oil price? And now when the oil price hovers around 26-40 dollars, oil price in almost the same as before in our country. Then how can the price of essential commodities be reduced? We had hoped that the proposals which our Hon. Prime Minister gave as Chief Minister of Gujarat would be implemented but that has not happened.

Sir, now let us read the election manifesto of BJP, Page No.4 of the manifesto contains very significant views of BJP. The first two pages contain a preface by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, the third page contains the contents and the fourth page enumerates the vision of the party. BJP had understood before election that price rise was an extremely sensitive and touchy issue. They knew that if they could promise to arrest price rise in the very beginning people would be impressed. Thus they tried to make people believe through their manifesto that the Congress Government had failed in every aspect.

They had failed to check escalation of cost of essential commodities and family budgets had gone haywire.

If someone reads the BJP manifesto today, it would seem as if the present Congress Party is saying all these things. We have seen that not even a single promise has been fulfilled so far. Prices are shooting through the roof and the Government is not taking any steps whatsoever in this regard. Today we are talking about the welfare of the workers. But if the prices go on increasing, then you can very well imagine the plight of these poor people. As you know, their salaries are meager. The 7th Pay Commission, constituted for the Central Government Employees has proposed that the minimum salary would be Rs.18,000. The salary of our Cabinet Secretary will be Rs.2,50,000. But who will think about the hapless labourers, daily wagers? Sir, you have worked for the benefit of the common man, you have a socialist bend of mind, you think about the society. Do you know sir, how much do these labourers earn? Not more than 3000 or 4000 rupees. I was going through an estimate which showed that 90% of the population earn less than Rs.10,000 a month. The number of millionaires or billionaires must have increased in our country. But the gap between the rich and the poorest of the poor is widening day by day. Several schemes are being announced by the

Central Government as well as the State Governments but the ground reality is not changing. People are agitating against price rise. Labourers, farmers, students, women, SCs, STs, OBCs minorities – people from every strata of society are contemplating major mass movements. What is the condition of the jobless persons in our country? Population is increasing by 2% every year. Keeping this in view, the employment opportunities should be increased. Government data show that there are 8 sectors which provide the majority of employment in the country like construction sector etc. I don't want to waste time by naming all the sectors. In last one year, only 1,30,000 people have got employment in these 8 sectors whereas more than one crore people have come to the job market in search of work. Just imagine the crisis. The deficit is increasing by leaps and bounds. The number of educated youth is increasing, numbers of semi – educated and uneducated youths are also increasing. There are crores of people who do not have any job. Sir, this situation is leading to unrest in various parts of the country like in Jammu & Kashmir. Our party CPIM is in favour of the unity and integrity of the nation. We want to fight against any disruptive and divisive forces along with the countrymen. But sir, if we delve deep into the issue, we will find that a boy called Burhan, who was involved in anti-national activities became a cohesive force for the

outlaws. When he was killed, a procession was organized in his native village and about 1.5 lakh youth participated in the procession. I don't support the ideology of Burhan because unity of the country is supreme for Marxists. But can you imagine the impact of divisive forces on the young minds? How could so many people gather to mourn for a terrorist? This is not only an issue of Kashmir. I hail from a tiny State of North-East viz Tripura. Only 40 lakh people stay in Tripura. Kindly listen to what I say. I am from a small state, allow me speak. Have patience sir, there were insurgency problems in our state earlier. There was an acute problem of terrorism. There used to be a time when everyday people were murdered, abducted and looted. But gradually, through a joint coordination of the Left Front Government, common people, the paramilitary forces, the menace of insurgency was successfully tackled. The Government on one hand had undertaken developmental works, has created employment opportunities for young boys and girls, tried to create infrastructure. A small part of the Scheduled Tribe community was involved in the anti-national activities. The Government has addressed their issues and, I am not claiming that there is zero problem in Tripura now, but mostly the issues have been solved. It is a matter of pride for us that when our Hon. Prime Minister Modiiji visited Tirpura recently, he held a

meeting with our cabinet ministers and wanted to know how Tripura could tackle the problem of insurgency so effectively. It was possible only because of a sincere effort and intention on the part of the Government.

Sir, I am concluding in a few minutes. In field of social security, Tripura has been able to bring the working class together. When today we are humbly requesting the Government of India to enhance the pension amount from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000, what steps has the Tripura Government taken? We are trying to go to each household to find out if any poor family, family of labourer, farmer, weaver, artisan, factory worker is still deprived of the pension or allowances paid by the Government of Tripura. If any family is left out, we are including it in our scheme of assistance. Can you imagine? Allowances are paid to carpenters, motor mechanics, beedi workers, handloom weavers, physically handicapped, cancer patients, leprosy patients and all other categories of poor people from the State Government fund. In Tripura we are observing that the Left Front Government is working hard to safeguard the interests of the common, poor working class, for the ordinary people. When Tripura Government can do so much for the people, why can't the Government of India take some steps for uplift of the poor by paying

them minimum pension? The interest rates of small savings are being reduced by the Government instead. There is onslaught on the labour laws. Under such circumstances, you must be aware sir, that on September 2, cutting across party lines, workers and common people will stage massive protest and observe all India strike.

I just hope that Central Government will take some measures and accept their demands so that the strike can be stopped. I request Hon. Labour Minister to look into the demands and as early as possible try to find an amicable solution in the interest of the general public. With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I rise to speak on the resolution brought in the House by Shri N. K. Premachandran ji, and to give support for all issues alongwith some of my apprehensions therein. Premchandran Saheb resolves that the benefits of Saranshikaran and return of capital to Employees Provident Fund pensioners be re-established, to provide pension on the basis of average salary of twelve months immediately before retirement to the beneficiary of Employees Provident Fund Pension, to ensure payment of full pension to the pensioners after implementation of the entire amount of pension calibrated from pensioners as per Employees Pension Scheme 1995, increase the minimum pension to three thousand rupees per month under Employees Pension Scheme 1995, implement welfare scheme including Housing Scheme for pensioners using unclaimed provident fund of about twenty seven thousand rupees, to revise the entire Employees Pension Scheme 1995 on the basis of past experience.

Mr. Chairperson, the next point is - Enhancing minimum pension to Rs.3000/- per month under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, implementing welfare schemes including Awas Yojana for pensioners using unclaimed Bhavishya Nidhi amount of

about 27 thousand crores, revising the entire Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 based on past experience and extending the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 to various other sectors, these are seven points.

Sir, when this Resolution came and when I was here in the House, I felt that there would be a very good discussion on this and the seriousness of the Bharatiya Janata Party was visible. Hon. Jagdambika Pal ji is sitting here. When I was listening to his speech, I was telling Sharad Tripathi ji that Shri Pal Saheb has come with so much preparation and so much information as to what the Hon. Prime Minister is doing, for this country, for the village, poor farmers and labourers, all that is visible and the commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party is visible.

Sir, do you know that gradually, as you people engaged in politics, leaders used to be a reflection of society and they used to lead. People used to speak well of them, but today, when we roam around wearing khadi clothes, people think there's no work, that's why they've become leaders. People think that they have become leaders to commit theft. Today, when I saw in this Lok Sabha, where today not a single Congress MP is present, about which Hon. Pal

Saheb was constantly speaking about, I felt today that the people does not say wrong.

Sir, just now Shri Shankar Prasad Dutta ji gave a very good statement and he gave it because there are big leaders in CPM and from where they come, the Chief Ministers are continuously not giving the chair to anyone. They have been holding the Chair for 15-20 years. Similarly, Shri Mohammad Salim Saheb and Shri P. Karunakaran of West Bengal were sitting here. I've been observing for the past two years that Shankar Datta Sahab is neither given a chance to speak on the stage nor in the Lok Sabha, so today, while speaking on the resolution of pensions, he has implemented the CPM's agenda more than the pension. It's good to hear, and it's pleasing that at least those within the entire cadre of the CPM have realized that Shankar Datta Sahab is such a dedicated and influential leader of the CPM that if there is ever a shortage of leadership in the CPM or if Mr. Yechury Sahab ever has to be removed, then perhaps Shankar Datta Sahab might get an opportunity. Our best wishes are with them.

Sir, ever since the Monsoon Session has started, Congress has been talking about villages, poor, farmers and Dalits. Since then, if Congress is talking about anything, it's about price rise. Sometimes

they talk about Dalits. They come up with issues every day like this happened in Gujarat, this happened in Madhya Pradesh and this happened in Maharashtra. It seems that if Congress isn't there, then there won't be any protection for Dalits, but today, when Shri N. K. Premchandran Sahab has come up with such a great resolution, not a single Congress MP is visible here.

Sir, yesterday you made a very good point that 'keeping an eye somewhere, targeting somewhere.' If this government is stopping all the businessmen who are doing shady business to make black money, if it has shut down the commissions, if it is moving forward with development works, then what is the Congress government doing to stop these works? Sometimes it is stopping GST, sometimes talking about price rise, sometimes talking about Dalits, and in what way Congress is non serious, today you can estimate by seeing the scene of this Lok Sabha session yourself. My best wishes if the Congress party continues in this manner. People will decide who is doing good work and who is doing bad work.

Mr. Chairperson, it's fortunate that you're sitting in the chair. You will notice that Shri N.K. Premchandran, who has come up with this resolution, I too came to this 16th Lok Sabha with a more significant bill. On July 14th, 2014, there was a discussion held on it,

and it was a prolonged and continuous discussion. You also participated in that discussion. The discussion was about whether we should give it to the employee, whether we should give it to the unorganized sector, or whether we should give it to the organized sector. Why don't we move towards a Universal Pension Scheme instead? We had said that a National Pension Fund of 50,000 crore should be created. The way the PDS system is, like in the Food Security Act where 67,68,70 percent of the people are included, similarly, those who need pension should receive in this way, every individual in this country should receive a minimum pension of 5,000 rupees because the line between poverty and affluence is widening, and the poor continue to remain poor.

Nowadays, the concept of a joint family is seen dwindling in the country. This is not just happening all over the country, but it is happening all over the world. You know that urbanization is increasing. The government is also building 100 smart cities, establishing 500 AMRUT cities. The reason behind this is that if there is a lack of comfort and amenities in villages, if there are fewer means of employment, then people move towards cities. The rent in cities is so high, and the income is so low that any person, managing their own, their spouse's, and their children's expenses; including

education, medicine, and school, becomes so occupied that they are unable to support their parents. This is the reason why his parents are left behind in the village, and they cannot afford their treatment. I had brought this bill precisely for this reason. Everyone here should be identified based on their income, and they should be entitled to a universal pension scheme. The Indian government should provide Rs. 5,000 per month to each individual. Nowadays, the concept of joint family is developing in Britain as well, because unemployment is increasing there too. I see that there is a constant discussion here about what employment has been provided in 'Make in India', how employment has increased, inflation has occurred and price rise has happened. Hon. Prime Minister is making efforts in Make in India. I want to tell you that unemployment is not only here, it is in every nook and corner of the world. Be it Europe, America, Britain or our neighboring countries, all are steeped in the situation arising out of unemployment, inflation, scenario of the market. This is the reason why in country like Britain, a pension system has been implemented where pension is provided if you are above 60 years of age. This happened in Canada as well. This is why unemployed children, who are not finding jobs, are all going back to their parents, whether they go out of love, to save themselves, or for their basic needs like food and shelter. If the Indian government does the

same, then I definitely think that India, which used to be the leader of the joint family concept, will be successful again.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, you made a very good point while talking about the pension scheme. I would like to repeat the poem that you keep repeating in socialism -

Dhoop taap mein mehnat karte, bachche tadap-tadap kar marte,
fir bhi pet nahin bharata hai, jeevan katata ro- rokar,
hum chalen basayen naya nagar, chalo basayen naya nagar.
jahan na ho chhot -badaai, gale milen sab bhai-bhai,
unch-nich ka bhed na hove, sukh ki hove dagar-dagar,
chalo basayen naya nagar, chalo basayen naya nagar.

In 2014, Hon. Modi ji became the Prime Minister of this country. Let's talk about the unorganized sector, the poor villagers and farmers, and let's talk about Congress. Ramesh Bidhuri ji and Jagdambika Pal ji talked about many schemes, such as the 'Din Dayal Jyoti' scheme, what the pension scheme is, what the Atal Pension Yojana is, how we are progressing towards cleanliness, and how we are moving towards employment. Why is your poem applicable to this government?

Hon. Chairperson, why did the people vote for Modi ji in the year 2014? The reason is that the Prime Minister of the country,

talks about pension schemes, talks about villages, poor farmers, talks about the unorganized sector, talks about child labour, who has reached here today while selling tea. Do they know what benefit they will get from pension? Do they know what poverty means in this country? The Labour Minister is sitting here. That day he himself said that he studied as well as worked. If he did not work, the family could not sustain. Today, he has reached this position.

Hon. Minister, while giving your speech the other day, you said that you started from Panchayat and have risen all the way to the Parliament. When people like this come into the governance system, things change, and development is certainly achieved. They themselves understand how development will happen in this regard.

Hon. Chairperson, we are discussing about pension here. The history of pension in India is very old. It is not that the pension scheme got implemented in the world and we haven't implemented it. The Royal Commission, Civil Establishment, came into existence in the year 1881. We started providing benefits to government employees since the year 1881. After the year 1881, today we are in 2016, which means it has been about one and a half centuries. But what is the situation today? Whether we talk about the public sector or the government sector, no matter whose perspective we consider,

we are currently in a situation where only ten percent of the population receive pensions. They are receiving pensions today or are connected to some pension scheme or the other. 90% people of this country are deprived of this pension. Whose fault is this?

Hon. Speaker, in the year 2014, there was an interim budget, but if you look at the budgets for 2015 and 2016, Prime Minister Modi's government and our Minister of Finance, Hon. Jaitley, have always been saying that India is a country of youth. We always claim that our strength is that we have the highest number of youth aged 35 years. The demographic dividend that we possess, which is the dividend of our youth, is the reason why we are in a position to dominate the world. However, those in power consistently forget one thing: if the youth population increases in any country, it is natural that the number of elderly people will also increase. If we are going to be the country with the largest number of youth, then by the year 2035 the situation will be such that the oldest people in the world, i.e. people above 60 years of age, will also be in this India. What is happening to that?

Hon. Chairperson, when we talk about Skill India, we are not only talking about youth. We talk about to them. That is why I want to tell you that after so many years of independence, it is necessary

to understand who is responsible. In a country where a pension scheme was implemented 150 years ago, in 1881, even today 90 percent of the people do not have a pension. So, who is to blame for this? This is the reason why the government of Hon. Modi Ji is moving towards the Universal Pension Scheme under the leadership of the Minister of Finance. I don't want to go into all our schemes. We want to move in this direction that we have seen the villages, poverty, Dalits, labourers, farmers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and what should be the arrangement for that? This government is conscious of its system. That is why when our government came to power and we introduced this bill, at that time, people from Public Sector Undertakings were saying that they were receiving pensions of ten, twenty, or twenty-five rupees. Many people are facing discrimination in public sector undertakings. People have retired in the same post like 'One Rank One Pension.'

This was a big question, our government implemented it. This is the reason that our government is moving forward in that direction. Those who used to get ten rupees, 20 rupees, 25 rupees or 50 rupees pension, our government told him that now they will get a minimum pension of Rs. 1000. I believe that the day is not far when a Universal Pension Scheme that I have been talking about can be

implemented. In this country, where 90 percent of people are backward, who are still excluded from any scheme, and who find it difficult to arrange for proper food in their old age, the Indian government will not only provide Rs. 5000 pension but will arrange for even more. This is the commitment of our government, this is the commitment of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Many laws regarding pensions have been introduced in this country, laws keep coming continuously, so sometimes even I face difficulties because of this. After the year 1881, the laws were introduced in the years 1921 and 1935. This was the history before independence. In the year 1881, a law was enacted, then in 1921 another law came, and again in 1935, a law was introduced, and all these laws were moving towards pensions. Our pension law was implemented in 1881, and in Germany, the Social Security law was implemented later, in 1889. Today Germany is the biggest example of social security. It is a matter of will power. All of us sitting here need to look within ourselves that we make laws, we give direction, but where will the infrastructure come from, where will the money come from, where will the other things come from, will it grow with employment, we do not see these things. Shankar Prasad Datta ji spoke about a committee. That's a long and broad topic, it doesn't

have much relevance to this pension scheme. They said that there was a price rise, so a committee was formed to address it, and the committee was chaired by the then Chief Minister of Gujarat. He has his own views on how the prices of petroleum products should be determined and how other things should be managed. I think they are deeply impressed by the recent hobnobbing between the CPM and the Congress. Understand that any government, I'm deviating a bit from the topic because this issue has come up, and they were talking about the Prime Minister. The 2G and Colgate scandals were very significant issues. What happened in 2G? The 2G spectrum auction didn't happen in a fair and transparent manner; it was given on a first-come-first-served basis. Congress argued that they wanted to provide telephone services to consumers at lower prices, which is why they decided not to auction it. If we auction it, the price will increase, and if the price increases, it's like catching the nose from one side or the other, the result will be the same. You know how big of a scam this was. Then the people of this country gave Prime Minister Modi a huge mandate. When our government came, we auctioned the spectrum. You know that the spectrum auction has taken place, and now there is going to be a lengthy auction again. We have set a big target of six to seven lakh crore rupees. We use mobile phones; do you still think the tariff has increased after the

auction? It has not increased. What does it mean? The same happened with Colgate. The auction for Colgate has only involved a small block so far, fetching around two to three lakh crore rupees. From this you can understand how big of a scam this was. Today surplus electricity is available in this country. There are no buyers of electricity and the electricity tariff has not increased. The electricity tariff is falling because when there is no buyer for electricity, the tariff is not increasing. Therefore, just like the people who acquired coal blocks in the name of captive coal, you're suggesting that consumers should benefit from lower prices of petroleum products. You tell us how many people travel by vehicle today. We are Members of the Parliament, Dutta Saheb, you use only the public transport of Lok Sabha. You are such a senior Member of Parliament. How many people are there, there will be 5 or 7 percent MPs who will have cars. People still use the public transport system. Therefore, to which consumer do you want to give petrol and diesel? You want to give it to the Effluent Class.

Moreover, if you think that the tariff will increase due to diesel, if the production cost of farmers increases, then there are ways for that. The way is to give subsidy to them. There is no such state like America which is giving 300-400 percent subsidies to the farmers.

Don't mislead about anything. The money is also being deposited. In SAS, money is being deposited in taxes. If we are collecting taxes, then yesterday the Minister of Finance also said in response that we are giving 42 percent of the money to the states and keeping only 58 percent. After this, the SAS we are collecting, we are using it to build the entire national highway. We are building railways. In 160, places we are going to build small airports. We are progressing towards Swachh Bharat (Clean India). We want to build 100 smart cities. If we don't take the money then where will this money come from? Either we steal or take commission or else we should get money from the World Bank or IMF and give it to the people of our country. Either some people use petrol or diesel vehicles, and we don't pass on the benefits, or we bring money from the World Bank or the IMF. The children born here will have billions of rupees in debt on them even before they are born. What is the solution? Therefore, we do not believe that this theory is appropriate for this.

The resolution of the ILO is in the pension scheme. The ILO Convention number 102, provides for people all over the world:

[English]

- Covering minimum standards of social security like medical care, sickness benefits, unemployment benefits, old-age benefits,

invalidity benefits, employment injury benefits, family benefits, maternity benefits, and survivor's benefits is very much important. *[Translation]* It was adopted by the ILO in 1950 and people all over the world agreed to it. After 67 years, how many things were we able to accomplish? When you talk about giving benefits to workers, ... *(Interruptions)*.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I would like to inform you that the time for discussion on the government resolution is almost over. Since there are only two Hon. Members left to participate in the discussion, we will need to extend the time for discussion on the resolution. If the House agrees, the time for discussion on the resolution may be extended by one hour. Time was extended. The time limit for this resolution has expired therefore, the time for discussion on the Resolution was extended.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, the point is to understand how much we have been able to implement and all political parties should think about it. I'm saying that it's okay, we are in the government, and I have explained how under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji, we have been progressing towards the National Pension Scheme for the past two years. The resolution of 1950 which we passed in the ILO, of which

we are signatories, after 67 years, we have not been able to implement even half of its things. The Constitution was formed. What does Article 14 say? There is a lot of discussion about it. You know how the reservation system was implemented in this country on the basis of Articles 14 and 21 and how important the reservation system was. Hon. Chairperson, no one can understand this better than you.

Article 14 says that

“The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.”

This is Article 14. Our forefathers enacted the Constitution in the year 1950. After 67 years, you are engaging in discussions about how Dalits were killed there, this happened, that happened. So, the one who governed for the longest period will be the most responsible for the prevailing social inequality, Hon. Speaker, rather than holding us responsible for ruining everything in just two years. The situation regarding the issues of birth has not improved, what is the current condition? It will take time to repair the damage you have done.

Hon. Chairperson, tell me. CPM people are sitting here, they have been ruling there continuously since 1977. What have you done

there? What is the condition of Bengal today? I come from the state of Jharkhand, so I understand that. There was a blast in Vardhaman, in Kaliachak, the entire area of Santhal Pargana was disturbed by it. The Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, which is a very good scheme, will reach the poor. If we implement the pension scheme as well, then DBT will play the biggest role in it. Yesterday, the Rajya Sabha was disrupted for it. If there is any problem with it, then a discussion can be held to find a solution. But the reason why some people are opposing it, the opposition is because the entire North-East, Bihar, Jharkhand, whose entire demography has been affected, which is why our government came to power in Assam, Tripura is suffering, it shares a border with Bangladesh, and it is not known whether they are citizens of our country or not, and when we, as members of the Bharatiya Janata Party, talk about this, people understand it in terms of Hindu-Muslim. This is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. People of all religions living in this country, whether they are Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian, are all citizens of this country. Everyone has contributed in building this country. But if they are people from Bangladesh, you would tell them to come based on their nationality, not religion. On the basis of vote bank politics you will say that you come. Due to the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme, billions of rupees were saved, revealing how many people we were providing fake

kerosene oil to, how many people were being given gas connections in an incorrect manner.

Similarly, there are schemes for old age pension and widow pension. We are trying to save money, and if we are talking about directly transferring it to genuine beneficiaries, and if this pension scheme is also implemented, they oppose it. My point is, if politics continues in this manner, your foundations will somewhere crumble and there is a need to think for yourself. For this, the Government of Tripura, the Government of Bengal and the Government of North-East need to think more and we need to blame, those who could not do anything in 67 years.

After 70 years of independence, we are now discussing such matters where we are not asking for a thousand rupees but rather give three thousand rupees, not three thousand rupees but five thousand rupees. We are pleading to the citizens of our country, who have elected us as Hon. Members of Parliament, asking for help from the Indian government for them as well, because we have not created any significant infrastructure. A small country like Singapore, where there are no mines, no minerals, no goods, there was nothing, it became independent after us, but today it is ahead of us in infrastructure. Everyone wants to escape to Singapore, want to

see cleanliness, want to get employment. There are housing schemes there, pension schemes here; these are things that are noteworthy for the whole of Asia to observe. This is because we haven't done it in so many years. Similarly, Article 41 is there. The entire pension scheme, if you look at it, was already written in the Constitution. It used to be that the hunter would come, set the trap, and bait it, but you wouldn't get caught in it. It's the same kind of situation. Everything is written, but we don't want to read it. We have not done any work that way. Article 41 of the Constitution states that

[English]

“The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.”

[Translation]

What work have we done till date on Article 41? To eliminate unemployment, our government has brought Make in India, we are implementing the Stand-up scheme, Start-up, and Mudra scheme so that unemployment can be eliminated. You have to understand that the Government cannot give the entire pension. It requires implied

contribution. Industrialization is needed for employee contribution. Industry is necessary. What have we done? Similarly, Article 42 is there.

[English]

Article 42 says:

"Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief -- The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. "

[Translation]

Then there are Article-41, 42 and 43. Article-43 says-

Article 43 says about the living wage, etc., for workers on the basis of which Premchandran ji has come with a complete resolution.

[English]

Article 43 says:

"Living wage, etc, for workers -- The State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage,

conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or cooperative basis in rural areas."

[Translation]

Everything is written in the book. Let's talk about the Constitution. Here everyone has made long speeches when the Prime Minister wanted to reiterate the Constitution. On Ambedkar Jayanti, it was constantly said that we will do this, we will do that. Why are Articles-42,42 and 43 of the Constitution are not implemented till date? When it comes to Article-14, how many battles we had to fight? You can see that if OBCs have received reservation in government services, when did they receive it? That was achieved in the year 1990, which means we got independence in the year 1947 and had to struggle for 43 years. When and to whom the Mandal Commission report was presented? The question is that if you do not want development, this country will not develop, if there is no industry in the country then how will we implement all these things. Today, two things are needed for any scheme. First of all insurance is required. There are private sector hospitals, people are falling sick.

Various types of diseases are increasing. Accidents happen. If one earning member of a family dies in an accident then there is no option left. We can only fight to get him a maximum of ten thousand rupees. How can a widow sustain her life with this much money? How can she educate her children? Two legislations are needed right now. If we need to provide medical treatment, cover accident costs, and fund education, then the insurance sector must be expanded. Our dependence on the government insurance company in the insurance sector has been ended by whom? It was ended by the government of the Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. If there was a change in insurance where 26 percent was allowed for people from the private sector, this was done by Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The second amendment was that if 26 percent is not sufficient, then there is a need for 49 percent FDI in insurance. Hon. Modi ji brought it up. During this time, discussions about insurance for villages, the poor and farmers were initiated by leaders from Atal Ji to Modi Ji.

Sir, the second thing is about pension. The issue regarding pensions has been settled, and it is the same worldwide no government can provide pensions to everyone. Employees development is required to provide pension. You must be aware that the legislation for pensions was introduced during the government of

Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. For eight-nine years, the Congress government could not grant legal status to the PFRDO, it was working only through executive order. One day, it was surprising to see that when it was presented in Parliament to make it a law, there were no people in the Congress bench, they did not have the quorum.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji, you will continue your speech. Time is over.

Hon. Members, The House then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Monday, 1st August, 2016.

18.00 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday,
1st August, 2016, Shravana 10, 1938 (saka)*

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