

Seventeenth Series, Vol. XVII No. 20

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Chaitra 8, 1944 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVII Contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 29, 2022/ Chaitra 08, 1944 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No.-361, Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil.

(Q. 361)

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL: Sir, thank you for allowing me to ask questions.

Sir, Organic farming is a big upcoming sector. Whenever a farmer shifts from conventional chemical farming to organic farming, he has to face a lot of problems, especially pest attacks or low productivity.

Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Government is thinking to make provision of any kind of subsidy to address this issue of low productivity?

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Sir, Hon. Member has asked a very good question about organic farming. I would like to convey through you that ever since the Government of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi came to power, continuous efforts are being made to promote organic farming and natural farming. With this view, we have started two schemes/programmes for North East Region, one is Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and the other is Mission Organic Value Chain Development. We have started these two important schemes, and we support farmers through these schemes. Farmers are given assistance of Rs. 50 thousand per hectare. Out of this, Rs. 31 thousand is credited directly into the farmer's account and also Rs. 19 thousand are given to them for training and other compounds so that any kind of loss suffered by the farmer can be

compensated. In this regard, I am certainly happy to inform you that this assistance is also given under this, and we have made a provision to provide Rs. 12,200 per hectare for natural farming also. As a result there is continuous growth of crops in organic farming. Thus, we find today that about 38.19 lakh hectare area has been covered under organic farming and it is continuously increasing. Within this, we have Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, the area within Namami Gange has also been increased, there is large area certification and, in this way, we have various types of programmes going on, in which farmers are supported so that they move towards organic farming. This is the biggest demand of the country today. The demand for India's organic crop has also increased for export purposes.

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL: Our Prime Minister aims to double the income of farmers and for this, organic farming and export of organic products play very important role. But the present process of certification for export is very expensive and lengthy, due to which the farmers do not get the remunerative price of their produce. My question to the Minister is, whether the Government is making any provision or proposal to simplify this lengthy process of supply chain infrastructure augmentation and certification for organic farming?

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon. Speaker, it is true that earlier this process was very lengthy and also a bit expensive for the farmers. Ever since Modi's Government came into power, continuous work has been done in this direction to shorten the process of certification and its rates. It was started in the year 2001 and its group certification was done under NPPO. At that time, around ten to fifteen thousand rupees were charged for the

certification, the farmer had to pay per hectare per year. But now we have made such arrangements for the farmers that if the farmer comes under group certification and if 500 farmers get the group certification done together, then they get such certification done from Rs. 50 thousand to Rs. 75 thousand. Apart from that, there is also the cost of International Control System, that too comes around Rs. 500. If 500 farmers get it done in a group, then the certification is done within thousand rupees whereas earlier it used to cost around Rs. 15-20 thousand.

Secondly, we also certify under Large Area Certification. There is a Panchayat or any Block or Panchayat Samiti under it, where Pesticides or Urea, DAP have never been used under traditional agriculture. If the State Government notifies such area and sends it to the Government of India, then under the Large Area Certification, we declare the entire area as organic zone. Consequently, farmers do not have to pay the certification charges. The Government of India bears the entire cost of Large Area Certification, which is done by third party certification. Therefore, Large Area Certification has also been started for farmers. I think the states should proceed in this direction, so that the area of organic and natural farming may be increased.

SHRI KRISHNAPAL SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, first of all, I am happy to inform that my home state Madhya Pradesh is a leader in organic farming. Under the leadership of our renowned Prime Minister and Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the hard work of more than one lakh organic farmers in my state has led to the export of five lakh tonnes of organic products from Madhya Pradesh, and the state accounts for 40

percent of the total area under farming in the entire country. For this reason, Madhya Pradesh is also being honoured with the Krishi Karman Award for the last five times. On behalf of Madhya Pradesh, I thank you very much for the policies and schemes made by the Government for this....

HON. SPEAKER: Are you replying or asking questions?

SHRI KRISHNAPALSINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir I come from an agricultural area. I myself am a farmer and being a farmer as well as a doctor, there is a demand for chemical-free produce all over the world. I believe that excessive use of pesticides and chemicals are adversely affecting the health of children, women and senior citizens. To increase organic farming, it is imperative to promote multiple cropping.

Many farmers in my area are interested in growing different types of fruits, vegetables and crops through multiple cropping to increase income. But at present, due to the absence of any insurance scheme for multiple cropping, the prescribed incentive for organic farming is not being received. It is my request to the Hon. Minister that in order to promote organic farming, will the Government make any provision for multiple cropping under a special insurance scheme or Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for these farmers, which was also recommended by the Estimates Committee in 2018?

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, our hon. Member is active and always concerned about agriculture. He has raised the question of multiple cropping. I have to inform one thing, as the Prime Minister has implemented the new crop insurance policy and has also made a provision

in the new crop insurance policy that it can also be voluntary. As he is concerned about his area and the whole country, if the state notifies, whether it is multiple or any kind of cultivation, whether it is food grain, pulses, oil seeds, commercial crops or horticulture, if there is any crop within that, then it has been included in the crop insurance policy. Only the state has to notify it and if the state notifies then it will be done. Secondly, there is another scheme, within which if there is a non-notified crop then there is also a scheme, in which it is also covered under the Restructured Weather Base Insurance Scheme. I think this scheme is necessary, in which the state Government will have to notify that crop, whether it is multiple or any crop. For this, it has been taken within the Government and under the new crop insurance scheme.

HON. SPEAKER: If any member does not ask the original question or the supplementary question in brief, I will not give him an opportunity and Hon. Minister, you should also answer briefly. Whatever question is asked, answer it briefly.

[English]

SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA: Sir, our beloved Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji has been giving a lot of importance to organic farming. ICAR has developed various types of organic fertilizers. After doing the field trials, they are found to be very effective. Sadly, in the meanwhile, the prices of potassium sulphate and various other fertilizers have doubled. There is a 12 per cent GST imposed on organic fertilizers. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to reduce the GST on organic fertilizers.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, as we all know that the Government of India has made continues efforts and is still promoting organic farming. Organic farming also increases the income of farmers. The subject of GST is not related to the Department of Agriculture. For this, it would be better if the Hon. member talks to the concerned department, nevertheless I want to say that Prime Minister Modi Ji's Government is sensitive towards farmers.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. I was the Governor of Sikkim from 2013 to 2018. During my tenure, Sikkim was declared as the first hundred per cent organic State in India by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. An Ordinance was issued by me, as the Governor of Sikkim, which was followed by the introduction of a Bill in the Legislative Assembly. It was further debated and passed as an Act. The Act prohibits use of dangerous chemical fertilizers and poisonous pesticides by farmers.

My supplementary is, whether the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the Government of India, has any plan to follow the case study of Sikkim and take any legislative measures with regard to the financial assistance scheme so as to promote organic farming in other States of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, as I said earlier, under Large Area Certification, the entire state of Sikkim was also covered. If any state says that it wants to declare the whole state as an organic zone or even want to declare any one particular block, it can do it within it, but for that the state Government will have to send recommendation to the Government of India. Secondly, I mentioned earlier also what assistance or Government support is given. Under the PKVY scheme and under the scheme for the North-Eastern region, Government provides support to farmers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It takes 15 minutes for one question.

Shri G.T. Namgyal.

SHRI JAMYANG TERING NAMGYAL: Hon'ble Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and the Hon. Minister. Since the year 2018, Ladakh has taken a pledge that under the Mission Organic Development Initiative, we want to declare the entire Ladakh as an organic area.

Further, when I was the Chairman of the Council in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, we made a policy – Mission Organic Development Initiative i.e. 'Modi' Policy of Ladakh. Taking inspiration from the Prime Minister, we named the policy as 'Modi of Ladakh', for which the Central Government, Hon. Minister, sanctioned Rs. 500 crores, out of which we got Rs. 200 crores under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana. I'm thankful for that. Not only this policy, but we need support to take forward all the other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Sir, recently, I organised a meeting of the 'Disha' committee on February 19 and February 21 in both the districts of Leh and Kargil. It came to my knowledge that not a single project is being implemented on the ground under the National Agriculture Development Scheme. Soil Health Card is being implemented at a very slow pace. In Ladakh, e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) is not being implemented on the ground. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is not being implemented. The Command Area Development and Watershed Development and Management Programme are not being implemented on the ground.

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

...(interruptions)

SHRI JAMYANG TERING NAMGYAL: Sir, my question is related to this. Crop insurance scheme is not being implemented on the ground. When I tried to find out the reason why it is not being implemented, I was told by the district level officers that the entire DPR has been prepared and sent to the Central Government through the state secretary.

Along with this my question to the Hon. Minister, it is my request that all the DPRs sent to the Central Government, may please be sanctioned on time.

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, as he said about the Soil Health Card Scheme, Krishi Sinchai Yojana, R.K.V.Y., the proposal of projects received from the state governments take time due to lack of some documents, but despite this, we make efforts and the Government always

make efforts that such projects come to us immediately and we approve them.

Sir, I am happy to inform that an area of 5,000 hectares within Ladakh has been taken up under the Organic Programme and under Large Area Certification. I also want to say that if they want to do more in Ladakh, there is a provision of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund also. Farmers can also be helped through that.

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No.-362, Shri Ganesh Singh.

(Q. 362)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, 'Sports' is a state subject, but 247 Academies have been recognized under 'Khelo India, Khelo'. In Madhya Pradesh 15 Academies have been recognised, but the area to which I belong is bereft of any Academy. 9 academies have been recognized in Bhopal, 2 in Gwalior, 2 in Jabalpur and one in Indore. Apart from this, the Ministry of Sports has also set up a university in Manipur to promote sports parks, sports technology, sports coaching, for this I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister.

Since 2013, I have been continuously organising the MP Sports Trophy in my Lok Sabha constituency. I am working to promote the talent of the players present in the villages. This year, 7500 players have demonstrated their sports skill. I have been continuously demanding from the Hon. Sports Minister since 2013 that a training centre should be set up there. To provide sports infrastructure, I have just built a stadium in the name of Hon. Prime

Minister. I have also renovated two old stadiums. I have built an indoor stadium in the college campus. At present, I am also getting a big complex of sports built there through Smart City. I would like to know from Hon. Minister, will they provide a National Sports Training Centre in our Satna?

SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. member and the entire House that the aim and mission of our hon. Prime Minister is to make India a sporting country and continuous efforts are being made to achieve it. This Government has decided to set up about 1000 'Khelo India' centres across the country. We intend to achieve this target before 2024.

I respect the work done by the Hon. senior Member of Parliament and his feelings regarding sports. Regarding the proposal of the Hon. member and whether the infrastructure can be developed or not, I would like to inform that such proposal should be made through the concerned state. No such proposal has been received so far during my tenure. If such proposal comes before me then I assure them. So far, 478 centres have been set up under 'Khelo India'. If Hon. Members want to have a Khelo India Centre in their Constituency, I would like to also tell all the members present here whether they belong to opposition or the ruling party if they want to have a centre under 'Khelo India' in their Constituency, then they should propose it through the state government. The Government of India is with every single state, district, constituency and hon. Member for the development of sports sector. I would like to assure that if any of their proposal comes through the state, we will definitely do the needful.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Thank you, Hon, Minister.

Hon. Minister, I want to tell you that India is a country of villages. There are talented players of different sports in the villages, but we are looking for them in the cities. If we promote the players of the villages, talented players of all the sports of the Olympics will be found in the villages. I want to know from hon. Minister, does our country have such world-class infrastructure? Can we host any international sports event, if yes, please elaborate? I am seeking the gift of some world class sports infrastructure in my Parliamentary Constituency Satna. He has already said about this in his reply, but I ask him to clarify it.

SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the entire House that Hon. Member of Parliament has asked a very good question. If we look at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, India was most successful here and won highest number of medals here. A cursory glance at the players who are participated in it makes it clear that most of them come from rural background, be it Neeraj Chopra ji, Mirabai Chanuji or Lovlina ji. All of them come from rural areas. Our Government has decided to set up Khelo India Centre under 'Khelo India'. All these centers are being set up only in small cities. Most of the players who come to these Khelo India centers are from small towns or rural areas of the districts. Apart from this, there are 247 academies which have been recognized under 'Khelo India'. In this also, training and coaching is given to players coming from rural areas. Sir, the question was a bigger, so my answer may also be a little bigger.

HON. SPEAKER: You can also answer in 'Yes' and 'No'.

SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK: Sir, Today India is also becoming a world guru in the field of sports. I would like to cite a small example in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: I have already made an announcement regarding this topic that a calling attention motion is coming on this subject. So, please answer in brief.

SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK: Sir, now I would like to cite an example of an incident. Our Hon. Member of Parliament said whether there is world-class infrastructure or not. I claim in this House that our country is capable of organising international games anywhere in the country. If there comes an opportunity of hosting a sports event like Olympics, then we have enough infrastructure in our country to do it successfully. Sir, a small incident has just taken place. I would like to give an example of that. The Olympiad Games have just been held. All countries of the world participate in it. There is a chess competition in which all the countries participate. Olympiad 2022 was to be organised in Russia, but due to the adverse situation it was decided to change its venue. Big countries of the world, including China, were interested in hosting it, but the committee of the Olympiad understood the importance of India and our country has decided to do it. Sir, I would like to tell that this is the vision of the hon. Prime Minister, through his policy, India is slowly becoming a world-guru. Our country India is gradually moving ahead in the field of sports in the world. India is going to be the first choice of all countries to schedule any major sport of the world.

[English]

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, our Government, under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji has taken pride in our sporting capacity and his encouragement has seen India win medals in the Olympics and Commonwealth Games. It is our duty to see

that this winning streak is duly maintained. My humble suggestion is to start implementing a programme 'One State, one Sport', wherein each State identifies its major sports strength, like wrestling in Haryana, kabaddi in Maharashtra and football in Bengal and concentrate on developing it on a priority basis along with other sports which can also be encouraged.

My question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government is working on 'One State, One Sport' campaign, or does the Government has any plan to do it in the near future.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK: Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member of Parliament because he put forth both a question and an advice. I would like to thank him respectfully. Regarding One State, One Sport, Hon. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur ji has so far held a virtual meeting with the Sports Ministers of every state and their officials. They have also been consulted as to what can be done and what is their proposal?

Sir, a decision on this matter will be taken at the appropriate time. Thank you very much for the suggestion that the hon. Member has given.

HON. SPEAKER: We will take up this Calling Attention Motion in the same week, then I will give everyone a chance.

Question No. 363.

(Q. 363)

[English]

SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, although a sum of Rs. 3,712 crores were allocated for RKVY in the Budget Estimate of 2021-22, only a sum of Rs. 2,000 crores were utilised as per the RE for the year 2021-22. This means that there was an under-utilisation of 46 per cent for RKVY. Can the hon. Minister explain the reasons for this and what steps are being taken to address it?

[Translation]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is a project-based scheme. The district and the state are free to formulate need- based scheme. States and UTs have such right.

[English]

Sir, the hon. member has asked about the unspent money. The fund is unspent because many states have not formulated the committees. There are committees to be formed at three levels. There is a committee in every district. There is a District Level Agriculture Planning Committee, State level Agriculture Planning Committee and State Level Sanctioning Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. Only 13 States have formulated DAPCs and only 11 States have formulated State Level Agriculture Planning Committees.

The second reason is that many of the States which have taken money have not sent their Utilisation Certificates to the Centre. That is also one of the reasons.

The third reason is that due to the requirement of Department of Expenditure for compliance with the Public Financial Management System and mapping of Single Nodal Account by the State Governments, the release of the first instalment to the State Governments have been delayed in the year 2020-2021.

SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Sir, Agri-entrepreneurship Development Programme, a component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been implemented to fuel innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Block Chain Technology for the agriculture sector. Can the Government provide details of the training programmes conducted under the Agro-entrepreneurship Development Programme of the RKVY and the number of agri-start-ups funded in 2021?

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Sir, under RKVY, with an objective to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support for nurturing incubation eco system, a new component called Innovation and Agri Entrepreneurship Development Programme has been launched under the Revamped Scheme of RKVY and RAFTAAR in 2018-19 with ten per cent of the annual outlay including two per cent of the outlay for administrative process. In that, we have five Knowledge Partners. There are five institutions which are Knowledge Partners, 24 Agri Incubators are there and 799 Start-ups have been started under this Scheme. We are also giving two months of training to the farmers, incubators and Start-ups with a stipend of Rs. 10000 under this Scheme.

SHRI N. REDDEPPA: Sir, has the Government formulated any monitoring mechanism to ensure that targets under the Scheme are being met and funds are being utilized? If so, what are the observations regarding the implementation of the Scheme and if not, what are the reasons for not having a monitoring mechanism?

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Sir, the actual achievements are entered online by the States in the RKVY website. There is a website on RKVY Scheme. The website is in public domain. Secondly, we have to enter the data under the new version of RDMIS. Projects are also monitored by periodic desk review meetings in the Department and field visits by officials. Even the NITI Aayog is monitoring the system.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I, through you, want to know from Hon. Minister that the day before yesterday, Hon. Prime Minister talked about India's agricultural products in Mann Ki Baat. Export to the tune of several lakh crore rupees have been made. There are more possibilities. Will the Minister please tell what steps are being taken to enhance the quality of India's food grains so that more food grains may be exported from country to the world, for which there is huge potential?

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, just now the Prime Minister has talked for natural farming. We are giving more assistance to organic farming in the Traditional Agriculture Scheme so that we can enhance its quality. *[English]* We should improve our quality and quantity. Already, we have surplus production in the country. Since we have

to improve the quality, we are encouraging natural farming and organic farming also. Many countries are asking us for organic products from India.

DR. SAJNJEEV KUMAR SINGARI: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for giving a very comprehensive reply. This supplementary is also related to zero budget farming. Is there any change in the norms of RKVY regarding zero budget farming? If so, can the hon. Minister state the number of zero budget farming projects which have been implemented so far and in which States have they been implemented? Does the Government propose to take any further steps to promote zero budget farming under RKVY?

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Sir, the State Governments can formulate their own programmes for their State.

[Translation]

What is the need of a district, what is the need of a state? Programmes can be made on that basis. Right now, there is no mention of zero-budget farming. *[English]* We are now talking only about natural farming and organic farming.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No.-364, Kumari Ramya Haridas

(Q. 364)

[English]

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS: Sir, is the Ministry planning for active involvement to attain UN's SDGs? The allocation of funds in the budget is the same as that of the previous year. Will the Ministry ask for more funds to achieve its goal including SVAMITA Survey in all the States?

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Regarding the question asked by the Hon. Member, I want to state that the United Nations has laid down Sustainable Goals. Nine goals in local order have been found suitable for the development of villages by our Ministry. For its budget, the Ministries of Rural Development, Health, Child Development, Social Justice and Empowerment and Agriculture are working on various schemes through both the state government and the Central Government. For this, provision has been made in the 15th Finance Commission through our Ministry.

[English]

KUMARI RAMYA HARIDAS: Sir, Survey of Villages Abadi and Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme aims at mapping and digitalization using drone technology. It may be helpful to settle the disputes of land. But I am afraid that it may be an interference into the jurisdiction of panchayati raj institutions. I want to know whether the Government can collaborate with the panchayati raj institutions on this Scheme other than the Revenue Department in the States.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon. Prime Minister of our country has launched 'Swamitva Yojana' on 24th April, 2020. The scheme will contribute a lot in the development of villages. The scheme was launched on 24th April, 2020 and is meant for residential areas. The hon. Member has expressed concern that there may be adverse consequences in villages, so can it be done by taking into confidence the people of the villages? We have to do it by taking them into confidence. The mapping is carried out, thereafter property card is given within three months after conducting drone and satellite survey.

Sir, rural people get the benefit of loan thanks to property card. There is also provision of use, enablement of property as financial asset and bring stability in it. As a result, Gram Panchayats are benefitted in determination of taxes. The facility to keep records of Gram Panchayats taxation, construction permits, removal of encroachments etc. is also available. By making available GIS maps created under the survey, Gram Panchayat Development contributes in the creation of better quality GPDP. In the true sense, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of the country and Hon. Minister Giriraj Singh ji, good work is going on to make the villages capable through 'SwamitvaYojana'.

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA: Hon. Speaker, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe dominated areas have been selected, which are still lagging behind in development of livelihood, health, child-friendly environment, adequate water availability, clean and green self-sufficient infrastructure. The Minister of Panchayati Raj will please tell us whether any scheme is

being contemplated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for their development.

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, two months ago, through our Ministry, a meeting of the National Council of PESA was held, in which we certainly expressed our concern. Efforts are being made through the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to take all the schemes in the Scheduled Tribes areas.

[English]

DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN: Sir, the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 relating to Panchayats mentions about the responsibility of gram panchayats to prepare the social, economic and resource planning for the rural areas, whereas, the 11th Schedule of 73rd CAA, when it lists the functions of gram panchayats, does not include the preparation of the spatial plans for gram panchayats as one of the functions of the Panchayats. Therefore, the rural areas are devoid of planned spatial development at the moment. I have a specific question regarding this to the hon. Minister. Does the Union Government have any plan to allow gram panchayats to prepare spatial development plans as well on their own?

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Through the Ministry, GPDP, TPDP, BPDP and DPDP programs have been prepared for the development of villages, so that the villages themselves can make their own GPDP.

Secondly, we have informed the villages to develop villages on the land of the city and to make a master plan of the village. As there is DC rule in the city, the villages will also be mapped and the village will also have its own DC rule. There is a plan to develop the village on the land of the city, to develop the villages itself through GPDP and Master Plan...(Interruptions) we have also made provisions to enable villages through GPDP....(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: QUESTION NO.-365, Shri Arun Sao.

(Q. 365)

SHRI ARUN SAO: Hon'ble Speaker, the answer given by the Hon. Minister proves that under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, the Government of India is committed to promote organic farming. I come from Chhattisgarh and Chhattisgarh is called the 'Rice Bowl'. Different regions and States have different crops.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the proposal of the Government to encourage farmers for organic farming and their marketing by identifying region specific and state specific crops.

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, everything is being taken care of by the Government from the point of view of marketing, so that the farmers get accessible place and they also get information. For this, we have created an organic portal. About 5.73 lakh farmers are connected with that portal. They put their products on that portal and they definitely get benefits from it in the market. Also, we are giving Rs. 19,000 to such farmers as training under the PKVY scheme. Apart from this, FPOs are also being formed. Former producer company have also a marketing expert, who imparts training to them. At the same time, farmers are guided for marketing. The Modi Government is trying to connect the farmers with the market directly and the support they need for it is being provided by the Government of India.

SHRI ARUN SAO: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, if the export of organic crops increases, its production increases and people get inspired for it, then what are the proposals of the Government to promote exports?

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has already addressed this issue while replying the first question itself.

SHRI KAILASH CHOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in organic farming brand India is continuously gaining popularity all over the world during the last five-seven years. The brand called India Organic has made India's identity as an organic country all over the world. This is the result of that endeavour. When the Modi Ji's Government came to power in the year 2013, at that time it had 1.77 lakh metric tonnes of export. It has now increased to 8.88 lakh metric tons. It means, it has registered sixfold increase. I would also like to tell you that the brands of the products being thus exported is completely monitored by APEDA. Our States have produced several good brands. Like Omega is the brand of Meghalaya. Similarly, Maharashtra State has its own brand. Thus, the State Governments have created brands of their respective organic products. Our brand is recognized globally. As a result, the export is continuously increasing, and farmers are also getting benefitted directly. Along with this, the farmers are also getting higher prices for their produce.

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from Hon. Minister that the Marathwada region of Maharashtra is known as drought-prone area and it produces huge quantity of pulses and oilseeds. Whether the Government is considering to grant financial assistance to farmers to promote organic farming in this area?

During earlier years of organic farming, production was very low. Whether the Government is considering to provide any market for the organic pulses and oilseeds so that they get remunerative price? If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI KAILASH C HOUDHARY: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as Hon. Member talked about reduction in production but as per research of our scientists production of some products has also increased in organic farming. And we have also conducted research. As Hon. Member talked about

support for increasing the produce, I have already stated in reply

to my first question that the farmers are given support of up to Rs. 50,000 per hectare, in which they get Rs. 31,000 directly and Rs. 19,000 as a component of training.

If a farmer also wants to set up a 'Farmer Producer Organization' (FPO), then organizations are being formed for that, they are also guided for their marketing and certification. As mentioned earlier about Large Area Certification. Thus, continuous efforts are being made to ensure maximum benefits for the farmers from it, so that the biggest problem of the country, diseases caused by pesticides and urea, may also be addressed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Question No. 366, Shri Kripanath Mallah.

(Q. 366)

SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, my question is regarding 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'. I have got the information regarding how much work has been done in my area. This is a very good scheme, the work of connecting all the villages with the main road is going on, very good work is being done. Earlier, there was no road in the village.

Sir, I would request the Hon. Minister that despite the work done several roads still remain to be constructed in my area which should be included under this scheme. I would like to name some important roads. There are two districts, Hailakandi and Karimganj. There are many roads in Hailakandi which are not connected to PMGSY till date. For example, Bhavartal to Chandipur, it falls in North Hailakandi. There are Garatpunji and Jayampunji in Katli Chaura, its length is 20 km. It is difficult to request from the State Government for this, that is why I want it to be constructed under PMGSY. The road from Harish Nagar PWD Point to Harishnagar Bolda-Boldi should be constructed, its length is also 15 km. Gamaria to Sarojpur, which is 10 kms long stretch. It connects two districts. Some roads are yet to be built. I would request the Hon. Minister to include them in this scheme as well.

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked a question regarding the remaining roads. When the State Government makes a proposal and sends it to us, we consider it. We do not sanction projects under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' directly, we

provide funds only when any proposal is forwarded by the state government. This question is related to the state of Assam, if Assam government sends the proposal, then we will definitely consider it.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, definitely the question of 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' is very important. There is a need to extend the timeline and add some roads. My Parliamentary Constituency is Bastar, which is the most naxal-affected area in the country. Some roads are sanctioned there, but those roads are not being constructed as per schedule, that is why there is a need to increase their time limit. I would request the Hon. Minister for that.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, at present, work of phase three is going on. Since my area is a Naxal-affected and tribal area, there are far-flung villages out of which many villages are still not connected by roads. Will the Hon. Minister tell regarding the proposal to connect those villages with roads and the time by which these villages are likely to be connected?

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the question raised by Hon. Member of Parliament has three categories. For the population of 500 in plain areas, 250 in hilly areas and Naxalite affected areas, the recommendation of the Department of Home Affairs is required. If the recommendation is accepted, we include it in the proposal and give them funds.

SHRI DILIP SHAIKIYA: Hon'ble Speaker, the Minister has given a detailed reply about the work going on under the PMGSY scheme in my Parliamentary Constituency Mangaldoi. My question is related to the

aspirational districts in our country, two of them are located in my Parliamentary Constituency. The first is Daranga and the second is Udalguri. Whether the Government of India has any proposal to provide more roads to these aspirational districts under PMGSY? Will the Government of India provide additional roads?

My second question is that earlier the MP used to get priority in the selection of roads, but now we do not get any priority. We know which road should be constructed and which should not be constructed. At present the selection of roads is done through technology, therefore, through you, I would also like to request the Minister that the MP should also be given the right to select the roads.

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon. Member of Parliament has raised the issue of aspirational districts, I want to tell him that in case of roads, whether it is for aspirational districts or for common districts, the state governments send a proposal for them. We approve them. Regarding the standard of construction of roads phase three is going on, if the state government sends a proposal by connecting higher secondary schools, hospitals and markets, we approve it and also make a provision for construction.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Thank you, Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this question is related to the Prime Minister's announcement in Glasgow that he wants to reduce 1 billion tonnes of carbon by 2030. Under PMGSY, about 50 thousand kilometres of road is constructed annually, so when we build roads with old technology, we spend a lot of fuel and a lot of carbon emissions also takes place. Is the Ministry thinking of some kind of new technology,

which will save fuel, will also reduce carbon emissions and in future the Prime Minister's announcement that 1 billion tonnes of carbon emission will be reduced, then how will PMGSY be able to bring these parameters through new road building technology in road construction and infrastructure building?

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the question of the Hon. Member of Parliament is about what Hon. Prime Minister said. I want to tell that we are also bringing this in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, so that our environment does not get polluted. We are trying to make adjustments in it.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. By the year 2007 villages up to 1000 population had to be connected, but now we are in the year 2022. There are many villages in my Parliamentary Constituency Nabarangpur and Malkangiri, Koraput district. There are naxal affected and tribal districts. How long will these districts be connected with the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana?

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon'ble Speaker, my answer again would be that the Hon. Member has spoken about the Naxalite affected area, the Government has kept it in mind and has been given population criteria of 150, 200 and 250. In Naxal-affected areas, we approve it on the basis of Home Ministry's recommendation.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: QUESTION NO.-367, Shri Sanjay Jadhav.

(Q. 367)

SHRI SANJAY JADHAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister about the parameters and the basis for including the food processing industry and the food processing sector under it? What is the proposal to expand it in future?

My second question is that the committees of PMFBY scheme have been formed in ODOP districts, but who are their members? Under whose supervision will they work and have they included public representatives? How are people being encouraged to grow the product?

SHRI PASHUPATI KUMAR PARAS: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra has 36 districts and there are 710 districts all over the country. According to 'One District One Product', it has been arranged at all 710 places in all the districts.

SHRI OM PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, Osmanabad district in Maharashtra, which falls in my Parliamentary Constituency, is an aspirational district. Under 'One District One Product' programme pulse based products like gram, moong, arhar dal, flour etc. have been allotted in it, whereas sugarcane and soybean are produced more there. So, why have only pulses-based products been allotted under 'One District One Product' for this district? How is this allotment done? By changing this, will allotment be made for the projects related to sugarcane and soybean? Being an aspirational district, there is acute shortage of jobs

there, so what are the efforts being made and steps taken by the Government at ground level to implement 'One District One Product'?

SHRI PASHUPATI KUMAR PARAS: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there are two districts in the area of the hon. member in Maharashtra. The first district is Osmanabad, where there is provision of pulses-based products like gram, moong, arhar dal, flour etc. and the second district is Parbhani, where sugarcane is grown. We will look into it and after conducting the enquiry, if possible, arrangements will be made in that area as well.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Q. No.-368, Shri Kesineni Srinivas.

Not present.

(Q.368)

[English]

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to ask a very important question.

Sir, the Government is focussing on controlling the production of drugs and its enforcement. But the Government should also focus on screening. They should screen all the high schools and colleges in relation to drug consumption. A lot of parents do not know that their children are consuming drugs.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to screen all the colleges and schools so that we get to know who is involved in drug addiction, counsel them and save their future.

[Translation]

SHRI NITYANAND ROY: Hon'ble Speaker, Hon. Member of Parliament has rightly said that this is a very sensitive question and it is very importance for this country. A national policy has been made under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji under which arrangements have been made to control drugs and drug trafficking. Under the drive being run for this purpose various steps have been taken including imparting training in all the States, though this question has been asked regarding Andhra Pradesh, but the issue encompasses the entire country. The data of drug abuse, especially in the university campus, is more in that area. For that, the Government has taken several steps, such as the Narco Coordination Center-NCORD has been set up in the year 2021. Through NCORD, we coordinate with the states. There

is already a coordination committee through which we work for the prevention of narcotics in coordination with the states. For that we run a drive through NCB. Under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, which is a policy of the Central Government, so far 272 districts have also been declared sensitive. Under this, special focus has been given to higher educational institutions, university campuses and schools. 272 districts have been identified and 8,000 master volunteers have been selected. More than 2 crore 14 lakh people have been benefitted so far through various activities under this drive.

12.00 hrs

More than 42 lakh youth have actively participated in this drive and more than four thousand youth congregations, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and volunteers of the National Service Scheme have also been associated with this drive.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, my request to the Minister is that he has just mentioned 272 districts, which includes ten districts of Haryana, out of which there are two districts of my Lok Sabha constituency namely Sirsa and Fatehabad.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you, it is my request and it is also my suggestion that a meeting should be held fortnightly or quarterly for this, so that we may know how the district is getting benefitted from this scheme how progress is being made. If a quarterly meeting is held involving the DC, SP and Hon. Member of Parliament there, then we can get complete

information about the progress of the scheme of our Government. Thank you.

SHRI NITYANAND ROY: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there is a four-tier committee in this regard, there is a high-level committee above the district and the state and it has been provided a lot of infrastructure through the offices of the NCB, which also holds meetings, if needed, in coordination with the States and districts and the kind of report that received is acted upon as per the instructions of the Central Government, a meeting was held in December 2021 under the chairmanship of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the objective and instructions of that meeting have been conveyed to all the states. As Hon. Madam was saying that 10 districts in Haryana fall under it, so by making zone and dividing them in sub-zone, then by coordinating with the state regarding these district, we work for its control and prevention.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos. 369 to 380

Unstarred Question Nos. 4141 to 4370)

[Translation]

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motions on various issues by the following Members - Kunwar Danish Ali, Shri T.N. Prathapan, Shri Hibi Eden, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Prof. Sreekandan, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Shri Benny Behanan and Shri Mohammed Faizal P.P. I have not allowed any notice of adjournment motion.

.... (Intrrptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is your issue?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, all I have to say is that the adjournment motion I have given, yesterday and today trade unions across the country observed Bharat Bandh against privatization. Yesterday all the banks were closed, the transport came to standstill, then the Government should understand that there is a lot of resentment among the people. The Government's policy is to sell everything. I want discussion on this policy of the Government.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, barring Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh, belonging to the BJP party, all the trade unions have decided in unison to call a strike across the nation in order to stop plundering of the nation by this Government. They have put forward some issues for consideration of the Government like – scrapping up of proposed changes in the labour laws, privatisation of any firm under National Monetization Pipeline, increase in allocation of wages under

MGNREGA, regularization of contract workers, etc. Sir, it has evoked a huge response across the nation, but sorry to state that in West Bengal the Government is trying to thwart the agitation by deploying its own workers. Here, they are talking about the interests of the labour, but in West Bengal they are trying to thwart the agitation. So, I would like to flag the attention of this House and the nation that we are all extending our whole-hearted cooperation to this agitation, to this strike called by all the labour unions barring the Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh.(Intrruptions)

12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now the papers will be laid on the Table - Dr. Virendra Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): Speaker Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Social Defense, New Delhi, for the year 2018- 2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Social Defense, New Delhi, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned in (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6802/17/22]

12.04 hrs

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY
(SHRI KRISHAN PAL):** Mr. Chairman, I lay on the Table of the House
the following letter:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)
under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(a) Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India
Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2020-2021.

(b) Annual Report of Scooters India Limited, Lucknow for the year 2020-
2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and
Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6803/17/22]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR
BALYAN):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the
following letter:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions)
of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year
2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions)
by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board
of India, Chennai, for the year 2018-2019.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6804/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2022 under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Census Act, 1948 as published in the Gazette of India dated 11th March ,2022 vide Notification No. GSR 194(A)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6805/17/22]

- (2) A copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, National Investigation Agency (CEO) Recruitment Rules, 2022 published in Notification No. 10 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2022 under sub-section (2) of Section 25 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6806/17/22]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, and Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned in (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6807/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) Review by Government of the working of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Panchkula, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Panchkula, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6808/17/22]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Seeds Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for the year 2021-2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6809/17/22]

(4) A copy of the Horse Gram Grading and Marking Rules, 2020 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 581(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2020, under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Categorization and Marking) Act, 1937

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6810/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI PRATIMA BHAUMIK): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Institution for the Blind, New Delhi, for the years 2013-2014 and 2015-2016.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institution for the Blind, New Delhi, for the years 2013-2014 and 2015-2016.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6811/17/22]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Society for Environmental Development and Voluntary Action, Nayagarh, Odisha, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Environmental Development and Voluntary Action, Nayagarh, Odisha, for the year 2015-2016.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6812/17/22]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Development Social Service Society, Kannur, Kerala, for the year 2011-2012.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Development Social Service Society, Kannur, Kerala, for the year 2011-2012.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6813/17/22]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Janata Adarsh Vidyalaya, Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Janta Adarsh Vidyalaya, Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6814/17/22]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts the Gyan Sarovar, Table, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gyan Sarovar, Saran, for the year 2015-2016.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6815/17/22]

(11) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 15 of the National Commission for Other Backward Classes Act, 1993:-

- (i) Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Commission for Other Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.
- (ii) Explanatory Memorandum on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Other Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

- (12) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6816/17/22]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Manindranath Banerjee Memorial Society, Burdwan, West Bengal, for the year 2020-2021.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Manindranath Banerjee Memorial Society, Burdwan, West Bengal, for the year 2020-2021.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6817/17/22]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Version) and Audited Accounts of Vishnu DayalShikshaSamiti, Lucknow for the year 2017-2018.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Vishnu Dayal Shiksha Samiti, Lucknow, for the year 2017-2018.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6818/17/22]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund, New Delhi, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund, New Delhi, for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6819/17/22]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Open Educational Development Research and Welfare Society, Sangrur, Punjab, for the year 2017-2018.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Open Educational Development Research and Welfare Society, Sangrur, Punjab, for the year 2017-2018.

- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6820/17/22]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Divyangjan Mano vikas Kendra Rehabilitation and Research Institute, Kolkata, for the years 2011-2012, 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Divyangjan Mano vikas Kendra Rehabilitation and Research Institute, Kolkata, for the years 2011-2012, 2014-2015 and 2016-2017.

- (21) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6821/17/22]

- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Durgabai Deshmukh Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Andhra Mahila Sabha, Hyderabad, for the years 2011-2012 and 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Durgabai Deshmukh Vocational Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Andhra Mahila Sabha, Hyderabad, for the years 2011-2012 and 2014-2015.
- (23) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6822/17/22]

- (24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kachjuli Physically Handicapped (Def & Dumb) School and Training Centre, Lakhimpur, Assam, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kachjuli Physically Handicapped (Def & Dumb) School and Training Centre, Lakhimpur, Assam, for the year 2013-2014.
- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6823/17/22]

(26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shri South Bhav Samiti, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shri Dakshinya Bhav Samiti, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016.

(27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6824/17/22]

(28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Alphons Social Centre, Kidangur, Kerala, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Alphons Social Centre, Kidangur, Kerala, for the year 2011-2012.

(29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6825/17/22]

- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bharat Jyoti, Cuttack, Odisha, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bharat Jyoti, Cuttack, Odisha, for the year 2013-2014.

- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6826/17/22]

- (32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jeevan Jyoti Welfare Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped, Dhenkanal, Odisha, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jeevan Jyoti Welfare Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped, Dhenkanal, Odisha, for the year 2015-2016.

- (33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6827/17/22]

- (34) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the L.K.C. Shri Jagdamba Andh Vidyalaya Samiti, Sri Ganganagar, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the L.K.C. Shri Jagdamba Andh Vidyalaya Samiti, Sri Ganganagar, for the year 2011-2012.

- (35) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (34) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6828/17/22]

- (36) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jalpaiguri Welfare Organisation, Jalpaiguri, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jalpaiguri Welfare Organisation, Jalpaiguri, for the year 2011-2012.

- (37) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (36) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6829/17/22]

- (38) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Women and Child Welfare Centre, Vijayanagaram, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Women and Child Welfare, Vijayanagaram, for the year 2015-2016.

- (39) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (38) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6830/17/22]

- (40) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Voluntary Organization of Rural Development Society, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Voluntary Organization of Rural Development Society, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016.

- (41) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (40) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6831/17/22]

- (42) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deaf and Dumb School, Meerut, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Def & Dumb School, Meerut, for the year 2015-2016.

- (43) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (42) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6832/17/22]

- (44) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions), and Audited Accounts of the Self Husbandry, Secunderabad, Telangana, for the year 2015-2016.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Self Husbandry, Secunderabad, Telangana, for the year 2015-2016.

- (45) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (44) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6833/17/22]

- (46) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chaitanya Institute for the Learning Disabled, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chaitanya Institute for the Learning Disabled, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2015-2016.
- (47) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (46) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6834/17/22]

- (48) A copy each of the following letters (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Holbiz Private Limited, Surat, for the year 2018-2019.
- (ii) Annual Report of Holbiz Private Limited, Surat for the year 2018-2019, Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (49) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (48) above

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6835/17/22]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. L. MURUGAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

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- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2020-2021.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6836/17/22]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year

2020-2021.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6837/17/22]

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

32nd Report

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the 32th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.05 ½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES

AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Statements

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Chairperson, I lay on the table the statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the further action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the following reports of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development: -

- (1) 46th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the 33th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and Skill Development Initiative Scheme' pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- (2) 48th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on 35th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Textiles.
- (3) 50th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 36th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- (4) 53rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the 41th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Jan Shikshan Sansthan Yojana' pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- (5) 54th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the 30th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Geo Asset Management in National Textiles Corporation (NTC)' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.
- (6) 10th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the 1st Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- (7) 11th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Second Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Textiles.
- (8) 12th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on 3rd Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- (9) 13th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the Fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 - (10) 14th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Sixth Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Textiles.
 - (11) 15th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the Seventh Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
 - (12) 24th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the 57th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Investment Status Guidelines, Monitoring Rating and Regulatory Systems by Future Funds, Pension Funds' pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 - (13) 26th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the 17th Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
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12.06 hrs**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS***[English]*

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 307th Report of the Department- related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on impact of Covid-19 on the PSUs and the initiatives taken by the PSUs under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries*

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY**

(SHRI KRISHAN PAL): Hon. Chairperson, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 307th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the impact of COVID-19 on public sector undertakings pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and initiatives taken by PSUs under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

12.06 ½ hrs*[English]*

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6800/17/22

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations /observations contained in the 230th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on 'Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI): Hon. Chairperson, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations/ observations contained in the 230th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on 'Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 6801/17/22

12.07 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

(ADVOCATE AJAY BHATT): Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move the following: -

“That the members of this Assembly may, in accordance with clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, elect two members from among themselves to act as members of the Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: the question is:

“That the members of this Assembly may, in accordance with clause (1) of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, elect two members from among themselves to act as members of the Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Zero Hour now.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the august House an important issue that many children have died by consuming the cough syrup called Cofset which contains a deadly chemical called diethylene glycol. A few years ago, in Ramnagar Village in Jammu, a dozens of children also died by consuming this diethylene glycol laden tonic called Cold best. Both these were manufactured by Digital Vision.

Sir, publicly available data show that these medicines failed to qualify the quality standards. We have the Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940 which treats such sales as a serious offence.

What I demand from the Government, Sir, is that the regulatory responses to Digital Vision's offences were not unique to the company but were symptoms of a larger systemic problem. The Indian State and Central Drug Regulators today balk at prosecuting manufacturers of substandard drugs.

The Drug Consultative Committee, an advisory body to State Regulators, have issued a controversial guideline that prosecuting every case of substandard drug would lead to the harassment of manufacturers. This should be immediately withdrawn. There should be strict implementation of good manufacturing practices as envisaged by the Drug and Cosmetics Act.

Sir, this is a very important issue. Many children are consuming these cough syrups and dying. There is no control by the Government on sale of such substandard drugs.

Thank you.

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

Sir, I have been raising the issue of water supply in Ahmednagar Cantonment for the past two years, but no progress has been made regarding the same. Recently, the Ahmednagar Cantonment Board has increased the water charges from Rs. 2,000 per annum to Rs. 2,400 per annum whereas all the other cantonments adjacent to the Ahmednagar Cantonment have a water charge of Rs. 2,000 per annum.

The residents of this area are already suffering due to inconsistent water supply. They receive water supply for 12-15 days and that too is irregular. Also, due to the COVID pandemic, this particular rise in water charges will create a huge economic impact in the lives of those residents.

My request, through you, Sir, is to the Ministry of Defence to roll back this rise in water charges. I would also like to make a special mention, through you, Sir, to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to expedite the completion of Phase-II of AMRUT Yojana undertaken by the Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation due to which the facilitation of water supply to the residents of Ahmednagar as well as to the Cantonment would be much easier.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI (KANPUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Health regarding the opening of an All-India Institute of Ayurveda in Kanpur for the upgradation of health services in Kanpur city under Swasthya Suraksha Yojna.

Sir, it is a well-known fact that Kanpur is an industrial and ancient city. The population of Kanpar is above 45 lakhs and it is well connected with the nearby areas whether it is Agra, Allahabad, Banaras, Lucknow, Aligarh or Jhansi. Kanpur ranks eighth among 10 smart cities.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, in the present circumstances, it is not only the people of Kanpur who need treatment. The Bundelkhand region is a neglected area where good medical facilities are not available, so the people of that area also visit Kanpur to get proper medical treatment. Therefore, when the load increases, then Kanpur Hospital and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital remain the only two places where patients may go. Due to overcrowding, they are enumerated in the waiting list for months. Sometimes the patient came to the hospital for treatment but pass away, he could not be treated.

So, Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Health to set up an All-India Institute of Ayurveda in Kanpur in view of the prevailing circumstances.

[English]

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY (TIRUPATI): The Ministry of Labour & Employment is running two schools at Kalichedu and Talupur villages at Venkatagiri, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. Kalichedu village

is popular for mica mines. For the well-being of labourers working in mica mines, the Ministry of Mines and Labour Welfare started a primary school and a high school in 1950.

For these mica workers, a primary health centre with 50 beds and a 30-bedded T.B. hospital was established in 1955. The hospital was closed in 2003.

At present, school infrastructure is in dilapidated condition. There is lack of faculty and facilities. Altogether, 150 children are studying in this school. I request, through you, Sir, the hon. Minister for Labour & Employment to kindly take necessary action for all round development of these MMLWO schools at Kalichedu and Talupur villages, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR RAHMAN (SAHARANPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention about the Van Gujjars and village, Dongia of Uttar Pradesh, especially the Van Gujjars of District Saharanpur in the context of the historic Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 which was enacted by the Indian Parliament 16 years ago on 15th December, 2006. In the Shivalik foothills forest area of district-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, population of 3 thousand Dongia and 4 thousand families of the Van Gujjar community live in the forest. Dongia village and Van Gujjar community got recognition for the first time under the Forest Rights Act 2006, but even after 16 years, Van Gujjars have still not got their rights.

They are constantly threatened with displacement and forced eviction from the forest, while they cannot be forcibly evicted from the forest under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act-2006. The Van Gujjar community has been living in the forests for hundreds of years.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please say what you want to say.

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR RAHMAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, this community is engaged in cattle rearing. If they are displaced and rehabilitated at some other places, the Government has no such big pasture land where they can feed hundreds of their animals. Therefore, they should have the right to live in the forest itself. I demand from the Government that Van Gujjars should also get Scheduled Tribe status in Uttar Pradesh as well, as is the case in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act-2006, they should get Community Right Certificate.

Sir, the Department and police officers continue to inflict atrocities on them. They also forcibly keep collecting milk and ghee from the people living in the forest. The information that they have the right to live in forests should reach them.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you should present your point within one minute during zero hour.

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR RAHMAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding in one minute. It is necessary to make the police and the administration aware of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act-2006 so that their rights are not violated. Thank you.

SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI (NAUGONG): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and especially the hon. Prime Minister. *[English]* Sir, in August, 2021, the Government of India declared the National Mission on Edible Oils, and the Government of India wants to make the North-East an oil palm hub. Subsequently, in December 2021, more than 100 scientists, ecologists and conservationists from across the country wrote a joint letter to the hon. Prime Minister cautioning him that this will be an ecological disaster if such a palm oil cultivation is taken up as per the Government plan. As you know, the North-East is harbouring the forest cover and the rich ecology that it has. Also, the scientists have brought it out and they recommended that the agricultural lands be tapped before expanding into biodiversity such as the North-Eastern region and Andaman and Nicobar. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization data shows that India still has 38.8 million hectares of climatically suitable land open for cultivation of palm oil. So, the Government of India should not make the North-East region an oil palm hub because this is the only reminiscence of the forest cover and ecology that we have.

***SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH):** Honourable Chairperson, Sir, Juhar (namaskar) and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. Sambalpuri / Kosali language is an old language. More than 1.5 crore people who reside in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and other states

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Odia.

speak Sambalpuri language. It is an ancient and scientific language which has its own grammar, vocabulary and literature. Ramayana, Mahabharat, Shrimad Bhagwat Gita and other religious books have already been translated into Sambalpuri.

Sambalpuri language has its own set of music, dance, poetry and literature. Under the leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India has awarded Padma Shri to Sambalpuri literature Shri Haldhar Nag and singer Shri JitendraHaripada. This is indirectly a recognition of the contribution of Sambalpuri language.

Sir, we have requested you several times in the past to include Sambalpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Through you Sir, I would once again request you to include it in the Eighth Schedule.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the delay in making payment by the Sahara India Chit Fund Company to its investors. I come from the State of Bihar and lakhs of people from Bihar including Sheohar, Sitamarhi and East Champaran districts in my Parliamentary Constituency have deposited their money in various savings schemes of Sahara India Chit Fund Company, but despite the completion of maturity period, they are not getting their invested money back for the last many years. They are forced to run from pillar to post for getting their hard-earned money back. There are many such chit fund companies like Sahara India, Rose Valley where the poor

people have deposited their money, but they are not getting their money back.

Sir, about Rs. 24 thousand crores of Sahara India are deposited with SEBI. Hon. Supreme Court had also ordered SEBI and Sahara to return the depositors' money in the year 2012 itself, but even after a lapse of about 10 years the investors' money is neither being paid by Sahara India nor is it being paid by SEBI. This calls for the Government's intervention, so that out of the Sahara deposits with the SEBI, payment to investors may be made under the supervision of the Government. The SEBI and Sahara controversy is also affecting the livelihood of lakhs of people working in Sahara India....
(Interruptions)

Therefore, I, through this House, request the Government to consider this matter seriously and take necessary action to ensure that the money deposited by the people in Sahara India is paid.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please send association slips to the Table.

[Translation] Any hon. Member who want to associate himself with this subject, please send the slip.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit -- not present.

Shri T. N. Prathapan.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, ICHR decided to exclude hundreds of martyrs of the great Malabar revolt -- which was an anti-colonial freedom fight in 1921 -- from the Dictionary of Martyrs of Freedom Struggle.

The Malabar Rebellion in 1921 was a proud chapter in the history of our freedom fight. Indian Independence struggle is the foundation of our country. The history of freedom fight for hundreds of years should be our inspiration and the centre of unity. Our freedom fighters shall be respected. Please do not insult them.

It is easy for someone to write mercy petitions during the Independence movement, but it took courage and incredible commitment for the martyrs of the Malabar revolt to sacrifice their lives for this land. The martyrs of wagon tragedy, which is a heinous account of British cruelty like Jallianwala Bagh are also insulted by the ICHR.

Sir, it is not good for our country to mutilate our history. ICHR should be reminded about their responsibility. And that is to celebrate the history and heritage of this country without any political agenda. I would like to request the Culture Ministry to kindly revisit the decision of ICHR to exclude our freedom fighters, who were once respected and honoured as martyrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SOUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Sir, I represent Bishnupur Lok Sabha Constituency. There are two cities namely Barjora and Sonamukhi and it is my request from hon. Minister of Road Transport that

if an overbridge is built over Barjora, then at least 50 thousand people, who commute every day, will be benefitted. 10 lakh men have already started commuting, because the NH 60 is connected with it.

It is my request to hon. Minister of Road Transport that there should be an overbridge at Barjora and a bypass at Sonamukhi Borsova. It's essential.... (Interruptions) as it is associated with Jungle Mahal.

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH (ARARIA): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

Sir, I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister of India, respected Narendra Modi ji and thank him. This is the second plan of the country and the first plan of Bihar. I come from Araria Lok Sabha constituency, it is located on the border of Nepal. The Kosi-Mechi river linking project has been approved. If Kosi-Mechi River linking project is completed, then there are many rivers, like Parman, Bakra, Bhalua etc., many small rivers originate from Kosi. The dam of that river will be protective dam. River Linking Scheme has been approved. Rs.4,900 crores have been sanctioned, but there is a fight between the Government of Bihar and the Government of India for share of percentage.

Sir, if this scheme is given effect to, we will get relief from floods. The farmers will be benefitted, and irrigation facility will be provided to two lakh hectares land of farmers. Through you, I want to request the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India, that this scheme should be given effect to, only then Modi Ji's dream will be fulfilled, and our farmers will benefit. Thank you.

DR HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

Today I would like to place before the House a subject related to not only Maharashtra but also to the employment of youths across the country. A few days ago, we had all seen a viral video on the internet, in which a youth named Pradeep Mehra was jogging 10 km during late hours at night to prepare for the recruitment in the army. That scene is testimony to the fact how hard our youths try to get recruited in the Army. Lakhs of youth apply for jobs in the Indian Army every year and the Ministry of Defence conducts recruitment process through 90 to 100 recruitment rallies every year. My Lok Sabha constituency is an aspirational district as well as a tribal dominated district and thousands of youths from rural areas apply for Army General Duty, having age limit of 17 to 21.5 years and Tradesman, having age limit of 17 to 23.5 years. Recruitment rallies have been closed for the last two years due to Corona epidemic, due to which the age of the youth of my Lok Sabha constituency has exceeded the prescribed age limit and they are not qualified for recruitment. One Time Age Relaxation was also given by Air Force and Navy in the year 2021. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister that in order to protect the future of the youths who have exceeded the prescribed age limit in the last two years, a two-year Age Relaxation by the Government should be provided in the recruitments to be held this year in the Indian Army. At present, about 81 thousand posts are vacant in the Army. Cosequently, many youths will get the opportunity to protect the country.

SHRI BHOLANATH 'B.P. SAROJ' (MACHILISHAHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the Zero Hour.

Sir, the absence of a railway overbridge near Zafarabad Junction in Zafarabad Vidhan Sabha under my Lok Sabha constituency Machhlisahar, district Jaunpur often affects the emergency services. I would like to draw your attention that hundreds of trains run from Zafarabad Junction to Sultanpur, Faizabad, Prayagraj, due to which the gate remains closed and busy for a long time. Due to the proximity with the city from the point of view of transportation, the people visiting schools, colleges, hospitals and court have to face a lot of problems.

There are about 30 schools and colleges here and as there is no alternative route, students often miss school and at times patients suffering from serious diseases have also died due to closure of gates. Sir, through you, I urge the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly construct a railway crossing, overbridge at Zafarabad Junction in view of the problems being faced by the common man.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA (JAMMU): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very burning issue. Employees working in various departments of Jammu and Kashmir on need basis like casual labour, daily wagers are providing their services for a long time. Many of them have completed 15 years, some of them have completed 20 years and some have completed 12 years, but till date they have not been regularized. These employees are unregulated and as a result they do not get full salary. They and their families are

suffering as they do not get full salary, and in protest they keep on resorting to dharna, demonstration, agitation and gherao every day. Sir, I request the Government through you to provide financial assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir administration as one-time settlement. The employees should be regularized or by making a policy regarding them they should be paid full salary so that they may serve the departments effectively while also take care of their families; otherwise, they will continue to protest on a daily basis. It is not appropriate. I request the Government to help them. Please provide financial assistance to Jammu and Kashmir administration, so that they can be regularized. Thank you.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Sir, thank you very much for giving me time in Zero Hour.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious issue of Vadoli village in my parliamentary constituency and the local people of Vadala. Residents have complained that due to the negligence of RCF, a poisonous gas is released from a plant of RCF in the area of Lodha (New Cuffe Parade) Ajmera Island and Dosti Complex near RCF in Mumbai, which is causing serious diseases to the residents of Wadala and creating an atmosphere of fear there. I caution the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers about the negligence of this polluting plant. Even after repeated meetings with the RCF management here on this serious issue, action is not being taken against it.

Apart from this, a field lying vacant on the plot of RCF in Vadoli village for years was used by the children of the village for playing games for the last 45 to 50 years. Senior citizens also used this ground for morning walks.

But for the last 6 to 7 years, the RCF management has closed this ground without any reason. As a result, there is no place for the children of Vadoli village to play.

Now senior citizens are facing problems for morning walk. Some of the children playing on this ground have also represented the state in sports at national level. The department of RCF has closed the ground using debris. Now this place has turned a shelter for snakes and many insects due to dirt which is causing a several diseases to the nearby villagers.

Therefore, I, through you, request the Hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to intervene in this matter and order the RCF authorities to take action against the plant emitting poisonous gas and make that ground available for Vadoli village. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri K. Navaskhani - Not present.

[English]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue about NALCO disinvestment. NALCO is a Navratna CPSU under the Ministry of Mines with Government having a 51.28 per cent stake. NALCO has been an industry leader in producing and exporting high quality alumina and aluminium for forty years. The Government wants to privatise this zero-debt company that has consistently paid dividends to the Government. Since its incorporation, NALCO has been making profits. It continues to have a consistent track record of production, productivity, technology adoption, quality assurance, capacity utilisation, profitability, and pays a sizeable

share of dividends to national and state exchequers. It is one of the highest foreign exchange earners in the country, a very good example of a good industry. The Adani Enterprises Limited have floated a wholly owned unit named Mundra Aluminium Limited which is in the process of taking over NALCO through backdoor entry. There is a lot of discontent among the people in this regard and there are a lot of agitations happening on the ground. I would like to request the Minister of Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi is here, to stop the disinvestment process. As NALCO is a profitable Navratna CPSU and a wholly owned Government company, this should be stopped. Thank you.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Sir, the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana has immensely benefited families of freedom fighters who are old and dependent on this pension for their livelihood. Due to bureaucratic apathy and the enormous delays in payment of pensions, several cases in various courts have been filed.

I wish to give example of one such case from my own Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. Her name is Shrimati Pavuluri Mangamma, a 90-year-old widow. Her husband, the late Shri Pavuluri Sivaramakrishnaiah, who was drawing pension under the scheme passed away on 4th May, 2021. She had submitted all the necessary documents approved by the District Collector for family pension. After several delays and obfuscation in the procedure to obtain the amount, the pension was credited to her bank account. However, citing reasons that the original PPO, original pension letter, and marriage certificate have not been submitted, the amount so credited was reversed. Despite immediate submission of these documents

by her, her pension has not been restored. Adding misery to the situation, the poor woman's CGHS card can be renewed only if new family pension FPO number is allotted.

Her deteriorating health condition requires immediate healthcare and medical support. Further delaying the issue may have an adverse impact on the life of Shrimati Mangamma. I would urge the hon. Home Minister to intervene in the matter personally and ensure timely payment of the family pension to Shrimati Pavaluri Mangamma.

Also, Sir, today being the Telugu Desam Party formation day - we completed forty years today - I once again request the Government to confer the Bharat Ratna on our founder, Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao garu the legendary N.T. Rama Rao. Thank you.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (BATHINDA): Sir, as per the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966 when the United Punjab was divided, Chandigarh was the temporary common capital of Punjab and Haryana. As per this Act, all employees at the ratio of 60 per cent from Punjab and 40 per cent from Haryana only were to be recruited for Chandigarh; there is no provision for any other cadre to be recruited here. Rajiv-Longowal Accord also assured that in 1986 Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab. It is our capital. However, unilaterally, successive governments [*Translation*] have consistently applied this Central Service Rule to dilute our claim, whereas like the rest of the Union Territories, in this UT, in Chandigarh also, other employees may be posted. However, this is totally against our accord, our Act. There is no provision that any other employee may be deployed here other than the employees of Chandigarh and Haryana. It is a robbery

of our right, and a ploy to take our Capital City away from us. Similarly, in the BBM-Bhakra-Beas Management Board, where our member has been in power for 56 years, to bring those who protect our water rights, to bring them under central control through the Dam Safety Bill, our member has been removed after 56 years.

Sir, our continuous claim for our capital, is an emotional issue for the Punjabis. Chandigarh is ours; we have been promised for it. Now, whether it is our water or our capital city, our employees, doctors, teachers are all being thrown out from there and our claim on all these, including our mother tongue, is being reduced. It is against the federal structure and is the violation of the federal system.

I, through you, want to tell the Government that the Act ratified by the Parliament, Longowal-Rajiv Accord ratified by the Parliament, should be implemented and our rights, our capital Chandigarh should be transferred to Punjab at the earliest.

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter related to my Parliamentary Constituency.

Sir, although the crop of the farmers is ruined due to several reasons, but in recent times the fury of Nilgais and elephants in both the districts of my constituency has increased so much that the farmers in these areas have stopped planting crops. As a result of non-cultivation of such crops, the prices of these crops are increasing, and the fields of the farmers are also getting destroyed.

Sir, along with this, the fury of elephants has also increased so much that they are trampling crops, demolishing houses and even killing people. Unfortunately, nothing is being done by the Forest Department in this context except that sometimes an attempt is made to remove those elephants and nilgais.

Sir, this is not a case of my own parliamentary constituency only, but in many states of the country people are facing the wrath of Nilgais and elephants. I request through you that the Central Government should try to find a permanent solution to this problem. Along with this, proper compensation in each case by assessing the damage to crops and damaged houses should be paid.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (SAMBHAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I through you, would like to ask the Government that I had raised an urgent matter of the Railways during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on 14.12.2021. I had demanded that a new railway line be constructed from Sambhal to Gajraula, via Hasanpur, and from Jargaon to Sirsi. But the Government in its written reply stated that it was surveyed in the year 2016, but the scheme could not proceed further as it was not found viable. So, I want to ask whether the Government does everything for its own benefit, and it has nothing to do with the convenience of the general public?

The Government also collects taxes from Sambhal. Sambhal is a district and it is Asia's largest market of Menthol oil, and it is essential to construct a railway line for its progress.

Sambhal is a district with predominantly Muslim minority. Despite this, why does the Government not want to develop Sambhal district? I would like to request the Government to do justice to the people of Sambhal and, the railway line should be developed in Sambhal like other districts, so that the development of whole area may be ensured. Thank you.

ڈاکٹر شفیق الرحمن

(سنبھل):

محترم ماسپیئر صاحب، میناپکے ذریعہ سرکار سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ مینے اپنے حلقہ سنبھل کے ریلوے کا ایک ضروری معاملہ

14.12.2021

کو لوکسبھامینزیر واور کے دور انٹہایاتہا اور مینے مانگ کیتہیک سنبھل سے گجرو لہوایا حسنپور اور ج رگاؤنسے سر سیتکننیر یلبنائجائے لیکنسر کار کاتحریر یجو ابایاکہ

2016

مینسروے کیا گیاتہا لیکنپر یوجنا غیر ار تہشر مہونے کیوجہ سے آگے نہینبڑھپائی۔

لہذا مینسر کار سے پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا سرکار ہر کام اپنے فائدہ کے لئے بیکرتی ہے، عامجنتا کی سہولت کے لئے کوئی کام نہینکرتی؟ سرکار سنبھل سے بھیٹیکسو صولکرتی ہے سنبھلایکضلع ہے اور ایش یاکیسب سے بڑیمینتہا آئل منڈی ہے، جسکیترقیکے لئے ریلوے لائن بننا بہت ضروری ہے۔

سنبھلمسلماناقلیتیا کثرتکا ضلع ہے، اسکے باوجود کیونسر کار سنبھل ضلع کا وکاس کرانا نہینچاہتی۔ مینسر کار سے گزار شکر ناچاہتا ہوں کہ سنبھل کی عوام کے ساتھ انصاف کیا جائے اور دوسرے ضلعوں کی طرح حسنہ مینبھیریلوے لائن کا وکاس کیا جائے تاکہ پورے علاقے کیترقیہوسکے شکریہ

SHRI SANJAY JADHAV (PARBHANI): Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to put an important issue before the Government. While planting crops, farmer apply for the crop insurance scheme standing in the queue throughout the day, whether it is online or offline, but at the time of claim settlement they are given time to file a complaint about the amount of crop insurance. I through you, would like to tell the Government that they have the complete record of crop insurance scheme. Even though you have

complete records, when the time comes to settle their claims they are asked to apply online or offline. If they do not do so, they are given 72 hours. During these 72 hours, some places have internet connection, and some places don't have. Therefore, I through you, request the Government that when farmers have applied for the crop insurance scheme, there is no need to ask them for paying compensation to them and it should be given quickly.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWADA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the mega textile park announced by the Government of India. Bhilwara, my Lok Sabha constituency, is a leader in the country in textile sector, but as per the rules of the mega textile park, the park will be set up where the Rajasthan Government will recommend. The Government of Rajasthan has recommended another location in place of Bhilwara. I, through you, urge the Minister of Textile that the Government of Rajasthan should be instructed to send another proposal for the establishment of second Mega Textile Park in Bhilwara, so that action can be taken in this regard here. It's very important.

SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (VAISHALI): Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti that due to the erosion caused by the Burhi Gandak river in several villages of Meenapur block under Vaishali Parliamentary Constituency, hundreds of families are suffering financial losses every year and they get displaced.

Sir, in the end, I urge you to solve this problem. Every village in Vaishali Lok Sabha constituency is flooded. You are requested to build a dam there and save the people. With the construction of the dam in that area,

the common people will not have to face problems like economic loss and displacement. Thank you very much.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL (VARDHMAN EAST): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, many congratulations. My constituency is Vardhaman East in West Bengal. There is a very beautiful tourism centre there. We have the birthplace of Mahaprabhu Chaitanya ji in Navdeep near the Ganges. The Navdeep area is adjacent to the Ganga River and my constituency is located on the banks of the Ganga River. The area is the birthplace of many writers and Poets. Viplavi is the birthplace of Rasbihari Bose.... (Interruptions) I spoke about the riverbank.... (Interruptions) .

HON. SPEAKER: Dada, all are ours. It is okay that the constituency is theirs.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL: Navdeep is on the edge of our Constituency. You know that half of Navdeep is in my area... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Mandal Sahab, please speak.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL: The birthplace of Rasbihari Ji is also there. The Minister of Tourism has our request. If the West Bengal government makes efforts to develop it as a tourist centre there, then it may become a very good tourism spot. There are 108 Shiva-Parvati temples, Pashupati temple. There are a lot of things in our Constituency. We have everything required to develop a tourism centre there. The Minister has our request. You can help us a little bit in this regard.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir thank you very much. I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Nitin Gadkari ji. First of all, I greet and congratulate the Hon. Minister. Today, our India is changing due to the rapid pace of development. We are working under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji.

Sir, through you, I also thank Hon. Nitin Gadkari Ji. During the previous Government, the roads of National Highways were constructed not more than eight kms per day, but today more than 38 Kms of National Highways are being constructed under the leadership of our Modi Ji and Gadkari Ji. Also, I, through you, would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the work of Somnath-Bhavnagar National Highway which is going on in my area in Amreli district. Hon. Minister Nitin Gadkari Saheb had done its Bhoomi Pujan in the year 2015 and its work was about to be completed in the year 2018. But the work is going on at a slow pace there till date. If the work progresses at the same pace then this work will not be completed even at the end of the year 2022.

Sir, I, through you, would like to request that this work should be done at a little faster pace, so that the people of that area is benefited.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, in my constituency one pineapple farmer has committed suicide. It is a very painful incident. The bank authorities have started the attachment proceedings and are harassing the farmers.

So, it should be stopped immediately. The Government should intervene in this case specifically. In my constituency alone, more than ten thousand notices have been issued by all the banks. So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this case specifically. The interest and penal interest on the loans should be waived off.

Now, I come to education loan holders. Due to unemployment – both internationally and domestically – people are facing a similar situation. The interest should be waived off and all the loans should be rescheduled and restructured to increase the repayment period.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BALIA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue in the House. Natural farming production has become a necessity in the world today. India may be a hub for natural farming. Nature has given so much to India as it has not given to any other country. The Government of India has also made a provision in the budget to promote natural farming. Agriculture is also a State Government's subject. I request that there is a need to issue directions for natural farming to the State Government for natural farming that there should be procurement of cow dung on every development block and the procurement centre for procuring production of natural farming should also be opened. As a result farmers will get a remunerative price for it and the problem of loss of crops due to stray and abandoned animals today will also be solved due to procurement cow dung. Farmers will also benefit from this. The Central Government should direct the state governments in this regard. This is my request.

[English]

SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED (ULUBERIA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The COVID pandemic has taught us an additional feature, that is, the use of digital technology in the education system. To some extent, we have developed digital education. But still, the household disparity in accessing digital world and internet, is a huge challenge. The Government has been proclaiming digital schemes for other sectors but in the education sector, digital initiatives are being overlooked.

Protecting the digital infrastructure and investing in the digital infrastructure in education are vital for economic growth and for reducing income inequality. Thus, to gain the benefits of demographic dividend, proper investment in building digital infrastructure in the field of education is the need of the hour.

I urge upon the Government to build up the digital sub-structure keeping in mind the future challenges in education, particularly in the rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir. Today, through you, I am going to raise an issue which is not related to any region, state or only to my area, but this is the issue of entire country. Our Government is committed to further strengthen women power, to make women power self-reliant. Our Government and our party have also taken a lot of steps for this.

Today, through you, I want to say that there are crores of women in the country who are housewives, they do not have any work after doing their household chores. However, they come from poor families. I want to give a suggestion that if the Government brings a scheme to increase their income, then it may be beneficial.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Keep brief.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Sir, I am not reading out, hence I would like your protection.

HON. SPEAKER: Speak briefly.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Sir, I am speaking briefly. If the Government gives the solar-powered domestic charkha to every woman of each family, and they want to take it, they can do this work while doing their domestic work like cooking and cleaning work. They will prepare yarn and if a system for its procurement is set up, then women will be self-reliant. This will strengthen the rural economy of the country.... *(Interruptions)*

[ENGLISH]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Thank you very much Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson, on the 15th March, the hon. Defence Minister gave a statement in this House with regard to an inadvertent missile launch which landed in Mian Channu in Pakistan. The Defence Minister was being responsible on a sensitive issue. I have no quibble with his statement.

However, facts which have emerged in the public space suggests that Pakistan had actually prepared a retaliatory strike when the missile entered their territory.

Number two, the trajectory of the missile had a large number of civilian aircrafts in its vicinity and there could have been an unintended catastrophe.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we were lucky on that particular day. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that this is an extremely sensitive issue, and they have constituted a Code of Inquiry, but there is a strong case for an institutionalized dialogue with Pakistan on nuclear issues. That is what I wanted to urge the Government through you, Mr. Chairperson.

[Translation]

SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA (KALAHANDI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in Zero Hour in this Session. My Lok Sabha constituency is Kalahandi, which includes two districts Kalahandi and Naupada. Both are aspirational districts with the blessings of Modi Ji. During the Corona epidemic, the stoppage of many trains were discontinued, due to which the people of the region are facing many problems in transportation.

I urge the Hon. Minister of Railways that express trains which had stoppage at Narla Road, Rupra Road, Lanjigarh railway stations earlier, arrangements should be made to restore these stoppages. Along with this, arrangements should be made to stop the express trains at Naupada railway

station which is the district headquarters. The railway line from Katabanjhi to Navrangpur.

[English]

DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (MALAPPURAM): Sir, I hereby draw the attention of the Government to a serious problem faced by our passengers visiting the country from UAE and Kuwait. Due to the compulsory regulation for the requirement of a RTPCR Report within 72 hours of their travel, all the passengers are facing problems. All the countries have exempted this regulation.

Now, it is being made applicable for the passengers who are coming only from UAE and Kuwait and especially, our expatriates are suffering seriously due to this compulsory regulation.

On the other hand, both the Governments and authorities of UAE and Kuwait have withdrawn this condition for the passengers who travel from India to those countries. There is no need for RTPCR test. Even after that, we are compelling all the passengers including our expatriates and our Indians who are working abroad to undergo a test.

So many people are engaged in their work abroad. They are suffering. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to urgently withdraw this regulation and help the passengers especially the expatriates. Thank you, Sir

[Translation]

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI (KURUKSHETRA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Railway Minister towards a public interest problem of my area. I want to draw your

attention towards the problem of passengers commuting to work from small stations between Saharanpur and Ambala. Everyday thousands of people go from here for their work and studies, which include labourers, students and people working in offices. Railways have been the lifeline for all these sections. Corona has caused a lot of damage not only to this section but to the entire country. These people have to use bikes and private vehicles to go to their work every day.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you I would like to request the Honorable Minister of Railways that some special trains are running between Saharanpur and Ambala which stop only at Jagadhari and Barara stations, these trains do not stop at smaller stations. These include train numbers 64501, 64511, 54541, 54539, 64513, 64561, 64562, 54304, 54502, 04532, 54540, 54542, 64512, 64504. Please provide stoppage of these trains at smaller stations between Ambala and Saharanpur. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Please meet hon. Minister of Railways.

13.00 hrs

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Sir, a passenger train runs from Saharsa to Asanpur Kupaha of East Central Railway Samastipur division. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. The gauge conversion work from Asanpur Kupaha to Nirmali and Nirmali to Jhanjharpur has been completed and the CRS inspection has also been done.

I, through you, request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to start a train from Asanpur Kupaha to Nirmali and Nirmali to Darbhanga soon so that the people there can get its benefit.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I, through you, want to draw the attention of the Honorable Defence Minister and the Government. Unfortunately, a lot has been affected in the country due to the Corona epidemic for the last two years. The army recruitment by the Ministry of Defence has stopped every year. There are one lakh vacancies in various states of the country. Respecting the sentiments of those who serve the country, unemployment is on a large scale, especially in my state. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I need your protection. ... (Interruptions) I am saying that there are vacancies and there is a need too. People are ready to serve the country. This will eliminate unemployment in the country. In a state like Bihar where the only dependence is on jobs, people are facing a lot of difficulties due to lack of recruitment in the army.

I request the Government, the Honorable Prime Minister and the Honorable Defence Minister through you to make recruitment in the army as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the increasing threshold of temperature in the State of Kerala due to effects of climate change and other factors is causing a very dangerous situation. Waterways, rivers, tributaries and canals are drying up and the ground water levels are depleting rapidly. Water scarcity is causing people to buy canned water at prohibitive rates and the Government's flagship programme of delivering tap water under the Jal Jivan Mission is not yielding desired results.

This scenario is causing a crisis with manifold consequences and an urgent intervention is required from the Central Government to augment capacity for water resources and for devising a comprehensive plan for re-charging of the ground water levels to meet future shortages.

In my parliamentary constituency also people, particularly in Kuttanad, are facing a crisis and there is a serious drinking water shortage. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Jal Shakti to take necessary steps to come out with a solution to this problem.

**LIST OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED
THEMSELVES WITH THE ISSUES RAISED UNDER MATTERS
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

The Members by whom the matters of urgent public importance were raised.	The Members, who associated themselves with the matters raised.
<p>Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh</p> <p>Shri Bholanath ‘B.P. Saroj’</p> <p>Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma</p> <p>Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit</p> <p>Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale</p> <p>Shri Satyadev Pachauri</p> <p>Dr.SujayVikhePatil</p> <p>Shri Saumitra Khan</p> <p>Shri Suresh Pujari</p> <p>Shri Virendra Singh</p> <p>Shri Sushil Kumar Singh</p> <p>Shri Nayab Singh Saini</p> <p>Shri Dileshwar Kamait</p> <p>Shri Ram Kripal Yadav</p> <p>Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya</p> <p>Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria</p>	<p>Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel</p>

Shrimati Rama Devi	Shri Gopal Shetty Shri Ram Kripal Yadav Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu Dr. Alok Kumar Suman Shri Sushil Kumar Singh Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria Shri Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel
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HON. SPEAKER: The House adjourns till two o'clock.

13.04 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs

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

(Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, matters under Rule 377.

(i) Regarding benefit of reservation to people converted to Christianity and Islam

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWADA): Sir, since ancient times, tribal brothers in India have contributed to the preservation of our culture, development and protection of forests and later on in the establishment of Swaraj. After independence, the founding father of Constitution Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly made provision for reservation in government jobs by listing tribal castes under the Scheduled Tribes for the protection of their rights and equality in the Constitution, but it was noticed that its benefits are being availed on a large scale by those who converted to Christianity or Islam. I want to draw the attention of the Government through the House that such families should be deprived of reservation, because by converting, they are also getting the benefits of the facilities given to minorities. Therefore, I demand that the Scheduled Tribe brothers should get the full benefit of reservation. For this,

it is necessary that the families who have converted to Christianity or Islam and due to this are no longer a part of the tribal society should not be given the benefit of reservation.

(ii) Regarding ESI benefits to LIC agents

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The LIC Agents are the backbone of the LIC. But the LIC is not ensuring the welfare of LIC agents. LIC agents are giving whole-hearted support to the organization. The recent policies adopted by the Government are adversely affecting the work of LIC agents. Now the LIC agents are facing various problems. The main issue is the lack of fund for their treatment. Their demand for extending the ESI facility to them has not been considered till this date. The LIC agents are one of the most eligible categories of people entitled for the ESI scheme as per the existing norms. But the authorities are not initiating steps to extend the ESI benefits to the LIC agents. Their repeated demand for ESI benefit is still pending. Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent action for extend the ESI benefit to the LIC agents.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Shri Jayant Sinha.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nitesh Ganga Deb.

**(iii) Regarding setting up of a Medical Equipment Park at
Sambalpur, Odisha**

SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB (SAMBALPUR): Sambalpur, my Parliamentary Constituency, is located in the Western region of the state. It is known as the Commercial & Industrial hub of western Odisha. It is well connected by air, rail & road and transporting goods in bulk quantities to other parts of the State. I urge the Central Government to set up a Medical Equipment Park at Sambalpur during the financial year 2022-23.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Subrata Pathak – Not present.

**(iv) Need to develop historical places in Ganganagar
Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan as tourist destinations**

[TRANSLATION]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR): Sir, our country is a country of diversity and is famous all over the world for its rich history, culture and heritage. Tourists from almost all parts of the world come here to visit. To increase the number of tourists in the country, we should also consider developing new tourist destinations.

In Hanumangarh district, there is the ancient village of Mohenjodaro civilization, Kalibanga and Bhatner fort, which are historical and archaeological sites. In Kalibanga, a 9 feet skeleton and other archaeological objects were discovered in the year 2003, along with this, Bhatner fort is a very ancient fort, due to lack of proper development of tourism the area is lagging behind from tourism point of view at present.

There are memorials of many brave martyrs in village Naggi, village Lakhahakam and village Hindumalkot located in Sri Ganganagar district on the Indo-Pak border. Local villagers organize meetings and patriotic programs here. These can be developed as tourist spots.

I request the central government to develop these historical sites in my parliamentary constituency from the tourism point of view, so that along with tourism, employment opportunities in this area will also increase.

(V)Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination of children of 15-18 years' age group

SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR (GWALIOR): Sir, the vaccination campaign to protect adolescents in the age group of 15 to 18 years from the corona virus has started across the country from January 3. The purpose of vaccination is to protect adolescents from the infection of the corona virus. Adolescents in the age group of 15 to 18 years studying in educational institutions are getting this vaccine, but there is also a section of this age group that does not go to educational institutions. It is seen that this section is not showing interest in getting vaccinated. What steps is the Government taking to encourage them to get vaccinated? So that the Government can be successful in achieving the targets set for vaccinating this age group.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Dipsinh Shankarsinh Rathod – Not present.

(vi) Need to provide funds for construction of new classrooms in schools under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in Ajmer Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY(AJMER): Respected Sir, Rashtriya Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, which was earlier operated under the name of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, is a centrally sponsored scheme, in which the share of the Central Government and the state government is 60/40. But in the last 2 years, due to the corona infection, the budget allocation in the said scheme has decreased, as well as the establishment of new schools and the number of newly upgraded schools by the Rajasthan government has increased, due to which the physical structure of the education system of the state of Rajasthan has been shaken. On the other hand, in the last 2 years, due to the corona infection, the alleged forced fee collection from the students by the private schools of the state and the weakening of the economic condition of the general public amid the controversies, the enrollment in government schools has also increased by about 20 to 25 percent. But in all the said government schools of the state, children and parents are getting upset due to lack of proper rooms and other physical facilities to sit. In many schools, due to compulsion, children have to study sitting in open spaces and in many schools, sitting in the verandah. Therefore, under the National Integrated Education Campaign, the necessary budget should be allocated in the upcoming financial year 2022-23 for about 500 additional new classrooms in schools of various levels in the 8 assembly constituencies of Ajmer Parliamentary constituency. Also,

just like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, in which the share of the Central Government and the State Government is 60/40, their inauguration and foundation stone laying is done by the MP of the concerned parliamentary constituency. Similarly, issue competent departmental orders to give priority to the approval and sanction of the MP of the concerned parliamentary constituency for the inauguration and foundation stone laying of school classrooms constructed under the scheme, so that the said public welfare scheme of the Central Government can be publicized as much as possible in public interest.

**(vii) Need to construct an RoB at Level crossing no. B/159 in
Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL (BANASKANTA): Sir, LC no. B/159 is situated on the Bhildi-Samdadi section railway line under my parliamentary constituency Banaskantha (Gujarat). Also, Gujarat State Highway no. 54, which is a four lane highway and is situated between Deesa and Tharad, crosses this LC no. B/159. It is known that this state road passes through three talukas which come under my parliamentary constituency Banaskantha. Due to dense population and high traffic here, we have been demanding the construction of ROB from the Railways. The Gujarat government has also approved 50% of the amount for the construction of ROB, but till now no action has been taken by the Railways for the construction of this ROB.

Therefore, through you, it is requested to the Honorable Minister that the Railways should take immediate action for the construction of this ROB and this work should be completed as soon as possible so that the residents of my parliamentary constituency can get its benefit.

(viii) Need to set up a processing unit at Gumla District, Jharkhand for production of oil from Sal and Mahua Seeds

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT (LOHARDAGA): Sir, as you know, I represent the Lohardaga parliamentary constituency of Jharkhand state. This entire area is rich in forest wealth. I would like to draw your attention to the proper use of Sal (Shaal) and Mahua trees found in abundance in Gumla district of my parliamentary constituency and the border districts of the surrounding states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Generally, we depend on mustard oil in the northern region and coconut oil in the south as edible oil. Mustard oil has also become a bit expensive; palm oil is also being used in many households, refined oil is also used. Edible oil from Sal (Shaal) seeds and Mahua seeds, which are found in abundance in my parliamentary constituency and the surrounding districts, can be a good, healthy and cheap alternative to this. Honorable Chairperson, the oil extracted from Sal (Shaal) seeds in a large area including my parliamentary constituency can be processed and produced for use as edible oil. Forest produce in the form of Sal (Shaal) seeds is produced in our entire region, which is not collected and there is no systematic processing system for it, same is the case with Mahua tree. Mahua seeds also yield excellent edible oil. Therefore, if a processing industry is set up in Gumla regarding these two products, edible oil can be produced from these forest products. Sir, I would like to request the Government through you that there is a need to set up a large processing industry (unit) for making edible oil from Sal (Shaal) seeds and Mahua seeds in Gumla, Jharkhand. Therefore, the Government should set up a large

factory in Gumla district to extract edible oil from both these - Sal (Shaal) and Mahua seeds, which will also lead to economic growth of the local people and this forest product can also be used on a large scale. It is hoped that the Government will seriously consider this in public interest.

(ix) Need to improve healthcare facilities in Jharkhand

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the dilapidated health system of Jharkhand. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the innumerable shortcomings of Jharkhand's health infrastructure. According to the Rural Health Statistics Report of the year 2019, on an average more than 50 percent of the posts of doctors were vacant in rural and urban public and community health centers. At the same time, 48 percent of the posts are vacant in district and sub-district hospitals. Also, a total of 59 percent of the nursing staff posts are vacant.

Jharkhand is among one of the bottom eight states among 29 states and union territories in terms of total registered doctors. At present, there is one doctor for more than 8,000 people, while the WHO standard is one doctor per thousand people.

Sir, despite the recruitment drive for contract employees, the Jharkhand government has failed to recruit doctors and medical staff. The situation is particularly bad in rural areas due to lack of incentives, inappropriate policies and poor working conditions. Due to the failure of the state government, our people suffered a lot during the Covid-19 pandemic. I appeal to the Jharkhand government to immediately improve the system and create a strong and convenient system for health workers.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Sanjay Ramchandra Patil – not present.

**(x) Regarding rectification of software programme of
PMAY Gramin**

[TRANSLATION]

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE (LATUR): Sir, due to some technical glitches in the computer software of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin, eligible persons under the scheme are not getting the benefits of this scheme for a long time. I have come to know from the concerned officials that due to glitches in the software, applications of a large number of eligible claimants are being rejected. For example, in my Latur district, out of 152079 applications under the scheme, the computer rejected the applications of a large number of eligible persons i.e. 29276 candidates, although most of these candidates have all the eligibility for housing as per the guidelines of the scheme. The state level officials are unable to fix this technical glitch in the software. Due to the rejection of applications of a large number of eligible and deserving candidates, there is a lot of discontent among the general public here. Therefore, through this House, I request the Government to immediately take necessary corrective measures in this regard and rectify the technical glitch in the software as early as possible and ensure that all the eligible candidates under the scheme get the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin...

(xi) Regarding benefit of reservation to OBCs in Delhi Judicial Services and Delhi Higher Judicial Services

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House and especially the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice towards a serious issue. Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, it has been seen earlier also that in Delhi, the Moulvis and Mujahideen of the mosque get salaries, but not the temple priests, whereas according to Article 16 of the Constitution, all citizens should get equal opportunities. According to this article, there is a provision of 27 percent reservation for backward castes in public service appointments across the country. When reservation is given to backward castes, their status increases in the society. 50 percent people belonging to OBC live in Delhi. Recently, advertisements have been published for appointments in Delhi Judicial Services and Delhi Higher Judicial Services. Advertisements have been published for a total of 123 vacancies in Delhi Judicial Services and a total of 45 vacancies in Delhi Higher Judicial Services. In other states of the country, according to Article 16(4), 27 percent reservation is being given to OBCs. But it has not been notified by the Delhi Government in Delhi, where the alleged discrimination is clearly visible....(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

Only the approved text will go on record. *[TRANSLATION]*

You have to read only what you have written earlier.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please address the chair.

... (Interruptions)

[TRANSLATION]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Through you, I request Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to please take some effective steps in this regard so that the right to equality provided in Article 14 of the Constitution is complied with and 27 percent reservation for OBCs is implemented in the Delhi Judicial Service so that the OBC people living in the capital city of Delhi get an opportunity to raise their status in society.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat - Not present.

**(xii) Need to set up Agro-Processing and Research Centre in
Rajgarh district, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): Almost all types of crops are grown in my Lok Sabha constituency Rajgarh and its nearby districts like Shajapur, Agar, Guna and Ashoknagar. About 80 to 90 percent of the people of these areas depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Our constituency Rajgarh has four national highways, two railway line junctions. Along with this, government land is available, where 3.50 lakh hectares of land will be newly irrigated due to the construction of a big dam. There are many medium and large irrigation projects in Rajgarh district and work is going on on many of them, due to which there is an urgent need to open an agricultural processing and research center to create young entrepreneurial farmer groups through agriculture to increase the agricultural density in the region. Rajgarh parliamentary constituency is also considered to be a very backward area from the industrial point of view. Our Honorable Prime Minister has included it in the aspirational districts, hence cultivation and processing of plants should be promoted to make this region an agriculture based economy and more employment oriented. Therefore, in the interest of farmers, as per the aspirations of the people of the area, please give permission to open an agricultural processing and research center in Rajgarh district.

**(xiii) Need to shift railway warehouse situated at
DeoriaSadar railway station to Ahilyapur or Nunkhar**

DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI (DEORIA): Honorable Chairperson, Sir, I, through the House, would like to inform the Honorable Minister of Railways that the Railway's Deoria Sadar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh is located in my constituency Deoria. Deoria Sadar Railway Station comes under Northeast Railway Division Varanasi, where the goods warehouse is located at the eastern end of the station. Earlier, when the goods warehouse was established, the population of the city was less. Today, the city has expanded a lot and that goods warehouse has come in the middle of the dense population, due to which heavy vehicles keep parked there and there is vehicular traffic there. Due to this, the road remains jammed there for hours and the movement of people is obstructed, due to which people are angry. The matter of shifting it has been discussed from time to time and the officials also agree practically but give economic reasons for not taking action on it.

I request through the House that please take the trouble of shifting this goods warehouse to Ahilyapur or Nunkhar which is a railway stoppage, so that public sentiments are respected and this problem can be solved.

(xiv) Regarding development of a comprehensive plan to combat climate change

[English]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): As per a recent report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India is likely to face extreme weather conditions due to climate change on almost all fronts including rising sea levels and groundwater scarcity in future. This may lead to a fall in crop production, besides a rise in health hazards. The report warns that our country will be one of the countries to be most economically harmed due to climate change. Climate change is impacting every part of India which is extremely worrying. As per the report, the heat and humidity is likely to pass limits of human survivability in India. Besides, huge fall in yield of wheat, pulses, coarse and cereals, fishery sector is also expected to be adversely affected, thus endangering food security.

The Government needs to take strong measures to spread awareness and fight against climate change in the country. The Government also needs to recognize the compounding nature of disasters such as cyclones coinciding with heatwaves and urban droughts and develop a comprehensive plan to combat climate change. There is also a need to aggressively push for support from developed countries to fight against the climate hazards being faced by our country.

(xv) Need to protect the interests of Adivasis of Chhattisgarh presently living in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ (BASTAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thousands of tribals from hundreds of villages in Bastar-Dantewada, Bijapur, Sukma Naxal-affected areas left their homes and villages and migrated to the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The tribals who had migrated and settled in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana about 15-16 years ago are now being forcibly evicted from their states by the governments here, their houses are being demolished. These tribals are forced to live in the shadow of fear. These tribals are being forced to migrate again. Taking the above circumstances seriously, the Chhattisgarh government has formed a team of district administration. I demand that the Central Government should make a policy for the rehabilitation of the said tribals like the rehabilitation of the Bru tribals who went from Mizoram to Tripura in 2019-20 and give the tribals the right to stay where they are and give the rights to those who are in possession of forest land in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, so that the problem of re-migration of tribals who have migrated and settled in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana can be solved and there is no problem in their sustenance.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shrimati Geeta Kora – Not present. Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy – Not present.

(xvi)Regarding beautification of Beaches in Tamil Nadu

DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Beaches are a natural gift in Tamil Nadu and the entire coastline from Chennai to Kanniyakumari needs regular beach cleaning and upgraded infrastructure with state-of-the-art technology. Beaches are not only a tourist destination but they also serve as a habitat for nestling Olive Ridley Turtles and small marine species. Hence, the State should periodically address the sanitation issues and conserve the ecological value of beaches in Tamil Nadu.

Under the Beach Environment and Aesthetic Management Service (BEAMS) programme initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, various activities on pollution abatement, beach beautification, awareness on environment education, and safety and surveillance are to be implemented. Out of 10 beaches selected by the Union Government, none from Tamil Nadu finds a place in the list.

There are exit plans for the setting up of watch towers, high speed rescue boats, clean, odour free bio toilets at Marina and Elliots Beaches. Beautification of the Neelangarai and Kottivakkam beach stretches is in the pipeline. Similar proposals will be carried out in Mamallapuram, Tuticorin, Rameswaram and Kanniyakumari with the municipal body of each district executing the work. This requires an additional fund of Rs.100 crores.

Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to provide Rs.100 crores for beautification and provide Blue Flag certification for beaches in Tamil Nadu.

**(xvii) Regarding reconsideration of the methodology for fixing
Minimum Support Price (MSP)**

SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY (NANDYAL): The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is mandated to recommend Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the benefit of farmers. MSPs for major agricultural products are fixed by the Government, each year, after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission.

As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities. As per the analysis, it is observed that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices underestimates the price indices of inputs, which is very high for machinery and fertilizers. The underestimation has increased with time. The under estimation is higher for C2 costs as compared to A2+FL costs. If these costs are accurately estimated, the Minimum Support Price for the crops should rise by at least 20 to 30 per cent, as MSP is linked to production cost. Actual production costs are higher than the CACP estimates for several crops. There is an urgent need to reconsider the methodology of fixing MSP so as to achieve the target of doubling the income of farmers.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to reconsider the methodology of fixing MSP so that farmers could be benefitted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Khalilur Rahaman— not present. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut – not present.

(xviii) Regarding construction of a Dam on Masan River in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR (VALMIKI NAGAR): Honorable Chairperson, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the government regarding the construction of a guide dam on the Masan river. My Lok Sabha constituency Valmiki Nagar is a land surrounded by forests and rivers. The length of the Masan River is about 45 kilometers. This river starts from Thodikutti village of Ramnagar block, crosses Don and Triveni Canal and meets the Sikarhana river in Telpur village of Lauriya block. Due to the floods in the Masan river every year, the villages of Ramnagar, Bagha-1 and Bagha-2 blocks are badly affected and lakhs of people are rendered homeless and huge loss of life and property is caused. Due to the floods every year, thousands of acres of agricultural land are destroyed. As a result, local residents are forced to migrate. I, through this House, demand from the government that a guide dam should be constructed on the Masan river as soon as possible.

(xix) Regarding special Fund for Women SHGs in Odisha*[English]*

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Sir, studies have shown that post-divorce, women find themselves in a financially and socially poorer situation. Financial insecurity forces them to continue the relationships despite regular abuse by their counterparts.

While starting out in the 1980s, the concept of SHGs has gone beyond its original financial and economic objectives to include women's empowerment as its goal. Several studies have shown that women's membership to SHGs contributed significantly to the increase not only of their personal and household incomes but also of their sphere of influence in their household and communities, notably in areas of health and sanitation, water, children's education and liquor ban.

Under the able leadership of our revered leader and CM, the Odisha Government implemented 'Mission Shakti', which is one of the most successful programmes since 2001. It provides support to about seven lakh women SHGs including around 70 lakh rural women who have been successfully assisted by enabling them to access financial assistance, undertake capacity strengthening to enhance their livelihoods and incomes.

Hence, I request the Central Government to consider allotment of a special fund for women SHGs in Odisha, which will enable them to secure their livelihood. Thank you.

**(xx) Regarding expeditious construction of Airport in Shravasti,
Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAVASTHI): Honorable Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the world famous historical Buddhist pilgrimage site Shravasti located in my Lok Sabha constituency Shravasti (Uttar Pradesh) where Lord Buddha spent most of the time of his life i.e. 24 to 25 years, and preached Dhamma and world peace. To see this world-famous historical tourist destination, lakhs of tourists and Buddhist followers from all corners of the country and abroad come to Shravasti every year. This district comes under aspirational districts. Two years ago, the Civil Aviation Ministry had announced the opening of Shravasti Airport, the construction work of which has been going on at a slow pace for a long time. Through you, there is a demand from the government that the construction work of the airport in Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh should be completed on priority basis as soon as possible and the airport should be made operational.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Hasnain Masoodi.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hasnain Ji, what you have submitted under Rule 377, you have to read that only. The matter is different. If you want a copy, I can give a copy to you.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please hold your speech for a minute.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can just read the matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What you have written, you have to read it out.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please read what you have submitted. Whatever is written will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You cannot change the subject. The rule of the House is that you cannot change the subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am sorry. You cannot change the subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to read line by line what you have submitted.

... *(Interruptions)*

(xxi) Regarding prevalence of cancer in children

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI (ANANTNAG): Incidence of cancer in children and the mortality due to cancer is a cause of concern. About 76805 children each year are diagnosed to be suffering from cancer. Only 34 per cent of such patients reach hospital and overall survival rate of such patients is less than 20 per cent. The developed countries have a different story to tell. The survival rate is up to 80 per cent in high income or developed countries. On the other hand, 66 per cent of the children with cancer who do not get it diagnosed or make it to the treating centre do not survive. Recently, on the eve of International Childhood Cancer Day, we were reminded to bridge the gap in healthcare and ensure early detection of childhood cancer to combat healthcare inequity.

It was a girl child from Anantnag who gave me a wakeup call and prompted me to invite attention of this august House to the grave problem.

(xxii) Regarding extension of city gas distribution scheme in some districts of Kerala

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Hon. Finance Minister in her 2021-22 Union Budget speech in para 67 had mentioned that City Gas Distribution Scheme will be extended to another 100 cities in India in the next three years. Considering the fact that in Kerala already the scheme has been extended to eleven districts and three districts including my home district and the district in which my constituency falls, i.e., Kottayam have not been taken up so far for the project. Kottayam, Idukki and Pattanamtitta are the districts which are adjacent to the already selected districts.

Through this submission, I would request the hon. Minister to implement the scheme in these three districts during 2022-23, otherwise the people of these districts may feel that they have been denied the benefits of cheaper, safer, and environment friendly fuel.

14.44 HRS**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, COST AND WORKS
ACCOUNTANTS AND COMPANY SECRETARIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 15. We will take up the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill. Now, hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I rise to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

DR. M.K. VISHNU PRASAD (ARANI): I, first of all, thank my leader, Shrimati Sonia Ji and Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji for permitting me to speak on The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Work Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill.

At this juncture, I want to recollect one quote by Charles Scott. He said, “creativity is great, but not in accounting.” Life is full of balance; the world is full of balance. To achieve this balance, we are having these Chartered Accountants. The nobility and the wisdom of these Chartered Accountants have brought India up to this kind of level in terms of economic development. This Bill says, “because of the economic and corporate climate change, we are introducing this Bill.” That is what is given in this Amendment Bill. I would like to know what is the economic and corporate climatic change that is forcing this Government to bring this sort of Bill. This Bill revolves around Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), and the Disciplinary Committee which is one of the arms of this Institute. ICAI was formed in 1949. An Act was passed in Parliament to this effect. It is a statutory body; it is an autonomous body, but it is still controlled by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. There is no funding by the Government. It is a mass institute; it is not like IIT or IIM. It is a class institute. Every year, lakhs of students are being promoted as a Chartered Accountant. ICAI has got around 40 members. Out of 40 members, 32 members are from the Council. They are Chartered Accountants. Eight Members Are Government nominees. Before 10 years, there was no interference from the Government. Then what is the need of ICAI? Why it has to have a Disciplinary Committee? The Disciplinary Committee has five members. Now, they are

having three members from the Council. They are Chartered Accountants. By default, the President of the Disciplinary Committee is the President of the Administrative Committee, ICAI. The duty of ICAI Disciplinary Committee is to get the complaints from the banks, from the corporates, from the shareholders. Even you and me can go and complain in ICAI about any problem or misconduct in the Institute of Cost Accountants and the Institute of Company Secretaries. Of course, this Disciplinary Committee will listen to all the problems, will scrutinize the merits and demerits of the case, and try to award the punishment accordingly as early as possible.

Of course, I do agree that this Government is keen in disposing the cases early, I appreciate it. But at the same time, why is the interference from the Government so much? The earlier Disciplinary Committee had five members, out of which three are from ICAI, two are Government nominees. Eight or ten years back, there was no interference from the Government. But later on, two Government nominees had to be appointed which was done through an amendment. The ICAI happily agreed to keep them on board with the two Government nominees. Now, the Government is appointing one more nominee, thereby increasing from two Government nominees to three Government nominees in the Disciplinary Committee. Where is the justice? What is the independence? Where is the freedom? Where is the independent evaluation of the cases? Ironically, we have to note one more important point here.

The President of the Disciplinary Committee has to be from among the Government nominees. Where is justice and justification in doing it? If you see the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India and Bar Council

of India, they are all having professionals. An Engineer cannot be the President of the Disciplinary Committee in the Bar Council or a lawyer cannot be the President of the Disciplinary Committee in the Medical Council of India as he decides the case and awards the punishment. Of course, there is delay and it will be expedited. There is no doubt about it, but where is the freedom for the Committee to function.

The cases are given by SEBI and IT Department, and not ordinary institutions. What is the nature of those cases? Is there any violation in the accounting standards? Is there any violation in the auditing standards? Is the company following the Company Act or the IT Act? Is its expenditure over written? All those things are there. It is a fact-finding Committee. So, you need to have professional persons in it. It is quasi-judicial. The Government cannot arm twist the Body by appointing more in numbers so that out of five, three are Government nominees. Where is the justification in it? Where is the freedom in it? This Government claims everything to be free and independent. Earlier, the expression OMG used to be called Oh My God, but now ordinary citizens say that OMG means Opaque Modi Government as there is no transparency at all.

The Government wants to interfere everywhere. The Indian democracy is the strongest and the largest democracy in the world. Therefore, certain institutions have to run freely, and there should not be any domination or arm twisting or muscling by the Government.

What is the need to do it? What is the climatic change? You were telling about the environmental, economic and corporate change. What is the compulsion for the Government to bring one more Member and increase the

number of nominees from two to three? It is also stated that the President of the Disciplinary Committee should be from the Government nominees. What is the justification of doing it? Why are you not allowing people to function independently? This is a very important problem. If this Bill is passed today, then this will be a black day for the Chartered Accountants of India.

Already, there is the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Now, another Committee called the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants can be convened. Ironically, this is a recommendation of the Standing Committee. It is a mass institute and not a class institute. The certification powers are given to the ICAI. When you are going to dilute the powers of ICAI, why has the Government to give another parallel body called the Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants? It is not at all fair. Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Harish Salve, etc. are all Members of the ICAI. The hon. Member sitting in front of me is also its Member. Shri Premachandran is a lawyer. Shri M. D. Gupta, AAP MP from Rajya Sabha is also a Member. I do not know why you are looking at me. Perhaps, you must be a Member. All the powers are being diluted. This should not be permitted. If this House is deaf and mute on this issue, then we are doing injustice to our conscience. The wisdom and nobility of the Indian Chartered Accountants should be held high and it should not be diluted.

What is the need for the Government to introduce this Bill at this point of time? This Government claims that it is for the poor people. In this Bill, the Government states that it can provide for a separate chapter on

registration of firms with the respective Institutes and include firms under the purview of the disciplinary mechanism.

There is another point mentioned in the Bill, which states that: “To provide for autonomy to the Council of the respective Institutes to fix various fees”.

If you see, in medical field one has to spend in lakhs; for engineering also, one has to spend a little more; but for Chartered Accountants, it is only a few thousands. But here, the Government is giving autonomy to the Institutes to fix the fees. Where is the justification in doing it? Hon. Chairperson, I sincerely submit that even the Members from the Treasury Benches should think with conscience.

If the Institute started fixing the fees, if the Government is giving full autonomy to the Institute, then, where is the limit, where is the ceiling? Where will the poor people go? Even though they are competent enough and qualified, how can get the education of Chartered Accountancy? These things should be considered. The Congress Party strongly expresses objection to the introduction of this Bill. This Bill should not be passed. Let the hon. Minister bring a comprehensive Bill. If the Bill is so important, let them come up with a comprehensive Bill where the fee structure is revised, where there is a ceiling, and the Council Members of the ICAI should exceed the Government nominees. Otherwise, the balance will not be met. Thereby, the downfall of our country and the Chartered Accountants will begin. So, we vehemently oppose this Bill. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIYA (BHILWARA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to speak in support of The Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, these three professions - Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant and Company Secretary are prestigious professions. They are respected not only in our country but also in the world. Today, Indian Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant or Company Secretary, all are recognized all over the world. This amendment has been introduced to maintain its speciality.

Sir, amendments were made in the Chartered Accountant Act in 1959, 2006 and 2011. Similarly, amendments were made in the Cost and Works Accountant Act in 2006 and 2011 and in the Company Secretary Act in 2006 and 2011. These different amendments are made according to the situation as time changes, so it is necessary to change the law according to the times. This is the reason why this Bill has been brought. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I would like to quote the address delivered by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of Chartered Accountant Day on 1 July, 2017.

[English]

“Instead of referring to more data, I want to put my thoughts before you. CA brothers, a person or a client pays taxes only when the environment around him is conducive which motivates him to pay the taxes honestly. If he sees that the advisor himself is asking him to hide the truth, then he will boldly traverse the wrong path. Thus, it is equally important

to identify such wrong advisors and take strict actions against them. And for that you also have to take tough steps. CA is an arrangement in which Human Resource Development (HR) is done only by you. Curriculum is made by you only; you conduct the exam; Rules and Regulations are also made by you, and your institute only punishes the culprits. Now the question arises that the temple of democracy i.e., the Parliament of India, which is the voice of 125 crore countrymen, has given you so much authority, then why is it that in the last 11 years, only 25 Chartered Accountants have been prosecuted. Did only 25 people make a mess? And I have heard that more than 1400 cases are still pending for many years now. A single case takes years to settle. Tell me my friends, is it a matter of concern or not, for such highly qualified professionals?"

15.00 hrs

[Translation]

Sir, a friend in front of us was just saying that this will affect the autonomy of the institute. Members are to be appointed in five disciplinary committees. Out of five, two members will be from the council and the three members who are to be appointed will also be on the basis of the panel's recommendation and that too will be recommended by the council. The government cannot do this on its own. Therefore, you cannot say that this will be done by the government. The President and the members have to be selected from the panel that the council will prepare and send. We cannot

say that this will affect the autonomy of the institute because the government will appoint members on the basis of the panel's recommendation. The government cannot appoint members from outside that panel, this is a provision in the law.

There are three-four special reasons for this, due to which this amendment bill has been brought. First of all, there is a disciplinary reason. Actually, a mistake was committed somewhere and where the CA made a mistake, there was a lot of delay in taking disciplinary action against him. I am a member of the Chartered Account Institute, but I also say that the disciplinary process is very time consuming. Through this amendment, it has been decided that the disciplinary process should be completed within one year i.e. within 365 days. This is necessary. Earlier there was a provision that when any complaint came to the notice of disciplinary director, the director would first see what his opinion was *prima facie*. It used to take him 6 to 7 years to form that opinion. He could not even form his opinion *prima facie*, whether this complaint is actionable or non-actionable? Now the Disciplinary Director will have to give his report whether it is actionable or not. If it is actionable then why is it so and if it is not then why is it not so and a time has been fixed for this, so that on any complaint, any stakeholder, who has been affected, if he makes a complaint, then a report will have to be given. He will submit it to the Director. He will give time. It is given in the provisions of the Act that it has to be submitted within such no of days, the reply will come in a fixed number of days. Till now, it used to happen that due to some reason or the other, it was delayed. But now a provision of a timeline has been made in this Act. The person against whom the

complaint has been filed and if he does not file his reply in that timeline, then an ex-parte decision may be taken in this regard, this is the provision. Earlier it used to happen that the person against whom the complaint has been filed, he used to deliberately delay it, so that no action is taken on that complaint. But now, he has no choice but to give whatever reply is required from his side

If they say that the complaint is not actionable, then it will be sent to the disciplinary committee or the board and then they will decide whether it is actionable or not. If they have any doubts, they can send it back to the director.

Earlier there was a big lacuna, suppose a government official made a complaint that this member of the institute has made a mistake. If he sends it to the director with proof that this is the proof and he has made a mistake, then it will be considered as a preliminary examination report. Earlier, even if he sent it with proof, it would go for opinion. What is preliminary opinion, it would go into it. It would also take time. Now there is no need for opinion in it. As soon as there is an authorized person of any state government or central government or any corporation, who has given a complaint with proof, then it will be considered as a report in itself and action will also be taken on it. This is a very big change. The reason for this is that cases are pending in so many institutes. Today people have started raising some questions on the members and institutes. This is the reason why this amendment has been brought.

Sir, along with this, one more provision has been made. If disciplinary action is going on against someone, then it will be put on the portal. Because,

where is it at this time, is it with the Disciplinary Committee, with the Discipline Director or has it been resolved, what was the resolution, a provision has been made to put all the things on the portal with transparency. Due to this, there can be no injustice with anyone anywhere. The one who has made a mistake cannot escape. This is a very big amendment. Institute of Allahabad is also included in this. This is a major amendment. I want to tell you again that the panel which will be formed, the members of the committee will be on the recommendation from the panel. The non-members who are to become members of this disciplinary committee, who will be given to the government by the council, they will become members. It is like this.

Secondly, another amendment has come in this. That is, there will be a coordination committee. There will be a coordination committee of these three institutes, because the work of these three is almost the same. It is a different matter that the number of chartered accountants is more in one institute and less in the other. In the year 2000, an MoU was signed between the three institutes that these three institutes will coordinate among themselves, but that MoU remained only on paper. It did not come in any legal shape. Therefore, efforts have been made for that coordination. An amendment has been brought in this that a coordination committee will be formed. The coordination committee is not going to make any difference in the autonomy of individual professions. They will conduct exams according to their own convenience.

Chairperson Sir, today it is very tough to pass the CA exam. Let me give you an example of this. He must do practical training for three years

and there will be exams along with it. The result of this exam is 1.5 to 2 percent. Today, in all these years, the total number of chartered accountants, who are members of the institute, is 3,27,000. This is the reason why this profession is recognized all over the world. Because they are following strict rules.

This recognition should remain intact. This coordination committee and the MoU signed by these three institutes was not implemented. This time, there is a mention of coordination committee in section 9. The work of this coordination committee is not to interfere in the profession of each other institute. Their work will be to make the people of other profession aware of the goodness of one profession, discuss it and implement it. Therefore, the provision of this coordination committee has been made. The rest of the individuals, councils and institutes doing the profession will arrange the exam according to their own convenience. They will register the members according to their own convenience. They will do it according to their different rules. This coordination committee will lead to effective collaboration. Chartered accountant, cost accountant, company secretary are all the same, but chartered accountant has a little more responsibility. Because they verify, they audit and they do certification. The chartered accountant does the certification, so he has a little more responsibility. What used to happen earlier? Audited a company, gave a certificate somewhere and a partner of a chartered accountant firm verified and certified it. If there was any mistake in it, then the person who signed it was responsible for it. There was no provision in the Act that any action could be taken against a chartered accountant firm, so the person who signed it was responsible for

it. The firm was not responsible in it. A new chapter has been added to it so that the firm can also be registered. The rule of a partnership firm is that even a partner will be individually liable, as per the firm there is collective liability. As per that, if a partner signs at a wrong place or makes some wrong certification and it is proved, then his liability falls on the entire firm. In this, action will be taken against the entire firm and its partners. This was the escape route of big firms, this amendment has been made to close that route.

The biggest thing is that all the three institutes are autonomous bodies. Not even a single penny is received as grant from the Government. During speech people were saying that it should be audited by the CAG. The CAG cannot audit it because they do not receive a single penny of Government grant. This new provision has been given in it. Earlier, the Council used to decide that this person belongs to this company. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has a huge fund. It's all funded by their members, their students and their fees. There is no Government aid in it, nothing else. Earlier, the council used to appoint an auditor for the audit. The panel of auditors that the CAG has maintained, the Chartered Accountant, the Council will now be able to get their account audited from the auditors of that panel. Along with that, there is another rule that whoever has ever been a member of the council, for four years he cannot become an auditor of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, because for four years he has been a member. Apart from this, earlier the time period for council elections was three years, in which a member could continue for three terms, but now this amendment

has been done by increasing the tenure of council members for four years and they may be continuously elected for two terms only.

The biggest thing is that all the three institutes are autonomous bodies. They do not get even a single penny of grant from the government. There was a discussion somewhere, people were saying that it should be audited by CAG. CAG cannot audit it, because there is not a single penny of government grant. This new provision has been given in it. Earlier the council used to decide that this person belongs to this company. The Institute of Chartered Accountants has a very big fund. All that fund comes from their members, their students and fees. There is no government ad in it, nothing else. Earlier the council used to appoint an auditor for audit. The council will now be able to audit from the panel of auditors that CAG has made, of chartered accountants. Along with that, there is another rule that whoever has ever been a member of the council, cannot become the auditor of the Chartered Accountant Institute for four years, because he has been a member for four years. Apart from this, in the council elections too, which earlier had a time period of three years, a member could become continuous three times, but now this amendment has been made to make it two times for council members for four years each.

One of the biggest things that has happened in this is that earlier the President of the Institute, the Chairman of the Council, was also the Executive Officer. He was responsible for all the work. Now a little power separation has been done here. The Executive President will see whether the profession is being run as per the Act or not. The Secretary who is there to do administrative work has been made the Chief Executive Officer. Under

the supervision of the President, the day-to-day functioning is entrusted with the Secretary. Like the executive power has been given to the Secretary and the administrative power will remain with the President and the Council. There will be no change in that. Whatever decision the Council takes, it will be the responsibility of the Secretary to execute it, because he will be the Executive Chief.

Sir, I am also a member of the Institute. It is possible that some colleagues may be angry with this, but these amendments have come in the interest of the profession. The entire profession will move forward with this. I, through you, want to tell the government that the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, that fraud does not happen only due to the mistake of the chartered accountant. A lot is involved in it, it is wrong to blame only the chartered accountant, it does not happen wrong only because of him. Many problems are going to arise in the coming time. What problems are going to come? In this Corona period, there were small investors who used to deposit money in the bank. In this Corona period, about 1.5 crore demat accounts have been opened for trading in the share market. How can those who have invested be protected?

Chairman Sir, I would like to request the government through you to make an Investors Protection Act so that small investors can be saved. Today, three-four big cases are going on, PACL, Adarsh Credit Cooperative Society and Sahara. Crores of rupees of people are stuck in this. These companies have assets, property, everything. But due to legal loopholes and some courts, these investors are not getting their money. This needs to be taken care of. There should be an Investors Protection Act so that other

disputes can continue but the person who has invested money, who has invested pension money for his safety, can get that money on time, it is necessary to bring such a law.

I would like to tell the government through you only that this is a good law. It should not happen as others are suspecting. The objective of the Modi Government is minimum government, maximum governance. It should be ensured that there is no problem in this. Thank you very much for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. I rise to register my mixed feelings of appreciation, apprehension, and accusation... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Accusation also!

SHRI A. RAJA: Yes, in the latter part of my submission.

Some of the provisions of the Bill deserve to be appreciated. Some of the provisions create apprehension in the minds of professionals and public. I have my own accusation against the Bill. The Government has a hidden agenda behind bringing this Bill. I appreciate the Bill in the sense that an attempt has been made by the Government to have a legislation to revamp the entire profession of Chartered Accountancy. The Government has sensed that some scrutiny is essentially needed. To that extent, it deserves appreciation. As has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the object of the Bill is to deal with the misconduct by the institutions, and the institutions include, the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. These three institutes have been created under separate, distinct statutes. I do not know whether I should appreciate the Government or express my apprehension. Three distinct institutions, created under different statutes, have been brought under a single legislation. It is unknown to legislative ethics. The procedure that has been adopted by the Government is completely unknown to jurisprudence, democratic norms, or legislative competence of this House. This has to be explained by the Minister first. The Government has come up with a legislation to deal with three different institutions created under different statutes. How far is it workable? That has to be discussed, at length, in this House. My speech will be very brief. I do not want to take much time of the House.

The Bill was already discussed in the Parliamentary Standing Committee and the recommendations came up. I think, all the hon. Members of the Standing Committee, belonging to different Parties, must have expressed their views. All the views -- that were expressed during the Committee meetings -- should have been incorporated in the Bill.

In spite of the deliberations that took place in the Standing Committee, there are so many anomalies in the present Bill. I will mention one or two such anomalies. This Bill deserves appreciation. It is the first time that we are having a multi-disciplinary practice or mechanism. What does multi-disciplinary mechanism mean? You are not only including Chartered Accountants or non-Chartered Accountants in the system but you are also including Advocates and other professionals including, engineers,

architects, etc., in the system. All are included in this system to revamp the entire chartered accountancy. That is a good attempt. It is altogether a different thing whether it is going to deliver tangible results or not. Notwithstanding the outcome, the attempt -- which has been made to synchronise all the statutes by way of creating a multi-disciplinary forum or body or practice -- really deserves our appreciation. But let us leave it to the later course when it will be implemented on the ground.

The multi-disciplinary practice will provide integrated services from both CAs and non-CAs -- as has been mentioned earlier -- and because of this, other professionals like lawyers, engineers, and architects will be benefitted, both professionally as well as financially.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I do appreciate one more thing. There are three legislations for Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants, and the Company Secretaries of 1949, 1959, and 1980 respectively. All these legislations focus only on the chartered accountants, company affairs, and the cost and benefit analysis. But it is the first time that non-audit provisions or skills -- which, may be a little bit remotely, but essentially needed in the system -- have been included and inducted by way of this legislation. That has to be appreciated. For all these reasons, I am having no reservation to extend my support to this Bill. But still, I am having my own issues. I will express my accusations and apprehensions now.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, my friend, Dr. M.K. Vishnu Prasad from the Congress Party, has expressed beautifully the anomalies that are there in the Bill. The first one is the Disciplinary Committee. The second one is the Coordination Committee. As he has rightly mentioned, the entire entity of

the Disciplinary Committee has been changed not only physically but also in letter and spirit, and the delivery system is also diametrically opposite, both in the existing as well as in the already existed system.

He has rightly put it that earlier there were two Government nominees and three Chartered Accountants, that is, a total of five members were there. The chairman was the Chartered Accountant. Now, there are only two Chartered Accountants and three non-Chartered Accountants. Even that can be digested but what is surprising or shocking is that the chairman will be a non-Chartered Accountant. My friend has rightly said that a chairman of the Bar Council of India will be an advocate and a chairman of the Medical Council of India will be a doctor. Here, for Chartered Accountants, the chairman is a non-Chartered accountant. What type of a justice is being delivered? No one can be a judge for his own cause. That is applicable to individuals. I cannot be a judge for my own case. It has to be given to you or somebody else to maintain the neutrality. But as far as the profession is concerned, justice has to be delivered only by the same or identical professional. A man, who practise law, can interpret law and deliver justice. A man who did practice in medicine, he can give for medicine. Domain knowledge is necessary.

Now, you are transporting an alien to some organisation. By doing so, not only is the autonomy of the body compromised or diluted or mitigated but my accusation is that you are having hidden political agenda to kill some institutions or some companies.

Otherwise, such an attempt should not have been made.

Now, I come to Coordination Committee. Shri Vishnu Prasad rightly said it. A man who is supposed to be the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee must know the nitty-gritty of the accounting standards. He must know the micro level knowledge in auditing. Beyond this, I can go further, that is, ethical standard is there. All the standards must be weighed and that must be done by a professional namely, CA. But you are putting a non-CA and want to measure the accounting standard, auditing standard and ethical standard. It is not practically possible. That is why, I am accusing that you are having some hidden agenda.

Now, I come to Coordination Committee. In the Coordination Committee, there is a problem. You devised the terms and conditions for the Coordination Committee.

So, the Coordination Committee must be confined within the terms and conditions. You just have a perusal. Any ordinary, reasonable and prudent man can understand this. One does not need any rich knowledge. Any ordinary, reasonable and prudent man can peruse the terms and conditions and can say that the terms and reference now devised are going beyond the terms and conditions. That is why, I am saying this.

The President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India expressed an apprehension that the Government is having some hidden agenda. It is not fair on the part of the Government. So, for these reasons, an attempt has been made of having the Disciplinary Committee and the Coordination Committee with malicious intention to kill some institute. Even, it may be politically motivated, that is the hidden agenda. I do sense it.

To that extent, you must have the courage to withdraw the Bill, amend the Bill or refer to another Committee or to the Select Committee cutting across the political party Members. The Members can give their ideas. Then, that Bill can be piloted before this House.

With these words, I commend the Bill.

Thank you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Costs and Work Accountants and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

This Bill was brought to Parliament in December, 2021. It was referred to the Standing Committee of which Mr. Jayant Sinha was the Chairman and of which I also happen to be a Member.

The Standing Committee has by and large endorsed the Bill. But the Standing Committee mentioned certain things which the ultimate Bill has not followed. What is it? The Standing Committee mentioned that the autonomy of these institutes should not be hampered. Yes, regulation is to be ensured but in making regulations, you should not throw out the baby out with the bathwater and that is what has happened.

The bureaucrats in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs have increased their stranglehold on these three independent professions through this Bill. Why? Now, they are saying that there will be a Coordination Committee consisting of three types of professionals – chartered accountants, cost

accountants and company secretaries – and it will be headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The Bill aims at bringing discipline to the professions but the Disciplinary Authority will be headed by a non-chartered accountant. And the Disciplinary Committee would have more non-CA members than CA members.

Sir, this is what this Government is doing generally. Earlier, there was an elected Medical Council of India. They dismissed that. Now, they have got National Medical Commission, all appointed people. They want to take away the power of all professional bodies. First, they take away the power of medical profession. Then, slowly they will also take away the powers of the Bar Council. This Government is taking away the powers of the professionals. I do not say that these professions are perfect. We all know that Chartered Accountant Institutes purposely limit the number of pass-outs. If the pass-outs are less, then the scope of jobs is more. I do not know of any Chartered Accountant who is unemployed.

The Chartered Accountants sign everything starting from balance sheet of schools, NGOs, companies. The hon. Prime Minister mentioned that 'your signature is more important than ours' because if the Chartered Accountants sign the balance-sheet of a company, then the document becomes sacrosanct. The Chartered Accountants have not been ideal in this respect. We all know of the incident of the Satyam Computers; a very famous audit firm of India was engaged in auditing their accounts. Satyam was showing its shares at an inflated value. It was found that it was a total wrong-doing of the Chartered Accountant firm. Recently, ILFS were also

caught with their hand in the till. In that incident also it was the failure of the Chartered Accountants. I know that there is a need to control and bring in some discipline amongst the Chartered Accountants, but it cannot be ensured by giving more powers to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The mechanism within the professions has to be strengthened. There was a recommendation of the Standing Committee in this regard. The Government has not gone by the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee very specifically said, Shri Jayant Sinha said that we should not take away the autonomy of this institute. Why have the Government taken away the autonomy of this institute? It is alright to bring in some small changes like increasing the term of the Council from three years to four years; the penalties can be enhanced; there could be fines imposed in case of misconduct. So, this amendment has become self-defeating. Of course, I know that Chartered Accountants have great lobbies. Earlier also such a Bill was brought forward but they lobbied hard requesting not to put much restrictions on them and they were successful then, but in order to control their lobby this is not the way. The Parliamentary panel has said that the Government should consider setting up an Indian Institute of Accounting akin to IITs and IIMs across the country for enhancing the development of accounting and finance profession. That is a good idea but the Government has not accepted this recommendation. The Parliamentary panel also suggested that multiple bodies, as is the norm in advanced nations, are required to promote healthy competition for raising the standards and improving the credibility of financial reporting and auditing in the country. The Prime Minister himself said that the signature

of a Chartered Accountant is more important than that of the Prime Minister. So, he proposed what is already there in the Company's Act that National Financial Reporting Authority ... *(Interruptions)*

[TRANSLATION]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: When did the Prime Minister say this?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Let me tell? You are interested in all these things. I tell you exactly.... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: A normal man's signature is as important as the Prime Minister's.... *(Interruptions)*

[ENGLISH]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am quoting from an article dated 25th July, 2017 published in the Business Standard. The PM, Narendra Modi had been particularly keen on curbing corruption and the black economy and almost all his speeches stressed on the big and small changes that need to make India less corrupt. Much attention has been focussed on the financial rectitude of businesses in India. Now, the hon. Prime Minister mentioned that the demand for NFA is not a new. The Company's Act of 2013 already provides for such a regulatory body. And the Prime Minister himself said that your signature is more important than mine.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Where is that statement?

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: That statement was made by the Prime Minister while he was inaugurating the GST Council.

[Translation]

DR NISHIKANT DUBEY: Now see where you have gone from....
(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Yes, both have happened in the year 2017. This was stated by the Prime Minister.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I have asked you to quote where he has said this.... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I am looking for the same.... (*Interruptions*)
[*ENGLISH*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not get distracted and go ahead with your speech.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The PM highlighted that however the Institute has been found wanting in acting against its errant members on many occasions. A fact highlighted by Mr. Modi himself, speaking at the ICAI Foundation Day, he told chartered accountants that their signatures were more powerful than that of the Prime Minister and asked them to introspect and improve their standard. The PM also highlighted the ICAI's embarrassing disciplinary record wherein only 25 errant auditors had been prosecuted over the past eleven years and 1400 cases were pending.

This was reported by *Business Standard* dated 26th July, 2017. Do you need a copy of this? Sir, I will give them a copy.... (*Interruptions*) Read it properly. Your Prime Minister speaks all this and you oppose us....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may please address the Chair. You are getting distracted.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I will slowly wind up.... *(Interruptions)*
Yes, Shri Jayant Sinha, I will always yield to you. You are a Harvard trained man. I must yield to you.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Sir, the hon. Member has taken my name. Unfortunately, it is in vain. He has alluded to the role of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee. There are many other distinguished Members here in Parliament who are also Chairpersons of Committees. And the hon. Member who has been a Member of many of the Standing Committees knows fully well that any Report given by a Standing Committee is not the Report of the Chairperson and his name should therefore not be taken in vain. It is the considered consensus view of all hon. Members in that Committee including the hon. Member himself. So, I would request him to speak about the Standing Committee and not about an individual and I do not think that it would be appropriate.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: That is fine. It was not his personal view.
(Interruptions) That is why I say, as Shri Raja suggested, that we must have a special Committee on this Report of the Standing Committee because the Report of the Standing Committee has not been followed. The Government has been intent in its purpose of increasing the stranglehold of the bureaucracy of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on the independent profession of chartered accountancy. This is not to say that chartered accountants do not help in setting up shell companies. This is not to say that they are at many times complicit in the acting of the firms, especially the shell companies. But this is also to say that the choice is not between the baby and the bath water. You cannot throw out the baby with the bath water.

So, I urge upon the Government to please give some independence and some autonomy, improve the disciplinary mechanism by all means, and bring in people from outside to judge the chartered accountants. I do not agree with this theory of domain knowledge that only chartered accountants can deliberate on the misdeeds of chartered accountants, if there are. Non-chartered accountants can also deliberate on them.

With these words, I will again recommend to the Government to have a fresh look, instead of going by the Report of the bureaucrats of the Ministry of the Corporate Affairs.

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): Sir, first of all, I stand here to support the Bill on behalf of YSR Congress Party under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy Garu.

Sir, I would like to thank the Government for bringing this much-needed amendment. Several audit failures have resulted in a number of cases that seriously affected the economy including the recent Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) crisis.

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Report on the IL&FS crisis is testament to the mismanagement. It found several audit failures in crisis-ridden IL&FS. and Transportation Networks Limited (ITNL).

Sir, the Amendment is necessary and it provides for several measures to bring the house in order. Such measures include provisions for speedy

time-bound disposal of cases and strengthening of the disciplinary mechanism amongst others.

This Amendment also provides for increased roles for the three professional organisations including the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India, Cost Accountants of India and the Company Secretaries of India.

Sir, I want to bring here some positive points about the Amendment. One is about time-bound disposal of cases. It sets out specific time-limit for disposal of enquiries by the Board of Discipline and the Disciplinary Committee.

The second point is about disciplinary action against CA firms. Currently, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) can only initiate action against its members. However, with this Amendment, the ICAI can not only take action against the individuals but also against the firms for lapses and professional misconduct. Thus, it certainly widens the scope of disciplinary action to deal with the inclusion of a member in his individual capacity or as partner or owner of the firm.

The third point is about setting up of Coordination Committee. This Amendment also provides for setting up of a Coordination Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President and the Secretary of the Council of each of the professional organisations – Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India, Cost Accountants of India and the Company Secretaries of India. The Committee will have an important role in overseeing the development and harmonisation of the professions of the Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries of

India. Further, it also provides for specific functions for the Coordination Committee. The next point is that the penalty for falsely claiming to be a member of the Institute has been increased which would help in curbing fraudulent cases. Further, the manifold increase in penalty and provision for imprisonment would act as a necessary deterrent against fake professionals.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I have a few suggestions. One is, increase of non-CA members in Disciplinary Committee. The provision that the ICAI shall recommend all names in the Disciplinary Committee is a good step. However, many people have expressed concern over the reconstitution of the disciplinary benches by which, it now mandates the appointment of two CA and three non-CA members as part of the Disciplinary Committee. Further, one of the non-CA members would act as the presiding officer. Sir, CA members with their expertise and domain knowledge should be given preference in disciplinary forums for better and speedy disposal of cases. Thus, it is our humble suggestion to the hon. Minister that the strength of CA members should be increased in the disciplinary forums and a CA member should act as the presiding officer. Before concluding, hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that I believe that the Amendment is a step in the right direction. It will further make the functioning of ICAI more cohesive and would, indeed, strengthen the corporate governance, audit quality and reporting of key statutory documents in the country. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Chairperson, when we quote the Hon. Prime Minister or His Excellency the President and people like Senior Hon. Member Saugata Babu, I think they should have restraint in it. They misled the House with the paper they have given. The other statement made by the Prime Minister was that "the PM also highlighted ICAI's embarrassing disciplinary record wherein only 25 errant auditors had been prosecuted over 11 years and 1,400 cases were pending". The Prime Minister is telling the auditor to introspect and the mistake you are doing, you are not punishing your members, you are doing it wrong, this is what we did for this. I think Saugata Babu should not mislead, the country should not be misled.

Sir, this was my only submission.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Your point has come on record.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, have you given special permission to Shri Nishikant Dubey to change his seat? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity for expressing my views on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

There are several countries where the dual model of accounting institutes exists such as Canada, USA, UK, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In none of these countries, confusion has been created by the existence of two titles and both CMAs and CAs co-exist in harmony

rendering service to the society. Such a good practice of the world can also be certainly practiced in India and no confusion can be caused by changing name. In line with the same, till the year 2011, when Congress Government was there, all was set and done for change of the name of the Institute to "The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India" but, unfortunately at the last moment the words "and Management" were not incorporated and the words "and Works" were removed. It is a known fact this occurred on an objection from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to include the word "Management", although they have no locus standi on the affairs of our institute.

Hence, there is no level playing field to Cost and Management Accountants in India and also abroad who can establish their firms abroad. But due to recognition issues they are suffering very badly on this.

Sir, the 45th Report of Standing Committee at pages 28 and 29 clearly recommended for change in nomenclature of Cost and Works Accountants to Cost and Management Accountants. In the Standing Committee Report it was stated that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs may consider suitable change to the nomenclature of the institute as per international practice. It is observed that the Ministry is ignoring the demand of Cost Accountants for more than three decades despite the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Finance. Earlier also, the Standing Committee also recommended the same. So, I urge the Finance Minister to consider my humble request.

When any Act is passed, it is expected that no disputes will occur in the same. It is bound to have some disputes and hence precisely, dispute

resolution mechanisms are created. Clauses 21, 56 and 89 in the Bill prevent a complainant from withdrawing the complaint.

In any of the Bills, such prohibition of withdrawals is not found. This will unnecessarily increase the burden on the Judiciary and disciplinary mechanism of these institutes. Wastage of time and money will also be there and other genuine cases will suffer because of this. Such a provision preventing a complainant from withdrawing complaint must be removed and one should be allowed to withdraw the same without any hassle. It is a fundamental right of any individual to withdraw the case filed by him/her in case if he/she thinks that the purpose of filing a case is fulfilled.

As per suggestion F at page 26 of 45th Report of the Standing Committee, it was suggested for the establishment of an Institute of Accounting (IIA) akin to IIMs and IITs. When will the Government consider this proposal and what is the time line the Government has in its mind to decide on this?

Now, I come to my point No. 4. About the Quality Review Board, clauses 32, 67 and 100, state for the Quality Review Board to file disciplinary complaints, which is not correct. The Review Board is meant for giving suggestions and improving quality of Audits and Auditors and their firms.

If they start filing complaints, then their orientation of work will change drastically and also the QRB will not be welcomed by the Auditors and their firms. This will create disharmony and distrust between the QRB and others.

So, Sir, I would request to the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider dropping of clause 32,67 and 100 from the said Bill.

Now, let me come to my point No 5. Clauses 22, 23, 57,58, 90 and 91 stipulate timelines for inquiry by the Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Board. We have seen failure of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Law for following timelines given by the courts. Here again, we are pushing these Disciplinary Authorities to give the judgment in specific days which is not at all correct. The timelines which have been given do not have any study taken up by the Ministry and these timelines are bound to fail. Hence it is proposed to remove the timelines given in these clauses; or if the Government is adamant, then at least, these timelines must be increased by a minimum of 60 days in clause 22, 23, 57,58, 90 and 91.

Sir, now, let me come to my last point. In the same clauses 22, 23, 57, 58, 90 and 91, there are procedures which are mentioned to be followed by the Director Discipline, Board of Discipline and Disciplinary Committee. It is suggested to drop these clauses from the main Act, and the Ministry can bring rules regarding disciplinary procedure. Currently also, there are separate rules for disciplinary proceedings which offer flexibility to the Ministry and the Government for its easy modification if needed.

Hence it is proposed to drop clauses 22(3), 23(3), 57(3), 58(3), 90(3) and 91(3). Also these provisions lack natural justice to the complainant and respondent by not providing them any opportunity to file a rejoinder.

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

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

In this, a provision has also been made to strengthen the disciplinary system in the institutions and ensure speedy disposal of the cases. According to the objects and reasons of the Bill, it is proposed to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949; the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 through it. This Bill is very important because it regulates economic activities and operations of companies. Therefore, it was necessary that the disciplinary system in the institutions should be strengthened, and the institutions should gain momentum. Due to this, a limit is being set for all the works. Such arrangements have been made so that there is no conflict of interest between the administrative and disciplinary branches in the institutions. The three institutes - Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries - are autonomous bodies. I urge the Government to ensure that their complete autonomy remains intact.

Government interference in the autonomy of autonomous institutions affects the functioning of institutions, it should not happen. There should be regular review of the activities of these three institutions and corrective measures should be taken. Chartered accountants play an important role in these three institutions, which play an important role in curbing corruption.

That is what accountants do, they prepare reports. Therefore, the autonomy of these three institutions remained intact.

I reiterate my support for this Bill.

Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. It is my privilege that when I am speaking, you are in the Chair.

The Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs has introduced this Bill and today we have our friend here who is also piloting this Bill. There are some specific issues which need to be clarified. The statutory monopoly that was provided to certain organisations or institutions earlier is now being changed. It is a good thing or a bad thing or it is just a normal thing in the present circumstances, that is something which future will tell. But, there is a conscious decision that statutory monopoly of certain organisations is now being changed and the Government intervention has become a necessity at some quarter. That is why, these changes are occurring. ‘Why are you doing it’, is a question which we have to corroborate with whether in other parts of the world, these things are happening or not. I think, my friend from Shiv Sena mentioned about certain countries where these changes have already occurred, especially, the developed countries where these changes have already occurred.

15.56 hrs*(Shri A. Raja in the Chair)*

Now, coming to the Bill that is before us today, I would say, there are four or five points in the background which we should always understand. Over the years, the Government has taken various measures to curb possible corporate misdoings. Some have also mentioned the names of those corporate bodies. In recent years, the role of some Chartered Accountants has also come under regulatory scanner. The move to reform the disciplinary mechanism of professionals is a part of effort to improve corporate governance and the quality of preparation of reporting of key statutory documents.

The Chartered accountants play a key role in the preparation and audit of financial statements, while the company secretaries play a role in meeting statutory compliances. Cost auditors are vital in sectors where use of resources and energy needs close monitoring and have a bearing on the business' competitiveness. Auditors, accountants and company secretaries are considered as the first gatekeepers of corporate governance, on which the legal framework lays trust. The Government is also keen, I believe, to address the gaps in the self-regulation of professionals by the three institutes.

Sir, you have very correctly and also very succinctly put forth certain things. There are certain things which need to be appreciated. There are certain apprehensions which are also there and there is a need to make

certain corrections, if I remember your speech correctly, and that is why, I said, corrections.

Sir, I need not go into the details of the key features but, I think, the first and the foremost key feature is that the Bill proposes a time-limit on resolving the cases under investigation. There are a number of other issues. I need not go into those. But, while analysing the Bill, a new provision has been introduced to prohibit a Chartered Accountant Firm from practicing upto two years or to cancel its registration for any period or to impose a penalty maximum upto Rs. 50 lakhs where a partner or an owner has been repeatedly found guilty of misconduct within a period of five years. These changes are very harsh. Removal from membership even for one day destroys the life of a Chartered Accountant professional because of the break in membership which plays a crucial role in getting future assignments. While stronger penalties and punishments will act as a deterrent, it may also dissuade Chartered Accountant professionals from joining together to form bigger audit firms that can match the scale and size of the firms affiliated to international firms like PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, KPMG and the EY.

16.00 hrs

Majority of non-CA Members in the Committee can pose challenges to litigants when the subject matter in litigation would mostly be analysed with reference to the domain knowledge of Chartered Accountants, and in the process, reduce the new composition as a bureaucratic hegemony.

The amendment makes it impossible for audit firms to escape accountability for misdeeds by any of its partners, even after removing the guilty partners from the firm. Such a legal provision is from an unfortunate and unkind assumption that all other partners in an audit firm are complicit with the one who is accused of professional misconduct.

Sir, the Standing Committee, in its Report, has made some good suggestions. I need not go into all those details but I have two points to make here. As my friend has just now mentioned, the qualification and licensing of Accountants in United States, United Kingdom and Canada is done by multiple bodies. In India, the ICAI has the statutory monopoly power over the whole profession. Thus, the scope for improving the quality and competency of the profession remains limited. I believe, multiple bodies on the lines of advanced countries are needed to promote healthy competition and improve the credibility of financial reporting. As has been suggested by the Standing Committee on Finance, setting up of academic institutes for accounting for further development of the accounting and finance profession is praiseworthy. The Standing Committee has also suggested that the role of the Head of Council and the Executive Head may be separated, as proposed in the Bill, to bring about greater efficiency in decision making and functioning of the Council.

Here, I would like to mention some points relating to disciplinary mechanism. I need not quote the clauses but there are seven clauses relating to this disciplinary mechanism, which are Clauses 22, 23, 57, 58, 90 and 91. But here, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that it

seeks to address the conflict of interest between the administrative and disciplinary arms of the institutes. To achieve this, the Bill proposes to change the composition of the two disciplinary entities to allow for more external representation. However, these external members will be selected from a panel of persons prepared by the three Councils. Thus, while the Bill reduces the role of the three professional institutes with respect to representation of the Board of Discipline and Disciplinary Committee, it continues to rely on the Councils for nominating the external members. You may note that under the current framework, the external members on the Disciplinary Committee of the three professions are nominated by the Central Government independently. Under the CA Act, the Central Government independently nominates one member on the Board of Discipline. It is unclear. My friend Subhashji mentioned that we have actually brought in more independence into this, and here the confusion arises.

It is unclear how the conflict of interest between the disciplinary and administrative functions will be addressed if the Councils continue to be involved in recommending who could be on such disciplinary entities. The confusion still continues.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that it seeks to achieve speedy disposal of cases against the members of the Institutes by strengthening the disciplinary mechanism and providing for time-bound disposal of cases. The Bill empowers the three Councils to constitute multiple Boards of Discipline and Disciplinary Committees. However, the Bill allows the Central Government to nominate the same person as

Presiding Officer or as member across different Boards of Discipline and Disciplinary Committees. This may be incompatible with the objective of speedy disposal of cases against members. Appointing the same set of people on multiple Boards of Discipline and Disciplinary Committees may prevent these entities from hearing cases of misconduct simultaneously thereby leading to delay in disposal of cases.

Coming to clause 9 of the Bill, I would say that the Bill provides for setting up a Coordination Committee chaired by the Secretary about which, Shri Saugata Roy very vehemently stated his point of view. The Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs will be chairing that Coordination Committee to coordinate the functions of the three institutes and ally across disciplinary regulatory mechanism for inter-professional development. The functions proposed for Coordination Committee may overlap with the current mandate of the three Institutes and the Council.

For instance, the Coordination Committee will ensure quality improvement in academics, research, and all related works of the Institutes. It will also focus on coordination among the professions. These activities are currently undertaken by the respective Councils and Institutes as the three Institutes also have Committees for coordinating among themselves. It is unclear why there is a need to set up another Coordination Council as proposed in this Bill.

The proposed Coordination Committee will be chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. This provision may impinge on the independence of the three institutes.

Coming to clauses 11, 16, 47, 51, 80 and 84, I have a limited point here. The Bill seems to be turning the position of the Presidents in the three Councils into a non-executive post. The Secretaries of the respective Councils are being designated as the Chief Executive Officers. However, the Bill holds the respective Presidents responsible for implementing the decisions of the Council. It is unclear how the President will ensure that the decisions taken by the Council are implemented when, at the same time, the Secretary is proposed to carry out the administrative functions of the institute as a Chief Executive Officer. So, you should make the Chief Executive Officer accountable. Why are you making the President accountable? I fail to understand it. That is very much there in the Bill.

The Bill seems to be separating the responsibility for governance and execution by prescribing separate roles for the President and the Secretary of the Council. But holding the President responsible for implementing decisions, which is an executive role, may be against the framework of separation of powers as proposed in the Bill.

The last point on which I would like to speak is relating to disclosing details of cases being investigated that may harm reputations. This is relating to clauses 18, 20, 53, 55, 86 and 88. The Bill provides for disclosure of pending complaint or actionable information against members of the Institutes and firms registered with them. For the three professions, the Boards of Discipline or the Disciplinary Committees decide whether a member is guilty of an alleged misconduct. Publishing details of members or firms found guilty, and imposition of any penalty may be useful information for prospective and current clients. However, recording details

of actionable information or pending complaint in the register of members and registers of firms before they are found guilty may adversely impact their reputation.

Regulators of other professions, such as doctors, publish details only of those blacklisted or suspended from practice. According to the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, the Ethics and Medical Registration Board and State Medical Councils are required to maintain the National Register and State Registers respectively. These registers contain details such as the name, address and all recognised qualifications of licensed medical practitioners while the Indian Medical Register contains details of doctors who have been black-listed along with dates of suspension and revocation of suspension, if applicable. It does not contain details of complaints against the doctors.

Sir, before I conclude, I must say that it is important to facilitate a business-friendly environment for corporates as well as professionals in India. It is, therefore, vital that Indian laws and regulations on professional service keep pace with changing market dynamics. Opening of professional services to competition is necessary and therefore, audit firms should be allowed to advertise with some restrictions. Further, in a global economy, use of international brand names for audit firms must be allowed. We had deliberated, in the last Lok Sabha - the 16th Lok Sabha - on this subject.

Laws must be rationalised to promote multi-disciplinary practices to allow firms to offer a bouquet of high-quality professional services at par with international standards. The Advocates Act, 1961 also needs to be rationalised. I think, you will support me in this aspect.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mahtabji, you are making valid points, but let them be brief.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I will take just 30 seconds to conclude.

The Advocates Act, 1961 also needs to be rationalised to facilitate development of Indian law firms as well as Indian audit firms into MDPs. Adopting these three measures – advertising, branding and multidisciplinary practices – will not only enhance the standard of services offered to corporates but also facilitate the audit firms to expand in size and operation enabling them to compete internationally.

Thank you.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I stand here to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. As I was growing up in school and college, these were the professions we always looked up to. If somebody said that his son was a chartered accountant, the first thing that would come to our mind would be ‘Oh my God, what a competitive profession! The child must be very bright.’ Like my friend said, it is a glorious profession. While listening to the debate, my friend, Dr. Sumathy just said that this is a meritorious batch because there are Members from IITs and IIMs. My friend, Jayant Sinha had got admission in the IIT as well as IIM. It is a very good profession to be a chartered accountant. Sir, I appreciate the effort of the Government to bring and discuss this Bill, and bring in transparency. I think in this new world, the era of technology and

professionalism, globally this is something that we need to do, which is a good thing, but I really do not understand what the need is. My colleague, Saugata babu also talked about it; Mahtabji talked about it; Rajaji talked about it; everybody talked about it. What is really the need? There are these three verticals already doing a good work. If there is their own way of handling their issues, what is the need of bringing all of them under one umbrella? Is there a specific reason or intention? Which methodology is going to make sure that there are no mistakes? It is a welcome step, but what is the solution to this? In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, they have said that this is to provide for autonomy of the Council of the respective institutes. Now I am quite amused either the Treasury Benches are confused. I cannot understand. I will come to that. Baheriaji made a very nice speech. I compliment him, but it is slightly different from what the Government is trying to communicate and what he said. He said that this will help simplify and reduce Government's interference and bring in more autonomy. How does this bring in more autonomy? It is actually the other way round. Like Rajaji rightly said, what is really the agenda? There is a hidden agenda. I think, I would like to second what he said that why you are taking away the autonomy of these institutes, by bringing in Government. He made a very good point. He was very happy to share with us that no money is given by the Government to run any of these institutes. This means that these are privately-run professional institutes in this country for the last 70 years.

So, what is the need to say that we need to audit, our people need to go in. This defeats logic for something which is independent, which does not take a penny. I am not saying this, the chartered accountant himself who

was speaking on behalf of the treasury benches is saying that do not take money from the government. Then, why are you auditing? Why are you interfering in Institutes and playing in an area which does not belong to you? This is then no more a democracy. Right? I do not want to use harsher words but this is where exactly we are heading. This is a very serious concern for me.

Then, he raised a point about investors' protection. I second that. Every investor should be protected. I would like to bring to the notice what Sougatababu said. He talked about Satyam. I still remember the American crisis, the Goldman Sachs dream. Every child all over the world wanted a job in Goldman Sachs. You know what happened. Then, there was AAA, DHL, and IL&FS like Dr. Satyavathi said. Everybody mentioned it and it is very interesting. It is exactly what Modi ji, the hon. Prime Minister said. He said that there are four big boys who are the auditing teams. Now, what is interesting about the four big boys – which I have mentioned earlier in one of my speeches – is they will only audit, they will give you AAA rating, they will only tell the bank that yes, this is a good company, and when it goes down, they will only say it is a bad company. So, how does this work? He is the one who speaks well and the one who points out mistakes. Who takes accountability for this?

Hon. Modi ji said the same thing. He said that there are four big boys playing here in this game, that India needs at least by 2022 big eight. Have the big eight come or not? I really do not know because a lot of jingoism happens in this Government. Where are we headed in this area? Already, there are multiple bodies and regulators. Do we really need another regulator

or are these not strong enough? What existing regulation is there, is my question to the hon. Government.

The second thing they have talked about is balance sheets, related issues, and a lot of things about two-year audit, three-year audit, and five-year audit. My question to you is this.

If you are an auditor of a company for three years and somebody comes in according to this new rule and he is a whistle blower, what protection will you give to the whistle blower? There is still a grey area in it. Will whistle blowers be protected?

Now, this is something for which I do not have any proof but this is what I have heard and I would like to put it on record, and I am happy to take it back if it is wrong. Let me put it on record. I was informed about this and it has come in some media papers also but I do not have confirmed information. Normally, I like to table what I say. I like to authenticate what I say. When demonetisation happened, there was a Chartered Accountant firm which the RBI had chosen to make sure to find out how much money was collected and how many notes were collected. The Government report said it was 99.9 per cent. But there was a grey area where there was some transaction done with our currency with neighbouring countries like Nepal. Now, that money was actually above 100 per cent. That auditing firm which was trying to be honest, trying to be very transparent, the following year was asked to leave, and the RBI is not using that firm. So, does that mean that when I am a whistle blower and I am being honest, when it does not suit the Government, you will remove them? Then for what you will use the statutory body? If you are really cleaning up the system, why did you

remove that agency? Can this Government tell me that what does it mean when it talks about transparency or to walk the talk and not just make legislation and do all this jingoism?

They were talking about NPAs yesterday and I was actually deeply pained. I am very proud of our Finance Minister, I am proud she is a woman, she leads, and for the last two-and-a-half weeks that we have been in Session mostly Finance has been the department that we have discussed. So, I am very proud of her but I do see sometimes that she is getting a little unhappy now-a-days, especially with all of us. Yesterday, during the Question Hour, there was a question about non-performing assets. This is all connected to it. That is why I have brought it up. It was mentioned that auditors are questioned that you made a mistake, then it became a non-performing asset, then I don't know what happened, it happened in the bank, all this belongs to UPA. Okay, I will bear the brunt. We made a mistake, we admit. We were together in UPA. Okay, we may have done something wrong, and people sent us home for that. They did not put us back in.

So, I accept that but if you are saying that all the NPAs are our fault, I just want to ask two questions to this Government, and I have many examples which I can give.

You have said that you brought in the law of IBC. In IBC, what are the kind of haircuts you are going for? NPA is a bad thing but haircut is a good thing! What is this logic? I will give you two examples of course and there are many like this. I am just putting two quick and forward issues. There is a company called Coastal Project.

This company was worth Rs. 8,000 crores. When it came to NCLT, it came to Rs. 1,500 crores. So, it came down from Rs. 8,000 crores to Rs. 1500 crore. Now, what is the rule of NCLT? The rule is that if 66 per cent people are willing, you can go for that price, and if even one banker says 'no', it is rejected. now after it went into liquidation which is the next step, this company which was at NCLT going for Rs. 1500 crore went for Rs. 400 crores. Who suffered the loss of Rs 900 crore? The Government of India and the poor man suffered the loss.

Next is IVRCL, another example, which is a bigger company. It was worth Rs. 12,000 crores. What was the NCLT cost? It was Rs. 2,500 crores. You could have referred it to NCLT, but the Government said 'no NCLT'. How much did they sell it for? It was sold at Rs. 800 crores. So, just in these two companies, the Government of India has lost more than 2,000 crore of rupees. ... (*Interruptions*). These are not just two companies ... (*Interruptions*). The next is Jet Airways. This is all in the newspaper. I am not into some rocket science. I am not an expert on Finance. I am just going by what I am reading in the newspapers. Rs. 2,00,000 crores is what they claim is lost.

Rs. 2 lakh crore is the total amount. Do you know how many zeroes are there in Rs. 2 lakh crores?

Sir, Rs. 2,00,000 crores are what this Government has lost because they are confused. If we go to NCLT, we will face charges, so let it go into liquidation. So, are you purposely doing it for some cronies? I have no idea

... English translation of this part of the Speech originally delivered in Marathi.

about it. I do not know who is doing it. But can they answer this question? They attack us on NPA. With full humility we are asking this.

They are talking about all these rules. In 2013 we had made a lot of changes. You were a part of that Cabinet. So, you know that. But they did not make the rules. So, things were delayed. It is very easy to blame us that these people have done all these bad works, and they are the ones responsible for that. It does not work like that.

Talking about autonomy, what worries me about this is that in every professional institute this Government wants to throttle the voice. Then how is it going to work? Look at this. This is very interesting. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, they have written that it would enhance accountability and transparency by providing for the audit of accounts of the Institutes by a firm of chartered accountants to be appointed annually from the panel of auditors maintained by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and provide autonomy. What sense does it make? It almost feels like a joke because this is a legislative mockery. It is absolutely a legislative mockery. Through all these confusions, the signal that they are giving us is that there will be Committee after Committee, somebody will come from the Government, that is from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, etc. What are you doing?

Then my friend Shiv Kumar Udasi was talking yesterday about ease of doing business. Shiv Kumar Udasiji, all this is not going to help improve the ease of doing business. This is only going to create a problem. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Mohammad Basheer.

SHRI S.C. UDASI (HAVERI): Sir, talking about ease of doing business, what was the ranking when UPA was there. For 10 years, what was the ranking? What's the ranking right now? I had to talk about it.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I am glad that he raised this point. I just want to bring to his notice that the World Bank has stopped ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record except Supriya Sule's speech. ... *

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: The World Bank in its official note has said that ease of doing business is something that they have stopped looking at. So, I urge the Treasury Benches that do not repeat that. ... (Interruptions).

Even Baheria Ji talked about the Investor Protection Act. ... (Interruptions). I did not want to talk about this topic ... (Interruptions) I am happy to yield. Do you want to say something? One minute, he wants to say something.

SHRI S.C. UDASI: Sir, about ease of doing business, the World Bank has given a report, and she was talking about some World Bank report which was a deep fake news. She can go and talk about it which is a fake news. [Translation] Fake news is to be quoted here. And you all know what's happening on social media? ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded

[ENGLISH]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time will come. Your party people are going to speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, if you are able to prove that it is a fake news, your time will come. Your Members are going to speak. At that time, you can reply. Supriya Ji, please carry on. Please conclude your speech.

... (Interruptions)

[TRANSLATION]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, fake news is nothing. They are using the wrong word.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. ... *

Supriya Ji, please carry on.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I am so worried about the ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not invite trouble.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please finish first.

*Not recorded

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Sir, I am so worried about the news item. ... *(Interruptions)* Yesterday, there was an item, which was Tweeted by somebody, which was All India Radio that says that over 1.5 lakh investment has left India. I am not saying this. This was there yesterday in the media. It was an All India Radio Tweet, which was deleted two hours later. I do not know. Then they are saying fake news. So, what do we believe now? It was the All India Radio. What is their Department doing? Should there be not a complaint on this? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please come to the point, and kindly finish your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: So, my only request to this Government is that I appreciate that they are doing it. ... *(Interruptions)* This is legislative mockery being done here, and when they are talking that they want investors protection, how are they protecting their investors?

I do not want to go into that topic of crypto, but just today in my State in Pune District there was a case. ... *(Interruptions)* So, when this Government says that they want to protect the middle-income thing with Investors Protection Act, what are they doing for it? They are doing nothing. How are they protected? I have given you examples. Whom have they protected after the NPAs and liquidation? Had they done this NCLT business, *[Translation]* people would have got two rupees from it, but now

they are not going to get anything. *[English]* They are only giving them a lollipop, which they will not even be able to afford that much.

So, I would request this Government to make sure not to make a mockery, and like all the Members who spoke earlier have said to send it to a Select Committee. It can be discussed there, but today's Chartered Accountants do not need this kind of intervention. No organization needs intervention. *[Translation]* If this is done in sports tomorrow, so what will happen there? *(Interruptions)* What will happen in every professional organization in this country, which is run efficiently? It should be left alone. Let us have faith in Indians. All Indians are not corrupt, and all Indians are not crooks. So, let the professionals do their job, and let the Government do its job. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Thank you very much, Sir. These kinds of legislations are taking place worldwide. As far as India is concerned, here also it is inevitable. The Government says that this amendment is done to meet the changes taking place in the economic and corporate environment, and this kind of legislation is very much required in this country.

It is also stated that amendment of the Act is based on the recommendation of a high-level Committee constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. While reacting on this, I am having mixed feeling. Now, the intention of the Government may be good. What is their intention and desire? It is on strengthening the disciplinary mechanism, speedy disposal of cases that too within a timeframe, provide for a separate chapter on registration of firms, enhance accountability and transparency, provide for

autonomy to institutes for fee fixation, etc. *Prima facie*, this may look nice, but while going through the clauses of the Bill, one will feel a lack of confidence and serious doubt whether this Bill can achieve the real goals as envisaged in the aims and objectives.

Now, let us come to the point. My doubt is that the interest of the corporates is given more consideration in this Bill. Secondly, the Government is taking a kind of extra interest on tightening the grip on autonomous bodies. This Bill provides for constituting a Board for Discipline and its composition is also mentioned. If you look into this, we feel that the Government's nominees get excessive power in this legislation, even though the Bill says that this is to address conflict of interest between the administrative and disciplinary arms of the institute. I have my own doubt whether this Bill will have a negative impact other than what has been visualized in this Bill.

In this Bill, you are saying that it is about autonomy, but in fact, this may help to abridge the autonomy. It is true that I am not in favour of unlimited autonomy. I believe that autonomy should be coupled with accountability. Here, I agree with the content of the Bill. Further, multiple Boards are suggested in this Bill.

With regard to presiding officers, what we can see is that the Bill amends the Act providing that the presiding officer must not be a member of the Institute and shall be nominated by the Central Government. Everybody differs on this point. That is not justice. If you give an upper hand to a Government nominee taking the place of a subject expert or a technical member, that will have adverse effects. It is something that I object

to. The Government nominee is not a full-time sitting member. So, his service may also be very much limited.

Administrative and professional knowledge have to be considered. Instead of bureaucrats controlling the entire thing, the technical persons and their skills have to be respected in modern times. There is another handicap. This kind of action may demoralise our technical experts in various bodies.

In this legislation, a coordination committee is mentioned. Earlier, many of my learned Members were talking about it. I do not understand what kind of coordination it is going to make. I have gone through the Bill. I do not find a logic here. Well, my objection is not that. The chairman of this coordination committee is the Secretary of Corporate Affairs Ministry. It is not fair because how can he control the entire thing? Not only that, on the top of this independent body, you are putting the Secretary of Corporate Affairs Ministry which is not progressive, and at the same time, it is a regressive move.

I would like to say that in such professional institutions, a general kind of encroachment is taking place. The autonomous nature of such institutions has to be respected. In these institutions, if we put the Government officers, the very spirit of the autonomy will be forfeited. That is my apprehension.

Lastly, during this brief discussion, the hon. Members made their observations but, at the same time, it must have a threadbare discussion on a wider scale. So, I suggest that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS (SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR (CHANDRAPUR): Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, this Bill reduces the powers of Chartered Accountant professionals by providing for a non-CA as the head of the Disciplinary Committee. Only a CA with expertise and experience should be allowed to take a decision in case of disciplinary action, but this Bill is abolishing that provision. The new Bill does not provide a specific definition of other misconduct, as a result of which vague and open words can be misused by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to cut down on social media posts and unnecessary censorship. The Bill provides for constitution of a Co-ordination Committee to co-ordinate the functions between the CA Cost Accountants and the three institutions of the Company Secretary. However, a concern has been expressed by ICAI that such committee will become a cause of unnecessary incursion on the autonomy and decision-making of the institutions. PM Modi had said that CA has a big role in making laws like Bankruptcy Code and Insolvency Resolution Process. Yet the truth of the matter is that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was also passed as a major reform, has completely failed. So far only 190 of the 3,312 cases referred to in CIRP, Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process under the Act could be closed by resolution. This shows that Modi Ji's reform is only on paper, not on ground.

Modi Ji talks about digital India. It is true that the new income tax portal caused a huge problem before both the CA and the taxpayers due to

technical glitches. It could not be put in order for months. Reforms and new portals are also meaningless if they fail to work on the ground. Thus there is a need to amend the existing laws. I think Modi Ji's Government should focus more on ensuring better implementation of existing laws.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTI (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I rise to support The Chartered Accountants, The Cost and Works Accountants and The Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. I fully support what my former speaker, my colleague Subhash Bahediya Ji said about the merits of the Bill and the amendment. Bahediyaji said that the institution of the Institute of Chartered Accountants had done a good job. I am also of the opinion that it has done a good job for a very long time. Our sister Supriya Sule ji from Maharashtra told that when it has done well why are you bringing this? What is doing good, there is always a scope to improve it further. Hon. Modi Ji, the Prime Minister of the country, always talks about how we can do better and he also tries to do the same. We are seeing its results after the year 2014. The country is progressing very fast, the country is making progress, and the faith of the people of this country is increasing in the Government. Through this Bill the Government are trying to increase such faith further.

Mr. Chairman Sir, if we talk about the main points of the Bill, this amendment has been brought to address the pendency of cases which are not disposed of. It had a ratio of 3:2, with three chartered accountant members and two Government members. I think there has already been a mistake. There should have already been a ratio of 3:3 across but it was not

the case. To further improve it is the job of intelligent people. The Government is making that effort through this Bill, so I think all of us should support it.

Sir, the issue of autonomy comes up again and again. I have been working in the elected representative system for thirty years. Be it in Corporation, Legislative Assembly or Parliament, there is talk of autonomy here. I always agree that autonomy also has to work within a framework, a square box. No person has any superpower to do anything. Autonomy itself means that the Government cannot interfere in the rules and policies that have been formulated and given them to function within. Autonomy means only this much. Autonomy does not mean that whatever one does will be fine. There has been no autonomy. I believe that efforts are being made to make Autonomy stronger, efforts are being made to make Autonomy healthier so I believe that all of us should support this Bill. There is a coordination committee, the amendment has come in the coordination committee, it is not the dominance committee. What is the meaning of coordination? We must work together. The Prime Minister of our country is talking about cooperative federalism. The Centre and the state are working together. The higher the coordination, the better it is for a healthy democracy. What's the problem with that? I believe that all of us should support this change.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not understand one thing. Earlier, the scale of industrial sector in our country was not large. I believe that after the WTO agreement in 1991, the pace at which the country is moving, the number of children qualifying CA is not matching the requirement. Is there an attempt

to create a monopoly here too? We all need to think about this. Be it the Government of any party, the Government of A or the Government of B, they run the Government with the money collected through taxes. We should all work together to ensure that the Government runs smoothly and how to boost the tax revenue so as to provide better facilities to the people of the country.

We have seen a clip of the Prime Minister of the country. Last year, he quoted that more than 3 crore people went on foreign tours, how many crores of people bought new cars, it is a good thing. Our country is progressing, people are getting happier, people are getting prosperous, people are earning money, people are going for vacations. But how many people are filling the country's coffers through taxes, is it not the job of the Member of Parliament sitting in the House to see this, is there no need to bring change in this sector?

I believe that those who are good chartered accountants, we respect them, everyone does, I also respect them, will respect them in future. But every community has good and bad people, more or less in number, there may be debate or discussion on it. There were people from this sector who helped in the irregularities or scams or rigging that took place in this sector. Shouldn't the Government take cognizance of it? We the Members of Parliament here elected by the people of the country. Shouldn't we be concerned about this? Should there be no action, no action against those who are doing wrong? If there is no provision in the Act to this effect, should there be no change in it? I believe there should be a change, and everyone

believes that there should be a change. The Government is making efforts to bring this change.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, this is the right time to bring changes in the amendments in this Bill. The country is growing rapidly. How fast the MSME sector is growing. I believe that in the coming days, the people of the Chartered Accountant Institution should try that more children pass out from it. There was a time when two to three percent of the children use to pass. Now the percentage has increased. I think it needs to go further.

What we used to study in the fifth and sixth classes in school, today nursery children study in our homes. And sometimes we wonder what's going on.

I do not understand what a big technique is involved in the Chartered Accountant. At present, in the era of Modi, all the papers come through Digital India, how much tax is to be paid by calculating it, it has to be decided, it should be decided.

In this country, we have also seen, one who gives papers, tells the customer how much tax is to be paid according to that. Secondly, there is a way, CA asks you how much tax you have to pay in this year. All of us have seen this. We all have passed through this phase. The way the Government was used to run, the way the people ran the Government, people tried to walk that way. Now the time for change has come.

I believe that efforts should be made to bring people who are doing small businesses on a large scale under the tax net. Who will try to do it? Chartered accountants should do this. When the number of voter increases

in our vote expansion exercise, we enrol their names before the election so that they vote for us. There are people doing businesses in the country, if they do not pay taxes, then the onus of bringing them under the tax net falls on to the chartered accountants. I believe that our Chartered Accountant brothers will work with great accountability. I think they have to be given a target. As the Prime Minister of the country gave all the MPs one area to work in the name of Adarsh Gram, we all did it. We got satisfaction as well, we also got a solution to be able to serve other people outside our constituency as well. The people of the Institute of Chartered Accountants need to bring a large number of people under the ambit of the new tax, which will bring tax on a large scale, the more the tax is collected, the better we will be able to work. MPLAD of the Member of Parliament has been closed for two years, it has started again. The MLAs who are in Maharashtra get Rs 5 crores. We MPs of 6 Vidhan Sabha get Rs 5 crores. I believe that if the Government gets more money through tax, then we will also get more money. We can deliver the goods better than how we are delivering today. We are also going to get its benefit. In this area, everyone needs to work keeping politics aside.

Sir, there may be debate, there may be discussion and change in this, which will happen in the coming days. There was a need to fix the system by bringing amendments in the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code and GST in every session, I believe that after 2014, this Government has made every effort. Earlier, after the enactment of the law, there used to be no amendment for 10-15 years, let it go, no one even asked. Now whatever correction is made, the related people tell that this is correct and this is not correct. The

Government has tried to move forward by making changes in the Insolvency Bankruptcy Code and GST every time.

Sir, if there is scope to further improve it in the coming days then we are sitting in the Parliament and it may be done. What is the need to think so much about this? I don't think it is the Chartered Accountant that should be the Chairman. Sometimes Members of Parliament take guidance from IAS officers because we are practical. We know how people are disturbed in the constituency. There cannot be any criteria as to who has to do what and what not to do.

Sir, the member from the panel will audit, I think this amendment is good. No matter how expert a surgeon is, but if he is ill and an operation is needed, then it can be conducted only through another doctor, he cannot do it himself. We all need to accept the right things with an open mind, I believe so. No one needs to think that he is very big, educated, has a huge degree and he can do everything. We see in the Parliament what kind of performance the Oxford University students give and what kind of performance the people who study from the metropolis school give. We have seen it within the Parliament and outside also. Everyone should be given a job opportunity. This Government is offering a scope to every person to work. Considering this as a solution, we all should support this Bill and move forward. Whatever changes are required in the coming days; I believe that the Government will take cognizance of that.

I once again congratulate the good CAs of the Chartered Accountant Institution. They have run this system for a very long time. The Government

has brought an amendment to run this system in a better way and we all should try to move forward with an open mind.

Sir, while expressing the same spirit, I conclude and support this Bill. Thank you.

[ENGLISH]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Chairperson, Sir, for affording me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. This Bill has come up for discussion only because of the statement of the hon. Prime Minister made at the ICAI Foundation Day. He told the Chartered Accountants that their signatures are more powerful than that of the Prime Minister, and also asked them to introspect and improve their standards. The hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji had also highlighted ICAI's embarrassing disciplinary record, where only 25 errant auditors had been prosecuted over the past 11 years, and 1,400 cases were pending. This is the root cause behind generating this Bill.

The only question which I would like to ask the hon. Minister is, whether the proposed amendment Bill is sufficient to meet the purpose or the observation of the hon. Prime Minister, made during the ICAI Foundation Day. According to me, 'No'. It is because all these three organisations, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India, and the Institute of Company

Secretaries of India, are the creation of different statutes of Parliament. They are independent, autonomous bodies. What is the proposed amendment in the Bill?

In the Bill, all these three professional bodies, that is, the Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants, and Company Secretaries have to be there and their powers have to be limited. There are Chartered Accountants Act of 1949, Cost and Works Accountants Act of 1959, and Company Secretaries Act of 1980. All these three Acts have to be amended, regulating the professions of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants, and Company Secretaries. So, the proposed amendments are with an intent to place chartered accounting under a considerable scrutiny with more regulatory control and thereby, to strengthen the disciplinary mechanism of the chartered accountants.

Sir, Chartered Accountants play a very important role in the country in the preparation of an audit of financial statements, whereas the Company Secretaries play a vital role in strict compliance of the statutes. That is the role of the Company Secretaries.

With regard to this Amendment Bill, I would like to express one major concern, which is, about the autonomy. Most of the hon. Members have already stated with regard to autonomy in this House. From 2014 onwards - - after the BJP-led NDA Government came to power -- they have been trying or attempting to encroach upon the autonomous bodies and all other independent autonomous organisations to have their authority on them. We have seen this in the case of National Medical Commission Act. Nowadays, everything is being controlled, guided, regulated, and decided by the

Government of India because their representatives are controlling the National Medical Commission.

Similarly, this Executive is imposing and encroaching upon the various autonomous institutions. This is another typical example by which the Government of India is encroaching upon the autonomous character of all these three organisations. So, that is the main apprehension or opposition which I would like to state.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, these three institutions are having self-governing or self-professional institutes. They are self-professional institutes or bodies. As has been rightly pointed out, no money or no budgetary grant is from the Government. My concern is that the autonomy of the professional bodies is under attack. The Government is slowly taking over the control of all these institutions just like in the case of the National Medical Commission Bill. What is the role of self-governing professional bodies?

I would like to quote the speech or observations made by the hon. Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, Shri Jayant Sinha Ji in the Standing Committee. I would like to quote it and I quote:

“The autonomy and independence of the professional institutions should not be interfered unnecessarily. The integrity associated with the financial reporting cannot be diminished in any way since it reflects the business standards and financial robustness for the entire country.”

This is the observation of the hon. Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Shri Jayant Sinha. I have got it from the records.

Sir, that has been the observation of the hon. Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance. They have scrutinised the Bill. How can the Standing Committee agree with the provisions of this Bill? That is a pertinent question which I would like to ask because autonomy shall never be interfered unnecessarily. Here, interference or unnecessary interference of the Executive on the professional autonomous bodies is there. Shri Jayant Sinha -- as the hon. Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance -- is making a very clear observation regarding the autonomous character of all these organisations. But at the same time, supporting this Bill means a square contradiction to the observation which he has already made.

So, let us examine the crucial amendments which are being proposed in the Bill. I am confining to only three amendments. The first amendment is with regard to Section 9A. A new provision has been incorporated, that is, Section 9A, by which a Coordination Committee will be constituted. What is the composition of the Coordination Committee? The Coordination Committee will consist of the President, Vice-President, and the Secretaries of all these three organisations, that is, the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of India, the Cost Accountants of India and the Company Secretaries of India. The members of the Committee will be from all these three organisations.

Who is chairing the Committee? The chairman of the Coordination Committee is the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It is shameful. Is it independent? Is it an autonomous character of an organisation? The Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs will be chairing this body comprising of all the three organisations, and the name

of this committee is coordination. What is the purpose? What is the purpose of that Committee? It is for the development and harmonisation of the professions of chartered accountants, cost accountants and the company secretaries. Since I have no time, I will not go into it. If you examine Section 9A, the powers and functions of all the three organisations are totally regulated by the executive. That is looked after by the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. He is the Chairman.

He is regulating and he is not only regulating but also controlling. So, the first and strong objection is regarding Section 9A. In this, a new Section is incorporated. It is totally against the autonomy of all these organisations.

Number two, it is about the amendment of Section 21. Since I have no time, I am not going to read the sections. That is about the Disciplinary Directorate. I fully agree with that amendment because in that, the appointment of at least two new joint directors to deal with the disciplinary cases is there. I have no objection in this. It is because this will enhance the capacity of the Disciplinary Directorate to deal with the complaints and also fixing a timeframe by which the petitions or the complaints or the information have to be disposed of within a fixed time. I fully agree with that amendment.

Coming to another controversial amendment is amendment to Section 21A. Sir, you may kindly see the proposed amendment. Who will be the Chairman of the Board of Discipline? The Chairman and one member of the Board of Discipline will be nominated by the Central Government.

The Chairman and one member shall not be a member of the Institute. He shall never be a member of the institute.

Now, I will come to amendment to Section 21B. That is Disciplinary Committee. In this, it is said that the Presiding Officer and two other Members are nominated by the Central Government who are not the Members of the Institute. Where is the independence and autonomous character of all these organisations? The Presiding Officer as well as two Members of this Disciplinary Committee who are not the Members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India will be governing this Disciplinary Committee. What is the role of this institution? Where is the independence and autonomy? The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is having a long tradition and having the largest strength. It has nearly 3.5 lakh members and 7.5 lakh students. I am aware of the main concerns of the ICAI. I have all the details. Since I have no time, I will not go into it. Their main concern is this. The Presiding Officer of the Disciplinary Committee should be a chartered accountant. In the present mechanism, there are five members – two from the ICAI, two from the Government of India and one is by the President. That means two Government nominees are already there. You may kindly see this. All the decisions during the last 72 years are taken unanimously.

Not even a single instance of dissent was there. The presence of the Government's nominee is mandatory for quorum.

As per the present provisions of the Act, even the presence of the Government nominee is a must for having the quorum of the meeting. The President and the Vice President of the CCM are elected representatives of

the ICAI and are elected representatives of the ICAI and are accountable subject to public scrutiny.

In this Act, it is being stated that they are not having accountability. As they are elected representatives of the ICAI, they are subject to accountability and are also subject to public scrutiny.

Since 72 years, this practice is there without any complaint in the system. In all these cases, the Government nominees are acting as umpire. The Government nominees are acting as umpire. This was the position. This was the precedent.

So, the conduct of the professionals should be judged by the professionals only. This should be applicable to all the professionals. You are an eminent advocate. I am also from the legal profession. Who is judging the capacity or the conduct or misconduct of an advocate? It is the Chairman of the Bar Council or the Disciplinary Committee of Bar Council. It is to be done by the lawyers.

As far as the National Medical Commission is concerned, we have now enacted a law. In that, majority of the Disciplinary Committee Members are doctors. Why, in the case of chartered accountants alone, is it not applicable?

Here the conduct of the professionals should be judged by the professionals only. In the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, there is a disciplinary mechanism for the failure of the doctors by the majority of the doctors. In the Disciplinary Committee, according to the National

Medical Commission Act, 2019, a majority of the disciplinary Committee Members are doctors.

17.00 hrs

Yes, it is absolutely right because professionals are to be judged by professionals only. Similar is the case with the Bar Council of India. What is the reason for this? The Government says it is conflict of interest. If Government says it is conflict of interest, then none of the autonomous organisations in the country can function independently.

The Government can say that there is conflict of interest everywhere. Many objections have been raised by the ICAI. I am not going to read all of these. They are suggesting that the Presiding Officer of the Disciplinary Bench should be a Chartered Accountant. If the Government has any amendments, I would request them to come with some positive amendments. The advantages of the present Disciplinary system have to be kept in mind.

The concern with regard to the proposed changes envisaged in the Bill is that audit and accounting require highly specialised skill and in such a scenario, the Government proposes to put a Secretary or a Joint Director or some Executive from the Ministry to perform all these functions. It is in violation of the basic principles of accounting and auditing which has been traditionally continued for the last 72 years.

My basic point is this. This is attacking the basic autonomy of the professional bodies like ICWAI and ICAI as well as the Institute of

Company Secretaries of India. Since the provisions of this Bill is against the basic principles of autonomy, I strongly oppose this Bill.

With these suggestions, I once again thank you for giving me this much time.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the subject related to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 and the Bill further to amend.

Sir, this Bill regulates the businessmen and institutions engaged in the field of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries. The main objective of these Bills is to provide a timeline and strength to the disciplinary proceedings. That is to say that the person or firm which provides its services by registering itself with the Chartered Accountant of India, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India is considered to be a member of that institution. If any complaint is made by anyone against that member then it is the objective of this Bill to dispose that complaint within the prescribed time limit.

Sir, this Bill aims to establish a Disciplinary Directorate/Board for these three institutions, in which a Disciplinary Director of that institution is to be nominated, who will be the Officer of the same institution. After that at least 2 joint directors are to be nominated under that director. Therefore, at least 3 directors each institute and thus a total of 9 directors are to be nominated as disciplinary and joint directors in all the three institutions. As we all know that when one post is created in an institution, reservation is not permissible there, but there are more than one number of

posts, then it has been provided in the Indian Constitution that the posts should be filled following reservation criteria.

It is my request to the Government through you that at least one Disciplinary Director and two Joint Directors should be nominated in all institutions like the Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. There should also be a provision in that out of those 3 posts, one post should be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and one post for the Backward Classes, so that if the people of the deprived society also receive any dispute or complaint against any member or firm related to these institutions, it can be resolved with a clean mindset without any discrimination, otherwise it is a well known fact that what kind of economic exploitation and mental exploitation are inflicted on these dalits and people belonging to OBC.

Sir, through you, I request the Hon.Minister to please convey his opinion in the House regarding the demand made by me.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the Chartered Accountants, Cost and Work Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Government says that this is a big step towards policy reform in this sector, but when it will be implemented on the ground, the truth will come out. When the NDA Government was formed, between 2014 and 2019, there was a huge propaganda that they will repeal all the redundant laws, but unfortunately, within a day or two, two or three bills were brought, passed and many irrelevant laws were enacted by this Government. This Bill was also not required at all. This Bill seeks to strengthen their disciplinary

mechanism by amending Chartered Accountants, 1949, Cost and Work Accountants, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980. If any CA commits mistake, then how should disciplinary action be taken against him, for that purpose this Bill has been introduced.

Before going into its provisions, it is imperative to discuss how much the regulatory bodies have contributed in strengthening the economy of India. Today, India is the sixth largest economy in the world with GDP size of US\$ 2.66 trillion. As per the data of MCA, there are a total of more than 13 lakhs 44 thousand active companies in India as on 31th March, 2021 out of which 65 thousand 942 companies are public limited companies and 6 thousand 740 are listed in stock exchanges. Today there are three stock exchanges in the country which, as per data up to 28th May 2021, market capitalization is around US \$ 3.03 trillion.

In this perspective strong regulatory institutions not only aid in running the companies of the country smoothly but also protect the money of the people of the country from scams, but India's economy has not been untouched by fraud and scams. Big scams happened inside this country, whether it was the UPA Government or the NDA Government. Before this Government came to power, Harshad Mehta Securities Scam, 1992, Tri-Sure India Limited Scam, 1975-76, The Global Trust Bank and Ketan Parikh Scams, 2000-2001, Satyam Computers Limited, 2008, Ranbaxy Laboratories Scam, 2008, National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) Scam, 2013 or the following scams happened after this Government came to power; JP Infrastructure Scam, 2017, Nirav Modi-PNB Scam, 2018, IL&FS, 2018, Yes Bank, 2018-19, the Dewan Housing Finance Corporation

Limited (DHFL) Scam, 2020, and the bank scam by ABG Shipyard resonated across the country.

These scams have not only questioned the role and effectiveness of statutory audit by independent auditors, but also sent a message to the people of the country that no regulatory body stands with them during the need of the hour.

The question also arises whether India's regulatory bodies are competent enough to prevent these scams from happening, they must show a pre-emptive approach and not a reactive one. For instance, after the Nirav Modi-PNB scam was exposed, the Government took a very good step by setting up the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), but the ICAI, which regulates CAs and has a reputation of taking less-than-impressive action against its members, opposed the formation of the NFRA. Sadly, even market regulator SEBI does not have jurisdiction to take action against auditors of listed companies. Due to this, CAs and CSs involved in all these scams could easily get away by paying small fines. The maximum sentence under the authority of ICAI was three months' suspension and a fine of one lakh rupees.

Therefore, I demand from the minister that the punishment that they have provided in this Bill, like removing the name of the member from the register of the institution or reprimanding him, imposing a fine of up to five lakh rupees and now this Bill makes the maximum amount of fine as 10 lakh rupees. I demand that when the Government introduce this Bill again, introduce the Bill with these provisions, about which I would like to give three-four suggestions. Criminal liability should also be added to it so that

imprisonment becomes a deterrent for unbridled auditors. This is my demand.

At the same time, I also demand from the Government that CA or Statutory Auditors should be given the status of Market Fiduciary so that institutions like 'Sebi' can also take action on them.

Regarding this Bill, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that at present the term of office of a member of the Central Council of ICAI is three years. Through this Bill you are increasing this tenure to four years. Any CA can be elected for a maximum of three terms, it is being increased to four years, so if a CA is currently a member of it and if he is elected three times, it has become 9 years, give him four more years of tenure, then the total will be 13 years. Therefore, if any CA is currently a member of it, then his current tenure should also be included in it so that everyone and new people can also get a chance in accordance with the democratic system. Please clarify while replying this query today.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I have a suggestion that the Disciplinary Board that you are forming will have three members including a Director, one will be a Law or Disciplinary, another one is an Economist or Trader and the third a member of the Council. I suggest that you bring it afresh in which political public representatives, whether they are hon. MPs or public representatives, should also be made members so that work can be done with more transparency.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw attention to a very important matter of the Minister that RBI's circular bank is related to branch audit, in

which the first year is 2020-21 and the second year is 2021-22. According to the old provisions, the audit of 100% of the branches of nationalized banks with advance of more than Rs 20 crore and 1/5 of the branches with advance of less than Rs 20 crore was used to be carried out by Chartered Accountants on rotation basis. At the time of audit allotment for the year 2020-21, the nationalised banks requested the RBI to change the parameters of the audit to be conducted in view of the Corona pandemic situation, which the RBI had made a provision to audit only 90 per cent of the advances, considering the advances as the base. Provisions with 90 per cent audit of Advances have also been modified by you on 17th March, 2022 by issuing a circular to reduce it to 80 per cent. With this new provision, about 50 percent branches remained without audit, these are the main reason for scams, they have fallen out of the purview. Such decisions are neither conducive to the banking or financial health of the country, nor to the interests of the depositors of the country. Because bank scams are emerging every day, bank licences are being cancelled due to financial irregularities and hard earned money and old age support of depositors are becoming increasingly prone to sink in banks.

Therefore, I request you to order the restoration of the audit system as per the provisions in place before the Corona epidemic. If the Government had brought this Bill with a lot of preparation, the common man of the country could have benefited a lot....*(Interruptions)* Ramkripal Ji, you are not able to speak, then I will speak a little more instead of you.... *(Interruptions)* However, I would also like to say in the context of CA that CA is such a profession in the world which thrives only through the progress

of its clients. Therefore, you need to pay attention to the problems related to their profession.

Chairman Sir, since you have brought a half-baked Bill, you want to take action against the CA who commit mistakes, but if you bring back this Bill with full preparation, in which there is a provision for punishment, appointment of a political person, everything is done properly, then it will appear that you have brought the Bill in the right form. You don't do this just to create records by bringing new laws every day and creating records by passing them. I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir, for the opportunity to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, auditors, accountants, and company secretaries are considered the first gatekeepers of corporate governance and our legal framework lays considerable faith and confidence in this system. I am sure that with emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence etc., there is going to be a major transformation in the accounting sector which the accounting industry has to brace itself for. For example, automation, minibots, machine learning, and adaptive intelligence are becoming parts of the finance team at lightning speed.

Sir, on the one hand, it is a welcome development that the accounting sector is giving opportunities to several home-grown SAAS- based companies like Zoho operating out of Chennai to emerge as global cloud-

based accounting companies and, on the other side, these changes like evolving smart and digital technology, continued globalisation of reporting standards, and new forms of regulation are creating major challenges for the profession as well as the regulatory framework.

Sir, before I conclude, I wish to give three suggestions to the hon. Minister. First, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is the world's second largest professional accounting body and the largest professional accounting body of India which functions entirely on a self-financing and self-sustainable model.

The institute has nearly 165 branches spread across the nation with nearly 40 more chapters outside the country. At this juncture, I would request that these institutes may be elevated as approved training institutes by the Government of India to award 'employable certificates' similar to a diploma to Inter-passed Chartered Accountant students so that the huge industry shortage of trained professionals can be addressed. Since the infrastructure and finances are already available within the current system under the administrative and academic jurisdiction of ICAI, further investment and employment of trained teachers are not required.

Secondly, future accountants will increasingly need education in digital technology, globalisation, and evolving regulations and so on. Undoubtedly, the accountant of the future will need to be technology-savvy to evolve with the changing industry. So, our training and regulatory mechanism should also be ensured to adapt to this changing scenario.

Thirdly, with regard to participation in this area, reservation in the regional and central council should be ensured by properly tuning the Government policy. With the increasing presence of women in the CA profession, the women cell should be strengthened to work and help the women members in solving their work-related issues. The real purpose of women empowerment committee of ICAI should be taken up on priority.

Sir, this Bill has been brought to tighten the disciplinary mechanism and streamline the functioning of Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries and Cost Accountants. The Bill aims to deal with the conflict of interest between administrative and disciplinary arms of the Institutes. It is also expected to result in quick decision making in disciplinary matters of professionals through this fixed timeframe of 90 days.

With these words, I support this, Bill.

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA (AMRAVATI): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

[Translation]

The Government has encouraged and helped CA professionals from time to time. CA Institutes have also adopted 'Partnership in Nation Building' and have always helped in executing the schemes of the

Government. Whether it is about tax collection or is it a matter of taking the schemes among the people, these institutions have always supported the Government. It has helped in taking the various welfare schemes like Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, Subsidy Scheme, Special Tax Zone Promotion e-Plan etc to the public.

[English]

Sir, I would like to inform that some Chartered Accountants from my district, from the Vidharbha region, and from Nagpur have actually spoken to me about this Bill. When this Bill was introduced in this House, immediately all these Chartered Accountants came and gave some suggestions about the changes that are required in this Bill. I would like to give some suggestions here. I support the Ruling Party and the Ministry. The Chartered Accountants are serving our country for the last 74 years. They are working for the progress of our nation. The proposal to establish an Indian Institute of Accounting is an out of the box suggestion. It is a commercial proposal to destroy the world's best and cheapest course by privatising it through the IIA. In fact, there is no need to establish the IIA when we already have the world's best CA Institute. It is like demolishing a Nalanda-like institute just for competition which is not fair.

[Translation]

I am just here today to talk. I have come to raise my voice for the CAs of my region and Vidarbha. CAs practice day and night and give their time to the Government so that the Government and our country progress. In this work they support but there are some errors in their working area which we

should take as a suggestion and the committee has also been approached very often.

[English]

The CA (Amendment) Bill proposes to make changes in the disciplinary mechanism of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The current mechanism is robust, useful, and was put in place only about a year ago. The Bill proposes to increase the number of Government nominees from two to three, and reduce the number of Members of the Council from three to two. This is the main pain, which the CA people are suffering.

[Translaion]

If any person who is not practicing medicine sits on the chair, what justice will he give to the doctor who comes to the chair with any problem? If he does not know what kind of mistake the person has committed at what place and how he should and should not be punished, then how will the doctor understand his problem?

[English]

I am just mentioning about the recommendations given by the CAs. The current composition of the Disciplinary Committee is 'two Members appointed by the Government of India, and three Members of the ICAI Council.' The process, so far, has been smooth, practical and useful. So, the current system may be continued as there is no reason to change it in less than a decade.

Currently, a minimum of one Member of the Government should be present to form a quorum.

The Bill proposes that the Chairman of the Bench will be a Government nominee and not a CA.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also spoke about this; Mahtab-ji also spoke about it; and our Google Uncle from Bengal also spoke about it. Everybody is speaking about only this point. We do not have a problem about this Bill. It is just about the Chairperson, whom we are appointing. He should be a CA, who has actually practised in this field and not the non-Chartered Accountant practitioner.

The DC mechanism is a quasi-judicial function, and only persons who are from the same profession, should sit in judgment as facts are involved.

The change is akin to placing non-legal or non-medical professionals in the DC mechanism or Bar Council or Medical Council.

The Standing Committee while rejecting all the suggestions of the ICAS, has gone beyond its mandate, and proposed setting up a parallel accounting body by name, the Indian Institute of Accounting.

Sir, I always speak in support of the Government; and I am still here to support them. But these were just small suggestions which I wanted to give in this House on behalf the Chartered Accountants belonging to Maharashtra, particularly Vidharba.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, I am proud to state that I am a practicing Chartered Accountant; and I am here in this profession for the last 40 years.

The Institute of Chartered Accounts of India is in place since 1949, and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It is being managed by a Council which has got 40 Members, out of which 32 are elected amongst the Members of the profession and eight are nominated by the Government of India. So, there is already a control by the Government. I do not know why the Government is bringing about such a Bill where they want its entire control for the bureaucrats. This is not fair.

About this profession, when it was started in 1949, at that time, there were only 1,450 Members; and now it has got 3,50,000 Members. Similarly, the total number of students, at the time when it was instituted in 1949, was less than 5,000; and now, it is more than eight lakhs.

Our former President of India applauded the profession stating that the Chartered Accountants are the partners in nation-building. This profession is working with the Government, whoever be in power, for the last 72 years. They have contributed immensely. For example, in 1985, the tax audit was brought in. The Chartered Accountants are doing the tax audit. This has increased the revenue of the Government of India to a large extent. Therefore, my humble request is that the Government should withdraw

those provisions which will destroy this profession. They should not be implemented.

Sir, I would like to just go through the details of the provisions. As per Section 21B of the Chartered Accountants Act 1949, the Disciplinary Committee of the ICAI currently consists of five members in which three members are Council Members and the President or the Vice-President, ICAI, is the Presiding Officer of the Disciplinary Committee. As has been mentioned by most of the Members, the Disciplinary Committee is going to be headed by a bureaucrat. Is it correct?

Kindly go through the other provisions which have already been mentioned by other hon. Members. It is an insult to the profession. There is no doubt about it. The disciplinary mechanism is a quasi-judicial function, and the members should have adequate knowledge and functional experience in the field of accounting standards, auditing standards, and all commercial laws like Income tax, GST, customs, money laundering, benami property transactions, banking mechanism, and cooperative society etc. When a person is coming from outside the profession, he does not have any experience about this profession. I would like to know whether the Secretaries to the Government have got any experience in accounting standards and auditing standards. It should not be allowed.

I would like to give an example of the legal profession which was mentioned by many Members. The proposed amendment is contrary to the system in other professional bodies like Bar Council of India, Council of Architecture and National Medical Commission wherein the Disciplinary Committees consist of members from the respective profession only.

As per Section 9 of the Advocates Act 1961, the Bar Council shall constitute one or more disciplinary committees, each shall consist of three members, out of which two shall be persons elected by the Council from its members and the third member shall be a person amongst advocates who possesses the qualifications specified in the proviso of sub-section (2) of section 3 and who is not a member of the Council. The senior-most advocate amongst the members of a disciplinary committee shall be the Chairman of the committee.

As per the Architects Act, 1972, all complaints against architects shall be investigated and all enquiries relating to misconduct of architects shall be held by a Committee of the Council consisting of three members, of whom one shall be elected by the Council from among its members, one member from among the members nominated under clause (b), and one member from amongst the members referred to in clause (d) of sub-section 3 of section 3. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall be elected by the members of that Committee from among themselves. There also, only a member of that profession becomes the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee.

Under the National Medical Commission Act, disciplinary matters against doctors are handled by Ethics and Medical Registration Board comprising of five doctors. Among them, one shall be the President, two whole time members and two-part time members will be there.

In the proposed amendment to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the majority would be Non-Chartered Accountants who do not have

experience about the practical functions of the Chartered Accountants which is not appropriate and not acceptable to the profession.

The interference of the Central Government into the internal affairs of the Institute is an attack on the autonomy of the Institute. I recommend that the existing position regarding the composition of the Disciplinary Committee should be retained, and the Presiding Officer should be a Chartered Accountant, someone with a knowledge and expertise in the application of accounting.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir, for allowing me to speak on this very important Bill, that is, the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. As most of my colleagues have already mentioned the main issues, I do not want to repeat them in the light of the time available. In this Bill, changes have been proposed to existing legislations governing the apex Institutes of Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries.

Sir, I was going through the Report of the Standing Committee. As regards the proposed constitution of a Coordination Committee, it has been explicitly mentioned;

“Constituting a Coordination Committee would amount to not only intruding the autonomy of the Institute but it may also hamper the decision-making authority of the Councils of the respective Institutes which is evident from the functions proposed to be assigned to this Committee under sub-section 4. A Coordination Committee of all the three Institutes is already in place as a Non-Standing Committee of the Institute under Section 17. This may be made a Standing Committee and its terms of reference should be to discuss and resolve common issues like Multidisciplinary Partnership, etc.”

So, this is the basic thing as regards Coordination Committee. Now, the revised Coordination Committee has a Secretary who is heading the

Committee. I think, this is an attack on the autonomy. I was hearing my esteemed colleagues from the Treasury Benches. They were mentioning that this Bill has been brought in so that more autonomy could be given. But we have seen what happened in the case of Medical Council. They will do the same thing in Bar Council, Dental Council, etc. They are trying to attack each and every institution. At the same time, they have the guts to say that they are giving us more autonomy. This is a joke on all of us.

Sir, I will tell you a story. When we were in college, one of my friends was a topper in my batch. Except him, we all decided to get into Engineering course or medical line. But that person went into B. Com, and then he got into Chartered Accountancy. So, this Institute, through its legacy and history, is a very renowned Institute. It is nothing less than the IIMs or the IITs. We do not need IIA. The thing is, the ICAI has around 7.5 lakh students and 3.5 lakh members as of now. What we are doing now is that we are trying to dilute it just because our hon. Prime Minister made a speech that our signature is more important than that of his signature. What does this Parliament have to do? They have to bring in a Bill where they say that they will give us the autonomy but they take away our autonomy. The ICAI has flagged some issues like striking off names of the defaulting CA firms and approval of names of CA firms registered with the Institutes. Sir, when Satyam scam happened, at that time, I was working with an IT company, Infosys. When this scam happened, the owner said that it was like riding a tiger without knowing when to jump off. But I do not think that it is the problem of the Chartered Accountants, the Disciplinary Committee or the Standing Committee. It is mainly because of the intentions of the Director

or the owner who forced these guys to get into those kinds of mismanagement. That is the main issue. We should try how we can streamline this process and give them more power. Now, I come to the Board of Discipline. So, what has been requested to the Standing Committee is this. The unprecedented provisions of appointing two non-CAs as members out of three members in the Board may have a larger impact as the work of CAs would be majorly judged by non-CAs. Now, what we are doing is this. In the Medical Council, the Engineer would be the Head. Similarly, this is being done for the CA which is a major concern for them. Sir, there are two basic things. I do not want to take much of your time. As regards dilution of powers of the Chartered Accountant profession, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has raised concerns over the proposal to have a non-Chartered Accountant as the Presiding Officer of its Disciplinary Committee. At present, the President or the Vice President of ICAI acts as the Presiding Officer, and it is the practice that the Institute wants to continue. The second concern is regarding the vague terminology. The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 left the definition of 'other misconduct' open-ended.

According to the ICAI, the old Act allowed reprimanding, imposing fines and even cancelling registration of members, if the former believed that the member's activities brought disrepute to the institute. In the recent past, ICAI used this provision to arbitrarily censor the content that some Chartered Accountants posted on the social media. The new Bill does not address the issue of this whimsical censoring from ICAI.

Moreover, when we move to digital technology and the digital world, we should look at multiple ways of how we can utilize the digital technology in enabling the CAs to perform their work. So, we should move in that that direction rather than introducing Secretary as the head of the Coordination Committee. It would not help us in many ways.

I have one last point to mention. Under the Acts, in cases of professional or other misconduct the Committees may (i) reprimand or remove the member from the register of the Institute, or (ii) impose a fine of up to five lakh rupees. The Bill increases the maximum amount of fine to Rs.10 lakhs. I am not sure what the calculation methodology was. I do not know whether this amount is a fair amount or not. We need to discuss it.

Sir, I would like to say that we should trust our CAs. They have been working for us for the last 75 years with much dedication. They are also the nation builders. So, let us give them more autonomy rather than using the jingoism and taking away the autonomy and saying that we are providing autonomy when we are encroaching on their field area.

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

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA (JHANSI): Thank you, hon. Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I stand here in complete support of this Bill. There was some discussion earlier about how this Bill is going to change our lives, and lives of my friends who are CAs and others. Sir, let me remind one thing to this House. *[Translation]* We have played a lot of cricket so let me tell you in Hindi. It is like when two teams enter the cricket field and one team comes

with 13 players, they have 11 players and they also bring two umpires with them. These are legacies of the UPA era, which has been going on for so many years. Today, if the Government brings this Bill, it is important in only two ways. Their autonomy is not being abolished from anywhere. Even today, they decide the course, even today many people pass out, what is the percentage of passing out, all that remains in the hands of the CAs. What is important is that when we talk about autonomy, the autonomy of these institutions has not been interfered with in any condition. A disciplinary body has been created in it. Here you were able to take action on only three-four dozen cases in so many years. *[English]* Today, this is the need of the hour as India's economy is growing fast. *[Translation]* Even today, as he said, 7-7.5 lakh children prepare for CA exams. 3-3.5 lakh CAs are in this country, so I am trying to tell you that India has the maximum number of CAs after America. *[English]* About three and a half lakh CAs work in India. But, unfortunately, none of our best practices is recognized internationally because of lack of a Disciplinary Committee or work in the Disciplinary Committee. Today when we talk about the big four companies, whether it is Deloitte, PwC, KPMG, E&Y, none of the big Indian companies have become of an international standard in this country. Today our people from software industry lead the world. When we have these many CAs, why are our audited statements not accepted in NASDAQ or accepted worldwide? It is only because certain best practices have not been followed. Sir, today I was happy to note that the global best practices in terms of accountancy adopted in US, UK, Australia, Canada and South Africa have been studied by the Ministry. They have brought in some of these changes.

Today in UK, lay members, that means, members who are not CAs, head the disciplinary panels. In UK, there are multiple bodies imparting education and regulating the accountancy profession unlike India where ICAI enjoys status of a statutory body. Even in US, State Boards of Accountancy regulate the profession and licence to practice is also given by them. Here, there is no way that the Government is impinging on their autonomy. The only thing is the disciplinary action.

[Translation]

During the UPA Government and in all these places, it was always seen that a big system was running. You are a CA, I am also a CA, so brother let's leave it. Pressure was brought, phone banking has happened in this country and many companies were closed. From Maharashtra Cooperative Bank to Satyam Computer, you may mention anyone of them. It kept happening because this pressure was taken. Today, a completely independent body is being created for disciplinary actions. Just now a friend of mine was telling me that today the CAG is the largest audit body in India. There is no CA in it, but today they audit the whole of India or not? Today the CAG can conduct an audit without a chartered accountant on its board. All of them have given an exam and passed out. Today if we are bringing that into it, it will be a good thing.

At the rate at which India's economy is growing under the leadership of the respected Prime Minister we will have to prepare more and more CAs. We have to adopt the best practices world wide. We all will have to manage these bodies in such a way that today so many big companies like Unicorns companies of India want to go abroad and register. When their balance sheet

is signed, if it is signed by an Indian firm, then we all will be proud of that. We all want that apart from these four big companies, there should be four more companies of India. Sir, once upon a time there were two big companies in India - TV and I think Batliboy. They are also finished today. Today I think it will be very small, *[English]* if you consider them, as far as E & Y or Deloitte is concerned.

Today, these companies not only employ CAs, CSs or cost accountants; they also employ business managers. They are complete turnkey consultancies also. Today, when we talk about a coordination committee, where does a coordination committee come in? For large corporates even in India, where a medium scale to a large corporate company is concerned, it has to have the services of all three – a CA, a cost accountant as well as a CS. So, a coordination committee helps in making sure that the best practices are followed, and the companies are rightly advised. This has been a major lacuna in our framework. So, I think, I would like to compliment the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for bringing this Bill. *[Translation]* What you are going to do, this was a very important step and a vital step. We do not want to say anywhere that our CA friends have not served this country. I do not want to say anywhere that the company secretaries work less. We are not saying anywhere that cost accountancy is not important. The Government says that all these things are necessary, but there should also be an oversight of them.

It is wrong to play matches yourself and be your own referees. Today, if we look at anything in our sports, the referees come from outside and the confidence comes from the people outside. If the match is going on in India,

then the referees from South Africa come. We prepared our own pitch and hire our own referees, then who will believe this? So that's important. *[English]* I would like to compliment the Government for following some of the best practices, which are now being practised in India. I am happy to note that most of the advices given by the Standing Committee have been accepted and are there. The only tricky issue here that remains to be seen is whether the Chairman should be from among the CAs themselves or from outside. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, if I can complete, you can please interject later. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No interference please. You have already spoken.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA: I did not interject when he was speaking, Sir. If he allows me that courtesy, I would be very grateful.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thomasji, when you were speaking, nobody interfered. You made your point clear. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA: I appreciate what the hon. Member had said. I appreciate your concern for the CAs. I have worked with CAs all my life. I have worked as a corporate with them. I appreciate the great work you have done, but there needs to be an oversight body. Your autonomy is nowhere being impeded by the Government. You are still deciding even the number of CAs who will pass the exam every year. In fact, we need to increase that because a lot of brilliant children get rejected during the exam.

They actually face a lot of heartburn and heart failure. *[Translation]* No one feels good after failing in an exam. All those children are brilliant. As much as we will prepare CS in this country, because today CS also works with us in GST, today CA also works for Corporate Tax Law. CA also gets work done for income tax. CS and CAs work in everything. When we need an energy audit... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA: That is why I want to congratulate the Government that because of this body, our people who will practice for India in the future, our audited balance sheets will go, we will not have to go there again and get them audited again.

[English]

With these few words, I would like to commend this Bill to the House and I hope the House passes it with a thumping majority. Thank you.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Thank you, Chairperson Sir. I would like to opine on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

I have listened to a lot of people who are experts, who are Chartered Accountants. One of the finest gentlemen, Anurag ji also spoke very well

just now. I listened to him also. The fact remains that right now there is only one institute. I do not know why you are saying 'institutes'. There is only one institute right now. Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants is the only institute in the country. It is not like IIT and IIM where a number of institutes are there in different regions. Only one institute is there. As the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, out of 40 members of the Board, 32 are getting elected and 8 are being nominated by the Government.

What Anurag Sharma ji has expressed, I appreciate the point that he wants to upgrade the standards and all. Even we are supporting that idea. But the fact remains that the autonomy of the institute is being intruded by the Government. What is the interest behind it? The Standing Committee itself has given a report in which they have categorically mentioned that appointing a chairman or a president for the disciplinary committee from the bureaucracy is objectionable. The hon. Member has given an example that C&AG does not have a Chartered Accountant. I hope the hon. gentleman will go and clear it whether Chartered Accountants are there in C&AG or not. Why do you need a bureaucrat? That is one point.

Secondly, why do you need to interfere or intervene in the institute? Why do you want to destroy the autonomy of the institute? The institute has served the country for many years. You brought GST, you brought so many other things, you deal with SEBI, RBI. In every area, the Chartered Accountant Institute always help them, cooperates with them. Even in finalising the taxation also, they have come forward and helped the Government.

If you look at clause 9(a), it is mentioned that there shall be a coordination committee consisting of the President, Vice-President and the Secretary of the Council of each of the Institutes. I would like to know where are the others? There is only one institute. Are you going to form more institutes region-wise? Let it be very clear.

It also says: "...the Cost Accountants of India and the Company Secretaries of India for the development and harmonisation of the professions of Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants and Company Secretaries." Is the harmony not there? I would like to know. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN: There is no competition between these institutes.

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

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: I was really lucky to attend the convocation programme of the students in Mumbai. They were outstanding, meritorious students, as the hon. Member rightly pointed out. They went for Chartered Accountant exam. When I was speaking with them, I told them in the entire education system, Chartered Accountants are the only Eklavyas. There is no college. You show me a Chartered Accountant college in the country. There is no college. The students are studying on their own and appearing for the exam. I told them you are Eklavyas. Outstanding and brilliant students are coming out. And when they are doing something, you have lost the trust in them.

I do remember in 2017, the hon. Prime Minister had addressed them. He had a concern. Definitely, he had a concern about certain irregularities being done by some of the businessmen and by so many other people. So many industrialists have run away from the country.

Talking about NCLT, somebody had referred to it. Look at the NCLT's decisions. Look at the way the NCLT is working. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that after the formation of the NCLT, what are the decisions given by the NCLT? How many cases have been dealt with by the NCLT? Look at them. The company which is having a capital of around thousands of crore of rupees is being sold for a few crores of rupees. Then they ask the bankers. Who are the bankers? They are our own PSU banks. They ask them, 'do you have any objection?' They simply say, 'no'. Why? Who is advising them to say 'no'. They had given the loans; the debt is on the PSU banks. And in front of the NCLT court, when they ask, 'do you have any objection if you get Rs. 300 crore or Rs. 400 crores, they say, 'no'. This is what is happening, and there we need a Chartered Accountant.

As far as other issues are concerned, ... (*Interruptions*) Please give me one minute. ... (*Interruptions*). I know a lot of Members have talked about it, and I support their ideas. I will request the hon. Minister to look at the Standing Committee's report. Where is the attention? They can enlighten me on this issue because what I heard is that the Institute is having Rs. 15,000 crores with them. ... (*Interruptions*). Is it correct or not? ... (*Interruptions*), Sorry, it is Rs. 1,500 crores. I am correcting it. Rs. 1500 crore are with them. Now, the Government's Committee will come in. Now, who will intervene? Where will the money be spent? Nothing is mentioned

about it in this Bill. They are saying that they do not have to pay the money. They have money. Are your attention being on that money, please tell us this also, we should also know.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Your attention is over there. That is what I feel, and therefore, I request the hon. Minister, through you, to please send this Bill to a Select Committee. Let us discuss it elaborately and let us come up with a very good Bill which will protect the investors and which will serve the Institute also.

[TRANSLATION]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill. I welcome and support the Amendment Bill. As written in the 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the Bill, which is very transparent and clear.

Sir, I was listening to all the hon. Members, but all these Hon. Members are not aware that this is the vision of hon. Prime Minister Modi Ji - Transparency, and the time has come in this country when we clearly put everything in front of the country. This country is becoming a new India; an India of new thinking. In view of what happened in the year 1949, what happened in the year 1959, the mechanism has to be strengthened, they have to be secured. Disciplinary cases against those who are members of this institution include settling it within a time frame, granting autonomy to the Council towards institutions that promote accountability and transparency,

etc., which very clearly shows that now this country is changing, things need to change. The country needs to know, the people of the country need to know what is the truth, what kind of people they are, how are the people working? *[English]* Whether they are CAs, whether they are into Income Tax Department, whether they are in the Government sector, people want to know *[Translation]* what is going on? What is happening to our country, what is happening to the people of our country, what is happening to my tax money, how people are operating it, how my country will grow? How the population of 135 crores will be strong, how we will become superpower, to strengthen all these pockets, all the institutions, we are going ahead with the vision of Hon. Prime Minister Modi Ji and accordingly this Bill is based on that. Now the opposition also needs to know that this country is changing, strengthening itself with transparency and honesty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that accountability, transparency is very important in today's changing environment. Everyone wants to know what is happening in life. What is happening to my money? Hey, where is my country going? These institutes were in operation since 1949. At that time these were set up, we were somewhat influenced by the British. All those Bills are gone, what were those rules, what were those laws, now they are gone. Now people want to go out. People are seeing the world with Modi Ji in the year 2021. Our Prime Minister has become the world's greatest leader. The whole world is watching India. The whole of India is growing. India is the only country which is now on the growth side and the eyes of the whole world are on it. We should support them.

Sir, since I was associated with the film industry. I was also associated with CAs and Accountants. CA is such an institution, chartered accountants have been such, who taught me law for the first time. *[English]* Do you know that you have to pay the tax? *[Translation]* When I started earning some money, I was told that you have to pay tax here. The Chartered Accountant told me about it. Then I realized that is the Chartered Accountant a government man and he work for the Government? What is this person, what is this institution, who are these people? All the money that I earn through my hard work, he told me that this money will go for the development of the country. The money you earn from the shooting of cinema, the tax you pay, I have been a taxpayer for about 30-35 years. I am a taxpayer. Whatever I earned, my CA used to come and explain that this money will be spent like this. Then I came to know that these institutions are working in Nation Building, the Chartered Accountants are so strong. These people are so important, they are the pillars of this country. It is the job of the Government of India to protect them, bring them into transparency. It is now proposed, I liked it very much. I support this Bill.

Do you guys understand this? We are absolutely right. We are going in the right way, but you don't understand. The problem is that after sitting on that chair, the wisdom starts receding ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this is the fault of the Chair. You see where this country is going. You guys are also proud. You people also feel what India has become now. You also go abroad.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN: Chairman Sir, I apologize. I am concluding now. I just want to say that these institutions should be made professional. Whatever help they provide in the decision making, change in law is necessary for the economic progress of the country. Important steps are being taken by the Government for the Accountants Act, 1980. In today's environment, accountability and transparency should be brought to the centre of every Department. This is very important for the country and this is what our renowned Prime Minister Modi Ji wants.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am concluding now. The transparency and accountability of these proposed institutions is being ensured. I believe that transparency is very important. Truth should always be in front to strengthen this country. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kunwar Danish Ali, please be brief. You have only three minutes.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government lies with great confidence. I am surprised that this Government is trying to privatise the companies which were PSUs and on the other hand, the autonomous bodies which are autonomous bodies of professionals, they are trying to nationalise it. This contradiction of this Government is so terrible that where will it lead the country?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are busy trying to nationalise the institution of the Chartered Accountants which is in existence since the year 1949. You have to governmentalize everything. I am surprised, hon. Prime Minister had said that we have to do away with red tapism, the babudom in this country. Babu decides everything but what are you doing here? The autonomous body, which is our own autonomous body, such a good organization, by destroying it they are replacing it with the Babus. It is a different matter that they also got a cabinet in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. Babus were deployed there too. The time is about to come when even politicians will not become Ministers.

18.00 hrs

You will not become a Minister. Only Babus will be appointed and become a Minister. Mr. Chairman Sir, what has this Government done? It wants to capture every organization directly or indirectly. The organization is running so smoothly, today you are trying to control the chartered accountants, tomorrow you will say that the Bar Council also has to be controlled, the day after tomorrow you will tell someone else. Otherwise, you have not left any organization. You have done the work of demolishing

all the independent bodies. With great difficulty and hard work these professionals have nurtured this organization, do not try to control it.

Sir, there are three and a half lakh Chartered Accountants. How many papers of the examination conducted by the Government have leaked, but the paper of Chartered Accountants' tests has never leaked or compromised till date. They want to control such an autonomous body. Recently, Anurag ji, a senior MP from the ruling party, was saying, I respect him a lot. They were saying that you will decide yourself, play yourself, be the player yourself and be the umpire yourself. What happens in the Government? Does the Government babu, if there is a complaint against someone, does the secretary not inquire against his joint secretary or director, does he not get punishment there?

Where is the logic that since it is an autonomous body, it cannot form its own disciplinary committee? In the Government, the senior officer who is there, takes action against the junior officer. This is contradiction.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, one more Member, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is there to speak on the Bill. Thereafter, the House may adjourn.

I want to know the sense of the House. If the House agrees, let the time of the House be extended by ten minutes or till Shri Adhir *ji* completes his speech.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended.

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: It talks about Conflict of Interest. Is it not a conflict of interest in the Government? A medical commission was formed. When its bill came, we also supported that maybe something good would happen. We see that everything has come under the control of the Government. All I want to say through you that the Government should not intrude on such autonomous bodies, their autonomy should not be compromised. The autonomy of autonomous bodied should be granted. With these words, I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I raise to make a short intervention to the legislative document which is absolutely a voluminous document consisting of 106 clauses under the nomenclature of the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2021. I know there is purity of time. I shall be very brief on my deliberations. One thing I feel is that - we are getting wise after the event. That means, *[Translation]* one after another the fraudsters are looting the country and running away, so we are running behind them. Today, you see for yourself that Nirav Modi is enjoying India's money by sitting next to the Caribbean Sea and we are seeing all that on Facebook.... *(Interruptions)* This is not Modi, but Nirav Modi. Maybe there is a connection, but this is a different Modi, he is a different Modi.... *(Interruptions)* I do not know whether there is any connection or not. Modi is having fun sitting along the Caribbean Sea and

we are making laws under the leadership of other Modi Ji here. All I have to say is that [*English*] we are getting wiser after the event.

According to the Companies Act, 2013, every company has to appoint a Chartered Accountant or a CA in order to audit its accounts. In the case of certain companies, the Central Government can direct conduct of cost audits by Cost Accountants. The Companies Act, 2013 also requires certain classes of companies to appoint a Company Secretary (CS) to ensure compliance with provisions of the Act. This is the background of this Act.

In India, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, and Company Secretaries are regulated according to the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, respectively. The three Acts provide for setting up of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India, and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. The affairs of the Institutes are managed by their respective Councils.

In recent years, India has seen several frauds and scandals. In the backdrop of a major fraud - that took place during the NDA regime – at Punjab National Bank in 2018, the Central Government setup the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) under the Companies Act, 2013. The NFRA is empowered to investigate matters of professional or other misconduct by Chartered Accountants or firms of Chartered Accountants.

This was a move away from self-regulation of the profession of Chartered Accountancy as was followed so far. I will focus simply on five

issues in regard to this legislative document. While the Bill reduces the role of the three professional Institutes with respect to representation on the Board of Discipline and the Disciplinary Committee, it continues to rely on the Councils for nominating the external members. Note that under the current framework, the external members on the Disciplinary Committee of the three professions are nominated by the Central Government independently. Under the CA Act, the Central government independently nominates one member on the Board of Discipline. It is unclear – I would also like to flag the attention of the Government and the concerned Ministry - how the conflict of interest between the disciplinary and administrative functions will be addressed if the Councils continue to be involved in recommending who could be on such disciplinary entities.

The Bill provides for setting up a Coordination Committee, chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to coordinate functions of the three Institutes and align cross-disciplinary regulatory mechanisms for inter professional development. The functions proposed for the Coordination Committee may overlap with the current mandate of the three Institutes and the Councils. For instance, the Coordination Committee will ensure quality improvement in academics, research, and all related works of the Institutes. It will also focus on coordination and collaboration among the professions. These activities are currently undertaken by the respective Councils and Institutes. As the three Institutes also have committees for coordinating among themselves, it is still unclear as to why there is a need to set up another Coordination Council. It is simply an overlapping legislative document whereby the Government is going to set up another

coordinating committee as proposed under the Bill. Further, the proposed Coordination Committee will be chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. This provision may certainly impinge on the independence of the three Institutes.

The Bill seems to be turning the position of President in the three Councils into a non-executive role. The Secretaries of the respective councils are being designated as Chief Executive Officers. However, the Bill holds the respective Presidents responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Councils.

It is unclear how the President will ensure that the decisions taken by the Council are implemented when at the same time, the Secretary is proposed to carry out the administrative functions of the Institute as its Chief Executive Officer.

The Bill seems to be separating the responsibility for governance and execution by prescribing separate roles for the President and Secretary of the Council. However, holding the President responsible for implementing decisions, which is an executive role, may be against the framework of separation of powers as proposed in the Bill.

Sir, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. It is evidently manifested in this Bill. The Government is trying to hoodwink the people that, yes, they are trying to take some proactive measures in order to stem the rot insofar as fraud and other issues are concerned. But in actuality, there is a serious flaw in the legislative document.

18.12 hrs*(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)*

The Bill provides for disclosure of pending complaints or actionable information against members of the Institutes and firms registered with them. For the three professions, the Board of Discipline or the Disciplinary Committee decide whether a member is guilty of an alleged misconduct. Publishing details of members or firms found guilty, and imposition of any penalty, may be useful information for prospective and current clients. However, recording details of actionable information or pending complaints in the register of members and register of firms before they are found guilty may adversely impact their reputation.

That means, 'Chartered Accountants' may be called '... *Accountants'. So, certainly, we have to be very much cautious and tread the path very cautiously so as to dispel any kind of misapprehension.

Regulators of other professions, such as doctors, publish details only of those blacklisted or suspended from practice. According to the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, the Ethics and Medical Registration Board and State Medical Councils are required to maintain the National Register and State Register respectively.

These registers contain details such as the name, address, and all recognised qualifications of licensed medical practitioners. While the Indian Medical Register contains details of doctors who have been blacklisted

*Not recorded

along with dates of suspension and revocation of suspension, it does not contain details of pending complaints against doctors.

So, Sir, I am reiterating that this Bill appears as progressive but in actuality and practice, it is nothing but a retrogressive step only to hoodwink the common people of our country.

[Translation]

Sir, CA is needed, all of us believe that CA is needed in our country. There is a need for CA, the Standing Committee has also accepted it. Multiple authorities are needed, this too has been accepted by the Standing Committee, but they do not listen to the Standing Committee.

[English]

That is why, finding no alternative, I have to oppose the legislative document. With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven a.m. on Wednesday, the 30th March, 2022.

18.13 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 30, 2022/Chaitra 9, 1944 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of
Business in Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition)
