

Sixteenth Series, Vol.VI, No. 19

Thursday, December 18, 2014

Agrahayana 27, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Third Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

Sixteenth Series, Vol.VI, Third Session, 2014/1936 (Saka)

**No.19, Thursday, December 18, 2014/Agrahayana 27, 1936
(Saka)**

SUBJECT

PAGES

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS_c

Starred Question No.361 to 364

20-53

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

54

Starred Question Nos.365 to 380

Unstarred Question Nos.4141 to 4370

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER 55

Congratulations to Indian scientists
on successful launch of GSLV MK
III from Sriharikota

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 56-87**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE** 88-89

11th to 13th Reports

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 90

1st Report

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS 90
FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 91

1st to 3rd Reports

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

(i) 1st to 3rd Reports 92

(ii) Statements 93

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT 94

1st to 3rd Reports

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

3rd Report 95

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS 95-96

181st Report

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 9 DATED
24.11.2014 REGARDING RESERVATION FOR
WOMEN JUDGES ALONGWITH REASONS FOR
DELAY**

Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda 97-98

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on 'Availability of identified Non-conventional Resources of Energy-their potential vis-à-vis Utilization', pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Shri Piyush Goyal

99-100

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

101-135

Situation arising out of hike in Prices of Life
Saving Drugs and Prevalence of Spurious
Drugs resulting in serious health hazard

Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan

101

113-114

Shri Ananth Kumar

101-112,

125-132

Kumari Sushmita Dev

115-118

Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi

118-125

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda

132-135

GOVERNMENT BILLS- Introduced

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (i) Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other Related Law
(Amendment) Bill, 2014 | 136-137 |
| (ii) Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014 | 138-139 |

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

140-164

- (i) Need to include people belonging to
Musahar Scheduled Caste community
in the list of Scheduled Tribes

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey

140-143

- (ii) Need to set up a laboratory at B.J.
Medical College, Ahmedabad,
Gujarat on the lines of National
Institute of Virology, Pune

Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia

144-145

- (iii) Need to include people belonging to

Scheduled Caste Bengali community
living in Uttarakhand and Uttar
Pradesh in the list of Scheduled
Castes

Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari 146

- (iv) Need to extend Train No. 64904
running between Delhi and Mathura
upto Bharatpur, Rajasthan

Shri Bahadur Singh Koli 147-148

- (v) Need to take adequate measures for
socio-economic welfare of
differently-abled persons in the
country

Shri Maheish Girri 149

- (vi) Need to ensure equal educational
standards in all the
schools and colleges in the country

Dr. Satyapal Singh 150-151

- (vii) Need to construct an approach road to
Swarnagiri Fort in Jalore District,
Rajasthan

Shri Devji M. Patel

152

- (viii) Need to inter-link Palar and
Pennaiyar rivers in Tamil Nadu

Shri B. Senguttuvan

153-154

- (ix) Need to provide funds for repair and
maintenance of roads constructed
under the Pradhan Mantri Gram
Sadak Yojana in Krishnanagar
Parliamentary Constituency, West
Bengal

Shri Tapas Paul

155

- (x) Need to address the problems of jute
sector in the country

Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

156-157

- (xi) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a 300-bed Super Speciality Hospital at Sambhaji Nagar in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency

Shri Chandrakant B. Khaire

158-159

- (xii) Need to construct an over-bridge or under-pass on Gehri Mandi Jandiala Guru level-crossing in Khadoor Sahib Parliamentary Constituency, Punjab

Shri Ranjit Singh Brahmpura

160-161

- (xiii) Need to provide adequate power supply in Dhaurahra Parliamentary Constituency in UP

Shrimati Rekha Verma

162

- (xiv) Need to provide reservation in jobs,

promotions and educational institutions to people belonging to Other Backward Classes and also set up a separate Ministry to look into the issues pertaining to them

Shri Nana Patole

163-164

**MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2014**

165-229

Shrimati Anupriya Patel

165-169

Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi

169-174

Shri N. K. Premachandran

175-179

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

180-183

Shri Rajesh Ranjan

183-186

Shri Nana Patole

187-188

Shri Dushyant Chautala	188-191
Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma	191-196
Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan	196-199
Shri Anil Shirole	200
Shri P.P. Chaudhary	201-202
Shri Nitin Gadkari	202-228
Clauses 2 to 5 and 1	229
Motion to Pass	229-230

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	231-296
----------------------------------	----------------

Reported dilution of Mahatma Gandhi
National Rural Employment Guarantee
Scheme

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel	231-237
Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde	238-241

Shri Kadiyam Srihari	242-246
Shri Dhananjay Mahadik	247-251
Shri Prahlad Joshi	252-258
Shri Rajeev Satav	259-264
Shri Rajesh Ranjan	264-271
Shri Dharam Vira Gandhi	271-274
Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer	275-278
Shri Hukum Singh	279-282
Shri C.N. Jayadevan	283-286
Shrimati Anupriya Patel	287-290
Col. Sonaram Choudhary	291-296
Shri S. Rajendran	296-301

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 18, 2014/Agrahayana 27, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, with your permission, I would like to put forth my point...
(Interruptions)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): You please speak after the Question Hour.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Dubey Saheb, if you would have been in my place, you would have spoken more than me. However, unfortunately, you are not even getting a chance.

Madam, two to three Bills have been brought in the House and efforts are being made to get them passed. Our point is that according to the Business Transactions Rules, till date, any Bill comes here and gets passed by the House only in the rarest of the rare cases with your permission. But now, Bills are being brought as supplementary business. They are not discussed in the Business Advisory Committee. Suddenly, a Bill is brought as supplementary and is asked to be passed. If this approach continues, then it is not right. In parliamentary democracy, there are Standing Committees, and there is you. Decide it in the Business Advisory Committee. Whatever you decide, we will accept it.

HON. SPEAKER: We will decide this in the Business Advisory Committee this afternoon.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Though by overriding it.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Not going to be overridden.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is how things are going. He is accepting this. They have the full majority, so the perception that anything can be done, is not right.

HON. SPEAKER: We will discuss this in the Business Advisory Committee. Please let the Question Hour continue for now.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I am speaking to Naidu Saheb.

HON. SPEAKER: The message has reached him.

. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, we fully support Kharge Ji's point.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Not everyone will speak on this. This is not a subject.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Even an ant can trouble a mighty elephant, so do not consider us weak. Anything and everything is acceptable, this approach is not right....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh Ji, please, all of you do not speak. I have understood the sentiments of all of you. We will discuss this in the Business Advisory Committee.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam, we should get your protection.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have understood the sentiment of the House.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No.361, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

(Q.361)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam Speaker, drinking water problem of the three lakh people in the Kuttanad Taluk of Kerala is very pathetic. Kuttanad region is a low-lying area, below the sea level, surrounded by the Vembanad Lake. It is a merging place of four rivers like Achankovil, Pamba, Manimala and Meenachil. The situation is 'water water everywhere but not a drop to drink'.

There are 13 Gram Panchayats in Kuttanad area and we have a requirement of 26.7 MLD water. Various studies conducted in the area show that water in the Vembanad Lake is contaminated owing to continuous use of pesticides in the paddy fields of Kuttanad and the increased tourism activity at the lake. Various water-borne diseases, especially cancer, are the order of the day. Healthy living of the people is under threat due to water contamination. In order to provide safe drinking water, a comprehensive drinking water supply scheme is the only solution. The Kerala Water Authority in

the Government of Kerala has prepared a submitted a comprehensive water supply scheme for Rs.204 crore to Central Government for assistance under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), but JICA is not ready to assist the project.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will consider taking up the project with financial assistance of World Bank or any other financial sources. I would like to add one more point.

HON. SPEAKER: Let me remind you that second supplementary question is also there.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, in 15th Lok Sabha, you were the Chairman of Standing Committee on Rural Development. That Standing Committee had also recommended a comprehensive water supply scheme for Kuttanad. You are aware of that.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I remember that I went there on your request.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has rightly said that there is water problem in Kuttanad. It is in a way backwaters area. A project was

submitted, not to Government of India, but to have assistance from Japan, that is, between Japan and the Kerala Government. We processed and sent that proposal to the concerned Japanese agency and ultimately they did not approve the project.

At present, there is a project which covers 14 Gram Panchayats. The total population of this area is 2.5 lakh. Kavalam Panchayat is having drinking water problem and water is supplied through tankers. There are 13,000 Household connections and 2,600 public standposts from where water is collected. But as I have quoted, the Kerala Government wanted to have this project through JICA and JICA is a funding agency of Japan. They did give some help to certain other projects. As far as this project is concerned, they did not agree and ultimately we had to send the project back to Kerala Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the second supplementary question may be asked by the Member.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: My question is with regard to a comprehensive water supply scheme for Kuttanad. I know that JICA have not approved the proposal. But what is the alternative? I would invite your kind attention to this problem. You have been

eye-witness to the problem in Kuttanad. You have been there in a lot of events and asked the people about their problems.

Another important issue is the sanitation. There is no facility for sanitation in Kuttanad. The Government of Kerala has prepared two projects- a drinking water project as well as a sanitation project. But the sanitation project is also pending with the Central Government. Drinking water and sanitation are very urgent for people of Kuttanad. You are aware of that. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has considered a comprehensive drinking water supply scheme as well as a comprehensive sanitation scheme for Kuttanad.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: As far as drinking water is concerned, that is the object of the Government. By 2022, we would be covering at least 90 percent of rural Household Houses through piped water and 80 percentHouseholds will be provided water connections. As far as comprehensive water supply project for Kuttanad is concerned, it has been sent back to the Kerala Government. But there is a possibility that the World Bank may agree to this. So, if it is sent to our Ministry, we would certainly recommend it to the World Bank.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Some initiatives should be taken from your side too, I have seen it myself, and in fact the whole area is in crisis. Both sides should take some initiatives in this area.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, I have already said that the situation is indeed pathetic and there is a huge need to address the drinking water problem. The State Government made efforts for this and wanted to have an agreement with Japan, we also tried, and it was also reviewed twice.

HON. SPEAKER: There is also sanitation problem there, the entire area remains affected .

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: When we are in a position to provide drinking water, sanitation would follow.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has replied in great detail about the Foreign Aided Drinking Water Project. I thank the Minister on this occasion. I hail from Rajasthan and also represent Bikaner Parliamentary Constituency in Rajasthan. I was looking at Annexure-1, in which our friend Suresh Ji was just mentioning that there are three projects related to Kerala in this. Apart from that, I was also

looking at Annexure-2, in which there is one project related to Punjab - the Punjab Rural Water and Sanitation Improvement Project. With the resolution of this project, there is a possibility of addressing some issues in the Bikaner Parliamentary Constituency as well, where canal water is supplied via Ganganagar and Hanumangarh to Bikaner. But the water in the canal is not potable, and people are forced to drink dirty water. This project might offer a possible solution to that.

Through you, I would like to know from the Minister that in the Foreign Aided Drinking Water Project, if you see Annexure-1, then for states like Kerala there are three, and some other states also have one or two, then in Rajasthan there is a major problem of drinking water, whereas graphically Rajasthan is the largest state of this country. Therefore, in the Foreign Aided Project, the project which is already ongoing, the fluoride-affected JICA one, which is related to Nagaur, will there be an extension or the ongoing project that you have mentioned, can the government give any completion date of that project? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, as the Hon. Member has stated, there is a huge project to overcome the problem

of drinking water in Punjab and a population of 74 lakhs will benefit from that project. It is also true that it has a population living along the border of Rajasthan is also covered. This is a project worth 1280 Crores, in which 154 million US dollars have been taken from the World Bank and the Government of India has a contribution of 15 percent, the rest will be given by the State Government.

As far as he has mentioned about Rajasthan, there is a very ambitious and large project in Nagaur, which will benefit more than 22 lakh people. This is the Rajasthan Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project, Nagaur. It includes ten different small schemes, and the expenditure in this project is Rs. 2,938 crore. The Hon. Member wanted to know about its timeline. I would like to inform that it was started in January 2013 and is expected to be completed by January 2020. As of now, there is no sanitation component included in it, only drinking water has been included, because there is an extremely severe problem of drinking water there.

[English]

SHRI KADIYAM SRIHARI: Madam Speaker, unfortunately, even after 67 years of Independence, half of the villages in the

country are not provided with safe drinking water. In half of the villages, even today, we are not having schemes to protect water. People are consuming contaminated water which is fluoride affected, nitrate affected, iron affected and it is also affected by solid dissolves. By consuming such contaminated water, they are subjected to all health problems. In some areas, people are not getting even raw or surface water. To overcome such a problem, the Gujarat Government under the dynamic leadership of our present Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, conceived a water project through which they are supplying water to 8215 habitations and 135 towns.

Taking Gujarat model into account and also taking Modiji as inspiration, the Government of Telangana conceived a project through which it wants to provide water to nearly 24,600 habitations, 62 municipalities and five corporations by spending Rs.32,000 crore in the next four years. It is a very ambitious project.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any study was made on the availability of water as also on fluoride affected areas and whether the Government is giving priority to such areas or regions.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government supports the States like Telangana which on its own wants to take up such big projects and whether you would facilitate foreign aid to complete such ambitious projects which are taking place in Telangana.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has asked about Telangana and he has also talked about the habitations. There are about 16,96,000 habitations in our country. There is 100 percent population coverage who gets 40 extra litres per head per day in 73.6 percent uptil now which comes to 12,49,695 habitations and partially covered where the requirement is met get less than 40 litres per head per day which comes to 3,68,463 habitations which is 21.7 percent.

He has put a very relevant question about quality. There are about 78,506 habitations in our country where the quality of water definitely cannot be said that it is drinkable. The definition of water quality affected habitations is that any parameter exceeding permissible limit prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards, that is 10500 and out of total habitations which I have talked about, that is, 78,500, 1991 are affected by arsenic. There are 14,132 habitations which are affected by fluoride; salinity affected

habitations are 17,472; habitations where iron content is there are 42,093; and nitrate content affected are 2818. That means 78,506 are affected by these kinds of minerals and other fluorides.

Madam, as far as Telangana is concerned, he has said that about 24,600 habitations. I have already answered to the hon. Member that by 2022, we would be covering the entire country with 90 percent piped water. As far as Telangana is concerned, we have received a request letter from Telangana but no formal proposal has been made by Telangana.

HON. SPEAKER: You ask the State Government to send a formal proposal.

(Q.362)

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Madam Speaker, According to the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), the Tamil Nadu State Government recommended and have submitted 11 proposals worth Rs.67.60 Crore for the year 2013-14 to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. However, it was not sanctioned citing the reason that the Annual Action Plan was not in the revised template. Thereafter, the Government of Tamil Nadu submitted a revised proposal as per prescribed template on 4th April, 2014.

In the reply given by the Government of India, it is stated that 8 proposals received and one proposal was received through AAP. It is disheartening to see that the proposals of the Tamil Nadu Government have not been approved by the Central Government.

Our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has high considerations and kind heartedness for the welfare of women in Tamil Nadu. Obtaining Central funds under the scheme to speed up implementation of the women oriented welfare schemes is the foremost concern of the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

In view of the above, I would like to know the reasons for not approving the proposals of the Tamil Nadu under the scheme. I would also like to know whether the Government of India have informed about such reasons for delay to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, Tamil Nadu has forwarded eight proposals from the State and under MSKP, there are two ways to send the proposal. One is under the annual plan and if some proposal is sent under the annual plan, then the release of the fund or the approval of the proposal becomes easy for the Government because the entire mechanism is to be drawn by the particular State Government. But when there is a proposal from some one like NGO or some other community organization, then we have to see the entire background of the NGO and others. Accordingly, we could not clear all the eight proposals – four were sent in 2011; two in 2012; and two in 2013. So, eight proposals of Tamil Nadu could not find the approval because of certain infirmities.

HON. SPEAKER: You must have given them those reasons.

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Tamil Nadu is the pioneer State in formation of women Self Help Groups to empower the women.

Under the leadership of our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the woman SHGs have spread fast all over the State. As MKSP is the part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), I would like to know whether the Central Government have any special and separate scheme to develop Self Help Groups especially for rural women in the country including Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof, proposals received and approved, budgetary allocations made/released to various States including Tamil Nadu and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, as I have mentioned, the Government of Tamil Nadu had sent 8 proposals in three years. No proposal was found up to the mark. If the State of Tamil Nadu comes with fresh proposals, then we can consider them and certainly if everything is found to be in order, those would be approved.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam Speaker, through this question we are talking about the empowerment of women farmers. Maharashtra has been facing drought for the last two-three years and severe drought condition prevails this time due to which every day thirty to forty farmers are committing suicide in Maharashtra.

Even in my own Hingoli area, two-three farmers are committing suicide every day.

My question to the Government through you is, will the Union Government announce a separate scheme for the empowerment of women farmers of Vidarbha and Marathwada in Maharashtra?

HON. SPEAKER: Has the proposal been forwarded ?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked what new steps can be taken in case of drought. The very meaning of the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana was that such women, whose only occupation is agriculture, and even that occupation is not entirely theirs, but belongs to their family or husband, for their assistance, this project was initiated in 2010–11, this was the primary objective of this Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana - to meet the specific needs of woman farmers the scheme is being launched and a sum of Rs. 100 crore was provided by the then Finance Minister in the scheme. The scheme was to be implemented through NRL.

There are 10 crore such households in the country where women are engaged in agriculture-based occupations. Under this scheme, these were identified, and nearly 8 crore such Households

were found that could be reached through the women empowerment programme. It was assumed that where agriculture exists, some additional activity could be integrated, and where forest land is available, their basic occupation, such as collecting leaves or other activities, could be supplemented with farming. An attempt was also made to associate poultry farming with it. In this way, in several places, we saw that through this programme, the poor, those who are classified as ultra-poor, and whose number is around 3 crore Households, were also supported by attempting to provide two livelihood options simultaneously. But as I said, this scheme started in 2010–11, and I can say that the results are yet to come.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam Speaker, there was no reply to my question.

HON. SPEAKER: If you forward the proposal for Vidarbha then we will do it.

Shri Manshankar Ninama. This is about Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran. That is what your question should be confined only to this in particular.

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Madam Speaker, thank you very much for allowing me to ask a supplementary question on this issue related to women farmers.

Madam, as you may be aware, the sex ratio in Rajasthan is very low. Much needs to be done for the upliftment of women. Through you, I would like to know whether there is any proposal under consideration for special allocation under the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana ? If yes, what are the details in this regard?

HON. SPEAKER: Please inform, whether any proposal has come from Rajasthan.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Yes, 15 proposals have been received from Rajasthan. 12 proposals were received in 2011, 2 proposals in 2011 and 2 proposals in the year 2013. We did not receive any proposals in 2014, but out of these 15 proposals, only one got approved.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): *Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana* was aimed at meeting the special needs of the women farmers and to empower them technically and socio-economically.

It is a sub-component of the National Livelihood Rural Mission. I would like to know if any in-depth analysis has been conducted to know whether this specific aim is met and the woman farmers indulging in small and marginal farming benefited out of this scheme.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: As I have mentioned, there are about 10 crore Households. Out of 10 crore Households, we have identified three crore Households which could be categorized as ultra poor Households. The scheme was launched on that basis. The scheme was launched in 2011-12. Till now, a sum of Rs. 40 crore has been allocated to the scheme and this allocation is demand based. I mentioned the case of the State of Rajasthan. They sent 15 projects, out of which one project was sanctioned. When there would be more demands we would be coming forward with more allocations.

Moreover, if a woman is totally engaged in agriculture we would like that she should also adopt one or two other agriculture allied professions. By that she can improve upon her income. Some of the surveys have shown that in one crop where this group is identified, the income has gone up by more than Rs.30,000 than what it used to be. When it comes to two crops or six months, it has

come to Rs. 60,000. The project is basically to empower them economically and socially.

HON. SPEAKER: Is it not technically? It is not for the empowerment of women farmers. Are there no woman-friendly technology or woman-friendly tools?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, that is what I have said. When we talk of agriculture, we have suggested them not to use pesticides and chemical fertilizers, instead they should use cow dung and others by which they can improve upon their produce. This has been established technologically that where chemical fertilizer is not used, the yield has not come down, but instead has gone up. These are the innovations.

(Q.363)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Madam Speaker, the Union Rural Development Ministry has started a skill development-based employment and training programme in the terror-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir so that by providing employment opportunities to the youth there, they can be brought into the mainstream of the nation.

Implementing this programme in Naxal-affected areas of the country as well is also the need of the hour.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Hon. Minister through you is whether the Government has taken any steps to train the youth of Naxal-affected areas of the country for skill-based employment, especially the Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra state, which is highly affected by Naxalite and is also very backward? So that employment opportunities can be provided to the youth affected by Naxalism and they can be included in the mainstream of nationalism.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, we have identified certain areas under NRLM. As the Hon. Member

has himself mentioned, we launched a scheme called Himayat to connect the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the national mainstream. We have launched the Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana. Under this, it was also stated that out of those who will be trained, 75% will be given employment in some sector or the other. These are two different schemes of this nature. One is the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), under which they are trained and their skills are developed, so that they can start their own work. The second is the Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, under which we have started working with major Houses who will provide in-House training and ensure that after the training, those people are also given employment.

Apart from that, there are some other schemes as well. As I mentioned, the Himayat scheme is for Jammu & Kashmir, similarly, there is a scheme called Roshni for Naxal-affected areas. Under this, we bring the youth from those regions outside their areas and arrange for their accommodation, food, clothing, education, training, etc. They are given training to make them capable of taking up employment. In this way, these are two different schemes.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Madam Speaker, my second supplementary question is that, in the country, especially in the state of Maharashtra, among the youth who have received training and been provided employment, how many belong to the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and OBC categories, and is this number sufficient?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, as I have mentioned that, under the DDU-GKY, 37 projects have been received under which we provide them skill training. In Maharashtra, we have so far provided training to 50,193 candidates, and they have benefitted from that training. The entire budget for these 50,193 individuals has been sanctioned by the government.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam, through you, I want to ask a question to the hon. Minister.

In 2013-14, under skill development training, the target was to train five crore unemployed educated persons in the Labour Department, in the MSME sector, Education Department, and all other sections put together. Mahatma Rashtriya Udyog

KhatriYojana and Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme are addressing the rural masses to give employment to educated unemployed people. This time, MNREGA was to be allocated more funds but they were not able to sanction those funds. The target under the Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme is to employ one crore educated unemployed in 650 districts. That was the plan. The main object was to give proper training, to educate them properly in order to create employment for them because more than 50 crore people, including students and the educated ones, are unemployed in this country.

I cannot understand what the hon. Minister is planning to do. He is a very senior leader in this side, but so junior in that side. The answer is not coming properly. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not proper. Nobody is junior or senior here.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Shri Birender Singh is a very good friend of mine.

HON. SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: He was in-charge of Karnataka. ...
(*Interruptions*) I do respect him.... (*Interruptions*) He is a senior leader of Congress.... (*Interruptions*) He's become junior now, not on that side but from this side.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are a senior, please ask the question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any comprehensive programme for the educated unemployed in this country. More than 50 crore people are agitating for jobs.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any comprehensive programme for skill training and also for employment? Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister. The Question is about rural employment – Training to unemployed youth in rural areas.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, he can hear political answers when I give reply to the discussion under Rule 193 on MNREGA. You will get a complete reply from me as to whether I am junior here or whether I was junior there. ...
(*Interruptions*)

As I have told you, regarding the physical achievement of skill development and placement of trainees, I would like to say that the number of candidates targetted for training under the DDUGKY Scheme, in 12th Plan period, in 2012-13, were 2,12,000. The candidates who were trained were more than that, that is 2,17,997; and the candidates who have got the placement were 1,62,552.

It has been made very clear that under the DDUGKY Scheme, 75 percent of the total would be assured jobs. That is the aim of giving training under the DDUGKY Scheme. In 2013-14, 2,50,000 candidates were targetted and the training was given to 2,01,019. Out of 2,01,019, around 1,37,417 candidates were placed, that is they were given employment. Till October 2014, the target with regard to training was 2,10,000 and we have given training to 46,998 candidates. Out of 46,998 candidates, 23,000 candidates have been placed.

As far as achieving the targets of 12th Five Year Plan, I have a State-wise list of the information, giving details about the number of candidates who were given training and the number of candidates who were given the placement.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank you for allowing me to ask a supplementary question on a very important question. Our country is a country of villages. There are a large number of employment opportunities as well as pressing unemployment in the villages. The traditional jobs that were available in our village earlier have slowly disappeared. Our Government has started a new programme now. Though, our country had an ill-repute of being a scam country in the world. However, what our Prime Minister has said about creating Skill India and the Skill Development Programme for rural employment that has been started is indeed very praiseworthy. I want to shower praise on him, but I also want to tell the Minister that the traditional employment that used to exist in the villages is slowly vanishing and this is why unemployment is rising. Will the government include them in these programmes as well? Is it possible to launch vocations based on locally available resources in the villages, so that traditional employment can be encouraged again?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, as I have told you, two big schemes were launched under the Livelihood

Mission, the reason behind these schemes was that the youth in rural areas today do not have enough land to do any other work on it and the cottage industry in villages is also slowly vanishing. We have also achieved success in the skill development programme that we conducted. I would like to inform, as I said, that in the Naxal-affected areas, we have identified twenty-seven districts in nine states and set a target to train fifty thousand youth.

Along with this, in the other rural areas, we have set a target that out of total youth, 15 percent of all youth should come from our minority communities. These 15 percent of youth will be given training, and along with this, youth from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe will also be given training on a priority basis. We have launched a very vast programme if all our ongoing schemes like Rashtriya Gram Swarajya Yojana and Panchayat Mahila and Yuva Shakti Abhiyan, Panchayat Empowerment Abhiyan and e-Panchayat etc, are taken together. Today there is a shortage of skilled people not only in our country but all over the world. If we fill this gap, then lakhs of our skilled people can go abroad to work.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, it is true that we need to do skilling in this country. But skilling, let us remember,

produces only servants because finally how many fitters, welders, electricians can the industry consume. That is one part.

There is an organization called the Labour Bureau in Chandigarh. It is based in Chandigarh. It has produced a report which is very interesting. I have a page of that report. It is titled “Youth Employment, Unemployment Scenario, 2012-13.” This report spells out very interesting facts that one in every three graduate is unemployed. It is there in their report of 2012-13. Whereas, if you juxtapose this data with the illiterate youth – this all refers to the age group of 15 to 29 - rate of unemployment in 2012-13 was only 3.7 percent. This is so nationally. In 2011-12, it was even lower at 1.2 percent.

I want to know one thing from the Government. I think the whole House would be interested in this. Are we looking at the ground realities about employment and how to meet this challenge because of our huge population which is increasing day by day? Is the Government aware that unemployment is higher amongst the educated youth than amongst the illiterate youth? Are we doing anything to bring about what is called the respect to labour so that educated youth also can do all kinds of work, not just make them servants but make them able to accept work and give respect? Is the

Government aware of this? Is the Government planning to meet this challenge in any way and in which way?

HON. SPEAKER: The Question is about rural educated unemployed youth.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, he is right. Expressing his concern, he has said that we are creating workforce. Those youth who have attained higher education, they are more unemployed than the workforce which is available.

One thing is very clear in this scheme that in one component, we have selected Champion Employer of those concerns where they would be giving skill development training under DDU to the youths. They would be part and parcel of their concern. In-House training is given to such youth. If those youths don't go as workforce but they feel that they are part and parcel of the same establishment which has provided employment to them, then the scenario is changed. Then, nobody can be categorised as number one man or number three man. They are part and parcel of the same concern. This is the concept of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.

(Q.364)

[Translation]

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Madam Speaker, under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Empowerment Campaign, all the Gram Panchayat Members, Panchayat Samiti Members and Zilla Parishad Members were given training. The Government spent thousands of Crore of rupees on that training. I want to know from the Government whether that training has benefited them, has it had any impact on them? Have they made any surprising decisions? New schemes of the Government come up. Have they implemented any of those schemes in a new way? Those Members of tribal areas, who are less educated, have they got any benefit from that scheme or that training? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have the opportunity to ask for a second Supplementary.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Madam Speaker, this is a subject of training only. Have they become fully competent once they are trained? Through you I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has got any information on this.

[English]

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan was launched only two years back. Hon. Member has said that a huge amount has been spent on training, etc. It is not the correct position. Correct position is that in this financial year, amount released till now to the states is Rs.395 crore. The RGPSA gives performance based incentives to the states for strengthening panchayats. If a particular state has taken action for the enhancement of the state capability and capacity, of panchayats including devolution of funds which is earmarked for a particular Panchayat, additional 20 percent funds can be allotted to that particular State. This is how we are giving training so that young generation should also know ethics, morals of the political life because that is the nursery for political life. That is why the scheme has been launched two years back. We have given funds under the scheme but the unspent element of the funds is still huge, since the full fledged scheme is only less than one year, only 19 percent has been spent.

[Translation]

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Madam Speaker, under the Panchayat Raj Scheme, one Panchayat Engineer is posted in a village having a population of 5000. He is appointed to approve

building plans and grant permission for construction. In this scheme, there is only one engineer for a village with a population of 5000 and even the villages with a population of 35000-40000 have only one engineer. Is there no need to increase manpower in proportion to the population increase? If we look at Maharashtra, last year i.e. in 2013-14, funds worth Rs. 83.71 crore were given. It is now December of this year, but till now only a budget of Rs. 34.75 crore has been given. We are three months away from March to come. Is there any plan to provide more budget for Maharashtra? Rs. 12 lakh are given for the construction of a new building in the Gram Panchayat. This is just for the new building, to build a new office. Presently, the buildings in many villages are 40 years old. Please let us know whether the Government has any plans for them as well.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, we have made a comprehensive plan of training under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Empowerment Scheme. In the district headquarters where some space is available, we will give Rs. 2 crore to the district for developing infrastructure so that the elected representatives from the rural areas may be aware of their rights

and the capacity and capability of Panchayati Raj is further strengthened.

This year, under RGPSA, we have sanctioned annual plans worth 214 crore rupees. However, First instalment funds have been released deducting unspent balance with the state. Along with this, we have prepared a complete plan for other means which can be the medium for the empowerment of Panchayat. However, in this we have also said that the State Government's allotment is contingent upon its ability to guarantee the holding of elections every five years. It should also ensure that the action taken on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission for five years is laid on the table of the state Legislative Assembly. From there, these recommendations are about the devolution of funds. Though there is a provision to have at least 33 percent for women in it, yet, if required, it can be further increased in the scheme. We have established such criteria so that based on those standards, we release funds accordingly. Also, the unutilized amount from the previous year has been adjusted, and the central share of the first instalment has already been released.

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO: Madam Speaker, is there any provision for giving prizes for the good work

being done by the Gram Panchayat and Zila Parishad Committees in Hindustan right now?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Yes, surely.

SHRI VEERENDRA KASHYAP: Madam Speaker, it is right that this Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Empowerment Campaign, scheme was implemented in 2012-13 and provisions for money have also been made for this during the last two years. The Minister has replied -- The funding of RGPSA for State plans will be on a 75:25 sharing basis by the Central and State Governments respectively. For North Eastern States, this ratio is 90:10. I want to know from the Minister whether the funding pattern for hilly areas of the North-East will also be in the ratio of 90:10? It was also said -At least one third reservation for women in Panchayats or other local bodies. We are happy that during the previous Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Himachal Pradesh, we gave 50 percent reservation to women instead of 30 percent. Due to the intelligence, effectiveness and activeness of women, it has been increased from 50 percent to 58 percent, that is, today the reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in Himachal Pradesh has increased to almost 60 percent. Is there any likelihood of receiving any

encouragement from the Government in the work that the Union Government is doing for women empowerment?

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: It is true that in the sister states the ratio is 90:10 and in the remaining states the ratio is 75:25. The rest is at least 33 percent. If they have reached 60 percent, then we thank them. Anyway, in the hilly states, the proportion of women is higher. For this, we thank them. I would also say that additional incentives for those who perform well, like under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Sashaktikaran Yojana, those who have taken training, in this, women also have a role. If it is more than 50 percent, then when we determine 20 percent, we will also consider the fact that women have higher participation in this.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 365 to 380

Unstarred Question Nos. 4141 to 4370

***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.**

12.00 hrs.

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Congratulations to Indian Scientists on successful launch of
GSLV Mk-III from Sriharikota**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: As you are aware, today our country has successfully launched its latest rocket "GSLV MK III" from Sriharikota. This 630 tonne rocket, heaviest so far, also carried prototype crew module which takes the country a step closer to sending astronauts into space.

With this launch, India has entered a select league of nations to have the technology of such complex mission. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment by our space scientists.

The House conveys its congratulations to the Indian Space Research Organization's dedicated team of Scientists and Technologists for making this mission a success.

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy India, Bhopal, for the period August, 2012-July, 2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bhopal, for the period August, 2012-July, 2013.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1366/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 29 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005:-

- (1) S.O.1888(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014, making further amendments in Schedule I to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1367/16/14)

- (2) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Schedule I & Schedule II Amendment Order, 2013 published in Notification No. S.O.1987(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th August, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1368/16/14)

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1369/16/1

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1370/16/1

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1371/16/1

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1372/16/1

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1373/16/1

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi,

for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1374/16/1

(6) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 2968(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2014, regarding extension of packaging of Foodgrains and Sugar in jute packaging material for a further period of two months from 30.11.2014 or until further orders, whichever is earlier under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Jute Packing Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1375/16/14)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the

Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1376/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies NLC Tamilnadu Power Limited and Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies NLC

Tamilnadu Power Limited and Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1377/16/1

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited, Kolkata, and its subsidiary companies for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited [Vol. I and Vol. II (Part I & II)], Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, and its subsidiary companies alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1378/16/1

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Solar Energy Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Solar Energy Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1379/16/1

- (d)
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Finance Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Power Finance Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1380/16/1

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-

- (i) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the States of Manipur and Mizoram (Form of

Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.754(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th October, 2014.

- (ii) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the States of Manipur and Mizoram (Constitution and the manner of application of the Fund and Form and Time for Preparation of Budget) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.755(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th October, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1381/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA RESTORATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): I lay the following papers on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of

the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1382/16/1)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1383/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI NITIN GADKARI): On behalf of Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, I beg to lay on the Table:--

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1384/16/1

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1385/16/1

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Kamarajar Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1386/16/1

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1387/16/1

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1388/16/1

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2013-2014.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1389/16/1

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

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

by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1390/16/1

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Erstwhile-Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Erstwhile-

Bombay Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1391/16/1

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2013-2014.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1392/16/1

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1393/16/1

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions)

by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1394/16/14)

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1395/16/1)

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year

2013-2014.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, New Mangalore, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1396/16/1

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1397/16/1

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

- (i) The Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 546(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2014.
- (ii) The Merchant Shipping (Management for the Safe Operation of Ships) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 351(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd May, 2014.
- (iii) The Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 33(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th January, 2014

- (13) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) & (ii) of (12) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1398/16/14)

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

- (i) S.O. 2833(E) to S.O. 2835(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (ii) S.O. 2836(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.
- (iii) S.O. 2837(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (iv) S.O. 2788(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th October, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.

- (v) S.O. 2789(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th October, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (vi) S.O. 1626(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th June, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202 (Hyderabad-Yadgiri Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vii) S.O. 1708(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th July, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 18 (Kadapa-Kurnool Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 2115(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd August, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202 (New NH No. 163) (Yadgiri-Warangal Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (ix) S.O. 1125(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th April, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 36(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th January, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 214A (Digamarru to Ongole Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 645(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th March, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 3509(E) dated 27th November, 2013.
- (xii) S.O. 41(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th January, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 222 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xiii) S.O. 38(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th January, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 335(E) dated 14th February, 2011.
- (xiv) S.O. 573(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Sangrur-Patran Khanauri Road upto Punjab/Haryana Border Section) in the State of Punjab.
- (xv) S.O. 1003(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 2977(E) dated 1st October, 2013.
- (xvi) S.O. 3649(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xvii) S.O. 3665(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for

building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 in the State of Rajasthan.

- (xviii) S.O. 3651(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xix) S.O. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2013, authorising the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 565 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 462(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 12A (New NH-30) (Chilpi-Simga Section) in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xxi) S.O. 3315(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2013, authorising the officers, mentioned

therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 365 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xxii) S.O. 3316(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2013, authorising the Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 765 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxiii) S.O. 2487(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2013, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 49(E) dated 5th January, 2012.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1789(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st June, 2013, authorising the Joint Collector, Mahabubnagar, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 75E (Rewa-Sidhi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (xxv) S.O. 572(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Sangruru-Patran Khanauri Road upto Punjab/Haryana Border Section) in the State of Punjab.
- (xxvi) S.O. 596(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 50 in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxvii) S.O. 3319(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2013, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 12A in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxviii) S.O. 571(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Sangrur-Patran-Khanauri

upto Punjab/Haryana Border Section) in the State of Punjab.

- (xxix) S.O. 2483(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxx) S.O. 2492(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2013, entrusting Highway Nos. 79 & 113 in the State of Rajasthan to National Highways Authority of India.
- (xxxi) S.O. 2734(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th September, 2013, authorising the Additional Joint Collector, Krishna, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 221 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxii) S.O. 644(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of

National Highway No. 65 (Nagaur-Jodhpur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxiii) S.O. 3652(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxiv) S.O. 314(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 89 (Ajmer-Nagaur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxv) S.O. 3083(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th October, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Beawar to Baghana Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxvi) S.O. 3080(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th October, 2013, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of

National Highway No. 78 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xxxvii) S.O. 459(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 27 (Mangawan-Chakghat Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xxxviii) S.O. 242(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th January, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 15 (Suratgarh-Sriganganagar Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxix) S.O. 574(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Sangrur-Patran Khanauri Road upto Punjab/Haryana Border Section) in the State of Punjab.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (x) to (xxxix) of (14) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1399/16/1

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1400/16/14)

12.03 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

11th to 13th Reports

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2014-15):--

- (1) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eightieth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Tatkal and Advance Reservation System in Indian Railways' relating to the Ministry of Railways.
- (2) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty-second Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Sale and Distribution of Imported Pulses' relating to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution.
- (3) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained

in their Eighty-first Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Fertilizer Subsidy' relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

12.03 ½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Ist Report

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI(GANDHINAGAR): Madam, I lay on the Table the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Ethics.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on 3 December, 2014.

12.04 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

1st to 3rd Reports

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI): I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:-

- (1) First Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 57th Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
 - (2) Second Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2014-2015) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
 - (3) Third Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2014-2015) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
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12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

1st to 3rd Reports

[English]

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR):I begto present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:-

- (1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Major Railway Accidents during the last five years – Causes and Remedial Measures'.
- (2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Ongoing and Pending Railway Projects, with special emphasis on Projects in the Northeast Region'.
- (3) Third Report on 'Demands for Grants 2014-15 of the Ministry of Railways'.

(ii) Statements

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): I begto lay on the table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:-

- (1) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the 22nd Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 20th Report of Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants – 2013-14 of the Ministry of Railways'.
 - (2) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and Chapter V of the 24th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 19th Report of Standing Committee on Railways (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Passenger Amenities and Passenger Safety in Indian Railways'.
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12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1st to 3rd Reports

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development:-

- (1) First Report on 'Demands for Grants (2014-2015)' of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- (2) Second Report on 'Demands for Grants (2014-2015)' of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.
- (3) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on the subject, 'Functioning of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) particularly with reference to affordable Houses in Delhi and its role in regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi and matters connected thereto', of the Ministry of Urban Development.

12.06 ½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS**

3rd Report

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI): I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants 2014-15 of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

12.06 ¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

181st Report

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table, the 181st Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in its 180th Report on

Administration of Union Territories(Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar
Haveli and Chandigarh).

12.07 hrs.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 9 DATED 24TH NOVEMBER, 2014
REGARDING RESERVATION FOR WOMEN JUDGES
ALONG WITH REASONS FOR DELAY**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): I beg to make statement (i) correcting the reply given on 24 November, 2014 to Unstarred Question No. 9 asked by Sarvashri Ram Charitra Nishad and Ravindra Kumar Pandey, MPs, regarding 'Reservation for Women Judges' and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

(i)

Part of the Annexure		For	Read
Sl. No.8	Gujarat	--	03
Sl. No.14	Madhya Pradesh	01	02
Total		55	59

(ii) In the Annexure the number of women Judges as on 10.11.2014 in the High Courts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh were shown as “nil” and “01” respectively. During review it was noticed that the number of women Judges as on 10.11.2014 in the High Courts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh were “3” and “2” respectively. Accordingly, a correcting statement has been put up. Delay in sincerely regretted.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1401/16/14)

12.07 ½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy on ‘Availability of identified Non-conventional Resources of Energy-their potential vis-à-vis Utilization’, pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy in pursuance of the Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 1st September, 2004.

The 29th Report of the Standing Committee on Energy was presented to the Lok Sabha on 24th August, 2012. The Report

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 1402/16/14.

relates to availability of Identified Non-Conventional resources of Energy – their Potential vis-à-vis Utilization by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for 2011-12.

Action Taken Statement on the recommendations/observations contained in the 29th Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing committee on Energy on 23rd November, 2012.

There were 14 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action was called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations pertain to potential and utilization of renewable energy sources such as Wind Energy, Small Hydro Power, Solar Energy, Biomass, Urban and Industrial Waste to Energy, Geo-Thermal Energy, Tidal Energy and Research and Development on Renewable Energy.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of this Annexure. I would request that these may please be considered as read.

12.08 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Situation arising out of hike in Prices of Life Saving Drugs and
Prevalence of Spurious Drugs resulting in serious health
hazard**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam Speaker, I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard:

"The situation arising out of hike in prices of life saving drugs and prevalence of spurious drugs resulting in serious health hazard and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam Speaker, pursuant to the announcement of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP), 2012, the Government has notified Drug (Price Control) Order,

2013 (DPCO 2013) on 15.5.2013 in super-session of DPCO, 1995. There are 680 (628 net) drug formulations related to 348 bulk drugs/active pharmaceutical ingredients with specified dosages and strengths as listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 and included in the Schedule-I of DPCO, 2013. Ceiling price for 509 medicines have so far been fixed under provisions of DPCO, 2013. Significant reduction in prices have been effected on the medicines notified under DPCO, 2013 as compared to the highest price prevailed prior to the announcement of DPCO, 2013. The details of price reduction are as follows:

% reduction with respect to Highest prevailing Price to the Retailer	No. of drugs
0 <= 5%	51
5 <= 10%	46
10 <= 15%	55
15 <= 20%	44
20 <= 25%	65

25< = 30%	57
30<=35%	30
35<=40%	34
Above 40%	127
Total	509

As per Para 13 (1) of DPCO, 2013, all the existing manufacturers of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations, at a price higher than the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government, shall revise the prices of all such formulations downward not exceeding the ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable). Also as per Para 13 (2) of said DPCO, all the existing manufacturers of scheduled formulations, selling the branded or generic or both the versions of scheduled formulations at a price lower than the .ceiling price (plus local taxes as applicable) so fixed and notified by the Government shall maintain their existing ‘maximum retail price’.

No person is authorized to sell any such formulation to any

consumer at a price higher than that fixed by the Government. In respect of other medicines not covered under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013, the manufacturers are allowed to increase a maximum retail price up to 10 percent annually.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, regarding the reply given by the Hon. Minister, I would like to say that not 11 but 17 women died in Chhattisgarh.

HON. SPEAKER: This matter is subjudice, it is in the High Court. You can speak about something else.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: It is written that 11 people died in Chhattisgarh. I am correcting that only.

[English]

It says: “.... death of 11 women who had undergone sterilization procedure at the said family planning camp was reported...” ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Is it written in this?

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam, I have it. It is given in the answer. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, in the House she can speak on that ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: It says: “Steriiiization/Tubectomy operation camp for women was conducted on 08-11-2014 at M/s. Namichand Jain Charitable Hospital ...” It is given in the answer. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Ok.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Madam Speaker, actually ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Anant Ji, please reply later.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Madam, regarding this, actually this notice contains two different questions. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am aware about it, please sit down.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, his silence demonstrates how serious he is about this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: The reply given by the Hon. Minister affirms the policy of the Congress in other words. I would

like to ask you two-three questions. The drug price regulator, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority took a decision to control prices of 108 drugs in July, but this decision was put on hold by his Government in September 2014. My question is why was it stopped? Our Government had already provided the facility of free distribution of 200 generic medicines in AIIMS in 2013. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what is the present status of this facility? The issue of counterfeit medicines, rising drug prices, proper treatment and negligence by doctors are very serious matters. Today, after arms, the second-highest profit in the world comes from the pharmaceutical industry and the medical profession. It is deeply regrettable to see that in our country, both medicine and the medical profession have become commercial ventures. Mr. Modi went to America and discussed many things. The patents of 61 medicines are expiring in 2014. What discussions took place regarding this? A major pharmaceutical channel in the world does not want our generic medicines, that are used or intended to be used by 85 percent of the people, to have consumers in India. I am surprised that 50 percent of medicines from India go to UAE, and our medicines go to America, but we import medicines from abroad. One-sixth of the total population of the

world lives in our country. However, India spends only one percent of its GDP on healthcare. Right now there are elections in Delhi, so you will say, Minister Sir, I want to request you that this is a serious issue, you must tell this in Delhi that we will give good speeches, make promises, but the policy will be decided later, right now, I will also come on the rate of medicines. Cancer medicines, which earlier costed eight thousand five hundred rupees, now cost one lakh eight thousand rupees. You will say that Congress had such a policy that we had to increase it. In my opinion, before the elections, you should have also told the people that we will give speeches, but we have to proceed with the same policy that the Congress party was following. Apart from that, we are not capable. If you clarify this truth, then the public will decide whose policy they want to follow, because you have given a description of their very same policy.

I would like to say one thing to the Minister through the Hon. Speaker Madam that in our country, the poor die due to three to four types of medicines. Expensive medicines only harm the lower class and lower middle class. The rich are not affected by this, because, let alone generic medicines, they go abroad for treatment. Even many of us go abroad. If we leave the matter of medicines

aside, the poor die due to three or four reasons. First, when he reaches the hospital, he dies just seeing the condition of cleanliness in the Government hospital, sometimes he dies after hearing the cost of an operation, sometimes, when he has a leg problem but is treated for the stomach, he dies because of that, sometimes he dies after consuming expired medicines, and sometimes due to fake medicines. I request you to first clarify this major issue, regarding the rise in prices of certain medicines.

The Indian Council of Medical and Research, in its report, has stated that every year more than 10 lakh people in India are affected by cancer. Out of these, one-third die every year. By the year 2025, the number of cancer patients in India will increase fivefold. The cancer medicine which was earlier priced at eight thousand five hundred rupees, now costs one lakh eight thousand rupees. Medicines for diseases like blood pressure, heart disease, which were earlier priced at Rs. 147, have now become Rs. 1615. The rabies medicine, which earlier cost Rs. 2670, has now become Rs. 7000. The prices of medicines for diseases like TB, diabetes and HIV have also increased by five to twelve times. According to the data of the year 2011, two million eighty-eight thousand people in the country are suffering from HIV. There is a

conspiracy by America that medicines which are patented cannot be manufactured anywhere else.

I would like to say three or four things to you, first of all, we manufacture 85 percent of the medicines we need ourselves. Our generic medicines fully meet the standards of quality. But despite this, in our hospitals, and this is a fact, doctors do not prescribe generic medicines because the medical profession has become a commercial profession. A person has to pay a donation of Rs. 50 lakh to become a doctor from a private medical colleges. After becoming a doctor, he mainly aims to find out the ways to recover that money. Among these, doctors with this kind of mentality fall into the traps of multinational companies. They get lured by gifts, foreign trips, etc. and prescribe costly medicines. Ultimately we created IMA, a regulatory body to provide protection to doctors. Why is there no regulatory body in our country to protect patients? It is there in the US, and in the UK, senior citizens get free treatment there. Forget about free treatment here, if we get genuine medicines in Government hospitals, it will be a matter of great mercy for us. A person went to the hospital for angiography, the doctor called him and said you have to get a stent, tell me quickly what to do. He agreed for stent implanting , the stent. Then the

doctor asked which stent would he like to have – Indian or imported. The person enquired about the difference between the two? Then the doctor told that if imported stent is used then the patient's life is safe, but if an Indian stent is used then there is no guarantee. Will the doctors of our country work with such a mindset? What could he do? When that person asked the price, the doctor told him that the rate of Indian stent was Rs. 40 thousand and the rate of imported stent starts from one and a half lakh. The man sells his land, House and jewellery and gets treatment for his patient. After all, why there is no significant law in place to alter this way of thinking? We are manufacturing 85 percent generic medicines. Our country is a poor country, 65 percent of the people live in villages. How can a person who gets a salary of seven thousand rupees buy a medicine which costs ten thousand rupees? We are putting such a burden on him. I want to ask whether there is any law regarding generic medicines that mandates doctors to prescribe only generic medicines? We have PHCs in villages. I was reading about AIIMS, where the idea was proposed to distribute 200 medicines for free, and a daily target of Rs. 20 Crore was set, but we don't even have properly organised hospitals to distribute medicines for free. I won't make any political comment on this. I

would like to request the Minister through you to find out whether those medicines are being distributed free of cost in AIIMS? All the medicines are sold in the District Hospital, Sadar Hospital and PHC in every district. There should be an inquiry into the purchase of medicines in District Hospital, Sadar Hospital and PHC, as they have a big network and purchase leftover medicines which are to expire in two-three months because drug sellers sell such medicines at very cheap rates and, through collusion, offer a huge commission to them. A very painful incident happened in Chhattisgarh, it happened in Bastar, and after that, it happened in Bihar also. The very first thing is, has the responsibility of sterilisation in India been handed over only to women? Our surveys reveal that only one percent of men undergo sterilisation, even though medical research clearly states that it does not affect their masculinity in any way. Women will give birth, women will raise children, and when it comes to population control, the burden of sterilisation will also fall on women. It is extremely shameful to even say this, that just to meet targets, such things are done. The doctors there were also rewarded for performing 50 thousand sterilisations, what kind of award is this, where women are dragged like animals and forcibly sterilised? You yourself have mentioned that perhaps this incident

occurred due to infection or low quality of medicine. You have given this information in your reply. After the incident, the Minister said – I am a Minister, not a doctor. The doctor said, my job was just to perform the operation, ask the pharma persons about the medicine. Pharmacists said that ask the drug vendor about the medicine, he had given the medicine. I think we all are shirking our responsibilities. The hospital in which this incident took place has been closed for the last five years. So, what kind of hygiene was there that you approved the operation? I would like to ask, if the hospital, the doctor, and the Minister are not responsible, then who is responsible for this incident? Right next to it was Bastar district, where 13 women started losing consciousness, they began bleeding, their kidneys failed, and all of this happened due to sterilisation. What kind of target is this, where women are not even considered human beings? Two beggar women were picked up and forcibly sterilised because the target had to be met, and they were given an incentive amount of eleven hundred rupees each.

HON. SPEAKER: Tamradhwaj Sahu Ji. Ranjeet Ji, I am sorry. Not this much and that too, you are speaking outside the subject, this is not a discussion on sterilisation.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to take one more minute. I would like to say through you that in our country, fake medicines, expired medicines, and treating people worse than animals, has become a common thing. Sometimes a doctor leaves scissors in a patient's stomach, and sometimes a towel is left behind, so is there no responsibility to hold someone accountable for that? In India, a regulatory body must come into existence for the protection of patients. It should cover pathology, nursing homes, and private doctors so that an independent body is formed, which can keep a sharp eye on what exactly our doctors are doing.

Madam Speaker, I request you to take up this matter under Rule 193 and hold a debate on why our doctors are not responsible. What are the reasons for the commercialisation of the medical profession? I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that politics is a different thing, but this department is responsible for the life and property of the people of India and for keeping India healthy, therefore take it up under Rule 193 and hold a debate on it.

HON. SPEAKER: We will talk about Rule 193 later. Kumari Sushmita Dev. Ranjeet Ji, please sit down.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam Speaker, please let allow me to wind up.

HON. SPEAKER: I am sitting here and looking at the time, we do not hold half-an-hour-long discussions on such topics. I informed you a number of times. This is not for a half-hour or three-quarters of an hour discussion, this is a 'Calling-Attention', and it should go only as long as it is meant to.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Madam Speaker, you are also a woman, so being a woman I would like to say something to you.

HON. SPEAKER: I know, you are raising a very serious subject, I am not refusing, but speak during the Calling-Attention in the form, it has been framed.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I want to say that the patent of 61 medicines has just expired and they need to be patented again, our Modi Saheb went to America and talked about it.

HON. SPEAKER: Please, please, no question from anywhere now. Kumari Sushmita Dev.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

*Not recorded

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister for Chemical and Fertilizer has given a statement on the Floor of the House. He is referring primarily to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. But, it is my humble submission that the Act that we should be discussing here today is the Essential Commodities Act, particularly Section 3 and 5 of the Essential Commodities Act. By virtue of it the Government of India regulates the price of life saving drugs and essential drugs.

Historically, in 1997 the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was set up. In 2012, the Supreme Court gave a judgement by virtue of which the Government of India was directed to put in place a mechanism by which the price of these essential life saving drugs can be regulated. The DPC of 2013 is the circular through which the UPA Government had delegated this power to the NPPA.

The question before this august House is this. We have seen that on 29 May 2014, the NPPA meeting was held and a decision was taken and 108 drugs -- which affect Cancer patients, Diabetic patients, HIV / AIDS patients, and Blood Pressure patients -- were brought under pricing control. Consequently, on 10 July, an order

was issued. As a result of this order of the Authority, lakhs and lakhs of patients who suffer from Cancer, Diabetes, etc. could avail of this policy, and the prices were controlled. But on 22 September 2014, incidentally or otherwise, a few days before the hon. Prime Minister left for the USA, the 29 May 2014 guideline was retracted by the Government. This is despite the fact that certain pharmaceutical companies had filed two petitions in the High Court of Delhi and in the Bombay High Court challenging this order, but this Government did not deem it proper to wait for the courts to adjudicate on this issue.

HON. SPEAKER: One should not give such a long speech.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Madam, it is a cause of concern, and we bring it up in this House of Parliament. The reason for it is the recent Bilaspur incident, which has shown that spurious medicines can lead to deaths. One cause of contaminated and spurious medicines is price rise, and 2.2 percent of people in India, due to high expenses of medicines, go below poverty line in this country. In these circumstances, our question must be answered by the hon. Minister, through you, which is not addressed in this statement. Should there not be a statutory authority? Should not the NPPA be made a statutory authority to stop Government

interference? Repeatedly, this Government is interfering in the works of various autonomous bodies. In this case, it is extremely important because it is not clear to me that I don't know whether they have recalled the order of July 7 or not, but they have recalled the internal guidelines. The message is that this body has been rendered defunct.

If you look at paragraph 19, the DPCO 2013 says that in greater public interest and in exceptional circumstances this NPPA can go outside the schedule and put non-scheduled drugs under the drug pricing control policy, which this authority did in greater public interest. Two Affidavits are pending by NPPA, which clearly justifies this move, but this Government, arbitrarily, has gone and revised that guideline, which has had a huge impact.

I am making the last point, and I will not take more time. Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan made a mention of this issue, and the hon. Health Minister is also seated now in this House. The incident that happened in Bilaspur calls for a new focus of sustainable development. Population is a challenge, but dignity of a woman is a greater challenge for this nation. A sterilization camp, in which, people who were attending to them did not bother to change their gloves and where 86 women were operated, that is, one and a half

minutes each and there was no time to sterilize the equipment. We need a re-look at our family planning programme. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): Madam, the first hon. Member who spoke, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, said twice that there is a drug which has gone up from Rs. 8,500 to Rs. 1,08,000. Madam, this is patently untrue.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You may please put forward your point. The Minister will reply to that.

[English]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: There was a blog written by a former Minister who has put this on record. He has published this, and because he is not a Member, I need not take his name. I just want to say one thing. I have got a list of 26 drug prices that have remained almost exactly the same, and all 26 drugs are out of 108 drugs on which the NPPA has put price control. These are the essential drugs. Six drugs out of 108 were weight-loss drugs, much as though I would like one of those drugs. The fact remains that it

is not important whether their prices go up three percent or five percent. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You people please do not interrupt. Let him say whatever he wants to say.

[*English*]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: Shri Pappu Yadav is defending his wife very valiantly, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I want to speak on the basis of facts here; I am not speaking on the basis of interpretation.

Madam, the second speaker said that it has been rolled back. Firstly, Madam, the order has not been rolled back; the order stands.

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please, put forward your point.

[*English*]

*Not recorded.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The guidelines that were given state that in the future, before the NPPA, the pharmaceutical pricing authority goes ahead for a blanket price control measure, they are to consult more widely with all stakeholders involved, including the pharmaceutical sector.

Madam, we can achieve nothing in our country by bleeding out the pharmaceutical sector. *The Economist* in 1992 called it the ‘dead’ sector of India. The same *Economist* has said two years ago that it is the biggest sector to watch out for, for India internationally.

When we talk about price control, I just want to expand the scope of the debate, Madam

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Varun Ji, please ask for your clarifications.

[English]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The price control started with 347 drugs, which was 96 percent of all Indian medicines, in 1978. We then went down to 142, which was in 1986. In 1995, we went down to 74, and now we have made an attempt to go back further. Price control led to a very muted investment, very little

R&D and very little capital investment, which in fact led to spurious drugs being formed because nobody wanted to invest their money in producing high quality drugs for our country. It led to non-availability and it led to shortages.

Now, the point is what the Government, in effect, has actually done. The Government has taken a middle road. The Government has said that 800 drugs, not just these 108 drugs, which are absolutely essential for the life and the dignity of the common man, must be maintained. However, the Government has also said that nothing can be achieved by killing the golden goose that we have built up over the years, which is called the pharmaceutical sector.

We cannot adopt a policy of Fabian socialism in 2014. When these socialist policies were adopted and rightfully so, they were done because industries were in their infancy. They needed time to grow; they needed time to expand. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him complete and then the Minister will reply. Varun Ji, please address the Chair and say what you want to say. You don't have to reply to them.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The pharmaceutical industry is there for the poor people of this country, and nobody is saying 'no'.

HON. SPEAKER: You have to seek your clarifications on this issue and that is all.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: We cannot look at this debate as a zero sum debate of price vs. control or affordability vs. innovation. Why can it not be both? That is all, I am saying. The fact remains that when we talk about rising drug prices, most of the information, that has been put forward is not correct. What is the truth? Firstly, the order has not been rescinded. So, that is incorrect. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister will speak, you say your point.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: Madam, I cannot hear what the hon. Members are saying. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You should address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: We are talking about the finite health of the pharmaceutical companies and the infinite health of our country. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any clarification to seek?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Varun Ji, you have to address the Chair only. It is not a debate. If you want to ask any clarification, then you can ask that clarification.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I will end by saying that it is not the question of the industries. It is a question of a middle path that has to be taken.... (*Interruptions*) We need to expand the scope of the debate. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Have you asked your clarification?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: No, Madam, I have not yet asked... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Varun Ji, please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am present here, what is going on between them?

[*English*]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I would like to conclude by saying that in the year 2014, we need to have an approach where we protect the poorest amongst us and we must protect those industries which will provide greater employment and greater innovation in R&D. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Ranjeet Ji, what are you saying while sitting down? If you are talking about women seriously, stay mannered in a similar way. Please.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: This is for everyone. This is not something to clap about, then I will speak for all women.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA):

You should speak for men too.

HON. SPEAKER: If you listen, I will speak to everyone.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What has happened to all of you?

[English]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Thank you Madam for giving me this opportunity to respond to this Calling Attention Notice of Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan ji, Sahu ji, Sushmita Ji and Varun Gandhi Ji. I also appreciate the concern of all the hon. Members that we should be providing medicines at affordable prices to all the needy patients.

Madam, at the outset, I want to briefly submit before you that it is one of its only kind of Calling Attention Notices which invokes two Ministers in one notice. First part of it is addressed to the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers which includes pharmaceuticals and the second part of it addresses to the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

Therefore, wherever the issue of spurious drugs and other things come, I would request, through you, our hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare to intervene and respond to that. As is rightly said, I am the Minister for Pharmacy but spurious drugs come under him... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Well, this has become a thing in itself, which should not be calling attention. You complete your point, and then I will talk.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Responding to the concern of all the hon. Members that the prices of drugs should be affordable, I would say that the Narendra Modi Government came into existence on May 26, 2014. Till that time, we had 440 medicines under price control, under DPCO. I am very much happy to place before the hon. House that within six months 175 more drugs and formulations have been added to the Drug Control. It is unprecedented. On May 26, the number of formulations and drugs were 440 and today the total number of drugs under the Drug Price

Control is 617. I give the entire credit for this initiative to our hon. Prime Minister's concern for the people of India.

Actually, I would like to give the break-up also. Shrimati Ranjeet was telling about the cancer drugs and other things. I would come to that later. Out of the 47 drugs which are for cancer, nearly three drugs are in Schedule; 22 drugs are in non-Schedule category for Diabetes; 19 drugs are in Schedule category for AIDS and 84 drugs are for cardio-vascular category for which price control has been added. I would also like to assure the hon. House that in the last six months, the price of no drug or no medicine has been hiked. There is no question of sky-rocketing of prices....
(*Interruptions*) Please allow me to speak.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You should not do this. Either don't ask questions or if asked then listen.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: There was a statement by one of the important leaders of the Opposition Party that the price of the cancer drug has been raised from Rs.8, 000 to Rs.1,08,000. It is

totally false. It is a mis-information campaign. I would give the name of the drug.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You should not speak while seated. Have you spoken your point?

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: I would also request Shrimati Ranjeet ji that when she adorns the chair she can be intervening like this.

The price of cancer drug Glivec is Rs.8,452.38 for 30 tablets. Later in the speeches of that important leader, whose name I do not want to mention because I think he got confused on the drug for cancer, he said that the price was Rs.1,08,000. Some newspapers also published it which is echoing in this hon. House. The price was earlier Rs.8,500 but now it is Rs.8,452.38.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): So, it has come down.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: It is in the same range. What happens is that some of the drugs are linked with the WPI and, therefore, some small variation will be there. ... (*Interruptions*)

Regarding another drug Plavix, which is cardiovascular drug, it was published in the newspapers alleging that its price had become Rs.1,615 while its MRP in the market is Rs.147.45 for 14 tablets. Therefore, with great humility and full authority I want to place before the hon. Lok Sabha that prices have not been increased, there is no skyrocketing. If at all something has happened, prices of more than 444 drugs have come down under Narendra Modi Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, today women seem very angry at you. Everyone is angry. Women have to work more, it is a fact.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Madam, we have brought two things in to control the prices. One is Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System. According to this, every pharmaceutical company has to file Form 5 every quarter. More than 600 companies are already filing these forms. Through these forms we will be monitoring their quantity, quality, price and all the parameters. One more mechanism the Government of India is

conceptualizing and thinking of implementing is setting up of a Price Monitoring Resource Unit in each State. This will be a very progressive step in the direction of price control.

I want to place another fact before the hon. House. Sushmitaji said that we are dabbling with the NPPA. The Government of India is not at all intervening in the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. That is an independent authority. There is the DPCO 2013 under which it works. All the powers of Government of pricing according to Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to it. The Authority has brought in price control for 108 formulations on June 10.

For the information of this august House I would like to say that price control continues, and there is no reversal. Because of that continuance of price control, pharmaceutical companies have lost Rs.350 crore and they have gone to the court. Though they have gone to the court, the hon. court has not given any stay order. Therefore, the price control is continuing. Regarding the guidelines that governed Para 19 of DPCO, they have been taken back by the NPPA itself and not under the direction of the Government of India, to revise them to suit the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy of 2011. I assure the hon. House that Modi Government's

policy will be to provide good quality affordable medicines and formulations to the people of India. There is no question of going back on that.

Regarding the second part of the question, I request Shri Nadda to respond.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, one thing you should keep in mind is that this Calling Attention is not really meant for two Hon. Ministers, but due to the nature of this issue i.e., rising costs of medications, it often results in the availability of counterfeit drugs in the market. If they are cheap then they are bought more and it also leads to adverse consequences. Both things are somehow related to public health. Therefore, this will not be considered as precedence; this will not happen in future. Therefore, we have said that if the Government makes any effort for preventing spurious medicines from the market in any way and also, if our Hon. Health Minister could shed any light on this, then I would request him to do so.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have said both of those things. In one sentence I have spoken about how to control spurious medicines.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I have heard the concerns of all the Hon. Members on Calling Attention and the Departments have taken their concerns seriously and we will do whatever necessary action is needed for that.

I want to clarify two things. Firstly, as far as the question of spurious medicines and NLEM is concerned, the Hon.Minister has said in very clear words that we have set up a core committee that is headed by the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research - It has had four sittings. There is a requirement for one more sitting. After that we will invite the inputs of all the people and other stake holders in a scientific manner and would announce a new list in January, 2015 and we will take care of this thing in that.

As for spurious drugs the Union Government and units of state drug controller keep a monitoring on that. Of course, there is a need to control the number of spurious drugs as new medicines or sale methods emerges from time to time. For that, there is a need to increase the manpower, infrastructure and capacity of the

laboratories. The Government is really concerned about it and we would certainly formulate an action programme to tackle this issue, to develop infrastructure, set up laboratories as well as appoint manpower because manpower is also required to control it, so we are going to do that too. We will keep this in mind.

One subject that has come up repeatedly is that of Chhattisgarh. That issue is not only related to Chhattisgarh. A similar issue also pertains to Orissa, in Bihar also, and in many other states. As far as camps are concerned, Camps are not target-oriented. They are demand-driven. However despite this, such incidents have happened in the camps, so firstly we are issuing advisory and secondly, we are going to reconsider how camps can be made more effective. As far as Chhattisgarh was concerned, It is *sub judice* but action has been taken. As soon as we got the information of the incident, the Union Government sent a team from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences that looked into the practice of medical management there. Such incidents should not happen again, and this is not an issue related to any one state. In the same way, the subject of medicine does not exclusively pertain to any one state.

13.00 hrs.

The alleged issue of medicines in Chhattisgarh, which is in question, was being manufactured in Uttarakhand. However, wherever this is happening, action has been taken against it. I want to assure the House that the Government is committed to taking stringent action.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam, the hon. Minister mentioned about sterilization death in Odisha. There has not been a single death in Odisha relating to sterilization. Rather, after the *Janani Yojana* which the Central Government has, the Odisha Government has *Mamata Yojana*. So, we always ensure that delivery always happens at the institution. We do not hold any camps for sterilization.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTHAKUMAR: Madam Speaker, I want to add one more thing to this and want to tell the entire House through you that the Modi Government wants to expand the distribution system of generic medicines and has resolved to open three thousand outlets across the country. I would like to request every State Government through the House, I have written letters to all Chief

Ministers and the Health Ministers of the states to sign MoUs with the Government of India. If an MoU is signed, we will provide them with generic medicines from here. An outlet should be opened in every Government hospital so that the common man of India can buy medicines at cheap prices from these outlets, this is the aim of the Modi Government.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1403/16/14)

HON. SPEAKER: The Zero Hour will be taken up in the evening.

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

13.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.04 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Four Minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

GOVERNMENTBILLS-Introduced

**(i) LOKPAL AND LOKAYUKTAS AND OTHER RELATED
LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Item No. 20.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE OFFICE OF PRIME
MINISTER; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS;
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ATOMIC
ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** Sir, I

move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and further to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and further to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.05 hrs.

(ii) REGIONAL RURAL BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Item No.21.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, Why are these Bills not being referred to the Standing Committee?

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is just the introduction stage.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Now, the Bills have been introduced. When the Bills are introduced, they are referred, by the Chair, to the Standing Committee.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the hon. Speaker decide about it in the BAC.

14.06 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

Shri A. T. Nana Patil - Not present.

(i) Need to include people belonging to Musahar Scheduled Caste community in the list of Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak under Rule 377. Although the people belonging to Musahar and Vanmanush caste live in other states of the country too, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are their main habitats. In fact, both are the same caste, but Musahars are known as Vanamush in some areas, especially in Faizabad. Their number ranges from 50 thousand to one lakh in every district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, Musahars also have been categorized as Scheduled Castes by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where they are

completely deprived of all benefits such as reservation due to their inability to compete with others.

Musahar community closely shares their food habits, customs, lifestyle, and marriage practices with the tribal people and not with those of the Scheduled Caste people. Their settlements are also in the former forest areas rather than within the Dalit settlements on the outskirts of the villages. Although due to deforestation that situation is not visible today. They hunt wild animals and eat them, and their eating habits are still completely distinct from those of the majority. They are unfamiliar and deprived of any kind of modern medicine. Their traditional means of livelihood have ended. They somehow manage to earn a living by raising pigs and also by working as labourers like the labourers of Ranchi in brick kilns.

After independence, the commission that classified castes assigned them to the Vimukta category, while the later caste reform commission removed them from the Vimukta caste and placed them in the Scheduled caste. In fact today they have been marginalized by other forward Dalits. People of various castes have changed their religion, but the self-respecting "Hindu Musahar", who considers Mata Shabari, Eklavya, Angad, Jambvant, Sugreeva, Hanuman and Birsa Munda as their ideals, even today they keep

themselves connected with Hinduism by staying away from conversion.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, keeping in mind the above facts, through you, I would request the Union Government to include the Musahar caste in the Scheduled Tribe category to ensure the all-round development of the Musahar community. A unanimous agreement is needed to make it mandatory to provide Antyodaya cards to every individual belonging to the Musahar caste. The benefits of rural schemes like Lohia Village, Pt. Deendayal Village and Ambedkar Village should be extended to Musahar settlements on a priority basis. The vacant land of the Gram Sabha should be given on lease to the Musahar population residing in that village for farming etc. Every Musahar settlement should be connected to the main connecting road. Mandatory grants should be given for the marriage of major girls of the Musahar community. Hand pumps must be installed by the Jal Nigam in every colony. Every settlement should be illuminated through electrification and solar energy. A shaded public hall should be built in every colony. Government jobs should be given on priority basis to educated unemployed youth of Musahar community. Widow, old age, disability and socialist pension should be given compulsorily

to the people of every colony. A Balwadi centre should be opened in every settlement. Free treatment of every Musahar should be ensured and offer them access to complete education without any charges.

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato - Not present.

Shrimati Rekha Verma - Not present.

Shri Nana Patole - Not present.

**(ii) Need to set up a laboratory at B.J. Medical College,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat on the lines of National Institute of
Virology, Pune**

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the State of Gujarat has been affected for some time now by various diseases, mainly Chandipura Virus, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic Fever Virus and other viral diseases. The State Government of Gujarat has to often send the sample to the National Institute of Virology, Pune or National Center for Disease Control, Delhi for testing every new virus as the State has no laboratory of its own. As a result delay is often caused in taking necessary steps for testing and checking new virus. Today, the need of the hour is that a world-class lab like the National Institute of Virology, Pune or the National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi, should be set up in Gujarat, so that various viral infections can be controlled and the morbidity and mortality rate can be reduced.

I would like to bring to your notice that the Gujarat Government had sent a proposal in February, 2012 to the Union Health Ministry for setting up such a lab in the state. After this, ICMR gave its consent to establish the above lab in B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad. Nevertheless, the aforementioned project is presently only at the proposal stage.

Through you, I would request the Union Government to intervene in this matter and immediately set up a lab at B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad on the lines of the National Institute of Virology in the public interest.

**(iii) Need to include people belonging to Scheduled Caste
Bengali community living in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in
the list of Scheduled Castes**

**SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI (NAINITAL -
UDHAMSINGH NAGAR):** A large number of displaced Bengalis from Eastern Bengal have settled down in the states like Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Most of these people belong to Namoo, Shudra or Paund castes. These are divided into subcastes like Vishwas, Mandal, Sarkar, Haldhar etc. All of them are demanding that they be granted Scheduled Caste status under the Namoo, Shudra category. The Uttarakhand Government had earlier passed a resolution in this regard in the Legislative Assembly and sent it to the Union Government. However, these castes have not yet been granted Scheduled Caste status.

Therefore, through this House, I would request the Union Government to include the Bengalis residing in states like Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(iv) Need to extend Train No. 64904 running between Delhi and Mathura upto Bharatpur, Rajasthan

SHRI BAHADUR SINGH KOLI (BHARATPUR): Sir, there is no direct train from Bharatpur to Delhi for daily commuters and traders of my Parliamentary Constituency Bharatpur who make the daily journey to Delhi. Bharatpur is the divisional headquarters. Every day, a large number of people and traders commute to and from Delhi from here. The Bayana region of Bharatpur is a major stone business centre and betel leaf is cultivated in this area and it is brought to Delhi for sale every day, due to the lack of any suitable train to Delhi, a lot of problems have to be faced by these people. Indian Railways operates a regular EMU Mathura Shuttle no. 64904 which leaves from Delhi at 5:30 pm and stops at Mathura Junction at 8:30 pm. This train must be extended up to Bharatpur Junction, to reach there by 9:00 pm, and it can take overnight halt at Bharatpur Junction, instead of Mathura Junction, at night. The next day, the train can leave from Bharatpur Junction at 4:30 am and depart from Mathura Junction as per its scheduled time. Since there are no other trains

operating on the Mathura-Bharatpur track during this time, no additional adjustments will be necessary.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to extend EMU Mathura Shuttle up to Bharatpur junction as it will not only financially benefit the railway department but also solve the problems face by the common man in this regard.

(v) Need to take adequate measures for socio-economic welfare of differently-abled persons in the country

SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, today there are more than 3Crore of differently able persons in our country. In the absence of proper resources, facilities and opportunities, these people feel themselves alienated from the rest of the society. By depending on others, they lose their self-respect, social prestige and hope of leading a respectable life. Such people soon become victims of frustration. If we provide them with proper facilities so that they become self-reliant and empowered, then they will awake and rise. It has happened many times that when given the opportunity and the means, those considered weak have accomplished the impossible. They need to be provided with opportunities for education and employment.

With all these things, I want to raise this issue of public interest in this House of Parliament and demand to take necessary steps for their empowerment and welfare.

(vi) Need to ensure equal educational standards in all the schools and colleges in the country

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Deputy Speaker Sir, while the Constitution of India provides for equal laws and equal education for all, the standard of education should also be equal for everyone. Unfortunately, during the days of colonial rule under the East India Company, Lord Macaulay introduced an education system whose objective was to produce people who would believe in Western culture and possess a slave mentality. That education system had separate schools for the well-off and different schools for common people, a system that still continues today. One of the measures of the country's independence and development will be when everyone talks about sending their children to Government schools. In the current system, the discrimination between the poor and the rich not only creates a sense of superiority or inferiority complex in the children but also disintegrates our society. In our culture, there was a provision for free and compulsory education for the children of kings and paupers. True education is another name for the solution of problems, "Sa Siksha Ya Vimukti" (the education is which Liberates). Discriminating among the children,

given by the God, on the basis of poverty and wealth God is not only a sin but also a huge challenge for the rulers and planners. In my area Baghpat, due to neglect by the Government officers under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the standard of education has fallen down to a great extent. Most of the Children studying in Government Schools and Colleges are able to get degrees and diplomas by using unfair means in the exams. But they are not fit to get any employment in this age of competition. Therefore, in West Uttar Pradesh and especially in the Baghpat Lok Sabha constituency, criminal activities are on the rise among the youth, which is not only ruining the young generation but also the law-abiding people and the capital city of Delhi have to bear the brunt of it. Is the Hon. Minister of Education or the Government of India preparing any plan to end the double standards and discriminatory system of education?

**(vii) Need to construct an approach road to Swarnagiri Fort in
Jalore District, Rajasthan**

SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL (JALORE): Deputy Speaker Sir, Swarnagiri Fort in Jalore district, situated in my Parliamentary Constituency is a thousand year old historical monument. The beauty of architecture is reflected in this fort. The Swarnagiri Fort of Jalore is a sterling example of bravery and patriotism. When the Muslim invaders attacked Jalore, they initially failed and it took a long time to capture the fort. This Swarnagiri Fort is an important tourist place, there is no approach road to reach this historical site. To reach the fort, there is a difficult climb of 2 thousand stairs. In this situation, people coming from other places or tourists cannot reach here. For this, an approach road to the fort is necessary.

Therefore, it is requested to construct an approach road to the historic Swarnagiri fort by using the Central Road Fund in order to promote tourism in Jalore.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nandi Yellai – not present;
Shri P.R. Senthilnathan – not present.

(viii) Need to inter-link Palar and Pennaiyar rivers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): River Palar flows across my constituency, Vellore, to a distance of nearly 100 kilometres. The river is the source of drinking water to millions of people. During monsoons, when adequate rainfall is received, the water of the River is used to replenish hundreds of tanks and lakes on either side of its banks all through the entire length of my constituency. However, due to inadequate rainfall in the catchment area and due to construction of check dams at various places across the river in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, there has not been any water flow in the river in the past ten years. Due to the river going dry, the agricultural operation in Vellore District has come to an end and every town in the constituency is facing chronic drinking water shortage problem. Come summer, this assumes unmanageable proportions. In order to overcome these problems, the National Water Development Authority as well the Public Works Departments of the State of Tamil Nadu have suggested linking-up of Pennaiyar with Palar whereby the surplus water of Pennaiyar to an extent of 9.3 TMC discharged into Bay of Bengal

annually could be diverted and drained into Palar. The Project Report envisages the construction of a canal to a distance of 54 kilometres connecting the Pennaiyar at Nedungal Anaicut to Kallar, a tributary of Palar, near Vaniyambadi at a cost of Rs. 253 Crore. Presently, the feasibility study appears to have been completed. If this project is completed, it would benefit nearly 2 million people of this arid region with about 99 million cubic metre or 3.5 TMC of water sufficient to cultivate about 9500 hectares and also to overcome the drinking water problem to some extent. Therefore, I urge the Union Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to expeditiously complete the Project.

**(ix) Need to provide funds for repair and maintenance
of roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri
Gram Sadak Yojana in Krishnanagar Parliamentary
Constituency, West Bengal**

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (KRISHNANAGAR): Fund is required for maintenance of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-I in Krishnanagar Lok Sabha Constituency, Nadia, West Bengal. The roads have been laid badly and are mostly used by the office-goers, school/college going students and especially by the patients visiting hospital. So, these roads are required to be constructed for the benefit of my constituency people.

I would, therefore, request our hon. Prime Minister of India, through you, Sir, to consider the matter and sanction a sum of Rs. 1149.57 lakh so that the maintenance work can be completed and the people of my Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency may have a comfortable journey. This is my request. Thank you.

(x) Need to address the problems of jute sector in the country

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that jute industry is reeling under deep crisis due to reduction in demand of jute goods in the last one year. The sad part is that eight jute mills have closed down. We are witnessing severe production cuts across the country resulting in over one lakh jute workers going jobless. West Bengal contributes more than 80 percent of the total jute production. In West Bengal, 64 jute mills are operating in organized sector employing three lakh workers and supporting forty lakh jute farmers. Nearly forty lakh farming families and twenty five lakh persons are directly involved in this trade. Twenty three lakh farming families are closely engaged in jute cultivation. Of late, jute and allied fibre sector are facing stiff competition from synthetics. Added to this changing climatic condition, shortage of labourers, non-availability of quality seeds, and steep hike of different agricultural inputs have increased the cost of jute production considerably. I would strongly urge the Ministry of Textiles to go through certain policy decisions taken by it which led to the current crisis and address the issue of

requirements for packaging of food-grains and sugar by knowing the exact picture from the representatives of Indian Jute Mills Association. Before taking any decision by the Central Government concerning the jute industry, I would strongly urge the Central Government to consult the Indian Jute Mills Association and all other stakeholders and the West Bengal Government. I would like to request the Central Government to support the cause of the jute industry so that placement of orders and production would increase and closed jute mills in West Bengal reopen.

(xi) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for setting up of a 300-bed Super Speciality Hospital at Sambhaji Nagar in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Deputy Speaker Sir, Sambhajinagar in my Parliamentary Constituency Aurangabad (Maharashtra) is witnessing rapid industrialization. There are around 170 slums in this area and their population is increasing rapidly due to industrialisation. One-third of my Parliamentary Constituency lives in these slum areas and the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation is responsible for the health care of the people living in these slum settlements. The Corporation is facing a lot of difficulty in providing healthcare facilities due to the increasing population in slum areas. There is only one Medical College and there is less number of private hospitals in this area, with extremely high treatment cost where poor people cannot afford treatment. Due to the lack and inadequacy of healthcare facilities in this area, poor people from my Parliamentary Constituency have to go to either Mumbai or Pune for treatment. In order to tackle this problem Aurangabad Municipal Corporation

has submitted a proposal for setting up a 300 bed superspeciality hospital on PPP model, which was forwarded by the Government of Maharashtra to the National Health Mission, Government of India, New Delhi, for approval in June 2014. This hospital would enable the poor people of my Aurangabad constituency to receive affordable and accessible medical treatment.

Therefore, through this House, I urge the Government to kindly approve at the earliest the proposal submitted by the Government of Maharashtra for the 300-bed super-specialty hospital under the PPP model.

**(xii) Need to construct an over-bridge or under-pass on Gehri
Mandi Jandiala Guru level-crossing in Khadoor Sahib
Parliamentary Constituency, Punjab**

[English]

***SHRI RANJIT SINGH BRAHMPURA (KHADOOR SAHIB):**

I wish to draw your attention towards the need to construct Rail-Over-Bridge or underpass at Gehri Mandi Jandiala Guru Railway crossing in my Khadoor Sahib, Parliamentary Constituency in Punjab. The railway crossing at Gehri Mandi Jandiala Guru is double track railway crossing and is located on the GT Road and on the route of the North-Western Railway. All trains plying from North to West Pass through this railway crossing. It is the second biggest agriculture Mandi in Punjab and an important trade centre for paddy, wheat, maize, toria, gram, etc. Several agricultural trading activities between India and Pakistan, especially, loading and unloading of goods are also carried out from this Mandi, as all godowns of Food Corporation of India, Markfed, Railways etc. are located on this railway line. Gehri Mandi is the business hub of the region.

As North-Western railway line crossing at Gehri Mandi Jandiala Guru has high railway traffic, in the absence of a rail over-

bridge or underpass, lakhs of people are facing a lot of inconvenience and movement of goods transportation passing through this railway crossing is also adversely affected.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister for Railways for construction of rail over bridge or underpass at the above mentioned railway crossing on an urgent basis.

[Translation]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akshay Yadav (Firozabad) -
Not present.

Shri Raju Shetty (Hatkanangale) - Not present.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

**(xiii) Need to provide adequate power supply in
Dhaurahra Parliamentary Constituency in UP**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA (DHAURAHRA): Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. My Parliamentary Constituency Dhaurahra (Uttar Pradesh) is a completely rural area. In our region, electricity is available for a very limited time, and even when it does come, due to dilapidated and faulty transformers, it fails to reach the villages, depriving them of its benefits. Additionally, due to the frequent breakage of worn-out wires, incidents of loss of life, damage to crops and livestock, and financial losses occur regularly. A recent example of this is the death of a person at the electricity substation in the town of Mitauli in our area. The attitude of concerned officers is indifferent and insensitive in this matter. The concerned authorities have not taken any action on this incident, which is a serious matter. In the villages where electricity-related work is ongoing, the quality of work is extremely poor. Electric poles have been installed for a long time, but no further progress has been made.

(xiv) Need to provide reservation in jobs, promotions and educational institutions to people belonging to Other Backward Classes and also set up a separate Ministry to look into the issues pertaining to them

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Article 340 of Constitution of India provides economic, educational and social rights to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the country. Despite being entitled to 27 percent reservation as per Mandal Commission, the Other Backward Classes are being ignored in providing reservation by the Union Government. Though OBC community has been provided 27 percent reservation, they are being provided only 19 percent reservations as per Government records. It has been noticed that the OBC community is not being provided complete reservation. The students are not getting their rights in the field of education due to lack of adequate reservation and facilities in providing admission, domicile, creamy layer certificates etc.

The grant meant for scholarships to students of Maharashtra has not been made available for the last six years, as a result of which lakhs of students have suffered educational loss and their

future has been ruined. They are also not being given benefits of reservation in the matter of promotion in Government jobs. OBC community in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra is given six percent reservation. Likewise, OBC community is facing injustice in many states of the country. This community has not been able to progress because the census has not been conducted since the year 1931, therefore, the Union Government needs to take immediate action to establish an independent Ministry so that this backward OBC community suffering from injustice can get their constitutional rights.

14.32 hrs

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014– Contd.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 23, the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Shrimati Anupriya Patel to continue her speech now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I welcome the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2014 introduced by the Government as this Bill has been brought keeping in view the interest of those people in the country who belong to Dalit, backward and poor sections of society. Even today, they paddle rickshaws and carry people and goods in various states of the country including Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Whatever the conditions, be it rain, storm, hurricane, cold or heat, they have to do this work because this is how they feed their families.

There cannot be any more inhuman practice in the country in which a person himself has to pull a rickshaw to carry goods and people. Today, if our Government has brought this Bill to give a

message to all such people that they too have a right to live a life with dignity like a human being, then all of us, the entire House should extend our support in passing the Bill in view of its sensitivity.

I have heard the arguments given by all my colleagues in the Opposition. Some colleagues claimed that, because of the Delhi elections, the Government is bringing this Bill as a cherry on top. All I want to say to my colleagues is that sometimes we should put aside our electoral calculations and work together to pass some Bills in the House, for the sake of the underprivileged. Some Members have opposed this Bill extending this argument that e-carts and e-rickshaws will create the problem of traffic congestion. I would like to know from the Members whether the problem of traffic congestion will be caused by e-rickshaws or will it be caused by the multiple number of cars being used by each member of the prosperous families? A single family owning six to seven four-wheelers contributes more to the increasing traffic congestion on Delhi's roads, so we should not oppose a Bill that supports the needs of the poor on the grounds of traffic congestion.

Deputy Speaker Sir, some friends also said that this is not right for security. Several accidents happen due to e-carts and e-

rickshaws. For this reason, the High Court had also banned them. I want to ask them, do these accidents happen only due to e-rickshaws and e-carts? Are accidents not caused by cars and trains? Doesn't the airplane crash? We don't stop them, do we? If we don't stop them, then why do we want to stop these e-carts and e-rickshaws, which belong to the poor, which are driven by the poor and which provide income to the poor, on the ground that they will create security problems? As far as security is concerned, our Government is already very conscious about it. The Government has made e-rickshaw registration number plates, licenses, transfer of ownership and validity of fitness certificates mandatory.

Some of our colleagues have opposed the Bill on the grounds that the Government has brought the Bill to favour a particular company. I would like to tell my colleagues if they check their facts, they will find that not one but thousands of companies are manufacturing e-rickshaws and e-carts in the country. We have to develop the habit of overcoming the anti-poor mentality because whenever we go to the public platform, we always talk about the rights and privileges of the poor.

Some colleagues argued that there is a higher likelihood of corruption in the licensing process. I am very surprised that the

Member of those parties are talking about corruption which had set so many records of corruption in the country. It is like the pot calling the kettle black. Every drib and drab showing a scam. Such colleagues should think before preaching about corruption.

As far as licensing is concerned, the Government has simplified process as earlier educational qualification up to class VIII was mandatory for obtaining a licence. The Government has shown its sensitivity in this regard and has understood that the people who drive e-carts or e-rickshaws are Dalits, poor, backward community people, who do not have the means to arrange for two meals a day, how will they get VIII standard education? The Government has made the simplification keeping in mind the interests of the poor.

Several colleagues have suggested that this Bill should be sent to the Standing Committee. I am of the opinion that the Government has studied the provisions of the Bill minutely. By Sending it to the Standing Committee, this process will get delayed for another three-four months. It is not just going to address the question of livelihood of one or two lakh people of Delhi, but one crore people across various states of the country. To further delay the Bill for another four months by sending it to the committee will not work in favour of the poor in the country. The Government has

brought this Bill keeping the interests of the poor in mind. We all should welcome this. This rickshaw is battery-operated so there is no harm to the environment. I appeal to the entire House to extend their support and pass this Bill, keeping in view the interests of the lakhs and Crores of poor, Dalits, and other people from backward communities working in the unorganised sector.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, presently the prefix 'e' is being used with every word. By e-rickshaw we mean a rickshaw which is battery operated. e-governance, e-ticketing and now e-rickshaw. The reason behind introducing e-rickshaw is the intention to check the inhuman practice of one person being carried by another. In such a situation, we need to increase the use of e-rickshaws to put an end to this inhuman prevalent practice. Therefore, the amendments brought through this Bill were certainly required.

14.39 hrs.

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

When a city decides to buy a car or vehicles, it keeps on buying vehicles and buys so many vehicles that no space is left for walking there. For this reason, planners should pay attention to the necessity of popularizing different types of transport modes according to different roads and different needs. Keeping this necessity in mind, 276 or 274 places have been selected in Delhi where e-rickshaws will not be allowed to operate. E-rickshaws are also essential for providing the last mile connectivity and for decongesting the city. If you want to expand the metro, if you want to improve public transport, if you want more and more people to use buses, today the people of middle-income group and the lower-income group have the means - metro and buses to address their transportation needs. In such a situation, unlicensed buses were running up to the year 2012 and due to that the Nirbhaya incident happened. Recently Uber cab incident happened at non licenced place. In such a situation, the issue of decongestion and freeing the city from this problem can only be dealt with introducing of e-rickshaws. The use of metro by the maximum people and of e-rickshaw for getting last mile connectivity is the real solution for decongestion of the city. Research on traffic resources shows that most of the people drive their vehicles within a range of five kilometres. Five

kilometres is the range in which people go to buy vegetables, drop children at school, get some goods or commute to the metro station, if we ensure e-rickshaw connectivity within this range, then we can decongest the city to a great extent. Since Delhi is currently experiencing the worst pollution, E-rickshaw is also one of the better solutions for the problem of pollution being faced by a city like Delhi which becomes a headline issue in newspapers everyday because it is a vehicle driven by green energy. E-rickshaw completely meets both these parameters. Provision of e-rickshaws is necessary for this reason, I have one more thing on my mind. E-rickshaw can also be a medium for achieving gender equality to some extent. It can foster gender equality because most of the rickshaw pullers are men from the poor class. As women do not have the physical strength required to pull a rickshaw. However, if we correct the process of issuing licences to operate e-rickshaws, then e-rickshaws can also become a source of income for an empowered woman, hence e-rickshaws are also essential. When e-rickshaw meets all these requirements, then this issue of licencing should be corrected. One lakh e-rickshaws are being operated across the country, out of which approximately 91 thousand e-rickshaws are in Delhi only. In view of 91 thousand e-rickshaws in Delhi,

simplifying the licensing process became necessary, and the court was also directed to do so. If Delhi Government could simplify the rules for recruitment in DTC and give jobs by relaxing educational norms during the time of the Commonwealth Games, why can't this be done for people driving e-rickshaws? Two arguments have been given against this, one argument was that the roads will get congested. I believe that roads get congested when flyovers are constructed without any thought. Flyovers never increase the surface area but one does not have to stop at red light. If the roads were to be decongested then elevated roads could have been constructed, but we saw all kinds of scams and frauds during the Commonwealth Games. During that time, it was also observed that while flyovers were constructed, Delhi's traffic was not decongested. Delhi's traffic can be decongested through an excellent public transport system, in which more and more Government-run DTC buses should operate so that people have to rely less on private chartered buses. Last-mile connectivity from the bus station or metro station to their homes should be through e-rickshaws. Along with e-rickshaws, e-carts are also very necessary as they serve the purpose of transporting goods. At the very least, those sitting in Parliament must have humanitarian sentiments

because the people sitting here belong to more sensitive sections, which is why the public elects them and sends them here. The public sends them here because they know the difference between humanity and inhumanity. When a person pulls a goods-laden cart, I feel that if that cart is battery-operated, it improves the system and ends inhuman practices. The opposing argument given is regarding accidents, some accidents have occurred. My belief is that if we look at the number of road accidents, Delhi ranks number one, and all those accidents are not caused by e-rickshaws. They include vehicles ranging from BMWs to many others. Did we ever make provisions to ban BMWs or any other such vehicle or even consider doing so? If not, then any kind of ban on e-rickshaw, which is an easy means of transporting a common man to his home at a low cost, making Delhi pollution-free and providing employment to about one to two lakh people, is not justified. I would like to request the Government that the Government should work on the issue of giving ownership rights of vehicle to the person who is driving it. For this, there should be provision of loan from banks, the Minority Department has some budget, that budget should be distributed for skill training to them. The skill development department also has got some funds; maximum

driving licences should be given under entrepreneurship so that the driver becomes the owner. There must be some action taken in this regard.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I fully support the content of the Bill but strongly oppose the manner in which this Bill was brought before this House because the Bill was not even considered by the Business Advisory Committee and also the Bill has not been referred to the Standing Committee. So, overriding the principles, conventions and customs of this House, this Bill is being brought in this House. Even then, I am supporting this Bill because it is a beneficial legislation as far as the poor auto-rickshaw drivers especially the e-rickshaw drivers are concerned.

Sir, there is only one amendment. The cardinal principle behind the amendment is this. The auto-rickshaw drivers can run their e-rickshaws or e-carts on the roads. But I am having two technical reservations in this matter.

Firstly, the amendment, which is an enabling provision, gives the Government power to make the rules. If we go through the definition, a new Clause has been incorporated as Section 2A. Section 2A, Clause 2 contains the definition of e-cart and e-rickshaw. That is only meant for Section 7(l) and Section 9. That means, the definitions of 'e-rickshaw' and 'e-cart' are not

applicable to other provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. This is a very material lacuna or defect in this Act because as far as the driving licence of the auto-rickshaw drivers or e-rickshaw drivers are concerned, it is all right. But there are many other provisions. There are 272 provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act. In those provisions also, this definition is not applicable. If you go through the enabling provision, the definition for the purpose of this Section says:

“e-cart or e-rickshaw” means a special purpose battery powered vehicle of power not exceeding 4000 watts, having three wheels for carrying goods or passengers, as the case may be, for hire or reward, manufactured, constructed or adapted, equipped and maintained in accordance with such specifications, as may be prescribed in this behalf.”

So, all the specifications of the vehicle -- its model, its construction as well as adaption and maintenance -- will be determined by the rules, which are to be framed by the appropriate authority or the Government.

But as far as the Motor Vehicles Act is concerned, if you take the case of a car, any private carriage or a public carriage, whatever it may be, its chassis, length and all other things are well explained in the Act itself. But here, in this case, we are enabling the Government to make rules. Here, I would like to suggest that the Parliament's legislative capacity has been taken over by the Executive or by the Government. So, it cannot be accepted on technical grounds.

I am coming to the second point. The main question is this. What about the other provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act? As I have already stated, there are 217 Sections. Section 2 has the definition clause talking about axel weight, contract carriage, goods carriage, light motor vehicles, motor cab, motor car. Definition of manufacture is also there in Section 2. Here Section 2A is incorporated as a new amendment.

Coming to the Chapter 8, it talks about control of traffic, limit of speed, limit of weight, limitation on use, to obey traffic rules and all related things. Then, Section 140 talks about liability without fault. These are very serious provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act. What about the application of these e-rickshaws and e-carts in respect of other provisions, especially in obeying the traffic rules?

Is it applicable to these e-carts and e-rickshaws? I am purely on a technical ground and I am not opposing the Bill. I am fully supporting the content of the Bill. But at the same time, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as well as from the Government. Suppose e-cart or e-rickshaw meets with an accident, whether this definition, as per Section 2A would be applicable to those cases also including registration? So, considering that these would come under the purview of the Motor Vehicles Act, whether it is only applicable in the case of driving licence.

The contention or the argument or the allegation, which was made by most of the hon. Members from the Opposition seems to be right because these provisions of the Bill have been made in a haste. Otherwise, these provisions could have also been incorporated in the amendment so that a comprehensive legislation could be brought, and it would be helping the poor e-rickshaw drivers.

There are so many defects and lacunae in the Bill. But we are only concerned with providing exemption under Section 7 that e-rickshaw and e-cart drivers need not have licence. This is the only provision, which has been incorporated. This is not politics, this is legislation. We are passing a Bill. When we pass all other Bills in

the House with due diligence, we have to apply our diligence in this case also. Here, we have the only provision of driving licence. What about other provisions, which have not been answered and addressed?

Sir, I am ready for approving the Bill and I am supporting the contents of the Bill. Though it is for the election purpose, yet at least, it is giving benefit to the poor e-rickshaw drivers and e-cart drivers. So, I am supporting this Bill. But the other facts are also to be taken into consideration as far as other provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act are concerned.

With these words, I conclude and support this Bill. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon.Chairperson Sir, I rise in support of the amendment that has come regarding E-rickshaws. I have been listening to the speeches of Hon. Members since yesterday.The E-rickshaw was introduced in 2012. I would like to tell all of those who conjectured about the election today that when Hon. Nitin Ji was not a Minister, he was the president of the party, at that time I was the president of the workers, at that time e-rickshaws were introduced in Delhi.After becoming a Minister, he has given legal sanction to e-rickshaws, he should be congratulated for this.He had started this work in the year 2012 itself, of which I am an eyewitness.

The second thing I want to say is that apart from TERI, the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), Uttar Pradesh had also recommended that rickshaws should be replaced by e-rickshaws, which is necessary on humanitarian grounds.

The third thing I would like to say is about the delay that the Hon. Member is talking about, the first meeting was held on 24th April, 2014.On 8th October, 2014, Notification GSR-709E was issued, which included E-rickshaws and e-carts in the Motor Vehicles Act.Earlier, the FCI godown used to have hundred-

kilogram sacks, which were later made fifty kilogram sacks. If there is talk of carrying and delivering two quintals of goods on these rickshaws, then this is good work. I think I shouldn't comment on this. He was also saying that there has been no amendment in the Act regarding this. Whether it is Rule-2 or Section-7(1)(i), but regarding what you were saying, I would like to inform you that e-rickshaws and e-carts will be permitted to operate in authorised areas with a specified engine capacity and limited speed. Along with this, under the process of registration of e-rickshaws, amendments have also been made in Rule-50(1), 51, 56(2), 57(1), and 62(1), which include all matters related to fitness, something you might not be aware of. That is perhaps why you are making these statements. If we go through the Bill we will find that the answer lies within the rules of the Bill. They should not think that the Bill is being brought due to political reason. Whenever a Bill is introduced to get it enacted as an Act, all the aspects are taken care of and similar is the case with this Bill. So I think it would have been better if we had read the Act properly, but when we have prejudice in our mind then we feel that a very wrong thing is being done.

I would like to request you one more thing that our sister mentioned here about the VIII pass. You all know that I work among labourers and you also work among labourers. Whenever such situations arise, it is the need of the hour to provide facilities to them by adding technology as per those situations and the debate should be on this basis. As far as Delhi elections are concerned, elections are being held only in Delhi, but E-rickshaw will prove as a boon in those areas which have narrow alleys in metropolitan cities of States like West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh. We are not even discussing e-cart. When you have considered the one hundred kilograms of FCI as incorrect, I believe that a practical consideration should also be given to those who transport goods. There must be several other areas where you will need to think about how much weight a common man can carry. Therefore, I believe that this Act has been brought with such honesty, and for that, I would like to congratulate Nitin Ji. When he was the party president, he initiated this. After becoming a Minister, he presented it legally, and for that, I want to extend greetings on behalf of the poor people of this country, and I want to congratulate him, because I was also a direct witness to that incident.

In the end, I would just like to say that the controversial things that have been said about the Bill should not be opposed merely on the political ground, rather, we should unanimously congratulate it. Now, many technical changes will take place in it and the House should give its opinion unanimously regarding those technical changes also. I once again congratulate the Minister and support the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Chairperson Sir, it is a fact that the Minister has brought a very good Bill. He is a good person, so he will bring a good Bill, he is a very straightforward person.

“Bahut shor sunte the pahlu mein dil ka, jab cheera to
katra-e-khoon na nikla”

Sir, we do not want to politicise this. Our country is troubled by being compared with Japan, America, Canada and other countries. We do not take into account the social, economic and geographical perspective of our country. We do not consider the population of our country.

15.00 hrs.

Those who talk about the poor should remember that on one hand, there is a ceiling on farmers in villages and on the other hand, capitalists will have the right to hold unlimited property. Talking about the poor there, ending corruption there, and I want to say that in a country where any person has high purchasing power, that person has the capacity to deceive any morality and honesty. Hon. Minister, you would certainly remember that you held a meeting at Ramleela Maidan on 14th June. You had positive intentions while you were in the Ministry of Rural Development, and you still have. I don't want to hurt your feelings. Though why only at the time of elections? This could have also happened 6 months ago, it is happening even today, that's right. You are concerned about the poor and e-rickshaws. Okay, but right now Uber's 400 drivers are also poor.

If this happens because of a single incident, it is true that someone has committed a crime. However, even Uber drivers aren't rich either. The poor people who come to Delhi from Purvanchal and make a living by pulling handcarts, selling vegetables, who are always evicted, they are not rich people. Can a driver be given the freedom to drive after consuming drugs or alcohol? Drunk Driving is the major cause of road accidents.

Would you not impose ban on intoxication? The road alone cannot be blamed. There is a need to provide licences to e-rickshaw drivers. There should be single window clearance for this process so that the e-rickshaw drivers do not fall in the trap of the touts. Secondly, while giving permit to the e-rickshaw drivers it should be ensured that only the genuine persons get it and do not transfer the permit because it has been seen that people tend to get permit issued in their names and sell it to the other needy person. We should be certainly mindful of this fact. ... (*Interruptions*) He must be the owner, we are also tired of hearing this. ... (*Interruptions*) It also comes down to simplification of the process. I would request the Hon. Minister that women participation should be more in e-rickshaws and the areas where e-rickshaws will start, no big vehicle or tempo's should ply there and only e-rickshaws should ply from there so that e-rickshaws owners feel secure, is the Government making any concrete law for this? Our Hon. MP was talking about the flyover. A person, whether he is a politician or an officer, has no less than 5-6 cars. Is there any law proposed that will reduce the number of vehicles so that these accidents can be prevented and the condition of roads can be improved? ... (*Interruptions*) Will the Government consider making

such a law under which the use of multiple personal vehicles by individuals could be restricted to get rid of the problem of traffic jam and road accidents?... (*Interruptions*)

When it comes to Japan and America, will the government make provisions for toilets in Volvo and big buses that run for a distance of 500-1000 km? Will there be an arrangement for tea, snacks and food, so that ... (*Interruptions*) it is about safety and also about e-rickshaws.

Hon. Minister, as far as corruption is concerned, you have written that you have made the Motor Vehicle Act very stringent and strict. You have said that the manner in which school buses and tempos pack a large number of children to ferry them is the cause of road accidents. I think if you do something on a larger scale, the number of accidents can be reduced. The government must definitely make a strong law. The law should be made too stringent, for the vehicles to violate any motor rules. I congratulate the Minister that the relaxation given to e-rickshaw drivers, keeping in mind the perspective of the poor, is definitely a laudable step.

With these words, I conclude my statement.

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA):

Hon.Chairperson Sir, I support the Road Transport and Safety Bill, 2014 presented before the House. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that by repealing the Act of 1988, the new Bill of 2014 that we are bringing or the law that we are making in the House, will certainly overcome the leakages and drawbacks that were there in the old law.About 1 lakh 42 thousand people are killed in road accidents every year in the country.We observe that the Hon. Minister has brought this law based on the laws of developing countries like Canada, Singapore or Japan.I would like to say that certainly, the proposed law is very good, but I would request an improvement in the system of fines for overloading, as overloading damages the roads, overloading causes accidents and overloading causes pollution etc., if we want to avoid all these things, then imposing a fine of two thousand or five thousand rupees will not solve it.I suggest that permit of such vehicles should be cancelled, then we will definitely be saved from the losses caused by overloading.We will have to make a provision that if a person buys a new vehicle, one has to give details of parking space along with the application for new registration of the vehicle.In metropolitan cities, vehicles are parked on road side

which causes great inconvenience to the common people. Therefore, it is necessary to include the provision of parking space in this law. We will have to make one more provision in this law to check the exploitation of the driver and helper which will definitely curb the accidents. The owners of the vehicles neither make proper arrangements for PPF contributions nor salaries for the drivers. I believe that if we provide facilities to the driver and helper under this law, then definitely the number of accidents will reduce.

Chairperson Sir, I support this amendment Bill because the Minister has brought a good Bill here. Through this, the citizens of our nation will have access to a robust and good Road Transport and Safety Act. I support this and conclude my speech.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you, I am really grateful for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill 2014.

When we discuss e-rickshaws in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, it is a very important matter for the working class because those who cannot afford a car or an auto, which costs lakhs

of rupees, can earn a living with a rickshaw that costs Rs. 50-60 thousand. When we talk about e-rickshaws, we also talk about greenery and pollution-free environments. We also welcome the efforts we are making to introduce technology to end the practice of humans pulling loads. However, on the other hand, we removed rickshaws from Delhi and limited them to areas like Chandni Chowk or small pockets, saying that they cannot operate throughout Delhi. This was done because Delhi's traffic system had deteriorated so much that it no longer resembled a capital city. Today, when we talk about issuing licenses again, our traffic system will increase again. I would like to ask the Hon.Minister whether they will restrict e-rickshaws to certain areas or allow them to operate throughout Delhi and the entire country?

On the other hand, as previous speakers have mentioned, we recently had an incident involving UBER. Commercial licences will be issued to the e-rickshaw drivers after imparting them training for 10 days, allowing them to carry four people and goods. But on the other hand, whether display of registration plate on e-rickshaws will be made mandatory? Because if an e-rickshaw driver commits a wrongful act like the one committed by UBER,

will you stop all e-rickshaws in Delhi and conduct an investigation? The Hon.Minister should clarify this point in their response.

Sir, the biggest concern that comes up in e-rickshaw is that we can carry four people, one driver and 40 kg of weight in an E-rickshaw. However, will we make any provision in the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill for quality check of the material to be imported from China for assembling and manufacturing e-rickshaws so that we can pass an e-rickshaw after quality checking and the license can be issued to a driver after that. Because, it is very easy to import an item, but quality control is a real pain. While the Hon. Prime Minister talks about Make in India, will the E-rickshaws that will be permitted be 100 percent Made in India after quality check? Will we again import products at cheap rates from China through Maldives and sell them in our country? Hon. Minister should definitely work on bringing an amendment in this Bill for quality check of the imported items.

I would like to know from the government if it is proposed to issue a new type of licence to E-rickshaw drivers. Today, in our country there are light vehicle licenses and heavy vehicle licences. The road authority is absolutely swamped every day because many people visit here to get their licences issued. If we

introduce a third type of licence, the Road Authority will be further tide up. I request the hon. Minister that this Bill needs further consideration, therefore, it should be referred to the Standing Committee for consideration. This will ensure that we do not harm the livelihood of any working-class individual while also propelling the nation towards progress.

Through you, I would once again appeal to the Hon. Minister, to bring this Bill back with more firmness after getting it further review by the Standing Committee. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI):

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill. First of all, I want to thank the Hon. Minister for bringing this amendment Bill. Due to the Government and the entire House, Crore of poor people in the country will be able to benefit from this scheme. Today, when this amendment is passed by the House, you will see their families celebrating, and sweets being distributed in their homes. Until now, three-wheeled rickshaws were operated in Delhi. A person used to pull another person through the rickshaw. This work has been done

for centuries. A person used to pull three people, weighing about 200 kilograms, on a rickshaw. When new technology for making rickshaws arrived and became cheaper, the motor that used to cost two to three lakh rupees, the entire rickshaw is now being made for Rs. 50, 60 or 80 thousand. After this, it was suggested that why not convert the rickshaw into an e-rickshaw? In Delhi, the number of e-rickshaws has increased but one problem came to the fore that they were not up to the mark quality wise. Their motor quality was not checked and they were mostly being made from goods coming from China. As Dushyant Chautala Ji said, the Government has come out with the concept of 'Make-in-India', so we should encourage our local industries. Those who provide raw materials, who make its motors or other goods, should be encouraged so that the rickshaw which costs Rs. 80 thousand or one lakh rupees today, can bring its cost down to Rs. 50 thousand so that poor people can benefit from it.

Sir, it has one better thing. Till date I have not seen any woman driving a rickshaw in Delhi. However through this amendment, not only the man who is earning to run his home, but the woman who wants to earn, wants to contribute to running the home, even if she is a widow, even if she is single or even if she wants to support her

husband, she can help her husband in increasing the Household income. I consider this a great benefit of e-rickshaw. The Government's intention behind bringing this Bill was that the poor man should live his life with dignity and through his hard work. Many Members had expressed their views on this Bill in the House yesterday that elections are coming up in Delhi, hence we are bringing this Bill. I want to tell all the Hon. Members that this Bill will not only benefit Delhi. This Bill will be beneficial for Crore of the people of the country, whether they are rickshaw pullers in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana or any other state of the country, everyone will benefit from this Bill. It is a humanitarian approach and the entire House should support it. I believe that we can reinforce the confidence in crores of underprivileged individuals who are relying on us with optimism. This is a very large unorganised sector. Around 44 crore people in the country work in the unorganised sector, but no one has thought about it. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government came up with the Social Security Scheme. Under the same scheme, the Government is thinking about how to benefit the unorganised sector. If we can give legal status to E-rickshaw, then the passenger sitting in it, God forbid, in case of an accident, can get third-party insurance. We

will legalise the driver and the rickshaw and they will follow all traffic norms, which rickshaw pullers are not following till date in Delhi. I think that the Government aims to give a sense of dignity to the impoverished individual through this Bill. Just now Dushyant Ji asked where it would be allowed? When its maximum speed is 25km/hour and it has a two KVA motor, then it cannot run on the highway. This is useful for one, two or three people who want to go a short distance from one place to another within the colony. I believe that e-rickshaws are as important to Delhi as Delhi Metro which covers large distances, the introduction of e-rickshaw was crucial for the impoverished individual. When a poor man pedals a rickshaw, his lungs are damaged and he is afflicted by numerous illnesses. As I said, there is no ESI scheme in the unorganised sector, the poor workers are not given any medical facilities. Earlier he could work for six hours, now through this, he can work for ten hours. If a poor man used to earn Rs. 200 daily before, now the poor man will earn Rs. 500. I believe that our Minister and our Government have brought this big gift to the poor people.

There was another rule in the existing Act, that one must first have a normal licence for one year to get a commercial license. We have brought changes in this condition. A poor man, who is unable to

keep the pot boiling, and whose children are starving, if he wanted to find a means of earning, the first thing he would do is buy a rickshaw. As per the existing provisions, first, he will be given a normal licence for one year, he will prepare himself to run a commercial vehicle, then a commercial licence will be issued to him after a year, and then he can drive an e-rickshaw. The huge gift that our Government has given him through this Bill is the immediate granting of the licence and if he buys an e-rickshaw today and gets it registered, then from tomorrow he will be able to drive that e-rickshaw and start earning his livelihood. Our registered association will give him ten days of training and after ten days of training, he will be able to drive his own rickshaw. This is a huge advantage of this Bill.

There was another thing in the previous Act that the person should be a VIII pass to get the commercial licence. In our prevalent education system, there are many poor who either could not attend school or even if they attend, could not pass the VIII standard, so it is not the fault of the person if he is born in a poor family. The Governments which have been in power to date have not been able to provide education to the poor people. So, we will

train them now. Even if he is not educated, he will get the licence after ten days of training. This is a huge benefit in this.

Hon. Minister Nitin Gadkari Ji held a meeting with the Ministry of Social Justice and Minority Affairs and their various institutions, such as SCST Finance Corporation, in which the Minister requested to provide loans at 3% interest rate to such persons. If a poor man gets a loan at 3% interest and he buys a rickshaw, it helps him to bring home the bacon, thus benefiting millions of people, it will prove to be the most precious gift from the Government.

I once again thank the Hon. Minister for giving an opportunity for a less fortunate individual to live a life with dignity and self-respect, and I support this Bill.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Minister about two-three points. Right now, much concern is being expressed about the poor people. Whether the Government is thinking about the drivers or concentrating much on manufacturing of e-rickshaws? Whether subsidy is being given to poor for buying e-rickshaw or not? How

much do the rates of e-rickshaw and normal rickshaw differ? Those who are driving normal rickshaws, are they interested in driving e-rickshaws too?

Just now, Meenakashi Lekhi Ji and Anupriya Ji have said many things. What we should have said, the Hon. Member of the ruling party was saying. Talking about the BMW car, they said that accidents happen due to cars too, and accidents happen due to buses too. There are a lot of luxury cars, they also have these cars, that is why she remembered the name of BMW.... (*Interruptions*)

Chairperson Sir, I want to ask a question through you, whether she will leave the BMW and prefer to travel in an e-rickshaw? This is the difference between a BMW and e-rickshaw. If you drive a four wheeler properly and without consuming alcohol and control the speed, then no accident will occur. I would want to ask how many people sitting in this House have travelled in e-rickshaws? Has anyone travelled in it? I did travel in an e-rickshaw, and my children had also travelled in an e-rickshaw. From that day onwards I decided that I would not make my children travel in e-rickshaw, I am saying this honestly.

Hon.Chairperson Sir, I want to tell the House through you that if even a pothole or a one foot big stone comes in the way, that e-

rickshaw will overturn. You are talking about licences and every other thing. I did not intend to speak on this Bill, but this Bill confused me when I read it. The High Court has observed that the design of these e-rickshaws is not safe for the roads. Whether its design is being changed? Are you thickening its structure which is so light and manufactured by assembling all the Chinese items. Are you doing anything to strengthen it or is it true that there are some people close to you who will manufacture it in a new way? Just now an Hon. Member was speaking, we have information that e-rickshaws are banned in the VIP area. If we are so sympathetic towards the poor then why don't we talk about running e-rickshaws inside the Parliament? Why only the poor, e-rickshaws are banned in VIP areas. The Parliament is very close to our Government Residence. You are talking about five kilometres. Start an e-rickshaw service from Parliament to the Annexe. Are we all ready to board an e-rickshaw? We talk a lot about the poor....

(Interruptions) It is being said that Crore of people will be benefited. Even when it comes to accidents, only the poor will be benefited, VIPs like us will not benefit from it, because we will not be sitting in the e-rickshaw.

15.29 hrs (Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would definitely like to ask the Minister, that there should be clarification about how many people will sit in that e-rickshaw? A circular should be issued strictly restricting the number of persons travelling in this rickshaw to four.... (*Interruptions*) I will clear it now.... (*Interruptions*) You should not ask me. ... (*Interruptions*) I have travelled in the e-rickshaw, but I will not make my children sit in it because it is very risky. ... (*Interruptions*) Until you change its design, I will request you that if you are so sympathetic towards the poor and the way poor live, one day you should send your child to school in an e-rickshaw, I will understand that e-rickshaw is safe for all of us. For the poor, it is a good thing. We are also in the favour of poor people but instead of giving this gift of e-rickshaws to the poor people in haste before the election. By the time they realise how risky it is, election will be over. I thank you all after. I am concluding my point.

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE (PUNE): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I support this Bill and also want to give a suggestion through you. There should be provision of two additional solar panels to support this electronic-powered vehicle. My suggestion was that it will get the support of solar energy to charge the battery after more electricity is consumed during peak hours.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I support this Bill. I not only congratulate the Government and Nitin Gadkari but also salute them for bringing this innovative Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the present Amendment Bill is not only unprecedented and visionary but it is pro-poor and it will generate employment. There is a suggestion for the hon. Minister and for the Government. Our hon. Prime Minister has initiated an unprecedented, visionary and unparalleled scheme called “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.” Likewise, there should be a Swachh Repeal Abhiyan, which even our Prime Minister has initiated with respect to all obsolete laws.

We have been bringing large numbers of repeal and amendment Acts, for repeal of obsolete laws. We can have an automatic repeal clause in every Amendment Bill. In the Amendment Bill, we can provide automatic repeal provision. As soon as the amended Act comes into force by admendment, principal Act becomes obsolete and dead wood. So, instead of keeping this amended Act in the library and creating confusion, it is better to bring along with this Bill and with all future amendment Bills the “Amendment and Repeal of amendment Bill” together. An Amendment Act is nothing but; it is like a satellite launching vehicle. Once the satellite is put into the orbit, there is no use of the

vehicle. So the purpose of the amendment act is limited. Since we are having 1000 odd amendment acts pending which are required to be repealed, my suggestion to the hon. Minister as well as the Government is to bring a composite Bills of amendment and repeal so that the entire exercise of repeal need not be carried out.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI NITIN GADKARI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank and congratulate the respected Members for expressing their views and supporting this important Motor Vehicles Act Amendment Bill in this House.

I want to make it clear that the Government has not brought this Bill keeping in view any election. Hon. Satav Ji was making some points, so I would like to remind him that whatever I said at Ramlila Maidan is on YouTube, if they are not fulfilled then he must raise this issue in the House. I would like to tell you as to what difficulties were experienced in this regard. I assure you that everything I promise will be completely fulfilled, if not, feel free to speak up and raise your concerns.

This E-rickshaw was not introduced by the previous Government. However, some units were imported from China and were put into operation in Delhi. It is true that these were imported from China. After that it continued and its number kept increasing. People here also started making it and the number increased to a large extent in Delhi. When I was studying this, one thing came to my attention, that in our country, The estimated number of people pulling cycle rickshaws and carrying luggage on hand carts is one crore. In our Bihar and UP, those that run are called "jugads". They don't take any permission for this. When someone talks about taking action against them, I feel that this work provides employment to poor people, if we standardise it and shut it down, then what will that poor man do?

The first thing that happened was that after our Government came to power, instead of keeping this under the Motor Vehicle Act, we decided that it should be done in the interest of the poor. Therefore, a decision is taken to keep the e-rickshaws out of the ambit of Motor Vehicle Act. After removing it, I said that this belongs to the poor, and it should be compared with a cycle rickshaw, not with an auto rickshaw. Your Government was also in power, but for so many years, no Bill, was introduced and there

was no registration facility, no declaration, no notification, nothing happened. As the administration thought that it was impossible to manufacture and run e-rickshaws under the Motor Vehicle Act. I compared it with a cycle rickshaw and took it out from the Act and issued guidelines for it. An accident happened in Delhi and the case was taken to the High Court. The High Court imposed restrictions on it. The Court has stated that e-rickshaws cannot be allowed to ply on roads until they are brought in the ambit of Motor Vehicle Act and provisions for third party insurance are made applicable on them and proper safety norms are adhered to in regard thereto. Whatever the Government did for the benefit of the poor, the order of the Hon. Court was binding on us. Therefore, whatever I had said at Ramleela Maidan could not be implemented because of the stay order of the court.

Many of the Hon. Members expressed their worries regarding security. During the course of study in regard to e-rickshaws in Delhi 'TERI' studied 52 models. I would like to tell the Hon. Behan Ji that the security angle is also very important. I called upon IITs, engineering colleges, polytechnic colleges and all related institutions. Some of those institutions work under the guidance of Hon. Geete Ji, we invited them also. We have selected some of

those pattern designs and fixed their norms as per the requirement for safety. Now their import from China to our country has been stopped. This has not been done to benefit any industry. There are thousands of industries. This work is going on in Ludhiana, and many more locations. It needs to be developed even further, that is why I have created an institute in Ahmedabad through IIT Innovation, Tata has set up an institute in Ahmedabad, its name is "Innovation", Dr. Marshalkar Ji is its Chairman. We talk about institute of innovation, Innovation, entrepreneurship, technology and digitalisation again and again. A lot of good suggestions have been given here. We have appealed to everyone as to how good quality product can be manufactured inexpensively. The issue that came up in the new law is that all the spare parts used in motors and trucks have been standardised. When a new thing came up, our technical department suggested that all the parts used in it should be standardised. Then I said that if each part is made afresh for standardisation, then its cost will be two lakh rupees. If a cyclist has to spend two lakh rupees for an E-rickshaw, it would be an injustice to the poor man. This is a very sensitive subject. I have a very sensitive approach towards this subject .

If amending the law benefits the poor man, then the law should be bent, not broken, and the interests of the poor must be protected. This is my opinion. Hon.Member Prahlad Patel Ji mentioned that when I was the president of BJP, I had started a trade union party and I work in the unorganised sector. Even today, I am the president of at least 80 thousand labour unions, which are in the unorganised sector. I know the condition of those people. ... *(Interruptions)* Don't worry, I will answer all his questions. ... *(Interruptions)* He should have some patience. An important issue came up that each part has to be standardised, if each part has to be standardised then their parts will be made in different industries, then its cost will be two lakh rupees. It is true that e-rickshaws are pollution free and based on electric energy. It is an alternative to cycle rickshaw. Naturally, if it costs Rs. 50 to go somewhere by auto rickshaw, then the e-rickshaw drivers charge 12-15 rupees for it. The auto rickshaw and other lobbies also want to get e-rickshaw stopped. They think that it will take the bread out of their mouth. There are around 1 crore individuals who live in poverty in this nation and rely on their physical strength to transport goods in all cities. This is inhuman. Why shouldn't the Human Rights Commission consider it? So, I decided on one issue. That decision

was taken after a lot of thought. That decision is that it can be used with the already standardised material available in the market and I have no hesitation in accepting that if the wheel is from Hero Honda, the axle is from TVS or something from someone else, it can be used.

I said that the pattern design should be tested using the cheapest good quality material available in Ludhiana, Delhi market and then it should be recognised, there is no need to standardize each and every part of it. I had to overrule the file for every single thing. I said don't do this because a poor person cannot bear it. But safety has not been compromised. IIT engineers were called on, all our institutions were called on, ShriGeete's institution was called on. All the parts were standardised with workable pattern designs which were 52, 53, some of these designs were approved by the technical institute of the Delhi Government. Now a rickshaw can be made on any approved pattern. Now, no parts are imported from China everything is made in India. Thousands of manufacturing companies are opening in every village. I have a dream and I ask for your support for it. Can we save the lives of the poor cycle rickshaw pullers in this country, some are suffering from TB, and some are catching a new lung disease? Those who pull rickshaw

with physical strength, can do it by energy? This proposal has been brought for those people. There is one more thing in Delhi. Some rich man buys a hundred rickshaws and gives them on rent to poor people. I said this won't work. The driver would be the owner, we have made this rule in it. We do not want any big businessman to buy 25 rickshaws and give them to a poor person to run for a hundred rupees per day. Therefore, the concept of driver will be the owner has also been imagined in it.

After the decision of the High Court, all clauses of the Motor Vehicle Act are applicable to it. Like safety, insurance, third party insurance. It will be registered and a number plate will be put on it. For registration, I have asked the state Government to go in for e-registration to root out corruption. A number plate should be put on it. Many Hon. Members suggested. Earlier the wheel was small. I am interested in technology. Earlier the wheel was small so it required more strength. Now that the wheel has become bigger, even a woman can operate it. I would like to assure the House that it has been manufactured and approved after considering all the security aspects. Now if a woman wants, she can also drive it. She can also earn her livelihood from this. By this, one can earn Rs. 500 to 600 daily.

You took the name of Deendayal Upadhyay Ji. I work on it myself. The exploited, oppressed and Dalit people in the society, who do not have a House to live in, food to eat, or clothes to wear, such poor should be looked upon as God and they should always be helped. The day when that individual receives food, clothing, and shelter is the day our mission will be accomplished, this concept of Antyodaya was envisioned by Deen Dayal Upadhyay. Therefore, if we take into account the persons depending on these one crore people, the total population of poor people is four crore. Converting cycle rickshaws to e-rickshaws is good thing, he made a good point that it should be powered by solar energy. What was done for solar energy was that the Chinese company installed solar cells on the top. It also started to get charged from the solar cell. The maximum efficiency of solar cells is 16 percent in our country. A rickshaw is unable to travel on this charge, it is meant to go for 120 kilometres, but with such charging, it can cover only 20-25 kilometres. In order to achieve this, the solar cell must have an efficiency of 40 percent, if the tub is made of solar cells then it is possible, research in this area has only just started. At present, running it on solar cells for commercial purposes is challenging. When the temperature rises in March, April and May,

we set up drinking water points. I am going to request the Delhi Government and the Corporation if both of these can install solar panel sheds at some public places having E-rickshaw stands and provide free charging facilities to poor E-rickshaw drivers? I think. this is certainly possible.

You said, I have recommended the Deendayal E-rickshaw Scheme and sent it to the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. I had a meeting with Thawar Chand Gehlot Ji and Najma Ji. His department already has a financing corporation, Thawar Chand Ji is sitting here. They indulge in caste and communal politics. They may continue it. ... (*Interruptions*) Those who do it might be feeling the pinch, you need not to interrupt. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): You only practice caste politics.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Why are you getting angry, I am not talking about you, I am talking about those who do it, and you are not one of them.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You are talking about this side only.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: I do not need this, we want to tell who the people driving e-rickshaws are. There are Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, people from minority classes, and maximum people are from Bihar and UP. These are poor people, no one wants to leave their home, so many people come to Mumbai too, some come out of compulsion, they come for employment, and they come because they don't get food. People coming from Bihar and UP are coming for food. That is why I asked these Ministers how to make it economically viable. Thawar Chand Ji is sitting. Najma Ji said that our department has a finance corporation, which offers at four percent interest. We will equate e-rickshaws with cycle rickshaws. We will finance it at four percent interest. They have accepted this. After the passing of this Bill today, it will be legalized. ... (*Interruptions*). Let the planning begin first. I would request them to do it even at zero percent. Today he has said that this will be the beginning. You may know that when Indira Ji was the Prime Minister, the 20-Point Programme was launched. A good decision was taken in the 20-point programme. For the first time, a nationalised bank started giving loans to cycle rickshaw drivers. Banks were insisted upon that they should give loans, see,

what is good is good. Now, the technology has changed. Now, e-rickshaws have come. Therefore, we will find a solution for all the related departments like Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribes, and Minority etc. I would tell the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister to try and to give at the lowest rate. There is one more important thing.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Kharge Ji and I will get E-rickshaws to come to the Parliament, so that there is no pollution in the Parliament.

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Long ago, when petrol prices rose, Chandrashekhar Ji and others arrived at Parliament on bicycles. This is a green vehicle and it will be welcomed very warmly.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Venkaiah Ji can easily fit in it, but doesn't Kharge Sahab need to lose some weight?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Thawar Chand ji, I assure you that four people of my weight can fit in an e-rickshaw. In fact, I have lost 40 kilograms. As of now e-rickshaw can carry four passengers and 40 kg luggage. There is an e-cart, in which a 310-kilowatt battery is installed. The e-cart can be converted into a fruit juice centre; it can be transformed into a vegetable shop. The e-cart can also be

converted for those people who sit on the footpath, sometimes there's a problem for them to find a place to sit on the road. But Venkaiah Ji, there is one thing, the states have been given the right to decide in which areas e-rickshaws would be allowed or disallowed. The Member of Parliament from Mumbai, Poonam Mahajan, was saying that she wants to start it in Bandra. It will not be appropriate to give permission to operate e-rickshaws in Mumbai, but it may be permitted in the suburbs of Mumbai, which are B-grade cities, in Delhi where there is so much traffic, its speed is 25 kilometres. Due to its speed being 25 kilometres and because of its design, where there are fast track roads, where there are some other types of movements, we have given authority to the State Government, they should take a decision about it. We have capped its power at two thousand watts and its speed at 25 kilometres.

The proposal for biofuel suggested by Hon. Member Shri Tathagata Satpathy was highly commendable. I absolutely agree with you. I have been working at this for eight years. After this, I have also asked Venkaiah Ji if the Transport Ministry has made a decision on using biofuel for school buses and city buses in the country. Can ethanol, biodiesel, biogas and electric buses be run? I have already told you in the House that our department is working

on this day and night and the first bus of this country, which has been prepared by the farmers, runs entirely on ethanol. I have started it in my city Nagpur. You all must come once to see it. If ethanol is also prepared from waste, then the import of six lakh crore rupees in this country, which is for petrol, diesel, gas, which is causing pollution in the country, carbon monoxide is there, there is 95 percent emission in it. I welcome your point and in the coming time, when I will bring the 1988 Motor Vehicle Act before you, we will come after considering all these matters. But I am happy to inform you that we have already finalised the standards regarding biofuel and permitted it. After the trial, within a month, permission will be granted in this country for buses running on biodiesel, biogas and ethanol. Certainly, we have to save India from pollution, we have to make India pollution-free. The sons of the soil of India, be it farmers or poor people, will now produce fuel. After this, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum will not need to import fuels like gas and petrol. Now, the whole of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will use it. This is our dream and we are working towards it. One more thing was said. ... (*Interruptions*) He is completely friendly towards Pappu Ji. ... (*Interruptions*) That is why he is giving him the same amount of attention as he is giving you, even

though both of them are in different parties. I want to tell you that the existing diesel buses of the State Corporation are running in losses. Therefore, the Heavy Industry Ministry of Geete Saheb has prepared a very good proposal regarding electric buses. Hinduja had a bus in London, in which I did ride there. The final decision in this regard has not been taken yet. Some people will say that I am making a lot of announcements, so you should write down my announcement. What I am saying will happen. A final decision has not been taken on this but we are studying it. Can we convert existing diesel buses into electric buses? With the blessings and good wishes of all of you, we are trying and I believe we will succeed in Make in India and people of our country will convert diesel buses to electric buses. When it will be approved then we will request Venkaiah Ji. Now they are going to bring a new scheme. He will definitely accept your point that Electric buses should be given priority in our country and India should become pollution-free.

I have told you about the number of passengers. I thank Anupriya Ji very much and express my gratitude to her because she has made my work very easy. She has presented such strong arguments that would have addressed many questions of the Hon. Members. Along with this, Tathagata Ji also talked about the

hybrid car. A lot of technologies are available now. Some Diesel plus electric, Petrol plus electric, CNG plus electric, it is possible. What actually occurred was that we believed there was a company which controlled motor vehicles, Geete Ji and I realised after a long time that we do not control it, but the automobile manufacturers control it and they do not allow any new reform to take place in the country. They did not give permission for four years. When this came to our notice, both of us together fixed them very well. I have said to their industry, it's all changing. If you want business, follow us. If you don't follow, we will force them. If you don't do it, then a foreign company will come, the fuel will change, and a pollution-free India will be created. Whether you come along or not, it will happen, with you or without you, these were the words spoken. They too are now engaged in this work. I believe this will definitely happen.

I want to appeal to the House that this is not just for Delhi. By and large, I am not talking about the countryside, tar roads have already been constructed in Punjab and Haryana, do consider this there. There are small towns with populations of two to five lakhs, and in small villages, to travel from one place to the station or from the main road three kilometres inside, a small vehicle is used which

has a diesel engine. It seats 15 people. Smoke keeps coming out from the diesel-powered vehicles. I have seen it in Bihar, UP, Bengal. Once I went to Bengal for the election campaign, then I saw it. This causes pollution. I request you that in such places, converting to e-rickshaws is a good opportunity to make them pollution-free. Include only those people in this scheme if they convert to a four-seater e-rickshaw because it is a very cheap fuel, indigenous, swadeshi, and pollution-free. I request you that for the one crore people in the country who run e-carts, e-rickshaws, and cycle rickshaws, if we do this for those poor people, then it will be a very historical, revolutionary step in the history of the country. Please cooperate in this.

I want to tell the Hon. Members, why should this be sent to the Standing Committee? It was not in my hands, it was the decision of the Court, and three to four months have passed. In the Court's decision, neither I can say anything nor can you. Now it has barely come and you're asking why it was brought so soon? We have not brought it for the Delhi elections. I feel with each passing day that lakhs of people in Delhi are sitting unemployed. They meet me. Once they said they would self-immolate in front of my House. I called them and said that I wanted to help, but because of

the Court's decision, I could not do anything. Now the Court's decision has come and with your blessings, Parliament has decided. There is no loophole or lapse in this. I have made only two amendments. The procedure for getting a driving license is such that before obtaining a commercial driving license, one must get a learner's license. After the learner's license, a permanent license is made, and after one year of the permanent license, a commercial license is issued, which means only then they could drive an e-rickshaw. What will poor people do for one and a half years? How will they earn their livelihood? That is why the amendment has been made that a ten-day training will be given either by the manufacturer or by the association, and after that, a license will be given and then it can be driven. This will help the poor earn their livelihood.

We have also made another decision. Earlier the qualification was either 8th or 10th passed. Some of the poor who come from Bihar and UP for employment are matric pass and some are not. It requires physical labour. The requirement of educational qualification has been done away with. Bills have been brought for only two things. Now if the Bill is passed with these two amendments, then lakhs will get livelihood immediately. This is the

urgency. Kharage Ji, I request you because this is in the interest of the poor. You also wish from your heart that the poor should be benefited and that they should get employment immediately. This is not only for Delhi elections. This will operate from Kashmir to Kanyakumari giving employment to Crore. Elections happen every year in our country. Please do not demand to send this Bill to the Standing Committee. I assure you, if you have any problem, if you have any good suggestion, come to me, when the Government is ready to accept your good suggestion then why do you bother to go to the Standing Committee?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, no member has spoken against the purpose for which this Bill or the law has been brought in. The issue is that we consistently adhere to parliamentary procedures that every Act, amendment, major or minor, and significant amendment is submitted to the standing committee. Naidu Ji is also sitting here. A similar thing happened when Article 371J which was a constitutional amendment brought, it was for my state Hyderabad, Karnataka. We know how difficult it is to make a Constitutional Amendment, at that time, BJP and all other parties supported it and hence it came into being.

16.00 hrs.

Though there were some flaws in it, hence the Hon. Chief Minister of our state objected to it. At that time Shri Venkaiah Naidu was the Chairman of the Standing Committee related to the Home Department. We had raised the issue. This law came after a lot of difficulties. Therefore, do not send it to the Standing Committee. Then he said that if it had to be done in two days or three days, it would be done. I said - All right. ... (*Interruptions*) They called an emergency meeting and within four days, whatever flaws there were in it were corrected by the standing committee and then it was sent immediately. So what is your problem in listening to others? They are trying to put me in the dock as if we are against the poor and they are in favour of the poor. ... (*Interruptions*) Entire budget is exposing whether they are in favour of the poor or against them. Their MGNREGA programme is exposing, your subsidy schemes are revealing. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, no one is against it. Everyone is supporting this Bill. However, this should not be done in a hurry, if some suggestions come on this, as you said that Shri Satpathy Sahab gave you some suggestions, it is possible that some suggestions may also come through the Standing Committee. It can be done in two-four days also, if you want then it can be done anytime, there is no such issue. [*English*] If we go

about against the procedure, this will set a bad precedent. If you continue this precedent, then, there is no role for the Standing Committee. Therefore, we are requesting - we are not blaming anybody - but you should go according to that.

[Translation]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Deputy Speaker Sir, there is no doubt what Shri Kharge Ji has just said regarding the spirit. He also wants to serve the poor people, we also want to serve, let us all together serve the poor, uplift them and move forward. ... *(Interruptions)* Since we came to this Parliament, after discussing the Railway Amendment Bill for three hours, we sent it to the Standing Committee, similarly the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Bill, Factories Amendment Bill, Repeal and Amendment Bill, 2014 went to the Standing Committee and regarding the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Bill, I felt that it should have been done as soon as possible because a child who has the capability to commit rape should be punished. Still, some people said that it should not be passed in a hurry, it should be sent to the standing committee, so it was sent. Therefore the Government has no hesitation. However considering why time should be wasted by sending Bill Standing

Committee which has minimal differences, but wide consensus, we have made this request.

Secondly, just now Shri Kharge Ji was talking about the rules-regulations etc. Let there be an agreement on this, from tomorrow we and you, will follow all the rules which are outlined in the book, all the precedents, governing from the Question Hours to all proceedings, if such a decision is taken then we will definitely accept it, we have no problem in it. ... (*Interruptions*) You have been in the Legislature for nine terms, Can anybody teach you, Sir? ... (*Interruptions*) I am not daring to do such a thing, it is not possible to teach. It is too late to learn new thing ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If you follow the law it will be good for everyone. ... (*Interruptions*) Though saying is one thing, doing is another. If this happens then it is not right. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record what he says.

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

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I request the Hon. Members that this is an Amendment Bill, rules will be made later and today in the House, I have replied to all the questions, doubts and problems of the Hon. Members about this Bill. After this Bill is passed we will make the rules. I request that if you still have any suggestions then please give them to us, I will incorporate your good suggestions with an open heart. I assure you. I want to appeal to you again that lakhs of people of Delhi are sitting at home today, they do not have food to eat, their employment is being snatched away day by day, many rickshaws have been confiscated by the police. In such a situation, today keeping in mind those poor people and their livelihood, we are regularizing old rickshaws. We have also made a scheme to completely regularise

*Not recorded.

them. We will not render anyone unemployed. In such a situation, considering the interests of those poor people, it is in the interest of the poor to implement it as soon as possible. For the first time in the country's history Crore are going to benefit from this Bill. You all have supported it, you have given good suggestions and I have replied to them. If there is any shortcoming, I assure to fix it in the rules. Even after my speech, if you have any suggestions to give, I am ready for that too. If you want to come to me, then whoever comes, if they give good suggestions, I am ready to accept them.

I request them once again that keeping in mind the interests of the poor, they should give up the demand of the Joint Select Committee and approve this Bill. A good work is being done for the poor in the history of the country. All of you please support this unanimously. This is what I humbly request of you.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point which I want to make is not directly related to this Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014. It is relating to pollution.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to ask any clarification on this Bill, you can ask now.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the problem of pollution in the country. Pollution is not only caused by a particular type of vehicles. Pollution issue has to be addressed comprehensively in the whole country. Pollution is caused not only by motor vehicles, but it is caused also by rail, aeroplanes etc. Think a little about what should be done. This is a very important matter, pollution is being talked about all over the world. You should think about this a little.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to have a small clarification from the Minister. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill starts with a very self-defeating line. It reads:

“Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1998, no person can be granted a Learner’s Licence to drive a transport vehicle unless he has held the Driving Licence for a period of at least one year.”

If you read this English, it means that if you want a Learner’s Licence, you must have a Driving Licence which would have been alive for at least one year previous to your application of a Learner’s Licence. I would request the hon. Minister to check this and clarify.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, e-rickshaw is a wonderful concept and it will be good to extend it to the whole country in a broader way. If we can give loans to buy these e-rickshaws at zero percent interest and include it in any other employable schemes that the Government has newly brought it, it will be great. This is one point.

Secondly, since the hon. Minister is asking us not to insist on sending this Bill to the Standing Committee, I just wanted to know from him whether at the time of framing the Rules he will be able to involve an all party committee so that we can all give our suggestions as this is a new concept in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: I assure the House through you that anyone can give me whatever suggestions they want, there is no need for a meeting, I am ready to immediately call the officials and discuss the matter in front of you. If your suggestion is positive then it will definitely be accepted, don't worry. I am new to this House, but those who have met me have not had this kind of experience, if it is

not possible, then I will not say it. You should come to me, give me suggestions, and I will implement them.

Secondly, to give loans at zero percent interest is not in my hands, because it is not under the jurisdiction of my department. It is not within my power to give a clear assurance about this. I have sent this proposal to the Hon. Prime Minister, to the Hon. Minister of Finance and to our concerned Minister as well, they have approved it at four percent. I agree with your demand that there should be zero percent interest. As a Minister, I will bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Finance and the respected Prime Minister so that loans can be advanced at zero percent.

The Hon. Member has talked about driving licence, it was in the old law. If you want a commercial licence, first get a learning licence, then get a permanent licence, and then after a gap of one year, you get a commercial licence. To avoid this, we have amended the rule. After the learning licence is obtained 10 days training would be given either by the Association or manufacturer. After which commercial licence for e-rickshaw would be given directly without any difficulty and everyone will immediately get to work, that is why this route has been adopted.

What was said about pollution is correct. Air pollution and water pollution are very big subjects and cannot be discussed in a piecemeal manner. This effort is just like a drop in the ocean. We will have to close the sources of pollution one by one, only then pollution will be reduced. Introduction of e-rickshaw is a right direction, consumption of petrol and diesel will be reduced. Bio-fuel buses will arrive. Pollution will be reduced by use of ethanol, biogas, bio-diesel and e-electric. Every such effort will reduce pollution and I agree with you. Our Government and my department completely agree with your sentiments and whatever efforts are required to make India pollution free, whatever decisions are required and whatever suggestions you give, the Government will continue to work on them. I want to assure you and request you again to kindly approve it.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

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

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

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

16.13 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Reported dilution of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural
Employment Guarantee Scheme – Contd.**

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we are taking up Item 24; further discussion on the reported dilution of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme raised by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta on the 9th December, 2014.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you and proceed with my point. During the last eight years, 1,63,754 crore rupees were paid as wages under MGNREGA.

16.14 hrs.

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

Hon. Deputy Speaker : Sir, the Government of India issued a notification on 21st July 2014. In that, as many as 20 amendments were made in the para 4 of schedule – 1 under the Act, perhaps in response to our friends have proposed this discussion. It is categorically mentioned there under that at least 60 percent works should be carried out for land, water, plantation, agriculture and quality of the assets and sustainability of the production. The village Panchayats should have the authority to spend 40 percent of the funds on the Panchayat levels. It should have authority over forty percent of the expenditure at the Gram Panchayat level. When I had started the discussion, I had strongly emphasized at the beginning of the discussion that if Hon. Members should have initiated the discussion that whether the expenditure of the amount of Rs. 1.63 thousand crore was really useful or wasteful then, it would have been better. However, we have squandered most of our time on pointing fingers at one another. At that time, I mentioned some things and I still want to emphasize them - how many physically challenged individuals have found jobs in MNREGA? There are some states for which we have data. All the people who are talking about MNREGA are the village people, but how many physically challenged people got employment? In how many states did

women not receive employment opportunities? However, there are some states like Madhya Pradesh where more than 33 percent of employment was provided to women. There are states where employment is not available to women. It has neither transparency and accountability nor any technology for monitoring. Funds are being pumped into it but there is no stress on quality. The Government has said the same thing in the notification. This should not be construed as we want to discourage MNREGA. However, the lakhs and Crore of rupees that are being spent by the country should be used to create quality assets. More than ten lakh works started in these eight years are incomplete. A total of 16 lakh works have been completed. The Government has talked about completing the incomplete work in this notification. It cannot be criticised on this basis. This is the time of the information revolution, but you will not find it anywhere in MNREGA. There is an assistant in this, who does not even know where to bring it in the record? The workers keep struggling for three-four months.

Sir, one of our Trinamool MPs had taken the name of Mahatma Gandhi and said that we respect Mahatma Ji. Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal are three such thinkers who wrote about the villages, the poor and the farmers with such honesty, experienced

their problems and gave solutions for them, which I do not think any other philosopher has done. I would like to tell you on the basis of the report that 100 days work was to be ensured under the Scheme but during the year 2012-13 only 43 days work was made available and during the year 2013-14 the figure stands at 46 days. The guaranteed hundred days of employment in MNREGA, has reduced to 43 and 46 days. Mahatma Gandhi did not grant permission for corruption in this. He opposed corruption. I want to give some examples. 60 percent funds were to be spent on unskilled wages but 70 percent funds were spent thereon. The Government did not create any alternative employment opportunities. As per the survey report a family earn an income of Rs. 6104 in a year. An amount of Rs. 1 crore was spent on the toys for the children of labourers. I want to ask whether Gandhi Ji had said this before he left the world. According to a report, an amount of Rs. 50 lakh was spend on arranging drinking water for officers and labourers. Mahatma Gandhi had not mentioned this before he left the world. Rs. 16 lakh was spent on 39 computers and printers. I don't know at what price computers and printers are available in the country but only 16 computers and printers were purchased for Rs. 39 lakh. Rs. 49 lakh were spent on the notice board.

In the end, I would just like to say that a lot is said about labourers in the House, I think we all should retrospect. Since the year 2010-2011, human days have been decreasing day by day. There were 3026 lakh man days in the year 2010-2011. In the year 2011-2012, it reduced to 2042 lakh man days. After that in the year 2012-2013 there were 2202 lakh man days left and today in the current year 2013-2014 there are 1838 lakh man days left. That means you are not able to provide employment to anyone continuously. What to say of guaranteed days, even the human days are also decreasing. The works are incomplete and you are misusing such a huge amount of money. Despite all this, not raising questions on this is not right. I would humbly tell all our friends that the total works stated are 23,57,692, as per the Parliament report, out of these, only 16,52,362 works have been completed and more than ten lakh works are still incomplete.

I work for the labourers. I would therefore request the Government to take stringent action against those found guilty for misuse of funds. You had no means of communication. You could not develop any system for evaluation. You did not pay any heed to whatever recommendations were made to it. It was clearly written in them that agricultural development should be promoted. The

committee approved that it should be used. There is a need for community storage in agricultural production, for which farmers are struggling, money should have been given to MGNREGA to set it up, they never worried about this recommendation. This recommendation was already there. Madhya Pradesh Government has launched the Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana. The roads of those villages which have a population less than prescribed under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana could have been built with this money. They never worried about that. This recommendation was already there. After that, if the money had been spent on the creating assets used for making organic fertilisers, it would have been better. I feel if the funds had been spent on irrigation, digging of ponds and *nulahs* then, it would have done some good to the farmers. I work in the field of environment, I am interested in cleaning rivers. Therefore, I feel that instead of calling it a national calamity and shouting in the House and asking for money in the name of an earthquake, or a drought, it would have been much better if that money had been used for that farmer.

In the region I come from, the fourth crop has been damaged. Anyway, we are in an area with less water and if the

MGNREGA money was actually given to the farmer, I think it would have been a more meaningful work.

The labourers have not got their wages for last eight months. The amount for the incomplete works should be released soon and I don't know how much amount has been embezzled in this, but the workers should get their money, the incomplete works which the Government has promised should be completed, this amount should be released soon and the interest of that poor man should be protected; and since I work for the poor, I am a farmer's son, this Government is concerned about their social security, hence this MGNREGA money should be immediately returned to these districts. According to the information I have, funds like MNREGA reach the state level but are held up due to want of completion certificates. I would request the Hon. Members to impress upon their State Governments to send completion certificates early so that the poor labourers get their wages and work on various incomplete projects could be resumed. Thank you.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to talk about the important issue of this country, that is, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Sir, it has been recognized that this is one of the effective and one of the most humane initiatives of the Government of India. It is a humanitarian and productive, and it gives confidence to the section of the people who have been ignored for generations.

I am proud to inform this august House that the said Scheme was launched in Maharashtra more than 25 years ago under the name of 'Employment Guarantee Scheme'. That Scheme still continues. Maharashtra is a pioneer of this Scheme, and the great Gandhian leader, Balasaheb Bharade, launched this Scheme.

I welcome the decision of the Government to give special focus to 2,500 backward blocks and granting 60 percent of the works to these blocks for creating productive work. I also welcome the decision of the Government to ensure smooth flow of funds and reduce the delay in payment of wages by introducing 'Electronic

Fund Management System', which will further strengthen the Scheme and encourage social audit. But, on the other hand, I would also like to draw the attention of the House that the attraction of labourers towards this Scheme is declining day by day. It has appeared that in the newspapers during the last five years involvement of women in this Scheme is declining which has reduced from 50 percent to 43 percent.

Sir, if you consider inflation, wages paid to these workers is very low. There is an increase of only Rs. 41 during the last four years. In 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 127 per day was paid, which has increased to merely Rs.168. It should, at least, be increased to Rs. 350 per day.

In the recent Budget, provision under MGNREGA in 2013-14 was Rs. 33,000 crore; and in 2014-15, it is Rs. 34,000 crore, which I think is inadequate. It is seen that 10.6 crore Households had applied for the work till 25th November this year, but the work was provided 8.3 crore Households only leaving 2.3 crore Households without work. In Maharashtra also, same is the situation. In 2012-13, 2.28 lakh Households out of 16.25 lakh Households were benefited; and in 2013-14, only 1.2 lakh Households out of 11.40 lakh Households were benefited. This huge drop to provide work to

the poor rural Households appear to be directly related to the cut in the funding of the scheme.

Therefore, Sir, I would request the Government to increase the Budget provision under MGNREGA.

Another point is that corruption is major cause in delay of payment. One of the cruel things that is done to the poor is making them work and not paying them or delay in payment. It is found that Rs. 8,908 crore was due to workers as the back wages going up to 90 days. This logjam has severely affected the ongoing workers across the States. I would, therefore, request the Government to take strict action against those who are responsible.

The major work, which is undertaken under this scheme is the digging of wells. Here, the ratio is 60 percent unskilled and 40 percent skilled. I feel that it should be the other way round. Forty percent should be unskilled and 60 percent should be skilled. I am saying it because while digging wells, you get hard rock at the depth of eight feet to 15 feet. Further, digging requires skilled machineries. But due to 40 percent shares, the work comes to a standstill. In my Constituency, work on 3,000 wells is lying stagnant. So, I would request the Government to reverse the ratio or make it 50:50.

Sir, we talk about productive assets. Building toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan would be the great idea to provide employment and also increase the number of toilets in the villages so that we can reach our goal “No open defecation” till 2019.

Sir, when hon. Shri Jairam Ramesh was the Minister, he had promised that 60 percent of the MGNREGA work would be linked to agriculture sector. I welcome his decision. But I do not think that much has been done. It is becoming very difficult to get a labour for agriculture sector. Linking these two schemes would go a long way in improving agriculture and food security in the country.

We must also see whether labourers under MGNREGA have learned any skills; and how these skills can be used in other jobs.

I hope all these suggestions would be considered by the hon. Minister favourably by taking necessary prompt action to strengthen and improve this scheme.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI KADIYAM SRIHARI (WARANGAL): Sir, thank you very much. I may be permitted to speak in my mother tongue Telugu.

*Sir, even after 67 years of independence and 64 years of Constitution coming into force, there are political, social and economic disparities in democratic India. Poor people belonging to SC, ST and weaker sections, are still living below poverty line. The state and Central Governments introduced many schemes for poverty alleviation but due to lack of positive mind set, the schemes did not yield desired results. No one is trying to bridge gap between rich and poor. The gap is only increasing day by day. There are many agricultural labourers who are migrating in search of livelihood. They are leaving their native villages due to lack of employment. They are leaving their families and migrating to different countries. We know, how much pain these migrants must be going through. We know, how many difficulties they are subjected to. But these Governments, though they introduced many programmes to alleviate poverty, the desired results could not be achieved.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

In such circumstances, I would like to refer to provisions of Constitution where ‘Right to live’ and ‘Right to work’ are mentioned. Keeping these provisions in view, the Government in 2005 legislated a very good Act that is National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

“The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the Households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every Household whose adult Members volunteered to do unskilled manual work.”

This is a very good legislation for poor people particularly belonging to rural areas. When there is no agricultural work, poor labourers could be benefited by giving work under NREGA. There are different versions on the manner in which NREGA is being implemented and the manner in which objectives are being achieved. There are versions in favour as well as against this Act. Those who are pro-poor, those who wish that poor should rise above poverty line, those who think of welfare of scheduled castes and tribes, would like this Act to continue. But this Government is trying to make some changes to this Act. It is the responsibility of

the Government to explain, what changes it intends to make and what the necessity to make such changes is. Through NREGA 5 crore Households could get employment and wages. 5 CroreHousehold means around 25 Crore of our population. Which means one out of three Households in our country could get employment under this Act. Interestingly, 54% of work force under NREGA are women. Similarly, 29% of work force belongs to SC/ST community. In a way, NREGA is providing employment to women and SC/ST communities living in rural areas. Usually, labourers get 100 days of agricultural work in a year, if work for 100 more days is provided that will support them financially. They can send their children to school, they can build their Houses and can get two square meals.

I request the Central Government to implement the scheme as it is without making any changes to the original Act. There are news that the Government intends to make some changes to this Act. One of the important changes that is being proposed is to increase material component from 40% to 49%. By increasing material component labour component would be decreased from 60% to 51%. This will facilitate contractors' entry in NREGA works and more machinery will be used for these works. Poor

labourers will be in trouble due to lack of work and wages. The objectives of this Act to support poor agricultural labourers would be defeated by bringing in such proposed changes. That's why I request the Central Government not to reduce labour component and not to make any changes to the original Act. MNREGA was implemented in three phases throughout the country, but now the Government plans to restrict this scheme to 2500 blocks only. I would like to ask the Government whether poor are living in only those 2500 blocks? Whether agricultural labourers are living only in those blocks? There are poor agricultural labourers throughout the country. Even if a block of village is very well developed even there poor people exist. That's why I request that this scheme should be implemented as it is throughout the country. Otherwise, we will be meting out injustice to poor people living in other regions.

I request the Central Government not to make any changes to this Act. If there are any doubts in implementing the Act or achieving the objectives of the Act, the Government should find ways to implement this Act effectively. If there are any loopholes or leakages in the Act, they should be checked. Checks and balances could be exercised through social audit. We should think

about building assets. There is a proposal to integrate agriculture with MNREGA, already there is a provision to carry out agricultural works under MNREGA.

Government should note that MNREGA provides employment to agricultural labourers when there is no agricultural work. Poor people can get work under MNREGA, when there is no employment. It is not right to integrate agriculture with MNREGA. I request the Government not to make any changes to MNREGA and it should be implemented as it is, in every village and in every region throughout the country. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on schemes like NREGA, which provide employment and support to the Dalits, poor, backward, tribal and needy people of the country. Our nation's leader Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India lives in the rural areas. It guarantees a minimum of 100 days of wage employment per year to every rural Household, whether it is men or women, who are unemployed. The UPA Government brought this Scheme in September 2005. If any man or woman anywhere in the country seeks work and does not get work within 15 days, he or she should be given an unemployment allowance. One such act, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, came into force. There are many benefits of this scheme. This scheme is beneficial in many other ways. In case any calamity strikes the country like earthquake, drought, flood, or torrential rain, at such times the assurance of job guarantee can be given to families through a scheme like NREGA.

In addition to creating jobs, the scheme has also effectively promoted asset-building activities. Like, a lot of work has been done for water conservation, check dams have been built, minor

irrigation tanks have been constructed, small village roads for rural connectivity, animal sheds, poultry farm sheds and effective work like digging of wells have been done through this scheme. In certain states this Scheme has been very popular, for example Maharashtra. In Maharashtra 87 percent out of hundred percent people who sought work were provided employment under this Scheme. This scheme has been unpopular in some states, as per a survey, 83 percent of people in ten states had demanded work but only 8 percent of people got a hundred days of work. There has been one more benefit of this Scheme that 54 percent women got work under this Scheme.

You can see the imbalance in every state or every block and because of this imbalance, its budget which was 40 thousand crore rupees in the year 2010-11, has become Rs. 33,000 crore in the year 2013-14. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has a website called Invest India, according to Invest India, this scheme provided employment to 1.8 million people in the country and 1.1 million people may get employment in the next year. The Government wants to dilute this scheme and wants to make some changes to it. What is the reason for this, is not known. I admit that there may be some leakages in this Scheme but discontinuation or

alteration of this Scheme is no solution. It should be strengthened by taking suggestions from everyone. This should be strengthened. I feel that all of us should strive for this because this is a scheme linked to the kitchen of thousands of Crore of people in the country, it is a scheme linked to the livelihood of the common man. It is necessary to make it more effective.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to give some suggestions for strengthening it. Like, it is necessary to have inter-participatory planning exercises in every village. Just as we find in some villages that only the Sarpanch or a few Members do the planning, and if they have some personal work, they include it in the plan, due to which people do not take an interest in it. But if, during the planning, all the people of the village are brought together and the planning is done collectively, then everyone will take an interest, and many productive works can be done through this.

Its ratio was 60:40, about which many of our friends said that it should be changed. In districts where there is a shortage of labour, if machinery is adopted, then many works can be done. If you look at its cost-benefit, the investments made by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Kerala were recovered within a year.

I believe that projects like water conservation should be given priority in this. Schemes of the Government like tissue culture should also involve MGNREGA. The guaranteed hundred days of work should be increased to one hundred and fifty or two hundred days.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dhananjay Ji, please conclude your speech now.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: The works on small or medium land holding are not covered under this, hence their size needs to be altered. Its payment should be made within fifteen days and it should be e-payment to prevent the possibility of any corruption.

There should be 3% supervision charges in its budget. The condition of distance of hundred and fifty metres in Jawahar Rojgar Yojana should be reduced.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now conclude your speech.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: Sir, just the last point, an important suggestion. Sugar prices are low in the country. All sugar mills are facing problems. If sugarcane harvesting is done through

this scheme, then sugar factories can also benefit greatly from it. This is what I request of you.

[English]

Lastly, I would like to conclude with the words of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He had said that:

"But let us not forget that this Independence has thrown on us great responsibilities. By Independence, we have lost the excuse of blaming the British for anything going wrong. If hereafter things go wrong, we will have nobody to blame except ourselves."

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity.

This discussion is going on about diluting MGNREGA. I am really surprised because in the last Budget the allocation was Rs. 33,000 crore, and the amount actually released to the States was Rs. 38,000 crore. This time around, the amount released is Rs. 34,000 crore. It is a demand-driven scheme, and it is a right also as this Parliament has given the right to the unemployed youth. Hence, I feel that the Government will provide whatever is needed, and I do not think that there is a need to discuss about any dilution in it.

Whatever shortcomings are there, they will have to be discussed. I would like to say that there are shortcomings in this the objective of MGNREGA is to reduce unemployment in India and to augment wage employment.

[Translation]

This scheme is good, it has been brought by the UPA Government, I am not saying that this is bad. The plan is good, whatever flaws it has should be removed. So, I would like to suggest that this should be discussed. Whatever changes need to be made in this, they must be done. It should not be diluted, I too agree with this demand, but

the thought that it should not be discussed or needful changes should not be made, is absolutely wrong. How many times has this constitution been changed? If there are some shortcomings in it, then it will definitely have to be changed.

[English]

These statistics speak for themselves. According to the data shown on the Web portal of MGNREGA under the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, during 2013-14, that is, last year – our Government was not there; it was the UPA Government which was there – total job cards issued were 13.16 Crore or to be very precise 13,16,27,029. Out of that, only 5.8 Crore or 39 percent of people demanded work. Again, out of that, 4.79 crore people or 36.1 percent of people actually came work and the remaining 60 percent of people did not come for work. Out of 13.6 Crore who were registered, only 46 lakh people completed 100 days of work. For some reason, there may be some shortcoming in the system itself, people have not come forward to claim 100 days of work. Only 3.54 percent of people only have completed 100 days of work. This is something that has to be seriously thought over to see how the situation can be improved.

Another objective of the Scheme is to reduce distress migration. Migration is still happening, five-six years have passed since MGNREGA came into being, yet migration is still happening. The villages have become almost like old-age homes. Why is it happening? It is because there is no durable asset, whereas the objective is to create durable or useful assets in villages.

In the last five to seven years, a total of 1,776.97 man-days have been generated by spending a total of Rs. 2,69,724 crore. This is huge money. How many durable assets have been created? I would like to tell you what is happening in this regard. Chairperson Sir, the work going on in the villages is not being done due to lack of durable assets, construction of the same road will be repeated again. That is why stress should be laid on creation of durable assets and the Government should keep that in mind. Why is migration happening? Just by giving employment, people will not remain in villages. Facilities like water, road, good school and other things which are available in cities should also be provided in villages. With this huge amount of Rs. 2,69,000 crore, which was spent during the last five to six years, we should have created

durable assets which will make people to stay in villages. As I have said earlier, villages are becoming old-age homes.

[Translation]

We should show, we should be able to see how many assets and what assets have been created in that village in the last year.

There should be a social audit of the assets and we should be very firm. The road will be built this time too, the rains will come, then the same road will be built next year. This is what going on in the villages. There is a huge amount of corruption in this. We should think very seriously about social auditing. When Hon. Jairam Ramesh Ji was the Minister, he had made the announcement, this was mentioned by the previous speaker.

[English]

We will link it with the agriculture. Sharad Pawar Ji had given a statement regarding this, we all know about it. After introducing MGNREGA, we are not getting labourers to work in the agricultural field. After that, there was a statement by the then Minister Shri Jairam Ramesh Ji that we will link it with the agriculture. So far, it has not happened. That hasn't happened yet. Otherwise, a day will come that there is corruption in it and people

do not go for work. Job cards will be kept with some senior leader of the village or the President of the Panchayat or somebody who is powerful in the village and whatever work he wants to get done, he will get it done through the machinery. With those cards, he will claim it. For example, recently in Karnataka, a Circular was given to all the district CEOs saying that fiscal target is fixed. The Secretary of the Government of Karnataka and Commissioner of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development has issued a circular. You have to spend so much in this financial year. When it is demand driven, how can he fix the fiscal target? This is something surprising. When a Panchayat is told that you have to do so much, then naturally, he will collect some job cards and do all the work with the machines. This is what is happening. So, this has to be viewed very seriously. We must make some changes to it.

Finally, I would like to give some suggestions. Basically, this is being implemented by the village Panchayats. That is why, village Panchayats capacity building should be there. They have to keep all the records. But there are no Secretaries and there are no PDOs in many of the village Panchayats. That is why, capacity building and the paperless administration should be implemented. There should be capacity building in it.

I have another suggestion. Since MGNREGA is demand driven, there should be a survey in every village to find the unemployed youth. This survey has to be conducted.

The labour attendance is taken in NMRs. There is a possibility of signing by the others. This means there is a scope for corruption. So, I suggest the Government to introduce the bio-metrics system for the labour attendant for the works and Global Positioning System to monitor the work progress under MGNREGA works.

Presently, there is a chance of duplication of the labour job card, Head of the family has a bank account. this may cause the misuse of money by the head of the family. I suggest to make it mandatory that every labourer should have his/her bank account by linking it to the Aadhar number.

The engineers are writing the measurement manually. It should be noted in the website of the MGNREGA by the end of the seventh day. Then, there will no chance of duplication. They cannot tamper with the measurements.

My last suggestion is this. Now, there should be a change in the job cards. Job cards should be modified like bank pass book

and all the details should be printed through a computer so as to understand the details of the labour easily.

With these words, I would say that definitely this scheme should continue. It is a very good programme.

[Translation]

Whatever shortcomings are there in it, we have been discussing them for a long time, it has been seven-eight years since the scheme was introduced, changes must be made in it. There should be a debate on it at the national level. There should be serious thinking about durable assets. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Hon.Chairperson Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak in the discussion on the dilution of MGNREGA. When we are having discussion on MGNREGA, we, the parliamentarians, should thank Dr. Manmohan Singh, the former Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Ji, UPA Chairman. The task of initiating MGNREGA, the world's biggest public-focused scheme, and granting it legal legitimacy was completed in this place. I have been elected from Maharashtra. MGNREGA was first started in Maharashtra. If we want to see how serious this Government is about MGNREGA in the last seven months, then we saw three Ministers in the Ministry of Rural Development. Gopinath Munde Ji is not among us today, but Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji and now Chaudhary Virendra Singh Ji is handling this responsibility. ... (*Interruptions*) On 30th July, 2014, there was a discussion in this House about MGNREGA. Nitin Gadkari ji gave his reply on the discussion, Kunwar Bharatendra Singh, Prof. Thomas Ji, and many others participated in it. In that, Nitin Gadkari ji said that Mahatma Gandhi's name is associated with it, hence he will never allow any obstacle in that scheme. However, our senior Members are sitting here. We were listening to the speech of Hukmdeo Ji. This discussion has been

going on since 9th December and today is 18th December, thus 10 days have passed since then. This also shows how serious the Government is about this discussion.... (*Interruptions*)*Hukmdeo Ji had said in his speech that the scheme is not God, it should be completely changed. When our senior Members talk like this then somewhere it feels that this is truly a U-turn Government. This Government does not do what it says. Gadkari Ji had assured that in that scheme there would not be a 60:40 ratio at the village level, that ratio would be at the district level. Even this morning, we spoke to officials from Maharashtra, Assam and Bengal, and spoke to all the leaders there, this Government has not issued any order in this regard till date.

Hon. Gadkari Ji had said at that time that the UPA Government had kept all the powers within itself. He wants to give more powers to the states. Over the past five months, we have been eagerly anticipating the moment when the states will get more powers. The states have not been given many powers; states are not allowed to exercise even the rights already available to them. In that speech, he had stated that Shirpur pattern is very famous in Maharashtra for water conservation, and it would be implemented

*Not recorded.

but there is no such order so far for that Shirpur pattern of water conservation, it has been five months since that discussion.

In that discussion, the issue of preventing corruption was raised, and at that time, Gadkari Ji had said that we would use remote sensing. In the discussion held five months ago, you had assured the House, have you used remote sensing? You had stated that you would curb corruption using remote sensing. How many cases of corruption have come to light?

17.00 hrs.

There was no discussion about how many cases came from each state and how many people benefited from it.

At that time, you had also spoken about implementing a 51 and 49 ratio. Through this, you are going to take away the wages of 9 percent of the labourers. Are you considering any new allocation to compensate for this? Through you, we would also like to ask the Government this question.

In the year 2010, Sushma Swaraj Ji said in the Rajya Sabha that this scheme is extremely impressive. States should be given more power. In the year 2012, our senior member Lal Krishna Advani Ji hailed this scheme as the world's biggest cash-for-work

scheme during the United Nations General Assembly. Is the Government trying to change what senior leaders like Sushma Ji and Lal Krishna Advani Ji had said? We also want to know from you whether the Government intends to take a U-turn on what Sushma Ji and Advani Ji had said.

A Member from West Bengal was saying the day before yesterday that they did not get the allocation. We enquired in Assam, but they also did not get an allocation. Money was not received in Karnataka. I am unable to understand where I should express the sorrow of Maharashtra. More than five hundred farmers have committed suicide in the last one and a half to two months. We had demanded that workers should be allowed to work in the fields of small farmers through NREGA.... (*Interruptions*)

All I want to say is that the way the Government is trying to implement this scheme only in two hundred districts is wrong. This should be implemented in the entire country, it is the right of the people of the entire country. When we are raising this issue through you, we want full assurance from the Government as to why the states have not received the money yet. If we look at the figures of September, the Government has given 45 percent less money to the

states. Many states are asking for funds but funds are not being given to them.

I would like to say that the Government brought in the Jan Dhan Yojana. Everyone has opened accounts and is now waiting for the money for last several months. We don't know when Rs.15 lakh will be given and when this amount will be credited to all our accounts. The Prime Minister had promised, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had guaranteed, but not a single rupee has been deposited. After that, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was introduced. Not a single rupee was given to this scheme in the budget.... (*Interruptions*) You said get it done by working with the states.... (*Interruptions*) After that the Swachh Bharat Yojana was introduced. They are sweeping but do they have any budget provision for a clean India? No, there is no budgetary provision i.e. there is no provision for the budget in Jan Dhan, there is no provision for the budget in Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, and there is no provision for Swachh Bharat. The people of India have been dreaming of good days for the last six months, but happy days are not in sight, the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that people have lost their night's sleep.

The last thing I would like to say through you is that the Government which promised good days to the people should not at least take away the livelihood of the poor which they earn through MGNREGA. Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, we have a Government which hinges on destiny, luck, Ram-Rahim or Adani-Ambani. The politicians of this country cannot survive on the strength of the poor. If they had relied on the poor, politicians would not have had to take the name of religion, caste and creed. The need for money, Adani Ji's money, I am not talking about any one party, no party in this country contests elections without taking money from someone. If this country truly stood for the rights, dignity, and justice of the poor, as spoken about by Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Swami Vivekananda, Kabir, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Ram Manohar Lohia, then the situation would have been different.

17.50 hrs.

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, this is a government that runs on fate, destiny, Ram or Rahim, Adani or Ambani. Politicians in this

country cannot function on the support of the poor. If they truly relied on the poor, there would be no need to mention religion, faith, or caste in politics. Everyone needs Adani Ji's money. I am not talking about any one party. Every party contests elections only by relying on someone's money. If this country truly cared about the dignity, rights, and justice of the poor, as spoken about by Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Swami Vivekananda, Kabir, and Lohia Ji, then would there still be a need, even after 67 years, to worry about the poor in this House? Would there be a need to worry about the farmers? For the past 100-200 years, we have constantly been talking about the concerns of the poor. I feel there is hatred even for the name of Mahatma Gandhi. I would not like to go into all that. We are tired of hearing about corruption. I am a Member of Parliament for the sixth time. After all, who is responsible for this? Due to the lack of political will, the officials of this country, the middlemen of this country, the corporates and capitalist Houses of this country have destroyed the governance system of this country. The most living example of this is we politicians. Everybody took part in the debate on MGNREGA and NREGA, this will stop, this will work, this will get better, from the year 1960 to 1971-1972 till today many big schemes have come, I

can also read them. I can also read lengthy and wordy speeches as well. Many schemes were brought in, after all, in India where a large number of people dying of hunger, a large number of people dying after taking debt, a large number of people dying without medicine, a large number of people dying without a home, a large number of people dying without food, the country where blood is shaded on the name of caste, religion and sect, the country where 38.2 percent of the youth do not want to do farming, 10 lakh hectares of land of the farmers lying fallow, the country where people from Vinoba to Sardar Patel, from Mahatma Gandhi to Lal Bahadur Shastri have worried about the farmers. It is not from Indira Gandhi to Sonia Gandhi only who worried for the poor. It is certainly so that Sonia Gandhi Ji and Hon. Manmohan Singh Ji and the UPA Government have given not only the remarkable MGNREGA but also the Food Security Act and the Right to Information Act also. Corruption exists everywhere, be it a job card, even if you go to the bank you will be fleeced, there are middlemen everywhere. Panchayat Sevak, Gram Sevak or any other public representative in the Panchayats, of villages, where capitalists are absent, each has their own intermediaries in places. Where is the rule of the poor and the farmers in this

country? Where is the rule of unemployed youth? In India, we are espousing in favour of the farmer and the poor for the last 67 years. The question of justice, rights and respect has been raised, politicians always say that the poor are the masters, and life of the poor need to be changed, has the lives of the poor changed? The politicians have changed, and the Houses of MLAs and MPs have changed. Although we give good speeches from here, yet the stars and state of the poor of India does not change. The one who changed my image, we could not change their image and destiny in 67 years.

MGNREGA is a good scheme, there should definitely be a debate on how to stop corruption, but without the will of politicians, no one can eradicate corruption from this earth. The Prime Minister of our country hosts 'Mann Ki Baat'. Hon. Minister, only poor and weak people express the matters going on in their minds. The one who cannot get his mother treated, who cannot get his daughter married, and who wants to study but cannot. 'Mann Ki Baat' will not be done by that person of India who holds all the power in his hands. In this world, the one who is all-powerful, if a thought arises in his mind, he has the strength to change it, not merely the strength to think about it. 'Mann Ki Baat' can only be

done by the helpless, the poor, and the farmer. The Prime Minister, the Chief Minister and the Collector should not speak such things. If they want to ban alcohol, then it should be done here as it was done in Gujarat. If they want to stop corruption, then who can stop the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, from doing so? He should take it as a challenge to stop it. Perhaps after this, no one will get a full majority. He should stop the officials. In Madhya Pradesh, 200-300 crore rupees were found in a clerk's House. In Uttar Pradesh, one thousand crore rupees were found in an official's House. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, you rang the bell so early. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to speak on the point. Well known economist Prabhat Patnayak says that MGNREGA has not only helped people come out of poverty but also it insulated India from the ill-effects of global economic recession some years back. This was the contribution of MGNREGA. Taking his point further, he says that providing employment is the main concept of this law, which should not be weakened under any circumstances. Not only this, personalities like Pranab Vardhan, V. Bhaskar, Ritika Khera, Abhijit Sen, Jayanti Ghosh, Ashwini Deshpande and Jean Dreze, including former Planning Commission member Abhijit Sen and

Boston University professor Dilip Mukherjee, have written a letter to the Prime Minister in which they have mentioned the positive impact on people's lives. It is also written in the letter that this law, legislated by the support of political parties, has yielded good results despite numerous hurdles. They also said that not only five crore people get employment with a meagre expenditure of only 0.3 percent, so any alterations to this program that could negatively impact people's income should be avoided.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I say that any Chief Minister may object to this. It is possible that he may have some different thinking, I will not challenge that. If you want to bring the change then empower the poor through education and economic support. You should bring some law in this regard. I wish for the poor to no longer receive charity. All these schemes like MGNREGA, Mid-Day Meal, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Annapurna etc. should be stopped. Do not force the poor to eat rotten rice, do not force them to eat rice with worms. You should not develop the habit of giving free items to the poor, therefore it should be discontinued. However, in a country where only 6.2 percent of people have passed BA, and only 18.3 percent of people are educated after independence, in such grim situation if the UPA Government has brought MGNREGA and

Food Bill for their survival, then what crime is it , I want to know this from you. ... (*Interruptions*)

Finally, I would like to tell you about the launch of MGNREGA-2. The marginal farmer, the poor farmer, who has less than five bighas of land, if you bring a law to employ MGNREGA labourers in that farmer's field, then the farmer will prosper and on the other hand, the hundred days of employment that is available under MGNREGA will also be assured. Both the farmer and the MGNREGA worker will become financially strong.

My second suggestion is that you should form a committee of NGOs, social people, unemployed youth and farmers. You want to stop corruption in it, but if a person loses an arm, will you cut off the body? I believe there are issues in MGNREGA that prevent the poor from receiving the proper wages. This is a fact. Politicians have looted, and villages have been looted by Panchayat secretaries, Panchayat officials and Mukhiyas/Pradhans. Why money was not given to Bihar? If they have discriminated against anyone, they have done so against Bihar. On the one hand it is said that someone is a man with a “56-inch chest”, on the other hand it was rumoured that as soon as he came to power, he would give special state status. On the one hand, the money for MGNREGA

was reduced by half, the money for Indira Awas was reduced, and money for roads was not given. Bihar is a poorer state than Odisha. I would like to request you, give the entire MGNREGA money to Bihar. Do not treat Bihar in a step-motherly manner. You should strengthen your willpower. You should respect the interests of the poor by making UPA's revolutionary scheme your own plan. Thank you.

SHRI DHARMVIR GANDHI (PATIALA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to present my views regarding MGNREGA. The apprehensions have been raised about MGNREGA, as if it will only be implemented in 200 districts instead of 676. MGNREGA Act will also be converted into a scheme. We are deeply troubled by this issue as the program not only provided financial assistance to the rural impoverished population but also allowed them to maintain their dignity.

Earlier, labourers were at the mercy of big landlords, who used to pay wages fixed by them, which led to the migration of labourers. MGNREGA has elevated the standard of labour. The migration from states like Bihar, UP, Orissa to Punjab, Haryana etc. has stopped. The key point is that the vulnerable groups, comprising 54

percent women, 40 percent tribals and Dalits, received economic advantages from this program and saw an enhancement in their livelihoods. When money came into the hands of people, the economy and market got a boost, benefited manufacturers and enhanced the economic progress of the country. If there are some shortcomings or weaknesses in the scheme, they should be removed instead of limiting the scope of the scheme or abandoning it gradually. I think the House should carefully consider it.

We should pay attention to the errors pointed out in the CAG report. The funds meant for MGNREGA is diverted for other purposes. Assets were not being generated during asset creation, it is important to address this issue. Embezzlement and manipulation must stop. Labourers do not get their wages on time, it is important to address this issue and ensure prompt payment. is disparity in wages, wages are different in different states ranging from Rs. 118 to Rs. 181 per day, and this should be improved. If the Government considers converting the scheme into an Act, or vice versa, or reducing the number of districts for diluting the scheme, attention must be given to these matters. I will view it as an unfortunate decision that goes against the interests of the poor.

How much money is spent on MGNREGA, 0.3 percent of GDP is spent. If we look at this budget, more than four lakh crore rupees are given as concessions, subsidies and incentives to big capitalists and the corporate sector, which is many times more than this allocation. It is sheer injustice to do this at the expense of the poor. This will deprive our citizens of the small amount of comfort they had been given, causing discontent in the nation. I believe that we should pay attention to the assets of the MGNREGA scheme like check dams, rain water harvesting, roads, and de-silting of village ponds and wells should be dug.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to make one more important point that should be heard with great attention. If you read all the provisions of this scheme, then any landowner-farmer having five acres of land can take advantage of this scheme, but this section was not implemented. A farmer with five acres of land can avail the benefits of MGNREGA by working as a labourer himself. I want this provision should be publicized so that small farmers can benefit from the scheme. There is a lot of corruption in MGNREGA in Punjab. Social audit of the scheme should be done. There has been a scam of Crore of rupees in our Samana tehsil. There are BDOs, Panchayats and big landowners in the villages,

they control the scheme. They do not call Gram sabha meetings, they make decisions on their own, do enrolment themselves, do false enrolment and embezzle Crore of rupees, and therefore, the shortcomings of MGNREGA should be removed, instead of diluting or stopping the scheme. This is what I request you.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this discussion. Whatever may be the drawbacks of the MNERGA, it is the most progressive and revolutionary scheme that this country has ever seen after Independence. This country is really indebted to the previous UPA Government who had launched such a useful pro-poor scheme in this country. If we look at the achievements of MNREGA at a glance, it has created significant results. Around five crore Households get employment every year. Around 54 percent of the workers are women. The participation of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is 40 percent. 90 percent of the beneficiaries are either casual workers or small marginal farmers. The Budget provision in 2013-14 was Rs. 33,000 crore and this year it is 34,000 crore.

It is apprehended that dilution may take place in the scheme. Some former speakers were mentioning about it. The Government should be very conscious about this. There should not be any kind of dilution in the scheme. Of course, there could be negative points, but those could be corrected. If there are any kinds of inconsistencies, we should not cut the scheme to size according to

our liking, but we must cut the root of all corruptions, irregularities and mismanagement of the scheme and make it perfectly all right. It is one of the best schemes as has been pointed out by some of my friends here. It is the best scheme which has been implemented in the worst way. If you look from the point of view of self-criticism, we all will feel that it is our duty to correct it.

Sir, delay in making payment is another issue and accuracy in maintaining the records is also a problem. My friends were mentioning about asset creation. Qualitative and sustainable asset creation should be the priority. It is quite unfortunate that this part has been completely forgotten. Work is not just for work. Unproductive work should be stopped. In place of unproductive work, there should be productive work.

Sir, we are planning from the Gram Sabha level. We have to strengthen the Gram Sabhas. We must create proper awareness in the Gram Sabhas. Involvement of the local self-Government should be ensured for the effective implementation of the scheme.

Next, there is the question of Labour Budget preparation. It is done in a very bad manner. It is to be made perfect. The other issue is about corruption. It is quite unfortunate that corruption has spread into the scheme like a virus. It is to be curbed. We have to

use all our efforts to check corruption in this scheme. An effective Ombudsman system has to be introduced. There should not be any room for corruption. With regard to 60 and 40 percent proportion of material and work I would like to submit that in certain places, particularly in hilly areas, we must give a different proportion to material and work.

More emphasis should be given on asset creation on community basis. Instead of giving priority to individual asset creation, we have to emphasise on community asset creation. There is a need for training of the Gram Sabha people and the functionaries. This is an essential part of this. That has to be strengthened. With regard to middlemen and contractors I would like to submit that we all know that there is every chance of exploitation by these people. We should not give any room for entry of middlemen and contractors in the scheme. We have to be very careful about that.

Sir, we have to examine the fact that in some States in India why it is much below the national average. That has to be done as a case study. We have to correct the mistake. I hope the Government will take necessary steps in this regard. The other point is about the State level convergence programme with other schemes. That also

is an important part. I think that the Government will take that also into consideration.

Wide publicity should be given highlighting the success stories of MGNREGA. At some places very attractive success stories of implementation of the scheme is there. We have to give wide publicity of those success stories so that others also follow that and make the scheme more comprehensive and perfect.

At the end I would like to submit that this is the best scheme. We should all think together about how to make this scheme more effective, scientific and perfect. Let us dedicate ourselves to make the dream of Mahatma Gandhi a reality.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter. The river Yamuna flows along Saharanpur and Baghpat districts in Western Uttar Pradesh and mining is banned in Yamuna river. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has started diverting funds meant for MGNREGA. I am saying this on the basis of my personal knowledge and experience. The scheme carries the name of MGNREGA, Register have been made but 50 percent of names included in these said registers are not eligible for MGNREGA. There are farmers, their names have been entered and looting is taking place in their name. We call this idealism that the poor are being benefited, the poor are being fed, and wealth is being created. Certainly, if any asset is constructed in any village, I am ready to go with you. I can confirm that no asset has been built in my area through this program up to now, and it is unlikely to happen in the future. I have spoken to the village heads. They say that it is not possible, no one is willing to come for such a low wage. When people are unwilling to come, we are forced to present fake figures. The amount of wages a single person should receive, we show four

persons on paper and get the work done from one within that wage amount.

Adding Mahatma Gandhi's name to MGNREGA evokes emotions and leads to praising it enthusiastically. I suggest that this subject should be reconsidered. The Government has made provision of around 34 thousand crore rupees in this regard but it would have been far more beneficial for the people if Rs. 34 thousand crore was utilized for construction of roads, schools and hospitals. This money is going to waste, no work is being done with this money. I have specially mentioned Saharanpur and Baghpat because I have visited these three districts and reviewed the works there. I am not against providing any assistance to labourers, I am ready to help them, but what was the criteria adopted for selection of persons? If you examine the list to find out the eligible person, the truth will come out. Then where is the money going? The Government had made efforts that funds do not go into the wrong hands and deposited directly into bank accounts. Audit should be conducted to find out the person who keeps the pass book of those bank accounts where funds are being directly deposited. The person must be an influential person of the area who is keeping in his custody the pass books of all the labourers and

labourers are provided half or one third of the amount and the remaining amount is pocketed by these influential persons. We should also introspect whether we are supporting the mafia or paying wages to the labourers.

Just now tall claims were made about construction of access to and also about providing source of livelihood to the people. I have also been in politics for 36 years. I have been an MLA 7 times and have also been a Minister for 12 years in Uttar Pradesh. I have tried to go and see it. You must trust me at least. I want that a Committee of the House be formed and it should have Members from all parties who can go and audit those five districts, find out whether anyone is getting benefited through our scheme, what percent of people are getting benefits, then you will find the truth.

Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very important matter. I am talking about the Congress. When the 2009 elections were about to take place, we thought that Congress was going to be wiped out. Congress got one benefit from MGNREGA. When they announced MGNREGA, they offered various kinds of inducements to the people, various types of publicity were done and people felt that a lot of money would come into their pockets. It proved a big hit for

them, they came to power for one more term, otherwise, they were going to be wiped out in 2009 itself.

Let's see other side of the coin also. They successfully tricked people once, but during the General Election 2014, MGNREGA was one of the reasons for their defeat. So much corruption had come in front of the public, the public was distressed and the leaders and responsible people started saying that corruption should be ended, construction work should be done with this money, then the area would develop, and the face of the area would change.

Sir, I request you to form a Committee of the House and get only five districts inspected and see what is the condition of MGNREGA?

Thank you.

[English]

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. The largest public employment programme, the world has ever seen is in trouble. In 2013-14, 74 million individuals, in 48 million Households, in rural India were employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, with each Household on an average finding work for 46 days. This cost the Government of India Rs. 39,000 crore last year, or barely 0.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. But the National Democratic Alliance, the NDA, has made no secret of its lukewarm support for the MGNREGA, which it sees as too closely identified with the previous United Progressive Alliance Government.

It sees it as too closely identified with the previous United Progressive Alliance Government. The Government of India has now imposed a cap on the release of funds to individual States. The two major proposals that are being seriously considered are one, to restrict the scheme to identified backward blocks in the country and two, to alter the ratio of expenditure between wages and materials in favour of the latter. All these add up to essentially dismantling the demand-driven character of the MGNREGS and reducing the

amount of employment that can be generated every year. This is the beginning, surely, of a gradual whittling away of the programme with the ultimate aim, perhaps, of winding it up together.

The MGNREGS has been neither an unqualified nor a universal success but we should not deny that it has been a moderate success in providing employment support to the rural poor. There are wide variations in the working of this project across the country. But, on balance, four positive outcomes stand out.

Firstly, this project provides some income security to the rural poor. It has resulted in the creation of productive assets in and outside agriculture; high level of female participation, 60 percent of those on the works are women; it has contributed to a degree of empowerment of women and a modest tightening of the rural labour market has taken place contributing to higher real wage rates and reservation of wages. These are major achievements by any standard and stand testimony to the value of this project.

There are indeed many major problems in the design and administration of the programme. I do agree. Corruption occurs at times; wages are paid late; the gram sabhas do not always have the technical manpower to decide the right kind of works and adequate attention is not always paid to the type and quality of assets

created. Nonetheless, none of them can claim to constitute a fundamental questioning of this project. They only point out the challenges that need to be faced and improvements that need to be made if this massive programme is truly to succeed.

Critics who have never been willing to accept the need for a demand-driven, self-selecting employment guarantee scheme in rural India have been quick to use the anecdotal evidence of one or the other shortcomings in some areas to make a country-wide generalisation and trash the programme. One of such dismissals is that this project is nothing but a dole and labour is paid for just turning up which makes it only an inefficient form of cash transfer. This is not true. If one considers the assets that have been created, especially in the form of viable schemes for minor irrigation, soil re-generation and watershed development, it will be clear.

Another criticism is that this project is making Indian agriculture unprofitable. This project functions mainly in the lean seasons; employment thus provided causes labour scarcity later during the peak agricultural months; in the real wage rate of agriculture labour since 2006, it is something that is to be welcomed and not criticised but the rise in real wages has by no means been so sharp as to render the cultivation with hired labour

unviable. Employers of rural labour everywhere and at all times ring the alarm bells whenever the workers are able to find some alternative employment and then demand higher agricultural wages.

Sir, with these points, I do agree with Shri Datta. He has pointed out that the programme is diluted and I say that it must not be diluted. There may be some changes in the project but we have to continue with it. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the irony of our country is that when any schemes, projects are launched for the benefit of the industrialists, corporate Houses and the elite classes, then these schemes succeed in the country but when any schemes are launched to benefit the farmers, the poor, the backward and the dalits they are often plagued by corruption, be it Indira Awas Yojana, MGNREGA or Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. These are all examples of this.

If we talk about education, the business of higher education runs very well because the elite class of the country benefits from it, but if we look at the condition of primary education, which has been created with the objective of educating the children of the majority, Dalit and backward classes living in the rural parts of the country, then this system appears to be in complete disarray and chaos.

As I have come to know, the Government is going to cut the budget of MNREGA by Rs. three thousand crore. This does not sound good as it is a social sector scheme and to reduce the budget of a social sector scheme to bring down fiscal deficit is beyond our comprehension. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the economic estimates of the National Institute of

Public Financial Policy, according to which the non-merit subsidies being given to the elite class of this country is nine percent of the GDP, that is, its total budget is twenty times more than the total budget of MGNREGA and the tax rebates given to the corporate Houses of the country in the last ten years are worth thousands of Crore of rupees, which is much more than the budget of MGNREGA. Three thousand Crore is nothing in front of that.

I am not saying that everything has gone very well in MGNREGA, there have certainly been shortcomings in it and in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal, where MGNREGA was expected to create numerous employments, and these employments have not been generated. There is huge leakage in this scheme. But our responsibility is that we should put strict provisions in place to plug that leakage.

I would like to give an example of defence deals here. Our country's newspapers prominently published how much corruption took place in the country's defence deals? However, in such circumstances, do we tell our country's soldiers to give up modern weapons and start fighting with bows and arrows? We did not say this because we know that our country's army needs modern

weapons. We are working on implementing strict protocols to avoid corruption in our defence deals. Similarly, MNREGA is the need of the poor in this country and that is why if there is leakage or corruption in this scheme we should focus on minimizing that corruption and not on reducing the budget meant for this scheme. My suggestion to the Government is that MNREGA should be linked with schemes like Aadhar Card and Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana and the details of the labourers should be made public through the concerned Gram Panchayats because MGNREGA is a big ray of hope for the people of backward Dalit community living in our rural areas. It is their life's security, their livelihood, everything for them. This is a very big hope for the poor people of the country and a very big question which is often raised in rural areas regarding MGNREGA, I also go among the farmers and this question definitely arises among the farmers that the burden of paying wages to MGNREGA workers falls on the farmers and the income of the farmers of the country is not increasing from anywhere.

For this, I request the Government that procurement prices should be increased and the burden of inflation should not be put on farmers, for this, farmers should be given subsidies and for

giving that subsidy the Government may adopt the path of deficit financing or the path of higher taxes on the high-income groups of the country, but the overall objective should be that we should empower MNREGA by addressing the shortcoming of this scheme which has been made to benefit the poor and the backward and keep it sustainable in the country. ... (*Interruptions*) Thank you.

[*English*]

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri S. Rajendran.

SHRI S. RAJENDRAN (VILUPPURAM): Sir, I want to speak in my mother tongue.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interpreter is not there. You may speak later.

[Translation]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, MGNREGA was passed in 2005, after that this scheme scheme was launched for the poor, particularly for the unskilled labour, in the backward areas, this scheme was quite successful there. I am talking about my region Jaisalmer and Barmer, these are backward districts, and famines occur there, if you look at the data of the last fifty years, you will find that there has been famine there for about 38-39 years and there is famine this year too. The migration from that area has significantly decreased. However, analyzing the data from the past eight years will show that despite the advantages, it has also been marred with various shortcomings. I had the privilege of becoming the MLA there from 2008 to 2013 and I saw it very closely for five years. There are approximately 85 percent OBC and SCs and STs. residing in my Vidhan Sabha constituency. Even the hundred days employment given under the scheme were not sufficient there, there was a higher demand for that too. I noticed there are several lapses in the works executed under the scheme. There is a need to remove those lapses. I want to tell you about this and many friends have also told me that the biggest shortcoming in this is of durable assets. When

you spend thirty-forty thousand rupees, then in such a situation some assets should be created so that it can be known what work has been done in the whole year. Around 450 to 500 crore rupees are spent every year in my ward. If you look at the period of eight years, then rupees three and a half to four thousand crore have been spent. However, if you assess today then you will not find anything as to where the four thousand crore rupees were spent. We are nationalists, if we are nationalists then we should look at this. It is essential that the poor should be given wages, but at the same time one must also see the outcome of such a huge expenditure.

Another shortcoming/lapse relates to labour material component, the ratio of labour and material is 60-40, and this cannot be fulfilled under any circumstances. The Sarpanch, along with leaders and headmen of the respective area, who are directly involved, enlisted many of their associates. If they find some lacuna in it, they take advantage of it and do a lot of corruption in it. My suggestion here is that the 60-40 ratio is very important. When a labour-oriented scheme has come, then it is important to keep it for the labourers. What I am saying is that along with this, agriculture, irrigation and wasteland recommendations and many such schemes

of other departments and other ministries should be clubbed with it so that labour can be available at various places.

I would even want to say that the roads which are built, the Minister of National Highways is not present here, so the sub-base, base and WBM under the roads constructed there can be done through MGNREGA. Around 25-30 percent of the expenditure will be set off against the prescribed components.

The Minister has also given a statement yesterday that this 60 percent amount of the total cost has to be spent on agriculture-related development works, land development, plantation, sanitation and such works. This is a very good thing. This should be done together. I would even say that the works on the lines of the ones performed under the Ministry of Irrigation can also be performed there. These works should be clubbed with the works performed with the MPLAD Fund so as to maintain 60/40 ratio. Another important issue pertains to corruption and accountability. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very big issue. I completely agree with what my colleagues Hukmdeo Ji and Hukum Singh Ji said. There is so much corruption that only the sky is the limit. I was an MLA there. I said there in the Panchayat Samiti that I would not allow corruption to happen. As the Hon. Prime

Minister said, neither will I eat nor will I let others eat. This slogan was not there at that time, but I had raised this issue. You will not believe that I had won by 37000 votes, but in MLA elections I was defeated by 12 thousand votes. Now that I have become an MP, I have won by 42000 votes. I do not want to criticise anyone. It is everywhere. This is national money. This is not NDA or UPA's money. UPA partners are sitting here. As the UPA passed the Act, they got one more opportunity to form the Government. Now at least you should see how much corruption is taking place in that. If it's not functioning properly, action must be taken. Duplicate cards are made there and no public representative or leader can even say anything there. As I said, saying this makes them angry and asks what will happen after five years. It is my request that action should be taken. The second biggest flaw is that the agricultural labourers which used to be easily available to states like Punjab or Haryana etc., are not available today when the harvest is in full swing. Even the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab have written letters to the Prime Minister that NREGA should be stopped when Rabi or Kharif crops are harvested. Secondly, the labour that was available to carry out development work in the cities is not available there. They receive between two hundred and fifty to three hundred

rupees there. If there are three Members in the family, together they earn 20-25 thousand rupees in a month, so they do not go anywhere.

That's why I request the Minister that he is also a farmer's son.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): What the hon. Member wants is to keep *garib agarib.... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Deputy Speaker Sir, The Minister is also a farmer's son, he himself knows this. I have said that balance should be maintained. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, both were supporters of MGNREGA. Even though this is happening in the present, I'm having trouble comprehending the situation. ... *(Interruptions)*

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Deputy Speaker Sir, my suggestion is that the development that Gadkari Sahab had said should be done in some districts which are backward. I agree with the advice of Gadkari Sahab, he should do it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

***SHRI S. RAJENDRAN (VILLUPURAM):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. I thank People's Chief Minister and beloved leader Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma for this opportunity to take part in the discussion on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on behalf of the people of my Villupuram Parliamentary Constituency. MGNREG Scheme was launched during the regime of previous Government for providing employment to the poor people of the country. During the term of the present Government, this Scheme is said to be diluted with little fund allocation and which is a matter of concern. That's why we are discussing in Lok Sabha about this issue. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the way in which People's Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma rules the State and policy making decisions are always centred around poor people and farmers. I want to mention how far the changes in this Scheme could be made to

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

benefit the people of this country. In India, about 29%, approximately 5 crore Households get 100 days of employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme. Out of the total beneficiaries, 54% are women and 46% are from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This Scheme was initially implemented in 6500 blocks in the country. Hon'ble Rural Development Minister announced that out of 6500 blocks, 2500 blocks, where poorest of the poor people live, would be identified and would have additional focus. Hon'ble Minister also assured that the remaining 4000 blocks in the country would be concentrated gradually. In Tamil Nadu, 385 blocks have been identified as backward ones and out of which at present only 98 blocks are covered under this Scheme on the basis of areas where poorest of the poor live. This is a cause of worry. I am obliged to say that the People's Chief Minister Hon'ble Amma provides 25% funds in addition to the funds provided by the Union for implementation of this Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu.

I wish to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that the blocks cannot be classified as rich and poor ones. The poorest of the poor people live in all the blocks. Even we cannot say that rich people will not be living there. All sorts of people will be living in

all places. Therefore, Union Government should also concentrate on the remaining 4000 blocks and find ways for upgrading the Scheme. There should not be any discrimination while identifying the blocks for benefits under the Scheme. Work relating to identification of beneficiaries and their wage allocation should be upgraded. Unnecessary delay in distribution of daily wages to labourers should be avoided. Our constitution envisages equality to all the people. I wish to urge that the people belonging to all the areas of the country should be treated as equal. In order to upgrade the basic amenities and infrastructure facilities in the villages, works like de-silting of lakes and ponds, construction of roads in some places, up-gradation of drinking water facilities, etc. are being carried out under MGNREG Scheme. Sometimes the climate changes do affect the work relating to up-gradation of permanent infrastructure facilities. At the same time there is a shortage of agricultural labourers for getting employed in agricultural cultivation. It affects the agricultural production as well its expenditure. While the Government funds are provided as wage for work to labourers on the other hand this Scheme becomes a reason for hike in price of essential commodities. Therefore this Scheme should be linked to agricultural sector. At the time when farming is

not undertaken, this Scheme should be utilized for providing employment. Through this the production efficiency of farm lands could be ensured besides increasing the production. In order to implement NREGA throughout the year the Government may consider inclusion of middle level and big farmers who need agricultural labourers and land owners as stakeholders under the Scheme. In that scenario, Government may provide 50% of money and the owners of cultivable land may pay the remaining 50% of money. This could ensure additional fund resources for the Scheme, besides providing regular employment and paving way for uninterrupted agricultural production. This Scheme will then get opportunities to strengthen our agrarian economy. At the time of implementation of Governmental schemes throughout the country, mostly school teachers in respective areas are employed for taking forward such schemes to the general public. Unemployed graduates can be identified and involved under MG NREG Scheme. I urge upon the Union Government to consider this proposal. Without curtailing the fund allocation to this Scheme, the Union Government should revitalise the scheme for continued rural employment and thereby increasing agricultural production. I urge upon the Union Government that the proposed changes should be

people-centric and not with a view to curtail expenditure. I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble People's Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma, people of my Villupuram constituency and Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for this opportunity. Thank you.

18.00 hrs.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will continue this discussion tomorrow.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is six o' clock. We have to take up 'Zero Hour'. If the hon. Members agree, we can extend the time of the House till the Members who have given notices for raising their matters of urgent public importance complete their mentions. I think, the House will agree to this.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. The time of the House is extended till 'Zero Hour' is over.

Now, we shall take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Chhotelal.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHOTELAL (ROBERTSGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to tell you about the salary disparity in the daily wages of the workers in the Government and non-Government companies located in my Parliamentary Constituency Robertsganj, Sonbhadra. In Robertsganj, Kobra, Renukoot, and Shakti Nagar, the daily wage of workers in the Government of India Company NCL is around 500 to 600 rupees, whereas the private sector companies and the state Government only pay 200 to 300 rupees, which is both economic and physical exploitation of daily wage workers. Removing this discrepancy is crucial as it can result in worker dissatisfaction, hindering the goal of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Because -

"Shram ki shakti , shram ka maan, keemat donon ek samaan,

Desh ke liye karenge kaam, kaam ka lenge poora daam."

Therefore, through this House, I demand from the Government that a policy should be formulated wherein workers in both Government and private companies receive equal pay.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an important

issue in my area. I would like to inform you that my constituency Bulandshahar is located just 75 kilometres from Delhi and is a part of NCR. A large quantity of milk, grains, fruits, and vegetables is produced here and supplied to Delhi. It is also a holy place of river Ganga, where many devotees come to bathe and visit temples. However, there is no local train facility for commuting here. Through you, I would like to request that a local train be operated between Bulandshahar and Delhi.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jagdambika Pal. Please be brief.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I have just got up.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling your name out of turn. There are other Members who have given their notices for raising matters of urgent public importance.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I can wait for my turn. I think, my name figures at serial no. 4 in the list.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to wait for your turn, you can wait.

Now, Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the national programme for the prevention and control of JE and AES. Delhi.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Union Government had approved the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in 60 districts in the five encephalitis-affected States - Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. According to this programme, ICUs for children were to be opened for immediate treatment, but as per the information received from the review meeting, except in Tamil Nadu, the work has not been completed in any of the five states - Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, where these ICUs were to be opened. The situation in Assam is the worst. It was also learned from the review meeting that only ten percent work has been done in Bihar. Whereas in Uttar Pradesh, 10-bed ICUs were to be built in 20 districts, but this work has started at only 8 places. ICUs are very

useful for quick medical treatment in affected areas. Even deaths due to brain fever are not able to break the lethargy of these states. Despite the Union Government providing adequate funds for prevention and treatment in the affected areas, many State Governments are acting extremely insensitively. Especially a large part of Uttar Pradesh and of Bihar is affected by it, but the situation in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is the worst. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House and through this House of the Government regarding the said plight of Dutee Chand, who was subjected to hyperandrogenism that two global bodies have thrust on athletes the world over. Dutee was supposed to participate in the Commonwealth Games and all are sure that she was to get us Gold medal.

I would draw the attention of the Government that androgen levels in a woman's body are no yardstick to determine whether she can participate in competition or not.

I am told that the DG, Sports Authority of India, has asked Dutee to move the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne against International Olympic Committee and International Association of Athletics Federation's stand on hyper androgenism.

Why are we bent on reducing or eliminating an inherent advantage that a woman is born with? Just because Usain Bolt's height is to his advantage, will the International Authority want his legs chopped off to ensure a level-playing field?

The presence of high level of androgen is not the fault of the athlete. I would urge upon the Government to support Dutee in her battle against this bias and ensure that her lawyers insist on this biological factor at CAS.

Dutee has a dream. This athlete, a determined and vivacious girl is desperate to return to the track. She has rejected therapy. I would urge upon the Government to stand by her and support her to the hilt. Sports Authority of India should offer her accommodation at NIS, Patiala. The entire cost should be borne by SAI. All attempts should be made to make her participate in the Olympics from where she is definitely to fetch Gold medal for us. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are allowed to associate themselves on this issue raised by Shri Mahtab.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government on an urgent matter of public importance.

Veer Surendra Sai Medical College, Burla is a premier medical institute of Odisha State. It is the second biggest medical institute Odisha at Sambalpur, where I represent. The Odisha Government has given suggestions on some important cases. For example, there is no cancer unit. Thousands of sickle cell anemia patients are going to that college but there is no permanent treatment for them. Fifteen districts of the State including portion of Chhattisgarh, when they are having health problem, are constantly coming to this Burla Medical College.

So such being the situation, the Odisha Government has sent some recommendations and suggestions to the Government of India. For example, the Odisha Government has asked for extension of building for which around Rs. 50 crore is needed; it has also asked for opening up of a high standard sickle cell

institution. But no action has been taken by the Government of India so far.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India to immediately intervene in the matter and sanction funds as per the suggestions given by the Odisha Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Deputy Speaker Sir, Andaman Timber Industries Limited illegally closed its factory on 9th October, 2000 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 823 employees working there have not received their dues to date. A case was filed in the Labour Court in this regard. A package was created in the year 2001. The package consisted of the Lieutenant Governor, MP, union representative, and ATI manager. It decided to clear the outstanding dues of the labourers. Payment for the first instalment was made, and payment for the second instalment was made but at the time of paying the third instalment, it was made in the agreement that the administration will acquire the land from ATI and make the payment. A portion of land was acquired and three crore rupees was also given. ATI management ran away with the money and the workers were not paid. Thereafter the case was

awarded to the Labour Court but no action was taken on it. The case is still pending in the court. Meanwhile, on 26th November, 2014 the Labour Commissioner awarded the case to the DC, South Andaman, stating that the funds obtained from acquiring and auctioning the land must be deposited with the Labour Commissioner for the payment of workers.

I would like to request that if it is not settled by the Labour Court or any other court, then the administration should chalk out a scheme to get Rs. 2,40,00,000/- from the Government of India meant for the labourers, and help the poor people. Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM):

Thank you hon. Deputy Speaker Sir for allowing me to speak in 'Zero Hour'.

I once again pay my gratitude to my Leader, People's former Chief Minister, Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma because of whom I am here today.

Sir, I wish to raise an important issue regarding the welfare of SC/ST students. In 2011-12, the All India Council of Technical Education laid the norms for first year admission in B.E & B. Tech.,

as 45 percent for general category students and 40 percent for SC/ST students, whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu under the able leadership of hon. Amma gives admission for SC/ST Students at 35 percent.

Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Ammahas always been a moral support to the SCs and STs for their welfare by giving various schemes like:

1. Allotting Rs 6,108.60 crore, an all time high for the SC Sub-Plan in

2013-14 Tamil Nadu Budget;

2. Rs 500 for girl students from 3rd standard to 5th standard;
3. Rs 1000 for 6th standard girl students; and
4. Rs 1,500 for girl students from 7th standard to 8th standard to boost women education.

By these schemes, Tamil Nadu will become India's most prosperous and progressive State by 2023; and Tamil Nadu will be No. 1 in Human Development Index in our Country.

In spite of various legal steps taken by the Tamil Nadu

Government under the guidance of hon. Amma, the AICTE has so far not responded and it is continuing 40 percent for SCs & STs till date. An SLP has also been filed by the Tamil Nadu Government in the Supreme Court regarding this.

Hon. Amma had met the hon. Prime Minister on 3rd June, 2014 regarding the injustice to SC/ST students.

In this regard, I request the hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government to look into this matter and direct the AICTE to fix 35 percent as pass mark for admission in B.E. & B. Tech., for SC/ST students. Thank You.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati K. Maragatham.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, my submission is regarding the Government's move to scrap Women Self-Help Groups in India.

Recently, the hon. Minister for Women and Child Development has made a statement in public that it is bad idea to lend to women in groups. Instead, we will skill women and lend directly. Also, the Minister for Women and Child Development, Madam Maneka Sanjay Gandhi said: "When a man wants loan for

a business, he goes alone, and not with a group. The idea of women having to take loan with 10 or more women to seek a loan is degrading. Why should we do that to women?” That means, the Government is going to scrap the Self-Help Group as far as the woman is concerned.

I would like to cite one example which is being practised in our State, that is, Kudumbashree Scheme. When the Self-Help Groups have been financed by the banks and the Government, it is really empowerment of women. It is not degrading them. Also, already the Government of India has abandoned one scheme. The Scheme of Mahila Rashtria Kosh has already been stopped. If this concept is accepted by the Government, because it is a statement of the Minister, and if the Government continues to stop this scheme, definitely, it will adversely affect the Kudumbashree Scheme as well as so many NRLM projects. The Self-Help Groups will also be adversely affected.

So, my request, through you, Sir, to the Government is to desist from the move to scrap the Women Self-Help Groups in our country because this scheme is a very good scheme and it is a successful scheme in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak during Zero Hour.

Sir, two days ago an incident took place in Peshawar, in which 132 children of Army Public School were brutally killed by terrorists. The incident took place in Pakistan, but it broke the boundaries of both countries. Before starting the Question Hour, the Lok Sabha of India, the entire House, observed silence to pay tribute to those children. The death of those 132 children saddened the entire India. It felt as if they were our children. The way they were gunned down is extremely gruesome.

It is on the records that 603 children died at Gorakhpur Medical College Between 1st January to 17th December. Those 603 children were the future of the country, they could have achieved great success nationally or internationally. I believe that the disease which started from Gorakhpur in Purvanchal region in 1978, has today spread from Gorakhpur to not only Uttar Pradesh but also to 11 states of the country. Thousands of deaths are taking place across the country in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, and West Bengal. It is unfortunate that a cure for the virus is still unavailable, the preventive

vaccinations are still not cent percent effective. When will we become alert, if 603 children of our homeland died in a medical college, two hundred died in Bihar, 295 died in Assam, three hundred died in West Bengal. This is how Acute Encephalitis Syndrome has been explained and Harsh Vardhan Ji has also said, this disease is a mystery and still we do not know the reason for it. If there is an unknown reason then I think we should start a control program for vector-borne diseases of this virus. The children who survive become disabled and become lifelong burden on families who endure the curse of poverty.

Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want that some research should be done, medicines should be invented for the treatment of this disease. Save those children from the jaws of death.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, through you, I want to raise the following matter in Zero Hour to attract the attention of the Ministry for Civil Aviation, Government of India.

The grounding of SpiceJet flights created a harrowing time for thousands of passengers across the country. As you know, the Spice Jet is owned by the Sun TV Group, the Marans. The Sun TV

is not ready to bail it out. The airlines have been refused by oil companies like IOC and BPCL. As a result, the SpiceJet collapse seems heading the Kingfisher way, which ultimately closed down.

Passengers had to rush for other airlines. As a result, the price of air tickets in this peak holiday season has gone through roof. There is no Government effort to regulate fares. Bombay to Delhi is selling at Rs.25,000. It is the ordinary price. On Tuesday, only 35 flights of the 239 daily flights of SpiceJet took off. There has been violent protest by the passengers throughout the country.

Yesterday, at Terminal-1D of Delhi passengers remonstrated with the SpiceJet employees because they were put in great difficulty. The Government must intervene in the matter of SpiceJet collapse and also about the skyrocketing of fares in this festive season.

***SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to raise an important issue during the Zero Hour. For according the classical language status to Marathi language, Government of Maharashtra had submitted its report in Marathi on 12th July, 2013 and in English on 16th November, 2013 to the Central Government.

As of now, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Oriya are the six languages which are accorded classical status. As a matter of fact, Marathi language fulfills all the requisite criteria for being a classical language. The age of prakrit started from 600 to 700 AD. Prakrit was very prominent during the times of Lord Buddha, Bhagwan Mahavir and Emperor Ashoka. The grammar book “Prakrit Prakash” was written during this period. In those days, Maharashtri apbhransh was in practice. “Sri Chamunda raye karavile gangaraje suthale karvile” this line was carved on a stone carving at Shravanbelgole which dates back to 983 AD and now it stands as a testimony for Marathi, being 1000 years old.

In my constituency, at Naneghat, there is a stone carving which is 2200 years old and in this carving a Marathi word

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

“maharatthino” is written. Even during the Satvahan Era Prakrit Maharashtra language existed and it was very prominent.

Marathi language is spoken in 72 countries. There are around 20000 languages all over the world and Marathi stands at No.10. As many as 11.5 crore people speak Marathi. “Vinay Pitak” is a 2500 years old literary work. Even, the first literary book in Marathi ‘Gatha Saptasati’ is 2000 years old. This shows the ancientness of Marathi. 27th February is celebrated as Marathi Bhasha Diwas. Hence, it is my humble request to the Central Government that before 27th February, 2015, Marathi should be accorded the status of Classical Language. Jai Marathi, Jai Maharashtra. Thank you.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to bring to the notice of this august House about a recent incident of the death of a gangman who was on duty between Thane and Mulund. A number of such accidents happen day in and day out. The reason for this is less number of staff in a unit of a gangmen. One unit of gangmen should consist of 11 people, but 5-6 gangmen are working nowadays in a unit. These accidents are prone to occur due to increase in workload and less number of staff. The reasons for such accidents are also due to the

fact that they are not following the Banner Flag Protection rule, which was followed very strictly earlier. This should be carried out by the Engineering Department, which is not being done nowadays.

Another point is that detonators -- that are to be installed at 45 metres from the workplace -- is also not followed. So, I would request the Ministry of Railways to make it compulsory to install buzzer system and also detonators, which will alert the gangmen and save their lives.

The other important issue is track maintenance, which is to be done by the gangmen only. It is executed through contractor system, which is done by untrained labourers, which is putting lives of lakhs of commuters at stake. In a recent incident, in my Constituency, four derailments have occurred. So, I would request the Ministry of Railways that track maintenance should be done by trained gangmen. The Rail Kamgar Sena has also raised this issue several times.

So, through you, I would request the Railway Minister to look after the condition of all these tracks, and not neglect the safety of these tracks and lakhs of commuters. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Deputy Speaker Sir, you gave me the opportunity to speak on a very important issue, I am grateful for this. You are aware that thousands of people from our country, whether we talk about the Middle East, Europe, America, or Canada, go there for labour work or for education, especially a large number of people from Punjab. When people go for work without their families and, due to any reason, whether it is death in an accident, illness, or a natural death, after their death, their families have to face great difficulties in bringing the dead body back home. Especially in the Middle East, it takes as long as four months to bring back the dead body. There have even been cases where it took two years. Just think about the immense sorrow a family would experience when a loved one dies, and if it takes them four months to retrieve the body, how can they bear such a lengthy wait.

I request the Government through you to keep a special fund in the embassies for repatriating the dead bodies. Especially here also, an officer should be deputed or a cell should be created in the Ministry of External Affairs which can inform the families about the expected time for their loved ones' remains to arrive. They

should also be given financial help and arrangements should be made so that they do not have to go there.

[English]

ADV. SHARADKUMAR MARUTI BANSODE (SOLAPUR):

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important issue regarding the Great Indian Bustard in my Solapur constituency.

The State Government has reserved the land admeasuring 1029 square kilometres to protect the Great Indian Bustard. However, due to the decision of the hon. Supreme Court, the State Government conducted an inquiry in accordance with Sections 18 to 25 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and it has decided that only 493 hectares of land may be reserved for this Great Indian Bustard. But till date the Environment Ministry has not taken any steps. The interesting thing is that for the last so many years, nobody has even seen that bird. No doubt, the bird has to be protected. But simultaneously it has to be noted that lakhs of farmers and plot owners cannot sell or purchase land; industrialists cannot establish new industries, while the plans of the Government are also badly affected.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take the necessary steps to solve the problem at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards "Asha Bahus". In Uttar Pradesh "Asha Bahus" work 24 hours. They go from House to House and vaccinate pregnant women, they also administer polio drops to children, and they are always ready to serve women. When women are likely to deliver at night, they are called. In such a situation, they somehow bring pregnant women from rural areas to the hospital. There is no accommodation for them in CAC and PAC in hospitals. When they go there the nurses misbehave with them and even the doctors misbehave with them. They are not given money. The nurses even take money from the money that the mother receives. They sometimes refer women to bigger hospitals. Pregnant women and Asha Bahus are illtreated even in district hospitals. There, "Asha Bahus" and pregnant women are even beaten up. Their condition is very bad. "Asha Bahus" work more than nurses.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government towards "Asha Bahus" and demand that "Asha

Bahus" be given the status of State employees. They should be declared state employees. Whatever is due to "Asha Bahus" should be paid. The money for vaccination and polio drops which they have not received and which is outstanding should also be paid to them. Through you, I make this demand from the Government.

SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Shanan Hydroelectric Project being operated in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. On 3rd March, 1925, an agreement was signed between the British Government and the King of Mandi, Shri Joginder Sen Bahadur, to build a 48 MW hydroelectric power project in Joginder Nagar. That project started generating electricity on 10 March 1933. In the year 1982, its capacity was increased from 66 MW to 110 MW.

After the independence of India, the Hon. President issued a notification stating that all the agreements made by the British Government with erstwhile rulers would be considered cancelled, but the agreement of the Shanan Project has not been cancelled to date. Even today, as in the past, it has been exploiting electricity under the Punjab Electricity Board for the past 67 years. Citing a 99-year agreement made during the British era, it has occupied

Himachal Pradesh. It is waiting for the expiry of the agreement period in the year 2024.

The Punjab Government earns a net profit of Rs. 250 crore per year from this project but is not spending even a penny for the benefit of the local people or for environmental protection. The trolleys that used to run in the hills of Shanan have been stopped. Roads and bridges are broken, and street lights remain switched off.

Cracks have developed in the tunnels of the 81-year-old Shanan Hydroelectric Project, the hill is sinking due to which an explosion can occur at any time, which will cause huge loss of life and property not only in Joginder Nagar city but also in rural areas. At the same time, this escape water will also hinder the power generation of the 66 MW Bassi Hydroelectric Project operated by the Himachal Electricity Board and the 100 MW Uhal Hydroelectric Project under construction and will lead to economic loss worth Crore. I request the Indian Government to immediately send a team of hydro experts to Shanan to inspect this project and kindly cancel the agreement made with the British Government and hand over the Shanan Project to the Himachal Government.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you so much Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak in the ‘Zero Hour’.

Sir, Jaykrushna Mahapatra Rajguru, who was born in 1739 in Puri district of Odisha is supposed to be the first martyr in India’s freedom struggle against the Britishers.

Sir, he was not only a strategist; he was not only a visionary; he was not only a guerilla warfare by organizing *paikas* from each and every family of the Odisha princely State at that point of time. The Britishers saw that Jay Rajguru is the greatest threat to their nefarious design.

Sir, he waged a guerilla warfare against the Britishers and won the war. The Britishers saw that he is going to pose a greatest threat and subsequently, they arrested him. When they arrested him and produced before the court of law, the court said that you are the man who is responsible for waging a war against the Britishers. He had the courage to say so. He said that the king is not responsible and it is me who is responsible to this nefarious design.

The way he was killed, no human mind in a civilized world can think of that. His two legs were tied to a 400 year old banyan

tree by bringing two branches and the branches were let off causing a complete vertical split of his body. That is the most inhuman treatment the Britishers have given to a hero from Odisha. History has chosen to forget such a great hero who has contributed to the Indian Freedom Struggle. So, my demand before the Union Government is that let the place Medinipur in my Balasore constituency where he was killed be declared as a place of national importance and a historical place and infrastructure be created to commemorate the great hero of the Indian freedom struggle.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Thank you hon. Deputy Speaker Sir for allowing me to speak in 'Zero Hour'. A road between Silchar to Guwahati under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East region was approved by the Union Government as a National Highway No. 627 which is most important for Barak valley, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur. The Government of Assam has already submitted the details of the project report of Rs. 1600 crore for the construction of the much awaited two lane highway. In reply to the question in the Assam Assembly by the hon. PWD Minister said that detailed project report sent by the Assam Government is not approved by the Union Government till now. I request through you to the Union

Government to take necessary measures in this respect immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):

Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency 19 Maharajganj, home district Saran, Bihar, construction of overbridges across the railway crossing on NH 101 between Shyamchak and Karinga which is on Chhapra Siwan rail section and Chhapra to Banaras rail section and on the railway crossing on NH 85 between Brahmapur to Jalalpur as well as over the railway crossing between Rajendra Sarovar and Jagdam Mahavidyalaya is very essential in the public interest. Every day, numerous small, large, private, and commercial vehicles, along with people, use these crossings. Sometimes, this crossing remains closed for hours due to which common people face difficulty in commuting, patients die because of the closed railway gate and students are deprived of their exams. In this regard, I have requested the Government earlier also through the House, to construct railway crossings at the above-mentioned places, but no significant steps have been taken so far. Hence, I once again request the Government to take immediate

necessary action for the construction of over bridges on the above-mentioned railway crossings for the benefit of the public.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise an important issue of my constituency. National Highway No. 8 in Gujarat which goes from Delhi to Mumbai via Ahmedabad, Bharuch. The entire national highway at the Narmada River near Bharuch is six-lane, but the long bridge on the Narmada River is only two-lane. Due to this bottleneck, traffic remains blocked for hours. At times, there are long queues of vehicles stretching for several kilometres. I, along with some of my colleagues, had raised this issue in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha as well. I would like to mention that it is unfortunate that the then UPA Government laid the foundation stone for this bridge on the PPP model on 1st May, 2012, just before the Gujarat elections, but to date, no action has been taken on it. Even today, people are facing hardships. The Gujarat Government has also repeatedly suggested that the bridge be constructed under the EPC model – Engineering, Procurement and Construction model. Through you and through this House, I request the Government that if this bridge is constructed, it will provide great relief to the people, and the long queues and obstructions in

traffic will be resolved. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am having a long list of Members to speak during 'Zero Hour'. I will allow maximum of one minute. And if any Member exceeds the limit, automatically his speech would not go on record. Therefore, I would request all of you to cooperate. I would allow maximum of one minute and not more than that.

Shri Hukum Singh. You mention about the subject. That is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Sir, my subject is illegal mining which is about to start in my Lok Sabha constituency. If that happens, millions of farmer families will be ruined. I appeal to the Union Government to immediately stop this illegal mining and save the farmers from getting ruined. This is my request.

[English]

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu geographically had very little surface

water and the ground water resources were also fastly depleting. Understanding the basic underlying problem which necessitated conserving and increasing the ground water level, our hon. People's former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had taken pioneering efforts, the first ever in India in the field of rain water harvesting which stands out as a role model for our entire country.

In the Chennai City alone, the projected demand for drinking water by 2017 is 1584 MLD. At present, there are two desalination plants with 100 MLD capacity each, functioning in Tamil Nadu which converts sea water into drinking water. Our visionary leader, hon. People's former Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to avert the huge demand supply mismatch in the future, had proposed a 150 MLD SWRO Desalination Plant at Nemmeli near Chennai at a cost of Rs.1371.86 crore and another 400 MLD SWRO Desalination Plant at Perur near Chennai at a cost of Rs. 4070.67 crore. The requested Centre's share of 50 percent is pending with the Government of India. The Government of India should release the necessary funds for expeditious completion of these proposed projects.

***SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):**Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jai Maharashtra. The NH 3 passes through my constituency, Bhiwandi. It has been transferred to Gammon India for renovation work on BOT basis.

But there are many shortcomings in the construction of this road. There are no underpasses and service roads on this NH. The places like Yewai, Taloli, Khadawali, Asangaon, Vashin and Vashala have no underpasses. Hence, till date, more than 220 accidents have taken place on this road in which 120 people have died.

Last week, at Asangaon Junction, an accident took place and the family Members of the deceased, blocked the road by putting the dead body in the middle of the road and all political parties supported them. As a matter of fact, many people have died there due to accidents.

Hence, I am requesting the Central Government to kindly construct underpasses at the accident prone sites on this highway and give relief to the people of my constituency. Thank you.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Godavari Pushkaram is a festival of River Godavari which occurs once in 12 years. The Pushkaram festival was last held in the year 2003. The next Godavari Pushkaram will start from July 2015 onwards. During Godavari Pushkaram, pilgrims from all over the country will have a holy dip with the belief that they would be relieved from all sins, and perform rituals to departed souls. The first 12 days of Godavari Pushkaram is called Aadhi Pushkaram and the last 12 days of Godavari Pushkaram is called Anthya Pushkaram. These 24 days are very pious to devotees. A large number of pilgrims throng in to these places during Pushkarams. Government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to make arrangements for pilgrims during Pushkarams. In the year 2003 above two crore pilgrims have attended the festival in Rajahmundry alone.

In view of the above, I submit to inform you that a number of amenities are required at various locations abutting river Godavari. Therefore I request you to release an amount of Rs 25 crore from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for construction of Tourist amenities across river Godavari at the earliest.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHICODE): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Kozhikode is a major centre for manufacture of footwear with an approximate turnover of Rs 700 crore per annum and employing more than 10,000 employees.

The Footwear Design and Development Institute is the premier institute for footwear design and the Government of Kerala has suggested for the opening of one of the proposed four institutes at Kozhikode which the FDDI has agreed to in principle. The Government of Kerala has also allotted the mandatory 20 acres of land for the purpose in February, 2013. I request the hon. Minister of Commerce to allot the required fund of Rs 100 crore during the financial year of 2014-15 itself for construction work of the institute.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the dire need to make Sangareddy-Nanded-Akola Road as new National Highway-163 and four-lane road.

In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind notice that in my Zaheerabad constituency in Medak District in Telangana State, there is a road passing from Sangareddy-Nanded-Akola and this is an inter-State road connecting Maharashtra from Telangana and it is passing in the backward areas but there is no industrial development in the surrounding villages.

In this connection, it is to be stated that the Government of Telangana is particularly to take care for the development of the surrounding districts industrially because there is no sufficient land available in the Hyderabad City. So, the investors who are interested to locate their industrial units in Medak District will be inclined positively provided there is road convenience of four-lane National Highway road and other infrastructure available in the vicinity. Sufficient land and water is available to attract the industrialists. There is every need to make the present National Highway into a new four-lane National Highway-163 so that simultaneously the backward areas can be developed and the

industrialists can be impressed to locate the industries abundantly to generate employment also.

SHRI P.C. MOHAN (BANGALORE CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Karnataka is facing an alarming situation with reference to school drop-outs or out-of-school children to the tune of 67 percent. The number of school drop-outs has increased to 1,81,000 in 2014 from 1,08,000 in 2009 which has resulted in pushing Karnataka to 4th position from 6th position. The Karnataka Government was pulled up by the hon. High Court for its inability to handle the problem and was also criticized for submitting the wrong figures.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should come to the point. Don't make any allegation.

SHRI P.C. MOHAN: Sir, the reason cited by the experts for school drop-outs were poverty, migration and Government's apathy. The disbursement of free text-books both for private and public schools and proper implementation of mid-day meal scheme can prevent drop-outs to some extent. I request the hon. HRD Minister to announce adequate funds for the State of Karnataka and advise the State Government to implement these steps properly.

SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Thirukural with profound universalism is unparalleled in world literature for its masterly exposition of the tenets of justice and ethics. Guiding mankind in human values it is a timeless treasure and transcends the barriers of caste, creed and religion. Thirukural, the Tamil didactic masterpiece rendered by Thiruvalluvar, dates back to the Sangam Era of ancient Tamil Nadu.

Thirukural is among the most translated literary works with a universal appeal even for the modern life. It has been translated into many languages of the world including Chinese, Arabic and classical European languages. In 1330 couplets, uniquely relevant secular values in consonance with the modern Indian republican polity have been effectively conveyed.

The need of the hour is to acknowledge that such a moral-precept rendition is with us having a place above all the religions because of its secular nature. Hence our beloved leader Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had drawn the attention of our Prime Minister to declare Thirukural as national literature. Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly also passed unanimously a resolution requesting the Government of India to declare Thirukural as our country's literature of great pride.

Every year we are celebrating January 16 as Thiruvalluvar day commemorating his birthday. On this occasion the Union Government must come forward to declare Thirukural being accorded the status of our national literature. Let this declaration be made as a gift to all the people of the world especially the Tamils world over.

SHRI R. DHROUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding dilution of the Forest Rights Act. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 was launched during the year 2008 during our UPA Government and it provides rights to forest dwellers to own access and take decisions regarding forest areas.

Under the Forest Rights Act the Gram Sabha can regulate access to forest resources and stop any activities which adversely affect the forest. Up to May 31st, 14,12,712 individual titles had been issued, 23,578 community titles had been issued, and 46.5 lakh acres of forest area rights had been vested to forest dwellers.

There have been various news reports regarding the alleged intention of the Central Government to dilute the Forest Rights Act. On 28th October, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had sent out a letter to all the States. That letter violates the

rights of forest dwellers and gives the rights to the District Administration to divert forest areas for other purposes.

I would request the Government to take back any letters sent which are in violation of rights of forest dwellers, and to ensure that the Forest Rights Act is not diluted in letter and spirit. The interest of forest dwellers must not be compromised in the name of development. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI BASTI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, today I have stood up to speak about Basti district, Uttar Pradesh. It is a very backward district. Most of the farmers in Basti district depend on sugarcane cultivation. Narang Sugar Mill was opened in 1927, which was bought by Bajaj Group in 2005 and was closed after running for seven-eight seasons. Lakhs of farmers of Basti used to sell sugarcane to the sugar mills, which was their main source of income. Through this, they used to get employment but now they are sitting idle. The protest has been ongoing here for a year. I myself have participated in this protest but this sugar mill is no more operational. Through you, I would request the Government to make the sugar mill operational.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the most serious challenge for India. The whole country is devastated by the trade of drugs, heroin and opium. 12 percent of the country's school children consume tobacco and alcohol and 90 percent of the elderly are addicted. Punjab used to be a developed state but today it is getting destroyed due to drug addiction. A few days back*, a DSP who had been a player for India travelled to Canada and other countries and engaged in illegal activities with the help of politicians. When ED called and interrogated him, he disclosed the names of many politicians who were involved. Allegedly, the names of several officers involved were disclosed. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any individual's name cannot go on record.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Drug addiction has destroyed the whole of Punjab. In every village, in every Panchayat, two to four dead bodies are found every month. Our Prime Minister has talked about making the entire country drug-free, I want to thank him. If

*Not recorded.

they want to create a drug-free country, they should impose a ban on tobacco and alcohol nationwide on the line of Gujarat and protect the country's future.

SHRI DHARMVIR GANDHI (PATIALA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter. DRDO is a scientific organisation attached to the Ministry of Defence, whose job is to strengthen the defence services by doing research related to modern science. However, DRDO recently committed an act so shocking that it has left the entire nation surprised. It built a chariot worth five crore rupees with its own human and financial resources and gifted it to the Anandi Temple, which could not have been done. The scientist who raised his voice against this and acted as a whistleblower was transferred. All the research projects under his supervision were taken away from him. When the Supreme Court took cognizance of the matter, the DRDO Chief, the Defence Secretary, and the Central Vigilance Commission were directed to file a report by the 17th. I want to know from the Government who gave DRDO the authority to implement a policy of religion and initiate religious induction, and under whose orders such a religious ritual was conducted by the DRDO.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that today, the few lions left in the country are found in the Gir Forest of southern Saurashtra, Gujarat. There are more than five hundred lions inhabiting that area. The sanctuary spans approximately 1412 kilometres. Six national highways and several small roads pass through this area. For the protection of these lions, the Gujarat Government had sent a proposal to the Union Government, which was worth around six hundred Crore. A proposal for a 276-kilometre ring road should be immediately approved by the Union Government so that the lions of our country can be protected and conserved. Therefore, through you, I urge the Union Government to take steps to safeguard that sanctuary in Gujarat.

[English]

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, everybody should get everything; poverty should be wiped out of this country under the able guidance of hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I urge upon the Union Government to set up FM Radio Station at Kumbakonam in my Mayiladuthurai Constituency of Tamil

Nadu. Already the DD's relay station set up is there in Kumbakonam. We can use this transmitter and the buildings to set up FM radio station. Since building and land is available with transmitter, installation will not require huge funds. There are a lot of villages around Kumbakonam and the main activities of the villagers are agriculture and fisheries. So, the FM station will serve the needs of all the sections of the people. So, I urge upon the Union Government to set up FM radio station as early as possible at Kumbakonam city. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BHAGPAT): Deputy Speaker Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Baghpat, has traditionally been a land of brave hearts, immortal from the time of the great martyr Baba Shamal, rebellious by history, and today known as the region of young Bedurga. Forty to fifty years ago, it was not just one of the best regions of the country but certainly the best in Uttar Pradesh, and today it is one of the most backward areas. When brave people are burdened with unemployment, it gives rise to very violent and aggressive crimes. This affects not only large cities but the entire region. Through you, I request the Government of India to establish

a National Institute of Skill Development in the Baghpat region so that unemployed youth can get both training and employment.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our then Deputy-Council General, Shrimati Deviyani Khobragade, was arrested in New York on false charges. She was indicted and humiliated by the US authorities. She was humiliated to such an extent that she had to undergo captivity search which is done for the drug peddlers. Every one of us know about highhandedness of the US authorities. We have experienced this in past when our hon. ex-President, Abdul Kalamji had gone to the US, when our George Fernandes had been to the US and recently even the present Prime Minister was also not treated properly by the US.

Shrimati Deviyani Khobragade is still under warrant in the US. The Minister of External Affairs had done a laudable job by bringing her back to India safely. But the criminal charges against her and arrest warrant still stands. Therefore, in view of present relations with the US, I would request the Government to pursue this case and ask the US authorities to exonerate her from the criminal charges.

[Translation]

SHRI P. P. CHAUHAN (PANCHMAHAL): Sir, through you, I would like to raise an issue related to the BSNL tower. In my Parliamentary Constituency, in the Godhra Taluka of Panchmahal district, the BSNL tower is completely non-functional. The telephone at my House is out of service. When I visit my constituency, my mobile phone does not work due to weak network coverage. The line remains dead, and the phone at my home stays disconnected. Upon speaking with the officials, they cited the unavailability of materials as the reason. The State Government has conducted a survey of the shortage of towers district-wise and has sent it to the Union Government.

Sir, through you, I request the Hon. Minister to send a team of officials to conduct a survey regarding the tower issue in our Parliamentary Constituency and ensure that the pending proposal on this matter is implemented as soon as possible.

[English]

***SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Vanakkam. In Tamil Nadu, Jallikkattu (bull taming sport)-a sport

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

of bravery, has been organised since time immemorial and from the time of origin of Tamil language. In the year 2013 under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble Amma organised this event. This year the Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned it. In my Theni Parliamentary Constituency, Alanganallur is famous for this sport of bravery, Jallikkattu. The Government of Tamil Nadu organised Jallikattu so far in the State which was even attended by large number of foreign tourists. I urge upon this august House to pass a special legislation to ensure organising of this brave sport regularly in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): I thank the hon. Deputy Speaker for allowing me to speak on an important issue of construction of coastal road in Mumbai.

It is well known that Mumbai has a beautiful coastal line and a large number of urban and rural population exists on the coastal line. There is a dire need to construct a modern coastal road along the bank of the Arabian Sea.

Sir, in this respect, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has submitted a proposal to build a coastal road of 36 kilometres length. The coastal road involves reclamation in sea of about 9.8 kilometres and road length falling in mangroves is 8

kilometres. The CRZ Notification, 2011, does not allow coastal road by way of reclamation. MCZMA has already submitted this conceptual

proposal of coastal road by reclamation in sea to the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 11th June, 2013, in order to amend the CRZ Notification, 2011 to accommodate construction of coastal roads by way of reclamation in sea. The proposal is pending for approval with the Ministry of Environment and Forests which needs to be expedited at the earliest. Sir, I would request the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to make suitable amendment in the CRZ Notification, 2011, and pave the way for construction of coastal road in Mumbai.

19.00 hrs.

***KUMARI SHOBHA KHARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKKMAGALUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak in Kannada language. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government about the increasing incidents of rape in Karnataka. During the last 8 to 10 months rape and sexual assaults were repeatedly committed in the state. Such incidents are taking

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

place all over the country. However, the horrific and barbaric incidents of rape and sexual assaults on school girls and even on small kids reported from Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka made the civil society hang its head in shame.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the recent incident of sexual assault and death of Nandita, a school girl from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district of Karnataka, took the Centre stage in the State. Nandita was abducted by 3 boys from Thirthalli and drove her to a nearby hill. She was forced to consume poison mixed with water and attempt was made to rape her. Somehow she managed to escape and took shelter in a nearby House. Later, she started vomiting. She was taken to a hospital at Thirthalli and then she was admitted in a hospital at Shivamogga. From there, she was shifted to Manipal Hospital, where she breathed her last. Before her death she told the doctors at the hospital that she was made to consume poison. There has been a huge protest from across the state to condemn this inhuman incident and urge the State Government to punish the culprits. But it did not yield any result. The State Government ordered a probe. Unfortunately attempts are being made to 'close' the case. State authorities gave a twist to the case saying that the girl had committed suicide. Physical assaults on

Nandita's father and other family Members was committed and the Grocery shop of the victim's father was also set on fire by miscreants.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission to the Union Government is that there should be a CBI enquiry into the incident relating to brutal death of Nandita. Justice should be done to the victim and her family by the impartial investigation of CBI. The reality of this inhuman incident of sexual assault and death should be made known to the world.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Union Government to take immediate step to hand over the case to CBI.

Thank you.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA):

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I wish to bring to the notice of this august House a very important issue, a burning issue, relating to the plight of more than ten lakh rubber growers in the State of Kerala and elsewhere. Rubber cultivators are in deep distress due to sharp fall in the price

of natural rubber following the decision of the Government to allow indiscriminate import of rubber.

As you are aware, rubber cultivators across the country are mostly small and marginal. The present crisis has become a life and death issue for the cultivators. They do not know how to earn their livelihood in the present situation. The Government of India is maintaining a criminal silence in the matter. The Members of Parliament from Kerala, cutting across political affiliations, have represented the matter before the Government. We have, in fact, demonstrated before the Parliament. But all our efforts are in vain. The hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Oman Chandi, and a group of political leaders are coming to Delhi to apprise the Government of this matter.

Under the circumstances, it is my humble request to the hon. Minister that Government should declare its stand on import of rubber. I would also like to request the Government to ban indiscriminate import of rubber so that justice is ensured to the cultivators.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House an important matter. An independent expert

Committee should be formed to investigate the administration of educational loan interest subsidy. In response to my submission in the Lok Sabha on 30th July, 2014 under Rule 377, the hon. Finance Minister has written that the banks have been advised not to insist on payment of interest when the students are eligible for interest subsidy on educational loan. He has also mentioned that the banks have been asked to follow the guidelines. But in reality we get a lot of complaints that the banks are forcing students to pay interest when they are eligible for interest subsidy. The poor students are forced to borrow money from all sources to repay the bank interest. The banks are creating only a small portion as eligible interest subsidy to the students. This defeats the very purpose of the scheme to provide educational loan to poor students with comparable repayment. We get reports that the SBI classifies the educational loans as NPA even within four to five months after the moratorium and refer to Lok Adalat. This is causing mental agony to young students. There seems to be a lot of mess in administering interest subsidy on educational loans. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to investigate the matter by forming a committee of independent experts.

Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Tahal Chowdhury --Not present

Shri Prahlad Patel-- Not present

SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. All over India there are 62 cantonments. In my Nashik Parliamentary Constituency there is the Deolali cantonment which has a population of about 50,000 people. People living within the cantonment limit pay all types of Government taxes. People employed in jobs and businessmen pay income tax, service tax and other taxes. But there are no schemes to fulfil their basic necessities such as road, light, water, school, hospital and other facilities provided by either the State Government or the Central Government. All other local authorities, like the Gram Panchayat, Corporations are given schemes by the State Government and also the Central Government for their overall development. People living in the civil area within the cantonment limits are also facing problems such as delay in cantonment code for making lease land into free hold land and old grant land into free hold. These issues are pending for many years. This policy decision is pending since 2012 in the Ministry of Defence.

In the civil area within the cantonment limit, FSI is 1.0 and out of civil area, FSI is 0.5. If FSI is at 0.5, the land cost becomes double and there is an additional construction cost incurred also. So, common man cannot afford this accommodation.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, through you, I request the Ministry of Defence to implement the schemes for the overall development of cantonments which are under the State Governments and the Central Government as they are given to the local authorities for implementation. I also request to raise the FSI for land which is out of civil area from 0.5 to 1.0 so that accommodation for common people will become affordable.

Special attention should be given to resolve all cantonment code lease, lease land and old grant land cases throughout India at the earliest.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): Sir, nowadays, all over the country, wild animals like elephants, cheetahs, tigers, etc. are moving out of forests towards villages and are also causing a lot of damage or loss to the property and the lives of people.

My constituency is basically a dry area. In my constituency, more than a dozen of elephants have entered and virtually have camped there. A few cheetahs have caused grievous and severe injuries to four to five innocent villagers. In one case in Mudukiri Taluk of my constituency, people have recorded as to how a wild bear is killing and eating an individual. So, deforestation is the main cause for these activities.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to see that these wild animals are more comfortable in the forests and to give more compensation to the injured people and the families of the deceased.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Sir, I have got this opportunity while the hon. Minister, Shri Anant Gete is available in the House.

Today, the public sector undertakings like HMT, HMT Cables, Midani, Bharat Electronics, BHEL, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bharat Dynamics Ltd. and HMT Bearings have come up in Hyderabad for the last many years after we got Independence. For the last years, some of the units are not doing well. Particularly regarding HMT and HMT Bearings, there is a talk that they are going to be closed.

I would like the Government to take it up as early as possible to see that Hyderabad flourishes which is now the capital of the new State of Telangana. These public sector undertakings should be saved.

HCL is a company which is going to be taken over by Ordnance Factory. I request the Government to take it up as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the outsourcing work is happening in CCL and Bharat Coking Coal Limited in my Lok Sabha constituency, where the rules and regulations are being disregarded and the Mining Act is being overlooked, and the people are not getting any compensation. The people whose land has been acquired have not even got jobs. Along with this, intense blasting is causing the homes of poor individuals to collapse. The outsourcing work that is going on in CCL and BCCL, especially in our area, BNK Kathara, Dhori area and BCCL Block-1 to Area-6, people here are facing a lot of problems. I request the Government of India to order an investigation into this matter so that the people there can get relief.

[English]

***SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. *Vanakkam*. "*Kedil Vizhuch Selvam Kalvi Oruvarku Maadalla Matrai Yavai*". "Learning is the imperishable wealth that none can destroy; To men nothing else affords real joy", says Thirukkural written by Saint Thiruvalluvar. Peace, Progress and Prosperity for human upliftment, Puratchithalaivi Amma's words of wisdom. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, This is Thirukkural. I think you know very well about this literary masterpiece. This literary work has 1330 couplets spread in 133 chapters and in three major divisions like Virtue, Wealth and Love. All aspects of the entire universe are covered in its 42,194 words of lofty wisdom. Thirukkural has been translated into several languages of the world. Very well knowing the importance of this great literary work Thirukkural, People's former Chief Minister Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma had written a letter to the then Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 16.9.2004 for declaring Thirukkural as the national scripture. A resolution in this regard was also passed unanimously in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 13.4.2005. If Thirukkural is declared as a national scripture it

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

would be a national pride. The great literary work would help in strengthening the unity of the country transcending all barriers of caste, religion, creed, etc. This universal literary masterpiece should be declared as the national scripture as demanded by People's former Chief Minister Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma. I also request the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker to make his endeavours to achieve this goal. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, you have given me permission to raise a very sensitive issue in the House, for this I thank you.' This news was reported in the 'Hindi Dainik' newspaper published on 16-12-2014 in Bihar. According to a news report quoting the Bihar Government's intelligence department, the department has revealed in a report that the ex-MP imprisoned in Siwan Jail has covertly provided a list to his supporters of 23 persons to be murdered. According to the list, Rajiv Roshan, an eyewitness of the acid attack case in Siwan, and my press spokesperson Shrikant Bharti have been murdered. The condition of Siwan is very pathetic. I too can be murdered at any time. More than fifty of my supporters were killed by the goons of the former MP. I urge the Government to transfer the ex-MP currently in Siwan Jail to Bhagalpur Central Jail and request a CBI investigation into the murder of our press spokesperson. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a State subject. This cannot be taken up here.

Shri Balbhadra Majhi – not present.

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rare sapphire stone four-armed idol of Lord Vishnu, which is ancient and priceless, was present in a temple in Chamanpura village, situated in the Baikunthpur police station area of Gopalganj district, Bihar. This idol, worth more than Rs. 100 crore in the international market, draws countless dedicated pilgrims from far away places who visit to worship and appreciate it. This idol has been stolen. This is also having an adverse effect on pilgrimage and tourism.

Numerous thefts of valuable idols have been reported in various states across the country over the past few years, with highly active national and international gangs believed to be operating as part of a conspiracy. These precious statues are sold in the international market.

The investigation of the above mentioned case number 209/11 (Baikunthpur Police Station) has been stopped by the police station

on the telephone order of the DSP, under pressure from the Government and administration, in connivance with the local public representatives. Due to this, there is tension and public anger in the entire area. The State Government has been completely inactive and unsuccessful in such matters.

Therefore, keeping in mind the public sentiments, I urge the Union Government to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident by the CBI at a senior level to retrieve the aforementioned idol, a national treasure, and the true colours of the white collared people could be seen.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. I would like to invite the attention of the Government, through you, towards the dilemma of the people belonging to the forward communities who are economically backward and are living below the poverty line.

In Kerala, the social service organisations like the century-old Nair Service Society and similar other organisations are demanding welfare schemes for the poor people of forward communities. In order to tide over the difficult situation of the poor people from the

forward communities, we have to ensure that they get equal opportunities in education and employment.

For finding a solution to the problem, the UPA Government has set up a Commission to study the problems of the forward communities, under the chairmanship of Justice Singhu and the Report is with the Government now. The recommendations of the Justice Singhu Commission may be considered and implemented at the earliest.

A Corporation for the development of Forward Communities may be set up on the lines of the Corporation for the Development of Forward Communities established by Government of Kerala at the national level.... (*Interruptions*)

Through the said Corporation, several developmental schemes like educational scholarships, fellowships, education loans, vocational training, self-employment programmes, grants, assistance for marriages, etc. can be implemented. This will be a great support to the economically poor people belonging to forward communities.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to

the need to expedite the new railway line from Tindivanam to Nagari involving a distance of 180 kms. linking Vandavasi, Cheyyar, Arani, Arcot, Ranipet, Pallipattu which was announced in 2006-2007 as follows; “A new railway line will be laid and it will connect Tindivanam, Vandavasi, Arani, Cheyyar, Arcot...” Though about several years have elapsed, yet there is very little progress.

In a meeting organized by the General Manager of Southern Railway in Tiruchirappalli which was attended by some Members of Parliament, I asked about the ongoing project of the new railway line from Tindivanam to Nagari, Tindivanam to Thiruvannamalai. He stated that it would take about 80 years.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to pay special attention to this ongoing project, allot sufficient funds and expedite the same. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I am presenting a serious issue of Maharashtra before the House in Zero Hour. Due to drought and excessive rainfall in Maharashtra, farmers have suffered heavy losses, resulting in suicides being committed by farmers on a large scale. A central

committee has visited the area and taken stock of the situation. Today itself, the Hon. Supreme Court has asked the Union Government and the State Government for information on what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent suicides being committed by farmers. Whatever little grain the farmers have managed to produce is also being sold at low prices. The farmers' paddy is being sold at five hundred rupees less than the expected price.

I urge the Government to fix the support price at five thousand rupees per quintal, as farmers in Maharashtra are resorting to suicide because of the drought. Therefore, the Union Government must promptly declare a national disaster in the state and assist the farmers. I make this demand to the Union Government through you.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Deputy Speaker Sir, in Budget 2014, the Hon. Minister of Finance had proposed to open Indian Institute of Management in various cities of the country, which also includes Maharashtra.

Sir, Pune city is known throughout the country as an education hub. Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad are generally considered as one city. This city is one of the regions under the Pune Metropolitan

Area in the state of Maharashtra and is considered the twin city of Pune. Apart from various automobile and industrial companies, all the renowned IT companies are also located in Pimpri-Chinchwad. Pimpri-Chinchwad is one of Asia's major industrial hubs. In this same area, an Industrial Convention Centre is going to be built on 200 acres of land. Pimpri-Chinchwad New Township Development Authority, which comes under the Maharashtra Government, has 125 acres of land available in Sector 12.

Through you, I request the Government to establish the Indian Institute of Management in Pimpri-Chinchwad city.

[English]

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would thank you for giving me this opportunity and for the patient hearing even at 7.20 p.m. It is a very important issue. So, please give one more minute to me

Sir, our State is a newly-born State. There is only one State in this country which has no capital, no international airport and no railway zone. So, a separate railway zone is a longstanding request. Right now, there are four divisions in our State: Vijayawada,

Guntur, Guntakal and Visakhapatnam. Waltair Division is rightly a part of the East Coast Railway Division. So, there is a lot of discrimination meted out to our Waltair Division. But income-wise, we are earning a sum of Rs.7000 crore *per annum*. But, unfortunately, the facilities and the issues are very high in our division. That is why, I would request the hon. Minister to separate our Division from the East Coast Division and form a new, separate railway zone. Already, it was provided in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. It is not only that.... (*Interruptions*) We gave a lot of infrastructure in Visakhapatnam like rail connectivity, road connectivity and buildings. There is no financial involvement in this. So, I request the Government of India to give a separate railway zone to our new State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRARUL HAQUE (KISHANGANJ):

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My constituency, Kishanganj in Bihar, lies at the foothills of the Himalayas. I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to an important issue of that region. My area is located in the Himalayan foothills and has a network of rivers. There are seven major rivers there, which cause severe

flooding every year, submerging dozens of villages and thousands of acres of agricultural land, leading to rising poverty in the area. We had raised this issue during the last Lok Sabha as well, and at that time the UPA Government had approved a project under the name of the Mahananda Sub-Basin Scheme for constructing dams in the area. The survey for this has also been completed. However, elections were announced shortly after that. Work on the project has not started till now. Through you, I urge the Government to begin work on this scheme at the earliest.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT (BARABANKI):

Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. The electricity system in my Parliamentary Constituency Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh is very poor. The poor working style of the State Government has further worsened the electricity system of Barabanki district. Repeated demonstrations and memoranda have been submitted to improve the electricity system and address the district's power problems. However, the issue persists. There is no foreseeable prospect of improvement in the near future, causing immense hardship to the region's residents, farmers, and businesses. The dilapidated state of the power supply is fostering lawlessness, theft, robbery, and even murder in the area. To resolve

this issue, there is a need to provide relief to the public through alternative energy sources in the district. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to urgently install renewable energy facilities in the Barabanki district.

[English]

SHRI S. SELVAKUMARA CHINNAYAN (ERODE): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways regarding development of two important roads in my constituency. The two State Highway Roads from Perundurai to Kangayam and Tiruppur to Kangayam in Tiruppur District of Tamil Nadu are important link roads leading to NH 47 and NH 67 respectively. Kangayam is famous for producing coconut oil and there are many rice mills in and around Kangayam. Tiruppur town is famous for hosiery and knitting industry which exports to many countries in the world. Chennimalai is also another important textile town near Kangayam. So there is a lot of traffic congestion on these two roads. At present the width of both these roads is only 7 metres. Both these roads need to be widened to 14 metres immediately to meet the ever increasing traffic.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to immediately allocate sufficient funds under Central Road Fund for widening of these two roads.

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Sir, thank you very much for giving me time to speak on untimely rain and its impact in my constituency, Koppal, and in Sindhanoor, Raichur and Bellary and nearby areas. Koppal and nearby areas have witnessed heavy rainfall for the last one week. Almost four lakh acres and 10 lakh tonnes of paddy have been affected due to the untimely rain. Variety which is mostly getting affected is 'Sona Massori', which is considered as the best quality of paddy. Farmers who grow paddy in these areas mostly depend on its production. Untimely rain is ruining the crops. Lakhs of farmers are facing livelihood problem due to untimely rain which has come at the time of harvesting.

Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government of India to provide compensation to the farmers and increase the minimum support price of paddy from Rs.1360 to Rs.1600.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity regarding Nabakalebar festival.

Sir, as you know, Puri is a holy city and is among the four Dhams in India. Nabakelebar festival is going to be held in 2015. This is a festival which is celebrated once in 15 years when the deities assume new forms. The Government of Odisha, under the dynamic leadership of hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, is gearing up for this momentous occasion. A number of projects are being undertaken for the infrastructure development and strengthening of existing services and amenities such as provision of drinking water, sanitation, health, augmentation of road network etc. More than 50 lakh pilgrims and tourists from different parts of the country and also from outside the country are expected to converge in Puri during this important festival. A proposal seeking special financial assistance of Rs. 1,397 crore for undertaking these developmental works has been submitted by the Government of Odisha.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction the required funds for early implementation of the projects so that the Nabakalebar festival can be held smoothly.

***SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir. Thank you for this opportunity. Tiruppur produces 90% of the garment production of the country. Due to hard work of the people of Tiruppur, at present the country earns a revenue of Rs.18,000/- Crore of foreign exchange in a year through exports. Industrial workers get Provident Fund, ESI and other facilities provided by companies. Workers having ESI facilities have to go to Coimbatore which is at a distance of 75 kilometres for availing medical assistance. Around 6 lakh workers face hardships for getting medical assistance and in view of that I urge upon the Union Government to immediately set up a multi-speciality ESI hospital in Tiruppur. People's Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and beloved leader Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma, through the Tamil Nadu Religious Endowment Department has provided adequate land for this purpose. I therefore urge upon the Union Government, on behalf of working class, to immediately set up a 100-bedded multi-speciality ESI hospital in Tiruppur and order for allocation of adequate funds. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 19th December, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

19.27 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday,
December 19, 2014/Agrahayana 28, 1936 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business
in
Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition)
