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Second Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

11.07.2014

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 11, 2014/Ashadha 20, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 61. Shri Pratap Simha.

(Q. 61)

SHRI PRATAP SIMHA: Hon. Speaker, I hope you will give me a minute since it is an important issue. The previous Government was boasting of National Rural Health Mission and ASHA but we all know the pathetic condition of our health sector. If we go to any nook and corner of our country, a majority of the community health centres lacks basic requirements like ICUs, ventilators, cardiac monitors, defibrillators, operation theatres, boiling machines, OT tables and most importantly doctors. Of course, the need of the hour is to improve the health of our economy but the health of our citizens needs utmost care.

I would like the hon. Minister, who is also a champion of Pulse Polio Campaign, as to what plans he has for improving the condition of our hospitals. If we have to set up a well-equipped community health centre, we need around 1.5 Crore. To revive the entire health

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system of each district, you need Rs.10 to Rs.12 Crore. Why does the Government not think of PPP in this sector?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, through you, I just wish to answer the queries of the hon. Member. I appreciate his concerns for the health sector. Keeping his concern in our mind, we have been reviving the situation in all the districts of the country. We have selected 18 States, which are high priority States. Within those States itself, we have selected 184 districts, which are lacking in facilities in terms of infrastructure and manpower etc., as compared to other States. There are, you can say, in every State at least 25 per cent low performing districts as compared to others, which have been included in this category. To improve the health infrastructure in these 184 districts in particular, we have been focusing on helping the State Governments and also simultaneously monitoring the improvement there, whether it is improving the existing community health centres, primary health centres and sub-centres or giving them finance for starting new primary health centres, sub-centres or the community health centres as per the population norms. Simultaneously, we are equipping these centres with various equipment, particularly equipment for the care of the new born. It is because for us lowering

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the maternal mortality rate and the infant mortality rate is a big priority area.

Simultaneously, we are ensuring that we have improvement in our manpower. For that, we have helped the States in opening up of new medical colleges, relaxing the norms for ensuring that we have more medical students – graduates and post-graduates – coming out of the medical colleges and also relaxing various norms for the opening up of medical colleges as well as ensuring that some of the district hospitals are converted into medical colleges. Also for improving the manpower, we have given some incentives to the doctors who are serving in the rural areas. Suppose, they serve in the rural area for one year, they get a 10 per cent incentive in their competitive examination for being eligible to become a post-graduate student and that can continue for three years. In fact, they could get up to 30 per cent incentive. There are similar other incentives. There is 50 per cent reservation or preference for doctors who are serving in rural areas. There are many more things like this, which we have been doing and which we propose to do.

There is a continuous process of monitoring whereby we send our specialist teams through the Centre. These teams have Members not only from the Government but also from the private sector, from the

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various organisations of the United Nations and those who are helping in the health sector. We act on the various inputs provided by these teams from time to time and we are in the process of continuous improvement.

I agree with the hon. Member's concern that there is definitely a need to further improve services in the Primary Health Centres and more particularly in the rural areas as well as in the tribal areas, but the process is already on and we are determined to improve them and take them to the best possible levels.

SHRI PRATAP SIMHA: Madam, as far as my knowledge goes, the proposal of the Medical Council of India to amend the Post-Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 was approved by the Ministry. It states that the MBBS students applying for admission to PG medical courses from the academic year 2015-16 will have to undertake mandatory rural posting at Public Health Centres for one year. But, if you do not provide the basic facilities and if they are left with only a table, a pen and a pad to refer patients to far away hospitals, are we not going to waste their one year?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, whatever the hon. Member is saying, is probably correct, but the facilities are not as bad as he is

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describing them to be that the Primary Health Centre has only got a pen, pencil and a pad. There was definitely a proposal by the previous Government to send these doctors, after they have finished their post-graduation, to these rural health facilities. But, as per my information, the proposal was not pursued by the earlier Government because of a lot of opposition from the doctors. Now we are reviewing the whole situation. We are in the process of discussing and deliberating upon this issue in our meetings and with our various officials in the Ministry and with Indian Medical Association and various other related groups. Now, we are positively thinking of sending the post-graduate students to these places while they are pursuing their post-graduation medical studies. During that period, we propose to send them to these places. I am sure that in the near future, we shall be able to resolve this issue. It will certainly help in improving our manpower situation at the Primary Health Centres.

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU: Madam Speaker, in our country, there are no proper health facilities for the people who are living in rural areas, particularly, for tribals, dalits and other weaker sections. They do not have any infrastructure to go to hospitals as they live in hilly and forest areas. Understanding their problem, I introduced '108' health service in Karnataka when I was the Health Minister in 2008. Therefore, I

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would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to introduce mobile health services in rural and tribal areas?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Member , I wish to inform you that there is already a provision in our scheme in which we provide at least five mobile medical units in one district, and if there is a demand from the respective State Government, then these mobile medical units are provided to the districts, particularly, for the hilly and tribal areas or may be those areas that are difficult to reach and for them this condition is further relaxed and we can have a mobile medical unit wherever we want in difficult situations. So, if any State Government feels that there is lack of adequate facility in a particular district like they do not have a sub-centre or a Primary Health Centre, then for that also the rule / condition is relaxed and they can have it there. Otherwise, they can have these mobile medical units at the hill level or at the various levels in the rural area with a relaxed limit. I think that this can address your concern very ably. Thank you.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Madam, the health conditions of the fishermen in the coastal areas of the country is very pathetic. Even though, many State Governments have taken measures like mobile units with doctors, etc., still there is lack of modern facilities. Will the Government of India adequately help the State Governments to

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strengthen the medical services, especially, for the coastal areas in the country?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Our facilities are basically on the basis of the various facilities, which are already existing at districts, provided by the Government. Further, help from the Centre is dependent on what the State Government demands from us. They have to give reason; they have to give their logic; and they have to give their explanation. If the hon. Member strongly feels that fishermen are deprived of some health facilities and there is scope of improvement for some facilities that are required in that area, then I would request him to prevail upon the State Government to send us definite proposals. I can assure you that if the proposals are logical and objective and if they will be able to help the fishermen of your area, then we will certainly look into it and ensure all possible help from the Central Government.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam Speaker, just now the hon. Minister said that there is shortage of manpower in the medical field. At the same time, he said that he is going to encourage starting of more medical colleges. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Medical Council is so stringent on the Government Medical Colleges whereas they give relaxation to private medical colleges. If

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a self-financing private medical college is starting with 115 seats, then they are just taking it and within a short period the already established medical colleges are getting 250 seats. On the other hand, if a very well established Government Medical College like the Madras Medical College, etc. applies for increase in intake, then they are not considering it. Hence, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Medical Council will take somewhat lenient view on this issue. The hon. Minister has said that he is going to relax it to increase the intake of Government Medical Colleges instead of private medical colleges. Is this Government going to follow what the previous Government pursued? Are you going to increase the number of seats in the private medical colleges or are you going to increase the intake in Government medical colleges which will solve the manpower problem? It will definitely be helpful to the common man.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. As far as the relaxation from the Government side is concerned, we have already relaxed a number of conditions for the opening of these medical colleges. For example, there used to be a condition for 25 acres of land. It has been reduced to 20 acres. For big mega cities like Delhi, Kolkata or Chennai etc. that condition is further relaxed up to 10 acres.

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DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: My question is different. ...
(*Interruptions*)

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Let me complete my answer. Once I complete it, you will be satisfied. For the difficult areas like hills and other places, we have further relaxed the condition that the land could be situated at two places even if they are 10 kilometres away from each other.

HON. SPEAKER: He is asking for Government medical college lecture halls.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: That is what I am trying to inform you. Since you have asked me this question, you have to listen to my answer also. As far as the infrastructural facilities within the medical college are concerned, we have been trying to prevail upon the Medical Council that they should focus on the quality of medical education rather than on the size of the lecture theatre or auditorium or the air-conditioning of the lecture theatres etc. We have made it amply clear to the Medical Council of India that the Government is not willing to accept a reduction in the number of seats more particularly in the Government Medical Colleges under any

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circumstances because it is a question of the future of thousands of medical students of this country. The country is already short of medical manpower and I am sure the Medical Council of India will certainly look into the concerns of the medical students and the Government Medical Colleges. Simultaneously, I also wish to convey to the State Governments to help the Central Government in improving these facilities because there are States where year after year, the Medical Council has been telling them to improve the infrastructure and other facilities. But the request of the Medical Council of India is falling on deaf ears of State Governments. Every time at the time of asking for a recognition they give some undertaking, but once they get the recognition from the Medical Council, they just forget about it. I feel that the hon. Member must also try to convince and persuade State Governments also to act in this matter judiciously. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The response of all the State Governments have been given, whereas this is a fundamental question. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are asking, right?

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SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is not a trivial question.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I know, please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Hon. Minister has accused all the State Governments, please clarify.

HON. SPEAKER: It is not so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You tell us about the Government of Uttar Pradesh. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please Mulayam Singh ji, he has not accused one Government, sit down, please.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He has blamed the State Governments, implying that only they only are honest....
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, this is a question elaborately involving the total health sector, not just concentrated on medical colleges. You have mentioned in your reply that National Rural Health Mission was launched in 2005 to provide accessible,

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affordable and quality healthcare to the rural population especially to the vulnerable sections. What I want to say Madam is that now few things have emerged in the country which is alarming. These are some diseases which we are known as NPCDCS – National Programme for Prevention and control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke.

Madam Speaker, it is most alarming that India is possibly going to become the world capital of diabetes. China is now in position number one. What we assessed is that at least 14 to 15 per cent of the total population of the country is now suffering from the problem of diabetes. But the National Rural Health Mission has not got much of financial support from Government of India's budgetary proposals so that they could face this problem with greater efficiency. They are suffering a crunch of funds.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether under this programme NPCDCS the Government is taking positive care to resist all these diseases from attacking our population down to the grassroots level in the country, or whether the Department is suffering from a crunch of funds in resisting such diseases in a big way?

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DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, in fact the services provided at the various health facilities are not for a particular disease or a particular programme. They take care of the health in its totality. The Non-communicable Diseases Programme is also one of the national health programmes in which we try to treat diabetes, we try to treat coronary artery disease, we try to treat cancers, we try to treat hypertension. We organize camps for their early diagnosis. And there are various other programmes like this for malaria, tuberculosis and various other vector-borne diseases etc.

I appreciate the concern of the Member in the sense that if we have more money in the health sector, certainly it is always better. But that is why right from the day one as Health Minister I have been stressing and emphasizing that 80 per cent of health is basically dependent on strengthening preventive strategies and strengthening positive health. The issues related to the diseases the hon. Member has mentioned that pertain to hypertension, diabetes, cancer, coronary artery disease, etc., are the issues in which prevention and positive health attitude development is far more important than treating them after the person has got the disease.

So, apart from ensuring the best possible treatment for these diseases, like for example for one of the components cancer we have

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a scheme in which we are trying to create centres for the treatment of cancer at the national level, at the State level as well as at the tertiary care level. They amount to not one or two but it is something like 60 to 80 all over the country. So, wherever treatment is required, we are focusing on treatment; wherever prevention is required we are focusing on prevention. And in times to come you will see a lot of programmes in which we will be focusing on diagnosis at an early stage of the various diseases so that we can ensure that everybody who has got a disease is diagnosed early and his treatment is started in the system as early as possible.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, there should be a half-an-hour discussion on this.

HON. SPEAKER: We will do it, if you give notice.

HON. SPEAKER: Question 62. Shri Shrirang Appa Barne: Not present.

Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

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(Q. 62)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Madam Speaker, The Hon. Minister in his reply has admitted that on 30 June, 2014, a major agreement was reached for early trade balance with China. I would like to know from the Government as to what steps the Government proposes to take for the trade imbalance.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam, Speaker, the idea of signing this MoU itself is aimed at setting this trade imbalance to some order. The skewed nature of this trade imbalance is so sharp that if you see the imbalance, it amounts to about US \$ 36 Billion in that it is adversely placed for India. We are importing a lot more than what we are exporting to China. As a result, this setting up of these industrial parks themselves are with an intention of getting more investment of China into India. Those commodities which we are buying from China, if through this MoU and setting up of industrial parks with investment from China, if those goods could be produced in India, we do not need to import them. We get an advantage that the investment happens in India and we are able to buy those goods which

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are produced in India itself. So, this itself is a major step towards redressing the trade imbalance.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Madam Speaker, this problem has started from about year 2002. We have been importing Pen to Piano from China for almost 10 years. The Hon. Minister of Finance also clarified the subject yesterday that local manufacturers have gradually become traders now. They get goods manufactured from China and bring them here. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that two types of steps have to be taken for this. First, local indigenous manufacturers must be given protection. Along with that, we must support them. Secondly, I want to mention the issue of dumping from China, particularly regarding the quality. The Government needs to take steps in this regard as well. Whether it is related to SEZ or other measures, what steps the Government proposes to take to address this imbalance? The industrial park is one way of that but there is so much heavy imbalance. What is the Ministry of Finance and IPP Departments together going to do in this regard?

[English]

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SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The issues raised by hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya are very legitimate and these are definite concerns of the Government too.

When I was talking about industrial parks, it is not to say that other steps which have to be taken by the Government are not being taken. They are being taken. There are definitely issues of dumping which are being considered by the Commerce Ministry, on which we are periodically identifying line by line such goods on which duties are being levied.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to remind you that in regard to toxic presence in certain goods like children's play toys and other things, the Government is taking steps to curb imports of those goods which are health hazards, particularly coming from China.

The third issue about which hon. Member Shri Somaiya spoke is about protection to be offered to local manufacturing units. We are certainly sitting and talking with the Finance Ministry also to see what are the ways in which manufacturing which is indigenous could be given additional impetus.

So, your points are well taken, Sir.

HON. SPEAKER: Very good. Very articulate answer.

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(Q. 63)

SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Madam, The Hon. Minister has replied about loan waiver, I would like to say something about it. The UPA Government has repeatedly said that loan waiver of Rs. 72000 crore has been given to farmers but The Hon. Minister has talked about loan waiver of only Rs. 52,259 crore here. I don't know where 20 thousand crore rupees have gone? Many scams and irregularities have occurred even in the loan waivers granted to farmers. I would like to present a few points as examples before the House. In the Sangli district, there is a branch of the Bank of India, where the bank provided loans amounting to 2 crore 30 lakh rupees to 920 farmers under a private sugar mill. These farmers are unaware that their loans have been waived. The bank recovered money from their cane payments, showed it as a loan waiver, and committed a scam of 2 crore 30 lakh rupees in the Bank of India's Miraj branch. I have another issue. In Kolhapur district, there is a farmer named ...* with a loan waiver of Rs. 1 crore 25 lakh in 0.22 hectares and a farmer...* with a loan waiver of Rs. 25 lakh. It is not known how the loan waiver happened much

* Not recorded.

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more than the normal credit limit because all these people are workers of...* ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam Speaker, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sorry, don't take name of the party. It's okay up to what you said before. Please ask the question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Because I know this, so I said.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't do that. Please ask the question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJU SHETTY In this way, how many people in the country have taken illegitimate advantage of loan waiver? NABARD repeatedly enquired about it. ... (*Interruptions*) The surprising thing is that they have received a letter from the then Prime Minister that your loan has been waived off.

Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will put such a list in the House that the farmers who have

* Not recorded.

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got loan waiver of more than Rs. 10 lakh, I have been raising this question for the last five years. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJU SHETTY: The farmers whose loans have been waived off above Rs 10 lakh, I want their list.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam Speaker, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have already told to not take names.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let the reply come.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I immediately said that we will not mention any party's name.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Under the Government's loan waiver scheme, the physical amount did not go into anyone's hands. People had taken loans from banks or cooperative banks and under the scheme of the Government at that time, those who were very small farmers, marginal farmers, their entire loan was to be waived off for a

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period. The entire loan of those who were small was to be waived i.e. those who had one hectare or two hectares of land and those who had more than two hectares had to be waived off 25 per cent of the loan and they had to pay 75 per cent amount at one time. Under this, many people waived their loans in it. These banks used to get money from the public exchequer through NABARD, RBI. When such complaints came and especially the CAG report came, these irregularities were elaborately described by the CAG report. This topic also went before the Public Accounts Committee, which duly noted it. Subsequently, an inquiry was conducted at every level and the investigation revealed that thousands of people whose loans were not to be waived, got their loans waived or exceeded those who had to pay up to an amount. ... *(Interruptions)* After its investigation, proceedings started and thousands of cases have been caught on a large scale in which proceedings took place. It could not have happened without the bank officials. This was book entries, was to be waived inside books and then the bank had to get money, so far disciplinary proceedings have been conducted against five thousand or 411 bank employees. This included auditors. The auditors used to calculate whose loan is to be waived, who is in this category. 757 Chartered Accountants and Auditors were involved in it, whose cases have been given to the

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Institute of Chartered Accountants. In this, 4030 cases were detected, out of that 22 are FIRs and criminal cases are going on. So far, more than Rs. 627 crore has been recovered from them.

The Hon. Member asked the question, because there have been irregularities, it is natural that there will also be a number of people who have taken large amount of money. Today, I do not have that list, but if the Hon. Members want, then write to me and I will try to get its list made through banks.

SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Madam Speaker, on one hand, many people have unfairly taken advantage of this scheme, and on the other, several farmers have suffered due to technical errors. In Maharashtra, land is measured in acres. A farmer has a certificate from the Treasurer showing 5 acres, which equals 0.23 hectares. Despite this, farmers owning 0.2 hectares of land, who are entitled to loan waivers as per High Court orders, have not received the benefit. There are many such farmers who have not got the benefit of loan waiver.

Madam Speaker, the other issue is that several farmers who are unable to repay their loans on time, settle their loans, due to which their debt increases slightly from the normal credit limit. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether even the farmers who have cleared

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the normal credit limit less than Rs. 5 thousand will get the benefit of loan waiver?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: This scheme was only for a limited time, and that period has now ended. Currently, only the investigation of irregularities and subsequent actions based on the findings are ongoing.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam Speaker, the extent of involvement in the scheme with which the people were benefited, was around 3.73 crore farmers. We would like to know from The Hon. Minister the number of so-called farmers who had actually embezzled public money. From today's reply we have come to know that disciplinary action has been taken against 5411 officials of respective banks. We have little knowledge of the type of disciplinary action which is taken when some officers are apprehended. Show-cause notice is sent. Some are suspended but subsequently, after eight months or one year they are reinstated. I would like to know as to how many of them have actually been removed from service because this involves a very sensitive aspect of our country. They have played with

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the interest of marginal and small farmers. A letter has been written and 757 Chartered Accountants and Auditors are involved.

When the Public Accounts Committee took cognizance of the C&AG Report, being a Member of the PAC at that time in which several other Members were also there, we were actually trying to ascertain as to who was actually accountable: was it the Reserve Bank of India, the Finance Ministry's Banking Department or whether any nodal officer was there. We would like to understand whether any exemplary punishment has been given. We should also be told about those cases. Filing FIRs is not the only solution. Prosecution is also necessary. Of course, it is gratifying to note that Rs.627 Crore have been recovered. We would like to know whether those Rs.627 Crore have been put into the loan account or whether some confiscation has actually taken place.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, since the information with regard to each disciplinary action would be very widespread because the banks are spread all over the country, if the hon. Member writes to me I can try and obtain as much information as possible in view of the widespread nature of this information. But with regard to the nature of the complaints which were found in the Audit, the hon. Member is absolutely right, the Audit went into details with regard to how many

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of those who got it were ineligible. In how many cases, the records were tampered with; in how many cases the eligible farmers were excluded; and this figure also, in each category, runs into a very large number of people. For instance, the audit was conducted with regard to 80299 cases. In this, 6823 were ineligible who were given the benefit. So, it was a widespread menace which had taken place and since it was spread over a large part of the country, the details with regard to which disciplinary action is pending or which criminal case is pending at which stage, is a very large information. It is not available today but if the hon. Member seeks that information and writes to me, I will try and obtain as much information as possible.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you that you allowed to ask questions about farmer loan waiver and loan relief, there is drought all over the country. I represent Ahmedabad West Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat State. The monsoon is not the same in Gujarat as it should be this year. The condition of the farmers is very pathetic.

HON. SPEAKER: Tell the context of the question please.

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DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Farmers are badly suffering. I request the Government that in the wake of a weak monsoon, the Government will provide relief in loans to the farmers or the Government will waive off any kind of loan, will any such proposal likely to come from the Government?

HON. SPEAKER: I do not think it arises from the main question.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker, this question is not related to the basic question, but I would like to tell the hon. Member that as the monsoon season is going on now, so in the next few weeks, to say, in the months of July and August, the Government has been watching very closely. If there is any difficulty in that, the Government will take whatever appropriate steps to deal with it.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Madam, first of all, I would like to object to what hon. Member Shri Raju Shetty said, because it is not written on any farmers' forehead which party they belong to.

HON. SPEAKER: I have already stated that no Party's name or individual's name will go on record regarding that.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: I would like to tell the Hon. Minister on this subject, as he said there are many irregularities. In my Parliamentary Constituency, the loan waiver of forty four thousand

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farmers, they came to know after three years that it has not been waived. It was around one hundred and twenty Crore. So now, three years later, when they have to return this amount, they have to pay back double the amount with interest. If there is any problem in the audit, as the Hon. Minister said, I would like it to be audited again and our farmers should get relief and those who are not eligible, should not get it, but there are many genuine cases, their loan should be waived off, because there is anger against the Government among the farmers. The Hon. Minister may please take action in this regard.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, this was the plan for the year 2008. This loan was given in the year 2008-2009. After that in the previous Parliament itself, the PAC had conducted its assessment in it on the basis of the CAG report. The people from whom the money is being withdrawn, as far as I have a record, these are the people, who should not have got the help and have got it wrongly assisted. If there is any complaint, then you write to the appropriate bank and give us a copy of that too, then we will also draw attention to it.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Madam Speaker, this is a very important issue, it should be discussed.

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HON. SPEAKER: That will also be discussed. You give it for discussion under the rule.

(Q. 64)

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you.

I would like to thank the visionary Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Narendra Modi ji and the Hon. Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley ji. He made a provision of Rs. 500 crore for setting up of four new AIIMS under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana in the General Budget of the country presented yesterday, which is very commendable. Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Health that the land parameter for setting up of AIIMS, will the Government consider some relaxation in it, so that there is no hurdle in their establishment because of the availability of less land.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the institutions like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which are being set up in the country,

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are on the same pattern as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The spirit of the Government is that these institutions which are to be formed in the coming times should be much better than that. Right now, six All India Institutes of Medical Sciences are in advanced stage of completion and work on one institute has started last year itself. This scheme was started by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji during his Prime Ministership, when Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji was the Health Minister of the country. At that time these projects were started in about 150 acres of land. After becoming Health Minister, I started visiting AIIMS. So far, I have seen AIIMS in Patna and Bhopal in detail and next week I am going to see AIIMS in Bhubaneswar. The experience has shown that even 150 acres of land, which is needed to develop facilities for AIIMS-like institutions, is insufficient. In order to build state-of-the-art departments such as Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Medicines, Geriatrics, and many others within each AIIMS, so that they can be compared to any of the world's largest and best institutions, we are finding that 150 acres of land is not enough. After visiting Patna and Bhopal, it was experienced that these two AIIMS need at least 50 to 75 acres of land over 150 acres. I myself have gone to both the places and met the Chief Ministers there and made a request to give land. So, wherever

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we have started the process of building new AIIMS, we have written to the Chief Ministers of the state, requesting them to provide us at least 200 acres of land. Along with that, they should make arrangements from the state for the facilities of electricity, water etc. and all the statutory requirements, and give information about whatever proper place they can have in their state. Then, through our department, by surveying all those places, analyzing the medical facilities etc. available there, we will decide where AIIMS can be built or should be built. I think it may not be possible to reduce that criterion in today's perspective, because in that circumstances it will probably not be possible to give the kind of AIIMS we want to build all over the country and the kind of facilities we want to give to the people of every state.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government is making an impressive effort to provide excellent health services to all sections in all sectors of the country. In the budget presented yesterday, item number 56 mentioned central assistance for the establishment of a new standard testing laboratory. In this context, my question is whether the Government has any proposed plan to establish a laboratory in Gujarat for the diagnosis of Congo viral and other such serious diseases. Congo hemorrhagic fever

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is a serious zoonotic disease, and a large number of farmers in the country are affected by it, making the establishment of such a laboratory essential. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Health if the Government has any plans to establish such a laboratory.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Not only in Gujarat, but in the whole country wherever there is a lack of laboratory or other facilities for food testing or research of diseases, we are studying, analyzing it with great depth and seriousness. As you heard the budget speech of the Hon. Minister of Finance yesterday, how seriously the Government is taking this subject, it is clearly evident in the announcements made in his budget speech. I assure you that if such a system is deficient in Gujarat, the Government will do everything possible to remove it.

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam Speaker, as per the reply given by the Hon. Minister, six AIIMS-like Institutes are being set up under PMSSY. We are glad to know that the first and second batch students are already admitted in those Institutes but after taking over charge as the Health Minister, the hon. Minister assured the nation that AIIMS-like Institutes will be set up all over the country and that in each and every State, it will be established. But unfortunately, yesterday, in the

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Budget speech given by the hon. Finance Minister, Kerala has not found a place in this connection. It is not only that Kerala needs it but many other States also need an AIIMS-like Institute. The Chief Minister of Kerala has met the hon. Minister and informed him that they are willing to set up an AIIMS-like Institute. The hon. Minister knows the health scenario of Kerala which has already created a great disappointment in the minds of the people of Kerala.

Therefore, Madam, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he will announce setting up an AIIMS-like Institute for Kerala in this year itself. The hon. Finance Minister is also sitting here. We are expecting a reply from the Finance Minister also on whether an AIIMS-like Institute will be set up in Kerala in this year itself.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I think the hon. Member has not listened to the statement of the Finance Minister carefully. There were two parts of his statement. He had mentioned that firstly the Government has an intention to set up AIIMS-like Institute in every State. Secondly, he also named four places as examples where we might initiate the process immediately. You will appreciate that if an AIIMS-like Institute has to be formed, it will cost around Rs. 1500 crore for the country.

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Our intention is very clear. Firstly, we would like to set up AIIMS-like Institutes in the States which are not having such a facility right now and secondly, they will be completed over a period of five years.

As regards your State, Kerala, about which you are more concerned, I have already written a letter to the Chief Minister of Kerala to finalise a place or suggest us some places where we can have an AIIMS-like Institute. I have already had a meeting with him and his Health Secretary. We have got many suggestions from the hon. Members belonging to Kerala in this regard. They want an AIIMS-like Institute in their own constituency. I can assure that Kerala will also have an AIIMS-like Institute like other States. ... (*Interruptions*) Once I have written a letter to the Chief Minister, it means we have already initiated the process. This process will get completed in the next five years and, in the next five years, you will have an AIIMS-like Institute in your State also. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone needs AIIMS.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Hon. Speaker, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state why Telangana is the only State among all the States in the country where no action is initiated to set

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up an AIIMS-like Institute. Even in the case of Kerala, you have written a letter but as regards our State, barring the North-Eastern States, no action has been taken in the matter.

I also want to know whether The Hon. Minister has taken into cognizance of the ratio of population to the number of medical seats. In Andhra Pradesh it is 60,000:1 and in Telangana, it is 30,000:1. Has The Hon. Minister has taken it into consideration before deciding to set up AIIMS-like Institutes and before deciding to give additional medical seats?

Lastly, I would like to understand whether Telangana is especially qualified or especially disqualified to have an AIIMS-like institution or additional medical seats.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: My brief answer is that it is neither especially qualified nor especially disqualified. We are actively considering the various requests of hon. Members. We have decided about Andhra Pradesh because we had concluded that probably Andhra Pradesh is more deficient of health facilities like the AIIMS. That is why we took it first. We will actively review the situation in Telangana also and take a decision accordingly.

(Q. 65)

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SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: The entire issue of FDI in various sectors has acquired a new dimension as per the policy formulations of investment programme delineated by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget 2014-15 yesterday. The broad parameters and thrust of the FDI programme in various sectors have been indicated in the new Budget.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister to indicate the actual expectation of the FDI inflows in major sectors of the economy, including infrastructure, for the year 2014-15.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, a sector-wise complete detail of the FDI equity inflow in the last three financial years, beginning 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 and the current year detail of 2014-15 as regards the couple of months are all provided in Annexure I. They contain the complete sector-wise details.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: I would like to mention here the problem related to decline in the FDI inflows. There is a specific case of a foreign company which is trying to invest Rs. 1,500 crore FDI in Pune. The company's name is Mercedes Benz. This is a major automobile company with substantial FDI investment.

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The project work of this unit has been stuck for the last four months because of the alleged misunderstanding between the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State authority. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not able to give proper guidelines to the State authorities, whether this particular company requires environment clearance for construction of more than 20,000 sq. metre of industrial shed. But as per the Government policy, it does not require the clearance for construction of industrial shed.

The FDI is coming from abroad. But lack of understanding between the Ministries causes a problem. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to request the Government to be clear about it. I would request the Ministries to coordinate among themselves on the issue of FDI. There is lack of coordination among the Ministries. That is why a lot of companies are going out of the country.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am not in a position to specifically talk about the investment by any one particular investor. But certainly in the last three years the FDI inflows have seen a great lot of fluctuations. If you see the table attached to the reply given, you will find that in the year 2012-13, a drastic fall to the extent of 26.35 per cent had happened. That kind of a drop was so significantly felt

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by the economy. But, soon, in the next year, there was a marginal, about six per cent, increase in the FDI inflows. So, there has been an up and down kind of a situation – drastic increase and then minor decline, then again a major decline and a small increase. So, these kinds of fluctuations happen because investors take their decisions based on the macro economic situation and investment climate which prevails in a particular country.

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Investors also take their decision based on the investment climate which prevails in a particular country. One can always have a debate on whether the policy paralysis and other things influence decision making. But as regards the flows, I would submit that there has been fluctuation more because of macro-economic constraints rather than the Inter-Departmental coordination.

HON. SPEAKER: Very good. Next, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh – not there.

Shri Rajeev Satav.

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[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam Speaker, when the UPA Government was in power, we had talked about FDI in retail. There was a lot of uproar and protest at that time. Now I have spoken of FDI in defence department, railways, and insurance sectors.

I would like to ask the Government as to how many sectors is the Government thinking of bringing FDI in the coming five years?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I will try to answer the question of the Hon. Member in Hindi, but my grammar will not be accurate. What is happening right now is being discussed whether in the railway sector or in defence. Discussion has just begun, no decision has been made, and nothing has been finalized. From the Cabinet and from the Ministries, we are asking for opinion as to how FDI should be there or what should be there. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Time is running out.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Members, wait for just a minute.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members, kindly listen to my full answer.... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker, I can fully understand the anxiety of the hon. Members who have been talking about FDI that could not move forward. I am fully aware of the presentation made by the hon. Finance Minister in this House. That the DIPP initiated the discussion is a matter of fact. Therefore, I have said that on record.

As regards the 49 per cent FDI in Defence and as regards the 49 per cent FDI which has been mentioned, certainly, mentions have been made by the hon. Finance Minister. The DIPP has initiated the discussion. It is not misleading the House. It is a matter of fact Statement. I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Members concerned. This is definitely a decision of the Government....
(*Interruptions*)

Allowing 49 per cent FDI is a decision of the Government
(*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker, I am answering the question. During interruptions, a point is trying to be scored. I fully respect the input being given by the hon. Members here. But it is a Government decision; 49 per cent FDI has been brought in Defence....
(*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Question Hour Over.

*(Interruptions) ... **

* Not recorded.

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***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 66 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 289 to 417

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

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

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12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

THE HON. MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI):

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:--

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 39/16/14)

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THE HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 218(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th March, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 40/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 346(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st May, 2014 under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 41/16/14)

THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy

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of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the BEML Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 42/16/14)

THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Amendment Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 164(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th March, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 43/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Competition Commission of India (Procedure in regard to the transaction of business relating to combinations) Amendment Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions)

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published in Notification No. F.No.CCI/Amend/Comb. Regl./2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th March, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 64 of the Competition Act, 2002.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 44/16/14)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:-

(i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./2/85/2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2014.

(ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Licensing of Insurance Agents) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./3/86/2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2014.

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(iii) The Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors (Licensing, Professional Requirements and Code of Conduct) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./4/87/2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2014.

(iv) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Conditions of Service of Officers and Other Employees) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./5/88/2014 in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2014.

(v) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Third Party Administrators-Health Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./1/84/2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2014.

(vi) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Insurance Brokers) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./25/83/2013 in Gazette of India dated 10th December, 2013.

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(vii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Web Aggregators) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./22/80/2013 in Gazette of India dated 10th December, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 45/16/14)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

(i) G.S.R. 112(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th February, 2014 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 516(E) dated 30th July, 2013.

(ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 189(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2014.

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(iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 190(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2014.

(iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 270(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th April, 2014.

(v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Crystallization of Inoperative Foreign Currency Deposits) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 271(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th April, 2014.

(vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 322(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th May, 2014.

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(vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 323(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th May, 2014.

(viii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 361(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2014.

(ix) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 370(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2014.

(x) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 371(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2014.

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(xi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Establishment in India of Branch or Office or other Place of Business) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 372(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2014.

(xii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 374(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd June, 2014.

(xiii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 362(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2014.

(xiv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 400(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2014.

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(xv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Currency) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 46/16/14)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980:-

(i) The Andhra Bank Officer Employees' (Acceptance of jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. 666/20/IR/420 in Gazette of India dated 8th January, 2014.

(ii) The Andhra Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. 666/3/P/241 in Gazette of India dated 8th January, 2014.

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(iii) The Bank of Baroda Officer Bank Employees' (Acceptance of jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. BCC/HRM/IL/105/9355-A in Gazette of India dated 7th January, 2014.

(iv) The Bank of Baroda (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. BCC/HRM/IL/105/9355-B in Gazette of India dated 12th March, 2014.

(v) The Union Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. 155 in Gazette of India dated 21st May, 2014.

(vi) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. 8 in weekly Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2014.

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(vii) The Union Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. 1/2013 in weekly Gazette of India dated 11th April, 2014.

(viii) The Canara Bank Officer Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. HRW;IRS:SJ:1:2306:2013 in Gazette of India dated 22nd February, 2014.

(6) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) to (iii) of (5) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 47/16/14)

(7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 48/16/14)

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(8) 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. 123(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on imports of Sodium Nitrite into India at the rate of 30% ad valorem minus anti-dumping duty, with effect from 26th February, 2014 to 25th February, 2015 (both days inclusive) and the rate of 28% ad valorem minus anti-dumping duty, with effect from 26th February, 2015 to 25th May, 2015 (both days inclusive).

(ii) G.S.R.178(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Acetone', originating in, or exported from European Union, South Africa, Singapore and the United States of America, for a further period of five years pursuant to the final findings of the sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

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(iii) G.S.R.179(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Meta Phenylene Diamine, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, for a period of five years from the date of imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, 22nd March, 2013 pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(iv) G.S.R.181(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty, imposed on imports of Plain Medium Density Fibre Board of thickness 6mm and above, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, for a further period of one year i.e., upto and inclusive of the 26th day of February, 2015.

(v) G.S.R.193(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Red Phosphorous,

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excluding red phosphorous used in electronic applications, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China, for a period of five years pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(vi) G.S.R.194(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Sodium Nitrate', originating in, or exported from the European Union, the People's Republic of China, Ukraine and Korea RP, for a period of six months pursuant to the preliminary findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(vii) G.S.R.280(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th April, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Cast Aluminium Alloy Wheels or Alloy Road Wells used in motor vehicles, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, Korea RP and Thailand for a period of six months pursuant to the preliminary

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findings of investigation conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(viii) G.S.R.329(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “Vitamin-E all forms excluding natural forms”, originating in, or exported from, the People’s Republic of China for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 26th March, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(ix) G.S.R.330(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “Flax Fabric”, originating in, or exported from, the People’s Republic of China and Hongkong for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 25th March, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

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(x) G.S.R.331(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “All Fully Drawn or Fully Oriented Yarn/Spin Draw Yarn/Flat Yarn of Polyester”, originating in, or exported from, the People’s Republic of China and Thailand for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 25th March, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xi) G.S.R.332(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 302011-Cus., dated 4th March, 2011.

(xii) G.S.R.337(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Cold Rolled Flat Products of Stainless Steel, originating in, or exported from, People’s Republic of China, Korea RP, European Union, South Africa, Taiwan

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(Chinese Taipei), Thailand and United States of America for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 21st April, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xiii)G.S.R.342(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of ‘Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric’, originating in, or exported from the People’s Republic of China for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of 28th April, 2015, pending outcome of sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xiv)G.S.R.343(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ‘Peroxosulphates’, originating in, or exported from the United States of America and Taiwan, for a period of five years pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

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(xv) G.S.R.344(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Phenol', originating in, or exported from Chinese Taipei and the United States of America, for a period of six months pursuant to the preliminary findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xvi) G.S.R.347(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st May, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of "Methylene Chloride", originating in, or exported from the European Union, United States of America and Korea RP, for a period of five years from the date of imposition of the provisional anti-dumping duty, that is, 21st October, 2013 pursuant to the final findings of investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xvii) G.S.R.391(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of Presensitised Positive Offset Aluminium

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Plates, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, for a period of five years pursuant to the final findings in Sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xviii)G.S.R.404(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of 'homopolymer of vinyl chloride monomer, originating in, or exported from the European Union, and Mexico, for a period of five years pursuant to the final findings in Sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(xix)G.S.R.405(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of 'homopolymer of vinyl chloride monomer, originating in, or exported from the Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and the United States of America, for a period of five years pursuant to the final findings in Sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

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(xx) G.S.R.414(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of 'all kinds of plastic processing or injection moulding machines', originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, for a further period of one years i.e. upto and inclusive of 11th May, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 49/16/14)

(9) 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.121(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 17/2013-CE(NT) dated 31st December, 2013.

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(ii) G.S.R.122(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 18/2013-CE(NT) dated 31st December, 2013.

(iii) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 134(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) The CENVAT Credit (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 135(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) G.S.R. 136(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 35/2001-CE(N.T.), dated 26th June, 2001.

(vi) G.S.R. 137(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe

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a revised Quarterly Return form to be submitted by specified categories of registrants including importers.

(vii) G.S.R.201(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 6/2012-CE(NT) dated 13th March, 2012.

(viii) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 202(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ix) The CENVAT Credit (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 203(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(x) G.S.R. 204 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum superseding Notification No. 05/2012-CE (NT) dated 12th March, 2012.

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(xi) G.S.R.106 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 30/2012-CE dated 9th July, 2012.

(xii) G.S.R.90(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-CE dated 17th March, 2012.

(xiii) The CENVAT Credit (Third Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 108(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(xiv) G.S.R.139(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd March, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify procedure, safeguards, conditions and limitations for grant of refund of CENVAT credit under Rule 5B of CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004 to service provider providing certain services.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 50/16/14)

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(10) 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.107(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2013-Service Tax dated 18th April, 2013.

(ii) The Service Tax Third (Amendment) Rules, 2013 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 749(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd November, 2013, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) G.S.R.91(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 51/16/14)

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

(i) G.S.R.92 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

(ii) G.S.R.93 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

(iii) G.S.R.245 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 96/2008-Cus., dated 13th August, 2008.

(iv) G.S.R.255 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 69/2011-Cus., dated 29th July, 2011.

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(v) G.S.R.105 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th February, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 93/2009-Cus., dated 11th September, 2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 52/16/14)

(12) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special allowance for In-house Development of Actuarial Capability) Amendment Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 334(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th May, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 53/16/14)

(13) A copy of the Government Securities (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. DGBA.CDD. 5434/11.22.001/2013-14 in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 32 of the Government Securities Act, 2006.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 54/16/14)

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(14) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 1424(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd June, 2014, regarding constitution of the Fourteenth Finance Commission under Article 280 of the Constitution read with Section 6 and 8 of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 55/16/14)

(15) A copy of the 22nd Progress Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto, June, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 56/16/14)

(16) A copy of the Reserve Bank of India Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. HRMD co. No. 3809/21/01/2012-2013 in weekly Gazette of India dated 18th January, 2013 under sub-section (4) of Section 54 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 57/16/14)

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12.04 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 14th of July, 2014, will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2014.
3. Discussion and voting on Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2014-15.
4. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (Railways) No.3 Bill, 2014.

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5. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment), 2014 and consideration and consideration and passing of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
6. General discussion on the Budget (General) for 2014-15.
7. Discussion and Voting on Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2014-15.
8. Introduction, consideration and passing of related Appropriation Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Hon. Speaker, you are requested to kindly add the following subjects for consideration in the proceedings of the coming week:

- 1) The non-availability of boundary walls in primary and secondary schools in the country and especially in Maharashtra, the movement of unnecessary animals in the school premises increases a lot. Due to

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this, students face a lot of problems. Considering this, there is a need for the Government to construct boundary walls in all schools.

2) Even after our untiring efforts, the air traffic has not started here till date even after the completion of the construction work of the airport in my constituency Jalgaon. These demands of the people of Jalgaon, pending for many years, should be taken seriously by the Government to immediately start air service from this airport.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I would like to incorporate the following items in the coming week's List of Business:

1. Drought mitigating measures should be taken up as early as May.
2. Tea labourers in various closed tea gardens are victims of starvation deaths.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I want the following points to be included in the List of Government Business for the week commencing on 14th July, 2014:

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1. Need to offer moratorium on interest payment for debt stressed States like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala by giving them a separate package – financial.
2. Need to restore 100 per cent packaging mandatory for jute sacking in food grains, sugar and fertilizer and to increase the same for cement industry packaging.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, please add the following two subjects to the agenda for next week:

- 1) Discussion is needed regarding the serious situation arising annually due to floods and erosion from the national rivers Ganga and Kosi River in Bhagalpur district.
- 2) Discussion is needed regarding the inconvenience faced by the citizens in commuting due to the slow pace of construction of the National Highway No.106 Virpur -Vihapur road in Bhagalpur, as well as the deteriorating condition of National Highway No.80.

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[English]

SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):

Madam Speaker, I would like to request you that the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Construction of Railway Line to the upcoming Kannur Airport; and
2. A cancer Research and Reference hospital of the level of AIIMS should be set up at Kannur, Kerala urgency.

[Translation]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Madam Speaker, I would like to request you that the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Discussion on the scheme to ensure electrification of all remaining villages and structures by the end of 2014 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.
2. Discussion regarding the pending proposals for the expansion, development, and upgrading of airports across the country.

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SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Hon. Speaker, I would like to request you that the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Hydro Power Project should be started at Konar Dam in Bokaro District of Giridih Lok Sabha, Jharkhand State. I have been demanding this for about 15 years.

2. Funds should be allocated for Madhuban/Parasnath in Giridih district to develop it as a tourist destination, and it should be granted the status of a tourist spot.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Speaker, I kindly request that the following two issues be included in the agenda for next week:

1. NH-84 road from Buxar to Patna which is in very dilapidated condition. This causes a lot of difficulty in traffic. Common people are vulnerable to accidents. Therefore, the work of widening should be completed along with the special repair of NH-84 pending in the public interest.

2. The delay in the construction and widening of the bypass road and NH80 in Bhagalpur is causing significant inconvenience in traffic. The Champanala Bridge has been damaged for years known

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as the lifeline of Bhagalpur. For years the construction work of an alternative bridge has been stopped by the NH, due to which the movement of heavy vehicles has stopped. Therefore, the construction work should be started soon.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, the following item be included in the List of Business to be transacted in the next week commencing from 14th July.

"Discussion on the internal civil war in Iraq and deportation of Indian nationals from Iraq and their rehabilitation in India".

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12.13 hrs

**MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 7, Shri Santosh Gangwar.

**THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND
GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):**

On behalf of my senior colleague Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu I beg to
move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the
Business Advisory Committee presented to the House
on the 9th July, 2014."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the
Business Advisory Committee presented to the House
on the 9th July, 2014."

The motion was adopted.

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12.14 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL), 2011-12

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 8, Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2011-12.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 58/16/14)

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12.14 ¼ hrs.

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014***

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 9, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

THE HON. MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997."

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, under Rule 72 (1) of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to oppose the introduction of the Bill

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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further to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

Madam, in my notice I have given the reasons why I am opposing this. This is for the first time a Bill; and before that an Ordinance is being brought in the interest of just one superannuated Government officer and for giving him a Government job. The Telecom Regulatory Authority was set up as a regulator in the telecom industry. It was to have an independent body having control over the whole telecom industry and that is why it was stipulated in the original Bill that after retirement from Chairmanship of the Telecom Regulatory Authority, a person would not be allowed to take up any Government job.... (*Interruptions*) Now, in the interest of just one retired IAS officer, who is to be the Secretary to the Prime Minister, you are taking away the whole of the independence of the Telecom Regulatory Authority. The next man will come and he will kowtow to the Government so that after retirement he will get another plum posting in the Government. That is why this Bill should be opposed tooth and nail at this stage.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, I have gone through the Rules in terms of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Kindly refer to Rule 72, under which hon.

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Member has sought to oppose the introduction. The very narrow window available to the hon. Member is that only the constitutionality of the Bill is sought to be questioned, namely, the Government of India has no such power under the Constitution to bring forward this Bill.

I am reading the proviso of Rule 72;

“Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit a full discussion thereon.”

Therefore, the Government of India has got full power to bring any amendment in law relating to telecom. Telecom and Communications come under the jurisdiction of Government of India. When we go on merits – when the debate will start – the purpose of this whole amendment is nothing but to bring the Telecom Regulatory Authority on parity with Competition Commission, Pension Authority and Insurance Authority. Nothing specific has been done. Therefore, this whole opposition has got no merit in terms of rules and otherwise.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

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"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I introduce the Bill.

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12.19 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Reason for immediate legislation by promulgation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014*

THE HON. MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by promulgation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (No. 3 of 2014).

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 59/16/14.

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12.19 hrs

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE
ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 2014 AND ANDHRA PRADESH
REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014**

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item nos. 11 and 12 together. Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have called Shri B. Vinod Kumar to speak. Is he there?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have called Shri B. Vinod Kumar. He will speak now.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Vinod Kumar says.

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*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. SPEAKER: Shri B. Vinod Kumar, you have given a Statutory Resolution. You have to move that. Are you moving it or not?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisaiton (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (No. 4 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 29 May, 2014."

Madam Speaker, there are some reasons why I have moved this Statutory Resolution. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You can speak after the Hon. Minister.

Now, the hon. Minister.

* Not recorded.

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12.21 hrs

At this stage, Shri Balka Suman and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 be taken into consideration."

Madam, it may be recalled that the 15th Lok Sabha had passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill on 18th February and subsequently on 20th February the Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill without any amendments. The Bill received the assent of the President on 1st March, 2014 and hence was notified as Act VI of 2014. ...
(Interruptions)

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Subsequently, it was found that immediate action was necessary to revise the territories of the two successor States before the appointed day of 2nd June, 2014 on which day the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 will come into force. ... (*Interruptions*) Hence an Ordinance was promulgated by the President. I have already given a statement as required under Rule 71 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha to explain the reasons for the promulgation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014. ... (*Interruptions*)

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill gives the rationale in detail. Briefly, this Bill seeks to maintain the continuity of amendments carried out by the Ordinance. ... (*Interruptions*) The Bill seeks to transfer six Mandals in full and two in part of Khammam District to Andhra Pradesh. This will provide a much needed flexibility to the Andhra Pradesh Government to implement the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package of the Polavaram Multi-purpose National Irrigation Project in the identification of areas for R&R. ... (*Interruptions*) It will also provide contiguity in the areas that form a part of Andhra Pradesh for administrative convenience. We have retained the temple town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana and also seen to it that the road to the town remains a part of Telangana. I

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may mention that most of these areas were a part of the East Godavari District and were transferred in 1958 to Khammam District. ...

(Interruptions)

I may add that the former Prime Minister during the debate during the consideration of the Bill had said that, "I would like to reassure Hon. Members that if any further amendments are needed to facilitate smooth and full R&R for the Polavaram project, they will be given effect to at the earliest. Our Government will execute the Polavaram project; let there be no doubt about it." I would like to reassure the House that this Government shall endeavour to realize the dream of prosperity that the Polavaram project would bring to Andhra Pradesh.

... *(Interruptions)*

With these words, Madam, I commend, The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2014 to this august House for consideration and passing.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (No. 4 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 29 May, 2014."

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"That the Bill to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 be taken into consideration."

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vinod Kumar.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Vinod Kumar says.

(*Interruptions*)... *

* Not recorded.

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HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Vinod Kumar, do you want to speak or not?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Vinod Kumar, please speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

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SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Madam, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 is against the spirit of the Constitution... (*Interruptions*)

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 had already been notified on 1st March, 2014. So, the State of Telangana was formed on 1st March, 2014 though the notified date was mentioned as 2nd June, 2014.

This Government had brought this Ordinance on 29th May, 2014... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. The Member from your party is already speaking. I have given him the chance to speak. Do you not want to hear him?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He is opposing or whatever it is. Let him speak. So, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Madam, I have moved the Statutory Resolution whereas our party is opposing the discussion on the Bill in this House. It is because the Ordinance itself is against the spirit of the Constitution. They cannot issue the Ordinance after the State is

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formed. They have to follow the Article 3 of the Constitution in order to alter the boundaries of the State... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. The Member from your party is already speaking. How can I understand what he is speaking?

12.27 hrs

At this stage, Shri Balka Suman and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: So, my contention is that let the Statutory Resolution be discussed first. You cannot club the Bill and the Statutory Resolution together. Let the Statutory Resolution be discussed first. Then only, we will discuss the Bill. It is because I have a case. The State of Telangana was formed on 1st March, 2014 as per the Gazette Notification issued by His Excellency, the President of India. So, on 29th May, 2014, the Government cannot bring an Ordinance. In order to alter the boundaries of a State, they have to follow Article 3 of the Constitution.

The President has to recommend the Bill to the House only after eliciting the views of the respective State Legislatures. So, the Government has not elicited the views of the State Legislatures of

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Telangana as well as the State of Andhra Pradesh. Thus I want a discussion on the Statutory Resolution first. Then only, we should proceed further into the List of Business.

Therefore, I would request you to have a discussion on the Statutory Resolution first. My request to the hon. Chair is that you cannot club the Bill and the Statutory Resolution together.

HON. SPEAKER: As per convention, we have clubbed these two items. Since you have spoken on the Statutory Resolution, now you may speak on the Bill. That is all. If you do not want to speak, I would call the name of the other Member.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Let all the parliamentarians know whether the Government can alter the boundaries of a State by bringing an Ordinance. Let all the States know whether the boundaries of a State can be altered by bringing an Ordinance. This is my contention.... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Sukhender Reddy.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I am on a point of order.

HON. SPEAKER: Under what rule you are raising it? Which rule are you quoting?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It is under Rule 123(2) of the Constitution... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, “(2) An Ordinance promulgated under this article shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament, but every such Ordinance—

(a) shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament, or, if before the expiration of that period resolutions disapproving it are passed by both Houses, upon the passing of the second of those resolutions;”

* Not recorded.

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So, this is the procedure as far as Ordinances are concerned. But what hon. Member, Shri Vinod Kumar has mentioned is an even more important point as to how a State to be formed.

Article 3 of the Constitution says under “Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States.

Parliament may by law—

- (a) form a new State;
- (b) increase the area of any State;
- (c) diminish the area of any State;

[Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views...”... (*Interruptions*)

So, under article 3 of the Constitution, has the President’s recommendation been received for altering the boundary of the State? So, (a), we have to discuss the Statutory Resolution separately.

HON. SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

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PROF. SAUGATA ROY: And, then The Hon. Minister has to clarify whether the recommendation of the President with regard to the Bill has been received. It is very unfortunate that without obtaining the sanction, without obtaining the approval of the Telangana Government and the Odisha Government, the Government has gone ahead and promulgated an Ordinance. This is bad in law. What is being done will be bad in law and it will be challenged in the Supreme Court. Madam, let us not be misled where the Constitution is violated ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am replying to the objection raised by Mr. Vinod Kumar.

Hon. Members, Statutory Resolutions and Bills to replace Ordinances have been discussed together before also so as to save the time of the House. There is no rule which bars combining two things, and that is why, I have said Item No.11 and Item No.12 will be taken together.

... *(Interruptions)*

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HON. SPEAKER: We can combine and we have combined them. If you want to speak, you can speak on the Bill itself.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Madam, I cannot speak on the Bill.

My contention is that the Bill is against the spirit of the Constitution. They have introduced this Bill against the spirit of the Constitution. On the first day, they tried to introduce it on Monday. I raised a question that they did not get the recommendation of the President. Then, the hon. Home Minister had said in the House that they could not get the recommendation of the President and they introduced it on Tuesday. On Monday, they deferred it. My contention is that the President has not sought or elicited the views of the respective State Legislature to introduce a Bill of such a nature which is altering the boundaries of a State. I mean to say, here they are going to alter the boundaries of two States, that is, the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh. So, my contention is that the Bill does not deserve to be discussed in the House because it does not have the competence to be introduced in this House. Constitutionally, it does not have the competence to be introduced.

HON. SPEAKER: Let me say something.

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SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Today let the Home Minister and let the Prime Minister defer the Bill and let them come on Monday after discussing it in detail.

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do you not want my ruling or what? You please sit down.

Hon. Members, Prof. Saugata Roy and Mr. Vinod Kumar also have contended that the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization (Amendment) Bill 2014 has been introduced in Lok Sabha without referring it to the concerned State Legislature in violation of article 3 of the Constitution.

Hon. Members, the Bill has already been introduced. The issue, whether or not, the Bill has been introduced, in violation of Article 3, requires interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution. Hon. Members would appreciate that interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution is primarily the responsibility of the court of law. Also, the point raised does not relate to regulating the business of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I, therefore, rule out the Point of Order and ask Shri Gutha Sukender Reddy to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

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12.36 hrs

At this stage, Shri Balka Suman and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

***SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY (NALGONDA):** Madam, I appreciate UPA-2 and Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji for making ‘Telangana’, 29th State of our country. Madam, I am opposing this Bill which does not confirm with law. Without knowing the views of Legislative Assemblies of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh the AP Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2014 cannot be introduced. It is gross injustice towards Telangana if 7 mandals comprising of 236 villages are illegally transferred to Andhra Pradesh. These Mandals fall under Schedule 5 of our constitution and are inhabited by tribals. This move will violate rights of tribals. This is not in the interests of tribals or the country. Ignoring views of tribals living there will harm our country’s future.

Technical committee experts on many occasions advised the Government to change the design of Polavaram Project and save tribals by minimizing the number of villages that may get inundated, but the Government turned deaf ear to the suggestions made by the

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

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Technical committee. I request you to kindly withdraw this Bill as I sense bigger conspiracy behind this Bill. It is improper to transfer Lower Sileru Hydel Project with the capacity of 460 MW to Andhra Pradesh.

Hon. Speaker, it is our humble request that as Polavaram Project has been declared a National Project, Union Government should take steps to constitute a Technical Committee to change the design of Polavaram Project and save tribals. The people belonging to these 7 mandals are agitated and are on hunger strike for the last 4 months. Please seek the opinions of the tribals as well as Legislative Assembly of Telangana, before passing this Bill.

Madam Speaker, I request the Union Government to consult Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and Chattisgarh to know their views on this Bill and only after knowing the views of Chief Ministers of these states, the Bill may be passed.

It is improper and unlawful to transfer 7 mandals forcibly. I request Hon. Home Minister to withdraw the Bill and consult Chief Ministers of 4 states to know their views.

... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not fair.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you are not listening, I will ask Mr. Minister to.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will stop this.

Yes, you want to say something.

... (*Interruptions*)

***SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:** Madam Speaker, the Bill may be withdrawn and let the Government consult Chief Ministers of 4 states to know their views. As per Schedule 5 it is the responsibility of Union Government, State Government and the Governor to protect the rights of tribals. Please don't betray tribals and don't betray Telugu people. I request through you to change the design of the project and save tribals' rights.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you, That is all.

... (*Interruptions*)

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

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HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, do you want to say something?

... (*Interruptions*)

12.41 hrs

At this stage, Dr. Sidhant Mohapatra and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, we are in a very piquant situation today. The whole House is charged of the matter. The Congress Government initiated the Polavaram Project. The previous Government in Andhra Pradesh also supported the Polavaram Project. We are not against the Polavaram Project *per se*; we are against the arbitrariness in which the height of the Polavaram Project was increased without taking the State Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh into confidence. We are opposed to that. Because of that height increase, 307 *adivasi* villages are getting inundated. That is why, this new Ordinance came and this new Bill is coming – just to transfer 307 villages of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Telangana to Andhra Pradesh. If the height of the project had not been increased, then we would not have any complaint. ... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, Dr. Haribabu.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have called Dr. Haribabu.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam, a case relating to increase in the height of the project is now pending in the Supreme Court. Now, we are being told that whatever law we make here, it will be interpreted in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court will decide that. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, it is complete. It is okay. Thank you.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Here, we are for the tribal people of these 307 villages, who will be rendered homeless. ... (*Interruptions*) That is our plea before you, Madam; that is our plea before this Government and before this House. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, nobody is speaking. You can move the Bill for passing.

... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: You are not allowing anybody to speak. So, I will have to put the Bill to vote. What can I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are not allowing the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri B. Vinod Kumar, do you want to speak?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody is listening. It is okay.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House disapproves of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 (No. 4 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 29 May, 2014.”

The motion was negatived.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

... (Interruptions)

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THE HON. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam, I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the Bill is passed.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you want the next agenda item to be taken up or not?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

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12.46 hrs

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

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Fourteen of the clock.

(Prof. K.V. Thomas *in the Chair*)

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to bring the attention of the Government to a very serious, urgent and sensitive matter. You also know, the country and the whole world know that the Gurudwara of Sikhs remains an institution for the management of Sahiban, the name of which is SGPC. A lot of sacrifices had to be made for its formation. Shots were fired, lots of sacrifices had to be made, then this

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act was formed. The area of his operation was ... (*Interruptions*) that has been developed. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is a very urgent matter... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You will be given an opportunity. Please take your seat. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I want to say because... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: When the country gained independence, during the time when the Government first intervened, there was an agreement between Master Tara Singh and Nehru, known as the Nehru Pact. In independent India, the first person to be handcuffed was Master Tara Singh. ... (*Interruptions*) At that time, Nehru Ji has said... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: please conclude.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: The people of the country were assured that if there will be any interference, it would be done in consultation with the SGPC... (*Interruptions*)

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Today, I regret to bring it to the Government's attention that the Government of Haryana is talking about breaking it in the assembly and is creating divisions for political gains and benefits. In the past, Punjab and the country have endured immense suffering.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Home Minister should check the illegal actions of the Haryana Government.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

* Not recorded.

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14.02 hrs

**RAILWAY BUDGET (2014-15)-GENERAL DISCUSSION
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 2011-12**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, item Nos. 13 and 14 shall be taken up together.

Motion moved:

“That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended on the 31st day of March, 2012, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 12 and 13.”

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**Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2011-12 submitted to
the Vote of the Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Demand Excess Grants submitted to the vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3
12	Miscellaneous working expenses	279,85,87,643
13	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	769,61,68,663
Total		1049,47,56,306

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to initiate the debate.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I rise to oppose steadfastly the budget proposals of Indian Railways. But first of all, I would like to draw the attention of the Chairman that at least The Hon. Minister concerned is expected to be present in the House when the Railway Budget itself is being discussed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: One of the Cabinet Members is here. You can continue.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: It clearly indicates that he is so indifferent.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have a tradition and custom. The Cabinet Minister is here. So, let us continue. He has collective responsibility. One of the Cabinet Ministers is here.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given the ruling.

... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please co-operate. One of the Cabinet Ministers is here.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Cabinet Minister is noting down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am on my leg. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We are all experienced people. We have been here for a long time. Our custom in the House is, it is good if The Hon. Minister is there but otherwise, his Cabinet colleagues are sitting here and they are taking notes. Please cooperate. Let us continue with the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given my ruling. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury can continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, this is an important day. Discussion on Railway Budget is starting and the Railway Minister is not present in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

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SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I formally register my protest that the Railway Minister is absent in the House which I think is lowering the dignity of this august House. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury can continue.

*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given my ruling. Let Shri Adhir Chowdhury continue. There are Ministers sitting here.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are all experienced, senior Members. You know the custom of the House, the tradition of the House. The discussion has started. Ministers are there and they are taking down notes.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to cooperate. Let the discussion continue. Shri Chowdhury can continue.

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

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SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, none of these Ministers is attached with the Railway Ministry.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Hon. Chairman, Sir, can you please permit me to speak? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. Let The Hon. Minister speak.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: May I assure the hon. Members, we will have the Railway Minister join us in a few minutes. If you can bear with us, he will certainly come in. I just want your indulgence. ... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I just want your indulgence. He will come in a minute. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given my ruling. Let the discussion continue. You may please cooperate. There is no way out. Senior Ministers are here. They will take down notes.

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... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I suggest to you that till that time the House should be adjourned.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, that is not at all possible. The discussion has to continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, they are not at all serious. They are totally indifferent. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, this is the first day of the debate and both the Railway Minister and The Hon. Minister of State know about it. And a former Railway Minister is initiating the debate. Is there any justification in The Hon. Ministers being absent? If The Hon. Minister comes in at the beginning and then goes out and somebody else takes notes on his behalf, it is acceptable. But it is the beginning of the debate and for the first time he is attending it, and The Hon. Minister is not present in the House. This is unfair. You have to tell them. This is not the way.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Khargeji, I understood your point. But we have already started the discussion. I have given my ruling. Let the

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discussion go on and The Hon. Minister will join immediately. Other Ministers are there.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Hon. Chairperson, I apologize for being two minute late. The hon. Minister of Railways is also expected to arrive shortly. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He has apologised but my suggestion to The Hon. Ministers concerned is that Ministers should be on time. That is the proper way.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, before the Railway Budget discussion, please allow me for one minute. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Not now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill has been introduced unconstitutionally. So, from the TRS party, we are walking out.

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14.11 hrs

At this stage, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy and some other hon.

Members left the House.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I be allowed for one minute? I would like to assure the House that your direction is fully respected and honoured. We would follow it and I will definitely convey the message to the Railway Minister. I assure you that this will not recur. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to thank the hon. lady Minister. The Hon. Minister of State is here but the Cabinet Minister is not here. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already given my ruling. Let the discussion continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Chowdhury, you start now.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please sit down. Do not disturb.

... (*Interruptions*)

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SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Thank you, Sir.

Sir, I rise to steadfastly oppose the Budget proposals that have been presented by the Railway Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, it is so bad. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are going beyond the limit. Do not repeat this. This cannot be accepted. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Chowdhury, the Railway Minister has come.

THE HON. MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I apologise for the delay. Due to some other work, I could not come earlier. I apologise for that.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I must be thankful to the hon. Railway Minister as he has sought apology for being late. However, it is clear that the morning is the harbinger of the day and

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so the indifferent attitude of this Government is the mirror of the future governance.

Sir, I oppose steadfastly the Budget Proposals of the Railways not merely for the sake of opposition but the fact is that the Budget proposals are ill-prepared, simply fraught with wild dreams and void of any distinct direction.

We all appreciate the fact that Indian Railways is recognised as the third largest railways in the world. It is virtually a nation within a nation. It attaches with the culture and civilization of the great country, India.

I would like to quote Louis Stevenson:

"Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.

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Sir, this is the experience which we can gather easily when we ride the Railways. Here, the hon. Minister has exhorted in his initial speech, 'that in the happiness of the people lies, the ruler's happiness.' He has quoted Kautilya.

I would also like to quote a few lines from Kautilya. 'An unlearned King can be made to follow the right action, provided he be guided by good advisors. A deviant King, on the other hand, is always bent on acting contrary to the right teachings, and by his injustice, ruins the kingdom himself.'

Sir, first of all, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that if he just goes through the Budget papers of his predecessors, namely, Shri Bansal and Shri Mallikarjun Ji, he will himself find out that there is nothing new in what is presented by him.

I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that there are various inconsistencies and factual mistakes in his Budget speech of 2014-15. He has mentioned that 99 projects were sanctioned by the UPA Government during the last ten years, and only one has been completed during 2013-14. I would like to enlighten him that out of these 99 projects which were sanctioned in the last years, during 2013-14, as many as four projects were fully completed, including three

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new line projects – one projects in Rajasthan and two in North Eastern Region. Actually, 46 out of these 99 projects are about to be completed or near-completion. You had also entrusted the responsibility of authority with the Railway Ministry during your past NDA regime. Have you gathered any information regarding your performance during the past NDA regime? One new line project is supposed to be completed in a span of more than five to ten years because there are problems with regard to land acquisition, local law and order situation and environmental clearance. So, you will have to consume a considerable time before completion of any project. However, out of 99 projects 46 are about to be completed and linking of 1542 kms of track has been completed as part of the completion of new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects.

You have cited the fact that the on-going projects should be prioritised. We are all in agreement with you. An impression has been created that most of the on-going projects do not have proper rate of return and it is better to discard them so as to save revenue and other expenditure. During UPA regime we had judiciously prioritised 368 projects while keeping in view the operational requirements, social desirability and State-wise fair distribution of resources.

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You have criticised the new lines and gauge conversion projects on the pretext of lower rate of return. While the reality is that the new lines and gauge conversion projects used to contribute immensely to the incremental loading of freight and providing goods and services to the far-flung areas of our country.

You are proud of being a Railway Minister and you have stated that the Indian Railways has joined the one Billion tonne club after USA, China and Russia

You have also suggested to be the first in the coming days and I must appreciate it. But without enhancing the capacity and without network augmentation, is it possible to reach the destination of the largest freight bearing country in the world? It is not.

In the year 1991-92, the Government had initiated the uni-gauge policy and as a result of uni-gauge policy, the total track kilometre has grown by almost 50 per cent from 70,000 kilometres to 1,15,000 kilometres. This is because of the thrust on gauge conversion under the uni-gauge policy of the Indian Railways and doubling of the existing lines for capacity augmentation. Doubling and gauge conversion contribution as a percentage of the total capacity addition was 91 per cent in the Eighth Plan period; 82 per cent in the Ninth

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Plan period; 84 per cent in the Tenth Plan period; and 75 per cent in the Eleventh Plan period.

However, presently 8700 route kilometre of the network is metre gauge or narrow gauge, out of which, works for conversion of 5800 kilometres to broad gauge have already been sanctioned. In the 12th Five Year Plan, the Indian Railways have envisaged an addition of 4000 kilometres of new lines; 5500 kilometres of gauge conversion; 7653 kilometres of doubling; and 6500 kilometres of electrification to augment capacity for achieving higher growth. Here in your Budget Speech, you are envisaging for a near total plan holiday. What does it mean? [*Translation*] Before the elections, the Prime Minister had told the general public of India that let us form a Government, we will run a train like China in India. As soon as he came, he said that they are doing Plan Holiday. It means you are not going to do anything. Plan Holiday means that you are not ready to do anything. ... (*Interruptions*) You told that for 368 on-going projects, we will need Rs. 5 lakh crore. The UPA Government had privatized 368 projects in which we had announced Rs. 1 lakh 78 thousand 216 crore. Why did we do this? We have two ideas - one, the operationally-required projections we need and the other for the connectivity of the backward region also we should help. This was the holistic approach of the UPA

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Government. We had provided a lot of amount for those 368 projects whose operational feasibility was more. We had also allocated money for the backward regions. However, what do you intend to achieve? You have come here to say that you will not do gauge conversion, you will not lay new lines. Only doubling is your priority which means that no backward area in the country is likely to get connected with railway line because the Government is not in favour of laying new railway lines or undertake gauge conversion work. What I mentioned and as you have said, five lakh crore amount will be needed. I want to ask you how you reached the figure of five lakh crore rupees as a total investment requirement for the on-going projects. The Budget does not have this clarification. We had fixed an amount of one lakh seventy eight thousand crore rupees for 368 projects. I think that the correct data and the people you consult do not advise you properly. You are saying that you will make Diamond Quadrilateral, whereas at one point it was referred to as the Golden Quadrilateral.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, your Party has been allotted 50 minutes. You have already taken 20 minutes. There are other Members also from your Party who would speak on the Railway Budget.

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[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, it has been decided that all this money will be brought from FDI, private investors and otherwise, from PPP model. These three are their resources. One is private, the other is PPP model and the third is FDI. I would like to inform you hon. Minister that the resources that are proposed to be mobilized have not been reflected in your Budget proposals. Where in your project proposal it is mentioned that this much money will be taken from FDI. You haven't mentioned that. If seen all over the world, the PPP model has not been successful anywhere in the Railways. You talk about China all the time. It is well known to everyone that the China model is your ideal model. However, China has made huge public investment for creating railway infrastructure. You follow China, but you don't want to learn how China built its infrastructure. You tell the House which country is ready to invest this amount of nine lakh crore rupees in your Diamond Quadrilateral. Where will you get nine lakh crore rupees from? You said to us that we talk about the social sector, and discuss social responsibility, so we are stuck in a dilemma, stuck in the decade-long golden dilemma between commercial viability and social viability. I would like to ask you, Are you being infected by the diamond conundrum for choosing

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between glittering promises and glimmering reality? Where will you get nine lakh crore rupees from? Where will you get such a huge amount from? You will run a bullet train, it is good to run a bullet train. But for bullet train you have allocated Rs. 100 crore only. And you say that it will take Rs. 60,000 crore and are providing only Rs 100 crore, so where will the rest of the money come from? It should not be that this Rs. 100 crore should also become infructuous.

[English]

There is no reference of any efficient safety measures in your Budget proposals. On the one hand, you are talking about running bullet trains. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what constitutes a bullet train? It has not been mentioned here as to what constitutes a bullet train. You may run bullet train; you may run missile train. It is upto you. But at least, we have the authority to know as to what constitutes a bullet train.

We know about high speed railway corridor. That was proposed by the UPA Government. We are not averse to any PPP model. The 12th Plan had indicated a target of Rs. 1 lakh crore to be generated through PPP. But what are the purposes mentioned in this regard? The areas identified include port connectivity, production units, elevated

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rail corridor, private freight terminals, station development, high speed corridor, dedicated freight corridor, logistics parts and certain electrical works. In the past, port connectivity has been implemented for Mundra, Pipavav, Mangalore, Kandla, Dahej, Dhamra and Krishnapatnam Port through involvement of ports and other stakeholders. In principle, clearance has also been given for implementing rail connectivity to the ports of Jaigarh, Ashtaranga Rewas, Dighi and Hazira Port under the Participative Policy of 2012. We have clearly defined the way to mobilise our resources. We have adopted five models under Participatory Policy. They are non-Government private line model, joint venture, capacity augmentation through funding by customer, BOT system and capacity augmentation to annuity model. Here, you will find a rational approach for all our projects. On the one hand, you are talking about bullet train but the primary need or the primary requirement before running any bullet train is to consider foolproof safety measures. You have not mentioned any anti-collision measures. However, ACD was first proposed by our Government but you are deviating from ACD. Now, during the UPA regime, our Government took the initiative for further safety measures under corporate safety plan for TPWS or TPS devices.

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We proposed to follow European train control systems. But everything is absent in your Budget. Through your Budget, you have strived hard to at least imitate most of the proposals prepared by our regime, which are convenient to you, but failed to deliver any perspective plan, any long-term roadmap to the common people. You are simply living in a make-believe world. I would suggest to you to come out of the make-believe world and start living in the real world. Otherwise, people will be laughing as you are going to mobilise Rs. 9 lakh crore for Diamond Quadrilateral project.

That is why, I very stridently oppose the Budget proposals. It is nothing but hoodwinking common people; it is nothing but deceiving the common people by abnormal and inflated proposals which are far from reality. However, I wish the Railway Ministry a brilliant success. But God only knows whether it would be possible under the make-believe world you are living in.

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[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Just a few days ago, the NDA Government took charge under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi. Three days ago, our Minister of Railways Shri Sadananda Gowda presented the Rail Budget. Everyone knows how much time we have got to make this Rail Budget. When we talk of rail, we have to think a lot. Today, we go to any part of the country, travel to any state, go to small or big cities, go from East to West and from North to South, the railways are the easiest route of travel.

Sir, railways not only connects villages to cities and cities to cities but connects one Indian to the other Indian also. More than two crore people travel in different categories of train in a day. We can say that the Railways actually give the travellers a Bharat Darshan, where we witness unity in diversity.

It is also true that although the British initiated the railways in our country, since India's independence and through the partition, Indian Railways has played a crucial role in shaping the nation. It is not only the largest network in Asia but also one of the largest employers in

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the world, with over 15 lakh employees. Therefore, we can confidently state that Indian Railways not only contributes to the country's economic development but also serves as an ideology that connects the nation. The entire House will agree that our 171 years old railways need expansion. As long as 65187 km. laid down tracks and 12617 passenger trains and 7421 goods trains plying thereon make the Indian Railways the fourth largest railway network in the world. But in today's rapidly changing world scenario of life, Indian Railways also needs modernization, renovation and world class facilities. No matter how much we talk, it is a fact that on one hand, bullet trains and high speed trains are running in US, China and Japan and on the other, our Indian Railways has become the symbol of scarcities and accidents.

Sir, even today, there are vast regions in this country where rail connectivity is still needed. Over the past ten years, we can say that the lifeline of Indian Railways has been brought to a deteriorated state. Therefore, today, we aim to revitalize the Indian Railways, to rescue it from the weakened condition you left it in. We also want Indian Railways to march with the country's development. However, when we attempt to implement the proposed fare hikes to achieve this, it causes you discomfort. Many things were said here by the hon. Adhir

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Ranjan Ji. But I would like to ask your Governments have been in power for over 60 years since independence. ... (*Interruptions*) I have mentioned 60 instead of 67 years, if you have to reduce it by another two-four years, reduce it. Will you agree with 55 years? You will also not remember how many committees you formed for the improvement of railways in these 55-60 years. The reports of those committees have also been thrown into any dustbin by your Governments. I want to remind you that in the year 1960, you formed Kunjuru Committee but its report was not implemented. The Wanchoo Committee was formed in the year 1968, the Sikri Committee in the year 1978, the Khanna Committee in the year 1998 and the Kakodkar Committee was constituted by your own Government in the year 2011, and then the Pitroda Committee was formed, but what happened to all these recommendations? You have shelved all those recommendations. You leave aside the reports of the committees which are recommendations on modernisation and development, but you have not learnt anything from the Kakodkar Committee Report which was concerned about the security of the country at large. Chowdhury ji was just saying about many figures. This is the report of the Kakodkar Committee which came in the year 2012 which said that in the next five years, only you need one lakh crore rupees for safety equipment

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and safety measures. You have also put this recommendation on hold. We are now talking about the modernization of railways.

The Pitroda Committee was constituted only for modernization. It had reported that if Indian Railways have to make future rail, it requires Rs. 8 lakh 39 thousand crore, but here also you did nothing. You continued to compromise only with the development of the country and the Indian Railways. The Kakodkar Committee which was formed by Dinesh Trivedi ji under your Government's regime. You did not implement the recommendations but excluded Trivedi Ji. Then came Pawan Bansal, and Kharge Ji, who is sitting before me, also took the role, but instead of safeguarding the railways, they were more concerned about protecting their own positions. As a result, the railways reached a state of deterioration. There could nothing be more worrisome after 67 years of our Independence than the fact that the present Government, which has just been constituted, has to say that it would ensure safe drinking water, platform shelters and toilets at the restructured railway stations. I would like to ask as to who is responsible for this state of affairs? Today, instead of talking about development, we first need to focus on preparing our critical infrastructure. Out of the 67 years, what facilities have you provided to the railways during the 60 years you were in power, what have you

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done to improve its standards? There can be no bigger evidence in this country than the fact that even after paying for it, a passenger cannot get clean and good-quality food on the trains today. Therefore, it is a compulsion and hon. Minister of Railways had to state in the Rail budget that the Railways would provide good quality hygienic ready-to-eat branded food to the passengers. What have you done in these sixty years? This is the fourth railway network in the world, what did your Government do in all these 60 years? At that, you are criticizing this budget.

Sir, in the year 1853, the first train was run. After India got independence, in the year 1951, the length of railway tracks was 53596 kms. At that time, China had only 27 thousand km railway tracks, but you would know what the position of China today is. Just now you were saying that we like China's model, we like China's growth. We do not like the model of China, and we do not like the model of any country in the world, we like only one model and that is the model of development, whether it is the model of any country in the world, we talk about development only. When we talk about a model, why do you get uncomfortable? We are presenting the data before you and telling you the truth... (*Interruptions*) We have already mentioned the Gujarat model. We have also talked about the Gujarat

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model. Our Prime Minister stated here that we have no hesitation in accepting not just the Gujarat model but also models from various other states in the country. The model you are referring to is the reason you are sitting here today. You are not even in a position to fill an entire block today. What have you done for development since independence? I pointed out how many tracks the British left behind when they left. Thereafter, your Government laid only 11 thousand K.M. additional railway tracks whereas, China laid 78 thousand km railway tracks and reached up to Tibbet, and you continued to see. Still, you say that we talk about China or the China model. You did nothing in sixty years. Saugata ji, right now you are also saying that you do. You did nothing in sixty years and you want us to do everything in six weeks. We will show by doing, what has been said inside the Parliament, we will demonstrate through actions. The country attests to what hon. Narendra Modi Ji has promised and delivered. That's why today we are sitting here with a majority, and you are sitting there.

We are also willing to adopt practices from West Bengal. Bring in the good aspects from there. We will follow them too. ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Chairperson Sir, what the Kakodkar Committee had said, unfortunately, the people sitting there are ... (*Interruptions*)

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This is an unfortunate situation. (*Interruptions*) When those people were seated here, how arrogant you were in playing with the nation's security. The Kakodkar Committee stated that at least 15 thousand people die each year in train accidents, and it also noted that in 2010, out of the fifty major rail accidents that occurred worldwide, fourteen were in India, and your Government was in power at that time. But what have you learned from this? Your Government had made a provision of 2 rupees 86 paisa per passenger under the head of safety. But, in the year 2012-13 your Government could not spend even that much allocation. This is mentioned in the CAG report. What could be more unfortunate than this? We want to tell that just now you said that we had come for five years. It was the NDA Government. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was the Prime Minister at that time. In 2003 at that time we introduced the Corporate Safety Plan. We did this keeping in mind the sentiments of the railways and the security of this country. It was to be completed in two phases in ten years, but the CAG report says that the first phase of the safety plan which was launched with a fund of Rs. 31835 crore could not be completed in 2008 also under which the old railings and tracks were to be changed.

The second thing we would like to tell you as to how sensitive you are about security. ... (*Interruptions*)

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AN HON. MEMBER: Have you brought a safety plan?

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: We are doing everything. Don't worry. It has only been 6 weeks. In 2004, it was decided that by 2009, fire alarm systems would be installed in 5000 trains. However, the figures testify to this, and the entire House is listening that in 2010, you were only able to install that system in just one train as an experiment. If you have any reply to this, your spokespersons will answer.

What is the condition of the trains today? The cleanliness situation in trains is very poor. When you were sitting here, one of your Ministers referred to the railway as an open toilet, and all of you know the name of that Hon. Minister. But what was done about it? What steps did you take to ensure cleanliness in the railways, so that this open toilet no longer exists in the country? We would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Railways Gowda Ji that despite all the adverse circumstances, difficult circumstances and budgetary conditions not good, Hon. Minister, our Government has increased the budget by 40 per cent under sanitation and cleanliness head so that our Indian Railways could stand with pride in the whole world of 21st century and does not make our heads hanging in shame.

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For 60 years, their Governments were in power, but it is highly unfortunate that many hon. Members sitting here will agree that even after so many years of independence, until recently, there was no guarantee that if someone was travelling with a valid ticket, their safety could be assured. And when it came to women, the risk reached extreme levels.

All of us Members would agree that even today, if a woman from any of our families has to travel alone, it requires much thought and consideration. What steps did you take regarding safety? In every budget, you only expressed concern about safety and kept making excuses about the shortage of security forces. We want to express our gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister and The Hon. Minister of Railways, who have respected the sentiments of the women of this country.

15.00 hrs.

Our Government gave due consideration to security and safety of women passengers and has decided to recruit 17,000 male and 4,000 female constables in the Railway Protection Force. This is the first time we have taken this step. You could do it too, no one stopped you from doing it. But there was no sensitivity in you.

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This is the first time that a Government has decided to increase the goods tariff and passenger fare which was an important step. Right before the Budget but it was a noble step for this country. This bold step needed the courage and perhaps this courageous and bold step could have been taken only under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It was only under his leadership that a bold step could be taken. It is not that you did not increase but you have increased through the back door. However, the UPA Government did increase the tariff and fare but from the back door. The UPA Government lacked this kind of courage. You might recall that passenger trains were declared as super-fast trains and an increase of Rs. 20, 30, 40 and 50. Even today, people remember the difference between the trains which were declared superfast and the passenger trains. Today we can proudly say that Railway development has been thought about in this country whenever NDA Government has been formed within this country or a Government under the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party has been formed.

15.02 hrs.

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

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We have evidence, we have facts. Railways have LHB Coaches, Rolling Stock, Fair Brake System, Modern Trackpit Sleeper, Long Waldair Rail, Modern Loco Engine, Modern Route Relay Interlocking, Tax Signalling System and Panel Interlocking Sub Technology 20 to 25 years old. Today, even in small countries, freight trains take an access load of 25 metric tonnes. The speed is 120 to 150 kilometres per hour whereas Indian trains carry the load of 18 to 20 metric tonnes.... (*Interruptions*) That is their job, speak and leave.... (*Interruptions*) The speed of these trains is 70 to 80 kilometres per hour. Today, passenger trains are running at speeds of 250 to 300 kilometres per hour in other countries while India has a speed of 80 to 90 kilometres per hour. This is the legacy that we have received from you.

Adhir Ranjan ji was telling about projects just now that you do not want new railway lines to be laid, you do not even want gauge conversion to take place. We absolutely want new lines to be laid and gauge conversion work to be done but we do not want rail projects to be mocked within this country. As proof of this, the Hon. Minister of Railways has mentioned in the budget speech that instead of insisting on the completion of projects on your time, approval was taken care of. In the last 30 years as many as 676 projects worth Rs.1,57,883/-

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crore were sanctioned and out of them only 317 projects have been completed and the rest 359 projects are still pending which need about Rs.1,82,000/- crore.

Likewise, in the last 10 years 99 railway line projects worth Rs. 7,000 Crore were sanctioned and out of them only one project has been completed. There are four of these projects which are more than 30year old and therefore we do not want any situation within this country to be made a mockery of the projects. We want that the projects which are really required for the country and for the development of railways should be completed on a priority basis and along with that, there should be other development works too.

Madam Chairperson, the operating ratio of the Railways as of now is 94 per cent. In 2013-14, when Kharge Ji's Government was in power, the railways were incurring a loss of 23 paise per kilometre per passenger. However, during Atal Ji's Government in 2001-2002, the loss per passenger was only ten paise. This is proof of how you have been running the railways for so many years and the steady decline in the operating fibres of the railways has had an impact on things like safety, capacity expansion, passenger convenience etc.

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SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I would like to yield for a minute. I am glad that you are speaking very seriously and with detailed study, and I commend you for that. However, I didn't quite understand when and during which year this happened because I could not speak for sixty years; I was only a Minister for eleven months, out of which nine months were for actual work and two months went into elections. A child was supposed to be born in those nine months, and it was. ... (*Interruptions*) They will respond too, why are you causing confusion? I would like to clarify that the Railways never incurred a loss, profits might have decreased, but there was no loss. Please do not defame the Railways like this. There was no loss during your time, nor ours. For example, if there should have been a profit of a thousand crore rupees, maybe the profit was only five hundred crore, but there was no loss. You can ask your department's people, you can ask the Members of the board. If this is not correct, then perhaps they fed us the wrong information. So, when you talk about the 94 percent, there's actually a 6 percent gain. But the funding for infrastructure was not as much as it should have been, you can say that, and I will listen to you. But saying that you've increased fares for infrastructure, nobody will accept that. ... (*Interruptions*)

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Madam Chairperson, just now Kharge ji has made his point, I would like to tell him that if I have talked about a loss of 23 paise per kilometre, I have mentioned your Railway Budget, which was presented by you. So, it would be better if your people study it once. I did not talk about an overall loss in the railways.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Please explain the operating ratio and the way as to how the loss occurred.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I have told you operating ratio as 94. ... *(Interruptions)* What do you have left with, when it's your turn, you may present your point.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rakesh ji, please address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Madam Chairperson, the continuous decline in operating ratios has significantly impacted safety, capacity expansion, passenger amenities, and infrastructure planning. If anyone is responsible for this in the country, it is undoubtedly the

* Not recorded.

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Congress-led UPA Government and, Shri Kharge, you too cannot refrain from responsibility, even though you were Minister for just nine months. During your tenure, the railways continued to head towards deterioration.

Madam, the Governments with vision and foresightedness achieve success. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government had for the first time visualised that the road network is essential for the development of the country and therefore launched the Golden Quadrilateral Road Project which constitutes a vital basis for the development of the country today. We would like to convey our sincere thanks to Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Sadananda Gowda for conceiving and launching the Diamond High Speed Rail Quadrilateral Project. Once this plan is completed, traveling from one corner of the country to another will take not days, but just a few hours. For this, the Government deserves praise. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Chairperson, Today, the fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 44,000 crore get perished as the produce of farmers does not reach the market and other destined places in time. But under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister, we would like to once again congratulate the Hon. Minister of Railways for opening the way for the Agro-Freight Rail Corridor, showing vision. Through which the production of

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farmers will reach the allotted place by rail. With this, not only the fruits and vegetables will be saved from rotting and along with it the farmers will also get the right benefit from their production, which is the biggest requirement of this country today.

Madam Chairperson, after this Budget speech, the Opposition did what it took to criticize, what it was his job. But everyone knows this, as I have said before, that no matter how much the opposition criticizes this budget, no one can deny this fact. The country knows how much time has been given to The Hon. Minister of Railways under these circumstances in presenting this budget. The truth is that the opposition had started the politics of vote bank through rail for the last few years, due to which the railway reached the verge of misery , today through this budget we have not only tried to stop it but have given a clear message that we do not have any political agenda behind it. If we have an agenda, it is only one that the railways should move from the point of view of development and take steps with the development of this country. Contribute to the development of the country.

Madam Chairperson, we also believe that the Railways have a social role and social responsibilities. But let us not forget that Railways are also an important medium of growth of this country. The

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people of India have given a mandate to this vision of Hon. Narendra Modi ji. This Government assures the people of this country that under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, we will definitely live up to the expectations of the people of this country regarding the railway and we will be living up to the expectations of the people. After five years we will come here once again and you will be sitting here again, then we will be talking about what we have done.

Hon. Madam Chairperson, you have given me the opportunity to speak, for which I express my gratitude to you. Along with this, while supporting this Railway budget I sincerely expect from the Hon. Minister of Railways that he would pay due consideration to the important projects in my constituency and in the state as these projects are, at present, in the shambles. You have started them once again. Thanking you again for this, I conclude by supporting the Budget.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Shri Rakesh ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Hon. Minister, he has spoken very well. Give them what they have demanded for their area.

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SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I thank you very much for your cooperation. You have to decide as to whom you have to cooperate, there or here.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. P. Venugopal.

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[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam Chairperson, on behalf of our Party, AIADMK, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Railway Budget for the year 2014-15.

My leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Dr. J. Jayalalitha has said this about the Railway Budget:

“The main Railway Budget is a serious exercise at consolidation, which the new Government at the Centre has been forced to undertake in the wake of mismanagement of the previous UPA Government over the past decade of this extremely critical sector. The finances of the Railways are in extremely poor shape.”

This was the statement made by our hon. Chief Minister.

Madam, a few weeks before the Budget presentation, the hon. Railway Minister raised the passenger fares by 14.2 per cent and the freight rate by 6.5 per cent. This was an initiative taken by the previous UPA Government and this should have taken effect during the middle of May this year, which was based on Fuel Adjustment Component. So, there was no necessity for the hon. Minister to touch

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these things in the present Budget. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, at that time, made a request to the Government to roll back the passenger and freight hikes.

Coming to the present Budget, there are many positive aspects, which we welcome. He announced that some Railway stations in the Indian Railways are to be developed to international standards through PPP mode. He further made a provision of Rs.1,785 crore for road-over-bridges and under-bridges and also to eliminate unmanned level crossings.

Bringing in IT revolution into the Railways, the hon. Railway Minister assured that he would provide Wi-Fi facilities in A-1 and A category stations and also in select trains. This is a good initiative. The hon. Minister also announced that the Railways would set up Railway Universities for technical and non-technical subjects which would have tie-up with the technical institutions. These are all steps in the right direction, and we welcome all these announcements.

Madam, after the Golden Quadrilateral initiative for roads, the new BJP Government is looking forward to launch a Railway Diamond Quadrilateral between major cities. This could boost high-speed connectivity between cities for goods and services and can help

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bring down inflation. As regards railway network, Tamil Nadu has been left out so far. Most of the urban and rural areas of Tamil Nadu still remain unconnected by rail. I hope Tamil Nadu will get its due share of new railway lines and new trains in the coming years. Here, my request is that the Bullet train services should be introduced in Chennai in the next phase because when the trains services started by the British people, it was first introduced in Mumbai, and immediately thereafter it was introduced in Chennai. On the same lines, when the Bullet train is being introduced in Mumbai now, it should be brought to Chennai in the next phase. This is my request. About 158 years ago, in Chennai the train services had started between Royapuram and Wallajah Road. Now, the population of Tamil Nadu has grown to about seven crore, and the present railway network does not cater to the needs of the people. Hence, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to give new services and to complete the ongoing projects by allocating more money.

Madam, the hon. Railway Minister has announced 27 new Express Trains, eight passenger trains, five Jansadharan trains, five premium trains, six AC express trains, five DEMU and two MEMU trains.

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While I welcome these measures, I would like to place the following demands for the consideration of the hon. Railway Minister for the welfare of the people.

The total estimate for doubling of Vilupuram-Dindigul was Rs. 1,280 crore. Till last year, only Rs. 210 crore were allocated and only Rs. 70 crore were made available. So, I would request the hon. Minister to allocate more money so that the project is completed early.

Secondly, in the last year's Budget, survey was announced for a new railway line between Tanjore and Pudukkottai. But so far, no action has been taken on this.

All trains from the north and west of India pass through Perambur railway station near Chennai. But at this railway station, the platform is not lengthy enough to accommodate lengthy trains with more coaches. So, I would request the hon. Minister to upgrade Perambur railway station.

Coming to my Parliamentary Constituency of Tiruvallur, it is the district headquarters, which is a major suburban terminus handling more than 160 local trains daily, with more than one lakh passengers per day. Tiruvallur is a pilgrimage centre and also an industrial town. It is very close to Sriperumbudur, which is Chennai's industrial hub,

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with several multinational companies employing thousands of workers. Tiruvallur is also close to Avadi where we have the ordnance cloth factory, heavy vehicle factory, CVRD, CVD, Air Force Base Station, CRPF Training Centre etc. I would, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to grant stoppage of all the trains at Tiruvallur. I would also request him to grant stoppage of the following trains at Tiruvallur. They are: Chennai-Coimbatore Kovai Express, Chennai-Bangalore Bridavan Express, Chennai-Coimbatore Intercity Express, Chennai-Bangalore Lalbagh Express, Chennai-Mettupalayam Nilagiri Express, Chennai-Palani Express, and Chennai-Mangalore West Coast Express.

Sir, the Tiruvallur station has the platform capacity to handle 24-coaches train. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to consider and grant stoppage of all these trains at Tiruvallur, which will go a long way in helping the passengers and citizens of my Constituency. In this connection, I have already written a letter to the hon. Minister. So, I would request him to y consider all my demands.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

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YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget for the year 2014-15. I would congratulate the Hon. Minister of Railways Shri Sadananda Gowda ji and his colleague Shri Manoj Sinha ji who, in a short tenure, has given a successful, practical, balanced, development oriented and pragmatic budget which will fulfil the aspiration of the people of the country under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Madam, this Government under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi has not been formed even for one and a half months and within such a short time, the effective role of the Government has been visible not only from the working system of the Union Government but also through the responses given by the general public in this country. Be it the Railway Budget or the General Budget, both this Budget is representing the confidence of the new Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre, which the people of this country have given by getting freedom from misrule and through the mandate and that is why I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Railways for presenting a good Railway Budget. At a time, when all kinds of apprehensions were emerging about the Indian Railways across the country, in those situations the challenging problems that the Hon.

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Minister of Railways faced and the Indian Railways play a pivotal role in development of the country and it is the backbone of economy as well as the transport system of the country. During the past ten years, the deterioration of Indian Railways, caused by various mismanagements, is being addressed through the visionary budget of 2014-15 presented by the hon. Minister of Railways on July 8th in this House.

Madam, when we look back at the history of Indian Railways, it spans nearly 170 years. Over this long history, Indian Railways has laid a network of 1 lakh 70 thousand kilometre railway lines and has connected rural and urban areas across the country. I think more than 13 lakh employees under one network are still providing their services in Indian Railways. There are 7172 stations and it carries 2 crore 30 lakh passengers and 20 lakh tonnes of goods daily from north to south and from east to west. The Railways play an important role in the country by connecting it socially, culturally and politically.

Madam, Indian Railways have a major role in a developing country like India. Unfortunately, we have made Indian Railways a victim of our political agenda for political interests and during the last ten years, we all used to see that spectacle here. How the schemes were made, were declared, my former speaker Shri Rakesh Singh ji

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told here that more than 600 announcements are made, but none of them were fulfilled. Not even half of the plans were completed. These announcements were often made for political gains, with little regard for whether they were financially viable or strategically important. To implement such plans would require almost Rs. 1 lakh 82 thousand crore in capital. In essence, political agendas became more important than ensuring that Indian Railways could meet India's economic and social commitments. This mismanagement resulted in the current dismal state of Indian Railways. We all travel by Indian Railways. I come from a Parliamentary Constituency where air connectivity is very limited. There is only one flight that goes there, and it operates at a time that isn't convenient. The Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is seated in front of me, and I would like to draw his attention to the fact that we need better air connectivity in our region.

Madam, the air connectivity in our region is such that when we are attending the House, we cannot even complete our Question Hour before the flight takes off. Once we reach there, we are unable to return on the same day. The fare is exorbitantly high. The regular fare is six thousand five hundred rupees, but it often increases. One day, when I was travelling, I was told that I would have to pay thirty-three thousand rupees, for a ticket. Is there no difference between a fare of

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six thousand five hundred rupees and thirty five thousand rupees? I believe the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation will surely look into this matter, as ...* concessions were previously granted by them. They have made all the departments the victim of the habit they had themselves. It's still the same situation. Thirty-three thousand rupees are being charged for fare of six thousand five hundred rupees. This is . . . *. I believe that such ... * should be curbed, and the Government is determined to take strict measures to do so. It is in this context that I was addressing you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yogi Adityanath ji, you can continue next time, this is the time for Private Members' Bills.

* Not recorded.

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15.31 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER 'S BILLS – Introduced

(i) National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill, 2014*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for minimum pension to all pensioners in the country including persons who have worked in the unorganized and private sector and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of guaranteed minimum pension to all pensioners including those who have worked in unorganized and private sector in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

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15.31½ hrs.

(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014

(Insertion of new articles 16A and 29A)

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

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15.32 hrs.

**(iii) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill,
2014***

(Amendment of the Eight Schedule)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.32½ hrs.

(iv) Bihar Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of the Eight Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce the amendment Bill for the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Bihar reorganisation Act, 2000.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.33 hrs.

**(v)National Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices Bill,
2014***

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):

Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission for ensuring minimum support prices to farmers for their agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission for ensuring minimum support prices to farmers for their agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Madam Chairperson, I introduce** the Bill.

15.34 hrs

(vi)Prohibition of human trafficking of Indian Citizens

Abroad and Welfare of Overseas Indians Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition of human trafficking of Indian citizens to foreign countries and welfare of Indian citizens employed abroad and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition of human trafficking of Indian citizens to foreign countries and welfare of Indian citizens employed abroad and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

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The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Madam Chairperson, I introduce** the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item Nos. 21, 22, and 23.

Shri Om Prakash Yadav – not present.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.34½ hrs

(vii) Small and Marginal Farmers (Welfare) Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for the small and marginal farmers of the country and for the constitution of a welfare fund for their benefits and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for the small and marginal farmers of the country and for the constitution of a welfare fund for their benefits and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014

. ** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

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SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Madam Chairperson, I introduce ** the Bill.

15.35 hrs

(viii) Abolition of Begging Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: Madam Chairperson, I introduce **
the Bill.

15.35½ hrs

(ix) Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: I introduce the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.36 hrs

(x) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 364 A, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam Chairperson, I introduce the Bill.

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15.37 hrs

(xi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Eight Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.37 ½hrs

(xii)Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 4)

[Translation]

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Chit Funds Act, 1982.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Chit Funds Act, 1982.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.38hrs

**(xiii) Renewable Energy (Promotion and Compulsory Use) Bill,
2014***

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion and greater exploitation of renewable energy available from sources like solar heat, wind, biogas, urban waste, tides, waves and geothermal sources by making its use compulsory by certain establishments and households in order to reduce the over dependence on fossil fuels for energy needs resulting in global warming, noxious emissions and ecological and climatological imbalances and to protect the environment and for the establishment of a Board for the purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the promotion and greater exploitation of renewable energy

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available from sources like solar heat, wind, biogas, urban waste, tides, waves and geothermal sources by making its use compulsory by certain establishments and households in order to reduce the over dependence on fossil fuels for energy needs resulting in global warming, noxious emissions and ecological and climatological imbalances and to protect the environment and for the establishment of a Board for the purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.39 hrs

**(xiv) Compulsory Teaching of Yoga in Educational Institutions
Bill, 2014***

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):

Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for appropriate teaching of Yoga in all educational institutions and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for appropriate teaching of Yoga in all educational institutions and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Madam, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.39½ hrs

(xv) Council for Environment Protection Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):

Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory for the protection of environment and ecology.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union territory for the protection of environment and ecology.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Madam, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUMDUM): Madam, he is a former Chief Minister. He should not introduce a Private Members' Bill.

15.40 hrs

(xvi)Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):

Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council to be called the Central Himalayan States Development Council to formulate development plans and schemes and also to monitor their implementation for the balanced and all-round development of the hilly States comprising the Central Himalayan region and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council to be called the Central

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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Himalayan States Development Council to formulate development plans and schemes and also to monitor their implementation for the balanced and all-round development of the hilly States comprising the Central Himalayan region and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Madam, I introduce ** the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.40½ hrs

**(xvii) Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers*
(Recognition of Forest Rights) Amendment Bill, 2014**

(Amendment of Section 2)

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR):

Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam Chairperson, I introduce the Bill.

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15.41hrs

**(xviii) Consumer Goods (Mandatory Printing of Cost of
Production and Maximum Retail Price) Bill, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR):

Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for printing of cost of production and maximum retail price of consumer goods being sold in the market and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for printing of cost of production and maximum retail price of consumer goods being sold in the market and for matters connected therewith”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam Chairperson, I introduce** the Bill.

15.41½ hrs

(xix) Cow Protection Authority Bill, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR):
Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an authority for the purpose of protection of cow and its progeny in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an authority for the purpose of protection of cow and its progeny in the country and similar authorities at the State level and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam Chairperson, I introduce ** the Bill.

15.42 hrs

**(xx) Sculptors, Artists and Artisans of Rural Areas Welfare Bill,
2014***

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR):
Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans of rural areas and for matters connected therewith.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of sculptors, artists and artisans in rural areas and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR: Madam Chairperson, I introduce** the Bill.

15.42½ hrs

(xxi) Ban on Cow Slaughter Bill, 2014 *

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cows and cow progeny.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny.”

The motion was adopted.

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam Chairperson, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

11.07.2014

15.43 hrs

(xxii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Omission of Article 44, etc.)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam Chairperson, I introduce the Bill.

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15.43½ hrs

(xxiii) Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 109, etc)

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motors Vehicles Act, 1988.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.44hrs

(xxiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Seventh Schedule)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.44½ hrs

**(xxv) National Agricultural Produce Price Commission Bill,
2014***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (HATKANANGALE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Statutory autonomous Commission for the purpose of ensuring minimum support price to farmers for their agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Statutory autonomous Commission for the purpose of ensuring minimum support prices to farmers for their agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. ”

motion was adopted.

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SHRI RAJU SHETTY: I introduce** the Bill.

15.45 hrs

(xxvi) Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 3, etc.)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.46 hrs

(xxvii) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)

Amendment Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.47 hrs

**(xxviii) Public Sector Banks (Control of Non-Performing Assets)
Bill, 2014***

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to deal with the non-performing assets of public sector banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to deal with the non-performing assets of public sector banks and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

11.07.2014

15.48 hrs

**(xxix) Senior Citizens (Provision of Geriatric and Dementia
Care) Bill, 2014***

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for care of senior citizens suffering from dementia and provision of geriatric care facilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to provide for care of senior citizens suffering from dementia and provision of geriatric care facilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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15.49 hrs

(xxx) National Green Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Insertion of new section 14A)

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.50 hrs

(xxxi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014*

(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.07.2014.

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15.54 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Creation of a new Union Ministry for the development of Himalayan States

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, before I call Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' to move his Private Members' Resolution regarding creation of a new Union Ministry for the Development of Himalayan States, the time for discussion on this Resolution has to be allotted by the House. If the House agrees, two hours may be allowed for discussion on the Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): I beg to move-

"Having regard to the strategic geographical condition as well as location of the Himalayan States, which causes

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landslides, cloudburst, earthquakes, hailstorms and other natural calamities every year resulting in huge loss of lives and property and taking into account the socio-economic backwardness of these States, particularly the State of Uttarakhand, this House urges upon the Government to form an independent Union Ministry for Himalayan States, which shall be responsible for the overall and speedy development of these States and in particular perform the following functions –

- (i) to identify backward areas of Himalayan States and ensure their overall development and conservation;
- (ii) to provide special financial package for development of backward areas, particularly border areas;
- (iii) to take effective measures to check cross border infiltration, particularly in the State of Uttarakhand; and

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- (iv) to recommend to the Union Ministries concerned for laying of new Railway lines, establishment of hydro power projects, construction of roads and other infrastructural development projects and to strengthen economy by setting up of industries based on natural resources available in the Himalayan States to prevent migration."

Madam, there are 11 states in the entire Himalayan Region- Uttarakhand, Himachal, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. It is spread over an area of 5 lakh 93 thousand square kilometres. Somewhere there are dense forests, somewhere there are sky-high mountain ranges, somewhere there are lakes and ponds and somewhere there are ghats and streams. It is associated with very difficult conditions. As per 2011 Census, has a population of 7 crore 51 lakh 13 thousand and 58. The Himalayan region with 52 districts represents 40 Lok Sabhas.

Madam, the talk of creating a separate Central Ministry for Himalayan states is not new. This has been happening from time to time. Earlier, on March 17, 1992, the Planning Commission had

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constituted a team of experts. Dr. J.S. Qasim was its Chairman. This team had studied the entire Himalayas and concluded that due to its being extremely sensitive, a Himalayan Development Authority should be constituted here. A blueprint of the authority was also prepared. The Prime Minister will be its chairman and a separate Ministry of Himalayas will be constituted. Three Ministers will be appointed in it. I would like to state that this The Himalaya gives ten crore cubic metre water to the countries in Asia which constitutes 60 per cent of total water requirement. This Himalayan region is called the water tower of Asia and 60 per cent of the total water requirement is met from the Himalayas. The Himalayas are also known as the water tower of Asia because the hundreds of rivers that flow out of it cover more than 50 per cent of the population of all the states of India, quench thirst and produce food. The Himalayan region in India is 2,500 km and has a width of about 400 km. There are two major aspects of this Himalayas - weather and monsoon. It protects us from icy winters by stopping snowy winds coming from North Asia, provides rains in India by stopping monsoon winds

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In fact, all the winds coming from the southwest travel to the entire subcontinent, including India. If the Himalayas were not there,

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there would be no obstacle to stop them and the winds would travel towards Central Asia. The Himalayas erect a wall in front of these winds and force them to rain in the Indian plains.

Due to the Himalayas, a number of states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar prepare the fertile ground. These areas give food grains to the country. Due to the Himalayas, rivers also flow at a rapid pace in these areas.

Madam, this Himalaya is a 7 crore year old youth mountain. It is the oldest but still young. It is old because it has given a lot. It has given number of human civilizations, cultures, rivers, seasonal cycles, weather, monsoons etc. It has given a lot to us.

16.01 hrs.

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

Sir, the Himalayas have been a source of inspiration for the whole world. Its geographical conditions are sometimes affected by landslides, earthquakes and floods. I would like to tell whether it is the case of Malpa, in which all the people of 14 states were injured, whether it is the case of Okhimath, whether the earthquake of Uttarkashi or the tragedy of Kedarnath, which occurred at present, in which more than 20 thousand people from 24 states were injured. It

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has difficult geographical conditions and peculiar problems. In view of these problems, it has been repeatedly raised that in every condition the Himalayan States should have a separate Ministry, which should formulate its own policies. No policy is formulated at this stage to deal with the natural calamities also. Apart from natural disasters and geographical conditions, this is a very important region from strategic point of view also. This region is strategically important because it is connected to many international borders like China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar etc. Security of these borders is also very important. On the one hand, Maoist activities take place, on the other, there is infiltration from Myanmar in Arunachal.

Sir, Uttarakhand is connected to Nepal's border for about 250 km and China's open border for about 325 km. Recently, Maoist activities came to light in the entire country, when the area commander of the Maoists was arrested and their camps which were on the borders of India were demolished. Therefore, I would like to say that such a Union Ministry is the need of the hour for unity and integrity of the country and from strategic point of view as well. From Lipulekh and Kali river to Melghat and Barahoti, through the border beyond Badrinath, Chinese soldiers enter Barahoti every now and then. It is extremely sensitive from a strategic point of view. Therefore, this area

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is also very important in the direction of keeping the country's borders safe, so these things have been raised again and again. Like I just said that the Himalayas are a mass of water. Its rivers, whether it is Chenab and Sutlej of Jammu and Kashmir, Ravi, Sutlej, Beas, Yamuna of Himachal, Ganga, Yamuna, Sharda, Kali Ganga of Uttarakhand, Tapti, Lohan and Lachu rivers of Sikkim, Dudhnayi and Krishnanayi, Chinari and Didak etc. rivers of Meghalaya, Gomati, Manu, Dhalai and Khwahi rivers of Tripura, Diwang, Turail, Tuwal, Kodaat and several other rivers of Mizoram, Barak of Manipur, Dhansari, Doyang, Diphu and some other rivers of Nagaland. If we look at all the rivers of Assam including Kaming, Suwansiri, Lohit of Arunachal Pradesh, this Himalaya is the water tower of entire Asia. Its protection is very important because the glaciers are receding, due to which the water of the rivers will decrease. There will be a crisis not only in the entire country but in the entire world. Therefore, it is very important that the Himalayas should be protected and promoted with the same vigour. Sir, this region of the Himalayas gives youthfulness, water and oxygen to the entire country and the world.

In Uttarakhand, on an average, a person from each family fills in the army and sacrifices on the borders of the nation in the first line. In the second line, his mothers and sisters provide unequivocal

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evidence of patriotism akin to soldiers at foreign borders. China's War of 1962 is a testimony to the fact that the women of Uttarakhand had stopped China's borders like fighters. I also want to say that whether it was before the country's independence or after, these sons of the Himalayas, if seen before the country's independence, received medals of bravery for defending the country. About 365 bravery medals have been received by the people of the Himalayas before the independence of the country. After the independence of the country, be it Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, Vir Chakra, about 1034 medals are from Uttarakhand alone. Out of 1034 medals is Param Vir Chakra, five people have got Ashok Chakra, eleven people got Maha Vir Chakra, 24 people have got Kirti Chakra, 95 people got Vir Chakra, 140 people got Shaurya Chakra. If their number is seen, 1034 belong to the Veerbhumi of Uttarakhand alone, who made the country proud. They have sacrificed themselves for the service of the country as the first liner. Sir, I, therefore, would like to say that the region which gives its youth and water and oxygen to the country, it is the forest policy of the Government of India that more than 60 percent of the Himalayan region which gives forest produce has a forest cover. More than 60 percent forest area of the Himalayan range proves that it provides

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oxygen. These 60 percent forest produce is not even touched by the people of the Himalayas. They protect all the forest produce there. Sir, I will give a small example, perhaps it will be a very big example in the world, and there are 12, 500 forest panchayats in Uttarakhand alone. If there are even 20-21 people in these forest panchayats, then 2.5 lakh to 5 lakh people protect those forests by putting their lives at stake. When forests catch fire, whole families jump in them. Many people have been killed in this. Dozens and hundreds of people, if seen from the past, they nurture the forest area like their children, but what is the situation? The situation is that they do not get their rights. They have to plough. They cannot pick up even a piece of wood for their use or fodder for their livestock. The Forest Act, 1980 is so stringent that people have been forced to migrate. People used to nurture their forests like children. Therefore, the policy of the Government of India is not fair. The policy was to turn the friends into enemies. In this way, people were made enemies. Therefore, the people of the Himalayas are not able to use the forest wealth. Therefore, I request you that the circumstances are such that the rights that people used to get have stopped being available to them. They cannot even cut the tree grown in their field, there is a law for that. They will have to wander from door to door to cut the tree grown in

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their field. Permission will have to be taken. Instead of making forests friends, we have made people their enemies. That is why it is said again and again that there should be a separate policy for the Himalayas, there should be a separate ministry, this fact further strengthens that point.

Sir, I would like to say that this region of Himalayas is very important in many ways. This region is the spiritual capital of the world and the essence of the culture of the country. This is the same area where the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads have been born. This is the same Himalayan region where Ayusho Veda: - Ayurveda has been talked about. Today the whole world has come to Yoga. The whole world has tired and stood on Ayurveda. This is our eternal medicine, this eternal medicine was also born in this land of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand. Charak Rishi's Danda is still there. That is why I would like to say that Ayurveda, the herbs, which are our Sanjeevani herbs, are found in the region of the Himalayas. They have the capacity to cure the body of the whole world and therefore developing Ayurveda, producing herbs in that region. Where forests modify our environment, if there was a policy for the production and exploitation of these herbs by the farmers here, today this entire Himalayan region would have been lush green, there would have been

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no migration from there. Migration is a very important issue there. As I have just given the figures, the day the youth of the Himalayan region migrate, the villages will be empty, the security of the country will be in danger, the country will not get such youth, there will be a shortage of hardworking brave youth to join the army, who sacrifice their lives to some extent for the country. Therefore, I think that this Uttarakhand, which is the birthplace of Ayurveda, is very important for the whole world. You will remember that when Lakshman fell unconscious in Sri Lanka, then Hanuman ji took Sanjeevani from Uttarakhand, from Dronagiri Mountain to cure his unconsciousness. This is the same area. This Dronagiri mountain is still with us. It is ten kilometres ahead of Joshimath. Even today the people there do not worship Hanuman ji because a part of Dronagiri Mountain is broken. Those people used to worship that mountain. They are still very angry with Hanuman ji that Hanuman ji uprooted our mountain and took it away. I am saying this because when we still have herbs, when we have the capacity to cure the body of the whole world, then why not make such a policy at the level of the Government of India which not only has the capacity to remove the diseases of the country, but the world also gets assured towards India that they can survive with the eternal treatment of Ayurveda in India. I would like to say this in a

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very respectful manner. Now Ramdev ji has made yoga and Ayurveda popular in the whole world, he comes from the same land of Uttarakhand. Today India talks about yoga and Ayurveda with pride in the whole world.

Sir, in the field of spirituality, as I have said, if this region of Himalayas has the capacity to heal the body of the entire world, then this region of Himalayas also has the capacity to heal the mind. Whenever someone in the world is frustrated, disappointed, passes through despair, hopelessness and confusion, she/ he comes to the region of Himalayas and takes a new life. This is the place of penance of sages and saints. Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads were born here and that is why I would like to call it the soul of Indian culture. This region is very important. I would like to remind you that when Vivekananda went to Chicago from Mayawati Ashram, at that time this place was in Almora district, now it has come in Champawat district, there he set up the first press of the country in Mayawati Ashram for the first time. Vivekananda ji went to Chicago from Mayawati with the inspiration of Himalayas. When he returned from Chicago, he first bowed to that land. He took the power of spirituality from the Himalayas and spread it all over the world.

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The four holy places of the world, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri are located here. Apart from this, Hemkund Sahib, Ritha Sahib are also located here and not only this, Shaktipuja is also located here. There are centres of peace and power at every step. This land is the land of sages and seers, so I believe that it is a source of inspiration not only for the country but for the entire world.

Sir, Uttarakhand has also been big hub of education. The first ever university of the world was the Badrish University and Veda Vyas himself was the Chancellor of it. The genesis of Sanskrit language can be traced on this land. Sanskrit is the language of the whole world. That is why this land is the birthplace of Sanskrit. I feel proud that the birthplace of Kalidas ji is the same Uttarakhand and Himalayas.

Sir, Uttarakhand is the birthplace of Bharat, the great man after whom this country was named as Bharatvarsh. There is Karna Ashram near Kotdwar, where Bharat was born and today our country is named Bharatvarsh after that great man. Therefore, Uttarakhand, which is the region of the Himalayas, and its 11 states, are a source of inspiration for India. Regarding the center of education, whether it is the place of penance of sages and saints or Gurukul, even if we look at the present, Nainital, Mussoorie, Dehradun are three such places where more than half of the children of the world study. If the maximum number of

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children of the world study anywhere, they study in the region of Himalayas. Today, Uttarakhand is the big centre of learning. We can see that IAS Academy, IFS Academy, Military Academy, IIM, IIT, all these important institutions are at the centre of the Himalayas, which definitely prepare the academic environment for the whole world.

Sir, the genesis of astrology can be traced here. Science looks dwarf in front of it. Astrology which has the power to calculate millions of years back and millions of years ahead, such astrological science was also born here. But due to lack of policy, today that astrological science is dying. That is why the people of the Himalayas have been standing up again and again to say that the soul of this country is dying, wandering. This is the life of the culture of the country, but it is withering, it needs to be saved. That is why the astrological centre which was so big in Devprayag, people from all over the world used to come here.

I would like to say this as well that this Himalaya is the birthplace of Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads. When I went on a tour of European countries recently, I was told in Berlin that there is a Veda Bhawan here. I was told in Berlin that Vedas are born here only. If we do not take care of these heritages of ours, then the same situation will

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happen as is happening with our herbs. Today China is patenting many of our herbs. Herbs like Kida which sell for ten lakh rupees per kilogram, are also facing the same fate. There are so many medicinal herbs which are not found anywhere in the world except the Himalayan region. They need to be protected and promoted. The Indian Government should have protected and safeguarded this powerhouse. But when this does not happen, the people there repeatedly demand that not only the people of that region need them, but the country also needs them. That entire area is sacrificed for the country, is dedicated to the country, therefore, there should be a ministry in the country which ensures its policies and that area can prove to be important for the prosperity and development of the country.

Sir, as far as culture is concerned, there are such traditions, cultural traditions, heritage that strengthens the unity and integrity of the country and the mind of the country. There is a need to preserve such culture. I would like to give a small example here. Maha Kumbh of Nandraj Himalaya is a pilgrimage to Nandraj place. It is the highest altitude pilgrimage in the world, 280 kilometres long, which is completed in 20 days. It is the symbol of unity, harmony and courage and valour. Those who cross Juragali, even defeat death. Sir, there is

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no caste in it, all people live together. The people there vacate their houses for these guests, they do not care where they have come from, which caste they belong to, whether they are good or bad. All the guests come and people host them in their villages. They believe that “Where women are worshipped, there reside the God”. Respecting women is part of the Himalayan culture and the world does not stand in front of them. That is why this Maha Kumbh of the Himalayas was given by Nanda King which has been a source of inspiration for the whole world. These traditions give strength to the country, inspire to move life forward. That is why it is very important whether it is from a cultural or economic point of view.

The Ganga descends from heaven to the earth of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand for the welfare of the entire world. Ganga is not some ordinary river. I am sorry to say that after independence, the niche has not been accorded to the river Ganga which it deserves. Ganga has just been declared a national river. We cannot call Ganga a river, Ganga is our mother, and therefore, it is a national and international heritage. I had organized the Maha Kumbh Mela of 2010 as the Chief Minister. People from about 150 countries and about 8.5 crore people touched Ganga. The whole world was eager to touch Ganga.

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Therefore, there is not only a feeling of reverence for Ganga in the whole world but also regard of a mother.

I had read somewhere that when Akbar asked his nine jewels which is the most sacred river of this country, everyone said that it is Ganga, but Birbal said that the most sacred river is Yamuna, everyone laughed out aloud. When Akbar said that Birbal, you don't even know that the most sacred river of this country is Ganga, they said that the sacred river is not Ganga, the sacred river is Yamuna, Ganga is our mother, it is not a river. Sir, the water of Ganga is like nectar and I did not understand as to why a policy was not formulated for the promotion and conservation of Ganga in the country as a single drop of Ganga water can cure thousands of diseases. People used to drink Ganga water and even after death, one drop of Ganga was put in the mouth of the person and this tradition continues even today.

If we look at the water of Ganga from a scientific point of view, this is the only water in the whole world which does not rot. In fact, it is Amrit-jal which gives new life. I congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for creating a separate ministry for taking care of the river Ganga. He has also said that Ganga has called me. I have full faith that like Bhagirathi river, Ganga has not stopped even after facing many blows, Ganga has remained pure even after absorbing all the

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dirt and impurities, is uninterrupted and has not lost its purity, like Ganga, our Prime Minister will also try to take this country forward, I have full faith in this. He has said that Ganga has called me. He has said this as a son of Ganga, Ganga has called him. I am happy that when I was the Chief Minister, I had formed Sparsh Ganga Board for the conservation and promotion of Ganga and its related water streams. This is the need of this country and also the need of the world. This is not the need of only one region. When we talk about the Himalayas, we do not only talk about these 11 states, we talk about this country, but we talk about the world because this is the region that affects the whole world. The water of Ganga is Amrit. I want to thank The Hon. Minister of Finance that he has started the Namami Gange campaign and made a plan. I am confident that the work that was not being done till now, will be done now and the purpose for which Ganga has descended on earth will be accomplished.

Sir, the Himalayan region is also known as the heaven on the earth. Hundreds of Switzerlands are settled here. If I talk about places from Jammu-Kashmir to Himachal's Kullu-Manali, Pahalgam of Srinagar, Amarnath, Gangtok, Guwahati etc., there are hundreds of places where people go to calm their mind. Nature has spread immense beauty here, which not only the whole country but the whole

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world also yearns to see. There is a need to preserve this heaven on earth more. I am unable to understand where we are making mistakes. Certainly mistakes are being made, that is why I have humbly brought this resolution today. This is above politics. This is not a matter of giving any respect to a region from a political point of view, but it is a matter of the pride of the country. It is a matter of the welfare of the world. I would like to say whether it is Nainital, Mussoorie, Har Ki Doon, or Chaukhata, the world is yearning to see them. This is heaven on earth, which has lakes, bugyals, Dayara Bugyal, Kanthi Bugyal, where once a person goes there, he does not feel like going back. Sir, you must have been there, if you have not been there, I invite you. I think that the way these are tourist places, the innumerable beauty of the earth is scattered in 11 states including Uttarakhand, it needs to be preserved. Our doctor sir is sitting here, he also shows the beauty. There are many such beautiful places including Bugyal.

Sir, it is the biggest place for skiing and water sports. Our Minister of Finance had also said in his speech and proposed in the budget that we will prepare our children for the sports competitions for South Asian countries and for this Uttarakhand was considered a big centre, the Himalayan region was considered the center. If we look at Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand in snow sports, we are fortunate that

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first South Asian Ice sports event was organized in Auli of Uttarakhand. Even today there is a lot of prosperity. The whole world is attracted towards snow sports and we are the biggest centre of snow sports in the world, so whether it is Auli, those valleys of Kashmir need to be organized. We are at the forefront in water sports. The area of the Himalayas, whether it is Godiyala, the Tehri lake is of 165 square kilometres and it can become the biggest centre of water sports in the world. Whether it is adventure tourism, coastal sports, snow sports, water sports, we are a big center for them. Uttarkashi has Nehru mountaineering, whether it is Bachendri Pal who is the first woman Everest conqueror or ITBP jawan. Dozens of people, whether it is Harshwanti Bisht or Chandra Lekha ji, have hoisted the flag on Everest with courage.

It is widely acknowledged that the apples produced in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh are unmatched in quality and cannot be found in any other part of the world. This entire valley is renowned for its apple cultivation. Moreover, the region also yields exceptional varieties of ginger, Malta, and litchi, making the entire Himalayan range truly remarkable in its agricultural offerings. It is, therefore, with great concern that we note the unfortunate reality that despite the presence of numerous valuable seeds on this land,

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there are insufficient arrangements for their proper cultivation and development. The land of Uttarakhand and the Himalayas is also home to flowers such as the Brahmakamal, which have the extraordinary ability to remain in bloom for as long as six months. Such flowers, found nowhere else on Earth, further emphasize the exceptional nature of this Himalayan region. It is imperative that we give due attention to these invaluable resources and ensure the necessary systems are put in place to preserve and cultivate them for the benefit of our nation.

Buras is a flower. It is an infallible remedy for heart disease. Saugata Roy ji, I would like to tell you this in particular. I would like to tell you that if someone has heart disease, drinking the juice of Buras leaf cures all heart diseases at once.... (*Interruptions*)

There are several other flowers like lotus which are fragrant. This perfume is prepared from here which spreads fragrance whether it is cosmetics or food items or medicines. The herbs and flowers in our region are exceptional. Even a small pluck of these flowers causes them to release their fragrance entirely. We are fortunate to have such flowers that bring not only fragrance but also happiness. Our valleys, extending up to 16 kilometres, are filled with flowers, and it is hard to believe that over 700 to 800 varieties thrive here. No one can even

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imagine that there are such valleys in the country. These are in our Uttarakhand. These flowers are found in the snow of our Himalayas, stretching across all valleys from Asan to Manipur, Mizoram, and Kashmir. In every valley, one will encounter such magnificent valleys of flowers. Additionally, we also produce shampoo and oil, which are derived from these very resources. The contribution of Uttarakhand in agriculture sector has been outstanding. I will bring the perfume next time. ... (*Interruptions*)

Pant Nagar Agriculture University was the place wherefrom the Green Revolution of 1962 was started. This Pant Nagar Agricultural University is on the same land and since that time whatever land we have and whatever is produced here including Basmati rice. Even today, there are hundreds of rice mills in our area. Also, sugarcane is produced here even today. But due to lack of proper planning and lack of right policy of the Centre, our farmers are dying there. Right now our sugarcane farmers in Haridwar have not been paid for their produce for two years. The farmer who produces his produce begs for his money like a beggar in front of the Government and when his daughter or son gets married, he takes a loan. He runs to the banks and when he gets price of his produce, it goes in the interest of the banks.

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This situation has arisen due to lack of proper policy. Himalaya is very rich in itself. I think whether it is tea gardens, or cultivation of Basmati rice, or sugarcane, or cultivation of ginger, flowers or fruits, Himalaya is a source of power in every respect. We repeatedly feel time and again as to why Himalayas are ignored? Himalaya cannot be divided into segments, and policies cannot be made in parts. Himalaya is spread across an area of 2500 kilometres. It has all kinds of similar conditions culturally, economically, geographically, therefore, it is very important to make a single policy.

Sir, there are many mineral resources. You will be surprised to know that there are mines of gold, copper, mica, lime in the Himalayan region. There are such stones here which are not seen anywhere else in the world. There are such very important mines here. I remember that the British dug a tunnel in Chamoli district in 1914 and found gold particles in the mine but this work is half done. After this, no mining policy was made and the Government did not take it seriously. Resources and such big mines are dying. There are mines of stone, mica, copper, sulphur, magnesium here. Not only this, there are also mines of thorium here. The material used in the use of cannons and shells, there are mines of it here too but till date there has not been any mention of it. The Himalayan region is very important.

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Today China has lead over us. In 1962, our situation was bad because the roads did not reach there. China is ahead of us and we are not there yet. This policy is about borders so it is very important.

When it comes to climate change, the whole world is worried. Sitting in air-conditioned bungalows, big discussions happen, seminars are held. The temperature of the earth has increased due to weather change and imbalance, if the Himalayas are not saved, then the earth will become a fireball. This should be understood by the world because people who educate us on the environment that we cannot cut even a tree, the Himalayan people have to go from pillar to post for a drinking water scheme and do not get permission. The transfer of forests takes place very hard, then a house is built or the road is built. Even today there is no road up to 80 kilometre, there is no road, people do not find proper way to travel. Major countries of the world talk big about protecting the environment, but they most pollute the environment. I request that if the Himalayan Total Policy is framed, this policy will affect not only this country but also the world. Nowadays there is talk of global warming again and again, all this is the result of this.

I would like to say very politely that in 2004, there was a thought of setting up of Trans Himalayans Authority. I said that in the year

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1992, there was discussion under the chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister and then in 2004. I do not understand where it is stopping now. In 2004, there was discussion of forming Trans Himalaya Authority but it is still at the same place. To my mind, any danger to Himalaya will be a danger to the whole of world. The security and beauty of the Himalayas and the people here are dedicated to the country. In this region, there is problem of roads and unemployment. If the villages are empty, there will be a problem of security. Therefore, Sir, I have placed before the House three-four things about the Himalayas which were very important.

Sir, if you permit, I would like to recite a few lines from the poem titled 'Main Pahad Hoon' about the mountain and tell what the pain of the mountain is –

"I am the mountain, I am not silent because I am so calm,

You don't know how aggressive I am.

I am silent only because there is no disturbance in my peacekeeping,

Somewhere the mild wind does not touch Malay Samir himself as a storm.

Then I don't have to lose the great patience of the Himalayas,

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I have every corner here to take the flag of world peace.

I have to live for the unity and integrity of the country.

I have to drink poison even after crossing Ganga-Yamuna.

I have to destroy the poisonous snakes that spew venom,

I have to sow the seeds of equality in the hearts of people.

Actually even a small scream of mine can bring about a catastrophe.

Not just the world but the universe can shake it.

But I will not let this happen,

I will not let world peace with its abundance of love, harmony and unity be lost.

I stand firm with the resolve of perseverance even in adverse circumstances.

I am the incomparable beauty of the country.

Despite being harsh, I am saying humbly that I am a mountain, I am a mountain."

Sir, how long will the people of the Himalayas be put to test? Whenever there is a war on the borders of the country, the entire Himalayas tremble. The sons of the Himalayas stand in the first line

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and sacrifices himself on the borders of the country. They always stand to crush these poisonous snakes. I am confident that such mountains which have always been devoted to humanity, which have been devoted to the country, can heal both the body and mind of the country. Which is a cluster of power, whether it is a centre of faith, whether it is a centre of providing oxygen or whether it is the world's first school of environment. This is the first school of environment in our country. Therefore, I would like to reiterate with emphasis that at this time, there is a need for the country to form a ministry for these 11 beautiful states of the country, which can determine all these policies, promote development there, give strength to the country, and protect the mind-set there, the conditions there, the environment there, the systems there, the heritage there.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I would like to emphasize my point with full force and demand that a separate ministry should be set up for development of Himalayan region.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“Having regard to the strategic geographical condition as well as location of the Himalayan States, which causes

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landslides, cloudburst, earthquakes, hailstorms and other natural calamities every year resulting in huge loss of lives and property and taking into account the socio-economic backwardness of these States, particularly the State of Uttarakhand, this House urges upon the Government to form an independent Union Ministry for Himalayan States, which shall be responsible for the overall and speedy development of these States and in particular perform the following functions—

- (i) to identify backward areas of Himalayan States and ensure their overall development and conservation;
- (ii) to provide special financial package for development of backward areas particularly, border areas;
- (iii) to take effective measures to check cross border infiltration, particularly in the State of Uttarakhand; and
- (iv) to recommend to the Union Ministries concerned for laying of new Railway lines, establishment of

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hydro power projects, construction of roads and other infrastructural development projects and to strengthen economy by setting up of industries based on natural resources available in the Himalayan States to prevent migration.”

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[Translation]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I support the resolution tabled by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank that a separate Ministry should be formed for the Himalayan states on the basis of principles. But I do not know how much Shri Narendra Modi will support it. Because if you look at the cabinet, five BJP MPs have been elected from Uttarakhand, out of which three are former Chief Ministers - Shri Nishank ji, Khanduri ji and Shri Koshyari ji and four BJP Members have been elected from Himachal. Not even one of these nine Members has been included in the cabinet, so I do not know by looking at it how much Shri Narendra Modi loves the Himalayas, maybe he can tell.

If a ministry is formed on Himalayan States, then perhaps Nishank ji will get a place there. For this he has presented this Bill. I support it. I would like to make some changes in it. Firstly, he has said Himalayan States. I would like to say that it would have been better if it was Himalayan Areas. Because in our West Bengal, Darjeeling district is connected to the Himalayas. Darjeeling is a part of entire West Bengal. If Himalayan Ministry is formed, Darjeeling district will also be included in it. I wanted to give an amendment in English, but came to know that I should have given it a day earlier, so I could not

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do it. So, I request Nishank ji to please accept it. Secondly, what has come in English, we do not know Hindi that well. Having regard to strategic geographical condition, what he has actually meant is geological condition, not the geographical condition. Because what he described, you know that he has told that the Himalayas is a young mountain. Sir, you must be aware that there are tectonic plates beneath the ground of the mountains and when these tectonic plates shift, earthquakes occur. *[English]* Himalayan mountains are found on tectonic plates. So, they are prone to earthquakes, landslides, etc. as they are relatively new mountains.

Now, let me speak a few words about Himalayas. Himalayas are one of the longest mountain ranges in the world, though not the longest. Andes Mountains are the longest, almost 4,000 miles in Latin America. Rocky Mountains are much longer - starting from top to bottom of North America. Himalayas are roughly 1500 miles long. If you start from West of Kashmir, it exists right up to Arunachal Pradesh – around 1500 miles. What are the States falling in the Himalayan ranges? We have Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand - then, as you come, you find China - Darjeeling areas of West Bengal; then, Arunachal Pradesh, and of course, Sikkim. These are the six States which are directly connected to the Himalayan

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ranges. He has mentioned about Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland which do not have any Himalayan ranges. There are small hills which are not connected to the Himalayas; these are connected to the main body of the Himalayas.

On the North-West, we have the Gilgit areas, which are Indian territories, occupied by Pakistan. Gilgit is known as northern areas. Chinese have built Karakoram highways through Gilgit, and the northern areas. Then, we have got Ladakh, which is part of Himalayas. Ladakh borders on Aksai Chin and China. Then, Uttarakhand has border with Tibet, that is, China. Himachal Pradesh, in the Kinnaur district, has border with China. West Bengal's hill areas have border with Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. Sikkim at Nathula has border with China; and Arunachal Pradesh has border with China. So, strategically this is, as Shri Nishank has correctly pointed out, very important. China has already occupied territory in the Himalayan areas and Pakistan in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir have already given away some areas to China. So, strategically it is very important to develop the Himalayas, to ensure our safety. But I didn't like Nishankji's approach, that is, the BJP approach. He was trying to equate development of the Himalayas with Hindutva by making of symbolic slogans like Ganga is our mother. By saying all this, we cannot make

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any progress of the Ganga. You have to take a very scientific view. It doesn't happen just by speaking mother. What have you done to the Ganga? In Uttarakhand, Nishankji, you were Chief Minister. What happened there? Why was so much of bad floods there in the Ganga? When the cloud burst took place above Kedarnath, the dam of the lake broke. Then, on the rivers, hundreds of houses were swept away. Why? It was because you have built houses on the flood plaques of the rivers, namely Alaknanda, Mandakini and Ganga. rivers must be allowed to expand geologically. You have got flood plains there and because of our greed and callousness of Governments, we have allowed building of houses on the flood plaques of the Ganga. That is why there was so much devastation caused in the Uttarakhand floods last year. Thousands of people were killed and properties worth Crore of rupees were lost. Now it is time to take care of the Himalayas instead of calling Ganga maa, Hindutva, Ayurveda and all that. we have to take a scientific approach. I would request you to read D.N. Wadia's book. D.N. Wadia was a Geologist based in Dehradun and he was a world famous expert on Himalayan Geology. Himalayan Geology is a very deep branch of Geology which one has to understand to follow what is the way to save the Himalayas.

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Sir, he has mentioned that the Himalayas in Uttarakhand gave birth to many rivers. He mentioned Ganga and Yamuna. We have got Gangotri and Yamuna not only from Uttarakhand, but Indus, which is also called Sindhu emanating from Ladakh. Strangely enough you never mentioned Sindhu even once. But Advaniji, since he is from Sindh, started Sindhu Darshan in Ladakh. Not once did your word come to Sindhu. All rivers are great. No river is holy. Rivers are lifelines of the nation. They provide irrigation, they provide transportation and they are lifelines of our economy. The great Nazrul Islam – he was a Muslim, not a follower of Hindutva – said:

"Ganga Sindhu Narmada

Kaveri Jamuna oi

Bohia cholechhe aager mato

Koi re aager manush Koi."

so, all these are great rivers. in Nazrul's poem, for the sake of rhyming he left out Godavari. He said: 'Ganga Sindhu Narmada Kaveri Jamuna...'. Therefore, all the rivers are very important and Ganga is special in the sense that it is a perennial river. You want to speak about Sindhu.

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[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: I included all the rivers, because if I had time I would have named all the rivers, but I said that there are hundreds of rivers, not dozens, there are hundreds of rivers.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to say that I was not the Chief Minister when the Kedarnath tragedy occurred. I want to clarify both these things to you.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, what I wanted to say is that a fresh study of the whole Himalayan areas of the flood plains and the position of tectonic plates should be undertaken and how much of construction should be allowed in the hill areas should be freshly determined because in the present state, the Himalayas will be in danger and we are waiting for a disaster to happen in the Himalayas.

The other thing that has happened, Nishank *ji* will note, is massive deforestation. The trees have been cut mercilessly throughout the Himalayas, particularly in Uttarakhand. He has mentioned Ramdev. Baba Ramdev has done nothing to preserve environment. He has started selling Ayurvedic drugs from his Haridwar ashram. I know it is a profitable business. There is some controversy; I do not want to go into it. He should have mentioned Sunderlal Bahuguna, the man

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who dared and started the Chipko movement. He said, when contractors come to cut the trees, hold them tight. He did more to raise consciousness about the Himalayas than anybody else did. Nishank ji's Hindutva-oriented speech left out Sunderlal Bahuguna, the environmental part of it, the scientific part of it. They are *Jari bootiyan*. *Jari bootiyan* can be used only when you use them as phytochemicals in a modern way. *[Translation]* The medicines of today cannot be made from the knowledge that our sages had earlier. For that, there is a need to do scientific research on the herbs found there and then make proper medicines from them. The whole world is doing this. We are still talking about old herbs, Baba Ramdev is doing all this. This is what they are doing, this way Himalayas cannot be saved. I also want to say that Himalayas do not belong to Hindus only. I was born a Hindu. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: One minute Professor Sahab, if the Hon. Chairperson permits. I believe there has been a misunderstanding regarding my remarks on the Ganga and Hinduism. In my speech, I specifically referred to the fact that during the 2010

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Kumbh Mela, Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country, along with ambassadors from 150 other countries, participated. It is important to note that these were not all Hindu-majority nations. Therefore, I do not think it is appropriate to restrict the association of the Ganga to a particular religion.

I emphasized that the Ganga holds a place of immense faith and heritage, not only for Hindus but for people around the world. This is why I do not agree with the suggestion to narrowly link the Ganga with any single religion. It is a symbol of universal reverence. I also highlighted that the water of the Ganga is scientifically proven to be unique. Its purity, often referred to as "Amrit Jal," does not decay and has the ability to combat numerous diseases. In light of this, I humbly urge that we focus on the broader significance of the Ganga and explore policies that reflect its global and scientific importance. The Himalayan states are calling for the establishment of a dedicated ministry and policy to protect and promote the Ganga, and I believe this would be a step in the right direction.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It is a good thing. I am happy that the former Chief Minister got a chance to speak from my speech. I am saying that not Hindus alone live on the banks of the Himalayas. I am

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a Hindu. But Ladakh is completely Buddhist, Sikkim is completely Buddhist. Our Vincent Pala ji is a Christian from Meghalaya. Therefore, Hindutva has nothing to do with the Ganga or the Himalayas. What you are saying is that you will save the Ganga, oh brother, it belongs to all the people. You want to save Varanasi. There are as many Muslims living in Varanasi as there are Hindus. Both are part of our tradition. Why are you dividing the country?

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, you should address the Chair.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sorry, Sir. That is why, I want to say that let a Ministry for Himalayan Affairs be formed, not a Ministry for Himalayan States. That Ministry for Himalayan Affairs will take into account everything: its geological needs, its environmental needs, its water needs and its power needs. Make a holistic plan for the Himalayas. We have such a wealth in the Himalayas.

17.00 hrs.

But the Himalaya is not only for poets. We used to read Kumarsambhav written by Kalidas where he has described about the

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Himalaya. It is translated in Bangla and I am reading a few lines from it.

*Sudur urdhe oi surodham, sporshi tahare Himalaya naam,
Raje giriraj mohamhigarh, byapi uttarakhandey*

That is a poet's imagination. Tagore has written any number of poems on it. His father Debendranath Tagore used to spend a lot of time in the Himalayas. Swami Vivekananda, when he was touring around the country, went to Almora and sat there in meditation. Then he went into Mayavati, right into forest, and he opened Advaita Ashrama.

We have a famous writer called Prabodh Sanyal. He wrote two books namely Mahaprasthan Pathe and Debotamta Himalay. There was a writer, Sir Ashutosh's son, Umaprasad Mukherjee. He is known all over the Himalayans even in a small *cheta* people used to know him. He has written a book called Himalaya Pathe Pathe. Almost a hundred years ago, one Bengali writer Jaladhar Sen, wrote a book called Himalaya. So, the Himalaya has a great fascination for Bengalis.

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Even last month, one Bengali lady, Chhanda Gayen, climbed the Kangchenjunga. She wanted to get up on the Associated Peak. Then, she lost and we have not found her body yet. That is the magic the Himalayas still hold for us. So, let us take a larger plan for the Himalayas. The unfortunate thing, if you go up to the Himalayas, you see is that it is so beautiful but people there are so poor. There is no road. When you go to a village, there is no road. There are enormous natural resources. We have not exploited them yet at all.

The Himalaya can be a source of the biggest hydroelectric power in the world. We have one dam called Tehri. We have one dam in Himachal Pradesh. But, hundreds of such mini hydle projects can be built on the Himalayas and the Himalayas would be ideal for modern industries like computers, electronic goods, for watches.

Look at what Switzerland has achieved. Last year or the year before the last, I went to Switzerland. The Alps is only 15000 feet high. How they have exploited the Alps! First, you see the Rhein Falls in Switzerland. When you go up to 14,000 feet – you know what I discovered there itself – everything is written in Hindi there. It is because every year our Mumbai people are going to Switzerland to shoot films. They do not go to the Himalayas because there is no infrastructure and other facilities. In Alps, when you are going up the

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mountains, you see hundreds of people doing skiing. There is a place called Laguna, which is known for winter sports. In Gulmarg, we have also some. But, this can be developed in a big way.

Sir, what is needed, is forward thinking. Unfortunately, all our politicians are concerned only about small things in the Himalayan areas. There has been no big tank thinking about the Himalayas. In Darjeeling areas of West Bengal, our State Government is doing a great job. It is the only place where a demand for a separate State has been subdued because of the development carried out by the Government led by Mamata Banerjee. We have been able to subdue totally divisive secessionist movements.

In Sikkim, they have done great work. The Prime Minister mentioned the other day that Sikkim is the first organic State in the country and no inorganic fertilizer is used there. So, that is a great achievement.

[Translation]

All these have to be brought together in one place. Nishank ji, this is a very good Bill. You did not become a Minister, but you remained faithful to your native place and as soon as you came here, you brought up the issue of the Himalayas.

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[English]

In this House we discussed the Uttarakhand flood. Dr. Nishank, you were not here in the 15th Lok Sabha. We discussed how human greed destroyed the Uttarakhand plains. Army and Air Force people and the Border Roads Organization had rescued many people. We are proud of them. If they had not been there, we do not know how many thousands of people would have been killed during the flood. That is a question to be asked.

I was in the Defence Consultative Committee. I constantly asked these Army people, “What are you doing about roads up to the Chinese border?” Sir, would you believe that the Chienese built a railway line from Beijing to Lhasa, and from Lhasa right up to the Arunachal Pradesh border? Bomdila would be 30 miles from there. Tawang would be only 30 miles from there. Here is our friend from Arunachal Pradesh. We have not been able to construct a railway line.

[Translation]

Sir, all these things are urgent. So, I again support his proposal. All I have to say is this that we need to develop Himalayas. Remove Hindutva from it, remove the Ramdev thing from it. Come, let us all,

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Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians etc., come together and form a Godly Himalaya Cell.

With this, I conclude my speech.

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[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in a very important Resolution that my colleague, Dr. Nishank, has brought before Parliament.

It is something very close to my heart. Shri Mahtab ji is just carrying an article of mine which I have written very recently on the specific need for a Ministry which looks into the Himalayan affairs expanding the whole scope of the Ministry as it were.

The Resolution, obviously, in many ways, is limited to bringing out many of the issues faced by Uttarakhand but I am sure, Dr. Nishank ji will not mind if we expand the scope of the Resolution on many fronts as previously mentioned by my friend from Trinamool Congress, Prof. Saugata Roy.

Now, Sir, let me state the first and foremost thing that the Himalayas is a geographical formation. It is proven that it is because of this geographical formation that the entire water security of the largest part of India is sustained. We know of the El Nino phenomenon which may impede or not allow for the clouds which come but once the clouds come, then you have a barrier in which it is

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not allowed to move on but then it is allowed and it cools it sufficiently so that we have the monsoons. Now, it is so remarkable that in 2009 when I first entered Parliament that we had a similar kind of a situation, a very drought-like situation.

There again, everybody started talking about the Himalayas and water towers: why are the dams within various States running low? Why is it that we have water issues and all these kinds of issues that came up due to the drought like situation? I would argue that if this is such an important formation and it has, over the centuries, attained the kind of mystique that we have, I think, it is important that the nation, specially the Government now, wake up to this fact and with one voice all of us, across the party line, say that we definitely need to look after the Himalayas, be it the environmental issue, be it the development or be it the other kinds of conservation issues that may come up.

Therefore, I think, it is not too late. I completely agree that we need a Ministry to look into this so that there is focussed attention. Now, why is the focussed attention required? It is required because there are a large number of issues related to the Himalayas. It is only when we have a flood like situation, as it happened in Uttrakhand, Kedar Nath Valley or we have a situation like in Sikkim on 8th

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September, 2011 when there was a catastrophic earthquake or when there are issues related to dams that suddenly people wake up. It is true that population-wise, all the Himalayan States will never be able to compete. We cannot compete with Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. But certainly, when it comes to being the sentries in the forefront of the border areas, being the border States and keeping the peace there, I think, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the country.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to buttress my arguments by stating that there are many institutions but they are too few. I can just name them. One was already mentioned by Prof. Saugata Roy about the Wadia Institute. That is one institution, which does some stellar work. There is another institution for all the mountain countries surrounding the area called EC Mode. This is located in Kathmandu. It looks after all the knowledge gatherings of the mountain areas of China, India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. There are lots of universities also, which have come up. There is our famous G. B Pant Institute for Himalayan and Environmental Development.

If you actually start looking at some of the outputs of these institutions, all that they are saying is, 'livelihoods in these regions matter, the women matter.' There is far too much of out-migration

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from these places because of the hardships. So, all these issues, which are social and economical, need to be addressed. But in the Ministry or even for that matter in the Planning Commission, thus far we do not have a mechanism whereby all these issues are factored in into our planning processes.

I would just give you one example. We have, what is known as now, an Indian Mountain Initiative. This is something, which was done within the last three-four years. With the Indian Mountain Initiative, we started looking at all the mountain States. We started looking at all the issues around the 11 mountain States and some of the districts, which cover mountain areas.

This is very interesting that this particular institution, along with other Members of Parliament from the Himalayan region, was able to get the Planning Commission organise a working group on mountain and mountain issues for the Twelfth Plan. Therefore, systemically, we have managed to, at least, bring this particular issue to the forefront. However, the difficulty with all this is that if there is a Ministry and if that Ministry becomes the focal point of all this knowledge harvesting and if it becomes the focal point for development and devolution of all the schemes, then I am sure that we will be able to do something.

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Finally, there are two more important things that I would like to say here. One is that the mountain railways are a must. The last mountain railway was built by the British and it was left at that. So, today if we talk of mountain railways, there is one which links up to Shimla; there is one which links up to Darjeeling; and there is one in the Nilgiris; and that is it, whilst the Chinese have been able to bring the most sophisticated railway system across the mountains, right up to Lhasa from Beijing. If this is the possibility in terms of harnessing of their engineering skills, their knowledge and science, then why is it that we are lagging behind? I would like to use this forum to impress upon the Railway Minister that a Task Force needs to be built. I had actually given a letter to Madam Mamata Banerjee way back when she was the Railway Minister requesting her to create a Task Force. It needs focussed attention. If we can take the railways right up to Nathu La, right up to the border areas, then it will be one big achievement and you can actually have a trans-Himalayan railway line.

I would also like to flag the issue of eco tourism. Today if there is one area or one sector of economic activity which can change or revolutionize the economic development in the mountains, it is eco tourism. And, if we do it in a soft and sustained manner, taking into

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consideration the environmental conditions, then eco tourism is the way.

Sir, with these words I thank you for giving me time to bring to this House some of the most important issues that relate to the Himalayan environment, to the Himalayan affairs and to the Himalayan States.

I support this Resolution wholeheartedly.

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[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Hon. Chairperson Sir, as Shri Saugata Roy said, I was wishing very heartily that if our Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Ji Nishank had brought this Bill amidst us like a Government Bill as a Minister, it would have been a huge development for those who are the inhabitants of the Himalayas who live there.

17.19 hrs.

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

Since you have brought it as a private resolution of the Members, we welcome it very much. We have a ministry of the North Eastern States, through which we cannot fully implement all the development plans that we have there. Himalayas is the crown of our country and if we cannot protect this crown, we stand to lose our dignity. He has written that we should pay special attention to the floods that occur in emergency situations, earthquakes, landslides due to climate change, glacier melting due to global warming, all these reasons. The people living there have faith in our Government that we will take steps to form a ministry. Whether it is Jammu and Kashmir, Leh region,

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Himachal, Darjeeling of West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, other north eastern states like Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram, but especially Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, which are snow-covered areas, there is a need to start many schemes there. The first issue that we have taken up earlier is that of transport. Road transport is in a pathetic condition. Recently, Hon. Saugata Roy ji made a comparison with China about the road there, the four-lane road that comes to Nathula or Tawang here, and a strategy was made there in the year 1962 that if we make a road there, then China can come there very easily. We will have to change this mindset, this thinking. This is the land of ICBMs; this is the time of Sukois. Therefore, we will have to think, we will have to forget that thinking now and we will have to pay special attention to these Himalayan areas.

Arunachal Pradesh itself has a potential of at least 55000 MW for hydropower. Why should we not tap it? If we want to tap it, be it NHPC, NEEPCO, NTPC, Reliance or other power developers, they are unable to reach there due to lack of proper road transport. This is a big drawback there. We will have to think about it. We have petroleum, coal, coal is produced here, but it is very difficult to take

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it out from there. Therefore, we will have to pay special attention to transport, whether it is rail, air or our road routes.

I would not like to take much time, but I would definitely like to talk about tourism. I will not talk about Hindutva in all our Himalayan ranges, but I will definitely say that there is a small place called Arunachal Pradesh. There is a place like Malinithan, Parshuram Kund, famous monetary at Twang, for Buddhist, there is Gumpa. There is a 25 feet tall Shivling in Zero, where people go to see it. Tourists face difficulties in visiting these tourist places due to lack of proper means of transportation. The development of infrastructure is very important and you can pay attention to it only when you have your own ministry. Especially you should take care of the crown of this country. I will tell you about Parshuram Kund. We raised this issue twice in the House. I gave it to the Railway Ministry, I also wrote a letter to The Hon. Minister of Railways. Parashuram Kund is the place where Lord Parashuram got rid of all the sins he had committed; you know the story. The Brahmaputra River flows from there, which is a pilgrimage place and people go there to pious themselves. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): He did not do this to get rid of his sins, but to get rid of the curse of matricide. Do not

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portray Lord Parshuram as sinful please. He did this to get rid of the curse of matricide.

SHRI NINONG ERING: Thank you very much for correcting me. I made a small mistake in speaking. Last time when the Hon. Prime Minister went there, he said that the sun rises in Arunachal Pradesh and the sun sets in Gujarat. Lord Krishna went there, Bhishma is a city. King Bhishma had a son and a daughter. When Rukmani's swayamvar took place, there was a fight with Rukmos. There is still a symbol of hair cutting there. People also believe in it. This is a special place for tourists. There is still natural beauty here. People go there to see the natural beauty. Just like there is Shimla and Kashmir, similarly we have Tawang, Mechuka, Anini. Our country is very vast. People say that we go to many places. I feel sorry that very few people in the country know about Arunachal Pradesh. This can happen only when there is a special ministry for it. People will know what are the North-Eastern states? What are the Himalayan states? What are the problems in the Himalayan area? When an emergency situation arises, how can we tackle it, how can we prevent it? How can we develop there? I want to draw the attention of the Government to all these through you.

In the end, I would like to thank our future Minister, Ramesh Nishank ji and I support this proposal also.

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SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am extremely grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject. Members of the Treasury Benches, Members of the Opposition or Members of any party, all Members have underlined the importance of this subject. I would like to thank Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank ji that he has brought a very important subject in this session.

Sir, you will remember that when you were a Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh, fortunately Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was an hon. Member and I was also a Member. At that time Uttarakhand or Uttaranchal was fortunately a part of Uttar Pradesh. At that time when this proposal came that in view of the situation of Uttarakhand, in view of the geographical conditions there, the people there were constantly demanding a separate state. There was also a movement going on for this. At that time also, proposals came that a separate Uttarakhand state should be formed. On that proposal also, I had supported the fact that Uttarakhand should be given the status of a separate state. Fortunately, a proposal has come before the House that in view of the conditions of the Himalayan states, a separate independent Minister and ministry should be formed

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at the Centre. The discussion is very important, serious. The Member who was speaking before us has said that Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank should expand its scope. He did not talk only about Uttarakhand in the beginning. He has discussed the 11 states that fall under the Himalayan states of India. The area of these 11 states is 5,93,00 km, the population there is 7 crore , he has also mentioned this. His intention is clear. (*Interruptions*) Our 11 states are Assam, Jammu-Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim.

Our Professor Sahab has stressed a lot on the fact that we support it. If Hindutva and Hindu are removed therefrom, he supports the proposal, today Ramesh ji himself supported the fact that not only the people of this country but 8.5 crore people from the whole world participated in that Kumbh, when he served as the Chief Minister. Nothing can be imagined in this country without Ganga and without Hindutva and Hindu. Therefore, I think that it is not appropriate to remove it. The resolution that he has brought, his clear purpose is that because of the continuous difficulties in that area, I have spoken about it today, but in the tragedy of Kedarnath, a number of people from Uttar Pradesh also got injured and died, people from our families did

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not survive either. Therefore, looking at those circumstances when the landslide happened, the person sitting in front of me is an eyewitness himself. You were there when the tragedy hit. The landslides that happen in these 11 states or what happened in Kedarnath or you often hear that clouds burst in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, earthquakes occur, hailstorms and other such natural disasters hit, such situations do not arise in other states of the country, these cause loss of life and property of thousands of people. If this demand has been raised due to the kind of conditions there, then there is a clear purpose behind it. I think that there can be three main objectives of this, why should a separate ministry be formed? There should be a separate ministry for coordination for the all-round and rapid development of the 11 states that come in the Himalayan region. There should be a separate Union Ministry for all-round and speedy development of these states, for monitoring of Central schemes and programmes for this region and also to suggest measures to minimize the effects of these calamities in the region.

You all will be agree that when the tragedy struck Kedarnath, for 72 hours, only Rishikesh scenes were being shown on television again and again. I think the Government there was also paralyzed, it had no idea how many people were dying, how much loss was caused,

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there was no coordination. The report came later. You must have also read that no meeting of Disaster Management Committee had been held there. (*Interruptions*) If it was a Union ministry, it would have at least written a letter beforehand. In the way of pilgrimage, there are four such places, I think Prof. Saugata Roy must be agreeing with that even after such a big incident, no one can be stopped because Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, which are the centers of faith and belief of elderly people, even 70-75 year old people go there, whether they go on ponies or mules. Even after that, no meeting was held. You must have seen that there was no coordination in the state for 72 hours. And then, the central Government provided helicopters, sent the force and the army marched because all the roads were broken. You must have seen how the dead bodies were lying there for months. (*Interruptions*) In view of those circumstances, a separate ministry should be formed by 11 States collectively.

As far as global warming is concerned, it is a matter of concern now. Anurag ji is present here. You know that areas like Una in Himachal Pradesh are extremely hot, and there is snow in Lahaul Spiti and Kinnaur. There are many areas in these states where normal life exists only for four months. People live in snowy harsh weather conditions throughout the year. Should we not worry about global

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warming while sitting in this House? I would like to mention that global warming should be discussed earlier in London and at the University of Birmingham. On 21 July 2003, a conference was held at the University of Buckingham, which was an international meeting. It was said there that due to global warming, Himalayan glaciers may disappear within 40 years. India may have to face threat of drought and famine.

Hon. Sir, this was published in the leading newspaper named Times of London or in the book named Himalayan Misconceptions and Distortions-what are the facts. Reports of many people have been published in it. Serhajben's report had come that the glaciers of that region in the Central Himalayas may disappear by the year 2035. Shri Barry, who must have been participating in that conference, said that the average temperature of the open atmosphere is decreasing with height at the rate of about 6 degrees per kilometre, due to which the DALR is moving towards 9.8 degrees per kilometre. It is believed that a parallel line is running along the ice in the Central Himalayas and, an increase of 7 thousand meters will be required for all the glaciers to disappear which is about 5 thousand MAAL presently. If there is such a big danger, then we should express our concerns about with

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respect to this report in the House. Development should not be such that might be the reason for global warming which could affect Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh. I would like to tell you that I agree with Prof. Saugata Roy that the way the tectonic plates are rubbing against each other is causing earthquakes and cloudbursts, but along with that, water sources are also drying up. I would not like to go into detail.

Sir, Virendra Kashyap ji had brought a proposal on this earlier also. On 3rd July and 10th July, 2009, when we were in the 15th Lok Sabha, we had discussed this at that time too. At that time he had proposed for formation of a board. Anurag ji had also participated in that debate. I think that in the 50th National Development Council meeting in which the Chief Ministers of the states are present, the then Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal ji had said which we are discussing today. Here we have already discussed that resolution. Today a separate ministry has been created in the North East that work was also done by Atal ji. I think that the Ministry of Himalayan range will also be created and the work of creating the Ministry will be done by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji only and it will definitely happen. ... (*Interruptions*)

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PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Did you praise Atal ji at that time? ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: We always did that. I did never criticize Atal ji. ... (*Interruptions*) Prof. Sahab, I am talking about you. ... (*Interruptions*) But I think when we used to talk about Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Golden Quadrilateral Yojana, they were discussed in detail. There was no one who did not talk about them. ... (*Interruptions*) That is why I think that after such a big natural disaster that has come today, an important issue has come up. Regarding that important issue, I would like to tell you that geographical boundaries should definitely be made for our 11 states, while you are saying something else. There should be coordination among them and there should be a Central Ministry. Jammu and Kashmir has the status of a special state and we also give 90 percent special grant to Uttarakhand. In this way, those schemes will also benefit, because the Forest Conservation Act has come. You are also aware of the fact that today the development of many areas has stopped. If one has to build a kilometre of road there, the cost of building road there is manifold than the cost of a road in the plains because all the material comes from plains. That is why the conditions there are different. We talk about development. It has been more than

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a year since the Kedarnath incident, but we have not been able to build a road or a bridge yet. After all, the people who live in those villages are living and working in very difficult conditions.

Regarding the districts that exist today, the Planning Commission had said on 17 March that we will create a ministry for this. Today, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank Ji also mentioned the year 2004, then Dada will say that you are talking about Atal Ji, at that time an inter-Ministerial task force was formed, whose meeting was also held. But after that, there was talk of forming a Trans-Himalayan Development Authority, but it could not be created, I would not like to go into its details. But if something could not be done in the past, I would like to remain in related discussion, I think that perhaps it would have been the credit of the 16th Lok Sabha, after the Kedarnath tragedy, no one can stop the recurrence of such incidents, but it can be reduced. If studies are done there, and definitely cloudbursts or earthquakes can be prevented. If a Ministry is formed, there will be studies on it, information will also be available on what

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changes are taking place in which area. You see that glaciers are receding. Those are the things on which we should focus. But today the situation is such that such incidents were never imagined, therefore, such preparations were never made. Even today if we leave such big incidents to only one state, then I think, these are not the only circumstances, today Nepal is involved with it, the way there is a threat from Maoism, the way China has its eyes on Sikkim, today there are many states on the international borders and threat of terrorism is looming large on our international borders and there is a need for coordination between Centre and State to tackle the same. There is coordination in our federal structure. Time and again our Hon. Prime Minister is assuring this House, assuring the country that we can do development only when there is coordination between the State and the Centre. When the Centre is continuously talking about giving support in that, then it is absolutely correct that we should form such a Ministry keeping in view the conditions of those states. Today, we talked about water resources for that

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state and said that we are giving the maximum cubic water in the country. After all, how many Himalayan rivers originate from there! There are rivers like Chenab, Ravi, Vyas, Jhelum, Brahmaputra, Ganga etc. It is not just about Ganga, after all these rivers are from the Himalayas. So what kind of demand is increasing on these rivers today, how much electricity is required in the country at present, today hydro has the maximum potential, we have probably been in the Energy Committee also and the thermal resource which is coal, it is not a topic that it will get exhausted someday.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Jagdambika ji, please conclude now.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I wanted to say a lot of things. There is one lakh MW of hydro potential. The way the work should be done to scatter even that one lakh MW is not being done. For the last two years, it is not to be said at this point of time, but if there is no full-time in NHPC, I think today we can supply electricity to the whole country from these states. Despite this, there can be surplus electricity. On one hand, we can generate electricity here, the natural resources here can be used for the benefit of the people of the whole country,

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thirdly we can take measures to deal with challenges like natural disasters and with the cooperation of the Central Information Ministry, and we can develop there very fast. Looking at the unity among themselves, when there will be one Ministry of these eleven states, then the meeting of those Chief Ministers who are connected to the borders of our country together is definitely very meaningful, very useful and has a great utility. I emphasize and support the resolution that they have brought and I hope that the House will pass it.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have spoken just after Prof. Saugata Roy but Mr. P.D. Rai, my friend, wanted to speak as he has some other work to do. This is the last day of this week and I thought that I will give my space to him but I found that subsequently two other Members also have spoken who have wider knowledge about the Himalayan region.

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank of course has moved this Resolution today and it deals with two major aspects – speedy development and conservation. These are the two aspects on which we should be deliberating upon instead of wasting our time upon the

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purity of the water of the Ganges, the Hindutva and whether other religions have any significance relating to the Himalayas.

The four priorities set out by the hon. Member in the Resolution are as follows. First is to identify backward areas of Himalayan States and ensure their overall development and conservation. The second priority is to provide special financial packages for development of backward areas particularly, border areas. As far as I understand, all the States that are on the foothills or on the Himalayas are getting special category status, and what better financial packages would there be I think The Hon. Minister will be mentioning while replying to the debate.

The third priority is to take effective measures to check cross border infiltration. I have not heard anyone who has spoken on this aspect.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: BJP should.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Cross border infiltration is related not just to Bangladesh, it is related to China border, it is related to Nepal border. This Resolution is not relating to Bangladesh, Prof. Roy, you need not worry.

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Cross border infiltration is occurring from Nepal and that is also a great problem for India as a whole, and that is also affecting Kashmir valley. In that respect this needs deliberation.

The fourth priority is to recommend to the Union Ministries concerned for laying of new Railway lines, establishment of hydro power projects, construction of roads and other infrastructural development projects and to strengthen economy by setting up of industries based on natural resources available in the Himalayan States. These are the major points which the hon. Member moved in his Resolution.

I would start with saying this. The name 'Himalaya' has been derived from two Sanskrit words. One is *hima* and the other is *alaya*. That is how the name Himalaya has come into use. It means the Abode of Snow. In English language we have a number of words relating to snow, ice and other forms and other than Sanskrit, in our traditional languages we do not find so many words describing the various stages of ice, snow or other aspects.

Here when we talk about Himalayas we have to also understand the massive Himalayan arc that extends over 2500 km between Nanga Parbat in west and Namcha Barwa in the east. Here I would say, Mr.

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Chairman, the higher regions of the Himalayas are snow bound throughout the year and in spite of their proximity to the tropics, the perpetual snow level seldom falls below 5,500 metres. The Himalayan ranges encompass numerous glaciers. Notable amongst them is the Siachen which is the largest glacier in the world outside the polar region.

The Himalayan glaciers are the source for several large perennial rivers which in turn further define and shape the mountain configuration and the rain into major river system of the continent. The Himalayan region is dotted with hundreds of small and big crystal clear lakes. It is not only glaciers, it has many crystal clear lakes many of which are considered sacrosanct by the followers of various religions, not only Hindus. Here I would say there are several religious places or sanctum sanctorums in the Himalayan region.

Buddhism has Tawang and Rumtek monasteries, Dharamshala Buddhist temple and Mono Bukur; in Hinduism, there are Kamakhya, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Vaishnodevi and Sri Amarnath temples; in Sikhism, we have Nishan Sahib, Nanak Sahib, Hemkund Sahib, Ponta Sahib, Manikaran Sahib and Pather Sahib; in Islam, there are Hazratbal and Charar-e-sharief shrines and Piran Kaliyar; in Christianity, there is the Catholic Cathedral at Kohima and

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Baptist Church in Mizoram. So, it is not only one religion. Of course, we Hindus treat the Himalayas as an abode of God but there are other religions also who treat this Himalayan range equally.

I would say, the Himalayan ranges have a profound effect on the climate of the Indian sub-continent and the Tibetan plateau. They prevent the frigid and dry Arctic winds from flowing south into the sub-continent, keeping South Asia much warmer when compared to the regions located between corresponding latitudes throughout the globe. They are a barrier for the moisture laden monsoon winds preventing them from travelling further northwards and thus facilitating timely and heavy precipitation in the entire northern India.

I would say, during winters, the Himalayan ranges pose a barrier to storms coming from the west and as a consequence receive precipitation in the form of snow at higher ranges and rainfall in lower elevations and the adjacent plains of north India. Thus, there are two distinct periods of precipitation in IHR – first, the moderate amounts brought by western disturbances during winter; and secondly, the heavier precipitation during summer due to southerly monsoon winds. The winter precipitation is more pronounced in the western Himalayas in comparison to the eastern Himalayan region while the reverse is true for the summer monsoon.

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Despite being a general barrier to the cold northerly winter winds, the Brahmaputra valley receives part of the frigid winds causing substantial lowering of temperature in North-East India, helping north-east monsoon to occur during that season.

We have river systems, where the western rivers flow into the Indus valley basin. The other Himalayan rivers drain into the Ganga-Brahmaputra region. As the only exception, the eastern most glacial river feeds the Irrawady river basin which originates in eastern Tibet, flows south through Myanmar and finally drains into the Andaman Sea. So, when we are talking about the river basins of the Himalayas, we have to keep these three in consideration.

With such a profound influence on the regional climate and due to great variations in altitude and latitude, the Himalayan region nurtures a staggering bio-diversity of flora and fauna. The Indian Himalayan Region accounts for around 70 per cent of the Himalayan bio-diversity hotspots. Recognition of the Himalayas as one of the 34 global bio-diversity hotspots aptly reflects its wide ranging ecological significance.

In the religious traditions of India, the Himalayas as an entity has been personified as Himavan, the father of Lord Shiva's consort

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Parvathi. Multiple ethnic compositions are a striking feature of this region. More than 170 of the total 701 Scheduled Tribes of India inhabit this region. The Tribal Affairs Minister was here. I would be happy if he takes cognisance of this information.

There is a distinct social awareness on conservation and natural resource management as reflected by the origin of world famous environment movement Chipko and the existence of a number of traditional institutions. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Mahtab, just for a moment, will you take your seat?

I have to inform the hon. Members that two hours have already been taken on this Resolution, thus, almost exhausting the time allotted for this discussion. As there are six more hon. Members to take part in the discussion on this Resolution, the House has to extend 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 HON. MEMBERS: Agreed. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: At 6 o'clock, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

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... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Exactly at 6 o'clock, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My suggestion would be that I will take another 5-7 minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time for discussing this Resolution is extended by one hour, with the consensus of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Let me complete it and then you can take up 'Zero Hour'. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already informed that at 6 o'clock, we will take up 'Zero Hour', by which time, Shri Mahtab can conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: In the initial years after Independence, especially up to the 5th Five Year Plan, that is, 1974-79, the approach to development of the Himalayan Region was no different from that of the rest of the country, as there was little

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appreciation of the unique problems and developmental needs of the Himalayan Region. In the 5th Five Year Plan, for the first time, the developmental issues of the Himalayan Region and the problems of the hill areas of the country were recognized. It was in consideration of this that a Special Hill Area Development Programme was initiated during the 5th Five Year Plan period. However, development programmes based on sectoral approach implemented during the 1970s made limited impact in the hill areas of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Singh, I have to say something about our Prime Minister. So, I would request you to kindly pay some attention.

I am referring to the 5th Five Year Plan, when a change was made, but it had very little impact. So, in recent years, the need to integrate development with environmental concerns has taken the centre-stage, which was accepted and articulated in policy documents with greater regularity. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him continue; kindly do not interrupt him.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The hill areas of the country are faced with certain peculiar problems inhibiting the process of development. On account of the difficult terrain, variable agro-

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climatic conditions, distinct social and cultural features, the hill areas have remained backward.

Today, the thinking for the plains continue – this is the problem in our planning – to dictate the resource-use of Himalayan Region. I need not go into the details, but here, I would say that you have to make the western Himalayan Region and the eastern Himalayan Region; severe soil erosion takes place in Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Aluminum toxicity and soil acidity, soil erosion and floods, sifting cultivation, non-availability of electricity, poor road, poor input delivery system and communication infrastructure, etc. are prevalent in North Eastern States - in Assam and in Sikkim too. But in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, we have severe soil erosion and we have degradation due to heavy rainfall.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sorry to interrupt you. It is already 6 o'clock.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: My only request to you is this. I will take hardly another 3-4 minutes. Let me conclude and after that, let the House take up the 'Zero Hour'. It is up to you.

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18.00 hrs.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Is it possible to take it up next time? Next time when we will take up this Resolution you can continue your speech.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: We will not be taking up the Resolution next Friday. Next Friday we will be taking up Private Members' Bill. So, I could speak only after 15 days which will have very little impact. As the House decides, I have nothing to say.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House till 'Zero Hour' is over.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter. The distribution and issue of passports have ground to a halt all over the nation for the last few months and this is causing innumerable hardships to the students and those employed in foreign countries or those who wish to go for employment in foreign countries. The relevant authorities state that the imported paper and lamination sheets

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exclusively used for printing passports are not reaching the high security Press in Nasik on time. In my State around 3000 passports used to be issued every day from Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut offices which have now shrunk to one-third and it is going to reduce further.

The Tatkal passports that are usually delivered within a day for emergency purposes are also not being delivered on time and so do the regular issue of passports liable to be delivered in a month's time.

Considering the dire situation suffered by scores of Keralites, as you know a lot of students are going abroad for study or job and they are in a very difficult situation because of this hardship, I would urge upon the Ministry of External Affairs to take expeditious steps, issue necessary directions and have the necessary raw materials delivered at the earliest so as to resume delivery and issue of passports immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House and this country to a problem about which I can say that on the one hand the Constitution, the law

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and the rules of our country have been passed by this House, on the other hand, the people passing the law through which the law has to be passed and the qualifications fixed by the Union Public Service Commission for their examination have a very strange contradiction. On the one hand, this was passed in the House that our country's official language should be Hindi, our Indian languages should be respected, while the administrative authorities through which all the Government works are to be done are tested through UPSC, the course of that examination, the method adopted, I think, Hon. Chairperson, is unfortunate and the conspiracy behind it could be understood after knowing the truth.

Through you, I would like to say that UPSC has the responsibility of selection of administrative posts as well as all other posts and the course determined for the year 2010, the poor, farmers of the village are there as you yourself are from the rural background and know that the youth of the rural areas who used to clear the examinations, it is a different matter from the year 2011, during the tenures of the previous Government but we expect this Government will improve it. Ever since the C-SAT came into effect from the year 2011, this is the irony and you will be surprised if we present the figures before you.

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Hon. Chairperson Sir, if we talk about the preliminary examination of UPSC, where 45 per cent of the Hindi speaking students of rural areas in 2008, 42 per cent in 2009, 35 per cent in 2010 got passed in the pre-exams in Hindi language and Indian languages. In the CSAT exam, ever since this medium was introduced, the percentage dropped to 11 per cent in 2011 and 16 per cent in 2012 . This is the situation of the prelims exam. When we discuss the mains exam and the interview process, and you will be astonished to see the final results. I will not prolong my point....
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is over. Please state your demand in one line.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, this is the first time I am speaking during this Session with you presiding. This subject is so serious, and I seek your protection on this matter.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are speaking very well. I know. You are a very good speaker. Three minutes have passed.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, I request you. The number of candidates who passed through Hindi medium in 2009

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was 24 per cent and the result of 2013 has come down to only 2.3 per cent.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What percentage should it be?

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: The examinations should be conducted on the basis of the old syllabus. We are saying this. The Union Commission had constituted a committee. *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, I want your protection. We will never be adamant in front of you. We will always remain disciplined. The Union Commission had constituted the Shri Arun Nigvekar Committee. In the recommendations of that commission's committee, it was also said that this C-SAT examination system is purely against rural students. It is against Hindi language and Indian languages. Therefore, I request the Government through you to abolish the C-SAT system so that people from rural areas can join the Indian Administrative Services.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat should be associated with the issue raised by Shri Dharmendra Yadav.

YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Hon. Chairperson, thousands of people who prepare for UPSC through Indian languages are staging Dharna against the neglect of all Indian languages

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including Hindi in UPSC i.e. Union Public Service Commission and they are also on hunger strike for the last two-three days. This is a very serious matter and this matter is being raised for the third or fourth time in this House. This matter was raised many times in the fifteenth Lok Sabha also. This is a conspiracy against Indianness and Indian languages. The people who are hatching this conspiracy, even today want to forcibly impose the British tradition in Indian attire in India and hence through you we want to demand that the second question paper of C-SAT system in the preliminary examination should be removed because this system is against humanities, non-technical, non-management, graduate students and is in favour of graduates and post graduates in technical and management subjects. Therefore, this unequal competition i.e. C-SAT should be abolished. Wrong and complex translations should not be done in the preliminary and main examination because you must have seen in the Parliament how difficult and complex the English translations are. A common man will not be able to understand them. They should not be made like that. The level of compulsory English question paper in the main examination should be kept the same as that of the Hindi or Indian language question paper. It should not be made more difficult intentionally. The discrimination in checking the answer sheets of the

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main examination of General Studies should be ended. There is discrimination in that too. That should also be ended. Apart from this, injustice is done in the interview, those who speak English are given more marks and the candidate who appears in Indian languages or any other Indian language is discouraged there. This is not right. Therefore, we would like to request through you and also say that the movement which is going on, Hon. Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh is sitting here, I would request him that cognizance should be taken of the conspiracy that is being hatched against Indianness, against Indian languages through the highest examinations of the country, it should be exposed and the promising talent of this country which is today forced to sit on hunger strike, at least their views should be heard.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jagdambika Pal ji, your topic has already been discussed in the starred topic, still you are speaking.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Okay. We will speak after this.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri Rajendra Agarwal, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Shri Om Birla should be associated with the issue raised by Shri Yogi Adityanath ji.

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SHRI BHARAT SINGH (BALLIA): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak for the first time in Lok Sabha. I thank you on behalf of 20 lakh people of Ballia Lok Sabha constituency. Ballia has played the most decisive role in the independence of India. The revolution started with Ballia. Mangal Pandey ji lit the torch of revolution for the first time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is zero hour. Please speak on the topic.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: I am coming to the main topic. Today Ballia is being neglected so much. Azamgarh in neighbourhood has electricity for 24 hours. We were elected on 16 May, the power network of entire Purvanchal was destroyed.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dharmendra ji, why are you getting upset?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Let me speak.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: This is the birthplace of Chandrashekhar ji.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: I am not talking about Ballia only. The power system in the entire Purvanchal was destroyed after 16 May.

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The largest power grid of Asia is in Ibrahimpatti of Ballia. When hundreds of acres of land was taken from the farmers, the farmers were assured that electricity will be provided to Ballia from today. Till date not even a single unit of electricity has been provided to Ballia. Electricity goes to Himachal Pradesh, Delhi from the power grid Ibrahimpatti. Electricity is supplied everywhere but not to Ballia. Today the electricity wires of 1960-70s in Ballia have become dilapidated, accidents are happening every day due to the wires, loss of life and property is happening.

I would like to tell the Government of India through you that the wiring system of Ballia and Ghazipur districts should be changed. The dilapidated transformers should be replaced and the electricity system should be ensured. Azamgarh has electricity 24X&, if it is available in other places then why not in Ballia? What wrong Ballia has done? There should be no discrimination in Purvanchal. In India, in entire Uttar Pradesh, the standard of electricity should be equal in every district.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you conclude your speech please.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Sir, give me some time please. I am speaking for the first time.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time allotted to them is also allotted to you . . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Anything said without my permission will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech now.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH: Sir, I demand that equal arrangements for electricity should be made in the entire State of Purvanchal. Every district should get equal electricity, there should be no discrimination, no matter whose district it is. The Government of India should make arrangements to replace the dilapidated wires in Ballia.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am presenting a matter of urgent public importance before you, and perhaps it is a subject connected with the august House. This is not a report of mine, but rather a reflection of what should have been the normal rainfall across the country. Normally, the country receives 195.7 millimetres of rainfall during the month of June. From June 1st to July 2nd, if the country experiences normal rainfall, it should be 195.7 millimetres. However, in reality, only 109

* Not recorded.

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millimetres of rainfall occurred, as against the expected 195.7 millimetres. This is reported by the Indian Meteorological Department, which states that in the month of June, rainfall was 42 percent below normal. Naturally, when the Hon. Minister replies, he will say that the crop will be affected, but we have abundant storage capacity and there is no shortage of food. I assume that as per the requirement of the states of the country you will give food from the central pool in the PDS, but the kharif crop which the farmer sows from July 1, sows paddy or sets paddy or when the yield of pulses or oilseeds is low, the yield which has been expressed that there was clearly 264 MT yield in 2013-14 last year. This time the possibilities that are being shown are 261 metric tonnes. According to the Center for Monitoring India Economy, their monitoring suggests that the yield could decrease by around 6 percent. This was also mentioned in the economic survey report presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, which highlighted that the twin crises, one from the situation in Iraq and the other from the low monsoon in India—are likely to affect our GDP. The Government is also acknowledging that the low monsoon will not only harm crop production but also make it challenging to achieve the target agricultural growth rate of 4 per cent.

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Sir, on the one hand, the budget of the Union Government has come, which is definitely a dynamic budget, budget according to the sentiments and aspirations of the country and everyone has welcomed it. But on the other, an action plan should be prepared for all the states because of the nature. I demand through you when there is a truth that this is 42 per cent on an average and is more than that in some states. Even in states like Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, where monsoon used to arrive between June 10 and 15, the IMD data show that there has been 91 per cent deficient rainfall. If I say state-wise, it will take a lot of time, I do not want to take much time of the House in this regard. I would like to say one thing when you see, you are learned persons that abrasion occurs due to which many crises arise. Ponds of villages dry up, water level goes down, due to which there is more crisis for animals than individuals. I think some action plan should be made for those districts and reservoirs, ponds should be filled. Today, you must have seen the report in the morning that be it Mumbai or Delhi, there is a crisis of drinking water there too. If the water cut is happening in these metro cities, you can imagine what is happening in other states and remote areas of the country. In this way, there is a crisis of fodder for animals. For irrigation, I would say that extra supply of electricity should be made. I am not here to make demand from the centre. But

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there should be some coordination for this. At this time, the area of the farmer will definitely not be irrigated until the farmers who are able to sow the paddy in the absence of monsoon are able to fill the farm with the water. It should have additional electricity. There should be a district-wise action plan for drinking water. I think the Government should make a proper arrangement for all these things. Therefore, I request a reply from the Government, if it comes, I would be very grateful for it because this is not a political issue.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri P. P. Chaudhary associates himself with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, in the entire country including Rajasthan, passport booklets have not been printed for the last three months, due to which even after verification of passport, people going abroad are yearning for passport renewal for the last one month. This is a very important issue, because someone's father is ill, someone's child had to get admission, someone had to go for a serious matter. But one month has passed and the previous Government had ordered an Italian company to make microchips and due to failure of that microchip, neither the microchip could be made nor could the booklet be printed. Due to which people going abroad are making rounds to the passport office for the last one month.

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Hon. Chairperson Sir, I request the Government to take immediate action to get the passport booklets printed and take action to open a passport office in Kota because Kota is a city in Rajasthan where one lakh students study. The distance from there to the passport office is 250-350 kilometres. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to get the passport booklets printed and start a passport service centre in Kota as soon as possible.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri P.P. Chaudhary associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak. I have come to Parliament for the first time. I express my heartfelt gratitude to God, the party and my voters of Baghpat for the successful journey that I had from Khaki to Khadi and from Mumbai to Baghpat.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards a serious problem of my area. Under your leadership, we had gone to the hon. Minister of Railways with a delegation. If anyone wants to see the walking hell on this earth he should travel in the Shahdara-Saharanpur railway line. From 1907 to 1970, it was a

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narrow gauge line. In 1970, it was converted into a broad gauge line. But its speed is slow and from Khekra which is 20 kilometres from here or Baraut which is 50 kilometres away, it takes two hours to reach Delhi. Its speed is about 23 kilometres to 38 kilometres per hour. This is surprising and also a matter of concern. As they say that there is darkness under the lamp. So much development has taken place around Delhi, Baghpat is just 15 kilometres away, but development is 1500 kilometres away from here. Through you, I would like to request the Government and especially The Hon. Minister of Railways to make provision in this year's budget for doubling and electrification of this railway line. We are not demanding a bullet train. Our Hon. Minister of Railways and Metro Rail Corporation are requested to at least connect Baraut with the metro and Modinagar to Ghaziabad as well. We are not demanding a bullet train, we are asking for a very important basic thing, that is an express train. So that the people of Saharanpur as well, which includes several other districts, may get relief. You know very well that thousands and lakhs of people from this area have come and settled in Delhi due to lack of basic facilities and there is huge pressure of population on Delhi that the Government of Delhi and the Central Government have to spend a large amount of money, and have to make arrangement of water, sewerage, electricity

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for them. The hon. Prime Minister has said that 100 smart towns should be built. If we make Baghpat and Baraut smart cities and provide basic rail and road facilities, everyone will benefit greatly.

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD (MACHHALISHAHAR):

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I express thanks from the bottom of my heart that I have had the opportunity to speak in this zero hour for the first time. Today there is a beauty of this House that a person from the ordinary family can become a Member of this House. I am an example of that.

Sir, I am making a request that I represent the Machhali shahar Lok Sabha constituency of Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India. Banaras is next door. Regarding Banaras Airport, you are requested to beautify and expand it. This is my request to the Government through you.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in the zero hour.

Sir, while drawing the attention of the House towards the proposals to add languages to the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, I would like to tell you that almost all the Members of both the Houses of Parliament are in favour of including some language in the 8th

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Schedule. It is the demand of the people of the entire country that the language spoken by them should be recognised in their own country. The inclusion of various languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution has been discussed many times in the House under various rules. When the Constitution came into force, 14 languages were included in the Eighth Schedule. Through the amendments made in the Constitution from time to time, today 22 languages are included in the Eighth Schedule. Languages may be regional, but today in this fast-paced era, no one knows which person reaches where, everything has become global. No one knows where a person living somewhere is working, where he is doing business. India is a country of unity in diversity. The language, culture spoken here is the heritage of the entire country. Almost all the languages spoken in India have their own history, their own compositions and poems, folk songs, ragas, bhajans, serials, films etc.

Sir, the Government has given assurance on the demand raised in the House from time to time. During the 15th Lok Sabha, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, while replying under the Private Member Bill, said that the Union Government had formed a committee in the year 2003 under the chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mohapatra to consider the proposal to include languages in the Eighth

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Schedule. The committee had prepared a report in the year 2004 and sent it to the Ministry with recommendations, on which action is still being taken in the Ministry. At present, the consultation of the Union Public Service Commission is required on the proposal to include various languages in the Eighth Schedule. For this, the Commission had constituted a high level Standing Committee on 17 July 2009, whose report has not been received yet. Due to non-receipt of the report, the Union Government is unable to take a decision.

Sir, as far as I know, the Government of India has pending proposals to include 38 languages, among which Rajasthani language is one, which is spoken by about 10 crore people living in the country and abroad. This language also has its own literature, history, cinema and singing. Mahatma Gandhi had said that "A child learns the most in his mother tongue." It is also known that the Government does not have to allocate any budget for giving recognition to languages. The proposal for Rajasthani language was sent to the Parliament by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in the year 2003 with its consent, after which during the discussion in the House, the then Home Minister had assured to introduce a Bill to give recognition to the language on 17 December 2006, but then there was a Government of assurances, which kept giving assurances from 2006 to April 2014.

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But this time I would like to say in Rajasthani language that "This time Rajasthani language should get recognition".

Sir, I, therefore, request the Hon. Home Minister to consider the sentiments of the people of the country, the proposals of the MPs and the State Government and the assurances given by the Government and take a quick decision on them and include all the proposed languages, including the proposed Rajasthani language, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through constitutional amendment.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri C.R. Chaudhary and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri P.P. Chaudhary.

Dr. Naipal Singh ji.

Now you are here in the Parliament, not in the Legislative Council. This issue of law and order that you want to raise, you should raise it there every day. Present your views please.

DR. NAIPAL SINGH (RAMPUR): Sir, you were the leader of the Legislature, you kept me under pressure.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this House to an issue which is a cancer of politics and this cancer divides the society on religious grounds. It also affects the method of worship, it

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snatches away the fundamental rights, it boils religious sentiments among individuals. I will put before you such cancer of appeasement through an example.

Sir, there is a village called Chanderi Akbarpur in Moradabad district which falls in Kanth. People of a small Scheduled Caste live there. There is a very old temple of theirs there, there is a boundary around it. A loudspeaker used to play there. I have called it cancer because this is vulgar kind of politics. Sir, I don't know what happened there, who went to the police or who went to the administration, instead of trying to resolve the issue between the two communities, the police and administration people went there and snatched the mike and this created anger among the people there. This anger was natural. The method of worship is a fundamental right but gradually it is taking the form of a tradition. Angered by it, on the 27th they held a conference, a meeting in Kanth and said that we are being treated badly, both of us should have reconciled among ourselves. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Is it necessary to mention this incident?

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Sir, I am one of those who speak very little.

... *(Interruptions)*

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have called Dr. Naipal Singh. Apart from this, whatever the Hon. Members are saying, nothing will go on record, I have only called Dr. Naipal Singh Ji.

*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dharmendra ji, please sit down. The House is not being misled.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rajendra ji, I request you to refrain from speaking at this moment. Please do not cause any further disturbance. Kindly take your seat.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All of you, please sit down. Yogi ji, you also sit down please. Don't talk to each other please.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. Don't talk to each other.

*(Interruptions) ... **

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yogi ji, please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are from the Capital itself, please allow him to speak. Dr. Naipal Singh ji, kindly speak... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: See, it is not free for all. Please sit down.

Dr. Naipal Singh ji, you please speak and conclude your speech quickly.

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Sir, after that they called a Panchayat on 4th July. Police' atrocities increased and 62 people were locked up in the police station at around 11 o'clock. From 11 o'clock to 7 o'clock they were kept in 7x7 rooms where there was no water or fan. They were not even given water. I don't know which rule of the Government is this. They were kept in those rooms and at 7 o'clock they were beaten. The beating was such that they were hit with slippers on their cheeks, their cheeks and ears got swollen and they also had pain in their ears. Later they were beaten with sticks. They were kept in 7x7 rooms till 12-1 o'clock. ... (*Interruptions*) I want an excuse from hon. Yadav ji. I will ask for an inquiry; you get it done please ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Did you ask for some action?

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DR. NAIPAL SINGH: I am demanding. Hon. Chairperson, after this incident I had to go to Bijnor, I was stopped at Bhikanpur, Hon. Shri Saini was also there.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would like you to make the demand which the Union Government can fulfill.

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: That is what I am saying. I have now left that incident and moved on. Sir, we were not told on what grounds we were stopped. This becomes a question of privilege. From there we were taken to the police lines and kept there for six hours where there was no fan. Now, an MP who has no charge, no case against him, is kept like this, this becomes a question of privilege. I request that an inquiry should be initiated in this regard. Secondly, *...(Interruptions)* let me speak please, you also have the right to speak later.

Secondly, Sir, in Kanth, people were locked up at 11 o'clock, beaten and sent to jail the next day i.e. on 5th at around 3-4 o'clock. They were detained for about 24 hours and those who were present in the police station were booked under Section 302. I request that an inquiry should be initiated in this regard.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your issue has been discussed in detail, please sit down. You were given special permission.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Sir, I have two more points.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, this should be investigated by SIT. This should be investigated by a central agency.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should not get too enraged , the hon. Member will make the demand.

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, I have one more point which I would like to bring to your notice. Is the method of worship not a fundamental right? Is the method linked to the constitution in any way? One is allowed and the other is not? One keeps his worship place getting built. There were four religious places in the village which were half built, not constructed and mics were installed there.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your issue has come up. You had to raise one issue only, but you have raised dozens of issues along with.

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Sir, this is a matter concerning police' atrocities, and I request that a thorough investigation be conducted into this issue. I also urge Yadav ji to find out the facts.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: How will he give assurance?

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: If their Government is right there then it is very good, if it is not right then they should be blamed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no question of this or that Government here. You have put your point, now sit down please.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Sir, you are a very senior Member, so is Naipal Singh ji. When an MP is stopped entering the Parliament, a question of privilege arises.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member has made his point about his privilege. Why are you raising that issue? What is the need to raise it again and again? You sit down please.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I think communally sensitive issues should not be raised in Parliament. This should be a place where everybody can speak and raise issues which are not concerned with religion, communalisation etc., but raise only those issues which are common to everybody.... *(Interruptions)*

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Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to the State of West Bengal. The Left Front Government in West Bengal left a total outstanding debt of Rs. 2.03 lakh crore when it demitted office in May, 2011. As a result of this, the present Government in West Bengal has to pay roughly Rs. 28,000 crore in the current year as principal and interest to the Central Government and a total of Rs. 83 crore in the last three years which is being deducted directly from the State's dues. The Government of West Bengal has been pleading for the last three years for a moratorium on the payment of interest, but has not received any response so far. As a result of this, development work in the State is being hampered badly.

I would urge the Union Government and the Hon. Finance Minister, who has already presented the Union Budget yesterday, to take a positive decision in this matter. Unfortunately, in his Budget Speech, the Hon. Finance Minister has not announced any package for debt-stressed States like West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala which are suffering badly. Our State Government and our Party, the All India Trinamool Congress, will continue to agitate on this issue till it is resolved and a moratorium is declared on interest payment for at least three years.

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[Translation]

DR. NAIPAL SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, I would like to say one more thing.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Naipal ji, who will follow the ruling if you do not do it? You are one of the senior-most people in Uttar Pradesh. Let us maintain the dignity of the House. This is not proper.

There are a few more names in Zero Hour. Hon. Members will cooperate with me that those names I call, will please give their views in two minutes.

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, you gave me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour, I thank you. I also thank the people of Mohanlalganj, Lucknow who elected me and sent me here. I have come here for the first time. I would like to draw the attention of the House and the entire country to a very important issue.

Sir, you have been the Agriculture Minister in Uttar Pradesh. I have also been there. In our country, in the year 1994, a Bill was passed in the very Parliament - Dunkel Draft. One thing in that Dunkel Draft was that in India, the farmers will sow foreign hybrid seeds in the fields and will use foreign fertilizer DAP. Today, the foreign

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hybrid seeds are being given as an inducement, the crop produced from foreign hybrid seed is impotent and infertile. It does not yield any crop again, due to which the farmers of our country are no longer sowing indigenous seeds. They are buying that seed again and again and we cannot make that seed and that fertilizer because patent law has also been passed in our country. If indigenous seeds have vanished from our country, the DAP fertilizer that we apply, this fertilizer makes that farm a DAP addict. If we put that fertilizer in that field, then if we put any fertilizer the second time, then the crop will not grow in that way. In this way, a time will come when the multinational companies, which are coming to our country through WTO, will completely take over our agriculture. They will take the crop and our farmer will only do farming, he will get rent and will not get the crop. The way Maruti-Suzuki company came to our country and Suzuki has become the owner today by taking full share of Maruti. In the same way, these companies will take the crop from our fields.

I request that in order to give farming in the hands of farmers and to save farming in this country, the foreign hybrid seeds should be stopped. Hybrid seeds should be produced and DAP fertilizer should be banned in our country. Fertilizers should be made here which could

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be effective replacement for DAP because there is a ban on using DAP fertilizer in America and Britain.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak on an important issue.

Sir, the world famous Shravani Mela which is organized every year in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand is going to start from 13th July, 2014. In this fair, lakhs of Kanwariya devotees collect Ganga water from the Northern channel of Ganga, that is, Jahnavi located at Azgaibinath Dham, (Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Bihar) and perform Jal bhishek with this holy Ganga water at one of the twelve Jyotirlings, Baba Baidyanath Dham (Deoghar, Jharkhand). By the way, the Babadham Yatra is done on foot and by road throughout since the years, but the month of Shravan has a special significance, then lakhs of devotees walk on foot day and night on that 120 km long difficult remote path. In addition to devotees from our own country, devotees from more than a dozen countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago etc. also participate therein. This mela is a symbol of social harmony, national unity and integrity of our country in which people of all classes come together irrespective of their status and offer holy water to Baba

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Baidyanath Dham chanting "Bol Bam". They all chant 'Bada Bum, Chhota Bum, Bhaiya Bum, Bahna Bum, Mata Bum – this is Dwadash Jyotirlinga, our Social Harmony. With this event, the international image of the country is exposed all over the world and it conveys the message of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” to the whole world. It is our sweet wish:

"Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin: Sarve Santu Niramaya:

Sarve Bhadrani Pashyantu, Maa Kashchit Dukh
Bhagbhavet."

Hon. Chairperson, Through you, I would like to highlight that a large number of people from other religious communities also participate in this sacred Kaanwar pilgrimage, carrying their offerings as "Dak Bam" consistently. This holy fair is particularly related to two states, Bihar and Jharkhand. Therefore, the Central Government should take the initiative to establish coordination between these two States. Additionally, all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the successful organization of the event and to make the Kaanwar Yatra more convenient. The Government should grant this fair the status of a "National Pilgrimage Fair" and by giving it an international stature

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to project the best image of India's culture globally. For the smooth and well-organized management of this fair, I also urge the Government to form a "Pilgrimage Fair Development Authority." Along with the assistance provided by the State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand, I request that the Central Government provide separate financial aid to ensure the convenience and support to the Kanwariyas during their pilgrimage.

Hon. Chairperson, finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, Shri Arun Jaitley ji, and the entire cabinet for the announcement of five circuits under the Government's pilgrimage circuit initiative. Through you, I would like to request that all pilgrimage sites across India should not be linked to tourism. (*Interruptions*) This affects the sentiments associated with these sacred places. There should be a separate department dedicated to pilgrimages, as these are centres of faith. Also, I would like to propose that one of the five circuits mentioned in the Budget Speech should be designated as the Kanwariya Circuit. This circuit should stretch from Ajgaibinath Dham in Sultanganj to Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar, passing through Baba Basukinath, Mandaar Parvat, and Champa Nagri, Bhagalpur, which is home to the ancient Vikramshila University. (*Interruptions*) I urge the

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Government to consider creating a separate pilgrimage department alongside the tourism department.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should keep in mind that there is time up to seven o'clock and I would like it to be concluded by Seven o'clock.

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):
Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all, I thank you and thank the people of Maharajganj region of Bihar who have sent me to this House. I would like to draw your attention to an important issue and through you, I am drawing the attention of the Government as well. Sir, a main road connecting two countries which passes through Chhapra district (NH 101), Chhapra to Mohammadpur, Jalalpur, Baniyapur, Sahajidpur in the State of Bihar. Its condition is very bad. It is in such a dilapidated condition that it is difficult to even walk on it. Leave aside the movement of trains, it is even difficult to walk. Some stretches like from Jalalpur to Sahajidpur are in extremely poor condition though tenders have been issued and all formalities have been completed, but work is not progressing or, moving at a very slow pace..

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for the construction

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and repair of this road. Similarly, there is another important road, NH 85, which travels from Chhapra to Gopalganj and links two States. It connects Bihar and Uttar Pradesh at Gopalganj. This road has also deteriorated to such an extent that if a patient was to travel through it, one might fear she/he wouldn't survive the journey.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I humbly request the Government to ensure that NH 101 and NH 85 are made passable as soon as possible, and that the planned strengthening and reconstruction of these roads should be expedited. Sir, I thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to raise a very important issue through you. I come from the Bikaner Parliamentary Constituency, which shares one side its border with Pakistan. Recently, there have been reports of a major terrorist leader, a key figure behind several terrorist incidents in India, he has reportedly reached near Rajasthan border. While I do not wish to name this individual, it is a matter of concern that he has released a video. In the video, he targets villages in Pakistan with Hindu population, especially from the weaker sections of society. He is reportedly instigating them to obtain an Indian visa and to travel to India and carry out terrorist activities there. This situation raises

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serious security concerns, and I urge the Government to take immediate action to investigate and address this threat.

Through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to provide full details to all the relevant intelligence agencies, including the IB, BSF, and SSB. I urge that Pakistan be made aware, through diplomatic channels, of how an individual is located near the Rajasthan border and has been residing in those villages for several days. It is a matter of serious concern that Pakistan may be sheltering this individual. This matter requires immediate attention. We in Rajasthan have always lived in peace, but repeatedly, there have been alarming reports in the media indicating the presence of a major terrorist. This individual is reportedly instructing the Hindu community in the area to obtain religious visas, travel to India, carry out terrorist activities, and return to Pakistan, threatening that their families will face severe consequences if they do not comply. This is a matter of grave concern, and I urge the Government to take swift and decisive action. To prevent such incidents, the Government of India should resolve this issue with Pakistan at a diplomatic level so that peace can be maintained in our region.

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

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SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson Sir, due to the non-payment of sugarcane dues by the mills, farmers in the entire Uttar Pradesh, especially in Western Uttar Pradesh, are on the brink of collapse. You yourself belong to that region, so you are fully aware of these issues. The orders of the High Court and the Supreme Court are also being flouted in this matter. Even today, sugar mills owe more than seven thousand crore rupees to cane farmers in Uttar Pradesh, out of which approximately Rs. 1590 crore is only from Western Uttar Pradesh. The rural economy in Western Uttar Pradesh revolves around the payment of cane. Due to the non-payment, the situation is such that farmers are struggling for their daily expenses, unable to pay their children's fees and Bills. Family auspicious events like marriages are being postponed. I am stating this with full knowledge of the situation. The poor cane farmers there are falling victim to the conspiracy of the State Government and the sugar mill owners.

Through you, I request the Government to intervene in this matter so that the farmers' payments can be ensured promptly, and a system is put in place to prevent such conspiracies against cane farmers in the future.

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

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SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (BETUL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I seek permission to speak from here.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a serious matter of my Parliamentary Constituency. In 2011-12 my Parliamentary Constituency got a gift of Central School comprising both Betul District and Harda District.

Classes from One to Ninth are being continuously conducted in the Central School. However, there are still ongoing issues with the school building. In the previous year, 2013-14, the Kendriya Vidyalaya instructed the Central School in Betul district to add additional classes from First to Eighth. Unfortunately, due to the inadequacy of the building, there are still difficulties in running these classes effectively.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the issue concerning the classrooms for First to Ninth classes. In this regard, we have made a decision to utilize the Betul Government Primary Ganjshala and the Harda Government Kashibai Kanyashala buildings properly for this purpose. We believe these buildings can adequately accommodate the classrooms, ensuring that the classes run regularly. Therefore, I request that you kindly permit

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the operation of Central Schools in these two buildings from class First to Ninth. I request you to direct the Government in this regard, as the ongoing issues are significantly impacting the education of students. These difficulties are causing both mental and physical impact on the children who are currently studying under these circumstances in the current session. Therefore, I urge you to address this matter promptly to ensure as the students are being affected mentally and physically and find a solution as soon as possible.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 14th July, 2014 at 11 am.

18.56 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Monday, July 14, 2014/Ashadha 23, 1936 (Saka).*

11.07.2014

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