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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 10, 2017/Phalguna 19, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Madam, we want CBI inquiry... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Not, now. This is not fair.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let us take up the Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No adjournment motion, nothing.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 141, Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour and not now.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.02 hours

(At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not fair. Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, what about our issue?... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You can raise it in *Zero Hour*, and not now. Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.03 hours**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 141 – Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal.

(Q. No. 141)

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Madam Speaker, First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister on replying this question in great detail and with analysis... *(Interruptions)* But, I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards his reply... *(Interruptions)* As shown in the reply to the question, the number of incurable diseases, like cancer patients has increased in the Year 2014, 2015 and 2016 and we have not been able to completely succeed in preventing it.... *(Interruptions)*

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

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: I request the Hon. Minister Sir to tell me the reason as to why the number of patients has increased and what is the Government doing to ensure that the number does not increase. *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, while paying tribute to the 100th birth anniversary of revered Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ji, the Government has dedicated 100 Years of his birth anniversary to the poor of the country and has taken this year as 'Gareeb Kalyan Year'... *(Interruptions)*

Whether the Government is likely to make arrangements at its level to completely cure the diseases for the poor this Year? ... *(Interruptions)* Whether the Hon. Minister proposes to give any direction in this regard so that any poor person in the country, whether he/she is from a BPL family or someone who does not get Government grant, or whether he/she is a labourer from the unorganized sector or an agricultural labourer, on the occasion of this Garib Kalyan Year, gets 100 per cent grant for her/his diseases from the State Government?... *(Interruptions)*

JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: The Hon. Member has asked a question on reasons for the increasing incidence of cancer. *(Interruptions)* The root cause of this is our lifestyle because it is a lifestyle disease. ... *(Interruptions)* As our lifestyle is changing and, the number of such diseases is increasing, and Cancer is one of them... *(Interruptions)*. As far as the question of cancer prevention is concerned, the Government of India is building a National Cancer

Centre in Jhajjar at a cost of approximately Rs Two Thousand Crore under the aegis of All India Institute of Medical Sciences...*(Interruptions)* Similarly, another Cancer Centre is being built in Chittaranjan, this is Cancer Centre number two in Chittaranjan in Kolkata. Similarly, we are setting up 20 State Cancer Institutes in different States, ... *(Interruptions)* where we are spending Rs. 120 crores per Cancer Centre and we are also setting up tertiary cancer care centres on which we are spending Rs. 45 crores. We are making approximately 50 such centres. ... *(Interruptions)*

Not only this, we propose to provide this education in schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development ..*(Interruptions)* What measures should we take to avoid lifestyle diseases? We are doing this work also...*(Interruptions)*. As far as what he has said from the point of view of Garib Kalyan Year, we have tried to extend the free Drugs and diagnosis facility to the District level in the State. States will have to come forward for this *(Interruptions)*. The Government of India is making arrangements for free diagnosis and delivery of Drugs. Under the AMRIT Scheme, we are decreasing the cost of Drugs by ninety to sixty per cent, especially of Cancer and cardiovascular diseases... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.20 a.m.

11.06 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twenty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.20 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twenty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Madam Speaker, I wish to submit ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is it?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM: Madam Speaker, I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion in this House. It is a very important issue which should be given importance for discussion in this House. You have not allowed this matter. So, we are walking out.

11.21 hours

(At this stage, Shri P.R. Sundaram and some other hon. Members left the House.)

11.22 hours**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ... Contd**

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, you ask your second supplementary.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL: Madam Speaker, As the Hon. Minister has mentioned in the reply that some subjects belong to the State Governments, but the Union Government is providing all possible help and full cooperation. I believe that this is definitely a matter of the State Government, the Union Government is also helping the States at its best, but I would say about the Health system of the Bihar Government in particular that the system there is very poor. Be it the State Headquarters Hospital or the Block Hospital, people are not getting anything be it medicines, cotton or bandages. The State Government has failed to cure the diseases of the patients, particularly the poor, and provide them with medicines. I would like to congratulate the Government of India for reiterating its commitment to provide a separate AIIMS for Bihar in the year 2015-

16. ... (*Interruptions*). But due to the non-availability of land there by the State Government, I think that the work has not progressed there. I would like to request the Union Government and the Hon. Minister and also would like to know the status of the AIIMS announced for Bihar in the year 2015-16, and what is the current status of the AIIMS presently functioning at the Patna Headquarters?... (*Interruptions*) You should issue directions to the Government of Bihar that the State Government should work promptly for the welfare of the poor there and for curing the patients. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There should not be a long speech, ask only a question please.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): As far as the issue of drugs and the assistance from the Union Government to the State Government is concerned, we are providing free Drugs and diagnostic facilities to the State Governments under the National Health Mission. The State Government has to send its petition under the Programme Implementation Plan, we accept it and provide money accordingly. There are some States, including Bihar, in which the unspent amount is still with the National Health mission. I have

always been requesting and our officials are constantly in touch with the State Government and are talking to them to spend the unspent money lying with the National Health Mission. Along with spending it, they should also take full advantage of the facilities provided by the Government of India.

As far as AIIMS is concerned, the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance have announced an AIIMS to Bihar in their Budget Speech, but till now the State Government has not taken any step in terms of allotment of land. Repeated reminders have been sent and I am again reminding them that they should decide the site and location as soon as possible so that we can build an All India Institute of Medical Science. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. Ramachandran.

(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the questions and answers.

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

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, Kerala has been acclaimed as a model for other States to emulate when it comes to the question of healthcare and education. Unfortunately, Kerala has become a capital of all lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer or kidney ailments. This being the case, my question is this. Has the Government of Kerala taken up the matter in a serious manner with the Ministry? If so, what positive steps have been taken by this Government towards the State of Kerala?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: As far as the Kerala Government is concerned, the Government of India has been very positive to respond accordingly to whatever proposals they have come up with. At this point, we are giving one State Cancer Institute, Tertiary Cancer Centre and along with it we are also going for super-speciality.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: What about AIIMS?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: It will be done in a phased manner.

* Not Recorded.

As far as the super-speciality is concerned, various medical colleges are being upgraded accordingly.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Thank you, Madam. Public health is not in good shape. We see multifarious health issues being faced by us be it diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, renal disease or malnutrition. Added to that, meagre allocation of Budget for health is disturbing.

According to the statement laid by the hon. Minister, according to the Report of the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, there were 380,00,000 cases of cardiovascular diseases in the year 2005 and these were estimated to rise to 641,00,000 cases in the year 2015. This is high time to go ahead with a new disease study and control on chronic diseases.

The hon. Minister has proposed to setup 30 branches of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in all the States with an outlay of Rs. 367 crore. I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister through you, Madam. How many branches of the National Centre for Disease Control has been setup till now? Is there any branch already setup in West Bengal, which also addresses to chronic diseases? Thank you, Madam.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, first of all, I would like to correct the statement that the hon. Member has made that meagre amount is being given in the Health Department. Let the record be put straight that in the last two years with regard to the Budget Estimates (BE) and the Revised Estimates (RE), the RE has always increased as compared to the BE. Previously, the BE was more and the RE was always slashed down. Now, there is a change as the hon. Finance Minister has taken care of it and the real estimates are now increasing.

Secondly, this year, there is an increase of Rs. 10,000 crore in the Health Department. Earlier, it was Rs. 37,000 crore Budget, and now it is Rs. 47,000 plus crore Budget and 27.7 per cent increase is there in it. It is for the States to decide, and the absorption capacity of the States is not up to the mark. This is the reason that the fund is being unspent. I would request the Members -- being the Chairmen of the various bodies related to health -- to see to it that the Budget is being spent accordingly by the State Governments in the Health Department.

As far as the NCDC is concerned, I will give you a separate answer because at this point of time I do not have the relevant records,

but, yes, NCDCs are being setup and they are of standard where we are trying to monitor the disease control.

(Q.142)

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Hon. Madam, Certainly, the Hon. Narendra Modi's Government at the Centre is taking strict action against economic crimes and big criminals. It has been the misfortune of the Country that people get away by taking advantage of protection and loopholes. The entire country stands with the Hon. Prime Minister, for the campaign they have launched against economic criminals as well as other big criminals.

Madam, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply 'A' that the Government is considering making legislative changes or enacting a new statute to confiscate the assets of such criminals. I want to know from the Hon. Minister when will the new statute come.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, Regarding people who take complete advantage of India's Financial system, take advantage of our Banking system, collect resources from across the country, and then commit a crime about it and instead of submitting themselves to the Indian Judiciary about that crime, they go abroad and hide, regarding them, we have announced in the budget this year that we will bring into law a provision to confiscate the property of such

persons either by making changes in all the existing statutes or by bringing a new statute.

11.30 hours (Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

This is being studied in the Ministry. As soon as it gets completed, whatever Provision it contains will be brought before this House.

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister has stated in Part 'B' of his answer that several amendments have been made to the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002. India has signed extradition treaties with approximately 42 countries and has extradition arrangements with 9 countries. The Indian Extradition Act 1962 provides for the legislative Infrastructure for extradition from those countries with which we do not have any extradition treaty, how does it happen that even after the cases of economic offenders remain public, the criminals against whom cases are registered easily escape to other countries? I would like to know from Minister whether the Government will take any measures to help prevent such criminals fleeing from the country.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Its Provision exist within the statute. If a warrant is issued, the passport is forfeited or a red corner alert is issued, the country's immigration does not allow him/her to go out. But many criminals try to leave the country before this Provision is established. To bring them back today, there is a long Provision in which extradition proceedings have to be resorted to. Some countries also collaborate with it in the form of a small arrangement in which they deport these people. We are trying to continue our effort along with more and more countries so that a person who commits a crime in one country may not hide in some other country. India should have such treaties along with as many countries as possible so that we can bring them back inside the country.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, the main objective of the demonetization, as it was said by the Government was to curb the black money. The Government explained it in detail in the earlier Session also. The 500 rupee and 1000 rupee notes were banned because the assumption of the Government was that the black money will come in the form of these notes. Anyway, the Government had taken the decision and three months have passed.

Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister as to how much black money has come in the form of 500 rupee and 1000 rupee notes?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. This supplementary is not related to this Question. If you want to ask this question, I will call you when the next question is taken up.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: How much black money has come in the form of demonetization?. (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. The hon. Minister is answering to your question.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, one of the essential aspects of the demonetization exercise was to necessarily deposit the high denominational currency in the banking system which was operating in a very large amount in the market. The obvious consequence was that the cash operating in the market which normally operates with an element of anonymity lost its anonymity once it went into the banking system. Therefore, that cash is now identified against the ownership of the person who deposited that cash. It is now upon that person to establish that this money is not black money. Therefore, in the case of small deposits, the Income Tax Department has already said that they

are taking cognizance of the fact that people have some legitimate cash lying with them.

But in the case of high amounts of money which have no nexus to the real income profile of the depositor itself, the CBDT and the Income-Tax Department have already taken action. Several lakhs of people falling in this category have been notified and, therefore, action against them under the relevant provisions of the Income-Tax Act is being taken. Simultaneously, the Government had also announced a Scheme that those who voluntarily own up under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana will have to pay a certain amount of taxation and then put a quietus to the issue. Those who do not pay will have to then pay a higher amount of taxation once it is detected by the Income-Tax Department pursuant to the action which is being taken. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: How much black money has come? ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) : I thank you for giving me the opportunity. I thank the hon. Finance Minister for keeping his word as he has promised in his Budget Speech that the Government would consider introduction of legislative changes or

even a new law to confiscate the assets of such persons located within the country.

Just ten days back, the hon. Finance Minister was in the UK. Queen Elizabeth II hosted a lavish reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the UK-India Year of Culture 2017 attended by our Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley.

I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he had any confabulations with the UK authorities on extradition of ...
... * to India for his serious economic offences and, if so, the details thereof.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the relevant prosecuting agencies of the Government which are prosecuting these cases are resorting to all remedies which are available to them under the law, both for deportation as also for extradition of persons who are trying to avoid the system. The Government of India, through diplomatic channels, is also taking it up with their counterparts in the United Kingdom. In my visit two weeks ago to the United Kingdom, I also had an opportunity

* Not recorded.

to discuss these very cases with my counterparts in the United Kingdom.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, since it came to power, the NDA Government has been shouting from the housetops that it will take all possible steps to curb the use of black money. In fact, even before the elections, they had promised that they would bring back the black money stashed abroad and deposit Rs. 15 lakh in the account of every Indian. Now, almost three years have passed, but the same has not happened. In spite of the earlier existence of FEMA and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and the new enactment, that is, the Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, we have seen that high profile economic offenders like ...* had escaped abroad and are living merrily there.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can avoid the names.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, names are not important, but they are very relevant people – ... *

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The names cannot form part of the record. The names cannot go on record.

* Not recorded.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Let me mention it this way, Kingfisher man and IPL man.

I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to confiscate the assets of...

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can use the words “economic offenders”.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to confiscate the assets of the IPL man and the Kingfisher man, and what steps are being taken by the Government, both administratively and legislatively, to prevent the escape of similar offenders abroad.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, first of all, to the preamble of Shri Saugata Roy’s question, let me again reiterate what I have repeatedly said that in the last two-and-a-half years or three years, this Government has taken more steps to curb black money than any other Government in the past in this country. There are a series of steps, and I am not going to repeat them, as a result of which, even in the midst of an environment of global slow down, our tax revenues have radically increased and will continue to do so.

As far as steps are concerned, Acts like FEMA and PMLA have been amended. The Black Money Act was also legislated, all of which

now contain a provision that for violations which are done, and people may be outside the shores, an equivalent amount of money can be recovered from their domestic assets in India.

About the cases which are being mentioned, action under relevant provisions of law are being taken – in one case by the CBI and in both cases by the Directorate of Enforcement. In the case, where action has been taken under PMLA and where there is a provision for attachment pending the investigation and trials of the main principal cases which are on, attachment orders against one of the accused has already been ordered in relation to these assets. I am given to understand that assets to the extent of the market value of Rs. 8,040 crore have already been attached by the Enforcement Directorate

(Q. 143)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the soldiers who participated in the surgical strike because they have brought glory to the country. I also would like to congratulate the Government for this, because they created such a situation where they were able to make decisions themselves and give a befitting reply to the terrorists.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister through you whether the Government has decided to give any particular incentive like a promotion in rank, a salary increase, or special military honour to the soldiers involved in this historic campaign.

[English]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Respected, Sir, through you, I would like to inform hon. Member that I honour his feelings. As per the Standard Operating Procedure, these people are given the due regard. We are proud of our forces because despite our persistent urging our neighbour to respect the January 2014 commitment for not allowing its soil of territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India, we have received the specific and credible inputs that

some terrorist teams had positioned themselves at the launch pad along the Line of Control to carry out infiltration and conduct the terrorist activities by striking Jammu and Kashmir and various metros in other States. The Indian Army has conducted surgical strike at several of these launch pads to end infiltration by terrorist operations. We have focused on ensuring that these terrorists do not succeed in their design to cause destruction and endanger the lives of our citizen. During this counter-terrorist operation, significant casualties were caused to terrorists and those providing support to them.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRONPR PRASAD MISHRA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many soldiers work in particular inaccessible areas, snowy and mountainous areas. While they guard our country's border there, they are also deployed in particular terror-affected areas like Maoist-affected areas. They work there and sacrifice their lives. I would like to know whether the Government has taken any particular steps to encourage akeep the morale of the soldiers deployed in these areas high.

[English]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Sir, through you, I would like to answer this question though it is not related to this particular question. I would like to bring to his notice that insurgency that goes on in naxal areas and other areas is tackled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, assessment of moral troupes, units and formation is an important command function. But, nowadays, a lot of reports are coming through social media and other media that there is a lot of ill-treatment towards jawans who are fighting against terrorists and our enemy countries. There are lots of reports about ill treatment towards jawans from their superior officers.

Yesterday, I myself raised the issue of Major Rishi who was severely injured in an attack by extremist forces in Jammu and Kashmir. The day before yesterday, a false message was received that he passed away, whereas he is in RR Hospital. This message was given by Delhi Police itself. Hon. Home Minister is also here. An ASI of Delhi Police gave this message and he told that he got the report from RR Hospital. The entire family of Major Rishi was in trauma and the entire village was also suffering. I demand an inquiry into this

issue. What action has been taken by the Government to boost the morale of our jawans? I want a clear answer from the hon. Minister.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that if there is an inquiry to be done, it will be done but we are waiting for the report. But I would like to make certain things very clear. There are a few grievances which have appeared on social media but they appear to be individual views of the concerned soldiers and do not reflect the collective feedback which is received through multiple channels.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: It is not a single case; there are a lot of cases.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister complete his answer.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: There is a well laid down mechanism for feedback and redressal of grievances in armed forces. Starting from daily roll calls where the grievances can be addressed to the Company Commander, the CO of the unit collectively addresses through *Sainik Sammelan* at least once a month and resolves the problems faced by the jawans. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister complete his answer.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: A soldier is personally interviewed by CO every time he proceeds on leave from temporary duty and returns to the unit. ... (*Interruptions*) Soldiers can at their will seek audience and the Commanding Officer and the Commander listen to them. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri N.K. Premachandran. Please ask supplementary question.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Premachandran is asking the same question.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the psychological condition and the morale of defence personnel is a matter of grave concern. ... (*Interruptions*) Recently, there are a series of reports of ill-treatment meted out to defence personnel, especially the jawans. ... (*Interruptions*) The poor jawans in our country are facing harassment from the defence officials. ... (*Interruptions*) In my district, one Mr. Roy Mathew from 214 Rocket Regiment of Nasik died on suspicious grounds. ... (*Interruptions*) He had given an

interview to an online media regarding the ill-treatment meted out to him. ... (*Interruptions*) It is a matter of grave concern. The jawan had intimated to his family and relatives that his life is under threat, that he is at Puthoor in Pavithreswaram that in the district of Kollam.

Subsequently, from 25th February onwards he was missing. Later on his body was found hanging. We have great suspicion that all this is because of the ill-treatment, mental stress and strain meted out to him from the defence officials. Shri K.C. Venugopal has raised another issue. I have raised a different issue, and a series of such issues are there. Will the Minister make a commitment to conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Shri Roy Mathew and similar such incidents which are going on? This is a very sensitive issue so far as military forces are concerned.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): The incident which has been raised happened in Deolali. The police have registered the crime and they are investigating it in detail. It would be prejudiced to make any statement on an issue which is being independently inquired into by the police. It is a matter of police investigation and I do not want to prejudice it by making a statement. But I can very clearly say that as far as ‘Sahayak’ system is involved, the Army has been told to work out

appropriate mechanism to ensure that the particular complaint which is coming up is addressed. I can assure the House that we are already in the process of having detailed consultations and we will find some solution to the issue which has been brought up.

(Q.144)

DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: I represent the Bolpur Constituency of West Bengal. It is a rural Constituency. Keeping in view the issue of note ban or the currency ban, we all have seen that in the entire nation Kumari Mamata Banerjee was the only leader who was bold enough to raise voice against this whimsical decision of the Union Government to ban the currency notes of Rs.500 and Rs.1000.

Keeping in view the reply of the Minister, I would like to know how many banned currency notes of Rs. 500 and Rs.1000 have been recovered and how many new notes of Rs.2000 and Rs.500 have been printed so far to meet the current demand of the nation.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the RBI on the basis of what was being received from the banks into the currency chest, the high denominational currency which has been deposited during the demonetization period, was giving a figure from time to time as to the broad extent of the currency which was being deposited. Now that that period is over and only the extended period remains, every currency note has to be verified by the RBI and, therefore, totaling them is a very large exercise. Only after each and every note is verified by the RBI, segregating what may be actually a fake currency note out of that, totaling can be done. It is a time consuming exercise. That

exercise is on and once the RBI completes that exercise that figure will be given.

As far as the re-monetization exercise is concerned with regard to the new notes of Rs.500 and Rs.2000, the RBI has been since the very beginning, after the 8th of November, injecting new currency notes systematically into the market. They keep releasing data from time to time. The last data that they have released was on 24th February, 2017 on which date currency in circulation was about Rs.11.641 lakh crore. So, this is the quantum of currency which they, as on 24th of February, made available into the market. A fortnight has almost elapsed since then. This amount itself would have now increased to beyond Rs.12 lakh crore.

DR. ANUPAM HAZRA: Now coming to the collection of direct tax during December 2015 and December 2016, from the reply given by the Minister, it is clearly showing that where the annual average income tax growth rate is around 17 per cent, during this period only five per cent income tax growth is evident. As per their own terminology, it is a bold step and it is just an attempt to collect the black money from the nation. But it brought black day for the rural and tribal people of the country. The statistics of December 2016 has shown that only five per cent income tax growth was there, whereas

December is considered to be the month where advance tax is being paid across the nation. At the same time, during this period the Union Government has initiated various schemes and they have kept on changing the procedure for depositing income tax. Despite all their efforts, only five per cent growth rate was seen during this period.

So, how will you justify the demonetization exercise?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The hon. Member is reading too much into a stray data for one month. It is a figure of the whole year which has to be taken. As I indicated over the last 2-3 years, there has been a buoyant growth as far as direct tax collection is concerned. The largest amount ordinarily which is deposited in the last installment when people calculate their incomes and also when they file their returns. That is when the annual growth can really be estimated. Therefore, we do hope that we will be meeting our targets as far as direct and indirect taxes are concerned and hopefully increasing and exceeding those targets also this year.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this was a question related to expenditure incurred in printing currency. The currencies which were being printed, there is a printing press in

Madhya Pradesh, and the currencies are being printed from there also. Now when the notes of One Thousand and Five Hundred rupees were discontinued and printing of new currencies started, it certainly took time.

I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether any consideration is being given regarding setting up a new press. If is being considered, since there is already a printing press in Madhya Pradesh, another printing press should be set up there and it should be done in Satna, I request.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an effort behind the decision to demonetize is to reduce paper currency and increase digitization. Therefore, many members would like to have such printing presses built in their areas, but perhaps there will be no need of them in the future.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply to the question that has been asked has not been given by the Government here. The question is how much total expenditure the RBI and the Government have to bear for printing the new notes. Also, the total amount of the money given to bank employees for extra hours may please be stated? In the same way, how much was the total amount of

expenditure in demonetization and remonetisation including the public sector?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me make it clear that every year one-fourth to one-third of the current paper currency, that is, 25 percent to 33 percent, has a lifespan and therefore, it has to be re-printed. It is not that if the new currency of Rs. Two Thousand or Rs. Five Hundred is printed because of demonetization, its expenditure will be more. Even if the old currency had to be continued in circulation, there would have been expenditure on that too, as re-printing would have costed a substantial amount thereupon. Right now the entire exercise of re-monetization is going on. During this period, details have been provided about the average price of each currency note. When the re-monetization exercise gets completed, how much it costed and how much it had cost to re-print the old currency if it would have been continued to be in circulation, can be estimated only after the exercise is over. ... *(Interruptions)*

(Q.145)

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that due to the action taken by him after the Chhattisgarh casualty, such incidents are no longer happening. Still, an operation is an operation. Sadly, 99 percent of operations are performed on women. Men do not undergo sterilization. My question to the Hon. Minister is that the sterile injectable that were to be launched have not been launched for the last one year. Dermal implants create a gap of 3 to 5 years between two children. It could have been a game changer. What is the Hon. Minister doing in this regard?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, As far as the said injectable are concerned, the process of procurement is going on. We will complete it soon. The suggestion of dermal implants given by the Hon. Member is good.

12.00 hours

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, notices of Adjournment Motion have been received from Sarvashri Jaiprakash Narayan Yadav, Kodikunnil Suresh, P. Karunakaran, Prof. Saugata Roy, Sarvashri Mallikarjun Kharge, K.C.Venugopal, Rajiv Satav and P.R. Sundaram on different issues.

The matters though important do not warrant interruption of the Business of today. The matters can be raised through other opportunities.

The hon. Speaker has therefore disallowed all the notices of the Adjournment Motion.

... (Interruptions)

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 146 to 160

Unstarred Question Nos. 1611 to 1840

*** 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.**

12.01 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970:-

- (1) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Minimum Standards of Education in Indian Medicine) Amendment Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 11-76/2016-Unani (U.G Regl.) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (2) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Requirements of Minimum Standard for under-graduate Ayurveda Colleges and attached Hospitals) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 28-15/2016-Ay.(MSR) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.

- (3) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Requirements of Minimum Standard for under-graduate Siddha Colleges and attached Hospitals) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 18-12/2016-Siddha(M.S.R.) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (4) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Post-Graduate Unani Medical Education) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 11-77/2016-Unani(P.G. Regl.) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (5) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Minimum Standards of Education in India Medicine) Amendment Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 18-12/2016-Siddha (Syllabus UG) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (6) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Minimum Standards of Education in Indian Medicine) Amendment Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 24-14/2016- (U.G. Regulation) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (7) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Post Graduate Ayurveda Education) Regulations, 2016 published in

Notification No. 4-90/2016-P.G. Regulation in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.

- (8) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Requirements of Minimum Standard for under-graduate Unani Colleges and attached Hospitals) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 11-134/2016-Unani (MSR) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.
- (9) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Post-graduate Siddha Education) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 18-12/2016-Siddha (Syllabus PG) in Gazette of India dated 7th November, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6528/16/17]

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Act, 1956 :-

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Daily Allowance and Hotel Charges to Employees on Tour) Amendment Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1136(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th December 2016.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Re-appointment of Terminated Development Officers) Amendment Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1162(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st December 2016.
- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Amendment) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 1-13011/02/2015/Ins-I in Gazette of India dated 6th December, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6529/16/17]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the Year 2015-16, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6530/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Rules, 2017(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.57(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th January 2017 under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6531/16/17]

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, I lay the following paper on the Table of the House :-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Gurgaon, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.

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

. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 6532/16/17]

(3) A copy of the second Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 2013, for the year ended 31st March 2016.

. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 6533/16/17]

(4) A copy of Notification No. 1-CA(7)/179/2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Gazette of India dated 9th February 2017, notifying the rates of fee, mentioned therein, for entry of name in the Register of

Members, annual membership fee, annual certificate of practice fee and fee for restoration of name in the Register of Members under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6534/16/17]

- (5) A copy of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Recruitment, Salary and other Terms and Conditions of Service of General Manager and Assistant General Manager) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.46(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th January 2017 under sub-section (4) of Section 469 of the Companies Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6535/16/17]

- (6) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 41 of 2016)–Department

of Revenue (Indirect Taxes-Service Tax) for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6536/16/17]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 40 of 2016) (Performance Audit)-Turnaround plan and Financial Restructuring Plan of Air India Limited, Ministry of Civil Aviation.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6537/16/17]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 37 of 2016)-Railways Finance for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6538/16/17]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 1 of 2016) –Department of Revenue-Customs (Compliance Audit) for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6539/16/17]

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 36 of 2016) (Performance Audit) – (Defence Services-Army) on working of Army Base Workshops for the year ended, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6540/16/17]

- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Department of Revenue-Indirect Taxes-Customs) for the year ended March 2016. (Report No. 42 of 2016) Performance Audit regarding Project Imports.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6541/16/17]

- (vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 38 of 2016) (Performance Audit) – (Defence Services-Army) on

working of Canteen Stores Department for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6542/16/17]

- (viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 2 of 2017) (Department of Revenue-Direct Taxes) for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6543/16/17]

- (ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 5 of 2017) (Performance Audit) – (Defence Services-Army) on Construction of Indo-China Border Roads by Border Roads Organization for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6544/16/17]

- (x) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 4 of 2017)– Implementation of

TDS/TCS Schemes, Department of Revenue-Direct Taxes for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6545/16/17]

- (xi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 3 of 2017) - (Department of Revenue) (Indirect Taxes Central Excise) for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6546/16/17]

- (xii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Report No. 39 of 2017)-Performance Audit on Environmental Clearance and Post Clearance Monitoring, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the year ended March 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6547/16/17]

(7) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- . (i) Appropriation Accounts (Part I- Review) of the Railways in India for the year 2015-2016.
- . (ii) Appropriation Accounts (Part II- Detailed Appropriation Accounts) of the Railways in India for the year 2015-2016.
- . (iii) Appropriation Accounts [Part II- Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Annexure-G)] of the Railways in India for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6548/16/17]

**MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN
AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ):**

Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the Adoption Regulations, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.3(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th January, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 110 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6549/16/17]

- (2) A copy of the Supplementary Nutrition (under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.149(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th February, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6550/16/17]

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Sl. No. 7. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, what is going on? The Hon. Minister is not present to lay his papers in the House... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. He is here and is laying his papers.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 347 of the Cantonments Act, 2006:-

- (i) The Cantonments (Execution of Warrants for the Attachment and Sale of Immovable Property) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. S.R.O.14(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th December, 2016.
- (ii) The Transfer of Property in Cantonments (Form of notice and manner of giving such notice) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. S.R.O.15(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th December, 2016.

(iii) The Cantonments (Forms and Manner of Service of Notices) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. S.R.O.2(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th January, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6551/16/17]

12.03 hours

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

40th Report

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Sir, I present the 40th report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.03 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

35th to 37th Reports

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH (SAMBHAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, I beg to present the

following report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) :-

- (1) 35th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).
 - (2) 36th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).
 - (3) 37th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).
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12.03 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

26th and 27th Reports

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2016-17):-

- (1) 26th Report on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Power for the year 2017-2018.
 - (2) 26th Report on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2017-2018.
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12.04 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS****13th Report**

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the 13th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'Demands for Grants - 2017-18 of the Ministry of Railways'.

12.04 ½ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL****27th Report**

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present in the 27th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' relating to the Ministry of Coal.

12.05 hours**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA):

With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Tuesday, the 14th of March, 2017 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any items of Government Business carried over from today's order paper: - **[It contains Consideration and passing of the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016]**
2. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 as passed by Lok Sabha and as reported by Select Committee of Rajya Sabha, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha;
3. Discussion and voting on Demands for Grants for 2017-18 of the following Ministries:-

- (i) Railways
- (ii) Home Affairs
- (iii) Defence
- (iv) Agriculture
- (v) Coal

4. Presentation of the Third Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2016-17.

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

In my Parliamentary Constituency Krishnagiri, Denkanikottai is a backward area and Hosur is an industrial area. It is suitable for setting up of a NIPER and CIPET unit respectively.

The nationally recognized skill qualification training programs for providing skills that will secure a better livelihood in today's competitive work environment through better employment opportunities. The skill training offered is designed to tap the job potential of the growing industry and unemployed youth in my constituency.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prataprao Jadhav, are you not raising your submission?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please allow me to include the following agenda items during next week's proceedings.

In my Parliamentary Constituency Ranchi, the Ryot (Raiyat) land of Mauja Hundru, Police Station Doranda near airport belongs to the villagers. Backward and poor people live in this area and it is a dominated tribal area. The people here have told me that the Army personnel are not allowing the villagers to do farming on their ancestral Raiyati land. It has come to my knowledge that the army Personnel threaten the villagers that no one will do farming on the land and they will get compensation for it. In this regard, the work of guaranteeing the people of the above village for farming and their safe living should be included in the proceedings of the House in the coming week.

Secondly, in my home State Jharkhand, there are two irrigation projects Chandil Dam and Icha Dam Irrigation Scheme, which are also known as the Subernarekha Multipurpose Project. These projects were started several decades ago and have not yet been completed. According to your record, 61 thousand people were displaced because of these projects. This project is in my

Parliamentary Constituency, so I often visit this place, people talk about not getting compensation, rehabilitation, and development manual. This matter should be investigated. In the next week's proceedings of the House, the work of providing rehabilitation compensation and development manual to the people and giving land on lease to the villagers for doing agricultural work on the irrigation project land should be included.

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, add the following two items to next week's List of Business please.

There is a need to discuss setting up of a permanent bench of Patna High Court in Bhagalpur in Bihar State keeping in mind the provision of easy justice to the common people.

There is a need to discuss the inclusion of the Angika language, spoken by crores of people in more than a dozen districts of the State of Bihar in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Sir, I request that the following matters of public importance in my Parliamentary Constituency be included in the agenda next week.

Jugsalai ROB under Jamshedpur, which was approved five years ago and for which the State Government has also given its consent to participate, and also, land has been made available. However, no work has been started by the Rail Department so far. Railway officials are adopting a lax attitude and want to make the ROB straight, which is impossible. According to Railways, less land will be required, but there will be a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees. To avoid this loss in Public Interest, the ROB U-turn has been decided between the State Government and the Ministry of Railways, but as per the Department of Railways, more land is required to make the U-turn ROB, this work is pending on the issue of Rs. 7 crore demanded by the Ministry from the State Government. Every day 8 to 10 thousand people travel on this route and because of this line being very busy, 30-40 people die per annum while crossing the line.

Hence, you are requested that in view of the above issue, the work of Jugsalai ROB should be started immediately in the Public Interest.

Apart from this, Jadugoda UCIL under Jamshedpur has been lying closed for the last three years because of non-receipt of Pollution Clearance Certificate. This is a very important Institution of the Uranium sector of the country. Therefore, I demand from the Union

Government that Jadugoda UCIL should get environmental clearance as soon as possible so that Jadugoda UCIL can contribute to the development of the nation.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, as Matheran Hill Station is an eco-sensitive zone under my Parliamentary Constituency Maval, the residents here cannot repair their old houses, due to which the people there are forced to live in their old houses. Hence, permission be granted to the residents of this area to repair their houses.

My second submission is that Matheran being Hill Station and famous for tourism, large number of tourists come here every day, and being it an eco-sensitive zone, the only mini train running here for tourists was closed some time ago, as a result, the local residents are losing their jobs and it is also having a bad impact on tourism. Hence, the topic of restarting this mini-train should be included in the agenda for next week.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Sir, the following topics should be included in next week's List of business.

1. The State Government Airports at Saharsa and Veerpur under the Kosi division of North Bihar are quite old and small aircraft are also operated from here. Expanding and beautifying this airport and starting commercial services, will not only provide convenience to the people of this area but will also increase the revenue of the Government. Hence, strict rules should be made for starting commercial services by expanding and beautifying Saharsa and Veerpur airports.

2. There is a railway gate in the district headquarters of my Parliamentary Constituency, Supaul. 75 percent of the people of Supaul district commute through this gate to fulfill their daily needs and two highways pass through this gate, namely Supaul to Raniganj via Pipra, Triveniganj, and Supaul to Bhaptiyahi via Kishanpur and there is a big bus stand of Supaul next to this gate. As a result of this, there is a severe traffic jam. In such a condition, it is required to build a road over a bridge on the road from Lohia Nagar Chowk of Supaul to Pipra and Kishanganj. Hence, strict rules should be made for the construction of a road over a bridge on the road from Lohia Nagar Chowk of Supaul to Pipra and Kishanganj.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Om Birla -- not present.

Shri Ratan Lal Kataria.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the respected Prime Minister that while the agriculture sector in our country gets huge benefits with the arrival of monsoon, every year there is a massive loss of life and property and many States become flood-affected. I demand that before the arrival of monsoon, Management should be made on war standards to avoid the threat of water management and floods. I behest that this topic be included in the upcoming proceedings of Parliament.

My second submission is that after China, India ranks third in the world with approximately 35 crore internet users. The way the Internet is changing life in India, easy access to the Internet is playing an important role not only in our information and education sector but also in banking and Government services. I demand that the topic of digital revolution in India be included in the upcoming proceedings of Parliament.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please include the following topics in next week's List of Business:-

1. In my Parliamentary Constituency Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, the foundation stone laying work of NTPC was done before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, but the progress in the construction work is very slow. Hence, work should commence soon after receiving environmental acceptance and removing other obstacles.
2. The Tikamgarh-Chhatarpur area of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh is quite backward in terms of medical facilities. Due to the closure of medical colleges, many patients have lost their lives. Hence, immediate action should be taken by the Union Government to open a medical college in Tikamgarh-Chhatarpur.

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please allow me to include the following agenda items during next week's proceedings:-

1. The work of providing a full Hundred working days under MNREGA to the unskilled labourers of the country by employing them in agriculture and increasing the country's Production by linking MNREGA with agriculture and paying them salaries through MNREGA.

- 2 To enhance agricultural production in the country like the advanced agriculture of Israel, farmers should be provided with training under skill development programs to carry out agricultural activities using modern technology, this will enable maximum production on minimum land.
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12.16 hours**ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES****(i) Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of Section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory

Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.17 hours**(ii) Court of University of Allahabad****THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of statute 8(1)(e) read with statute 8(2) of the statutes of University of Allahabad Act, 2005 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Court of University of Allahabad, for a term of three years subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the regulations made thereunder.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of statute 8(1)(e) read with statute 8(2) of the statutes of University of Allahabad Act, 2005 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Court of University of Allahabad, for a term of three years subject to the other

provisions of the said Act and the regulations made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.18 hours**(iii) Coffee Board**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board till 14 December, 2018, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board till 14 December, 2018, subject to the

other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.19 hours**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDERS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017****[Translation]*

**MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT):** Sir, I beg to move that Leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to modify the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, to contain the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Odisha and to amend the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Odisha and to amend the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up the 'Zero Hour; Mallikarjun Kharge *ji*.

12.20 hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Steep hike in prices of non-subsidized LPG and relentless increase in prices of petrol and diesel in spite of fall in prices of Crude oil in the international market

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, on price rise, Venugopal *ji* will speak and I am going to speak on drought. So, first he will take up the issue of price rise because it is concerned to all the Members and also to the general public. So, he will raise it.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not raising it.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No; he will raise it.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): I would only request the hon. Leader of the Opposition that it is not a short duration discussion. It is only raising of the important issues. Therefore, it should be limited to that.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He has also given a separate notice; I have also given a separate notice. Therefore, his notice should be taken.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak; I will call him also.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Yes. Then it is all right. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

Sir, The Union Government has increased the price of unsubsidized L.P.G. gas cylinders to the highest level. Despite the continuous fall in the prices of crude oil in the international market, due to the repeated increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, the public is not only upset but also very agitated and people want answers from the Government.

I will present some figures in front of you, because ever since Modi Ji's Government has come.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R.K. SINGH (ARRAH): Sir, I have a point of order.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No; in the 'Zero Hour' there is no point of order.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kharge ji, address the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Prime Minister Modi himself often states, 'This is my Government.' So, why should there be any concern? *(Interruptions)* He has never mentioned the Government of the BJP. *(Interruptions)* This is the Government of Modi Ji. *(Interruptions)* I am speaking with your permission, Sir *(Interruptions)* After Modi Ji's Government came to power, the general public was troubled by inflation. Everyone knows that pulses became very expensive last year, that is why you announced to import them, but now the price of pulses has fallen so much that even if you buy it at MSP, the farmer is not getting the price for it today. You will

have to give them something as a bonus. That's another matter. At 11 pm on the night of 01 March 2017, once again the Government imposed a huge burden on the people of the country. The price of an unsubsidized LPG gas cylinder has been increased by at least 86 rupees. In the year 2016, the price of a non-subsidized LPG cylinder was 466 rupees, and it was increased 6 times. Today its rate is Rs. 737, that is, in almost two years, there has been an increase of Rs. 271 only for the gas cylinder. This is more than approximately 58 percent. This indicates that when you repeatedly say that after we came into power, we provided a lot of facilities to the poor and reduced their difficulties, but if you look at these statistics, it shows how much you have increased the prices by a percentage.

Second thing, very recently, in January, you have increased the price of petrol by 42 paise, the price of diesel has been increased by one rupee and three paise. In the same way, if the price of crude oil is low in the international market, then naturally the prices of petrol and diesel should also reduce.

I want to put this in front of you as an example. In the Year 2012, it was dollar 122 per barrel. At that time, the rate of non-subsidized LPG was 345 rupees, petrol was 58 rupees per litre, and diesel was 37 rupees per litre. In the year 2016 crude oil was 33 dollars per

barrel. When it was Rs. 122, at that time LPG cylinder was available for Rs. 345. Today it is 33 dollars, then the cylinder is Rs. 513, petrol is Rs. 56 per litre and diesel is Rs. 46 per litre. Despite it being available at such a low price in the international market, if the Government increases the price of LPG, increases the price of petrol, and increases the price of diesel, then you can see how much burden this Government is putting on the poor. I am not able to understand that despite this they always say that we are along with the people, with everyone. Who are you with? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): This will be known tomorrow... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We will find out, but is this increase *that it is? Diesel and crude oil prices have fallen in the international market, is it...*? Sir, this is very important.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to make only a point in 'Zero Hour'. Debate is not going on.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why, I request you the Government should reply this. Where has this money gone? In spite of so much difference of prices, they got a lot of money.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask him to reply.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Therefore, I want they should withdraw these prices and they should bring back and they should give the benefit of difference of prices what it was in 2012 and what is it in 2016. The difference should be wiped out.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mullappally Ramachandran, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir.

My 'Zero Hour' submission is with regard to the escalating prices of the LPG gas. Sir, I fully endorse the views which have been expressed by the Leader of the Congress Party hon. Kharge Ji regarding the price rise in respect of LPG, diesel, petrol and almost all the petroleum products.

Sir, you may kindly see at the time of deregulation of the petroleum products when the liberalization process took place in the country and when the administered price mechanism has been taken away in respect of the petroleum products, the assurance given by the then Government and all these Governments was that whenever the international price of the crude oil increases, definitely, the prices of petrol, diesel and gas will also increase. Whenever the international price of crude oil decreases, definitely, the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG will also decrease. So, that benefit will be passed on to the common poor people of this country. But unfortunately, the crude oil price, per barrel was 150 dollars at that time. When you compare the prices of the petroleum products especially petrol and diesel at that time and now, it is below 50 US dollars and you see it is going in the reverse direction. LPG is a non-subsidized cooking gas. Who is using this non-subsidized cooking gas? It is being used by the middle class people of this country or the salaried class of this country. It is adversely affecting the common people, the middle class people and on 1st February, Rs. 62 has been increased and subsequently Rs. 86 has been increased per cylinder of LPG. Within two years, Rs. 271 per cylinder increase means it has never been heard of. So, my

submission is we want a specific answer from the Government. I demand the withdrawal of the LPG price rise. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Advocate Joice George is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

You can also associate with this matter.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, in the previous Session, our hon. Prime Minister had made a tall claim that around one crore people have given up their subsidy given by the Government. That is what the Prime Minister had told this House. What happened to them? They are severely cheated by this Government. This increase in the price of non-subsidised LPG will affect them. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I will tell this House. It must be noted that within six months the Government has increased the price of non-subsidised LPG by Rs. 245. Last time they got an increase of Rs.85.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is all right. Now, Mr. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go on repeating the same point.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not repeat what you have already said.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, it is not a debate.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, there is a hike of Rs.2 in the subsidized LPG also for every month. This steepest increase is coming when the oil prices internationally are coming down. What is the justification? ... (*Interruptions*) What is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri D.K. Suresh and Dr. Mamta Sanghamita are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ... (*Interruptions*) Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Sir has raised the issue of increasing the price of LPG in this House. ... (*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to tell them only that despite being an experienced member, they should present the facts while speaking in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

Let him only keep the facts before the House. He should not mislead the House. Sir, there are 19.17 crore LPG connections in the

country. On behalf of our Government, the Government of India, Narendra Modi's Government, I want to thank and congratulate all those 1.1 crore people.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: They were cheated by yourself.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Out of these connections, 1.1 crore people have voluntarily said, we do not want this subsidy; we can afford this LPG. They have given up voluntarily. 'Give it up' is a voluntary one. There was no force on them.... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, I also want to tell our hon. Members that more than 19 crore people who are from the poorer sections, from the villages, who are downtrodden people, are enjoying and they are being given the full amount of subsidy. There is no cut in that subsidy. The subsidy amount is Rs. 13,127 crore. The Government of India is giving Rs.270 subsidy 4per cylinder and the gas company is giving Rs.32 from that. We are supplying 116 crore subsidized LPG cylinders every year.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: The entire salaried people are affected by this.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Regarding the small hike of Rs.86 for this.... (*Interruptions*) I am giving my answer.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: I am responding to you. I want to bring to the knowledge of our friends that the international price of LPG was 471 US dollars per metric tonne. This price of 471 US dollars per metric tonne in the last one month has risen to 564 US dollars. There has been an increase of nearly 90 dollars. ... (*Interruptions*) To offset that increase, there has been a marginal increase.

Now, our Kharge Saheb is telling here that there has been continuous increase in the price of LPG cylinders. But he has happily forgotten that in 2010, Dr. Manmohan Singh Government was there. Under him, there was an EGoM. In that EGoM, it was decided that every month Rs.2 per cylinder should be increased. That is still in vogue. Therefore, if at all that continuous increasing of the LPG cylinder price by two rupees was started by somebody, the entire credit should go to Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Dr. Manmohan Singh. They had started it and they have sweetly and happily forgotten it. He is misleading the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

Lastly, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi, we have started Ujjawala Yojana under which the Government is giving free LPG connections to the down-trodden people. ... (*Interruptions*) s

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I have a strong objection.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: For 2016-17, our target was of giving 1.5 crore such connections, but I want to compliment the hon. Minister of Petroleum, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and his Ministry for having given in last one year two crore connections to the down trodden people. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.36 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri P. Karunakaran and some other hon. Members left the House.)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Pratima Mondal.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to raise a very important issue related to my Parliamentary Constituency Palamu in the House.

Sir, Palamu is known for its Production of Palash, Lah (lacquer) and Mahua. Gulal is made from Palash flowers and bangles are made from lacquer. What is the use of Mahua Production, it is well known? The unfortunate thing is that till date there is no action plan at the administrative level to establish any kind of industrial unit based on employment-oriented products like Palash, Lah and Mahua.

The Ministry of Small, Micro and Medium enterprises, Government of India has published a report in July, 2016. It has been told that there are only 300 small industrial units among the population of more than 12 lakh in Palamu district and in these units too, only Rs. 19 crore has been invested between the year 2000 to 2016 and only 5,893 people have got employment. It is further said in this report that there is immense potential in agro-based industries. There is tremendous potential in the district under horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and food processing sectors.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to look into this report and I would also like to request that there are immense

possibilities of milk production, fisheries and food processing in the district, so in this direction, there is a need to make the economic condition of this district prosperous and action needs to be taken at the level of the Union Government too.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Sir, we are well aware that generic medicine is much cheaper than the branded medicine, but it is very unfortunate that most of the doctors do not prescribe medicine by its generic name and this is the main reason for not getting the generic medicine in the pharmacy. People are not aware of the benefits of generic medicine and its cost advantage. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Health, through you Sir, to ensure that the doctors prescribe medicines by their generic names and create awareness among the people about the use of generic medicines.

I would also request that district-wise Helpline Support Centres should be formed with infrastructure, with capital support from the

Centre to provide live assistance to the patients with regard to low priced medicines and lodging of complaints.

Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri George Baker and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Pratima Mondal.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious problem faced by several farmers of Vidarbha, Marathwada and North Maharashtra through Zero Hour in this House. The farmers of Maharashtra have been facing extreme difficulties. The fruit-producing farmers and paddy producing farmers are so distressed that at least, 1200 farmers have committed suicide in the past month. In the last two years, 9000 farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra. Not only this, on 8th March, 3 farmers from Maharashtra came to the Ministry and tried to commit suicide in front of the Chief Minister. The situation for farmers is becoming increasingly precarious leading to a deepening crisis. No one is buying fruits produced by them in the market.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government that the Hon. Panth Pradhan has promised during the elections to make the farmers debt free in Uttar Pradesh. There is Devendra Ji's Government in Maharashtra. Efforts should be made in this conference to find a solution to the problem of the farmers of Maharashtra. I request that the Union Government should give such instructions to the State Government.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Prataprao Jadhav and Shri Chandrakant Khaire are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture on this issue. Maharashtra has been experiencing drought for four consecutive years. Last Year, there was some relief from drought because of rains in July-August. But after the drought, when the farmers yielded their crops and did not get equitable price for their crops, the farmers had to commit suicide again. Just now Shri Vinayak Raut also said exactly

the same thing. In the Year 2015, 1125 farmers committed suicide in our Marathwada. In the month of January-February, 262 farmers committed suicide.

I request the Government through you that when farmers are committing suicides frequently and continuously, the Union Government and the State Government should pay attention to this. The condition of farmers is miserable. It is very important to think seriously about them and make them debt free to prevent suicides.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale, Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Shri Prataprao Jadhav and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. Since the time I became an MP I am bringing this to the notice of the Health Minister, Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister, namely, about the desire and demand of the people of Telangana for AIIMS. At last, in the last Session, the Finance Minister was kind enough to allot AIIMS. It was the last sentence of his speech in the last Session for which I thank the Finance Minister, the Health Minister and the hon. Prime Minister.

We, from the Telangana State, with the help of our Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrashekhar Rao, have proactively -- and unlike other States -- identified 220 acres of land at Bibinagar in my Parliamentary Constituency of Bhongir and its soil testing was also done, which would serve 10 districts. My request, through you, Sir, is that I want to attract the attention of the Finance Minister to kindly allot the Budget in this Budget Session itself. Otherwise, Budget delayed is Budget denied. We already waited for three years for it. I would request the hon. Minister to allot the Budget for it. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Heavy Industries that thousands of people were getting employment for decades at HMT located at Pinjore in Panchkula district of my Lok Sabha constituency Ambala. Now, its tractor unit has been closed. Earlier also there was a cement factory in that area which has been closed. Today, unemployment in that area is at its peak. I request the Hon. Minister that the precious land of HMT Pinjore, which is worth thousands of crores of rupees, should be used to set up a big public sector industry once again or an attempt should

be made by some multi-national company to set up a big industry in that area.

I have also brought this matter to the notice of Hon. Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal ji and the Hon. Governor so that some steps may be taken in the hilly areas to save the employment of the people of that region.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, our country is becoming digitized. Why do we not connect the election system with that medium so that it becomes easier for the people of the country to participate in the elections? Today, the voter turnout percentage is steadily increasing, with large numbers of people queuing up early in the morning. However, the process takes considerable time, and as a result, many individuals leave without casting their vote. Furthermore, the names of several eligible voters are not even included in the electoral list. Recently, Mumbai

Municipal Corporation Elections were held in which the names of lakhs of people disappeared from the voter list in Mumbai city. If we use digitization it will bring a huge change. Today this system exists in Canada, Switzerland, Netherlands and Australia. In countries like America, military personnel and disabled people vote through digitization. Our country should also use it in the coming days. This will make it easier for the voters. Employees have to work till Seven-Eight o'clock to get votes.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gopal Shetty.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Farmers, and agriculture are an important part of our country. For the first time in the country, there is a Prime Minister who has assured the people of the country that they will double the income of Farmer in five years. Many steps have been taken in this direction, compensation has also been given to the farmers for this and several schemes have been dedicated to the farmers of the

country. The Farmer somehow produces the crop and has the power to grow gold from the soil. The Government purchases the crop through minimum support price. There is a village cooperative society in the village through which maximum purchases are made from the farmers so that the farmers can sell their crops whenever needed and get payment from there. The Government has made provisions for bunding for farmers under NREGA. Works like bunding, vermi compost, ponds, etc are going on. Apart from bunding, subsidies for fencing should be given through NREGA scheme so that farmers may keep their crops secure.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi.

***SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER):** Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an issue related to pulses procurement centres in this Zero Hour, because it is very important for my district as well as for Maharashtra State. This is related to Tur dal specially. Production was very less during last year and that is why

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

people at large had to suffer badly. So, the State and the Union Governments co-ordinated well and they also encouraged farmers to sow this crop this year. Now, we have a bumper production of pulses especially Tur dal in Maharashtra.

Nafed and SAFC are procuring pluses but the procurement centres are less in numbers. These centres should be opened in every Tehsil, with adequate storage facilities and sufficient number of labourers to mitigate the sufferings of farmers. By declaring MSP, Union Government has taken a good initiative. So, I would like to request the Government to take some more steps in the wake of this increased production of pulses so that the farmers get good remunerative prices for their crops.

I would like to request Hon'ble Minister to take it seriously and immediate steps be taken up this regard to give relief to the farmers.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Rakshatai Khadse.

[Translation]

Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava - Not present.

[English]

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY: This is regarding the request for quickening the process of opening Kendriya Vidyalaya in Andhra Pradesh. There is no doubt that KVs are playing a pivotal role in imparting quality education in the country with uniform curriculum and performance of these schools is appreciable. In view of this, there have been demands from various States to set up more and more Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Two proposals for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas at No. 2 Ongole and the second one at Rajampalli village of Yerragunlapalem Assembly Segment in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh were cleared by the KV Regional Office, Hyderabad, long back and the same was sent to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for its approval. Since the approval for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas has been given by the K.V. Regional Office, parents in these areas are eagerly waiting for opening of these Schools and commencement of academic session from 2017-18. Moreover, thousands of Ex-Servicemen families who are residing here have been repeatedly requesting for the setting up of these Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Secondly, the entire western part of Prakasam District is backward and people cannot afford to send their children to public or private schools as they have very limited source of income. Hence,

the setting up of these Kendriya Vidyalayas here has become all the more important.

In view of this, I appeal to the Government of India, particularly to the HRD Ministry, to kindly take steps for opening of above Kendriya Vidyalayas forthwith and start the session from this academic year onwards.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to raise the issue regarding Ezhimal Naval Academy, Kannur, in the State of Kerala.

Sir, it is clear that Ezhimal Naval Academy is a prestigious national defence Academy. The Government of Kerala is giving all assistance, and the people of that area have given their land for the construction of this Academy. When it was built, the number of employees was only 800, which has now increased to 5,000.

A wastage treatment plant was constructed nearby this Academy. People are not aware of the danger it posed. The Pollution Control Board has examined it and the Environmental Studies have found E. coli bacteria in the wells and ponds nearby this Academy, which is known for causing kidney failure.

We are fully supporting this Naval Academy, but at the same time, the health of the people has to be taken care of. Therefore, the Government should see to it that this wastage treatment plant is shifted from this place to some other place. There are thousands of acres of land there, which are very essential for people. A struggle is already going on there. I met the Defence Minister in this regard. I would request the Government to take up this issue very seriously.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Kanwar Singh Tanwar – Not present.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, potato growers in West Bengal and in some other States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are facing difficulties as their produce is being sold at half the price and as a result they are incurring huge losses; they are not deriving any profit, in spite of toiling hard in the farm to produce potatoes. There is an urgent need to provide subsidy to the potato growers just as the Union Government provides subsidy to the rice growers.

To give an example of how potato growers are undergoing hard times, whatever investment they are making in one *bigha* of land, which is equivalent to 1,600 square yards, they are not able to earn profit. On the other hand, they are losing between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,000. If efforts are not taken on a war-footing basis by the Union

Government, they would find it difficult for them to make both ends meet and they would force to leave the potato growing and take some other agricultural avenue.

I would like to ask the Union Government to take measures to come to the rescue of potato growers at this hour and despair and helplessness. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Ratna De (Nag).

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had repeatedly emphasized that the introduction of NEET is a direct infringement on the rights of the State and would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu.

The students from poor and weaker sections will be unable to compete with urban elite students in NEET. The rural students will be put to great disadvantage because they lack the resources to enroll in training institutions and access materials available to urban students.

The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has recently passed two Bills for protecting the existing admission policy for UG and PG admissions in Medical and Dental Colleges. The two Bills have been

sent to the Government of India for obtaining the assent of the President of India under Article 254 (2) of the Constitution of India.

I urge upon the Government that the approval and Presidential assent for the above said two Bills may be accorded immediately to enable the Tamil Nadu State to continue its existing system of admission to Government Medical and Dental Colleges. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri V. Elumalai.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the coastal districts of Odisha like Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara are situated near Bay of Bengal. Every year, a lot of people with animals and plants are dying due to cyclone. In 1999 Super Cyclone, lakhs of people lost their lives in the same manner. Hudhud and Phailin also equally affected the area. It is my earnest request to the Government, through you, that huge plantation is highly necessary to save the life of the people of the coastal districts. Therefore, necessary steps have to be taken. I would request the Government to do the needful immediately.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulmani Samal.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on a topic which has a very serious impact on the Indian society. A huge racket of obscene advertisements is going on using Google News Website as a medium. This is contributing to the spread of social and mental pollution. If this pollution is not stopped in time, we will have to suffer a waste of social values. Since every section of society is connected to internet facilities today, the number of minor children below the age of 18 is also very large and if these children visit this Website to read or watch any news related to the country or abroad, then along with the news they are also indirectly connected to obscene advertisements and obscene videos. This is taking the young generation of our country towards destruction. Hence, the Government should immediately ban these websites.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Permission is granted to associate Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, and Shrirang Appa Barne with the issue raised by Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the terrorist incidents in our country has assumed an appalling proportion. We have already witnessed that youths are being radicalized on line. It is a new horizon; it is a new phenomenon in our country where terrorists can claim that they have own state and they have some geographical expression.

I would simply refer to a few lines from a leading newspaper. It says that for a small group of intelligence experts in Telangana dedicated to tracking individuals and groups inspired by the so-called Islamic State, the Central agencies and Madhya Pradesh police might still have been scrambling to track down the terrorists behind the Ujjain train blast.

We are all appreciative to the valour and courage displayed by our security personnel in neutralizing the terrorists. But, I am equally appreciative to those intelligence sleuths who had collected the relevant inputs so as to trace those terrorists. I would like to submit whether any comprehensive mechanism is in place to track down terrorists specially those who are being imparted training on-line. Online radicalization has become a new threat. I do not know whether our Intelligence is well-equipped to deal with this kind of new

phenomenon. I would say that till the Government has been belittling whether the terrorists belong to ISIS or not. I am simply referring to one adage: A tiny spark if neglected can spread a prairie fire. We do not know whether our Intelligence across the country is well equipped about decoding the encryption or not. So, I would request the Government to take this issue very seriously and develop a comprehensive mechanism to track down the ISIS activities in our country.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Thank you Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise a very urgent and a very important matter. We are facing an acute drought situation in Kerala. We are also facing the water shortage problem everywhere. The agriculture sector has been badly affected due to shortage of water. This is not just in Kerala.

13.00 hours

Forty lakh metric tonnes of rice is the allotment for Kerala which the Union Government has to give every year. But this year, they have reduced it to 10 lakh metric tonnes. There are two issues- drought and

the reduction in rice quota by the Union Government. These two are very serious issues in Kerala. Therefore, the Chief Minister of Kerala convened an all party meeting to discuss this matter. All political parties unanimously decided to meet the hon. Prime Minister under the leadership of Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan. The Chief Minister requested an appointment with the hon. Prime Minister but ... * I condemn this attitude of the hon. Prime Minister. ...
(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I request you not to allow anything to go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record. ... (*Interruptions*) That kind of things cannot be allowed. ... (*Interruptions*) The denial by the Prime Minister – that kind of thing cannot go on record. ... (*Interruptions*) Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, please speak.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let them reply on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mahtabji, please continue. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, recently on an RTI query which was denied, a petition was filed in the court of law and the court has directed the Government to declassify the version of Nathuram Godse relating to the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation and it is going to be made public. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh, you have already raised the issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Ours is a vibrant democracy. There is a need to declassify all such materials that were declared classified at certain given point of time. ... (*Interruptions*) One such classified document is a report of the 1962 war which was submitted by Lieutenant General Henderson Brooks. ... (*Interruptions*) This was prepared for the Government in 1963 and it went into the reasons for India's defeat in the 1962 border war with China. ... (*Interruptions*) It is usually called the Henderson Brooks report. It is impossible to rewind history; what has happened has happened. It is however

always possible to learn from past successes and victories as well as defeats. ... (*Interruptions*) In fact, there is certainly more to learn from blunders. Is it not that the report prepared by one of the actors of that war is called the Himalayan Blunder. I would urge upon the Government to reveal those papers on the then Defence Minister V.K. Krishna Menon and make it available to the public. Then only we may realize the blunders committed by an arrogant Minister.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

[Translation]

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURG): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The issue of my Zero Hour is to implement the complete prohibition of liquor in the country. Alcohol has spread throughout the country like a social disease from which it is impossible to get rid of. Alcohol is causing serious diseases, umpteen accidents are happening because of it, and many incidents like fights, assault, assassination, rape, etc. are taking place. Because of this, public lives and new generations are getting ruined.

In Chhattisgarh, the Government has gone ahead and has made rules for selling liquor. The job of the Government is not to do

business. Despite this, the Chhattisgarh Government itself wants to run the liquor shop.

Protests are taking place everywhere in Chhattisgarh demanding complete prohibition of liquor. Women's organizations are being formed in villages and cities, which are called Mahila Commandos. In every village and city wards, a group of fifty to hundred women commandos come out in the evening with sticks and whistles. Those women commandos come out demanding that no one should come out on the streets after consuming alcohol, there should be no sale of illicit liquor and the sale of liquor should be stopped. The goons of liquor contractors and liquor vendors beat up women and put them in jail by imposing some section on them.

Hence, the sale of liquor should be banned in the entire country including Chhattisgarh, so that future generations can be saved from this serious social evil.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from Western Rajasthan, where the population ratio is very low. Nowadays, mobile network is not only a medium of communication but is also linked to the campaign of the Prime Minister of India to make India cashless. Mobile has also become a medium of economic communication.

BSNL installs mobile towers on Five thousand connections as per the standard set by the Department of Telecommunications for setting up mobile towers. Since we have a very low-density population, this standard cannot be met in remote desert areas. Hon. Prime Minister has given relaxation in these standards in the areas of North-East India and has permitted to install mobile towers only with the number of connections up to two thousand.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government and request that such standards should be relaxed in Western Rajasthan also so that the people living in remote area there can get mobile facilities.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Sir, with deep anguish I would like to bring to the notice of the august House the cold blooded, inhuman, horrific and illegal barbaric killing of a young Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu due to the unprovoked firing by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen while peacefully fishing in their traditional waters of Palk Bay. In this terrible tragedy, a young fisherman Thiru Britjo aged 21, son of Hemeles, sustained a bullet wound on his neck and died while being brought to the shore. Another fisherman Thiru Saron aged 31, son of Dhasan, also sustained injuries and is admitted in a Government hospital in Ramanathapuram district for treatment. This horrific incident happened at 9.30 p.m. on 6.3.2017.

Sir, it is necessary that the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India should be summoned forthwith and the strong feelings of the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu about the unprovoked firing on fishermen should be conveyed. I would also urge the Government of India to ensure the safety and security of its citizens from Tamil Nadu who pursue their humble avocation of earning a livelihood by fishing in their traditional waters of the Palk Bay. Sir, I would also request the Government to take a firm and decisive action in this regard without any further delay.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. J. Jayavardhan.

SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT): I have only three requests to make to the Government through you, Sir. I am obliged to our hon. Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, to have sent me here. I come from Basirhat constituency which is a border area. There is not a single Central School in my area. My humble request to the hon. Minister is to establish a Central School in that area as soon as possible. People in the central nine km. of that area are facing a lot of difficulty.

My second humble request to the Union Government is regarding loans to farmers. The loan to the farmers should be waived off. More loans should be given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise only one matter during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir, problems are increasing in Mumbai due to some officers in the Ministry of Defence. There are defence installations in Mumbai and many other cities. The Ministry of Defence made some changes in the

civil law on October 21, 2016, to regulate construction around these installations. After this, through a circular, they reduced the restoration space there from 100 meters to 10 meters. According to this order, any local can do construction up to 10 meters outside any defence installation in the country. There is also an area in Mumbai where there are Navy installations. The Mumbai-based Navy Controller and Technical Services officers have rejected all such proposals of BMC. The reason given by them is that this circular applies to the Defence Army wing, it does not apply to the Navy Wing. I would like to impart the Minister that all these proposals are not around any sensitive Establishment of the Navy. There is a Navy residential colony there. Construction projects have been stopped in Mumbai's Colaba, Worli, Ghatkopar, Kandivali, Malad, Borivali, Anushakti Nagar, and Chembur, Thane areas. Thousands of families there have been affected by this. This matter is very unfortunate. Through you, I request the Hon. Defence Minister to seriously investigate this matter. I demand that the officers who are harassing the general public by rejecting the orders of the Ministry should be punished.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Gopal Shetty is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Shewale.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): Sir, Karnataka is one of the major tuar growing States. In fact, this year, in spite of poor monsoon, Karnataka was able to grow three times higher than the average annual production. But this year, the Government of India has liberally allowed import of pulses including tuar. Now, the Minimum Support Price for tuar is Rs.5050 including Rs.425 of bonus. This is not sufficient even to meet the expenses of cultivation.

Therefore, to come to the rescue of tuar farmers, I would urge the Government of India to kindly grant additional Rs.1000 per quintal as bonus to the farmers.

13.13 hours**ADMIRALTY (JURISDICTION AND SETTLEMENT OF
MARITIME CLAIMS) BILL, 2016**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No.17.

... (Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow him to speak during the discussion on the Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIA): Sir, I beg to move :-

‘That leave be given to consider the Bill to consolidate the law concerning admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings relating to vessels, their arrest, detention, sale, and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.’

India is an option in the world. It has been connected with many other countries by sea since ancient times. There was also the time of Harappan culture in India. There is a Lothal city in Gujarat It is 50 kilometers away from the sea. When this civilization was excavated, a pot was found there. Ships from all over the world used to come there to trade with India. There was sea and cargo traffic from Lothal to Dholavira through inland waterways. This is very old history of our maritime behaviour. India has a coastline of 7500 kilometres. Cargo handling has been going on these beaches for years. Today, there are altogether 12 major ports in the country. There are 205 minor ports in the country. Today, overall, 95 percent of the cargo is handled at the ports and if we convert it into value, then 68 percent of the value of the cargo is imported from the ports via sea route, that is, our ports have great importance for export and import. In context, today a total of 90,877 ships arrive every year at all the ports in India, be they major ports or minor ports. If ships come here every year and some incident happens with those ships and whatever.....

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SHRIRAMPUR): What you are saying is not in the objected list in the statement.

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Today, cargo traffic is increasing in the country, and maritime activities are on the rise.

However, the legal framework governing these activities remains outdated, as it is based on laws that have been in place for many years, originally enacted during the British era. To address this issue, we have introduced this Bill with the aim of implementing a domestic legal framework for India. The law that we have today related to the Admiralty and the Admiralty Court, 1840 has been in place for 177 years. The Colonial Court of Admiralty Act, 1861 is a law that has been in place for 156 years. Colonial Court of Admiralty India, 1891 is a 126-year-old law. Provision of Letters Patent, 1865 is a 152-Year-old statute. Sir, the statute is 126 to 177 years old. At the time when the British came here and made the laws, at that time there were only three major ports in the country, which were Mumbai, Madras, and Calcutta ports. Today, whatever maritime problem arises, and if anyone ever has to take legal action regarding it, there is a provision of only three High Courts. Due to the coastal expansion in the country, all the States have ports and those ports have the provision of only three courts for their legal justice, also, there is no provision for any other court, one has to go to the High Court. Therefore, we are bringing this Bill that the old statute should be abolished and our domestic law should be used in its place apart from this, there was a legal incident in India in M.E. Elizabeth versus Harman Investment

and Trading Pvt. Ltd. The legal contention that arose in the Admiralty context went all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also issued the guideline that this is an old statute and there is no clarification in it. You once again make the domestic law of India. Along with this, when this incident happened in the country, our Law Commission also conducted a Suo moto study in this context and the Law Commission recommended making new laws in its 151st report. In view of all this, a law was made in the year 2005. In the Year 2005, this law was made and referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee discussed it in detail and made recommendations. Later, it became pending due to the expiry of the term of Parliament. Later, to change the law of this British era, to widen its jurisdiction, which is currently only Mumbai, Calcutta, and Madras, all of three are coastal States. To give the High Court its capacity, whatever disputes of various citizens take place, there are disputes of the labourers working there, there are ownership disputes, there are partnership disputes, environmental issues come up, and sometimes the oil is sent by some other vessel, there are disputes in that situation also. There are several reasons why it was necessary to fix the Admiralty jurisdiction from a legal point of view. That is

why I have brought this Bill and I request the House to consult this Bill in detail and pass it.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings in connection with vessels, their arrest, detention, sale and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 21st November, 2016.

The objective of this Bill is to consolidate the existing laws on civil matters of admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, and arrest of ships. Admiralty laws deal with cases of accidents in navigable waters or involve contracts related to commerce on such waters. It is true that there are a number of archaic and obsolete laws which are still governing the maritime disputes, offences and problems. So, there is an imperative need to have a comprehensive legislation. It is not only that. The maritime legal

fraternity also has been demanding over the years for a comprehensive legislation.

Even after Independence, Parliament did not exercise powers to make laws with respect to admiralty courts. As a result, the jurisdiction in respect of admiralty matters remain as defined in the Admiralty Act and restricted to High Courts of Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta as the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out.

The High Courts of India's other littoral States, namely, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha do not possess admiralty jurisdiction although there have been instances of the High Courts of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha having entertained admiralty causes apparently on a perfunctory consideration of the various States Reorganisation Acts enacted by Parliament and presumably without the benefit of a full argument. Along with the vexing issue of ambiguity of jurisdiction, existing admiralty statutes required a relook in order to incorporate contemporary maritime practices and international legal regime.

In 1986, a Committee headed by Shri Praveen Singh, the then Director General of Shipping, Mumbai reviewed the existing maritime laws and admiralty jurisdiction and recommended that a specific admiralty law be enacted.

In so far as jurisdictional ambiguity of the littoral state is concerned, the Supreme Court in the case of *M.V. Elizabeth and others versus Harwan Investment Trading Private Limited*, 1992 decided that the High Courts are superior courts of record with unlimited jurisdiction and inherent and plenary powers to decide on their own jurisdiction for the purpose of redressing grievances according to the principles of justice, equity and good conscience. Where the statute is silent, judicial intervention is necessary. In this context, the Supreme Court observed that there is no reason to think that the jurisdiction of the High Courts have stood frozen and atrophied on the date of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890.

Accordingly, in view of there being no Indian Statute governing the courts' jurisdiction in regard to maritime claims, the Supreme Court made the principles of international conventions on maritime laws applicable in India as part of India's common law. At the same time, it also directed the early enactment of a suitable legislative measure.

So, this is an evolutionary path being adopted before the finalisation of the legislative document. Even in the year 1998, a draft Bill was planned to be introduced. However, it could not be achieved due to very short duration of the first Vajpayee Government. Finally,

the Bill was introduced in Parliament in May, 2005. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee.

The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2009 was revised and circulated for consultation. However, due to the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha the Bill lapsed. The Bill went through the further process of revision through inter-Ministerial consultation during the 15th Lok Sabha. So, naturally we are all aware of the long journey, the long odyssey of this legislative document.

13.26 hours

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

After all, in response to the needs of the modern economy and in compliance with the existing facilities available in other parts of the world, the Bill was necessary. That is why we are supporting the legislative document without any reservation.

I would simply like to refer to a few key features of this legislative document. One of them is admiralty jurisdiction. The jurisdiction with respect to maritime claims under the Bill will vest with the respective high courts and will extend up to the territorial waters of their respective jurisdiction. As we know, India has

territorial waters to the extent of 12 nautical miles. Thereafter starts the Exclusive Economic Zone up to 200 nautical miles.

The Central Government, as per the Bill, may extend the jurisdiction of these high courts by notification up to the Exclusive Economic Zone. Here I would like to ask whether you have any mechanism to extend the ambit of the courts up to the Exclusive Economic Zone. According to the Bill, the jurisdiction is extendable by the Union Government Notification. That is why I have raised this question.

Insofar as maritime claims are concerned, the high courts may exercise jurisdiction of maritime claims arising out of conditions including disputes regarding ownership of a vessel, dispute regarding co-owners of a vessel regarding employment or earnings of the vessel, mortgage on a vessel, construction, repair or conversion of the vessel, disputes arising out of the sale of vessel, environment damage caused by the vessel, etc. The Bill defines a 'vessel' as any ship, boat, or sailing vessel which may or may not be mechanically propelled.

Let me refer to sub-clause 4 of clause 9. It says: "No maritime lien shall attach to a vessel to secure a claim which arises out of or results from (a) damage in connection with the carriage of oil or other hazardous or noxious substances by sea for which compensation is

payable to the claimants pursuant to any law for the time being in force; (b) the radioactive properties or a combination of radioactive properties with toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of nuclear fuel or of radioactive products or waste.

The Minister may kindly explain this particular area because you know about this particular area. Now a days, the sea across the globe is under the threat of hazardous toxic elements, even radioactive materials also. How much of the authority is being enjoyed under this clause so that the maritime lien provision should be applicable? What is the periphery of the applicability of maritime lien provision that has been enshrined in the Bill? While determining maritime claims under the specified condition, the courts may settle any outstanding accounts between parties with regard to the vessel. They may also direct that the vessel or a share of it could be sold.

With regard to a sale, courts may determine the title to the proceeds of such sale. Do you have any idea that in a year how many claims are being registered? How many registered claims are being settled in a year? I know that there is a multiplicity of legislations which certainly hinder the expeditious disposal of the claims. One of the objectives of this Bill is to dispose of the claims in an expeditious way. Therefore, the Bill is proposed to repeal four archaic admiralty

laws on civil matters. We have an Admiralty Court Act of 1840 also. I do not know whether that Act also is repealed or not as it has not been stated in the Bill.

As far as priority of maritime claims is concerned, of all the claims that are there in an admiralty proceedings, highest priority would be given to maritime claims, followed by mortgages on the vessels and all other claims. Within the maritime claims, highest priority would be given to claims for wages and with regard to employment on the vessel. This should be followed by claims with regard to loss of lives or personal injury in connection with the operation of the vessel. Such claims will continue to exist even with the change of ownership of the vessel. It is the most salient feature.

Here, the Bill is consolidating by repealing all other existing laws where the Bill will focus on wrongdoer - wrongdoer maybe the ship; wrongdoer maybe the vessel. It covers every vessel irrespective of the place or residence or domicile of owner. However, warships and naval auxiliary or other vessels used for non-commercial purposes are beyond its purview. Vessels which are being constructed are excluded from its application. However, by notification, everything can be brought under the ambit of this Bill. There is a very significant aspect

so far as notification is concerned because by issuing notification the Bill can delegate more powers to the courts of the littoral States.

About jurisdiction over a person, courts may exercise admiralty jurisdiction against a person with regard to maritime claims. However, the courts will not entertain complaints against a person in certain cases. These include, damage or loss of life, or personal injury arising out of collision between vessels that was caused in India. Second is about non-compliance with the collision regulations of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 by a person who does not reside or carry out business in India. Further, Courts will not entertain action against a person until any case against them with regard to the same incident in any court outside India has ended.

In regard to arrest of vessel, the Courts may order for the arrest within their jurisdiction for providing security against a maritime claim, which is the subject of a proceeding.

In regard to appeals, any judgments made by a single Judge of the High Court can be appealed against to a Division Bench of the High Court.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Chowdhury, please conclude, now.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam, I am concluding within two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Two minutes! Please conclude, now.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Further, the Supreme Court may, on application by any party, transfer an admiralty proceeding at any stage from one High Court to any other High Court. The latter High Court will proceed with the matter from the stage where it stood at the time of the transfer.

Here, I would like to ask the Minister that after High Court, whether the Bill has any provision to go to the Supreme Court. It is because here, the Supreme Court will decide to which High Court the appeal will be heard.

Regarding Assessor, the Union Government will appoint a list of Assessors qualified and experienced in the admiralty and maritime matters. What are the criteria for selecting those Assessors?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Chowdhury, please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam, I am on my last point, now.

Insofar as West Bengal is concerned, you are also from West Bengal. Here a deep sea port was proposed by your Government. But when will it see the light of the day? We would like to know it.

The second point is that the country is famous for ship breaking industry. Do you have any regulation on ship breaking industry to compete with the global level? I am saying it because our ship breaking has been causing enormous pollution in our country.

Madam, 95 per cent of India's trade by volume is done by sea. But what is the capacity of all the ports in our country and whether the capacity of the ports is being utilized or not? In this regard a full account needs to be given.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Narendra Sawaikar.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sawaikar.

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

* Not recorded.

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA):

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House.

I rise in support of a very important piece of legislation, which was long overdue, and that is, Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister of Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari for having introduced this important piece of legislation.

At the outset, Madam, I would like to give some facts and figures so as to understand the importance of this legislation. Our country has a coastline of around 7,516 kilometres. There are 13 Coastal States, Union Territories as well as the Island Territories, which are in India. There are almost 70 Coastal Districts. We have 13 major ports and 205 minor ports, as has also been stated by the hon. Minister. I have placed these figures because this would help us to understand the importance of this legislation.

Madam, as has been pointed out by the hon. Minister, till date, the maritime law in India is being governed by the old British laws. I would like to cite those four laws. They are: 1) Admiralty Court Act, 1861; 2) Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890; 3) Colonial Courts

of Admiralty (India) Act, 1891, which was subsequently introduced in one year; and 4) Letters Patent, 1865, provisions of which are insofar as applied to the Admiralty Jurisdiction of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts. Only three High Courts, that is Bombay, Madras and Calcutta were conferred with the jurisdiction of the admiralty.

Madam, I would like to make a mention that many a times, I have come across such matters and litigations wherein the issues regarding the jurisdiction, the issues regarding the arrest of a vessel, the issues regarding the collision of a vessel and the issues regarding the territorial jurisdiction have all been debated and discussed. Only on the point of jurisdiction, many years have taken up for these litigants to address their grievances.

The present piece of legislation is repealing all the four Acts, which are obsolete and redundant. Therefore, this piece of legislation is very much important considering the maritime law and the shipping industry in our country.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to draw your attention to Clause (e) of Section 2 of the Act which now confers the admiralty jurisdiction on the eight high courts of the coastal States. Clause (e) says that High Courts of Kolkata, Mumbai Madras, Karnataka,

Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala and Hyderabad for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh, as may be notified by the Union Government for the purposes of the Act, are the High Courts within this law. Earlier, there were only three high courts.

Secondly, the jurisdiction of these High Courts is also specified in Section 3 of the Act which says that the jurisdiction under this Act shall vest in the respective High Courts and be exercisable over the waters up to and including the territorial waters of their respective jurisdictions in accordance with the provisions contained in this Act. I have pointed out these provisions because, as I mentioned earlier, many a times when the issue arose, it so happened whether the jurisdiction will lie with this high court or that high court. It is because of the latest provisions as well as the States Reorganization Act of every court, the issues could not be discussed, debated and redressed for years together.

Here, I would like to say that for the first time the importance of this legislation came to light in the year 1986 when the Praveen Singh Committee was constituted. Subsequently, in the year 1992, when the hon. Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment in the case of M.V. Elizabeth said – the Supreme Court was shocked and surprised – that the old archaic laws which are governing this particular admiralty

jurisdiction should be repealed. This was in the year 1992 after 45 years of Independence. In spite of that we could not have our own legislation in place. I would not like to reproduce what has been stated by the hon. Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court has very categorically said that the Law Commission in its 5th Report on the British Statutes applicable to India went into the details on scope of the articles. The Supreme Court further said: “Should not India enact her own laws on the subject-matter of these statutes where it is necessary to do so and take legislative action making it clear that these statutes are no longer applicable to India?”

Subsequently, in 1994, the Law Commission came out with its Report, though it has been stated that it is a *suo motu* report but it came in 1994. In this Report the Law Commission has specifically held that this is an old enactment and, therefore, this law needs to be replaced and a new law is to be introduced. Subsequently, the new law was drafted and it was placed. Then, it was discussed and referred to the Standing Committee as has been pointed out by my learned friend. Thereafter, in the year 2005, the Standing Committee has submitted its Report on 21st March 2006. Thereafter the Bill is introduced. But still it took almost 11 years to see the light of the day.

The salient features of this law are the application of the Code of Civil Procedure where the law is silent and where the action is needed, in that case, the Code of Civil Procedure can be brought in. Secondly, there is action in *rem* and action in *personam*. Thirdly, the settlement of claims, I would not like to go much into the details but the settlement of claims in Section 4 of the Act specifically provides for which are the claims that can be settled under this Act. These are some of the salient features of this Bill.

When we are talking about making India a super power, I always feel that it is our bounden duty, irrespective of the party to which we belong, to take steps to achieve this goal. The hon. Prime Minister, in 2016 in the Maritime India Summit held in Bombay, had said: “This Government wants to make coastline an engine of growth.” He also said that the Government would like to invest around one lakh crore of rupees for the development of the ports in India. Our Government has taken various initiatives in this direction by launching ambitious Sagarmala programme. In the last two-and-a-half years, hon. Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari *ji* has taken steps for the development of ports.

I come from the State of Goa. There is only one major port. But, in the last two-and-a-half years, due to the efforts of Shri Gadkari *ji*, the developmental activities have been taken up, various

infrastructural activities have been taken up, so far as my port, the Mormugao Port Trust is concerned. Besides that, nationalisation of 106 rivers is also a part of this programme. While enacting this legislation, also around five laws have been repealed while consolidating and while bringing in the National Waterways Bill.

Madam, I would like to make a mention that on the one hand, when we talk about India being a global power, when we talk about development of India, at the same time, we need to keep it in our mind that in the last almost two-and-a-half years, this Government has repealed around 1200 old, obsolete laws. I am mentioning it because in the last 64 years, that is till 2016, only 1031 laws which were old which were obsolete were repealed by the then Government. It is this Government which has taken firm steps in this direction.

The market size of the maritime trade is on rise. In fact, I had raised a question on this issue. In the latest answer which has been furnished to me yesterday of the same question, what has been answered by the hon. Government is that in 2016 it expects the maritime trade to reach about 1715 million metric tonnes. Therefore, the Government expects that there is a growth of around 18 per cent in the maritime trade.

We talk and we say that 65 per cent of our population is young and is youth. The Government has been taking steps for raising the business, industry and opportunities for our younger generation through the various programmes like Make in India, Start-up, Stand-up, Skill Development, Sagarmala, port, road, air and rail connectivity. We have also jumped 12 ranks in the World Bank Ranking in the ease of doing business. This legislation, in my opinion, is another step towards making India as a business destination. I am sure that shipping and maritime industry will welcome this legislation. It is the need and demand of time that we rise to the occasion and bring in reforms in our old, archaic regulations; or otherwise we repeal them. We come out with the new legislations and regulations with the changing times so as to make our all shared vision of making India a global super power.

With these few words, I support this legislation. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The Bill is regarding the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016. Already, the other two speakers have spoken. I will not take much time. But, firstly, I would point out that I respectfully disagree with the statements made by the hon. Minister.

The Minister while making the statement said that the Bill is also covering the environmental issue. I am sorry, under clause 4, this is not the scope. You have also referred that in case of leakage of oil etc., this will come within its purview. This is also not there. Therefore, I respectfully disagree with the statements made by him in respect of two issues. That is the reason I was trying to tell you to kindly restrict yourself, without giving the long lecture, to the Objects and Reasons of the Bill itself, not beyond that.

This Act was necessary for long. Rather I say decades after decades we have to wait for this Bill and there is no quarrel with that word. It is unfortunate that, although the Supreme Court in 1992 directed the Union Government to come up with a law which will fulfil the needs of the day and when 151 reports of the Law Commission was existing, from 1992 to 2016, whatever the Governments were there, whether it was the UPA Government or the

NDA Government or other coalition Governments, no one had paid any heed to those circumstances. Today, it is needed and therefore, I am not opposing in substance, the Bill.

Madam, I will take up two or three things. The claim which is required to be decided by the High Court by reason of this enactment of the Act, itself has been codified under clause 4. I will not read because it will take much time. The jurisdictions have been said here. Now, I want to speak about territorial water.

Madam, in practicality and in reality, my predecessor friend has hinted about that. I agree with him that really the trouble starts there. Clause 2 sub-clause (k), says territorial water shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the territorial water, continental shelf, exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones, 1976. It is said simply. In law, it is incorporation of the statutes. You have incorporated provisions. They are vague provisions. Very correctly, he has said that decades after decades, it takes away the point, it takes away the question as to which High Court is having the jurisdiction in the sea itself. I have an experience, being a lawyer, we had a dispute with the Odisha Government in respect of territorial water. However, both the hon. Chief Ministers discussed and resolved the problem. It is working now very good. Therefore, that is extremely a vague thing.

Now, I come and point out to the hon. Minister to kindly clarify this. This is bringing another area where more interpretation is required to be done by the court. You have to clarify and you have to clear it. Clause 17 sub-clause 2,

“notwithstanding the repeal, all admiralty proceedings pending in any High court immediately before the commencement of the act shall continue to be adjudicated by such court in accordance with the provisions of this Act.”

Firstly, what does, “shall continue to be adjudicated by such court” mean? If you have said that, it is alright. The moment you are saying in accordance with the provision of this Act, then whether Kolkata matter will go to Odisha or any other place matter will go to other place. Clarity is not there in this Section. You have to clarify that situation. I do not know what is in your mind. If a proceeding is pending before the High Court, it will continue in the High Court. Then the language of the statute would have been made clear. If the proceeding will be transferred as on today, then you have to write it down that it has to be transferred. You are creating the confusion by saying, “before the commencement of the Act”, and “shall continue to be adjudicated by such court in accordance with the provisions of

this court”. The moment you are saying, “in accordance with the provisions of this court”, then for the transfer of this Act, therefore, the High court comes in. Therefore, there is a contradiction. It has to be clarified.

It is not for the argument sake I am making this argument. I am trying to help you. That is the reason I am telling this. You clarify it. You clear it. Clarity must be there in the statute. Unfortunately, we are seriously criticised in the judiciary because of the bad drafting or wrong drafting of a statute. I think this clarity needs to be required in the provision itself.

Now so many things have been said regarding the old Acts, etc. Yes, the old Acts, which are not required, have to be repealed. That is also necessary. The old Acts also were not made applicable.

Now, I am coming to a very important point. I know that it is not concerned with you. But, through you, today in this House I am making this point to the nation itself. A national problem has come. Now you are giving the jurisdiction to the High Courts to decide. There is no difficulty. But, hon. Minister, do you know how many vacancies are there in the High Courts? How can the High Courts take up the workload of all these things? Vacancies are not being filled up.

Earlier, some two or three Sessions back, a few Acts had come and jurisdictions have given to the High Court. There is no problem. But with the load which is there, with the jurisdiction which is there, not a single High Court is in a position to function. If I correctly say, so far as the Allahabad High Court is concerned, almost 50 per cent of the posts are vacant. As far as Calcutta High Court is concerned, nearly 50 per cent is vacant. This is the position in all the High Courts. There is not in a single High Court where this problem is not existing. So, why are you not filling up the vacancies?

You see, the National Judicial Appointment Bills were passed here. A Constitutional Amendment was made. Ultimately, the Supreme Court has declared it *ultra vires*. We have to accept this proposition. If we have to accept this proposition, we cannot have any ego on that. Neither any legislator nor any parliamentarian nor the Union Government nor any Government can have any ego with the judiciary. This has to be sorted out. I know it is not your problem. But today since the High Court part has come, through you, I am trying to tell here to please remove the ego. If there is any ego with the judiciary regarding the filling up of the vacancies, remove ego and kindly fill up the vacancies first. Unless you fill up the vacancies, not only the dispute under this Act but nothing will be done. Whenever a matter is

taken up as far as maritime admiralty jurisdiction is concerned-- I do not know whether you are having the experience or not—it takes a whole day to decide on a small point. Other business is closed normally because big claimants are there; big lawyers are there; big fees are there; big things are there; and naturally most times are spent. Who will take care of the poor people of the country? Everyone is taking care of the rich people of this country. That is the whole problem. I am not blaming you. It is not your fault at all. But, through you, I am trying to tell you to see that the vacancies are filled up.

Now, in respect of appellate forum, you have made it very clearly. Very nicely it has been done. First is Single Bench, and then the Division Bench, appeal, including interlocutory—everything has been done. Mr. Chowdhury is not here. He was asking, “what would happen thereafter?” Against that, article 136 of the Constitution of India is available. It is known to them. You are not required to mention that. That is all right. There is no difficulty on that. The Supreme Court will decide in cases of transfer whether it is needed or not. Whether it is the Calcutta High Court’s jurisdiction or the Odisha High Court’s jurisdiction, naturally, the Supreme Court will decide. There also, there is no difficulty at all.

14.00 hours

There is another point I say to you.

Everything is very clear in the Bill. Still, I would like to give an important suggestion to the hon. Minister. I am giving this suggestion, but I know that it is a very difficult job for him also. The territorial water jurisdiction has to be identified. Now, it is not much difficult because new mechanisms like satellite etc. have come in and they may be used to do it.

My friend, Shri Mahtab, is here. You have to identify the water of Kolkata, West Bengal and Odisha. If you identify that part, you will find that the question regarding the jurisdiction to be decided by the courts will be lesser and an easier job. In future, if you try to do it, it will be very helpful. I am giving this suggestion.

With this, I thank you for bringing this Bill. For a long time, from 1992, it was not happening. It does not give a good smell in our mouths that it has been pending since 1992. Now, it has been brought. Let it be passed. There is no difficulty.

With this, I conclude and thank you.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, Kalyan *Babu* was mentioning about good taste in the mouth! I will start from that.

Today is the 25th year since 1992, the year that was mentioned when the Law Commission gave its report and we are in 2017 today. Actually, the Bill was placed in this House in 24th year and today is the 25th year and our good friend, hon. Minister, is piloting this Bill today.

[Translation]

Before I come to the Bill, I would just like to mention that repeatedly The Minister to the Government of India said the word Hindustan thrice. There is no word Hindustan in the Constitution. I got the Hindi version of the Bill and saw that it had 'Bharat Ganrajya', and 'Republic of India' written in it. The Government of India should put into practice the term Republic of India when the Minister pilots the Bill. There should also be a little description of the history of our country. Our maritime activities have expanded across the world from four provinces Dwarka, Konkan, Coromandel, and Kelinga. It was more than 2,500 or 3,000 years ago that our maritime activities flourished.

[English]

In the Sixth or Seventh Century A.D., we faced Arab seafarers in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Our trade with the western countries, including Roman Empire, also diminished, during that period. Between 8th and 12th Century A.D., the Central Asian marauders also attacked repeatedly the Indian Subcontinent, and Indian youth force shrunk itself. A time came during that period when it was told by the leaders of our society that if you go on a voyage, you would be outcaste. This was also told to Mahatma Gandhi when he went to study abroad. His mother told him ‘if you are going to come back, how will our society accept you?’ This was very much vibrant in the first part of 20th Century. That was the situation. A seafaring nation, which had flourishing maritime trade throughout the world, be it in Japan, China, Far East or South East Asia, even to Rome, how did that society shrink and why?

Hence, when this Bill comes for consideration, we are tied up with those five Acts, which were incorporated. One was during the Company period, that is, of 1840 and the rest four were of 1861, 1865, 1890, 1891 when India was a colony under the crown. These five have been subsumed in this Act, but it has a very sacred history and that is really very interesting. Though this Bill was introduced in this House on 21 November 2016, the issue of admiralty jurisdiction was

examined by the Law Commission of India in 1992. The drafting of the Bill was in accordance with the Law Commission's recommendations. I would just mention here for the benefit of the House that the draft Bill was planned to be introduced in the Parliament in 1998 during Atalji's time. It was a short period of only 13 months, but it could not be achieved due to a very short duration of the second Vajpayee-led Government. The shortest was the previous one of 1996.

Finally, the Bill was introduced in the Parliament in 2005. It was revised in 2009, but due to dissolution of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha the Bill had lapsed. It further went through inter-Ministerial consultation during the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. Finally, after 24 years, it was introduced last year and this year we are on the verge of passing this Bill.

Being from a literal State, I, therefore, welcome this Bill with open arms. Yet, as has been mentioned by my friend Kalyan babu, despite all these deliberations still there are certain flaws and one should salute the Legislative Branch of our Government. Whenever there is a Joint Parliamentary Committee, we go into every word of it and what is the meaning of it and Kalyan babu also very meticulously goes through it and he has very rightly mentioned about the provision

of Clause 17 section 2 as to how it will be interpreted or how it will not be interpreted. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to make certain clarifications and also he can remedy it. This is the time where you can make amendments.

The repealing of this old British law should have been done much earlier, but I am glad that it is being done now by this Government. Since admiralty law deal with cases of accidents in navigable waters or involve contracts related to commerce on such waters, High Court of States, which have shores should be the ideal body to solve such disputes. Here, I would also say that it would also reduce the burden on Kolkata, Mumbai and Madras High Court.

Section 10 of this Bill prioritises the order of maritime claims determining the *inter se* priority in an admiralty proceeding, which shall be as follows: - (a) a claim on the vessel where there is a maritime lien; (b) registered mortgages and charges of same nature on the vessel; (c) all other claims. This is the gradation. When I go through the Bill in Section 4 where maritime claim can be determined, there is sub-Section (e), which says: “loss of life or personal injury occurring whether on land or on water, in direct connection with the operation of a vessel.” It is not a criminal case, it is a civil case. If some accidents happen and body injury is there or a death occurs, this should be the

law where a claim can be made. But in the priority list, in clause 10, the claim of vessel where there is maritime layer registers mortgages and charges of same nature of the vessel. These two precedes the life. Is this a conscious decision of the Government? Do you not think it is necessary that claim for life should get the top most priority? I hope the Minister understands the logic behind it and it should be corrected in the priority list. This should be followed by other claims like compensation for loss of life or personal injury in connection with the operation of the vessel. Why can we not give loss of life and injury claims a high priority than claims for wages? That is also really very much necessary.

14.11 hours (Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the chair.*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this Bill was long overdue and it should have been done much before. I wonder why during the UPA regime, this was never taken up with all sincerity though the Bill was introduced in 2005.

Better late than never, now this Bill has come. As Mr. Kalyan Banerjee has said that there is a need to demarcate territorial waters also, don't know, The Ministry of Shipping is empowered to do that demarcation or not but it is better that you refer it to the NITI and have a Chief Ministerial conference and it is much better as we had settled

among ourselves between West Bengal and Orissa. It is necessary because it is more than the fact that you have said that 9,000 and few kilometres of coast lines are ours. Our Prime Minister is saying that there are many islands in the Indian Ocean which belong to India. We can develop these islands as well, through that we can further expand maritime activities. It is not necessary that all sea liners have to come to the mainland. It can also operate in those islands which are there in the Indian Ocean under our control. So, in that respect, it is also necessary to expand our horizon because India lies in an international maritime trade activity.

[Translation]

When you say that 95 percent of our trade happens through ports. We do not have much trade with Pakistan, there is no need to import anything from Bangladesh, we give it to Bhutan, things go from here to Nepal, so 95 percent of the trade is happening there if you increase more trade on land route then here also 95 percent is not a very creditable thing because our trade activity is basically on sea route. That is the reason why it has to expand. Quantifying it will give us a different figure.

In the end, I would say, as I had said earlier, we support this Bill with full heart with little amendments which you want to make.

[English]

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

At the outset, I would like to praise the Government for innovative initiatives in diverse aspects right from the very first day of the Office. Introduction of the Admiralty in Jurisdiction and Settlements of Maritime Claims Bill 2016 in the House is the timeliest for the fulfillment of India's aspirations of being the leader of the Indian Ocean. With more efficient and effective governance strategies to highlight the statistics, India is one of the leading maritime nations and maritime transportation caters to about 95 per cent of merchandised trade by volume.

The enactment of this Act is long awaited and dragged by Government after Government since 1980s. Thus, the introduction of this Bill is a progressive step in the right direction. As noted, this Bill seeks to consolidate all the existing laws on civil matters of admiralty, jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings of maritime claims and arrest of ships. More so, it also repeals absolute colonial statutes thus

updating the laws to meet modern day requirements and also enhances clarity in rules and regulations dealing with territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones.

Further, in recent days, we have witnessed many naval accidents causing immense pollution in our coastal waters like that of the recent accident near Kamarajar Port, Chennai. As yet, there is immense delay in adjudicating such navigation issues due to lack of clarity in rules. This Bill deals with cases of accidents in navigable waters or involving contracts related to commerce on such waters. Clear demarcation of jurisdiction to the High Courts of Coastal States on territorial waters and empowerment of States by the Centre over EEZ issues is an innovative step for effective governance in maritime commerce and navigation.

Owing to such inherent delays in the management of maritime commerce, India is losing huge commercial gains with complex legal issues and systematic procedures. I hope this Bill would sort out all the issues pertaining to navigation and pave way for reaching our potential in high seas.

I am hailing from the coastal State of Andhra Pradesh with nearly 974 kilometres of coastline that has immense potential for port-led development under Sagarmala Project and association of SEZs with

ports. I would like to emphasise on infrastructure development in Kakinada, which is my constituency, for better multimodal connectivity to the port. I also request the Government for the establishment of a Maritime Educational Institution in the State on the lines of Chennai for encouragement of the youth towards new areas of career as well as employment generation in the State. I further request the Government for the establishment of Oceanographic Museum in Kakinada, which is my constituency, to increase awareness of Oceanographic Studies, maritime assets and resources among the public. More so, it also increases the tourist potential of the State.

I support this Bill on behalf of my Telugu Desam Party. Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Sir, thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity today to speak on this important Bill which is long overdue.

Sir, ports and maritime trade have been the growth engines of cities and nations and the economies. In fact, some nations like Dubai and Singapore just grew on this particular growth engine; and also cities like Shanghai, New York and London in the past.

Shri Mahtab has very eloquently told the maritime history and the prowess of India in the past. As you know very well, when it comes to our prowess, we remember Raja Raja Chola and Rajendra Chola. If you go anywhere to the East of India, you can see the maritime prowess of India more than in India. The world's largest temple is not in India; it is in Cambodia. If you go to Bali, Indonesia, and Jakarta, it is where you will see the Indian culture. Mahtab Ji also has explained about our culture, how our importance of maritime trade changed that it impacted our very culture. If you abroad, you are no longer part of this culture. This is what Gandhi Ji was told.

I am very glad that the Government has taken this up at this very crucial juncture where we are trying to show our prowess in the space by launching satellites, but in maritime, I think we again need to retain

the old glory. I think the Government has done certain things and I should congratulate them.

Of course, yesterday we passed the Maternity Bill. This has nothing to do with the Maternity Bill. The pre-berthing detention time in India used to be weeks and months a few decades ago. This Government has brought it down from about two days to less than a day. Definitely, it is worth congratulating the Government on this. But, averages do not tell the whole story. Average is a good matrix, but there are still cases where ships are lying outside for one, two and three weeks. So, this law is even more important. In fact, before coming, I was trying to google as to how many of these ships are lying in the outer harbour because of these legal issues. I could not get any data. Hopefully, the Minister can give us some data today about how many ships are being held up in the outer harbour. I feel that it will reduce the pre-berthing time. It is one more step in increasing our maritime trade. While it was a global strength in the past, but the performance in the Mumbai and Chennai ports is dismally low. The Shanghai Port has more than 700 million tonnes of trade and the Rotterdam Port has more than 400 million tonnes. Then come the Singapore and Dubai ports. In the case of Chennai port it is just 25 million tonnes and Mumbai Port is just 65 million tonnes. So, all these

Bills in conjunction with others will go a long way in improving our maritime trade.

The Admiralty Bill has been in the making for the last 30 years. It is one of the long pending demands of the shipping industry and the maritime legal fraternity. The Pravin Singh Committee Report came in 1986. Subsequent to the Supreme Court Judgment of *M.V. Elizabeth and others versus Harwan Investment and Trading* came in 1992, the Law Commission in the 151st Report also recommended the need for such legislation. It has been a long time since 1992. We should have done this before. Definitely, we need to congratulate the Government on getting this Bill.

Historically speaking, the Admiralty codes date back to 1360 in the rein of Edward the 13th. Although, it originally dealt with matters primarily of English fleet because at that time, all the fleets were controlled by the English Crown. The codes progressively acquired some civil jurisdiction. In case of India, 95 per cent of the mercantile trade volume is catered by maritime transportation. However, the present statutes regarding admiralty jurisdiction are the British era jurisdictions. The laws are not aligned with the latest practices of the maritime sector. The Bill repeals the old, obsolete British statutes. It also consolidates the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of

the Court, admiralty proceedings on maritime claim, arrest of vehicles and related issues. As of today, the admiralty jurisdiction is with three High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The Bill rightfully increases the number of ports which can examine this. Hon. Member Shri Kalyan Banerjee has explained this point. By increasing the number of High Courts, does it reduce the time? That is a question that we need to examine because the Courts are already over-loaded. These are alien issues for some of the Courts. Historically, in the case of Mumbai Court, the judges and the lawyers have dealt with the matter. But, the question is whether the new Courts are equipped in terms of knowledge, experience and exposure to deal with? So, there has to be probably a primer or some information or some courses for the lawyers as well as the judges to deal in this matter.

I was just going through the Bill. It brings us to an old issue. In Section 2, it says:

“The High Court, in relation to the admiralty proceedings mean any High Court of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, High Court of Karnataka, High Court of Gujarat, Orissa, Kerala and the High Court Judicature of Hyderabad, Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh.”

Everything is fine. But, there is one anomaly. In the case of Hyderabad and Telangana, we do not have a port. It is land-locked. Why should our Courts be bothered with this? That brings us to another old issue which is a very important issue. We are land-locked; we have no sea. It is about the separate High Court. Now, the Court of Hyderabad has to deal with the issue of non-separation of High Courts. We do require a separate High Court not just in our interest but in the interest of my friends from Andhra Pradesh also. In the interest of boasting the maritime trade of India, we require a separate High Court. The common people of Andhra require a separate High Court.

It is a very important issue. Just for the sake of benefitting a few individuals, you cannot club the two High Courts and ask us to deal with maritime cases. The coast of Andhra is rich in trade as well; I know that they are developing the Visakhapatnam port and Kakinada port. Some of my friends tell me how fast it is developing. There is potential to gain Rs. 600 crore additional revenue to Andhra.

This brings us to another issue. We are also passing the GST. In the GST, the States are saying that the revenue of the trade upto 12 nautical miles from the coast should go to the respective State. I fully support it. The Andhra Government should get it, so also should Tamil

Nadu and the Governments of all the coastal States. It goes much in the favour of Andhra Government if they push for a separate High Court for Andhra. It is also good to have multiple High Courts dealing with this. But it is the boundaries that bring us a problem. Being an engineer, it is very easy to draw a line on the land. But how do you draw a line in the sea? It should be GPS coordinates. Otherwise, they file a case in Andhra High Court and I file a case in Tamil Nadu High Court because it is somewhere between Nellore and Ennore. These are some of the things. We need to have GPS coordinates because ships are almost 500 metres wide. Just to delay the case, if somebody files a suit in this court, I will file a case in that court.

There is one more issue. It says ‘exemption for warships and non-commercial activities as may be notified by the Union Government or the cities operated by Central and State Governments’. I know the fact that Central and State Governments do not have non-commercial vessels; there are very few. So, they generally depend on lease for the purposes of survey, exploration etc. These can be construed as non-commercial activities but the very act of the Government leasing a ship is a commercial operation. Therefore, the Bill is a little ambiguous in that area.

The Bill provides clarity with respect to the jurisdiction and settlement of claim. It is only the boundary that has to be more precisely defined; otherwise, it will be another cause for delay.

Lastly, I would really appreciate if the Ministry tells us how much benefit this Bill gives. Definitely it gives a benefit to everybody in the Parliament. So, I want a matrix. How many of those ships are lying in the outer harbour and how much of the pre-berthing detention time does it reduce? How many legal cases does it reduce? These are the main points. With these words, I support the Bill on behalf of my party.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a very important Bill as far as our nation is concerned. We have a long history of merchant shipping. Our forefathers welcomed the foreigners wholeheartedly when they came for trade; when they came for war, our forefathers fought very valiantly. You may be well aware of the battle of Colachel, in which the forces of erstwhile Maharaja of Travancore were able to defeat the prestigious force of De Lannoy.

I come from the State of Kerala. Our trade with the East as well as with the West was not as a result of the voyage of Vasco da Gama in the year 1498. We had trade relations with Rome and other western countries and also with the Arab countries.

Here, let the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016 of course be renamed as the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017. This concerns certain questions of the federal character of this nation. There are still quite a lot of disputes between the States regarding the territorial waters. I am not mentioning the names of the States because many of our friends have left for their constituencies. I hope this Bill would not be abandoned just like an abandoned ship.

Dozens of abandoned ships are waiting outside our ports and harbours. What do we do with that? They have been posing safety

threats to the coastal belt of India. We are having the fourth largest Armed Forces and of course we are very proud of our Navy also. With your permission, hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to read some portions from a copy of one English newspaper which was published yesterday from Delhi. It says, “Iran accuses United States of stirring tension in Gulf.” I may quote with your permission. It further says, “A senior official in Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard on Wednesday accused the United States of provoking tension after two separate incidents in the Gulf last week. A US Navy ship crossing the Strait of Hormuz changed its international route and approached within 550 metres of Revolutionary Guard’s boats in an unprofessional way.” Another newspaper report says, “China to deploy most advanced rescue ship in South China Sea. China on Wednesday said they will deploy a new rescue ship capable of conducting air, sea, and underwater searches simultaneously in the disputed South China Sea.” These are the examples of other nations how they revere their seas, how they honour their seas, how they respect their waters, and how they guard their waters but what is our position?

My learned friends have just now spoken how belated this Bill is. At least because of the British were able to rule some parts of this nation for more than two centuries and then the British India, we had

a law. Here in the statement of objects and reasons in the last paragraph which is paragraph No. 4, it is said: “It is proposed to repeal four archaic admiralty laws on civil matters, namely, (a) the Admiralty Court Act, 1861, (b) the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, (c) the Colonial Courts of Admiralty (India) Act, 1891, and (d) the provisions of the Letters Patent, 1865 in so far as it applies to the admiralty jurisdiction of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts, as those provisions would become redundant with the enactment of this Legislation.” There is not even a single enactment this august House was able to pass after the Constitution came into being and after our nation became a republic.

Some of my friends had actually requested the Government that a meeting of the Chief Ministers concerned should be convened on this matter. Our hon. Ministers are here; more Ministers are now in the House than MPs. At least that is a good beginning, let us hope. I would like to know whether this Bill has come up for evidence, discussion, and report to be submitted by any of the Standing Committees. This is not a very small Bill. This Bill has very severe consequences. I hope no dispute arises between the States. I would not take much time. I believe, we have to pass this Bill before the Private Members’ Business is taken up. Why was this Bill not sent for

the consideration of the Standing Committee concerned? At least the Standing Committee on Law and Justice should have gone through it. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are a very senior parliamentarian. You know very well the rules, the precedents, the courtesy and the etiquettes. You are much senior than many of us in this House. The Standing Committees are not mere scapegoats. They are not for name sake. Each one of us is doing our duty even when the Parliament is not in Session. I hope your heart is with me in this matter. The procedure that is being followed by the Government, whether it is the UPA, NDA or whichever Government, should be, the Standing Committee should be given the opportunity to discuss, take evidence and submit a Report. On the basis of the Report of the concerned Standing Committee a fruitful discussion should take place.

Of course, I agree with my learned friend who has stated that more than 95 per cent of the trade takes place through sea. What percentage of the trade India has in the global trade scenario? At the same time, more and more trade will take place. Nowadays, the merchant ships engage armed guards. Many of the high seas are very risky, highly dangerous. In this House also, we have discussed the menace created by the pirates in some parts of African waters. Armed guards for the security of seafarers are boarded from various

convenient ports well before the high risk areas are reached but they are not allowed to leave the ship from Indian ports. These guards are from different nations. So, the ships have to keep them till the next port outside India. It costs quite a lot of financial burden upon the merchant ships. This actually creates inconvenience for the merchant ships. I hope the Government will look into this matter.

In this Bill there is a provision for the fine. The fine for pollution should match the international standards. The fine that our courts impose is actually considered by the multinational, trans-national shipping corporations as just peanut. So, I would request that it should be fixed according to the international standards. Strict pollution rules should be there and should be implemented also.

There have been complaints against our customs officials. There have been instances of rampant corruption in the customs and the immigration departments. There have been complaints from our own shipping companies as well as foreign shipping companies. This should be avoided. They are coming here for trade. If corruption is part and parcel of the trade, how can trade flourish? This should be curtailed. Corruption at the customs point and immigration point should be checked severely.

Merchant navy after completing their duty hours, just like our pilots after their journey, may sign off for some time. So, signing off from India after duty is not at all preferred by foreign companies because of the harassment from various Government officials. This is actually losing revenue to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees every year.

During the first half of this Budget Session I had raised a matter of the forward seamen. Our hon. Minister, Ananthkumar ji was very generous to give me a reply also saying that he will take up the matter with his colleague and the Government of India will consider this issue. Our hon. Prime Minister has also promised it in a public statement. Many of the enacted laws and rules related to the merchant shipping do not have sufficient clauses of punishment for violating the provisions. This is what is going on in this nation.

There is no provision of fines and punishments in the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958 and The Seamen Act. The same is the case with the Maritime Labour Convention also. The seamen have their provident fund organisation also. It is having approximately Rs.138 crore as annuity without any provision for pension. The forward seamen are risking their lives in the high seas. Any time any accident

can happen as has been said by the Minister also. They have to work in a vessel which is more than 45 degree steep.

In this House, my friends from Tamil Nadu have raised an issue regarding detention of the Tamil Indian traditional fishermen. It happened in Diego Garcia. Why is Diego Garcia now a base of NATO? Diego Garcia is a part of the Indian Ocean. India is a subcontinent and is a sovereign nation. Even though Diego Garcia is not a part of India, we have every stake on that group of islands. It is a threat to the sovereignty of India. For what purpose is it a naval base of the United Kingdom?

The poor fishermen from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa do not know which is the porous border and which is a non-porous border. As my learned friend just now said, there is no border in the sea. There are only undercurrents. They push and pull the traditional fishermen. Actually, they are taken into custody by the military men. Our traditional fishermen are not spies and they are not going there for espionage. Actually, they go for their daily bread. Only a poor fisherman knows the hardships of being a poor fisherman.

I come from a State where first revolt against the East India Company happened in 1721. In the year 1721, people from all walks of life cutting across caste, creed, religion and colour revolted against

the British on the auspicious day of Vishu. Vishu is an auspicious day like Pongal in Tamil Nadu, Bihu in Assam and Holi in North India. On that august day, people revolted against the British East India Company.

Sir, the Anchuthengu fortress is there which is protected by the Archaeological Department but so far our Government has not taken any initiative to put Anchuthengu under Sagar Mala project. My humble request to the Minister is to put Anchuthengu under Sagar Mala project. It is a historical place situated in my Constituency. That fortress still remains where the people were martyred by the British East India Company.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister that our fishermen living in the coastal areas, owners of vessels, and traditional fishermen have been looking forward to this Bill for the last many years.

Sir, even after independence, that is, the law which was made in 1840, was still in force till today. All the fishermen living on the coast, owners of vessels, and all those doing business through the sea had to face its consequences.

Sir, there is no opportunity to make any more suggestions in this Bill. The Hon. Minister has tried to present through this House a Bill that is complete, in a good manner, and will give good results in the future. I will be the first to congratulate them on this.

Sir, I would like to request the Government through you, many provisions have been made in this Bill, such as those related to maritime claims. For the past many years, it has been happening that the fishermen particularly, whether they are fishermen using base running or fishermen using traditional methods, when all these people used to go to the sea to catch fish, as the Hon. Member of Parliament has just said, it is true that we do not have any boundary wall in the

sea, we have not done any fencing in the sea, at many places, it was happening that fishermen using base running used to go even outside 12 nautical miles, so sometimes, the big vessels that used to come from foreign countries, vessels from countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan or Sri Lanka, used to cause huge losses to the fishermen of our country, our state. They used to run away after doing damage. They did not get any chance to take action against him. Those poor people had to bear the loss. I am sure that in the future the work of banning all this will be done through this Bill particularly to claim the loss, whom to go to, where to go, and how to go, many such questions were faced by all these fishermen and these questions were faced by the people doing business as well. This Bill has shown them the way.

Sir, I do not need to talk much to the Hon. Minister Sir, but I am going to request that you need to pay more attention to the Priority of Maritime Claims. Many such claims have been pending for the last several years. Despite being 15-20 years old, people who made such claims did not get justice. After this Bill, by giving them priority, the Government needs to make efforts to ensure that those who have maritime claims get justice as soon as possible. The Government has done a good job in this Bill and along with maritime claims, the

Government has accepted the huge responsibility of arresting the vessels through this Bill.

As I have told earlier, during the night our fishermen did not know from where the big vessel came, where it hit, what damage was caused; they did not get the correct information about this. How can restrictions be imposed on vessels coming from other countries in the future and whatever provisions have been made in this Bill to protect fishermen living in our country and doing business in our country, the work of proper implementation of which can be done through the Government, I am sure.

I will once again express my gratitude to the Government and the Hon. Minister through this Bill. I would say that through this Bill, the Government has taken a huge responsibility to fulfil the long-standing demand of the people of the country and the demand of the fishermen. I conclude my speech by thanking you once again. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, thank you very much. I, on behalf of YSR Congress Party, support the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement) of Maritime Claims Bill 2016. The proposed legislation is likely to consolidate the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, arrest of vessels and related issues. The legislative proposal is likely to fulfil long-standing demand of the maritime legal fraternity.

With the enactment of this legislation, it repeals five obsolete British statutes on admiralty jurisdiction in civil matters. These are Admiralty Court Act, 1840, Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, Admiralty Court Act, 1861, Provisions of the Letter Patent Act, 1865 and Colonial Courts of Admiralty (India) Act, 1891. Nineteenth century laws were in force for settling maritime claims with only Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts having the jurisdiction. But now, there are several States where there are several important ports.

Hence, this is a welcome decision of the Government to repeal the laws which are not in use. More importantly, India is a leading maritime nation and maritime transportation caters to about 95 per

cent of its merchandise trade volume and the admiralty jurisdiction of Indian courts still were flowing from these obsolete laws.

The admiralty law governs maritime questions and offences. It is a body of both domestic laws governing maritime and private international law governing the relationship between private entities that operate vessels on the oceans. This law has to deal with matters including marine commerce, marine navigation, marine salvaging, shipping, sailors and the transportation of passengers and goods by sea. The legislation now confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in all coastal States and this jurisdiction extends upto the territorial waters.

The Government should give an impetus for enhancing mercantile trade through focus on accelerated development of the maritime infrastructure. Also, there is a need of holistic review of the enabling legal framework for mercantile trade and maritime practices. It has to be ensured to avoid inordinate delay in the enactment of statutes as the legislation has been in making for nearly 30 years now. Besides in order to ensure security against maritime claims, a vessel should be arrested in certain circumstances as lately there have been several instances when the neighbouring country encroaches Indian area.

I support the Bill as it is likely to consolidate the existing British era laws on civil matters of admiralty jurisdiction of courts.

Lastly, I would request the Government of India to take up construction of Duggirajapatnam Port as mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act and also Ramayapatnam Port in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh since the Government of India intends to develop a number of major and minor ports.

DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.

This law governs maritime disputes and offences. It is a body of law which deals with both domestic law governing maritime activities and international law governing the relationships between the utilities and those who operate the vessels.

It also deals with many issues like marine commerce, marine navigation, marine salvaging, shipping and sailors, and transportation of passengers and goods, etc.

Admiralty jurisdiction till now is being restricted to three High Courts and it is now being extended to all the High Courts of the maritime States. I need not mention that this Act is going to repeal about five obsolete statutes dated back to 1840, 1861, 1890, 1891 and 1865. These Acts are being repealed and a consolidated law is being enacted for efficient governance.

There is an urgent need to update the existing laws so as to be responsive to the needs of the industry and also to ensure that the maritime disputes are disposed of expeditiously and effectively.

Even though DG, Shipping started action way back in 1986 and also the Supreme Court has emphasized the need for urgency of updating the laws, so far we could not make any progress.

India is one of the leading maritime nations. We know that sea coast is the natural resource for development nowadays. Many States and the nation as a whole are interested in developing the sea ports on the coast. We have territorial waters to the extent of 12 nautical miles and also we have continental shelf contiguous zone and up to 2,000 nautical miles we have the Exclusive Economic Zone where India has the right to exploit the natural resources in the seas. Beyond 2,000 nautical miles, it is the high sea which has no ownership but owned by the entire world. At present we have the Coast Guard Act and also the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Foreign Fishing Vessels) Act, 1981, which provides some provisions to deal with the offences committed in the territorial waters, in the contiguous zones and in the EEZ.

Previously, we had the policy of chartered vessels for fishing. We brought foreign vessels where foreign crew were there on the vessels. There were some disputes. Those types of operations need to be resolved by certain provisions of the Act. Now, this Act also excludes the inland vessels and the warships. It excludes naval,

auxiliary and vessels used for non-commercial purposes. This Act also has a provision to extend it further in future for these vessels also.

The Government of India is very much interested in encouraging the development of sea ports. I come from Visakhapatnam where there is a major sea port. When another port was proposed near Visakhapatnam at a distance of 20 kms. I had a doubt whether it would affect the performance of Visakhapatnam port. But to my surprise, both the ports are doing very well. So, there is no problem if any port is established nearby.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has 974 kms. long coastline, next only to the State of Gujarat in terms of length. We have one major port, and three ports in private sector in operation now. Our State Government led by hon. Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu, is very much interested in developing more number of ports on the coast.

As mentioned by the Member who spoke before me, the Andhra Pradesh (Reorganisation) Act provides for construction of a major port in Andhra Pradesh at Dugarajapatnam. I would request the Government of India to extend assistance for establishing ports at Ramayapatnam, Bhavanapadu, Kalingapatnam, etc.

I would like to mention here that in the GST Council there was a discussion about the jurisdiction of levying taxes on the transactions

made in the territorial waters. I think this issue is also being resolved amicably by the GST Council and the GST is going to be implemented soon. And if any dispute arises, that can be resolved as per this procedure.

With these few words, I conclude and support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you allowed me to speak on the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill 2016. Thank you very much.

I support this Bill. Through this Bill, the Government is working in the direction of changing the law that has been in place since the time of the British rule. This was a very old demand and was also recommended by the Law Commission in its 151st report, and the Supreme Court has already shown the need for this law.

As yet the law of the Navy governs maritime questions and crimes in this matter. Now this law will end the complexity and cases related to common citizens will be free for the courts to take appropriate action.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one main point that smuggling, supply of arms, and terrorist activities are

facilitated through sea routes. There is a need to completely control this and there should be a provision for giving the harshest punishment to any person involved in this act, even if he is a foreigner.

Recently a fisherman was brutally assassinated on the coast of Tamil Nadu. Many such cases keep coming up. These cases keep happening particularly in the maritime area of Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

15.00 hours

The provisions in the law to settle such cases should also be kept in mind. Especially with the fishermen, when there is no limit in the sea and the fishermen cross their limits, many types of incidents happen to them. In this regard, Minister should say that there should be some limitations for the fishermen so that the incidents that are happening in front of us do not happen.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on and endorse the Admiralty Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims Bill, 2016.

Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon. Shri Nitin Gadkari and Shri Mansukh Mandaviya that in their two-and-a-half-year tenure, they have brought about a huge change, a huge revolution in this field. I feel sad that during the British rule, the then Bombay, now Mumbai might have had High Courts like Calcutta and Madras to solve the problems of all these people. But after so many years, despite the formation of High Courts in all the States of our country, we did not amend the Act. Therefore, all these people had to go to these three courts to find justice and solutions to their problems.

I am also saddened by the fact that after such a long time since independence, after the intervention of the Supreme Court, in the judgment of M V Elizabeth and Others versus Harwan Investment and Trading Private Limited in 1992, it was said that a new act namely Admiralty Act, should be made. When it comes to 1992, particularly when I got elected as a Municipal Servant in the Mumbai Municipal Corporation for the first time. Twenty Five years of my representative life have been completed. Today, after 25 years of the Supreme

Court's intervention in this Act, we will pass this Act and will work to provide justice to the people of our country.

I would like to thank Hon. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab because when this Act was presented in the Parliament in the year 2005, I was sitting and thinking that from the year 2004 to 2014, there was the UPA Government and this law was drafted in the Government of Atal Ji. Atal Ji drafted the law 25 years ago, we are passing that law once again under the NDA Government of Narendra Modi as the Hon. Prime Minister, it is a matter of great honour and pride for a worker like me. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab was also expressing his sorrow as to why it took 25 years, so I once again remembered Shri Narendra Modi ji. They said many times that it was written in their destiny to do good work in this country, and that is why they were able to do this work. This is a matter of great joy for workers like us. By making changes in these four laws of 1861, 1890, 1891, and 1865, now we can go to all the High Courts in our country, such a provision is being made through this Bill. This is a matter of great happiness.

Not only our country, but all the countries of the world have accepted that water transport is the cheapest transport. Despite this, the amount of consideration that should be given to this area by the Government has not been given. We have to accept that as much

progress as we could have made in this area has not been made. During his tenure of two and half years, a report came in that the shipping industry has undergone such a huge change, whether it is the officers or the employees working in this sector, a huge change has taken place in the country's revenue also through Shri Nitin and Shri Mansukh. I believe that after passing this Bill, we will be able to move forward at a very fast pace in the coming days.

While passing this Bill, I would like to request the Hon. Minister. It is possible that when this Act was made during the British era, the name of Bombay High Court was also Bombay High Court. After a lot of efforts, the representative of the area I represent, Ram Naik Ji, had proposed through a Private Member Bill in this very Parliament that the name of Bombay should be changed to Mumbai, and after the Government accepted it, all the procedures were completed. Only the Bombay High Court is referred to as the Bombay High Court. Maybe because this was the Bill of those days, you might have had to mention it - Bombay High Court, but while making the new Bill, I would like it to be drafted by the Mumbai High Court. Now even the name of Madras has become Chennai. We will have to look at all these changes very closely and minutely in the coming days.

Although Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab agrees with many positive views of our party, when the Hon. Minister mentioned Hindustan three times while presenting the Bill, perhaps they did not like it. I would like to thank the Minister for mentioning it thrice and for fulfilling the quota of half a dozen by saying it three more times while passing the Bill.

We are passing this Bill after 25 years of the Supreme Court Judgment of 1992. I would also like to predict that in the next 25 years, whatever Bill will be presented in this Parliament, the name of Hindustan will be mentioned in it. That is the change. In democracy, we work for change, to enhance the dignity of our country. Hindustan is not a product of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Sangh Parivar or the Jana Sangh. Hindustan has been mentioned in this country and the world since time immemorial.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, You are giving me the signal to finish. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister once again that when this Bill is passed, there will be a big change for the people associated with the maritime sector, but it is a matter of relief for workers like us that the Minister mentioned Hindustan which was commented upon by Bhartruhari Mahtab Ji. I got the opportunity to express my feelings here by adding the word Hindustan, for this I would like to thank the Hon. Minister and Hon.

Nitin Ji very much. They have presented a very revolutionary Bill in this Lok Sabha. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

I fully support the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims), 2016 as it repeals the outdated colonial legislation and brings in a sovereign legislation of our country in respect of maritime laws as well as admiralty jurisdiction.

Sir, the enactment of this legislation is a typical example of the inordinate delay in the enactment of statutes and this Bill has been in the making for the last 30 years. Almost all the learned Members have already stated in the House that it is seen that after Independence the Parliament did not exercise the powers to make law with respect to admiralty courts and maritime disputes. We are fully depending on the colonial legislations of 1840 and 1861 and such colonial legislations were being pursued in the resolution of disputes of maritime claims. All these colonial legislations were restricting the jurisdiction in respect of maritime claims to three High Courts namely, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and the coastal States have been ignored. It is very well known that in the year 1986 a Committee

had been constituted under Shri Parveen Singh and the Committee had recommended very specifically that a comprehensive legislation is required in respect of admiralty law. Further, as the hon. Member has just now rightly said, the Supreme Court in the year 1992, in *M.V. Elisabeth and Others versus Harwan Investment and Trading Private Limited* case, very specifically stated that the High Courts are having inherent and unlimited jurisdiction so as to address these issues. So, the High Court cannot be frozen on the basis of a single reason that we are having a colonial legislation of 1861 and so the High Court cannot be stopped from dealing with these issues. This was the direction given by the hon. Supreme Court in the year 1992. Even after this, the Supreme Court directly stated that enactment of a suitable legislation regarding admiralty jurisdiction and settlement of maritime claims is highly essential. This was the verdict of the Supreme Court in 1992.

Sir, you will appreciate that the 151st Report of the Law Commission also said the same thing that a suitable, comprehensive legislation in respect of admiralty jurisdiction as well as settlement of maritime claims is highly essential. But even after 20 years we have not been able to enact legislation by this Parliament. It is quite unfortunate and it is an example of ineffective functioning of the

parliamentary democratic system in our country. That is why, I would like to state that it is a typical example as to how the Parliament is not able to function in tune with the changing laws and in tune with the changing international situation. Anyway, it is better late than never. So, I appreciate this initiative and I wholeheartedly support this Bill.

I am coming to the facts of the case. It is also well-known that India is a maritime nation and maritime transportation caters to about 95 per cent of its merchandise trade volume. But the present statutory framework is not sufficient to meet the purpose. Therefore, for the expedient and efficient disposal of maritime disputes, a comprehensive legislation is required.

Sir, coming to the Bill, I would like to suggest two-three points. The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on all High Courts located in the coastal States of India. The jurisdiction extends up to the territorial water. The jurisdiction can be extended to the exclusive economic zone or any maritime zone of India or islands of Indian territory by means of a notification. Also, it applies to all vessels irrespective of place of residence or domicile of ownership.

Sir, here, my strong objection is regarding the jurisdiction. What is the purpose of this Bill? We are repealing the Colonial Legislation and making a sovereign Bill. When we make a sovereign Bill, when

the Parliament passes a legislation, it should not be vague; it should be absolute and clear. But unfortunately clause 1 and clause 3 of the Bill are not clear. Clause 1 and clause 3 of the Bill deal with the admiralty jurisdiction. Clause 1 of the Bill says that the admiralty jurisdiction means that it shall apply to every vessel, irrespective of the place of residence or domicile of the owner. Subsequently, the proviso says that it shall not be applicable to an inland vessels under Inland Vessels Act, 1917 or a vessel under construction, naval warship, foreign vessels etc. Okay, I do agree. It is applicable to all vessels, which is the first part of clause 1. Then, the proviso says that it is not applicable to these vessels. Subsequently, the same provision says that 'but it can be made applicable if there is a notification by the Government of India.'

Sir, how can it be? What is the drafting of this legislation? Then, why the Parliament is being put in darkness? That is my question. If the Government wants to make it applicable to all the vessels, including the foreign vessels and vessels under construction, inland vessels, why is the Bill giving the exemplary authority to the Government through a notification? So, the sole purpose of this legislation is to fix the admiralty jurisdiction in respect of the vessels. What are the vessels, which are involved? Why does the Government

not come with a clear hand and say that it would like to have this and this vessel?

Regarding the territorial jurisdiction also, it is being said in clause 3: ‘Subject to the provisions of Sections 4 and 5, the jurisdiction is in respect of the territorial waters.’ It is confining to the territorial water; I do agree. Subsequently, the proviso says:

“Provided that the Union Government may by notification, extend the jurisdiction of the High Court up to the limit as defined in section 2 of the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976.”

Sir, what for the Parliament is there? I would like to describe it that this is a legislation by means of a notification. The entire legislative process has to be done by the Parliament. Here, who is going to fix the jurisdiction? It is the Executive, by means of a notification. Which vessel is involved and what is the territorial jurisdiction, is not being determined by the Parliament, but it is being determined by the Executive. So, my point is that it is not a fair practice of legislative process. Sir, all this was regarding the civil liability.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude, now.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Now, regarding the criminal liability, in my Constituency, everybody is well aware of the “Enrica Lexie Incident” where two Indian fishermen were killed by the Italian Marines, and the case is going on.

My submission to the Government is that though the Bill is absolutely in respect of civil liability, I do agree, but in respect of fixing up the criminal liability in the crimes, which are being in the territorial waters and in the exclusive economic zones, some specific legislation is required. I am saying so because in the Italian Marine Case, what has happened?

HON. DEPUTY-SPEKAER: No, it is not connected with this Bill. Now, I am calling the hon. Minister.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, one second. About the Italian Marine case the SUA Act was applicable. But the SUA Act has been taken away. Now, it is being taken in the international forum, and the Italian Marines have gone to the Italy. Last time, when the UPA Government was there, these people had blamed them that they were supporting the Italian Government. Therefore, my submission is that stringent action has to be taken to see that the Italian marines, those who have killed the poor fishermen of our country, are punished.

With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims), 2016 was discussed in detail here. I am happy that all the members have supported this Bill. Even when this Bill was made, we were concerned about it, so it was sent to the Standing Committee and we included the suggestions of the committee given in this Bill. After that DG Shipping notified it and after thirteen days, suggestions were to be given on it, we have also received his suggestion. After this, after detailed consultation with the stakeholders, we have brought this Bill into the House today.

Many Hon. Members expressed their views on this Bill and also gave some suggestions. When we prepare the rules, we will include their suggestions. The purpose of bringing this Bill is that the claims within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty should not be left out and no damage should be done. Along with this, the confusion that used to arise due to the old laws that could not be acted upon should also end and the stakeholders should get justice on their maritime claims. It was also mentioned here that till now these claims were made in three High Courts and everyone had to go there. Due to this, there was a lot of workload in those Three High Courts.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Mahtab Ji raised a point that claims are still pending in these three High Courts, hence the burden on them should also be reduced. To reduce this, the issue in the coastal area of the State should go to the High Court of that State. Just now the Hon. Member said that the old law has been in force for many years, hence it needs to be abolished. These laws were from the time of England and were made according to the situation prevailing at that time. Now the situation has changed and hence the law has been changed in detail to suit this changed situation. This will give the public and people working in the shipping sector the right to get justice. Now, there are many types of claims like there is a partnership under the owner and any problem may arise between partners also. When there is income, there are claims at the time of sharing it too. Sometimes if a company or ship is in profit or loss, then there is a problem at the time of its sharing. A claim can also be made in respect of a mortgage. When an accident occurs, that situation also includes claims. When a person associated with shipping is on the ship and faces any problem, claims are also made in respect of personal problems. Similarly, when cargo is transported and if it gets damaged, the person who has ordered the goods can also make a claim. Apart from this, many claims are made concerning the environment, claims are also made concerning toys.

When bunker fuel is in the ship, a claim can be made in that regard also. In many such situations, there are claims, so how do we find a solution to it? We have described it in detail in the close form, like what claims can be made through which he can get justice. We have also made provision for it in detail. Here, during the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the civil liability that occurs due to pollution has been provisioned under the Pollution Merchant Shipping Act 1958. He also asked what would happen in repeal. What do you have to say regarding repeal? I would like to tell the Hon. Member that this Act has been discussed in detail with the Law Ministry only in the context of repeal in the Admiralty.

You have also said that you have not kept detailed information regarding the claim, but it happens that there are three different High Courts and claims are made from their respective sides. The information about that claim remains with the High Court. So we don't have that, but it is likely to be less than what the claim Bill is. You also said that in the EEZ, the provision made in the Indian Act regarding the maritime zone and Hon. Narendra Keshav Sawaikar also while discussing in his Bill said that there is talk of building 6 deep sea ports, they When will it be made? In the context of seaports, let us say that today there are 12 major seaports in the country under

the Sagarmala scheme, but along with them, we are going to build 6 more ports. Along with that, we are also working on upgrading all the ports that we currently have and how to utilize them effectively. Along with this, to increase port connectivity, under the Sagarmala scheme for rail connectivity and national highway connectivity, we are going to spend Rs 8 lakh crore and work on port development in the entire country.

Shri Kalyan Banerjee also presented their topic in detail. One of his suggestions was that concerning hazardous materials, Environmental pollution by vessels is covered under Clause 4(u) of the Bill. We have also made a provision here regarding what is hazardous in Section 4 of the Bill and when it causes marine pollution. Here Mahtab Ji also expressed his views during the discussion and they said that you have used the word Hindustan. We have done that as an alternative. But I welcome it. India has been called Hindustan for centuries. That's why we have also used it. But you also raised the issue of how to reduce the burden on the pending cases in the present court. Therefore, I will be happy to tell you that a provision has also been made in the Bill that if the High Court of the 9th State gets the power, then automatically, the subjects of which state and areas belong to them, these subjects will go to the High

Court. Along with that, you have also raised the issue that in case of loss of life and accident or personal loss to someone, it should be given priority. We have also discussed in detail that we have given priority to wages. We have also taken care of the sweepers working on a wage basis and how to get immediate payment to the people doing the work. After that we have maintained that if ever there is any personal loss to anyone, we have taken it on second priority.

In the third priority, we have taken the Government responsibility on it, so that people get proper justice. We can support those individuals who have lost their lives well under this Bill and the Government will have a permanent desire to help them. Shri Narasimham has also expressed his views regarding the training institute. In the context of Maritime University, there is a training institute at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, but that is not the subject of the Bill. If they want to start such an institute, they can give their application from Maritime University, Chennai. KV Reddy Ji participated in this discussion. They said that the Outer Harbour, how many ships are there in the outer harbours for want of the admiralty laws. No. Sir, the ship keeps moving. In that context, we are taking it up in detail. Along with this, A. Sawant Ji, Vinayak Raut Ji, Y.V. Subba Reddy Ji, Dr. K. Hari Babu Ji, Kaushalendra Kumar Ji, Gopal

Shetty Ji, N.K. Premachandran Ji and Narendra Keshav Sawaikar Ji, all participated in this discussion and gave their views and suggestions. When the rules for this Bill are made, we will try to include them in detail.

Overall, about this Bill, I expect that just as all of you have supported this Bill, in the same way, admiralty (jurisdiction and settlement of maritime claims), in 2016, will be passed by common consensus.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction, legal proceedings in connection with vessels, their arrest, detention, sale and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

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

Clause 2 Definitions

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving Amendment No. 4 to Clause 2?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Yes Sir, I beg to move:

“Page 2, line 15, -

after “animals”

insert “birds,” (4)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 4 to Clause 2 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause Inter-se priority on maritime lien**9**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving Amendment Nos. 5 and 6 to Clause 9?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Yes Sir, I am moving only amendment no. 5. I beg to move:

“Page 5, line 44, -

omit “direct” (5)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 5 to Clause 9 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendments was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 and 11 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 12 Application of Code of civil
procedure**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving Amendment No. 7 to Clause 12?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): No Sir, I am not moving the rest of amendments.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 12 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 13 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Power to make rules.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving Amendment No. 8 to Clause 16?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: No Sir, I am not moving the rest of my amendments.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 16 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17

Repeal and savings

Amendment made:

Page 8, *for* lines 8 to 13, -

‘Repeal and savings,	17.(1)The application in India of the following enactments are hereby repealed -	
	(a) the Admiralty Court Act, 1840; (b) the Admiralty Court Act, 1861; (c) the Colonial Court of Admiralty Act, 1890;	3&4 Vict., c. 65 24 &25 Vict., c.10 53 & 54 Vict., c.27

Clause 1	Short title, application and commencement
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Amendment made:

“Page 1, line 6—

For "2016"

substitute “2017”.”

(Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

“Page 1, line 1, --

for “sixty-seventh”

substitute “sixty-eight”.”

(Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

15.30 hours**MOTION RE: 26TH TO 30TH REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up Private Members' Business.

Item No. 18 – Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[Translation]

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

“That this House do agree with the 26th, 27th, 28th, and 30th Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd and 30th November and 7th December, 2016 and the 3rd February and 9th March, 2017, respectively, subject to modifications that -

- (i) para 6 and sub-para (iii) of para 7 of the 26th Report;
 - (ii) para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of the 28th Report; and
 - (iii) para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of the 29th Report,
- relating to the allocation of time to resolutions, be omitted."

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Reports of the Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd and 30th November and 7th December, 2016 and the 3rd February and 9th March, 2017, respectively, subject to modifications that—

- (i) para 6 and sub-para (iii) of para 7 of the Twenty-sixth Report;
- (ii) para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of the Twenty-eighth; and
- (iii) para 4 and sub-para (ii) of para 5 of the Twenty-ninth Report, relating to allocation of time to resolutions, be omitted.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up Bills for introduction.

15.31 hours

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS- Introduced

(i) Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.19—Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Comptroller and Auditor General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: I introduce** the Bill.

** Introduced with Recommendation of the President.

15.31 ½ hours**(ii) Witness Protection Program Bill, 2016***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.52—Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of witness in criminal proceedings and enhance the ability of the witness to give testimony in a judicial proceeding or to cooperate with law enforcement without fear of intimidation or reprisal.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of witness in criminal proceedings and enhance the ability of the witness to give testimony in a judicial proceeding or to cooperate with law enforcement without fear of intimidation or reprisal.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.32 hours**(iv) Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of section 3, etc.)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No.53—Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2011.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 ½ hours**(iv) Treatment of Terminally-ill Patients Bill, 2016***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No.71—Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of patients and medical practitioners from criminal offences arising from withdrawing life-saving procedures or assisting for the right of a dignified death.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of patients and medical practitioners from criminal offences arising from withdrawing life-saving procedures or assisting for the right of a dignified death.”

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No.20—Shri Yogi Adityanath—Not present.

Item No.21 – Shri Yogi Adityanath – Not present.

15.33 hours**(v) Orphan Child (Provision of Social Security) Bill, 2016***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.22 – Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for social security and welfare measures to orphan children and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for social security and welfare measures to orphan children and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.33 ¼ hours

(vi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

(Amendment of article 134)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.172 – Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 ½ hours**(vii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of article 309)***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.23 - Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.34 hours**(viii) Working Elephants (Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2016***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.24 - Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the protection and welfare of working elephants and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for the protection and welfare of working elephants and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 ¼ hours

(ix) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016

*(Amendment of article 80) **

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.25 - Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.34 ½ hours

**(x) Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research
(Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Insertion of new section 39)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.26 - Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Act, 2011.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Act, 2011.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hours**(xi) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Insertion of new Part XA)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.27 – Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.35 ½ hours

(xii) Population Control Bill, 2016*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.28 – Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for population control and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for population control and for matters connected therewith”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hours**(xiii) Import of Consumer Goods (Regulation) Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for institutional mechanism to regulate import of consumer goods to cause harm to the well being of citizens.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for an institutional mechanism to regulate import of consumer goods having potential to cause harm to the well being of citizens.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 29. Shri Shailesh Kumar –
Not present.

Item No. 30. Shri Maheish Giri – Not present.

Item Nos. 31 to 34. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri – Not present.

Item Nos. 35-36. Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao – Not present.

15.36 ½ hours

(xiv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Insertion of new section 376F)

HON. SPEAKER: Item No.37 – Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.37 hours

(xv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of article 243D)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.38 – Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 ¼ hours**(xvi) Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the overall development of youth in the country and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive policy for the overall development of youth in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 40 and 41, Dr. Bhola Singh -- not present.

Item No. 42, Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria -- not present.

Item Nos. 43 and 44, Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal -- not present.

Item No. 45, Shri Dushyant Chautala.

15.37 ½ hours

(xvii) Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 304A, etc.)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.38 hours**(xviii) Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of section 126)***

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 ¼ hours

**(xix) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
(Amendment) Bill, 2016***
(Amendment of section 42)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce* the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President

15.38 ½ hours**(xx) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of article 15, etc.)

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 49, 50 and 51, Shri Maheish Girri -- not present.

Item No. 54, Dr. Udit Raj.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.39 hours**(xxi) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee
(Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of Schedule I)***

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.39 ½ hours**(xxii) Integrated Child Development Services (Regularisation)
Bill, 2016***

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization and universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization and universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ : I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.40 hours**(xxiii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of article 338)***

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.40 ½ hours

(xxiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of article 312)

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.41 hours**(xxv) Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of sections 12A and 12B)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 59, Shrimati Rama Devi -- not present.

Item Nos. 60 and 61, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh -- not present.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.41 ½ hours

(xxvi) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 11, etc.)

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.42 hours**(xxvii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Insertion of new article 21B)***

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.42 ½ hours

(xxviii) Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Substitution of new section for section 4)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.43 hours**(xxix) Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of the First Schedule)***

[English]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.43 ½ hours**(xxx) Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of section 2)***

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. ”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

15.44 hours**(xxxi)Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production,Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of sections 4 and 6)

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003Protection Act.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

The motion was adopted.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 ½ hours**(xxxii) Hindu Minority and Guardianship (Amendment) Bill,
2016***

(Amendment of sections 6 and 7)

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.45 hours**(xxxiii) Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of section 10, etc.)

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45 ½ hours

(xxxiv)Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Insertion of new section 32A)

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.46 hours**(xxxv)National Law Universities of India Bill, 2016***

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to establish, incorporate and declare certain law universities to be law universities of national importance.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to establish, incorporate and declare certain law universities to be law universities of national importance.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.46 ½ hours

(xxxvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Insertion of new articles 243EA and 243UA)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.47 hours**(xxxvii) Gauhati High Court (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Silchar) Bill, 2016***

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Silchar.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Silchar.”

The motion was adopted.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 ½ hours

**(xxxviii) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
(Amendment) Bill, 2016***
(Amendment of section 1, etc.)

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

15.48 hours**(xxxix) Cow Protection Authority Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an authority and similar authorities at the State level for the protection of cow and its offspring in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48 ½ hours

(xl) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of article 51A)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill

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HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item Nos. 77, 78 and 79, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – Not present.

15.49 hours

(xli) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of article 370)

[Translation]

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE (SHIRDI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49 ½ hours

(xlii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Omission of article 44, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE (SHIRDI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.50 hours**(xlili) National Board for Welfare of Flood Victims Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a national board for welfare of flood victims by suggest flood control measures by providing permanent shelters to flood victims, suggest measures to control floods and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a national board for welfare of flood victims by making provision of providing permanent shelters to flood victims and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 ½ hours

(xliv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 370A)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1960.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hours**(xlv) Central Anti-Slavery Agency Bill, 2016***

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Central Anti-Slavery Agency to prohibit the practice of slavery, bonded labour and human trafficking and to rehabilitate the victims.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Central Anti-Slavery Agency to prohibit the practice of slavery, bonded labour and human trafficking and to rehabilitate the victims.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.51 ½ hours**(xlvi) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Caste-Based Discrimination in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to effectively prevent caste-based discrimination in educational institutions and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to effectively prevent the caste-based discrimination in educational institutions.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.52 hours**(xlvii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of article 72)***

[Translation]

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

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.52 ½ hours

(xlviii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Insertion of new article 370A)

[Translation]

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

[English]

ON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 88, 89, and 90 Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena – Not present

15.53 hours

(xlix) Anti-Discrimination and Equality Bill, 2016*

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ensure equality to every citizen of the country by providing protection against all forms of social discrimination.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to ensure equality to every citizen of the country by providing protection against all forms of social discrimination.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.53 ½ hours**(I) Protection of Traditional Knowledge Bill, 2016***

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection, preservation, promotion and development of India's Traditional Knowledge.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection, preservation, promotion and development of India's Traditional Knowledge.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 93 Shri Ninong Ering – Not present.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.54 hours**(li) Designation of States as Sponsor of Terrorism Bill, 2017***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to designate certain States as sponsors of terrorism to provide for the withdrawal of trade relations with such States to create legal economic and travel sanctions for the citizens of such States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to designate certain States as sponsors of terrorism to provide for the withdrawal of trade relations with such States to create legal economic and travel sanctions for the citizens of such States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.55 hours

(lii) Indian penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016¹*

(Amendment of section 304A)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 96, 97, 98 and 99 Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel – Not present

¹* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.56 hours**(liii) Protection of Speech and Reputation Bill, 2016***

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to balance the right to personal reputation within the right to free speech by providing for repeal of the substantive offence of defamation and its punishments; consolidate the common law relating to civil defamation; comprehensively provide for the protection of speech and reputation.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to balance the right to personal reputation within the right to free speech by providing for repeal of the substantive offence of defamation and its punishments; consolidate the common law relating to civil defamation; comprehensively provide for the protection of speech and reputation.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 101, 102, 103 and 104 Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar – Not present.

15.57 hours**(liv) Welfare of Families of Defence Personnel Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a fund for the welfare of the families of defence personnel who are killed by the enemy or terrorist action or get seriously injured during such action.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a fund for the welfare of families of defence personnel who are killed by enemy or terrorist action or get seriously injured during such action.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.58 hours

(lv) Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 12)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonment Act, 2006.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

15.59 hours**(Ivi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

*(Amendment of article 16) ***

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.00 hours

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 108 to 111. Shri Rajesh Ranjan- not present.

Item No. 112. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

(lvii) Old Age Pension Bill, 2016*

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRO PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pensions to old age citizens.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension to old age citizens.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAIRO PRASAD MISHRA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.01 hours**(lviii) Child Development Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI BHAIRO PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the all-round development of children.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for all-round development of children.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAIRO PRASAD MISHRA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 114. Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria- not present.

Item No. 115. Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.01 ½ hours**(lix) Special Courts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Special Courts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country and matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of special courts for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country and for matters concerned therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.02 hours**(lx) Prevention of Atrocities on Women Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of atrocities against women in the country, to specify Special Courts for the trial of offences committed against women and for the relief and rehabilitation of victims of such offences and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent atrocities against women in the country, to specify Special Courts for the trial of offences committed against women and for the relief and rehabilitation of victims of such offences and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.02 ½ hours**(lxi) Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 118. Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi- not present.

Item No. 119. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.03 hours**(lxii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Amendment of article 124, etc)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 120 to 122. Shrimati Rama Devi. Not Present.

Item No. 123. Shrimati Supriya Sule.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.03 ½ hours**(lxiii) Special Courts for Trial of Offences against Women Bill,
2016***

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of special courts for trial of cases of offences of sexual violence against women in order to ensure speedy disposal of such cases and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of special courts for trial of cases of offences of sexual violence against women in order to ensure speedy disposal of such cases and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.04 hours**(Ixiv) Free and Compulsory Secondary and Senior Secondary
Education Bill, 2016***

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide free and compulsory secondary and senior secondary education to all children and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free and compulsory secondary and senior secondary education to all children and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.04 ½ hours

(lxv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of section 292, etc.)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.04 ¾ hours**(lxvi) Higher Educational Institutions (Regulation of Fee) *Bill,
2017**

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of fee in higher educational institutions with a view to make higher education accessible to all and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of fee in higher educational institutions with a view to make higher education accessible to all and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.05 hours**(lxvii) Drugs (Price Control) Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a committee for fixing the prices of drugs and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a committee for fixing the prices of drugs and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, item No. 127- Shri A.T. Nana Patil – not present; item No. 128 – Shri Ravneet Singh – not present.

Item No. 129 – Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.05 ½ hours**(lxviii) Compulsory Mental Healthcare Counselling Facilities in Government Schools Bill, 2016***

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide compulsory mental healthcare counselling facilities in Government schools and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide compulsory mental healthcare counselling facilities in Government schools and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.06 hours

(IxiX) Inclusion of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Persons Living Below Poverty Line Category Bill, 2016*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to include the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the below poverty line category.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to include the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the below poverty line category.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 131, Shri Ravneet Singh – not present.

Item No. 135, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.06 ½ hours**(lxx) Public Liability for Non-nuclear Industrial Mishap Bill,
2016***

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for stringent punishment and adequate compensation for non-nuclear industrial accidents in the country and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for stringent punishment and adequate compensation for non-nuclear industrial mishaps in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.07 hours**(lxxi) Marriages (Compulsory Registration and Prevention of Wasteful Expenditure) Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for excessive and reductive expenditure in marriages and simple solemnization of marriages, compulsory registration of all marriages solemnized in the country and prevention of wastage of food items during marriage ceremonies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the simple solemnisation of marriages by prohibiting extravagant and wasteful expenditure and show of wealth on marriages; for the compulsory registration of all marriages solemnised in the country, and for prevention of wastage of food items during marriage functions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.07 ½ hours**(lxxii) Waste Management and Recycling Bill, 2016***

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for ascertaining of current status of waste generation and its disposal; financial assistance for research and development in waste management; charges for waste disposal facilities; duties of citizens for segregating waste; prohibition on dumping waste; preparation of master plans for waste management; disposal of household, commercial and imported wastes; regulation of waste management business, promotion of recycling and reuse of waste resource and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for ascertaining of current status of waste generation and its disposal; financial assistance for research and development in waste management; charges for waste disposal facilities; duties of citizens for segregating waste; prohibition on dumping waste; preparation of master plans for waste

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

management; disposal of household, commercial and imported wastes; regulation of waste management business, promotion of recycling and reuse of waste resource and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. RICHARD HAY: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 hours**(lxxiii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016****(Amendment of article 124, etc)**[Translation]*

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.08 ½ hours**(lxxiv) Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2016***

(Insertion of new section 35, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.09 hours*[English]***(lxxv) Right to Privacy of Personal Data Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide right to privacy of personal data to all individuals in the country, to establish liability of the organisations holding personal data as well as the appropriate Government in case of misuse of such personal data, creation of a National Do-Not-Disturb Registry to ensure that individuals are not harassed by organisations and creating awareness among individuals for protection of their personal data and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to provide for the right to privacy of personal data to all individuals in the country; establish the liability of the organizations holding personal data as well as the appropriate Government in case of

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misuse of such personal data; creation of a National Do-Not-Disturb Registry to ensure that individuals are not harassed by organisations and creating awareness among individuals for protection of their personal data and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.10 hours**(lxxvi) Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of section 5)***

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.10 ½ hours**(lxxvii) Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of sections 4 and 5)***

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.43. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadia – Not present.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.11 hours**(lxxviii) International Treaties and Agreements****(Equal Representation of Women) Bill, 2017***

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ensure equal participation of men and women in representing the Government of India while entering into any international treaty, agreement, covenant, resolution or negotiation, including those relating to war or peace, in order to uphold the values of international human rights and convention to which India is a signatory.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to ensure equal participation of men and women in representing the Government of India while entering into any international treaty, agreement, covenant, resolution or negotiation, including those relating to war or peace, in order to uphold the values of international human rights and convention to which India is a signatory.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I introduce the Bill.

16.12 hours**(lxxix) Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2017***

(Amendment of section 197)

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.12 ½ hours**(lxxx) Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment)
Bill, 2017******(Amendment of section 2)****[Translation]*

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.13 hours**(lxxxi) Armed Forces (Special Powers) Repeal Bill, 2017***

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.13 ½ hours**(lxxxii) Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2017******(Amendment of section 3)***

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM BIRLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.14 hours**(lxxxiii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017******(Insertion of new article 220A)***

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.14 ½ hours

(lxxxiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

(Amendment of Seventh Schedule)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.15 hours**(lxxxv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017******(Amendment of articles 217 and 224)***

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.15 ½ hours**(lxxxvi) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment)****Bill, 2016******(Amendment of the Schedules)***

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 and the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956 and the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962.”

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 10.03.17.

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.152, Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato – not present.

Item No.153, Shri Arvind Sawant – not present.

16.16 hours**(lxxxvii) Establishment of Labour Exchanges Bill, 2017***

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish Labour Exchanges to regulate the employment of unprotected manual workers engaged in the unorganized sector; to make better provision for their terms and conditions of employment; to provide for their welfare, and for health and safety measures where such employments require these measures; to make provision for ensuring an adequate supply to and full and proper utilization of such workers in such employments to prevent avoidable unemployment; to provide for the establishment of Labour Exchange Boards in respect of these employments and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish Labour Exchanges to regulate the employment of unprotected manual workers engaged in the unorganized

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

sector; to make better provision for their terms and conditions of employment; to provide for their welfare, and for health and safety measures where such employments require these measures; to make provision for ensuring an adequate supply to and full and proper utilization of such workers in such employments to prevent avoidable unemployment; to provide for the establishment of Labour Exchange Boards in respect of these employments and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I introduce the Bill.

16.16 ½ hours**(lxxxviii) Regulation of International Treaties,
Agreements, Conventions and Covenants Bill, 2017***

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the manner in which the Union Government shall enter into and implement any international treaty, agreement, convention or covenant with foreign countries and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the manner in which the Union Government shall enter into and implement any international treaty, agreement, convention or covenant with foreign countries and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.17 hours**(lxxxix) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017******(Amendment of article 253)***

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 10.03.17.

16.17 ½ hours**(xc) Plastic Recycling Bill, 2017****[Translation]*

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for segregation and recycling of plastic items; use of recyclable plastic in recycling units and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the segregation and recycling of plastic item; use of re-cyclable plastic in recycle units and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.18 hours**(xci) Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2017******(Insertion of Chapter IVD)***

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 10.03.17.

16.18 ½ hours

(xcii) National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

(Amendment of section 3D)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Act, 1956.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.19 hours**(xciii) Representation of People (Amendment) Bill, 2017******(Insertion of new section 8B)***

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 162, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy – not present.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 10.03.17.

Item No. 163, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy – not present.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item no. 164.

16.20 hours

(xciv)Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

(Amendment of article 348)

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM BIRLA: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item No. 165.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh – Not present

Item No. 166.

Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh – Not present

Item No. 167.

Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh -- Not present.

Item No. 168.

Shri Ninong Ering --- Not present

Item No. 169.

Dr. Kirit Somaiya – Not present

Item. No. 170.

Dr. Manoj Rajoria – Not present

Item No. 171.

Dr. Manoj Rajoria – Not present

16.20 ½ hours**(xcv) Special Financial Assistance to Victims of Terror Attacks
Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the victims of terror attacks in the country and matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the victims of terror attacks in the country for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: I introduce the Bill**

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

16.21 hours**(xcvi) Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2016******(Amendment of section 2, etc.)****[Translation]*

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: I introduce the Bill. **

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

16.21 ½ hours

(xcvii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016*

(Amendment of article 15)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

16.22 hours**(xcviii) Maintenance of Cleanliness Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit littering, spitting and urinating in public places so as to ensure maintenance of clean hygienic and healthy atmosphere in and around the public place and for matters connected therewith

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit littering, spitting and urinating in public places so as to ensure maintenance of clean hygienic and healthy atmosphere in and around the public place and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.03.2017.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 174.

Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi – Not present.

The House will now take up Item no. 175 – Further consideration and passing of the motion moved by Shri Vincent H. Pala on 5th August 2016.

Shri P.D. Rai – Not present.

Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

16.24 hours**SIXTH SCHEDULE TO****CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015****SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):**

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my esteemed colleague has already introduced a legislative document under the nomenclature 'Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016'. He has made an elaborate presentation on the Bill.

Sir, the amendments were sought after with regard to the increasing number of members in the District Council from 30 to 40 as was originally envisaged in the Constitution and secondly also to bring traditional occupation of tribals into mines and minerals under the legislative competence of the District Council and protect customary practices and interests of tribals.

Sir, I may remind you that the Sixth Schedule was born in the womb of the Constituent Assembly. It emerged after a long debate that took place in the Constituent Assembly. In that historical debate, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru moved objectives Resolution which was adopted on 22nd January 1947. The Resolution actually shaped the making of the Constitution and that Resolution proclaimed that India would be an Independent, Sovereign, Democratic Republic wherein

inter-alia adequate safeguards shall be provided for the minorities, backward and tribal areas, depressed and other backward classes.

Sir, in pursuance to the noble and holy aspects of our Constitution, the Sixth Schedule was born and in the Constituent Assembly, a Sub-Committee was formed led by no other than Gopinath Bordoloi and other prominent personalities.

Their objective is to protect the culture, the customs, practices of the tribals of our country. Especially the Sub-Committee was constituted for the interest of the tribal population of the North-Eastern Region. Thereafter, we got adequate place for tribals in the North-Eastern Region in our Constitution.

Here, I would like to refer that tribal areas generally mean areas having preponderance of tribal population. However, the Constitution of India refers to tribal areas within the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram as those areas specified in Part I, II, IIA and III of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule. In other words, areas where provisions of Sixth Schedule are applicable are known as tribal areas. In relation to these areas, Autonomous District Councils each having not more than 30 members have been set up. These Councils serve as an instrument of self-management and have powers of legislation and administration.

Justice apart from executive, developmental and financial responsibilities, State wise details of tribal areas are given. In Part I, there are the North Cachar Hill Districts and the Karbi Anglong Districts form Part II. Khasi Hill Districts, Jaintiya Hill Districts, the Garo Hill Districts form Part IIA. The Tripura Tribal Areas Districts form Part III. Part III C comprises of the Chakma Districts, the Mara Districts and the Lai Districts.

Sir, we know that the North Eastern Region is a unique area of this country where nature has bestowed upon all its endowments but still that particular area has been lagging behind in various aspects as a result of which a sense of deprivation, isolation and frustration has gripped the psyche of the people of that particular Region. In order to meet the aspirations of the population of tribal people of North Eastern Region and also to assimilate those in the mainstream of our country, the provisions of the Sixth Schedules were visualised, conceived and actualised. Sir, 10 crore tribal population of our country have been demarcated between the Fifth Schedule and the Sixth Schedule only to preserve and protect their indigenous culture, customs, etc. Here, my esteemed friend has asked for induction of more members in the district councils from 30 to 40. I have no dispute with the demand made by my esteemed colleague. But I also urge that we need to do

introspection and relook into the functions and performance of the autonomous district councils because the purposes and objectives of the constitution of autonomous district councils sometime are seemed to have been belied upon. It has failed to meet the aspirations of the common people. Yes, there are multifarious reasons for it.

The district councils don't have the adequate financial resources which they need for the development of those respective councils. You know that the entitlement facilities, funds, etc. that are supposed to be provided through Panchayati Raj Institutions are not available with those district council areas. Naturally they are to depend on their own resources and the magnanimity of the respective States. There is a conflict of interest which is often observed between the State and the ADCs insofar as their areas of jurisdiction and other functions are concerned.

Sometime it is alleged that the power of nomination in the ADCs have been misused on several occasions. Nomination to the ADCs was given for the representatives to the minorities and the unrepresented tribes in the districts but the power of nomination is generally vested in the hands of the Governor of the State. Governors of States do not always comply with the aspiration or the opinion of the ADC.

Sir, the other issue is, the ADC has framed service rules to manage and regulate the service of their employees. Despite the rules framed by the ADC, the number of staff has increased excessively. The ADC makes appointment of teachers and other staff and increases the number of schools without providing adequate infrastructure to schools. Naturally, primary education is the area which is to be served by the ADC and it is incumbent upon the ADC. But due to various inefficiencies, it has failed to perform its job properly. Even misuse of Government funds are alleged to have been committed by the ADC, because the ADC does not have any expert inspecting officer. In the appointment of teachers, favouritism and political influence play a vital role. Such a situation has led to the decline in the standard of teaching and quality of education. I do not have any dispute with the demands made by my esteemed colleagues. But these are the issues which are often raised in various fora and I thought it prudent to draw the attention of the initiator of this legislation.

Sir, under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, ADCs are empowered to make laws relating to allotment or use of land. In Meghalaya and in the hills of Assam, no land can be mortgaged, leased, bartered, gifted or otherwise transferred by tribal people to non-tribal people without the permission of the ADC. Although the

ADC has the power to make laws for land development and land revenue, hardly any significant steps have been taken to initiate land reforms. As you know, land reforms always play a very key role, contributory role in the development of the tribal society. Not only that, land revenue collection also helps a lot to fill the coffer of the ADC. But there also, various problems crop up often because of the traditional system of Chieftain in the village. The chieftains of the villages in Meghalaya are called SIEMS and they enjoy enormous power so as to defy the diktates of the ADC. Naturally, it affects the financial resources of the ADC.

Sir, forest is also another main source ADC's income. But now the income from forest has got a severe jolt. Most of the tribal villagers depend on forest for crop cultivation and for their livelihood. The vast forests are the source of sustenance for the poor section of the tribal people of Northeast India. But relentless zooming cultivation meaning shifting cultivation, slash and burn method of cultivation, extension of zooming frontiers, cutting of timber by external interests and agencies have resulted in depletion of forest cover, depletion of forest resources and degradation of lands.

Sir, such factors contribute to the decline in revenue collected by the ADCs. Adding salt to the injury, the Supreme Court banning on

cutting timbers accompanied with illegal felling of trees and deforestation for creating agricultural land add to the woes of collecting enough revenue from the forest.

Sir, now, the ADCs should come forward with more innovative approaches. The North-Eastern Region has been touted to be turned into an area of organic farming. Instead of Jhumming, if the farmers of that area are encouraged or promoted to shift their cultivation to another area such as commercial crops or medicinal plants, they would also earn more money. This way, the need of Jhumming will get obviated, which will ultimately help generate more revenue for the ADCs.

Sir, even a study reveals that tax is an important source of the ADCs' internal income. The ADCs have framed certain regulations for the collection of taxes in their areas. The ADCs collect taxes on profession, trades, callings, employments, animals and boats, entry of goods into markets for sale and tolls on persons and goods carried in ferries. But collection of taxes was not done regularly and properly since the ADCs neither enforced the regulation strictly nor realized the amount efficiently. No attempt was also made by the ADCs to raise its revenue by exploiting its financial resources available to them. The receipt from the source of taxation was not adequate as

there were loopholes and leakages in the process of collection of the taxes. It was alleged that taxes collected by the official hardly reached the coffer of ADCs. Thus, there was an allegation of siphoning of tax amount by the concerned officials.

Sir, there is a gossip already being talked about in various forums. I do not want to humiliate anybody, but it is often alleged that the North-Eastern Region is a region, which has earned notoriety for siphoning of funds. Even the ADCs are not immune to this siphoning of funds as it is often alleged.

Sir, another issue is the appointment and succession of the Tribal Chiefs. It is an important item of legislation for the ADCs. Only the ADC in Mizoram abolished the chieftainship. But in other areas like the Garo Hills and Khasi Hills Regions in Meghalaya, they always recognized these institutions. As I said earlier also, the SIEMS, that is, chieftain of the village in Meghalaya, who often enjoyed, the influence as a traditional chief so that he can defy the authority of the ADCs. Funds for carrying out developmental activities as provided according to the present system are found unworkable.

Sir, the ADCs control the administration of justice but it is observed that in some ADCs, there were no legal experts or trained judicial officers to carry on the trial of cases and disputes efficiently

and expeditiously. Moreover, the Village Courts or Village Councils as provided in paragraph 4 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, had not yet been constituted by some of the ADCs. Due to lack of coordination, the ADC could not utilise the judicial administrative experience of the Deputy Commissioner's Court in the districts in the trial of cases and disputes of civil and criminal nature. As the cases before this court were of petty nature, almost all the disputes were settled at the village level. Most of the cases that came up to the subordinate autonomous council court eventually ended up in a compromise. Moreover, the tribal people in the ADC areas have preferred to settle their disputes through their customs and traditions instead of approaching the ADC courts. Many of the disputes are still sought to be solved outside the court at the clan level. However, the customary laws of those tribal areas are still not codified in almost all the ADCs of North East India. Therefore, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that in spite of all big talks about ADCs, in spite of our promises that tribals were given the opportunity of self-determination, still financial resources have become a severe constraint for the growth and development of the tribal population in the Sixth Schedule Areas.

Even so in Arunachal Pradesh, people are demanding for the creation of autonomous District Council. The autonomy of the District Council is limited because the Governor of the State is the head of the ADC. My submission is that more powers should be given to the ADCs. While authorising more powers to them, the ADCs should also be equipped to translate their powers or their privileges into reality and to that end of developing the areas as well as their future generations. Due to corruptions, inefficiencies, mismanagement and inadequacy of funds, the advantages or the facilities that are supposed to have been accrued by the ADCs do not always permeate to the grassroot level. The Governor of the State is the head of the ADCs. He may suspend any act or resolution of the ADCs which is contrary to the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution or likely to endanger the safety of the country or prejudicial to public order. He may dissolve the ADC on the recommendation of an Inquiry Commission to be appointed under para 14 of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which mismanages the affairs of the council. As experiences have shown, setting up of an Inquiry Commission is recommended by the State Council of Minister rather than by the Governor of the State. Sir, as you know, in spite of our federal structure is in place, there is a simmering discontent between various

bodies of our country. That is why, the "federal structure was in danger", cry was raised even inside the Parliament.

Sir, the ADCs are also more often than not raise the issue of discrimination, if the State Government is not friendly to the ADC, they may create problems which, as a result, can hinder the growth and development of the ADC areas. Therefore, the relation between the ADCs and the State Government should be more cordial and cooperative. There should be concerted effort between the ADC and the State Government so as to develop that particular area; otherwise there will be a sense of alienation, a sense of deprivation which is often reflected in the frustration of the people of North Eastern India who feel that if they remain separated from the mainstream, they may be happy, they may be more progressive. Therefore, the identity politics, the ethnic identity often rear up their heads much to the discomfiture of the body politic. The state Government has no constitutional authority to assess and review, guide and advise the ADCs. The administrative experience and guidance of the officers of the State Government are not utilized by the ADCs in their everyday operation. There have also been reports of States undue interference in the working of the ADCs. The relationship between the ADCs and

the State Government should be cordial so far as the development is concerned.

It is also observed that the ADCs served the interest of mainly the neo-middle rich class or classes of rich traders, contractors, bureaucrats and educated who had emerged from within the tribal society of North East India due to enlarging money economy on developmental activities. Their emerging socio-economic structures in the tribal areas did not allow the benefits of the ADCs to flow towards the weaker section of the tribes. Besides that, the elected members of the ADCs and the office-bearers who were normally from the elite group of the tribal society had vested interest in preserving the exploitative structure and that they were not likely to do anything that would strengthen the position of the poor in their areas. The members of this group held power of decision-making in the ADCs. Naturally, if this kind of situations prevails and continues, then the very purpose of constituting ADCs will be defeated.

Decades after decades have passed. Yet we are experiencing the progress, the flaws and the inefficiencies of running ADC. The ADC was first formed in the year 1952. It seems to have failed the hopes and desires of the tribal people of North East India. It has only strengthened identity politics. Social and economic development has

been ignored. The birth of the ADCs was hailed with anticipations and aspirations as it was thought to be the harbinger of political and Constitutional advancement for granting autonomy to the ethnic minorities in compact areas of North East India. But the hopes was largely belied and frustrated, by every indicator of development such as per capita income, health status, education, housing, poverty level. The ADCs areas remain poor and backward. Thus, unless the above problems are rectified, tribal development will always be a distant dream in spite of the existence of ADCs in the North Eastern Region.

My esteemed friend has suggested having traditional occupation of tribals relating to mines and minerals under legislative competence of the District Council. We know that the entire North Eastern Region is enriched with mines and minerals. Even platinum, uranium, iron ore, coal, everything is available there. Even in the hills of Meghalaya, radioactive uranium, even platinum is also available in that particular North Eastern Region. But I do not know whether the ADC as a body is competent enough to deal with the matter of minerals. Rather I would suggest that more royalty should be provided to the coffers of ADC from the sale and exploitation of the minerals and mines of that area so that the minerals and mines for which the entire North Eastern region is enriched should help in developing the ADC areas and in

developing the health, education and other necessary aspects of life in that particular area.

Sir, without any hesitation, I must say that my esteemed friend Mr. Vincent Pala, who has been hailing from that area, is really concerned about the welfare of the tribal population of that particular region, including my friend Kiren Rijiju also. So, by concerted efforts of all the Members of North Eastern region, and cutting across political hue, they should come forward and raise the voice for the North Eastern Region.

North Eastern Region *Zindabad*.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri has requested me that he could not introduce the Bills at the time when all the Members were introducing. As a special case, I will allow him now.

Shri Ramesh Bidhuri Ji, do not read the whole thing. Just tell the item number.

Now, item No. 31 - Shri Ramesh Bidhuri

16.56 hours**PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS- Introduced..... contd.****(xcix) Compulsory Teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a Moral Education Text Book in Educational Institutions Bill, 2016***

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book in educational institutions and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory teaching of Bhagavad Gita as a moral education text book in educational institutions and for matters connected therewith. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2017.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 32 – Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

16.56 ½ hours**(c) Financial Assistance to Unemployed Post-Graduates Bill,
2016***

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill for financial assistance to the unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for financial assistance to unemployed post-graduates and for matters connected therewith. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2017.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 33 – Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

16.57 hours**(ci)Victims of Riots and Communal Violence (Equal Compensation) Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for equal compensation to victims of riots and communal violence and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for equal compensation to victims of riots and communal violence by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2017.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 34 – Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

16.57 ½ hours**(cii) Special Financial Assistance to National Capital Territory
of Delhi Bill, 2016****[Translation]*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for financial assistance to National Capital Territory of Delhi for the purpose of development works related to roads, housing, sanitation, healthcare centres, schools, skill development, and training centres, development and welfare schemes for women, children and poor people living in the backward regions and urban poor villages of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and for matters connected therewith.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2017.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to National Capital Territory of Delhi for development works related to roads, housing, healthcare centres, schools, skill development, and training centres, development and welfare schemes for women, children and poor people living in the backward regions and urban poor villages of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.58 hours

SIXTH SCHEDULE TO CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2015.....contd.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will continue the discussion on the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill further. Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Thank you Sir for allowing me to speak on the Bill introduced by Shri Vincent Pala, Member of Parliament from Khasi hills in Meghalaya.

Sir, Mr. Pala has mainly sought amendment to the Sixth Schedule. Sixth Schedule was born when the Constitution of India was enacted. The main architect of the Sixth Schedule was late Gopinath Bardoloi who was a very good friend of the tribals in the North East. It has a very special feature in the Constitution of India. It is Constitution within the Constitution, law within the law and it is designed to protect the rights of the tribals particularly in the hill regions of the North East.

Sir, Shri Vincent Pala has sought three amendments. One is to raise the number of Autonomous District Council from 30 to 40. Now, the number is 30 and it should be equal for all the three District Councils in Meghalaya namely, Khasi hills, Garo hills and Jaintia

hills. There should be no discrimination among the three major tribes of the State of Meghalaya.

17.00 hours

Secondly, the District Council should have power to lease, licence and make provision for making the rules and regulations for leasing out or mining the mines and minerals in Meghalaya because Meghalaya is very rich in mineral resources. It is rich in coal, uranium and other resources. So, the Tribal of Meghalaya want that they should have right over the land as well as the mines and minerals, the wealth under the earth. And, thirdly, he wants that the customary laws and practices of the Tribal in Meghalaya should be protected. Their right over the land should be protected, and they should have full right to lease, transfer or convey the rights over the land.

I fully support Mr. Vincent Pala because he has brought about a good proposal for the amendment to the law so that this provision is made, which will protect the interests of the Tribal of Meghalaya. Not only the Tribal of Meghalaya but also in Mizoram there are three Tribal areas which are under the Sixth Schedule. In Tripura there is one Tribal area which is under the Sixth Schedule. In Assam also, there are three Tribal areas, namely, Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao and

Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD) having four districts within it. So, these Sixth Schedule areas should have similar rights and similar provisions. In BTAD also, there are 40 members. Sir, 30 members are reserved for the Tribal and 10 are reserved for the general castes.

In Dima Hasao, there are 26 elected members and in Karbi Anglong there are 26 elected members. They should also be raised to 40 each so that the area should be delimited and a new constituency should be created so that the people in the far flung areas, like Kukis, Nagas, Hmar and other Tribal, also get the right to get representation in the District Councils or Autonomous Councils or Regional Councils under the Constitution.

Even this concept can be introduced in the hills of Darjeeling. If the Gorkhas are scheduled as Scheduled Tribes of the country, they can also be provided with the Sixth Schedule giving them sufficient rights and titles over the area presently governed by the Gorkha Territorial Development Authority (GTDA).

So, I fully support the proposals made. There is also a demand by the Tiwa, Rabha and Mising Tribals in Assam. They want to be protected from the onslaught of Bangladeshis from Bangladesh. These Tribals are of small groups. Tiwa is a small group. Rabha is a small

group. They also want some sort of protection as regards their areas to be brought under the Sixth Schedule so that they can protect themselves against the onslaught of Bangladeshis.

The history of Sixth Schedule dates back to 1946-47 when the Constitution was passed by the Constituent Assembly. Hopingstone Lyngdoh, Gopinath Bordoloi, Sir Maham Singh and Nichols Roy were the proponents of this new proposal for putting the rights of the people of Tribal origin of the North-East. Your Honour is aware that Northeast is primarily a hilly area with far flung and secluded districts. They have distinct cultures, distinct habitations and distinct food habits, which need to be protected. Their rights over land, mines and minerals should be vested with them.

With these words, I support this Bill; I support the proposal put forward by Shri Vincent Pala. I hope that the aspirations of the tribal people of Northeast will be met by this amendment. I thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to support the Bill called the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 brought by Shri Vincent Pala.

Sir, as you know, when the Constitution was formulated, Article 244A was introduced for the formulation of autonomous State comprising certain tribal areas in Assam and creation of local Legislature of Council of Ministers for both therefor. At that time, Assam was one State; Tripura was a Union Territory and Mizoram and Meghalaya were all parts of Assam. At that time, this part of the Constitution was brought forward.

Subsequently, the States of Meghalaya and Mizoram were carved out of Assam and district councils were formed in them. At present, there are 10 autonomous district councils in these four States. The four States as mentioned in the Sixth Schedule are Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. There are three district councils in Meghalaya; four district councils in Assam; one district council in Tripura and three in Mizoram.

As you know, a different type of district council is also there in Assam, which is called the Bodoland Territorial Council. Normally, all the district councils had a maximum number of 30 members. But

in the Constitution Bodoland Territorial Council has been allowed a membership of 46 members and has been given more powers.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, Mr. Rijiju is from the State of Arunachal Pradesh which has no district council. But, he being from the Northeast, in general would be aware that these are very sensitive areas. You are also aware that we have longstanding insurgency in Nagaland. We had total insurgency in Mizoram which was later resolved during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. There was insurgency in Tripura, which was also resolved during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. Meghalaya has been relatively quiet but some Garo militants are there who sometimes kill a few people. There is militancy in Khasi hills also, which is dying down. So, the idea of the Government of India has been and should be to assure the tribals living in this part that their identity and their culture would be protected.

The main problem is that in these States, except Tripura, the majority of the people are Christians and they have a distinct identity and culture in all these places. In Meghalaya, for instance, from where Mr. Vincent Pala hails, there are three distinct hills – the Khasi Hills, the Garo Hills and the Jaintia Hills. They are sometimes called Khasi and Jaintia Hills, but these are Khasi people, Garo people and Jaintia people are distinct people. There is, sometimes, in the Government of

Meghalaya a thought that they will increase the number of members in the Khasi Autonomous Council to 40. In that case, Jaintia and Garo Hill Councils should also have 40 members. That is why, this amendment brought by Mr. Pala is very significant. He has proposed that there shall be a District Council for each autonomous district consisting of not more than 40 members who shall be elected on the basis of adult franchise. It is 30 so far. So, if it is increased in the case of Khasi Hills Council, it should also take place in case of Jaintia Hill Council.

In Assam, there is a Bodoland. Earlier, there were hills called North Cachar and Mikir Hills. Now, of course, their names are different. Now, North Cachar and Mikir Hills are called North Cachar and Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao. There are black widows, spider group over there. That is a very dangerous militant group.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): The name also is dangerous.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Yes, the name is dangerous.

That is Dima Hasao. As you go to Diphu, which is part of North Cachar Hills, the same train goes on to Dibrugarh. Now, Diphu is Karbi Anglong. Haflong is just on the plains. If you travel by the Barak Valley Express, you can drop at Haflong, just before Silcher. It

is a beautiful hill station type of place. Then, on the hills, there is Diphu. I am familiar with this because I come from those parts. I was born in Shillong and spent my childhood in Shillong. So, I know the sensitivities of the people over there. Those people are very sensitive.

Now, there is a major problem in these areas. The Government has now formulated MMDR Act which says that all minerals have to be sold by auction. Now in Jaintia hills, there is surface coal. Hon. Member, Mr. Pala, had a lot of coalmines. Now, what is the tradition? The tradition is that if you have a tribal land, and if there is coal inside that land, then the coal will belong to you, that is, an individual and not to the Government. Now, if the Government says that all that coal belongs to it because it is a natural resource, then it would be a violation of tribal practices. In tribal areas, a very important thing is 'customs and usage'.

Sir, once I went to Shillong to campaign. I was in the Congress at that time. Suddenly, in the evening, a lot of young people came and surrounded the meeting. They asked me whether I had taken the permission of the local Council. I said 'I am a citizen of India and member of Congress Party. I can come anywhere.' They said that it was not so and I needed a permission from the headman. So, these are traditional customs and we cannot ignore all these things totally. That

is why, Mr. Vincent Pala has very wisely brought in ‘the traditional occupations of the tribals, including occupations relating to mines and minerals’.

As has been mentioned, Meghalaya has got coal and Meghalaya has also got Uranium. Now, if Uranium -- which is a radioactive mineral and very precious -- is found in somebody's land, then to whom that mineral will belong. Mr. Pala, coming from that region and having been a coal miner himself knows the problem very acutely. Now, the surface coal is not selling well. So, we have to find out a solution to this problem. The main thing that is still needed in the North East is development.

The North East has a potential of becoming Switzerland not only for natural beauty, but also for a lot of hydro power that is available. Hydro power is best in Arunachal, but all the other North Eastern States also have the potential for hydro power. The people there are less in number, but Christianity and education have made them very advanced. So, their ambitions are not fulfilled. If somebody preaches militancy to them, then it becomes attractive.

Now, there is a separate Ministry of DoNER, but I would like the Home Minister to visit all the North Eastern States. I do not know if he has still done it because Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to visit all

the remote places. Shri Rajiv Gandhi spent four days in Mizoram at a stretch. If the top leaders go from Delhi, it creates an identity. Has he visited the seven sister States including Meghalaya and its different parts including Shillong, Tura, etc.? It is very good. Has he visited Jowai? No, he has not gone to Jowai. The Jaintia Hills is very important. Has he visited Karbi Anglong, Diphu and Haflong? No, he has just gone to the main capital, but there are sub-places there and the Home Minister has to identify himself. He is a very good native of Uttar Pradesh, but he has to make them feel that they are not distant from the Hindi heartland. So, I think that in the context of all these, North East is a region of enormous possibility.

In this context, I want to mention a small thing. We are discussing Schedule VI. Now, we all know that all the scheduled areas are mentioned in Schedule VI, but something more important is there. This is regarding the various parts that are there. Now, the other thing that is clear is that according to the VIth Schedule if the autonomous councils make any law, which is repugnant to the law of the State, then the matter will be referred to the Assembly and the decision of the Assembly will be final just as in the case of State and Centre. There should be no conflict and finally the Centre's view should prevail. Now, that is very important.

If you notice, in our country tribal areas are more sensitive. The Home Minister is here. For instance, we are having a lot of Maoist militancy in the Chhattisgarh – Odisha tribal areas. Now, Vth Schedule says that no tribal land can be sold or acquired without the permission of the village council. Now, the big multinationals like Vedanta and others want to get huge chunks of land because it has got bauxite and other minerals and that is what is basically leading to Maoist militancy. Unless we deal with the issue of tribals with sensitivity and care, then with guns only we cannot sort out the problem. That is why it is very good that the Home Minister himself has come after finishing a strenuous U.P. campaign to listen to this debate. I am happy that he is here. I would request him to deal with the tribal areas with kid gloves i.e., very carefully and very sensitively. The Government should not ride roughshod that we have so many MPs. There is one MP each from Mizoram and Nagaland and two from Meghalaya, it is not a big deal in numbers. It is a territory and it is a sensitive people's area. I thank Mr. Vincent Pala, my friend, for having brought this law and for bringing the North-East into the mainstream. Here in the Parliament of India, North-East is being discussed and debated. That is the most important thing.

With these words, I would commend this Bill and I would request the whole House to accept this Bill. He has not asked for a major amendment but only mines and minerals which he has specified that that should be the ownership of the tribals.

The other thing he has mentioned is that there should be parity, especially in Meghalaya, between the three regions i.e., Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills. If this is done, I think, this will go some way in alleviating the problems of the people.

Sir, I think you should also make a visit to all these distant places. I went to Shillong during Christmas. It was looking better than London. It was so brightly lit and wonderful.

We have a lot of potential and a lot of future in the North-East. We hope that we take full advantage of that. With these words, I support Mr. Vincent Pala's amendments to the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Thank you, Today I stand in support of this Bill. This Bill brings amendments to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. It aspires to increase the number of members of the Autonomous District Council from thirty to forty. Efforts are being made to bring the traditional occupation of tribal people in mines and minerals under the District Council.

First of all, I would like to start from where Prof. Saugata Roy has concluded. Today in this chamber of Parliament, whatever we are getting to learn about the Northeast, we are getting an opportunity to express our voice and aspirations here. I am expressing the respect that people have given us through my presence. The depth with which our members sitting here are listening, I feel that through this discussion today a very big message has been sent to the entire Northeast area. All the members in Parliament, irrespective of political party or region, are sensitive towards the North-East and want to see it making progress.

[English]

That is the most important thing which we must understand that people of North-East are extremely sentimental, emotional and what

we are talking about today is not just a mere increase in the number of Members from 30 to 40, but we are asking that there needs to be more respect for our sentiments and our wishes. Once we understand what they want, everything – mainstreaming North-East, bridging North-East, looking North-East – would be done which we talked about in this entire conversation.

[Translation]

Everything will be arranged. When we understand that first of all what the people of North-Purvanchal want, they want respect, they want that the other person who is looking at them should understand their words deeply as many complex issues exist in the Northeast,

[English]

In the Northeast, there are insurgency issues, developmental issues, and connectivity issues. All of these problems can be solved, but first, there has to be a bridge of dialogue and communication. I am specifying dialogue and communication because the Union Home Minister is here; the Minister of State for Home is here. When they are talking about law and order, it is not just about the show of guns, police, arrest, or boots on the ground, but also it is about diplomacy and dialogue.

We talk about the District Councils. Why are these District Councils constituted? It is because the tribal communities want some form of autonomy to strategize and plan the development of their communities.

[Translation]

When we talk of development, it is a very simple thing to look at development, measure it by roads, or by electricity, roads, and electricity are important, but first of all, if we have to focus on something, it is the culture of the various tribal communities, and if we keep a hold on to the culture because this is not an easy thing, there are many tribal communities, there are diverse opinions, everyone has their different languages. If we cannot grasp the language,

[English]

if we continue to lose the various languages of the North East one by one because we are not archiving them, we are not promoting them, or we are not preserving them, then we are losing the diversity and we are losing the strength. We cannot homogenize the North East. We need to respect its heterogeneity. Sometimes people say that you are from Assam, Assam is elder brother, why don't you say anything else, then we say that elder brother does not mean that we will be ahead, elder brother means that we will remain behind. And when the

younger brother goes ahead, we will be happy. That is what the sentiment is that we must respect the heterogeneity.

Education is one very important way of preserving the language. There are two ways of looking at it. Yes, it is important to teach in Hindi and English because those are our official languages and our constitutional languages. When we go out of the North East, then we are communicating and we are working in English and Hindi. But if we also introduce the medium of instruction in our schools in our indigenous languages (a) the languages get preserved; and (b) the children who are studying in these schools, they understand better. If I am a tribal and I speak in Bodo language and the school teacher is teaching me in Assamese language or in Hindi, or if he is trying in Assamese to explain to me the concepts of mathematics, then my brain has to do two things: (a) I have to translate it from Assamese to Bodo, or English to Bodo or Hindi to Bodo and then understand, “Okay, now that I have understood it in Bodo language, let me try to understand what the teacher is trying to say about Algebra or Trigonometry. The strain on a child’s mental faculty and brain is more. If the medium of instruction is in Bodo, is in Karbi, then the child will be able to understand better. So, we must look at education and look at the concept of instruction in local languages, not only from the fact of

preserving the local language, but also from the fact of increasing the child's educational ability.

[Translation]

Sir, primarily, the languages of North East are based on oral tradition. The language is not in written form. Language is verbal and language is verbally transferred to the next generation. It is not written. Therefore, in some places, if you try to find out the script of any language, you will see that there is no script for that language, they write in English. If we try to give instructions in our local languages in schools, then books will be written in Bodo languages and Rabha languages only.

Once the mathematics is solved, there will also be an archive. So I would like to be paid attention on these things. What happens is that we come into a different environment, where it seems that instead of these languages, we should make Sanskrit compulsory. Sanskrit is a very important language, and I have also studied it. If we want to look at the real form and real importance of education is understood by the parents of a student. When parents belong to the Sixth Schedule community, they wish that their son should study in the language of our type of community and understand that language. Meanwhile, in a state in Uttar Purvanchal, an initiative must be taken to make

Sanskrit a compulsory language, but the people there understood, the Government understood and thought that we should try to make it optional and leave it to the students and their parents as to which language do they want to pursue further?

The second thing is the literature is related to culture. We must take society forward through literature. When we talk about growth, we always talk about economic progress and social backwardness. Literature is a very important way through which we can give respect to various tribal communities. Today there are many experts in literature and many great litterateurs, but where is the next generation? All the masterpieces of literature and authors of different communities are extremely senior. We are unable to nurture the next generation of authors. Yes, if there is a J.K. Rowling then we want a J.K. Rowling to emerge from Meghalaya as well, if there is a Chetan Bhagat then we want a Chetan Bhagat to emerge from Tripura as well. We want the next generation of authors, writers, and poets to come up and write in their language, compose poetry in their own language, and have big literature festivals. As Indians, we love to learn new languages.

If you go to Europe and asked about how many languages they know, you will say that you know one or two. They may not know

English well and they may know their mother tongue. If you come to India and ask every Indian how many languages they know. They will be able to speak around 3 to 4 languages. He will say that he knows Hindi, English, he knows Gujarati and Punjabi and I also speak a little bit of Bengali and Tamil. It is the art of Indian culture that we can understand, grasp, and learn languages very quickly. Therefore, if we organize more literature festivals, not only Uttar Purvanchal but other States of India will also learn how special the diversity is in Uttar Purvanchal.

We should pay attention to literature, pay attention to the script. If we see that where do these communities stay? They stay in very vulnerable areas. Some of these communities are living by the river, especially in the State of Assam where the mighty Brahmaputra flows through. Every year, these communities know that come May, June, July, August or September, Five to six months of flood. What happens in a flood of five to six months? Whatever farming they have done, whatever money they have saved, whatever money they have spent in building houses etc., that money gets destroyed every year. Whatever progress they may have made, they may have thought that today we will get a profit of Rs 2 or 4 lakh from farming, but they come back into debt. This happens every year due to floods. It keeps

people in perennial poverty. Today someone talked about farming. Some do organic farming, some do commercial cultivation, and the minute flood comes, they are pushed back. They are unable to repay their loans. They get stuck with money lenders. So, we must look at floods from two aspects. First is the prevention. Who wants frequent floods to destroy agriculture? We will have to pay attention to flood prevention. The Ministry of Water Resources has a huge flood management programme. But sadly, earlier it was a centrally sponsored scheme, now it is no longer a centrally sponsored scheme by NITI Aayog. What is the result, firstly the tax income of North Eastern States under FMP under Centrally Sponsored Scheme is not much. FMP projects were divided as per the 90:10 principle that is, if an FMP project is worth Rs. 100 crores, then Rs. 90 crores will be spent by the Union Government, and Rs. 10 crores will be spent by the State Government. However, as per the revised NITI Aayog guidelines, FMP is no longer a centrally sponsored scheme. It has gone from 90:10 to 80:20. It means that the burden on the State Governments to finance FMP projects would increase. The state thought that I had a hundred crore rupees and I would do 20 projects with it, but now because of 90/10 becoming 80/20, the same state will not be able to do 20 projects with a hundred crore rupees but will be

able to do only a 10 projects, which means that in the areas where flood management program was to be done, it will not happen. The people there will remain a vulnerable area and population. Ministry of Home is sitting here. Whenever there is a disaster due to a flood, the pressure comes on them to give more funds from NDRF, and release SDRF funds. Why are we going for relief? Let us talk about flood prevention; let us talk about doing more FMP projects; let us talk about the Ministry of Water Resources; let us renew those embankments where these 6th Schedule communities are living. So, I hope that this message will also go to them.

Talking about sentiment and respect, society feels good when the people living in the Sixth Schedule area see the same level of development in our area as is seen in the cities or big cities of the north eastern States. For example, if in the city of Assam or Meghalaya or Tripura, I am not talking about the capital, the city and the villages around the city have good roads, good cities. If you go away from that city and go to the Sixth Schedule area and see that the roads there are not good, the electricity is not good that creates a disconnect; that creates a sentiment of frustration people have forgotten about us; Government of India has forgotten about us; since we are 6th Schedule communities, nobody cares about us. It is this sentiment of frustration

which builds up year after year. Insurgent groups tap into this frustration and recruit and mobilize them and say, “You see there is no road in front of your house; there is no electricity; there are drinking water problems. That means the Government of India does not care. Rise up and rebel.” Therefore, if you want to look at it from law and order perspective, if you want peace and stability, especially in the 6th Schedule areas, you must look at development.

Development is a tool towards law and order. For that, you must look at roads as the first way of reaching not only the front of the house, but from that road you can enter into their hearts and minds. Look, all the development is happening in the cities. Nothing is happening in the areas of the Sixth Schedule. The highways that fall in the 6th Schedule areas must be given priority. You pay attention to the roads, pay attention to the highways, Karbi Anglong is a sixth schedule area, there is a highway from Anumaligarh to Dimapur and it goes to Karbi Anglong, look at the condition of that highway, it is in a very bad condition. The proposal is out, the file is out, the budget is out, the contractor is out and the work ends there. We are talking about the Sixth Schedule area. Saugata Da talked about North Cachar. It is a beautiful place. Let us promote tourism over here; let us construct rest houses; let us create subsidies for entrepreneurs to set

up. If we do not create a spirit of entrepreneurship, we will not be able to solve the employment question. How do we create a culture of entrepreneurship? Where did this culture of entrepreneurship come from? We will have to create a culture of entrepreneurship in schools and colleges. However, it is taught in schools and colleges that see, you belong to this community, so if you look for a Government job, you can get a special reservation by showing your cast certificate or community certificate.

[English]

This means, we are already telling them that they should focus on employment and use their tribal status as a leg up. That is fine. It creates social justice but what is more important is that we must tell these communities today that not only should they look for employment but they should also look to start their own enterprises.

In Hindi, we say *jugaad*. *Jugaad* is a measure of your creativity. One who is a *jugaadi* is more creative; from minimal resources, he can get maximum output and that is entrepreneurship.

[Translation]

An entrepreneur, who runs a startup, doesn't have much. They may not have much money and may not have much land, but they create an enterprise by multiplying all their resources through

creativity. This is a civilization, a culture, it is in our DNA. Being creative and entrepreneurial is in our DNA. It has come in our culture that no, we should not open the enterprise ourselves, because if we open the enterprise ourselves then there will be more risk. Therefore the risks will be covered. But we should talk to our communities and promote a sense of appreciating risk and taking risks. Taking risks is not a big deal and after taking the risk, we send them to entrepreneurs. There are many such things in North East and Sixth Schedule Areas in which a small person can set up a big enterprise.

[English]

The North-East is one of the foremost bio-diverse regions of the world. This means the kind of medicinal plants which are found there, the various varieties of agricultural crops, rice, turmeric, cardamom, ginger and the kind of bio-diversity found there is not found in other parts of India. It is one of the foremost bio-diverse regions in the world as established by the International Union of Conservation of Nature. (Translation) If we can teach the youth that look, if you are looking for a job, it is not necessary that you go to Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, or Shillong and go there and look for a Government job, look for a driver's job, look for a guard's job. If any medicinal plant is grown in your village that is in demand, if Aloe Vera is grown or algae is grown,

then take training for it and make a good enterprise. You take a loan from the bank, take training, and go to other places in the country for exposure, where enterprise has become a system. Go to Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. (English) People from the North-East can go, get exposed, listen, see and come back to start enterprises. So, we must look at entrepreneurship also when we look at these Sixth Schedule Areas. I never say that entrepreneurship alone would solve the employment problem.

The Bill talks about mines and minerals also. We must look at the concept of mines and minerals not only from the point of view that there is a natural resource which I am entitled to. It should also be that with this natural resource what kind of value addition I can do, how can I do extraction in a safe manner, how can I do it if I am employing people to extract natural resources as an entrepreneur in a way that I am respecting the labour customs and whether the people who are working for an entrepreneur are getting fair wages. (Translation) Because it was also reported somewhere in the media that due to the kind of ecosystem of mines and minerals that had been created there, the labourers there were not getting fair wages and were working in very unsafe working conditions. (English) Sir, we must look at not only as owners of natural resource but also how to extract, add value,

market distribution. They must be given that training otherwise we will go back to how it was, which was in a very unsafe and hazardous manner.

Sir, I appreciate the time that you have given to me. There were other things that I wanted to talk about, like the Highways, law and order, that we need more police, modernization and the Budget. I wanted to speak how in 1617 the Budget for six autonomous district councils was Rs.1000 crore but this was not even released. And, in 1718 from Rs.1000 crore it has come down to Rs.500 crore. We should be increasing the Budget and not decreasing the Budget. When you are talking about Look East, you should increase the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): It is non lapsable.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI : Sir, you come to the North-East, it is non-lapsable on paper but invisible in real life.... *(Interruptions)* If you search, you will not find it... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

There should be more Government of India projects like Amrut. A developed State like Maharashtra or Gujarat has 25 to 30 Amrut

projects and the entire region of Northeast with seven States get 14 Amrut projects. That means on an average one State in Northeast is getting one or two projects. We are continuing with the disparity. So, I would suggest that we should have more Government of India projects for the Northeast.

Thank you very much for patient hearing and all the time that you have given to me. I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Private Members' Bill brought by our colleague Vincent Pala Ji that North-East is called Ashtalakshmi, our Hon. Prime Minister of India says that if you get tired then you go to North-East. You will get peace. The North-East is full of flora and fauna and today the North-East has not developed the way it should. The reason for this is that most Congress people have ruled there and the North-East has not been able to develop the way it should. Our country's Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has paid more attention to the North-East and every Minister has been asked to go to the North-East and find solutions to the problems there and solve the problems. Every Minister is going there and the Government of India is assisting with in every way possible for the development of the North-East.

At present, there are four States where Sixth Schedule governance is being carried out. When India became independent, at that time, the popular Gopinath Bordle who was not called the Chief Minister of Assam but was called the Prime Minister of Assam. At that time, the popular Gopinath Bordle paid attention to the tribes there, their culture, and how to solve their problems. At that time, the

Sixth Schedule was talked about. Four States have been brought under the Sixth Schedule and the Sixth Schedule is being implemented in our Assam in Karbi Oblong, Bimasao, and Bodoland, where non-tribals cannot buy land, they cannot contest elections, such is the system. The condition of tribals in some places in the North-East be such that I would like to request the Government to give more funds and attention should be given towards the upliftment of the tribes.

About six tribes are agitating in Assam, of which we are the tea tribe. The tea tribes are settled in Assam, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bengal. Similarly, there are five more tribes - Tayahom, Kush Rajvanshi, Sutia, Matak Moran, such six tribes are demanding that they should be given the status of tribe. Several meetings have also been held with the Government of India on this subject.

I request the Government of India to grant tribal status to these six communities who are demanding tribal status. The tea tribes migrated from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal to Assam about 150-200 years ago, but our people who are in Chhattisgarh, Odisha or Jharkhand are getting tribal status even today but they are not getting tribal status in Assam.

I request the Government that six tribal communities in Assam have been protesting for a long time and if they get the tribal status, we can get relief from the problems created in our society due to the arrival of people who have come to Assam from Bangladesh.

I behest the Government of India for tribalisation of these six tribes. Thank you.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to speak in support of the Private Member's Bill introduced by my colleague and friend, Mr. Vincent Pala Ji. Three small amendments could be seen. The first is that the number of members in the District Council should be increased from 30 to 40. Second, the traditional livelihoods of the tribal people related to mines and minerals should be brought under the legislative competence of the District Council. Third, the amendment is proposed to protect the customs, folk practices, and interests of the tribal people. It looks small, like-

"Satsaiya Ke Dohe, Jyon Naavik Ke Teer

Dekhan Me Chhotan Lage, Ghav Kare Ganbhir"

The loopholes in the objective of complete autonomy have been there from the very first day when it was made in the year 1952 and the kind of amendments that people wanted to make in it in the year 1954, have not been able to do so till date, for that he has come up with a comprehensive Bill. This may seem small, but it is a major amendment if you consider it. The biggest question is why the Sixth Schedule was made. What were the recommendations of the Bordoloi

Committee? Has the situation become such that our friend Mr. Pala had to bring a Private Member Bill and somewhere in the State Government, in the autonomous council, in the Panchayati Raj Institution, the conflict that is going on in these three or in the whole of the North-East, to alarm, to activate the Government and to sensitize the whole country, he had to bring such a Bill.

Sir, the problems that are going on there are huge. The concentration of powers which has been given to the District Councils, for which they say it should be increased from thirty to forty, I think it requires major amendment. Shri Pala will agree with me because there is a resentment going on in the entire North-East that this District Council has become an elite club, and its association with the Masses has somehow ended. I am not saying this if you see, the Governor of Assam Mr. J.B. Patnaik gave a very good statement in December 2009.

[English]

“They also did not take interest in planning activities and monitoring of developmental schemes at the micro level. They neither try to look for expert input, nor involve the local people. Their activities have undermined the basic purpose of the Sixth Schedule and consequently the poor

tribes are left out both as beneficiaries or as decision-makers in issues that ultimately affect them. This is, in fact, denial of democratic rights to the grassroot people.”

They further say that :

“In the Sixth Schedule areas there is no decentralization of powers and administration. There is no Panchayat and Parishad. All you have is a District Council which elects few people and they enjoy unbridled power. But democracy demands that power should not be concentrated in a few hands.”

[Translation]

The Governor of Assam was Shri J.B. Patnaik, who himself had been the Chief Minister, who believed in the democratic system. They were the consecutive Chief Minister of a state like Odisha. The kind of Bill that Shri Pala has brought, you should understand that he has been a senior leader of your party. This is his opinion about the District Council. If you talk about poor quality of Government, I will talk about it later, how after the formation of the state in 1971, after the coming of C.C. 71G, the Sixth Schedule overlapped with each other in customary decisions or things, how the atmosphere is going on against Panchayati Raj Institution-73 Amendment and if you talk

about such a big problem of Nagaland, then somewhere or the other, we need to get rid of these problems which are coming up.

Regarding corruption, I would like to read to you an article from the Times of India dated 17th August 2011 –

[English]

“The North Kachar Autonomous Council in the Dimahasao district under the scrutiny of NIA and CBI for the alleged misappropriation of Rs. 1000 crore....”

[Translation]

Because our friend Shri Gaurav Gogoi was talking of Rs. five hundred crore, one thousand crore, however, let me tell you that this is a non-lapsable fund and the money that the Autonomous Council gets remains and you should not think that we have reduced that five hundred crore rupees. They still have Rs 1600 crore and he is not able to spend that money, but I am telling you that

[English]

“The scrutiny of NIA and CBI for the alleged misappropriation of Rs. 1000 crore of Government funds,

the amount was reportedly siphoned off to the coffer of a DSDGA for procurement of arms. NIA sleuths have arrested top DSDGA leaders, a former Chief Administrator of the Council and Government officials in connection with the incident.”

[Translation]

... (*Interruptions*) Who is with us, who is not, the question is that we talk about building a country. We are definitely against those who talk about breaking the country, who indulge in corruption, and who are being investigated by the NIA. Bharatiya Janata Party does not need anyone's credentials and credibility. Our Jansangh's first national president Shri Syama Prasad Mukherjee Ji sacrificed his life for the country against One Flag, Two Constitutions, and two Prime Ministers, hence our credentials are great. We have sacrificed for the country.

18.00 hours

We have sacrificed for this country, that is why I am saying this.

[English]

“The NIA sleuths have arrested top DHD (J) leaders, a former Chief Administrator of the Council and some Government officials in connection with the incident.”

[Translation]

I am saying that we talk of giving money, we talk of becoming 30 to 40, you add minerals to it, maximum people have sacrificed, they should get rights in the Sixth Schedule. The Governor should try to establish the powers that have been given to him in the Sixth Schedule. Poor people, tribal people, whose means of livelihood is like that, they should get it. We are with your amendment, but I am saying that regarding the riders in it, whatever is happening in Nagaland, the Congress was in power there for so many years, it was in power in the entire North-East, why did it not bring Panchayati Raj Institutions there. You say that Rajiv Gandhi ji gave us Panchayati Raj Institutions, why could you not implement them? That's why I say that women's rights...

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey, you may continue your speech next time.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Sir, there are certain issues of urgent public importance which hon. Members want to raise as 'Zero Hour' issues. Sir, you may kindly extend the time of the House till they exhaust their points.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend its time as there are six Members who have given their names to speak?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. We may take up 'Zero Hour' now. Shri Rajendra Agrawal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under 'Rail Badhe-Desh Badhe', the Ministry of Railways has launched several schemes in the Northern Railway Zone. Considering the importance of the Khurja-Meerut railway track, the Railways planned to expand it. On this rail route, the Delhi-Moradabad rail route meets at Hapur and at Khurja this rail route joins the Delhi-Howrah rail route. Under the plan to expand this railway line, 40 underpasses were approved and a budget of Rs 115 crore was also released for their construction. For this, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Railways.

Railways have laid down rules for the construction of underpasses. As per the rule, a 30-metre long path is required for one-metre height. Generally, the height of these underpasses is five meters. For this reason, as per the rules, the length of the road should be 150 meters, but in many places, this parameter has been disregarded. In this regard, I would particularly like to mention the underpass number 32C being constructed near village Mahmoodpur in Hapur. The length of the road for the five-meter-high underpass has been kept at only 70 meters. Due to this steep climb, vehicles like a bullock cart, tractor, etc.

cannot pass through this route. Similar irregularities have also been committed in underpass number 73C built near village Dadri. As a result, the route to about 20 villages has been blocked. Due to this, school students, farmers, and common citizens are facing extreme inconvenience in commuting.

Through you, I request the Hon. Railway Minister that keeping in mind the inconvenience being faced by the people of these rural areas, these underpasses should be constructed as per the standards and necessary steps should be taken for this.

I express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the country towards an important issue of the country.

Kashmir has emerged as a major problem since India's independence in 1947. We all know that resolutions were continuously passed in the Parliament; even my private member resolution was passed. In the year 1996, all the political parties together passed a big resolution in the Lok Sabha. Our part of Kashmir, which we call Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, is illegally, unethically, and unlawfully occupied by Pakistan. Pakistan has not only occupied it but there is a conspiracy going on to annex the Gilgit-

Baltistan region into Pakistan and it is trying to allow China to build a major corridor. They are doing this to promote all the anti-India activities happening in Pak-Occupied Kashmir, Gilgit, and Balochistan. They are trying to trouble the Indian Government by circulating fake notes or doing other such activities. They are using this path for their benefit.

Sir, 25 assembly seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly were reserved for Pak Occupied Kashmir. These seats have been kept reserved because it is an undivided part of Jammu and Kashmir of India. When it comes to India, these 25 seats will be completed. There was an amendment in 1973, under which these 25 seats were changed to 24 seats. We are all members of the Lok Sabha. We all know that wherever there are Legislative Assemblies, there is also a Lok Sabha above them. That part of Jammu and Kashmir, where 25 seats have been reserved, has been ignored by the Government of India since 1950 till today. The Government of India did not pay attention to it that it is a part of us and there should be Lok Sabha seats for it.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell this Government as well as the entire country that our seats can go up to 550. There is no need for de-limitation. We have 5 such seats vacant. I urge that since there are reserved seats in the Assembly, the Government of India should

reserve 5 Lok Sabha seats for Pak-Occupied Kashmir, Gilgit, and Balochistan. The question of citizenship of those people who have come here since 1946-47 is the biggest today. Whether they are Kashmiri Pandits or people coming from Pak Occupied Kashmir, the Indian Government should have a sympathetic attitude towards all of them. Those people can vote for the Lok Sabha, but they cannot vote for the Legislative Assembly. They do not hold citizenship of the State.

Through you, I request the Government to grant them citizenship of the State.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajendra Agrawal and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Nishikant Dubey.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DUMRIAGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for allowing a specific question of public importance to be raised during Zero Hour.

Today, farmers in all the States of the country have sugarcane crop as a cash crop. After this come some products of cotton,

sericulture, and horticulture. Today, the farmer fulfills all the needs of his family with the income earned from that cash crop. Sugarcane crop is the cash crop of farmers in States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttarakhand, etc. It is from the income earned through slips from this sugarcane crop that the farmer pays the fees for his son's higher education; it is from the income from this crop that the farmer gets his daughter married. With this income, the farmer gets the illness of an elderly person in his family treated at AIIMS or other hospitals. Today, the unfortunate thing is that in Uttar Pradesh, payment for this sugarcane crop has not been made for the last two years. 14 percent of last year's sugarcane price of the farmers, amounting to about Rs 1975 crore is still outstanding on the sugar mills. A sugarcane price of Rs 1600 crore is outstanding in sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh alone. These include sugar mills of Bajaj, Mawana, Modi, Simbhavali and Rana. According to the Indian Sugarcane Control Act, if the sugar mills do not pay the sugarcane price to the farmers within 15 days, then they will be forced to pay 10 percent interest to those farmers in addition to that price. About 2 thousand crore rupees accrued as interest to the farmers on these sugar mills, but the current Government of Uttar Pradesh waived this interest of those farmers in the meeting of the Cabinet Council of Ministers.

The Government took a decision in favour of the sugar mill owners. The sugar mills should not have to pay the money which was the hard-earned money of the farmers, the money earned from their sweat and blood, the price of their sugarcane and the interest thereon, such was the decision of the Council of Ministers. A farmer organization went to court, and the court rejected that decision of the Government and said that it would be mandatory for the sugar mills to pay interest to the farmers. Despite this, the price of sugarcane farmers is still pending in those sugar mills and even today the Government has not taken any measures. Recently elections have taken place in Uttar Pradesh. The counting of votes for this election will take place tomorrow and in that election, all the parties and the Government including the Uttar Pradesh Government had the responsibility to pay the sugarcane price to the farmers but it has not discharged its responsibility. I am glad and I would like to express my gratitude that today in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party has said in its manifesto that if our Government comes to power in Uttar Pradesh, then the day the farmers will give sugarcane to the sugar mills, the price of sugarcane will be paid into the farmers' accounts after 14 days. I think that perhaps this will be the first time in the coming days that farmers will be paid their hard-earned money within

14 days. Today, leave alone 14 days, not for one year and two years, I would like to talk about the entire country, especially about Uttar Pradesh, where about Rs 6 thousand crore of sugarcane price is still pending for those farmers. For the last year 2016-17 even, as I mentioned, Rs 1975 crore is still pending and before that, of the year 2015-16, Rs 375 crore is still pending. Today the poorest section of the society in the country is the farmers. The sugarcane price of farmers for the last two years is a definite issue of utmost public importance. I would expect through you that the Union Government, which is monitoring it, should direct the State Government for this.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi is allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on a very important topic of Assam concerning three paper mills. There are three paper mills in Assam – Ashok Paper Mills in Goalpara district; Cachar Paper Mills in Barack Valley; and Noah Paper Mills in Morigaon district. Ashok Paper Mills with about 2,500 bighas of land and other paraphernalia, etc. has been closed for long, and the same could not be revived due to corrupt practices by

the management and the then Assam Government and also the then Union Government.

The Cachar Paper Mills is closed. Its capacity of production per day was 300 metric tonnes. Noah Paper Mills with a capacity of 250 lakh metric tonnes is also going to be closed due to corrupt management. Management is thoroughly corrupt. They have mismanaged; they have sold out the interests of the mills; they have also sold out the interests of the workers and others related to the mills. The Government of India should take immediate steps to revive the mills. There is no dearth of raw materials. Raw materials is there. Bamboo is produced in Assam in huge quantity. Yet, the mills could not be run properly because the management inducted by the previous UPA Government is very corrupt. They are looking after their own interests and the interests of the Managing Director, Chairman, and others. They should be removed. New management consisting of people with clean image should be brought in and the mills should be saved from dying from the deathbed and the workers and the producers of bamboo, the rural people and the rural economy can be saved. In the areas, we have Kendriya Vidyalayas, staff quarters and other infrastructure. Yet, the Government of India has not taken any interests.

Even a memorandum was submitted to the hon. Minister for Heavy Industry. I would request the Government of India to take immediate steps to remove the corrupt management and institute an enquiry and punish those people responsible for causing loss to the mills.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You allowed me to speak in Zero Hour, for this I thank you very much. Udaipur is my Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan, I want to raise an important issue of my constituency in the House. Udaipur is a divisional headquarters and it comprises six districts. Among these, five districts are tribal districts and among them, Udaipur city has been given the status of smart city among twenty cities.

I would like to request the Government through you to add Udaipur City to the B-2 category. The population of Udaipur city is approximately six lakhs and the total population of the district is thirty lakhs. This is a tribal-dominated area and is connected by rail and air routes. Therefore, I demand through you that Udaipur city should be added to the category of B-2 class cities. Thank you.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Chambal River, passing through Madhya Pradesh, passes through

Kota city of Rajasthan, and large dams like Rana Pratap Sagar have been built on the river passing through Kota. This is such a river that has had water throughout the year, but due to 24 drains of Kota city falling into this river, the Chambal River is getting impure, Chambal River is getting polluted. The people there are demanding that just as the Union Government is doing a great job of purifying the Ganga River, in the same manner, comprehensive work should be initiated to purify the Chambal River of Kota.

Along with this, I would also like to say that by developing the riverfront below the Kota Barrage in the Chambal River, we can make that place a big centre ~~of tourism~~, through which we can attract tourists from India and abroad. Apart from this, if small lift irrigation schemes are made in the non-irrigated areas using the water of the canals originating from the Chambal River, the farmers can get a huge benefit from it. Thank you.

18.17 hours**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED
BY RAJYA SABHA****[English]*

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th March, 2016, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 2017, with the following amendments:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, **for** the word “Sixty-seventh”, the word “Sixty-eighth” be **substituted**.

* Laid on the Table.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 4, *for* the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be *substituted*

CLAUSE 2

3. That at page 2, line 24, *for* the word “law”, the words “other laws” be *substituted.*

CLAUSE 3

4. That at page 3, line 2, *for* the words “always deemed”, the words “shall always be deemed” be *substituted.*

CLAUSE 6

5. That at page 3, line 32, **for** the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be **substituted**.
6. That at page 3, line 36, **for** the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be **substituted**.

CLAUSE 8

7. That at page 4, line 17, **for** the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be **substituted**.
8. That at page 4, line 18, **for** the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be **substituted**.

CLAUSE 12

9. That at page 5, line 30, *after* the word “order”, the words “or from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette, whichever is earlier” be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 14

10. Insertion of new sections 18B and 18C. That at page 5, for clause 14, the following be substituted, namely:-

Exclusion of jurisdiction of civil courts. “14. After section 18A of the principal Act, (as so inserted by section 13 of this Act), the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“18B. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, no civil court or authority shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any property, subject matter of this Act, as amended by the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017, or any action taken by the Union Government or the Custodian in this regard.

Appeal to
High Court.

18C. Any person aggrieved by an order of the Union Government under section 18 of this Act, may, within a period of sixty days from the date of communication or receipt of the order, file an appeal to the High Court on any question of fact or law arising out of such orders, and upon such appeal the High Court may, after hearing the parties, pass such orders thereon as it thinks proper:

Provided that the High Court may, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing an appeal within the said period, allow it to be filed within a further period not exceeding sixty days.

Explanation.—In this section, "High Court" means the High Court of a State or Union territory in which the property referred to in section 18 is situated.”.

CLAUSE 17

11. That at page 6, line 12, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.
12. That at page 6, line 17, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.
13. That at page 6, line 27, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.
14. That at page 6, line 35, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.

CLAUSE 19

15. That at page 6, line 40, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.
16. That at page 6, line 43, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.

17. That at page 6, line 44, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.

18. That at page 6, line 47, for the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be substituted.

Ord. 8 of 2016.

19. That at page 6, line 48, for the word and figure “Ordinance, 2016”, the words and figure “Fifth Ordinance, 2016” be substituted.

CLAUSE 22

20. That at page 7, **for** lines 28 to 32,
the following be **substituted**,
namely:-

Ord. 8 of 2016. “22(1) The Enemy Property Repeal
(Amendment and Validation) Fifth and
Ordinance, 2016 is hereby savings.
repealed”.

34 of 1968. (2) Notwithstanding such
repeal, anything done or any action
taken under the Enemy Property
Act, 1968 as amended by the said
Ordinance, shall be deemed to
have been done or taken under the
corresponding provisions of the
said Act, as amended by this Act”.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in
accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules

of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.'

Sir, I lay on the Table the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, as returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Tuesday, the 14th March, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

18.18 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
March 14, 2017/Phalguna 23, 1938 (Saka).*

INTERNET

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