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Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Sravana 8, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Second Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

30.07.2014

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 30, 2014 / Shravana 8, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on 25th July, 2014, seven personnel of the Indian Air Force including two officers are reported to have been killed when their helicopter crashed in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh. I am sure the House joins me in sharing the grief of the family members who died in the crash.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Hon. Madam Speaker, people of Maharashtra are being oppressed in Karnataka. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.02 hrs.

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

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No-no, please do not speak during the Question Hour. Please speak later.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this, it can not be allowed. It is not a right practice.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I will provide everyone an opportunity to speak during the zero hour. Placards should not be shown here, displaying them here is not acceptable. It is not allowed.

11. 02 ½ hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 301, Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

(Q. 301)

. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that for the purpose of providing security to the forest, strict security arrangements are limited only to the Wildlife Project Area and Tiger Project Area.

. . . (Interruptions) What are the security arrangements the Government proposes to make for the non-project area, so that illegal felling of trees in forests can be stopped? ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: The question asked by the Hon. Member about the protection of forest is very important. Illegal deforestation is a big challenge for the Government. *...(Interruptions)* Several persons are responsible for the illegal logging. The Government will control it by complete monitoring and strict enforcement of laws and proper plans will be formulated for this purpose. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Madam Speaker, I have a second supplementary question. My question is about Sal tree which is a very important tree wood in Jharkhand and everyone knows that the tribals and natives there are worshipers of nature, they venerate nature, and Sal is the most important tree for them. For example, from Sarun to all puja arrangements, their lifeline runs around Sal because Sal leaves, Sal Datun (wooden toothbrush), etc. are an integral part of their lives. *...(Interruptions)*

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Sal tree, whose scientific name is Shorea Robusta, is an important forest resource. ... *(Interruptions)* It is also the state tree of Jharkhand. ... *(Interruptions)* Sal Forests are in abundance in Jharkhand, but this tree is also under threat now. ... *(Interruptions)* It is so, because it is difficult to grow artificial Sal plants. ... *(Interruptions)* According to a report, 22 hectares of land was used for Sal tree plantation in Jharkhand in the year 2008, whereas in the year 2012, only one hectare of land has been used for its plantation. ... *(Interruptions)* What is the reason for such indifference of the Government? ... *(Interruptions)* In such a situation, what is the Government's plan to save this Kalpavriksha Sal? ... *(Interruptions)* Please give details of the number of Sal trees in Jharkhand? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Hon. Speaker Madam, regarding the question asked by the Hon. Member, I would like to say that the Government and the people as well understand the Sal tree and we all know that it is our natural wealth. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, where there is forest, a lot of efforts are made to ensure that Sal plants are planted properly, and Sal Forest grows. As far as its plantation every year is concerned, the residents of the villages decide about the nature of the plants to be planted in their habitations. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a research related issue that its seed germinates within 15 days. ... *(Interruptions)* The possibility of artificial generation and regeneration is less, and, in a way, it is a slow growing variety. ... *(Interruptions)* That's why when people choose for its plantation, not many of them come. ... *(Interruptions)* But when plantation work has to be done in the forest and when the Forest Department does it, they go for its plantation and make every effort to promote it. ... *(Interruptions)* We will completely protect Sal tree. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 o' clock.

11. 06 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 141 to 160

Unstarred Question Nos. 1611 to 1840

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

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

12. 00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Congratulations to sportspersons winning medals at
20th Commonwealth Games, at Glasgow, Scotland

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on behalf of myself and the House, I heartily congratulate the Indian contingent on its remarkable performance in the 20th Commonwealth Games being held in Glasgow, Scotland. India has so far won 35 medals in these games, which include 10 gold medals, 15 silver and 10 bronze medals.

The House congratulates Sanjita Khumukchan, Sukhen Dey and Sathish Sivalingam for winning gold medals in the event of weightlifting, Abhinav Bindra, Apurvi Chandela, Jitu Rai and Rahi Sarnobat for winning gold medals in shooting and Amit Kumar, Vinesh Phogat and Sushil Kumar for winning gold medals in wrestling. The House also congratulates the other athletes who have won silver and bronze medals at these games.

We convey our best wishes to the Indian Contingent to keep up their commendable performances for the remaining events in the games and bring further laurels to our country.

12. 02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now papers to be laid.

[Translation]

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER AND MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Hon. Speaker, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 42 of the Nalanda University Act, 2010 -

- (1) Notification No. S/321/23/2011 published in Gazette of India dated 7th February, 2014, making certain amendments in the Nalanda University Statutes, 2012, mentioned therein.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 333/16/14)

- (2) Notification No. S/321/23/2011 published in Gazette of India dated 4th March, 2014, making certain amendments in the Nalanda University Statutes, 2012, mentioned therein.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 334/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 335/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): 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 Kerala Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Trivandrum, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kerala Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Trivandrum, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 336/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata, for the year 2012-2013.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 337/16/14)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Raipur, Raipur, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Raipur, Raipur, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 338/16/14)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kerala Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Trivandrum, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kerala Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Trivandrum, for the year 2012-2013.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 339/16/14)

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Kavarrati, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Kavarrati, for the year 2012-2013.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 340/16/14)

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttarakhand Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Dehradun, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttarakhand Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Dehradun, for the year 2012-2013.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 341/16/14)

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2012-2013.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 342/16/14)

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2012-2013.

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(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2012-2013.

(16) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 343/16/14)

(17) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 344/16/14)

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, Kashipur, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, Kashipur, for the year 2012-2013.

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

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(Placed in Library, See No. LT 345/16/14)

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 346/16/14)

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Kozhikode, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, Kozhikode, for the year 2012-2013.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 347/16/14)

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- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Mumbai, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Mumbai, for the year 2012-2013.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 348/16/14)

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2012-2013.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2012-2013.
- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 349/16/14)

- (29) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Puducherry, Karaikal, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Puducherry, Karaikal, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 350/16/14)

- (31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2012-2013.
- (32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 351/16/14)

- (33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2012-2013.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 352/16/14)

- (35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Nagaland, for the year 2010-2011, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Nagaland, for the year 2010-2011.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 353/16/14)

- (37) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Nagaland, for the year 2011-2012, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Nagaland, Nagaland, for the year 2011-2012.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 354/16/14)

30.07.2014

- (39) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2012-2013.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2012-2013.
- (40) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (39) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 355/16/14)

- (41) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Insitutue of Technology Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, Jamshedpur, for the year 2012-2013.
- (42) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (41) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 356/16/14)

- (43) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Council of Elementary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.

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- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Council of Elementary Education, Gandhinagar, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 357/16/14)

- (45) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the State Project Office Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) Chhattisgarh, Raipur, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the State Project Office Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) Chhattisgarh, Raipur, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 358/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA RESTORATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Lok Sabhas -

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. 48
- Second Session, 1998
- (Placed in Library, See No. LT 359/16/14)

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 2. | Statement No. 54 | Third Session, 2000 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 360/16/14) |
| 3. | Statement No. 45 | Fourth Session, 2000 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 361/16/14) |
| 4. | Statement No. 32 | Fifth Session, 2000 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 362/16/14) |
| 5. | Statement No. 49 | Seventh Session, 2001 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 363/16/14) |
| 6. | Statement No. 39 | Ninth Session 2002 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 364/16/14) |

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

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| 7. | Statement No. 28 | Second Session, 2004 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 365/16/14) |
| 8. | Statement No. 30 | Third Session, 2004 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 366/16/14) |
| 9. | Statement No. 30 | Fourth Session, 2005 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 367/16/14) |
| 10. | Statement No. 29 | Sixth Session, 2005 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 368/16/14) |
| 11. | Statement No. 25 | Tenth Session, 2007 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 369/16/14) |
| 12. | Statement No. 21 | Eleventh Session, 2007 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 370/16/14) |

13. Statement No. 22

Twelfth Session, 2007

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 371/16/14)

14. Statement No. 23

Thirteenth Session, 2008

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 372/16/14)

15. Statement No. 20

Fourteenth Session, 2008

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 373/16/14)

Fifteenth Lok Sabha

16. Statement No. 19

Second Session, 2009

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 374/16/14)

17. Statement No. 17

Third Session, 2009

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 375/16/14)

18. Statement No. 17

Fourth, Session, 2010

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 376/16/14)

19. Statement No. 14 Fifth Session, 2010
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 377/16/14)
20. Statement No. 13 Sixth Session, 2010
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 378/16/14)
21. Statement No. 11 Seventh Session, 2011
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 379/16/14)
22. Statement No. 11 Eighth Session, 2011
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 380/16/14)
23. Statement No. 10 Ninth Session, 2011
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 381/16/14)
24. Statement No. 9 Tenth Session, 2012
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 382/16/14)

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| 25. | Statement No. 7 | Eleventh Session, 2012 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 383/16/14) |
| 26. | Statement No. 6 | Twelfth Session, 2012 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 384/16/14) |
| 27. | Statement No. 5 | Thirteenth Session, 2013 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 385/16/14) |
| 28. | Statement No. 3 | Fourteenth Session, 2013 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 386/16/14) |
| 29. | Statement No. 1 | Fifteenth Session, 2013 |
| | | (Placed in Library, See No. LT 387/16/14) |

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[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri Prakash Javadekar, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) The Environment (Protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 229(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th March, 2014.
- (ii) The Environment (Protection) (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 325(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th May, 2014.
- (iii) The Environment (Protection) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 232(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 388/16/14)

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Sections 12 & 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) S. O. 1190(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2014, making certain amendments in Notification No. S. O. 1174(E) dated 18th July, 2007.
- (ii) S. O. 561(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014, making certain amendments in Notification No. S. O. 1174(E) dated 18th July, 2007.

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- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2012-2013.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2012-2013, along with 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 390/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table -

- (1) One copy each of the following letters (Hindi and English versions) -
 - (i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 391/16/14)

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- (ii) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Space for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 392/16/14)

- (iii) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Central Vigilance Commission and Union Public Service Commission for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 393/16/14)

- (2) A copy of the Central Information Commission (Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 407(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th June, 2014 under sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 394/16/14)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951-

- (i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 301(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th April, 2014.
- (ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 302(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th April, 2014.
- (iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 383(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2014.

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- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 384(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 395/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) -

- (1) Outcome Budget of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 396/16/14)

- (2) Outcome Budget of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 397/16/14)

12. 03 hrs

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 15th July, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:-

'That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 2015, and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee. '

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above Motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri Naresh Agrawal
2. Shri Narendra Budania
3. Shri Majeed Memon
4. Shri S. Muthukaruppan
5. Shri Rangasayee Ramakrishna
6. Shri C. M. Ramesh
7. Shri Tapan Kumar Sen'

- (ii) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 15th July, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

“That this House resolves that Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 2015, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee. ”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri Ramdas Athawale
2. Shri D. Raja
3. Dr. Vijaylaxmi Sadho
4. Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani
5. Shri Nand Kumar Sai
6. Shri Jesudasu Seelam
7. Shrimati Wansuk Syiem
8. Shri S. Thangavelu
9. Shri Shambhuprasad Baldevdasji Tundiya
10. Vacant

3. I am also to inform that in order to fill up the remaining one vacancy in the Committee, the election process will be initiated during the next Session of Rajya Sabha.’

(iii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 15th July, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts:-

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term ending on the 30th April, 2015, and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee. ”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:-

1. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
 2. Shri Vijay Goel
 3. Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya
 4. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita
 5. Shri Shantaram Naik
 6. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
 7. Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh
-

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12. 04 hrs.**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 175th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations / observations contained in the 170th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GEN. (RETD.) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH]: Hon. Speaker, I am making this statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 175th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 170th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in pursuance to provisions of Rule 389 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs laid their 175th Report on the Table of Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2013 and present status of implementation of the report is detailed in appended Annexure, which may be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 398/16/14)

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[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Madam Speaker, ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you too an opportunity to speak after them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Hon. Madam Speaker, it is a very serious issue. In Karnataka, the police have tortured the Marathi people. 50 people were injured there. Women, children and old people have all got injured. ...*(Interruptions)* When we were protesting about it in front of you today, it was not meant to offend you or your heart. ...*(Interruptions)* I am sorry for that. ...*(Interruptions)* I must add further about the said issue that the State of Karnataka has been doing injustice to the Marathi people for years. ... *(Interruptions)* They have been living there for long and winning all the elections for 58 years. They approached Hon. Supreme Court. Mere start of selling goods as street vendors by the Marathi people in Ellur prompted the police personnel to remove encroachment and in turn, the affected people vehemently opposed it. Then the police restored to beating them black and blue. ... *(Interruptions)* I urge upon you that the entire state should be converted into a Union Territory. ...*(Interruptions)* The Union Government should govern it. ...*(Interruptions)* The state should console the Marathi people there, this is my demand. ...*(Interruptions)* They have been struggling for many years. ...*(Interruptions)* It would be very bad if there is a similar reaction in Maharashtra. ...
(Interruptions) I expect the Union Government to pay immediate attention to this issue. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

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

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Madam, the Karnataka-Maharashtra border issue is a settled issue. It is an issue settled by the Mahajan Commission way back in the 1960s. Even the matter has gone to the Supreme Court. A case is pending before the Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)*

12. 08 hrs

At this stage, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, Belgaum and Belgaum district are integral parts of Karnataka. I would like to say that till the sun and the moon exist, Belgaum and surrounding villages will remain in Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

Unfortunately, during the recent incident, some miscreants erected a board in a village named Ellur, stating that that village belonged to Maharashtra whereas that village belongs to Karnataka. It is a settled issue. ...*(Interruptions)* In spite of that some miscreants erected a board and the Karnataka High Court directed to remove that board. That board was removed as per the direction of the High Court of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)* After that, once again, they restored that board. When police went to remove that board, stone pelting took place. At that time, action was taken ...*(Interruptions)* The Marathi people and Karnataka people are living in harmony. I urge them to remain peaceful. ...*(Interruptions)*

I once again say that Belgaum, parts of Belgaum and the thousands of villages will remain in Karnataka till the sun and the moon exist. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All of you may please go to your respective seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

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12. 09 hrs

At this stage, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

HON. SPEAKER: Sawant ji, please sit down.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Madam Speaker, today even before the Question Hour ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He is speaking, please let him speak.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: On that subject, especially the former BJP President ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He is speaking. Let him speak, please.

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12.10 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Bugging at the Residence of a Union Minister

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, equipment has been found in the residence the Minister of Road Transport and we have come to know about this through newspapers and from the statement made by Gadkari ji. In this regard, the Minister of Home Affairs has also clarified that there was no such thing there. But we want to know the number of Ministers in whose residences, such equipment has been installed and the number of Ministers in whose residences this spying is going on? ... *(Interruptions)* We have to say this because when this had happened in Gujarat, the DIG there had said in the statement that phones of 29 thousand people were tapped, spied on. ... *(Interruptions)* The phones of 29 thousand people were tapped. ... *(Interruptions)* So, the phones of how many Ministers, MPs and officials are being tapped or listened to today? ... *(Interruptions)* Complete details should be given about the number of people being spied on. Hon. Prime Minister himself should give a statement in this regard, because this happened in his state, and it is happening here also today. ... *(Interruptions)* Minister of Home Affairs is present here. ... *(Interruption)* Therefore, he should put forth his views here, so that the entire country can know what is going on in this matter. ... *(Interruptions)* How is it happening, why is it happening and who is behind it? ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister should give complete details of this. ... *(Interruptions)* The Minister of Home Affairs is present here, he should clarify. A statement should be given in this regard and there should be an explanation for it, so that the people of the country become aware of what this Government is doing? ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Member Shri Kharge ji has referred to a news item published in the newspapers that a high-power listening device was installed in the bedroom of our

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Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari. Based on that, he has raised this question in the House and has sought clarification from the Government in this regard. I want to make it clear that whatever news has been published is completely baseless and unfounded. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, there is no question of getting this entire matter investigated and the person, in whose bedroom this high-power listening device is being alleged to have been installed, has himself termed this entire news as baseless and unfounded. Therefore, I think that there is no justification in taking this news item published in the newspaper seriously. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I am raising a very important issue regarding the clearance given by the former Finance Minister. This is regarding the illegal clearance given by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to the deal between Aircel and Maxis in 2006. We have been raising this issue for the last many years, but the previous UPA Government never took any action regarding this.

In 2006, the then Finance Minister cleared the taking over of Aircel by Maxis, by dubious ways, in violation of several mandatory provisions of law. One major violation is that the Maxis declared to the Malaysian Stock Exchange that it had acquired 99.7 per cent shares in Aircel. This is in violation of Indian law, which permits only a maximum of 74 per cent foreign investment in the telecom sector.

Secondly, thirty per cent holding of Saudi Telecom in Maxis was hushed up during the approval stage in FIPB. But the then Finance Minister did not take notice of this because it would have required the clearances from the IB and the Home Ministry. All these things go to show that there is absolute involvement of the then Finance Minister and his son in the Aircel-Maxis deal entered into by the former Telecom Minister.

The CBI is unnecessarily delaying questioning them. Therefore, through you, I would urge upon the Government and the CBI to take serious action and interrogate the former Finance Minister and his son. I would also request the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Home Minister to take cognizance of this and take necessary action. This is a very serious matter as we lost Rs. 1,76,000 crore of public money due to 2G Spectrum scandal. The then Finance Minister and his son are involved in this. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Finance to come out with a statement in the House. ...

(Interruptions)

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[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to construct a bridge on the Saryu River between Sikandarpur in Uttar Pradesh and Darauli in Bihar state to enable the smooth movement of people. It will also help in connecting this area to the international route of Nepal. This is very necessary in public interest.

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI): Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you. Through you, I would like to request the Government that Kumbh Mela is the biggest religious festival on earth. This Mela is celebrated by rotation in Nashik, Allahabad, Ujjain and Haridwar after every three years. The Kumbh Mela festival is held in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar once every twelve years. It attracts crore of devotees from the country and the world. Trimbakeshwar, the origin of Godavari River, considered to be South Ganga, is situated just 38 kilometres away from Nashik.

HON. SPEAKER: Please express your points in brief.

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: It is one of the twelve sacred cities in India known as Jyotirlingas. Only 349 days are left for the Kumbh Mela to start. No preparations have been made till date for the management of Sadhu village, transportation, electricity, health, ration, housing, drinking water and sewage management. Due to the upcoming Kumbh Mela falling during the rainy season, there will be mud there. People's health may get adversely affected due to this. 39 people had died due to stampede in the last Kumbh Mela. Three and a half to four lakh sadhus-mahants and more than one crore devotees are likely to attend this Kumbh Mela. But the financial assistance which should have been received from the Government by now for the Kumbh Mela has not been received yet. For organizing this Kumbh Mela, a total amount of two thousand three hundred seventy eight crore rupees is required. This holy festival is a celebration of faith for crore of

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devotees. So, through you, I request the Government to make arrangement for this amount as soon as possible.

DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ [UNNAO]: Hon. Madam Speaker, I represent Unnao Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. It is a small district situated between the cities Kanpur and Lucknow. Unfortunately, more than a dozen slaughter-houses are located there. And more than a dozen leather factories operate there. They discharge their waste into the Lon river whereas the Government plans to give shape to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana by interlinking the rivers. But the waste coming out of these slaughter-houses and tanneries gets discharged into the Lon River and as Lon River is filled to the brim, due to which the animals that go there for grazing get trapped and die. Water of Lon River flows into Ganga and fishes there die. At those slaughter-houses and katti-houses, the untreated blood of buffaloes and milch animals being slaughtered there is dumped underground through 12 inches borewell drilling. As a result of this, underground water there is getting contaminated due to which disabled children are being born there. Through you, I would like to request the Government to look into it. It is also the policy of the Government to ban the export of meat. A Committee should be sent there so that Unnao district can be saved. Tanneries and slaughter-houses there should be closed.

[English]

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI (BELGAUM): Thank you, Madam, for permitting me to raise an issue of public importance.

For over 1000 years, the Belgaum Fort in Karnataka has been at the very centre of every episode of Belgaum's history. It was built by a Jain Queen in 970 A. D. and it was ruled for long periods by Jains, Hindus, the Adil Shahi Sultans and the British. The temples which are within the Fort are exquisitely carved and the lone mosque – the Safa Masjid – represents a beautiful blend of the Indo-Saracenic form of architecture. The

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State Government of Karnataka intends to declare the Belgaum Fort as a protected heritage monument and its surrounding area is a “protected area”, declared by Karnataka State.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Suresh ji, we do not read our speech. There is no reading during zero hour, we can express our views in a minute.

[English]

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI: Madam, the Government of Karnataka has many a times requested the hon. Finance Minister as also the Department of Income Tax not to construct its building just opposite this heritage (Fort) building. The State Government is prepared to give alternate better land to the concerned Income Tax Department in Belgaum city but the Department is not agreeing to it.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to direct the concerned authorities immediately in this regard, in the interest of residing public of my parliamentary constituency and to ensure peace and tranquillity in the city.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH (SAMBHAL): Thank you Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue of the farmers’ and the country’s interest.

India is an agrarian country. 60 percent of its population is dependent on agriculture-based employment. Due to the dependence of India's economy on agriculture, it is also important to understand the contribution and role of livestock in the agriculture sector. Animals have an important contribution in agricultural production in the country. Despite ban on slaughter of cows and calves, slaughter is taking place continuously at

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slaughter-houses because of absence of any efficient mechanism. Livestock contributes to milk production. . . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No need to read in detail.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH: Livestock is being used abundantly for milk production, but milk production figures are diametrically opposite. The condition of milk production in the country is not what it should have been. Constant figures show that in every year about 1100 kg milk is produced per cow, about 1550 kg milk is produced per buffalo, while the basic figure for milk production is about 2300 kg per cow. In developed countries like America, a cow of this breed produces 6000 liters of milk. . . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You have made your points. Express the main points, you want to say. Shouldn't we export?

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH: Madam, through you, I would like to urge the government that after reviewing the policy related to meat export, the export of meat should be banned.

[*English*]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, I would like to raise a very important matter which is non-controversial, and I hope that the whole House would agree with me.

It was an election promise of both the UPA and the NDA that the fisheries sector should have a separate Ministry and an independent Department. At present, the fisheries sector comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. So many issues affecting the coastal as well as the inland fishermen are there. In order to develop the fisheries sector, a separate Ministry and an independent Department of Fisheries is required. The present system of administration is not sufficient to address the issues concerning the fishermen in the country. It is a long pending issue and it is an election promise also of both the UPA and the NDA.

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Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to have a separate Ministry and an independent Department for looking after the affairs of the fisheries sector.

[Translation]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to procurement of gram at support price by NAFED in Rajasthan for around five hundred crore rupees. In this regard, I must inform that almost one to two months have passed, but the farmers of Rajasthan have not been paid Rs. 500 crore by NAFED so far and only 55 per cent gram procurement has been done at the support price and about 45 per cent gram is still lying with the farmers. Due to the non-payment of due amount for gram, farmers are not able to procure fertilizers and seeds for sowing new crops in this rainy season. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government that NAFED should pay Rs. 500 crore to the farmers as soon as possible.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Hon. Madam Speaker, the most prestigious train of the country is Rajdhani Express. We should look at the details of these trains for the last year, like that of Bhubaneswar-Delhi Rajdhani Express. This train met with an accident in Aurangabad last month. It is said that Maoists had tried to blow up this train by planting a bomb on the railway line. Just before this, Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express also met with an accident in Aurangabad. In the same vein, about two months ago, i. e. on 23rd June, an accident took place in my Parliamentary Constituency Chhapra. It is a matter of great concern. We were present there when this accident happened at two a.m. in the morning, wherein four passengers were killed. However, there has been a lot of development in technology in this country and nowadays, such coaches are manufactured that they can withstand the pressure of falling and the impact remains on them and many lives are saved. Maoists are not targeting normal trains. When we went to the spot, it was clearly visible, even with a normal eye it was clear that nowadays the railway tracks are not joined with fish plates, one track is welded with the other at some distance. It is then placed on the track and attached with the help of pendol clips. We observed that there

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were 23-24 pendol clips removed simultaneously, whereas new technology is required to remove them. We have always seen that when such incidents happen, there is a conflict between the Railways and the States. The States say that these Maoist incidents are not because of them. Railways repeatedly says that these are incidents carried out by Maoists. Trains pass through every state, now a controversy is arising whether it is a Maoist incident or not or is it an accident caused due to negligence of the Railways. After all, for how long will the people of the country continue to watch this situation and why do we not have any consensus on this issue in the country. Irrespective of the category of trains in which we or common people travel, a feeling of insecurity is arising in people's minds while travelling in trains in the country, especially in such Maoist areas. It is a matter of grave concern that such activities are increasing wherein Maoists are targeting major trains, especially Rajdhani trains, every month. Everyone should be concerned about this issue. At the same time, the Union Government and the State Governments should work in coordination on the routes through which these trains pass, and they should not politicise these accidents and rather talk about the safety of the Railways and the security of the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri PP Choudhary and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rajeev Pratap Rudy.

SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GAUHATI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I had also requested for being given an opportunity to speak during the zero hour.

HON. SPEAKER: Rest of the Members will be given opportunity in the evening.

12. 27 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, till recently a practice had developed to lay the approved text of notices under Rule 377. Members were required to lay their texts within 20 minutes from the time of announcement by the Chair. The main reason behind such a move was to utilise the precious time of the House for other legislative business. However, a number of requests have been received from the Members for raising the Matters under Rule 377. Moreover, as there are a large number of new Members in the House, in order to motivate them, I have decided that Members will read out the approved text given to them by the Secretariat. *[Translation]* They must read it only. We now begin the Matters Under Rule 377.

12. 29 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir -- Not present.

- (i) **Need to amend the SDRF rules for the welfare of farmers in the country particularly in Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

SHRI BAHADUR SINGH KOLI (BHARATPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, the economy of Rajasthan is based on agriculture. According to the rules of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), agricultural input grant assistance is provided only to those farmers whose crops get damaged by more than 50 percent. In Rajasthan, crops often get damaged due to disasters like hailstorm, frost and cold wave etc. After these disasters, many farmers suffer less than 50 percent loss of their crops and no assistance is given to those farmers.

Therefore, I request through the House that SDRF rules should be amended, and assistance should also be provided to those farmers who suffer less than 50 percent crop loss due to natural disasters.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel. -- Not present.

(ii) Need to declare Bhrigudham Bhitara in Fatehpur District, Uttar Pradesh as a tourist place.

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI (FATEHPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, Bhrigudham, Bhitaura located in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh, which is also my Parliamentary Constituency, was Taposthali of Maharshi Bhrigu. Because of the water of river Ganga flowing in the north-east direction at this very place, the glory and dignity of this place has doubled. Apart from this, dolphin fish of rare species are also found frolicking in the river Ganga at this place. The view of sunset at this place is very panoramic, charming and delightful. One feels immense joy while watching such a wonderful scene. Lakhs of devotees consider themselves blessed after taking bath in the Ganga flowing in north direction during religious festivals and on Amavasya and Purnima. The popularity of Bhrigudham, located in such a delectable environment, is well known where lakhs of devotees come throughout the year.

Therefore, through this House, I request the Union Government to declare the graceful, historical and religiously world famous place Bhrigudham, Bhitaura, as a tourist destination which is situated at a distance of only 12 kilometres from Fatehpur, a city situated between Kanpur and Allahabad so that the glory and dignity of Bhrigudham can be known to people in the country and abroad too and our tourism industry can be promoted.

(iii) Need for a special scheme to provide basic infrastructural facilities like roads and water in Udalguri District in Assam

[English]

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (MANGALDAI): Madam Speaker, Udalguri District is situated in my parliamentary constituency, Mangaldoi, Assam. It touches Indo-Bhutan border and is a militant infested district. Udalguri is one of the most undeveloped districts of Assam in terms of infrastructure like roads, etc. In border areas, the condition of roads is deplorable. The pace of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is also very tardy in comparison to other districts of Assam. Unavailability of drinking water is also a major problem. Even now, the source of drinking water of the people of Udalguri is small ponds and springs of hills.

In view of this, I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take necessary action to frame a special scheme to fulfil the essential needs of road development and supply of potable water to the people of Udalguri District, Assam.

**(iv) Need for an action plan and to constitute a separate task force
to check human trafficking of minor boys/girls**

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Madam Speaker, there is a steady increase in the incidents of missing and kidnapping of minor boys and girls in India, which is alarming for the entire society. If we look into statistics, from the year 2009 to 2011 alone, 2 lakh 36 thousand 14 children are reported missing in the country, out of which 75,808 children are still missing. The said increase in incidents of missing children in Indian states West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh raises suspicion of operation of large-scale human trafficking rackets. In most of the cases of missing children, the attitude of the local police is not sensitive. Not taking the cases seriously also increases the problem. Their FIRs are not registered. Only missing reports are registered. A UN report states that India has become a big market for human trafficking.

In such a situation, in order to search for missing children and to check the heinous crime of human traffickers, I urge upon the Union Government to formulate a concrete action plan and constitute a separate work force to ensure the arrest of human traffickers by conducting thorough enquiry in the incidents of missing minor children.

(v) Need for early appointment of doctors and para-medical staff in the AIIMS, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the desert area in the far west and say that the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had sanctioned an AIIMS at Jodhpur which was the biggest gift after independence not only for Jodhpur but also for entire western Rajasthan. But it is unfortunate that even after elapsing of 10 years, its work has not been completed so far. It was a ray of hope in terms of medical facilities for the entire Western Rajasthan, and due to lack of appointments of staff and doctors for it, the sick people coming from hundreds of kilometres away have to face huge problems and in despair, they have to go to Delhi, Ahmedabad or Mumbai for treatment.

I, through this House, would like to request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Government that doctors and para-medical staffs for AIIMS Jodhpur should be appointed early to remove the difficulties being faced by the patients.

(vi) Need to re-construct Mankapur-Babhnan road leading to Bhagwan Swami Narayan Temple, Chhapia, in Uttar Pradesh, under C. R. F.

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH (GONDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention towards an important road in my Parliamentary Constituency Gonda. The estimated length of this road is 30 kilometres but it is in a very dilapidated condition. Only potholes are left in the name of road there and transportation on it is extremely painful. This important traffic road connects Chapaiya, the holy birthplace of Shri Narayana Swami, with Mankapur and Babhnan railway stations. I would like to state that thousands of devotees visit Shri Swami Narayan Temple at Chapaiya every year using this route. These visitors include devotees from abroad and Western India, especially those from Gujarat and Maharashtra. This road connecting Babhnan via Mankapur, Maskanwa and Chapaiya is a district category road, and it connects Gonda district with Basti district. Due to lack of strengthening over the years and after enduring several rainy seasons, this road has completely broken down and has turned into potholes. Most of the devotees coming from India and abroad are elderly and women and they have to face a lot of difficulties during their visit there.

Madam, I, through you, would like to make a humble request to the Government to issue an order for immediate reconstruction of this road under CRF, which connects Lord Swami Narayan Temple at Chapaiya to other places.

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(vii) Need for an early action to re-construct the dilapidated bridge over Urai-Jalaon main road in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Hon. Madam Speaker, a common road runs from Orai to Jalaun in my Parliamentary Constituency and from Jalaun to Gwalior and Bhind. A bridge built on the main road near Kukar village located between Orai and Jalaun is more than 100 years old. This bridge has got damaged at many places which leaves the possibility of a major accident. Presently, that bridge has got damaged in the middle due to which vehicular traffic is getting disrupted.

Therefore, Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Government to issue an order to get the damaged bridge on Orai-Jalaun main road constructed immediately so that any untoward incident can be avoided.

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(viii) Need for issuance of No Objection Certificate from Neyveli Lignite Corporation regarding transfer of lignite mines which were allotted to them by Gujarat Government.

SMT. JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Hon. Madam Speaker, Gujarat Government had signed a MoU with M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in July 2006. This MoU was about a 1500 MW lignite-based power project in South Gujarat. Coal required for power generation in Gujarat is sourced from the eastern states. This coal is very expensive and hence, the electricity generation too becomes very expensive. When the Gujarat Government had signed the MoU with NLC for setting up a joint venture for power generation, it was thought that the Gujarat Government's share in the electricity generated from it would be maximum or up to 90 percent. Since lignite reserves located in Gujarat were used for power generation under this project, the Gujarat government was confident that it would be able to provide electricity to the people in the state at cheaper or lower rates. But there were certain in-principle differences in this regard between the Gujarat government and the Ministry of Power under the Government of India. As stated above, lignite to be used in this project was scheduled to be sourced from the lignite reserves owned by the Gujarat government. So, the Gujarat government thought that instead of running the project as a joint venture with NLC, it should be run through GIPCL, a state undertaking. Being a government project, it would be convenient to provide electricity to the people at affordable rates. One legal hurdle in running this project through GIPCL is that NLC should issue an NOC mentioning it has no objection with regard to transfer of the lignite reserves allotted to it to the Gujarat state government or any of its Government Undertakings or to GIPCL. In this regard, Gujarat government has done several correspondences with NLC through Union Government. I request the Union Government to take immediate action in this regard and get the necessary NOC issued by NLC so that the work on this project can be taken forward.

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- (ix) **Need to release balance amount of fund under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the farmers of Tumkur District, Karnataka affected by drought**

[English]

SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Government towards non-releasing of balance amount under State Disaster Response Fund and National Disaster Response Fund to the Tumkur District, Karnataka.

Tumkur District in Karnataka has witnessed drought for the past three years. The drought during 2013-14 has affected agricultural, horticultural and perennial plantation crops. The State Government has submitted proposal for compensation in the form of input subsidy sought under SDRF and NDRF to the tune of Rs. 9313. 83 lakh. But only 21 per cent of the demand made by the concerned Departments was released till now and the balance amount has not yet been released.

Tumkur District is a major coconut growing district in Karnataka and about 70 per cent of horticulture area in the district is under coconut crop, which has been affected badly due to drought. About 90 per cent of farming population of the district is being dependent on coconut and its by-products for their livelihood. Dr. Ghorak Singh Committee which was constituted to study the damage caused to the coconut crops in Tumkur District, has since submitted its report in this regard. In pursuance of the report, the rejuvenation of the crop and compensation for the affected crops should be paid to the farmers.

I urge upon the Union Government to release the balance 79 per cent of compensation by the concerned Department immediately for the benefit of the farmers of Tumkur District, Karnataka immediately.

(x) Need to promote off-grid solar power technology for providing electricity in rural parts of the country

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The lack of connectivity of at least 75 million rural households in our country to the electricity grid is a matter of grave concern. With the abundant availability of sunlight in most parts of India, the rapid development and implementation of off-grid solar power technologies would accelerate the electrification of our villages without putting a strain on the environment and that too at a lesser cost. Research confirms that in remote areas, though initially the cost of off-grid solar is higher than electricity generated by fossil fuels, yet it is still cheaper than extending the grid. The National Solar Mission needs to do much more to provide better access to electricity. Government subsidies can ease the burden on rural households. I, therefore, urge the Government to promote off-grid power in rural areas and provide incentives for innovation because so many Indians are literally disconnected from modern India.

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(xi) Need to provide interest-free loans to the eligible students during the moratorium period

SHRI S. R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): I would like to bring it to the kind attention of the Government that the eligible students availing education loan from banks do not get the full subsidy under the Central Scheme to provide Interest Subsidy (CSIS).

As per the (CSIS) Scheme implemented by the Ministry of HRD, any economically weaker section (EWS) student availing education loan from the banks under the IBA Scheme to pursue professional and technical course is eligible for full interest subsidy during the moratorium period. (Course period + one year or six months after getting employment, whichever is earlier). That means, the student need not pay any interest during the moratorium period. This Scheme is applicable to loans granted on or after 1. 4. 2009.

A lot of complaints have been received that many banks do not provide full interest subsidy to the students. Only a portion of eligible interest is being credited to the loan account. In many cases, the banks have also failed to submit the claims to the nodal bank, that is, the Canara Bank for the eligible students. The poor students are forced by the banks to pay the interest, which, otherwise, should have been reimbursed by the Government.

There is a lack of awareness among the students and the bank officials about this Scheme. Because of this, many eligible poor students are deprived of the benefit from the Government.

I request the Government to conduct a thorough investigation into the implementation of Education Loan.

Since the Interest Subsidy Scheme creates confusion among the banks and students, instead of providing full interest subsidy, the Government can consider to grant Interest-free loans to the eligible students during the moratorium period. In such cases, the banks would take more care to claim the interest portion from the Government and the students will get the full benefit. After the moratorium period, the student may be asked to pay the regular interest.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Kumar Mondal – not there.

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

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(xii) Need for strong legislation to curb selling of women and children in the country.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue, and thank you so much for starting this new practice. May God bless you!

I am raising an issue which is of very serious national importance. It relates to the sale of human beings. As is the case in many countries, sale of human beings be considered as a crime in our country, and a legislation should be enacted to punish those who are involved with selling of women and minors. The existing law criminalizes the act of selling human beings only if it is done for prostitution, slavery or exploitation. However, exploitation is not very clearly defined and selling of people for marriage and adoption is not an offence. Certain people are taking advantage of these loopholes. Unfortunately, despite a strong recommendation by the Law Commission in its 146th Report in 1993, no steps have been taken by the Government. There exists an urgent need to extend the scope of legal provisions to cover the cases where a woman or a child is sold, irrespective of immediate objective of the transaction. Selling children under the garb of adoption should be made illegal in view of operation of big rackets involved with illegal selling of children for adoption in many States. Up to 200,000 children every year fall into the hands of slave traders in India, many being sold by their poverty-stricken parents for as little as Rs. 1,000.

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(xiii) Need to return 1,800 acres of land requisitioned for military airport purpose at Nevali in Kalyan-Ambernath in Maharashtra during the World War II to the respective original landholders.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Hon. Speaker, the Government of India rules clearly state that any requisitioned land needs to be returned to original user after the purpose of requisition has been served. However, the land at Nevali located in the Kalyan-Ambernath belt in my constituency, and just 50 km from Mumbai has not been returned to the original owners since the days of the World War II. During the World War II, the then Government had requisitioned this stretch of 1,800 acres of land for a military airport. Reports say that airport was in active use of the then Government during War.

At present, the said land is in the possession of Ministry of Defence, Government of India. According to informed sources, the documents regarding title of the said land are not available either with the Ministry of Defence or State Government authorities in charge of the district and the State. As the land was under requisition, it ought to have been handed over to original owners/landholders after the purpose of requisition was over.

The said land is lying vacant and is located in my constituency. The said land is located at a place surrounding urban area and the original land owners have been suffering for the past 70 years.

My contention and request to the Government of India and Ministry of Defence in particular is that the original land owners should be traced, and their lands be returned to them. The remaining excess land then can be put to essential public use such as logistics park, Government Medical College and Research and Development Park, etc.

I would like to get a clarification on the status of this land from Ministry of Defence, Government of India on the legal ownership of this land, and as to why this requisitioned land was not returned after Independence to the original owners/holders.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri B. B. Patil – Not present.

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(xiv) Need to release adequate funds for the various development schemes in Katihar Parliamentary constituency, Bihar.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House towards my Parliamentary constituency, Katihar, Bihar, which is economically and educationally backward. Due to poor infrastructure, non-availability of sufficient mode of communication, and poor condition of roads, sharp increase in poverty has been registered.

I would also like to draw the attention towards long delayed and tardy construction work of NH-81, which is going on for the last three decades, and still not completed. National Highway No. 81 which stretches from Bihar to West Bengal *via* Katihar, will not only facilitate the inhabitants of Katihar but also the people living in the surrounding areas.

I, therefore, request all the concerned Ministries to kindly take a note of the above issues and release/grant adequate amount under various schemes for the development of this area.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav – not present.

(xv) Need to set up a Cashew Board at Kollam, Kerala.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, the cashew industry is emerging as the backbone of the Kerala's economy. Seventy-five per cent of Cashew Industry in the country is in Kerala and the bulk of the cashew exports are also from Kollam, Kerala. There are around 800 registered cashew nut processing units providing employment to around 3 lakh workers of which 95% are women. The cashew industry is facing problem related to availability of raw nuts. The fall in the domestic production of raw nuts has led to this situation. The easiest way to overcome the situation is to bring more area under cashew production by providing encouragement to farmers. The only available method is to encourage the cashew cultivation by providing resource. It is possible only through a Cashew Board.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to establish a Cashew Board at Kollam, Kerala at the earliest.

12. 51 hrs.

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI BUDGET (2014-15)–
GENERAL DISCUSSION**

and

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF
DELHI)-2014-15**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the NCT of Delhi Budget. Item Nos. 11 and 12 shall be taken up together.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2015, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 13. "

Now, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on a very important subject. Delhi is the capital of our country and we are having this discussion is on its Budget today. What is the background of this discussion? Bharatiya Janata Party secured a huge victory in

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Delhi in this Lok Sabha elections. People had a lot of hopes and aspirations and not only in Delhi, but in the NCR region of Delhi, which has 19 Lok Sabha constituencies, 18 of these seats have been cast in the BJP's kitty with great hopes and expectations that such a Budget will be presented in Delhi that it will move forward towards development very fast. Those hopes increase further because respected Arun Jaitley is the Minister of Finance of India and he has got the opportunity to present the Budget and he has close relationship with Delhi. He has been the President of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), I too have been taking part in student politics of Delhi. Keeping that in mind, we were hopeful that the Budget would be even better. But I agree that this Budget did not serve the expectations and hopes of the people. I will put forth my points one by one through this discussion. If we talk about the last eight months, the way the Bharatiya Janata Party secured a big victory in this Lok Sabha election in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party too got a similar victory in Delhi seven-eight months ago. Then, what was the reason that people's sentiments changed within six-seven months. We have never seen so rapid change in sentiment. That government was also formed with great hopes and the people had supported them too in the same way in which the people have supported the Bharatiya Janata Party now. The youth of the country and many other people were hopeful that this is a new party and its intentions are good. I also spoke about this party at open forums. Shri Bhagwant Mann ji is sitting here, we had discussions with * on open platforms, and I also said on open platforms that we do not doubt your intentions, but the path you are adopting is probably not right. But what happened? People gave him a chance and those who used to talk about the common man, the same people were seen running away from the common man. They too had raised great hopes, just like the BJP did. When the common men came to meet him and when they reached the secretariat, the country got to see a strange scene. I think, I have never seen such a scene. I saw that people were requesting the Chief Minister of Delhi about their respective issues and the Chief Minister

* Not recorded.

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of Delhi was standing on the roof of the secretariat and telling the people that he will not meet and talk to them today. This country and its governments are run by the leaders staying among the people and listening to them. I understand that running away from people doesn't solve problems. After that there was a competition among all his Ministers as to how to remain in the news. They kept speaking something or the other on different issues and while moving ahead in the same race, they ran away from the common man and from the Delhi government and the people punished them for that, and they had to face crushing defeat in the elections and the Government was formed by BJP.

Madam, I come to the Budget now. Electricity was a big issue.

HON. SPEAKER: The name you have taken will not go on record because he is not a member here.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: A big issue in this Budget was electricity. The main highlight of this Budget was electricity, because there was strong opposition to the Congress Party in Delhi for the last two years, and the reason behind the said protest was the allegation that the electricity rates in Delhi were fixed by the Congress Party in collusion with the electricity companies. Electricity rates here are high, and we will reduce them as soon as we form the government. Aam Aadmi Party said they will reduce it by fifty percent, but they did not. People punished them for that. BJP said that we will reduce the rates by thirty percent, they said that as soon as they will form the government, they will reduce it by thirty percent. Shri Harsh Vardhan ji is sitting here, he said in the Delhi Legislative Assembly that as soon as the government is formed, they will reduce the electricity rates by thirty percent. It was made an election issue. There was a struggle for two years and after that, they got the keys to the treasury and presented the Budget. But what happened? DERC held a press conference and said that we are increasing the fuel surcharge and the rates. After that, they brought up the idea of subsidy. Hon. Minister of Finance gave a subsidy of Rs. 260 crore. It is the same subsidy which these people had opposed. During the reign of Congress, there was a subsidy of Rs. 2 up to consumption of

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200 units and a subsidy of 1 rupee 20 paise up to consumption of 400 units. The subsidy amount during the reign of Congress was Rs. 200 crore, today they have sanctioned a subsidy of Rs. 260 crore. Earlier, you had opposed the subsidy by saying that subsidy means taking money out of one's pocket and putting it into another's pocket and we will force the electricity companies to reduce the electricity rates by 30 percent. Today, the people of Delhi are asking how you made that promise. If subsidy had to be given, then the subsidy being given during Congress rule had to be implemented as it was. I want to put forward what Harsh Vardhan ji had said in the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Minister of Finance, Harsh Vardhan ji had said this in the Legislative Assembly and I am quoting the proceedings of Delhi Legislative Assembly for January 2, 2014 - if they really wanted to help the people of Delhi, they should have called DERC and put pressure on electricity companies, they should reduce the bill by 50 per cent, otherwise they should go out. As soon as our government is formed, we will reduce electricity rate by 30 percent. But have they reduced the rate by 30 percent? They haven't done this. The money that I have given as tax by taking money out of my pocket was meant for building schools, hospitals and dispensaries for me, it was meant for protecting my interests, for helping my poor friends. They are withdrawing Rs. 200 - 250 crore from my own money and giving it to the power companies as subsidy. They are obliging the electricity companies. Harsh Vardhan ji was talking about Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 250 crore in the Delhi Legislative Assembly in January. They have given a subsidy of Rs. 260 crore. They haven't talked to each other. I think they should have prepared this Budget after discussing it with Harsh Vardhan ji and taking him into confidence. After that, they said that they have formulated a plan to reduce the electricity rates. We had talked about how we will reduce the rates. As soon as our government is formed, we will reduce electricity rates by 30 percent. Big posters were put up that electricity rates would be reduced by 30 percent. I think that just like many stores put up big hoardings indicating 50 percent sale, but at the bottom it is written in small print that it is only on select items. Similarly, it was written that electricity rates

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would be reduced by 30 percent. But the rate was printed in very small letters because the electricity supply in Delhi had been reduced by 30 percent by then. The people of Delhi had to face power cuts of six and eight hours this summer. They have not reduced the electricity rates, rather they have reduced the electricity supply in Delhi by 30 percent. People are asking and people will decide whether the time during which Delhi moved ahead with development, happiness and peace for 15 years was fine or these eight months of chaos, eight months of high electricity rates, eight months of power cuts is fine. They will work to improve the future of the people of Delhi.

Today, people are asking questions. They are asking questions on issues related to schools. We all admire the wisdom of the respected Minister of Finance. He had said in his statement that there is a need for 500 new schools in Delhi today. Enrolment of children is increasing at the rate of one lakh every year in Delhi. In the last Budget, which was presented by the Congress government, provision was made for construction of 100 new schools. They have announced in their Budget that they will reduce it and construct 20 new schools. Only 20 new schools for the one lakh new children every year, who want to study in Delhi schools? They said that 500 new schools are required and then they themselves announced that they will construct 20 new schools. It means that the people of this country will have to wait for 25 years for *Achhe Din*. So, we will have to wait for 25 years for *Achhe Din*. What kind of justice is it? Why did they reduce the number when the Congress Party government had announced 100 schools, out of which land has already been acquired for 40 schools. Work on them is ongoing. But they have reduced the number and have announced only 20 schools. After that, they have made announcement regarding transport. They have said that they will run 1300 new buses equipped with modern facilities in Delhi.

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13.00 hrs.

But nowadays, in the age of computers, there is a trend of cut, copy and paste. Last year, the Congress party had said that they would run 1300 new buses. At that time BJP had opposed it, but they have just picked up the same page from last year's Budget and added it to their Budget now.

Madam, I want to inform this entire House that the Congress Party had made provision for these 1300 new buses, had acted for it, had done complete planning and only the tender allotment process is overdue. They announced in the Budget that they will provide 1300 new buses, if they had to announce, they should have announced at least 1310 or 1400 buses, but they just went for cut, copy and paste. I understand that it is the era of cut, copy and paste.

Madam, after that the matter of metro rail, mono rail was mentioned, we had made provisions, our party had worked to build the metro rail in Delhi. When we came up with the proposal of metro, when we were building the metro, many of the parties whose Members are sitting here today, had opposed it that if the metro starts operation in Delhi, then rickshaw pullers and auto drivers will suffer. Today, the metro network is spread all over Delhi. We had also said in our last Budget that just as the best national capitals of the world have mono rail, we will also bring mono rail to Delhi. We had proposed the first mono rail route from Gandhi Nagar to Mayur Vihar which meant that Gandhi Nagar to Mayur Vihar would become the first route of mono rail. And we had made full allocation for it, but there is no mention of it in this Budget. I think the Minister of Finance will explain why it is not mentioned in this Budget?

Rajnath Singh ji, who was just sitting here, went to Bawana and he said there that if our government is formed, our first task will be to reduce the electricity bill by 30 percent and our second task would be to extend the Lal Dora area. The issue of Lal Dora extension is an important one in Delhi Dehat. People of Delhi are asking about that

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promise? The Congress Party government had started work to extend the Lal Dora area, but no allocation has been made for it in this Budget. People of Delhi Dehat are asking about it. I want to ask the reason for the situation that the electricity charge in respect of a farmer's field located in Delhi Dehat is 2 rupees 70 paise and the electricity charge of next farm, which is his neighbour's farm located in Haryana, is 10 paise. In Haryana, it is 10 paise and here, it is 2 rupees 70 paise. What is the reason that the price of petrol is Rs. 2 more expensive in Delhi, and it is Rs. 2 cheaper in Haryana. As for the price of diesel, it is cheaper by Rs. 2 in Haryana and costlier by Rs. 2 in Delhi. People of Delhi are asking as to why we are paying Rs. 2 extra? Is it our mistake that we have supported Bharatiya Janata Party. The people of Haryana have supported Congress. People of Delhi are asking questions about this today. We hope that the respected Minister of Finance will answer these questions in his reply.

Unauthorized colonies are a big issue in Delhi. They have themselves admitted in their Budget that there are 1600 such colonies. Our government had regularized about 840 colonies, what provision have they made for these colonies? Forty lakh people live in those colonies. All the Members of Parliament of Delhi are from Bharatiya Janata Party, I want to put questions before them too. I also want to tell you that you should also ask questions, you also have some responsibility. Provision of drinking water has been made for only fifty of those colonies. Just as they made the allocation for managing schools which is likely to take twenty-five years, in the same way, at this rate, it will take thirty-two years for these colonies. At this rate, it will take thirty-two years to provide drinking water to the forty lakh people who live in those colonies within our capital Delhi. People are also asking whether this is why they voted for them. ... *(Interruptions)* Nishikant ji is not from Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)* Please keep your words to yourself. ... *(Interruptions)* Another question arises. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I am concluding now. ...*(Interruptions)* Similarly, our government had formulated an Annashree scheme. There are two lakh eighty thousand such migrant people

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in Delhi who were not being covered under BPL, but we wanted to provide them the benefit of food security. Provision was made for assistance of Rs. 600 per month to the women who are heads of families among such two lakh eighty thousand migrant people so that they can improve their household budget a little because they were not being covered under the ambit of food security. ...*(Interruptions)* Perhaps many of those two lakh eighty thousand migrants belong to Nishikant ji's Parliamentary Constituency. ... *(Interruptions)* But, here is no provision for them in this Budget. The said assistance of Rs. 600 has been discontinued. Madam Speaker, I want to apprise you that the Congress Party had started the Annashree Yojana for the poor migrants living in Delhi under which Rs. 600 per month was being given to those migrants, but that assistance of Rs. 600 is not being given to them for the last three months. That scheme is lying closed, and no allocation has been made for it in this Budget. I am speaking about the poor people. 18 MPs represent them in NCR, and I am also one of those Members. Our views shall be heard properly. ...*(Interruptions)* The topic of railways has come up again.

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't interrupt. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: I am concluding. There are many daily commuters in metropolitan cities who travel by trains. Rail fares have been increased in the Railway Budget. As soon as the train fares were increased, MPs from area around Mumbai and Maharashtra met Hon. Minister of Railways. After listening to them, our Minister of Railways, who is sitting here, said that we are rolling back the hike in fares for daily commuters in the area around 80 kilometres. Why is it being withdrawn, because elections are round the corner. Hey, there are elections in Delhi also. If Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra, then Delhi is the capital of India. If you have rolled back the fares in the area around 80 kilometres of Mumbai, then I would like to request that you should also roll back the fares in the areas around Delhi. Please withdraw it in the name of elections itself. If there are elections in Maharashtra, then there are elections in Delhi too.

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HON. SPEAKER: Okay, it's done.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Madam, you are requesting again and again and I cannot avoid your request. There are many things, and the people of Delhi have chosen the government with a lot of expectations. I would hope that the Minister of Railways will make amendments in this Budget during his reply so that some of the expectations can be fulfilled.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Madam, the scheme of 'within 80 kilometres' is applicable not only in Maharashtra but also across the country.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Would it be done in Delhi also? *[Translation]* Madam, if this happens for Delhi, then, I will thank the respected Minister of Railways. Rohtak will also get covered within these 80 kilometres range.

In the end, I want to place a demand for my area for which the government should make allocation. Delhi government had proposed that a 14 km long free expressway costing Rs. 1500 crore would be constructed from Bahadurgarh to Ring Road. I think, that we must do the work of connecting those who are sitting opposite to each other, similarly we have to do the work of connecting Haryana and Delhi. There is no allocation in the Budget for that expressway also. I hope that they will make allocation for that too and will take care of the expectations of the people, otherwise, they will meet the same fate as met by the Aam Aadmi Party. ... *(Interruptions)* During the Delhi elections, they had promised to reduce the electricity bills by 30 per cent, I hope that they will reduce the electricity bills by 30 per cent. ... *(Interruptions)* Harsh Vardhan ji is laughing, he is sitting and smiling softly, because Harsh Vardhan ji knows that if Arun Jaitley ji had accepted his point, then Bharatiya Janata Party would not have met this fate inside Delhi. I will ask Jaitley ji to please talk to Harsh Vardhan ji also. ... *(Interruptions)*

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With these words, I thank you and hope that the Minister of Finance will fulfil all the points that I have made here and he will work towards amending the Budget of Delhi in the interest of the people.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14. 10 hours.

13.09 hrs

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

14.11 hrs

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

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

**NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF
DELHI BUDGET (2014-15) –GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (NATIONAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY OF DELHI)-2014-15.... Contd.**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We will continue with the general discussion on the National Capital Territory of Delhi Budget and Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for Delhi.

Now, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

[Translation]

SMT. MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget of Delhi.

Sir, when Congress MP Hooda ji was speaking, I was continuously feeling that he probably wanted to come to this side. Because after every statement, he was saying that the price of diesel is this in Delhi, but not in Haryana. That means Sheila Dikshit government gave expensive diesel to the public, but Haryana government provided it at cheaper rates. Delhi government increased electricity rates, but Haryana government did not. I felt that he was not from the opposition, but from our party and his government

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continuously troubled the people of Delhi. Because of which, today the situation is like this and the view is that to speak on the Budget of Delhi, a Member of Parliament from Haryana has been taken on loan today.

Sir, Delhi is the capital of India and people come here from all over the country. This includes the New Delhi area, where we all are sitting currently. There are some traditions of this Delhi. I am reminded of a couplet on this occasion-

‘Kuchh Baat Hai Ki Hasti Mitatee Nahin Hamaari,

Sadiyon Rahaa Hai Dushman Daur-AE-Zamaan Hamaraa’

After such a scam-ridden government and a government which kept running away from its responsibilities, today Delhi has got President's rule. Through that President's rule and after having our government at the Centre, which the people of Delhi loved a lot and strengthened our hands and now Delhi has received an excellent Budget. I want to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the Budget of Delhi. Our thinking of ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’ is clearly visible in this Budget. I started my election with the five-year Panchnama, which said that special attention would be paid to five issues. First, where there is fear, we will provide safety. Second, where there is darkness, we will show light. Third, where there is thirst, clean water will be provided. Fourth, where there are slums, we will build houses and fifth one, where there is poverty, there will be employment. I am happy that in the Budget of Delhi, a very good presentation has been made on each of these five subjects, and our government has worked to benefit the people of Delhi. When it comes to the issues of safety and security, the number of crimes in Delhi has continuously increased. In particular, crimes against women increased and till the month of June, there were 70,000 rape cases and other crimes as against 80,000 of these cases last year. There are many reasons for this. One of the reasons is excellent reporting. In such a situation, women's safety was a very important issue and the Hon. Minister of Finance made provision for money in his Budget for what can be called one

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stop crisis centre and on the basis of that, provision has been made in the Budget for working on various issues like rehabilitation management related to oppression of women. Besides, provisions were also made for women helpline, self-defence training and many other schemes. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to make a provision to make self-defence training mandatory in the school curriculum of Delhi, especially in girls' schools and girl's colleges. That will provide a boost to women's safety.

The second topic is electricity. Our slogan is "Where there is darkness, there is light". In such a situation, all Delhiites had to suffer due to the deteriorating infrastructure this summer. The previous Delhi government, the government of Hooda ji's party for the last fifteen years, is responsible for that. The government that came after that did not fulfil its responsibilities properly and the fund that was meant to be spent on infrastructure was not spent. In such a situation, I express my gratitude to the Minister of Finance that he made a provision of Rs. 260 crore for infrastructure development and advocated for infrastructure development. It is not that there is less electricity inside the grid, but the previous governments did not do anything on the provision of line-1, line-2 and line-3 for the sub-stations and wires to transmit that electricity.

Sir, being the Member of Parliament from this area, I am a member of the NDMC Council and its Presiding Officer too. Therefore, I want to place another topic for discussion in the Parliament and that is related to solar energy. If we look at solar energy by linking it with the Union Budget and the Delhi Budget, then special emphasis has been given to it. NDMC is going to immediately generate one MW power through solar energy. We are going to use the rooftops of NDMC buildings to produce solar energy. In such a situation, the earlier provision was that the government used to give subsidy, and the buyer was told that this is your subsidy, but you will have to invest some money. To avoid that, there is an aggregator, who will spend the money and will also pay rent for using whatever space there is. The solar energy generated from it will be transferred to the grid which will be used by the rest of the public. In this way, the slogan of "Clean Delhi, Green Delhi"

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should not remain just a slogan, but we can actually make Delhi a green and efficient city. Our government worked for this, and I am especially happy about this.

Sir, Hon. Hooda ji raised some questions related to electricity and said that we had promised for 30 percent reduction in bills and we did not live up to our promise, so I am going to explain a very simple calculation of mathematics. ...*(Interruptions)* The message will reach to the people through Parliament. Our government has decided to give a subsidy of one rupee 80 paise on consumption of units ranging from zero to 200. We are giving subsidy of one rupee 80 paise per unit. The electricity rate per unit is four rupees, and when the subsidy of one rupee 80 paise is deducted from it, the rate comes down to two rupees twenty paise. When you calculate it in percentage, it comes to exactly thirty percent and around 50 percent, a little more than 50 percent of the people residing in Delhi are covered in it. Above this, for consumption of units ranging between 200 to 400 units, the subsidy under this segment is 80 paise per unit. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me first and then speak. ... *(Interruptions)* They had run away, and those who ran away from responsibility, do not have the right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Those who run away from responsibility do not hold right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Keep quiet now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: The second segment, which is from 201 units to 400 units, is charged at Rs 5.95 per unit. When we give a discount of 80 paise per unit subsidy on it, the consumers get a benefit of approximately 13.5 percent. When these two calculations are added, 84 percent of the people residing in Delhi are covered under it. The subject which came after this, ...*(Interruptions)*

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[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please try to conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, I would like to request that I may be given a little more ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time allotted to BJP is one hour and two minutes. There are seven speakers. So, unless you speak within that time, it will be difficult.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, allow me to ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What I am telling is that you know that this is the time given. You can find out a way so that your seven speakers can be accommodated.

You just try to conclude.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, we will take care, but I have to cover all the five points which I have specified and I have to reply to Shri Hooda's points also.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I leave it to you.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Please, Your Lordship, Your Honour, about housing also, *[Translation]* for the slogan of *where there are slums, we will build houses* which we had taken up before the elections, there is affordable housing, and we should work on it. Our areas should be free from slum clusters and people should get good houses at affordable prices. Work should be done for that also.

Our states are also going to benefit from the scheme announced by the Hon. Minister of Finance to build 185 new shelters. But I have a suggestion here that a person earning 10 to 15 thousand rupees per month in Delhi also comes under the category of poor, because he or she must pay rent of four or five thousand rupees per month. In such

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a situation, to control the way real estate mafia is running, we will have to provide houses at affordable prices, and we should be able to fix the rent at proper rates, and I also expect from my government that this scheme is implemented properly and. There should be a provision for this for the economically weaker sections and the slum clusters especially located in Princess Park, Jodhpur Mess and in these areas in New Delhi area. There should be a provision for it for entire New Delhi area. Strict enforcement is very necessary, because in the past, the Urban Development Ministry of Delhi has seen many scams, and Housing Scheme was one of them. This scam took place wherefrom I am the MP and it happened during the time of the people whom I have defeated to reach here. Another slogan was *Where there is thirst, clean water will be provided*. There were two issues related to clean water - one was drinking water and the other was related to toilets, cleanliness. For that also, the Hon. Minister of Finance said that there would be provisions for toilets especially for girls' schools and girls' colleges and there would be provisions for such toilets all over Delhi. I am also thankful for the fund that has been provided to us and the provision made for that. But when the issue was raised by the Congress Party that there is no drinking water in Delhi, then sir, if they expect a government of 45 - 50 days to fulfil 15 years of thirst in 50 days, then it is not possible. But we are continuously working on it. We have many such schemes ranging from water ATMs to providing drinking water, which have been announced by the Ministry of Finance. Here, on behalf of my Parliamentary Constituency, I ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): She has been in the corporation for so many years and she is saying that it can't be done in 45 days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Sir, please have your seat, I will explain.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

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[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Their ignorance is clearly visible because the Delhi Jal Board was taken under the Delhi government by Sheila ji's government, it is not under the MCD. God and the public have already answered them for this ignorance. In such a situation, there is a need to understand that Delhi Jal Board, which not only makes arrangements for water, but the sewage management too is under its jurisdiction, and he has been sitting here for the last 15 years. I got some excavation done in Garhi village to find the reasons for sewage getting into the water supply line. There, it was found that the sewage pipe line was also laid at a depth of two and a half and three feet and the drinking water pipe line has also been laid at the same depth. We do not need to be a great engineer to understand this. It would be clear to even a person with a little understanding that the water pipe should be near the surface and the sewage pipe should be at a depth of at least 8 to 10 feet. There have been many such scams in Delhi, due to which the sewage pipe was placed at the top instead of laying it at depth and that is why I want to request the Hon. Minister of Finance that in some areas of Delhi, especially in New Delhi, where there is water problem, where there is a culture which gives poor . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, you have taken 15 minutes now. Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Much obliged. *[Translation]* Where there used to be provision of water for animals, birds and thirsty travellers on foot, and the people in that country, in that culture, are yearning for every drop of water today and every morning the day starts with a fight, and small children of 4 to 5 years of age are standing with jari cans and people are fighting with each other there for 1 to 2 litres of water. Whatever we have inherited, we want to improve it to some extent, and hence we are working in that direction.

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For that improvement, I expect from our Minister of Finance that there should be provision of reservoir and pumping stations for some places like Anand Parvat, Baljit Nagar and many other places which are located at border of two Lok Sabha constituencies, Chandni Chowk and New Delhi. Similarly, there should be provision of reservoir and pumping station for Kailash Hills and Kailash Colony. In Hauz Rani, pipes are laid but there is no water supply, it should also be connected, and arrangements should be made for water supply. I gave the example of Garhi village, where sewage water and clean water are getting mixed and there is a very long queue at places where drinking water is not even being supplied, so, provisions of water supply should be made for those areas. There is no sewage line and water in Pijanji village, provision of pipes for them should be made. With the hope that my government will work on all these issues in the near future, I want to explain this issue to the Hon. Minister of Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: *Where there is poverty, we will provide employment*, I want to add this. Under the Food Security Act which was enacted during the Congress era, there are A.P.L. cards, B.P.L. cards, but even after having all such cards, especially the people of Delhi are not able to get food grains. To improve it, the provision for computerization and GPS system for vehicles should be implemented. This is also an important topic. But at the same time, I also want to apprise this Parliament that Congress mentioned Annashree Yojana, but they forgot to state that Annashree Yojana is not applicable in Delhi since this card system was introduced. Annashree Yojana is not applicable in Delhi due to ration cards. Smart card system should be made available in Delhi and the same model of food security which is available in Chhattisgarh should be formulated and implemented in Delhi also and then public can get their due benefits.

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Today, the situation is that they have fixed 5 kg grains per person, but earlier 35 kg grains were available per family, now if they get only 20 kg or 25 kg grains, then they have to buy the rest of the grains from the market without subsidy and at higher prices. But they have to buy it because they do not get the benefit of subsidy which they should have got. For this reason, there is a need to completely rationalize this entire system, which has been named the Food Security Act. I am recalling some thoughts of Hon. Atal ji. I would also like to say a line on skill development.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now, I have to call the next speaker. You have taken more than 20 minutes.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Please allow me to speak one last line.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech within one minute.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: I would like to say one last thing. If you want to build the country strong, then you will have to move away from subsidies and work on skill development and employment schemes. That is why *[English]* one says that “if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach the man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.” It is in this context I want to bring to the notice of this House that India is not a new country and we are not moving towards building a new nation. We are an ancient nation with an ancient value system, and we need to prepare and rejuvenate ourselves so that we can actually face the challenges of the modern world.

***SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Hon. Chairman Sir. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has made me a Member of Parliament representing Virudhunagar constituency. I wholeheartedly thank

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

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Puratchithalaivi Amma for this kind gesture. I thank the voters of my constituency for having reposed faith in me and electing me as their MP. This is the discussion on Delhi Budget. I welcome and support the announcements made in the Delhi Budget. Delhi is at present under Governor's Rule. Delhi State Legislature has unique importance when compared to other States of the country. Delhi is the capital of India. People from all parts of the country come to Delhi frequently. Foreign dignitaries also frequently visit Delhi. Therefore, Union Government should provide special financial package to Delhi. Delhi Assembly is now under suspended animation. Union Government has presented the Budget for Delhi. I urge that such a budget should be passed by the State Assembly being elected by the people of State concerned. Then only the problems and sufferings of the people could be duly addressed. I urge the Union Government to take prompt action in this regard. Price rise should be controlled in Delhi. Drinking water and electricity related issues should soon be solved. Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, during the last 3 years of successful rule, has been implementing various welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu. Hon. Amma has presented a tax-free budget during the current year. It is the victory for Hon. Amma and the three-year term, that people of Tamil Nadu have elected 37 AIADMK MPs to this august House. Hon. Amma has been implementing a welfare scheme of providing 20 kg of rice free of cost to 1 Crore and 85 lakh families every month under Public Distribution Scheme in Tamil Nadu. Mixers, Grinders, laptops, bicycles are provided free of cost. Many states of the country are trying to follow such schemes that are implemented by Hon. Amma in Tamil Nadu. Amma Unvagam- a Canteen facility- is a scheme that is followed in other countries also. Such welfare schemes should be followed in Delhi. This Delhi budget should be passed in Lok Sabha. We fully support this budget. MPs who represented Virudhunagar during previous Lok Sabhas have paid only lip service and done nothing to the development of this constituency. Hon. Amma has been kind enough to sanction Rs. 200 crore for setting up ring road in Virudhunagar constituency. I thank Hon. Amma for this kind gesture. I fully support Delhi Budget.

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[English]

PROF. SOUGATA ROY (DUMDUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget of the Delhi Government which is the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It was presented by the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley. This Budget is presented with an eye on the future Delhi elections which may happen any time considering the state of flux the Delhi is in. Let me start by stating two problems. Mr. Jaitley is a resident of Delhi. He was the President of the Delhi University Students' Union from where he has travelled to become the Finance Minister of the country. He knows the problems of Delhi intimately. But the BJP's hold on Delhi has been tenuous. In the earlier days, BJP used to win all seats from Delhi and then, the BJP also had formed the Government in the National Capital Territory. The BJP lost it when Mrs. Shiela Dikshit became Chief Minister and Mrs. Dikshit was allowed to continue for 15 years side-lining the BJP altogether.

For the first ten years, the Congress Government's performance was good. Bhagidari system was introduced. There were Residents Welfare Associations who use to become participants in the Government. It was the Commonwealth Games which brought bad name to the Congress and its Government. There was corruption not only in holding the Commonwealth Games but the corruption was also in the Delhi Government, as a result, we heard of Road over Bridge collapsing suddenly before the Commonwealth Games. The Congress lost the confidence among the people. The people were still not prepared to trust the BJP. As a result, when the elections were held, an entirely new party, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), came to power in Delhi. There was a lot of hope in the country that this party is led by a non-politician, who has fought against corruption and he was former IITian and IRS officer. He brought new hope to the people of the country. But the irresponsible way in which the AAP Government resigned has belied the hope of all those who have placed their faith on the Aam Aadmi Party. So, in the Lok Sabha Elections, people backed BJP which has again won all the 7 Lok Sabha seats from Delhi. But there are already murmurs of discontentment. I read in some newspapers that one of

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the MPs from Delhi is a Bhojpuri actor. He is not to be found by his voters anywhere. We also saw the actions of another Delhi MP, the other day, when he had to apologize in the House. Let the BJP not take it for granted that people have really reposed their faith in them. They lost their faith in the Congress. They thought the AAP as an alternative. But with the AAP's irresponsible behaviour, people were left with no choice and they have gone in for the BJP.

The main question is this. Why I am speaking on this Budget is that I worked in the Urban Development Ministry for some time. I know the anomalous position in Delhi. Somehow or other, in spite of calling Delhi a State, Delhi has not been given the power of the State. Law and order is entirely in the hands of the Central Government. The Delhi Police Commissioner is under the Central Government. All the land in Delhi is under the Ministry of Urban Development. For anything new to be done in Delhi, we need the permission of the Ministry of Urban Development. As a result of this, the Government in Delhi – earlier Chief Ministers have lamented – is a toothless Government. Since Shri Jaitley is from Delhi, he will appreciate this problem. Let this new Government think of making Delhi a full-fledged State. Delhi is in a very anomalous situation where Delhi is neither a fish nor fowl. It is neither fully a Union Territory nor is it a State. Delhi has to be rescued from this situation.

We, in other metropolis of India, are envious of Delhi. Delhi being the capital, a lot of money flows into Delhi. It is not a healthy sign if somebody is red in the face. It is rather an unhealthy sign. Blood should flow through the body. The Central Government funds have been given liberally to Delhi. The other metropolises like Mumbai, Kolkata or Chennai or Bangaluru or Hyderabad have not received similar amounts of money.

Look at the institutions in Delhi. Delhi has the IIT fully run by the Central Government. Of course, Delhi is the Capital of the country. Delhi has the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It is fully run by the Centre. Delhi is also having the best metro system in the country. Thanks to the vision of one Shri Sreedharan who single-

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handedly took up the construction of Delhi Metro. Delhi Metro which is a joint venture between the Union Ministry of Urban Development and the Delhi Government is really our pride. It is providing a great relief to the people of Delhi. Until the Metro was there and it has expanded, the transport problem of Delhi would have been insolubly unbearable. Metro has released everybody from this.

Even in the sphere of higher education, Delhi has a few of the best universities in the country, all run by the Central Government. Delhi University is a Central University. Jawaharlal Nehru University is a Central University. Now, the SAARC University has been formed. Dr. Ambedkar University is there. So, Delhi has been gifted with everything possible. We are all part of this because we are citizens of this country. Delhi is also the Capital of the country.

But what has really happened to Delhi? If it was not for the Supreme Court, successive Governments in Delhi, whether there or at the Centre have not done enough for Delhi. The polluting industries were removed from core areas of Delhi because of the Supreme Court order. Even, the CNG buses were introduced in Delhi again because of the Supreme Court orders. What have successive Governments done in Delhi? This is a matter that we have to take stock of, since we are discussing this in Parliament. Have we made Delhi a world class city? Delhi is world class only in the Lutyen's Zone. Outside, it has still not regularised *jhuggi-jhonpari* clusters. The common people of Delhi suffer from lack of drinking water. Electricity supply in Delhi has been given to private companies run by Tatas and Reliance, but that has not improved the state of electricity distribution in Delhi.

In this Budget, Mr. Jaitley has given Rs. 17,700 crore for Plan. Of that, Rs. 3,672 crore extra is Central grant-in-aid special for Delhi, Health – Rs. 2,724 crore, Education – Rs. 2,482 crore, Social Welfare – Rs. 1,862 crore, Housing – Rs. 2,154 crore, Water Supply is Rs. 1,249. 2 crore, Control of Pollution of Yamuna – Rs. 1,750 crore, and Transport System – Rs. 3,700 crore.

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Look at Yamuna, Sir. It is the most-polluted drain you can find anywhere in the country. We have run governments from the city of Delhi and what have we done to the lifeline of Delhi? Is there any scheme of the Government to really clean up the Yamuna as it passes through Delhi? Is there any concrete plan given in this budget for providing enough drinking water especially to those living in Delhi slums? Is there any provision so that Delhi people will be spared of load-shedding? Kejriwal won because he promised people relief in all these matters, but he could not ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would request the Minister of Finance and the present government to take a fresh view of the total structure under which Delhi is governed. I would request him to really look at how problems of Delhi have multiplied over the years making it almost uninhabitable city excepting the high-cost colonies. Delhi is famous for gated colonies for the rich, but the poor and the ordinary people who provide the backbone of Delhi are left in the lurch. They have to travel 40 kilometres. Without the metro rail, I do not know where they would be? They live in *jhuggi-jhompri* clusters. I do not have the time to go into the problems of *Lal Dora* and all that. The anomaly about Delhi's Administration should be stopped once and for all.

Lastly, Sir, I have a small request to the Minister and I am sure he would accept it. He said that Delhi is inhabited by a lot of linguistic communities and it has four Academies of Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi and Hindi. May I inform him that there are more than 100,000 Bengalis living in this city, not only in Chittaranjan Park but spread all over the city? We would like an Academy of Bengali in the city of Delhi in the interests of the large Bengali speaking community. There is already Lady Irwin School and other good Bengali schools in this city. Why should not there be a Bengali Academy in this city?

With this, Sir, I conclude.

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DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to speak on the Budget of National Capital Territory of Delhi. This is my maiden speech in Lok Sabha and I take this opportunity to thank my leader hon. Chief Minister Shri Navin Patnaik and the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Bargarh for giving me a chance to be a Member of this august House.

A number of hon. Members have spoken on so many problems of Delhi, so many aspects of Delhi, about the management, about the sewage systems, roads and communications but what about our heritage? I must focus on our heritage. If we look at our history and the archaeology of Delhi, it was the seat of administration for so many royal dynasties right from Mughals to Lodhis to Rajputs. There are many historical buildings but if we go to the surroundings of these monuments, we can see that they are in very bad condition. We can find a lot of encroachment, a lot of traffic, and human vandalism all around those historical monuments. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the matter to give a thrust to our heritage and to the monuments that we have inherited over so many years because if we lose them now, they will be lost for ever.

As you know, tourism is also linked to our monuments. There are no proper information centres in the monuments and in the building sites. So, I would like the Government to provide multimedia information centres and guided tours not only for the people of Delhi but also for the tourists and visitors who are coming to Delhi from different parts of the globe. They can know about our heritage, our culture and our past.

We have a number of museums in Delhi, right from the National Museum to Rail Museum, Archaeological Museum and so many other museums. But how many of us have seen those museums? There is no infrastructure, there is no basic facility, and there is no proper communication in these museums. So, I would request you to make them accessible to everybody and for proper popularisation of these museums, for application of proper multimedia so that we can have a good flow of tourists and they can know of our heritage.

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Regarding the Masterplan of Delhi, still there are a number of lacunae. We have taken into consideration all the VVIPs but what about the common man, who is coming to Delhi daily for his day-to-day work? We have not provided drainage system and proper drinking water facilities.

If you go to the New Delhi railway station, we have a lot of problems in the New Delhi railway station. This is the country's capital and we have no amenities. So, I request our hon. Finance Minister to focus on this aspect, to provide funds for the modernisation of the New Delhi railway station.

I would appeal through you for my State of Odisha. Of course, we have Odisha Niwas and Odisha Bhawan in Delhi but it is not sufficient for the people of Odisha who are coming to Delhi. I would request you to provide a piece of land to the people of Odisha in Delhi so that we can make a cultural complex in Delhi where we can exhibit our rich culture. Odisha is very rich in traditional arts like Sambhalpuri Odisha crafts. We can exhibit those things. The common man who is coming to Delhi could be accommodated here.

Delhi is not only for *Dilliwalas*. It is for the whole country. So, through you, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to look into the problems of the common man and the common citizens who are also a part of Delhi because in Delhi we have contributions from everybody, whether they are politicians, common citizens, technocrats, bureaucrats, masons, or students. So, keeping all in view, we have to give thrust to all aspects. So, I appeal through you to give emphasis to this matter.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Delhi Budget.

Though I am from Telangana and Hyderabad, people may ask, why I am interested to speak about 'Delhi'. Everybody is interested in Delhi because it is the Capital of India.

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We have Hyderabad House in Delhi. We can boast of it because many international dignitaries visit that place to hold important meetings.

Hyderabad itself has contributed a lot. The Telangana State has contributed a lot to Delhi in many ways. One of them is Hyderabad House.

When I talk about Delhi, we have two 'Delhis' here – one is a Delhi where the Lutyens Bungalows are situated, where we have this Parliament also, which has vast greenery and wide roads with big cars, and the other 'real Delhi', stays outside 'this periphery of Delhi'.

The problems of Delhi are almost similar to what we have in any other metropolitan city. Delhi cannot be compared with any other metropolitan city because the people who come to Delhi are from Tamil Nadu, from Andhra Pradesh, from Telangana and from other places. So, Delhi is a miniature India. That is the reason why we must showcase Delhi in all respects, including welfare measures.

I wish to state that unfortunately Delhi has become the most polluted city in the world. We should not be proud of that. Delhi again is known as one of the unsafe places for women. This is also not good. We need to ponder over these points.

I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, certain issues pertaining to Delhi because it is now under the President's Rule.

Education is most important; I am happy that the Finance Minister stressed on health, education and social security. We generally call this as 'V3' – *Vidya, Vaidyam and Viyovriddhula Samkshemam*. These are the three aspects of any society that we have to take care. But when we see the education sector, in the Budget speech itself, he says these things.

Most of the migrant population are on a meagre salary. They do not have adequate finances to send their children to private institutions. As per the RTI requirement, there is a need for 500 schools, which is included in the Budget. As per my knowledge, the last

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Government has set the target of opening 100 schools and they had identified places for 32 schools. Unfortunately, there is a sanction for only 20 schools in this Budget. I request the Finance Minister to look at it very seriously because when you look at the middle class families, the most important thing for them is education. Most of their financial burden is on education. The Union Government has to take steps to open quality public schools. This is very important.

Secondly, for social sector also, they have allocated some money. But as far as my knowledge goes, the Delhi Government used to give Rs. 600 per month for the destitute women, whose number was about 12,000. But in this Budget, there is no mention about this. This is very important because the destitute women have no place to go. I request the Government to look into this matter very seriously.

Regarding pension, they give it to 3, 90, 000 persons. About 80,000 pension applications were pending earlier. But this Government has made it as 4, 50, 000. Still 20,000 people are waiting to get pension in Delhi.

Annasree was introduced earlier, but somehow, it is missing in this Budget. I want to bring this to the notice of the Finance Minister.

Pollution is most important; Delhi is becoming world famous on account of pollution. I request the Government to take immediate steps to control pollution because pollution is the unseen danger; it can affect the health of many people; it is something like 'weapon of mass destruction'. It is an unseen weapon. I request the Government to look into this.

A city would be proud of due to the rivers flowing in it. Unfortunately, River Yamuna is not to be seen! If one goes to any other State, one could see beautiful rivers. In Hyderabad, we have got Hussain Sagar, which is seen with beautiful bunds, statues, etc.

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That brings beauty to the city. Yamuna which should bring beauty to Delhi unfortunately is full of dirt. Like the Ganga project, the Government should give some financial commitment for the Yamuna also.

Another very important point is the safety of women but I do not want to go into the details of it. A provision for medical, legal and psychological counselling for rape victims is being made in the Budget. I would like to say that there are two types of victims; one who requires mostly medical help and the other who requires mostly psychological help. Hospitals are already flooded with a number of patients and when a rape victim is brought to a hospital, a number of people look at the innocent girl. So, I would request that separate homes or wards should be built so that a doctor, a lawyer or even a policeman can go to that place.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that Delhi is nothing but a miniature India. *[Translation]* In my opinion, the country should be visible in Delhi. *[English]* Delhi State has got certain symbols. For example, Hyderabad has got Golconda, Charminar. Certain important places symbolise a State. When we come from airport to any part of Delhi, I would like Delhi to be seen as a reflection of India. At major intersections, flyovers or junctions, miniature State symbols should be erected so that when someone comes to Delhi he can feel proud of being a part of Delhi as his part of the State can be seen in Delhi.

As you know, after Hindi, Telugu is the largest spoken language. More important thing is we have two States with Telugu speaking persons. I would request the Union Government to immediately release funds so that a Telugu Academy can be started. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

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[Translation]

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget of Delhi. I congratulate the Minister of Finance that he presented the Union Budget and Delhi Budget in the House within eight days. When the Minister of Finance was reading the Budget, I could hear one or two comments from the opposition. Saugata Ray ji, who is not in the House right now, said that this is an election budget. I am happy that Hon. Members from several parties participated in the discussion on Delhi Budget and put forth their views by putting forward Delhi as the national capital. Delhi is indeed a mini India. People from every state of the country live in Delhi.

15. 04 hrs.

(Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao *in the Chair*)

Hon. Chairman Sir, before I say anything on Delhi's Budget, I want to place two-three things before you. A few days ago, a report revealed that the population of Delhi is currently around 2.5 crore and by the year 2030, it will be around 3 crore 60 lakh. The increasing population pressure on Delhi is bound to have an impact on water and electricity. I feel sad that while the previous governments formulated plans for water and electricity or formulated development plans, but they were not long-term plans. The previous governments had not made any planning for Delhi keeping in mind its future. As mentioned just now, more than 45 lakh people live in 1600 unauthorized colonies in Delhi. We have around 1200 slums wherein more than 30 lakh people live in 5 lakh huts. And, there are 360 villages too, in which more than 20 lakh people live. This is 49 per cent population and the development of Delhi should be done keeping in mind this 49 per cent population.

Deependra ji was the first one to start speaking on the Budget and I was very happy that he was paying attention to Haryana as well as Delhi. Just yesterday in Haryana,

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a minister from his state has resigned but he was more worried about Delhi. So, I am happy because everyone should have a stake in the national capital. The biggest lie he said was that the Congress government started the metro in Delhi. When DMRC was registered in 1995, there was a Bharatiya Janata Party government in Delhi. When its construction started in the year 1998, it was our government in Delhi. Then how could it be that Congress built Metro in Delhi? During the year 1998, 2003 and 2008, Congress kept saying repeatedly that they constructed the Metro in Delhi. When Phase-1 was inaugurated in the year 2002, Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had inaugurated that Phase-1. I felt sad when Deependra ji commented about Nishikant Dubey ji and said that he is not from Delhi, are you from Delhi? Does he know about Delhi? But I want the entire House, every party to speak about Delhi, because Delhi is the National Capital, because out of 365 days, all Members live here for 150 days, this is their second home, they should worry about it, and they should also contribute Rs. 50 lakh from their MPLAD Fund for the Budget of Delhi. ...(*Interruptions*) Just as they have been narrating stories to this country for 55 years, they narrated stories to Delhi for 15 years, similarly he was telling stories here. In the budget of 2013, their Minister of Finance had said that 100 new schools will be opened, but at the same time, the Chief Minister of Delhi said that we do not have space for new schools and hospitals in Delhi. The Chief Minister of Delhi used to say that we do not have space, but they used to announce in their Budget that they will open 100 new schools. How many new schools did they set up during the last 15 years? I want to ask them. Did they worry about these 1600 colonies in 15 years? Even today, 800 colonies in Delhi do not have drinking water and sewerage facilities. They didn't wake up from slumber for 15 years. They had said in their speech just now that they have passed 840 colonies, but I can say with certainty that not even a single colony was passed in Delhi, building plan is not approved in even one colony, and registration of property is not done in even one colony.

Hon. Sonia ji is not sitting here right now, but during the 2008 elections, they got provisional certificates distributed to all the colonies of Delhi by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi ji at

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Chhatrasal Stadium, perhaps she may not be aware of this, she came back after distributing the certificates, but not even a single colony was passed in Delhi. They used to tell stories but not even one colony was passed. Now we have said in our Budget that we will provide drinking water in 50 colonies and sewerage system in 95 colonies.

CWG Games were organized, Commonwealth Games were organized, they had to buy 5000 new buses for the Commonwealth Games, but they were able to buy only 1100 buses in total. Today, 5000 buses run in Delhi but the Supreme Court had said in the year 2001 that there is a need of 11000 buses in Delhi. What did they do for 15 years? I want to ask, did they establish even a single new university in those 15 years? Ambedkar College was converted into Ambedkar University. They changed the name of IP University, DCE College was converted into a university, but they did not establish a single university on their own initiative. Please tell us, how many colleges did they open in Delhi during their time? Children come to me, they have scored 95 percent marks, but they are not getting admission into colleges. Our children are forced to go out for study, that is why the Minister of Finance has made provisions in the Union Budget for opening IITs and IIMs across the country, so that the pressure of education on the people of Delhi gets reduced.

He also talked about electricity and expressed a lot of concern. In the year 2002, when electricity was privatized, a committee named Vatsa Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. S. C. Vats, a Congress MLA. Keeping in view the report of that committee, CAG had said that a scam of Rs. 8500 crore has taken place. The Congress MLA had mentioned in the committee report that a scam took place in electricity privatization. Today, if we talk about reducing the electricity bills of 85 percent of the poor people of Delhi, they feel pained. ... (*Interruptions*) Because of Deependra ji's words, I must take five extra minutes, so, I request that I may please be given more time to speak. He has talked about the Lal Dora areas. In the last fifteen years, Lal Dora area of how many villages has been extended by them? They ruled for fifteen years and kept narrating

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the story in every manifesto and the people of Delhi kept believing, but did not extend the Lal Dora of even a single village. Our government was there from 1993 to 1998. We completed Chakbandi (consolidation of holdings) process in four villages. In each village, whether it was Bamdoli village or Kanjhawala village, each villager was allotted plots of 2100 square yards. Plots of 300 square yards were given for industry purpose, but they did not allot any plot in any village. 14 thousand applications are still pending, the villagers whose lands have been acquired have not received alternative plots till date. Delhi government kept saying that it does not have land. They say that they are concerned about the villages. I want to apprise you all about Delhi government schools that the academic session there starts in March, and they do not get books till July whereas in private schools, books are available in the month of March itself. This is the condition of education in Delhi which we have inherited after fifteen years.

Sir, the world is changed by examples, not by opinions. The country is not run by narrating or telling stories, Delhi is not run like this. Delhi is the national capital. We must make it the most beautiful capital in the world. I thank the Minister of Finance not only for Delhi Budget but also for the Union Budget, as he allocated therein Rs. 500 crore for water reforms and Rs. 200 crore for power reforms in Delhi. There is a Renuka Dam project. What work have they done on water issue? Drinking water is not available in schools. Today, the demand for water in Delhi is 1100 MGD but the people of Delhi get 800 MGD water only. The Renuka Dam project is being built in Himachal Pradesh. Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 50 crore for it and the people of Delhi will get 275 MGD more water from it. Delhi Police was allocated Rs. 394 crore more. Rs. 50 crore was allocated for National Police Memorial. War Memorial, War Museum are to be built at Princess Park near India Gate. I go abroad and I used to see museums there and learn about their history. But it is unfortunate that our youth have not read in history about the battles we have fought in our country in the last 66 years and how we have won them. It has been talked about linking JJ Cluster with the CSR scheme. Rs. 3470 crore has been

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allocated for Metro. I am explaining about what has been given to Delhi in the Union Budget.

First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance that he has not imposed even a single rupee new tax on the poor people of Delhi. If I talk about health and quote the figures of the last 8 years, ...*(Interruptions)* Many reports by CAG are against them. In the year 2005, there were 20619 beds in government hospitals and in 2013, there were 22919 beds. They could increase only 2300 beds. I am telling this about the last 8 years. This number has increased by 7000 beds in private hospitals. Congress had proposed in the Budget of 2012-2013 that they will add 2900 beds in a year. But in the last 8 years, they added only 2300 beds for the people of Delhi. But I would like to thank the Minister of Finance that he made a provision of 100 seats for a Medical College in Rohini and the first batch will also start by 2015. He has talked about converting Lok Nayak Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital into model hospitals. He has announced building a multi-specialty hospital in rural areas in South Delhi. 30 new dialysis units and 110 new CATS ambulances are also planned to be started. He has allocated Rs. 2724 crore for health sector. If I talk about education, it is a matter of great concern that 30 percent of Delhi government schools do not have toilet facilities today. It is so after they ruled for 15 years. Hon. Minister of Finance has said that the facility would be provided to repair toilets in all the schools of Delhi in this financial year itself. He has allocated Rs. 151 crore for Deen Dayal Upadhyay College and two other colleges in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time is up. Please conclude. There are many Members more to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, our other Member from Delhi, Shri Manoj ji will speak for 5 minutes only. I had talked to him. Please allot his five minutes

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to me. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 225 crore for the School of Planning and Architecture. For this, I want to thank the Minister of Finance. He has talked about opening two senior secondary schools in two Legislative Assemblies in Delhi which were deprived of such schools. If I talk about social security, they were very worried about it that when the Congress government was in power in 2013, they had discontinued the old age pension. The pension our elderly people used to get was abolished by the Congress government and it is very unfortunate that the Aam Aadmi Party government that was formed thereafter, also did not start that pension system. I was an MLA in Delhi. Elderly people used to come to me for their pension. I used to tell them that they voted for Aam Aadmi Party but it did not restart old age pension. We have not only started that pension but we have also increased its number to 4 lakh 30 thousand and we have increased its Budget from Rs. 538 crore to Rs. 600 crore. It is extremely shameful that the Delhi Government runs an Asha Kiran Centre in which our mentally retarded, means mentally ill patients are treated there. Its capacity is 350 but 906 patients are admitted there. They have admitted 906 patients in the centre having capacity of 350, but did not construct even a single new centre. Our Minister of Finance has said that three new such centres will be opened where these patients will be treated.

Regarding Working Women Hostels, I would like to say that they built only two such Hostels in 15 years. The number of working women is increasing so much in Delhi today. We have planned to build 6 new hostels. It is very sad that there was an Aam Aadmi Party government in the capital of India and 170 people died in the cold season during the month of January in 2014. Hon. Minister of Finance has said that we will build 7 new night shelters. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will request the Minister of Finance that the victims of the 1984 riots are in a very bad condition today. Hon. Minister will have to allocate at least Rs. 5 crore in this Budget for the welfare of the victims of 1984 riots and those who were guilty should be punished. It is my request to him.

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It is very important to regularize unauthorized colonies for urban development. There is no water in Dwarka. Many relatives of our hon. Members must be living there. There is acute water shortage there. A new colony has been established in Dwarka. What has Congress been doing here for 15 years? People sit on dharna on road there every day. I would request to make arrangements for drinking water for the people of Dwarka. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me one minute more. I am concluding. They spent Rs. 6000 crore on cleaning the Yamuna river in the last 15 years. Look at the condition of the Yamuna today. ... *(Interruptions)* *[English]* The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new. *[Translation]* We want to take this country forward, we want to make a new India. I am extremely thankful to the Minister of Finance.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I will try to speak in Hindi, please forgive me if there is any mistake. I am standing here not to blame anyone. Now, Hon. Member Saugata Roy ji told that this is not Lutyens' Delhi, many people from Eastern and Western India live in Delhi, this is the real Delhi. I have come to Delhi from a long way and when I look at Delhi, I feel that this is the real Delhi. *[English]* I have been coming to Delhi since early eighties. There are people from North-East and other parts of the country living in Delhi. *[Translation]* Those people come here. I want to discuss here about the difficulties the common man is facing. An amount of Rs. 36,766 crore has been earmarked in the Budget of Delhi. *[English]* I think that is less than the provision of previous year's Budget.

[Translation]

Now, I come to the issue of drinking water in Delhi. I am not talking about Parliament Street and Janpath, but there is shortage of drinking water in other settlements of Delhi, hence people here have to depend on the mercy of the water mafia. Hon. Minister of Finance has promised subsidy on electricity but the rates were increased by 8.32 percent

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on residential consumption and 9.5 percent on commercial consumption before the Budget. Even after giving a subsidy of Rs. 260 crore, it will not come to the zero point, thus this subsidy is nothing.

Now, I want to say something about sanitation. The situation in recently regularized colonies is such that even women have to defecate in the open. I am saying this to draw the attention of the Hon. Members elected from Delhi. If no attention is paid to this issue, then our dream of making Delhi a world city will never be fulfilled.

[English]

Health facilities are woefully inadequate in the rural areas and in the *bastis*. That should also be improved. In the dispensaries there is no medicine and there is no staff. We have been receiving a lot of complaints regarding that.

As far as education is concerned, definitely we are proud of the Delhi University, the Jawaharlal Nehru University and so many other institutions. But what will happen to the children of poor people if more schools and more colleges are not set up in Delhi? So, I think that should be taken care of.

Then, I come to housing. *[Translation]* The Minister of Urban Development has announced that everyone will be provided a house in the year 2022. Delhi city is our pride; it's the capital of our country. People have to sleep on roads and footpaths in Delhi. We must pay attention to this.

[English]

I come from North-East. The people of North-East have started coming to Delhi for education, jobs, etc. But there is a huge crisis for accommodation. So, we need one complex for the North-East people, which will be showcasing their culture, food, etc. I think that matter can be considered by adding funds from other Ministries also in the Delhi Budget.

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With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Delhi Budget. Delhi is the pride of our nation. It has grown over centuries. Delhi is the Capital city of our country and over decades we have been promoting our culture and tradition throughout Delhi, the Capital. I am a new comer to Parliament. Sir, many of my senior colleagues spoke about the Delhi Budget; they spoke about the schools; they spoke about the institutions. But I would like to highlight a few factors in this House.

One is about the transportation problem in Delhi. There are people who are coming from different States to Delhi pertaining to issues of administration and other political issues. Delhi being the capital of the country, there is a lot of traffic congestion and there is a lot of pollution in the City of Delhi. Hence, I request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate a certain Budget for Delhi to deal with the transportation problem by providing more metro facilities as also other facilities that can be of importance to the common man of Delhi.

I would also like to say that this is a place which has emerged over centuries. Many rulers have ruled this nation and they have left behind a lot of monuments of heritage value and ancestral value. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to provide enough resources in the Budget to take care of these monuments, protect them and pass them on to the future generations. By this way, we can promote our culture, tradition and pass it on to the next generation.

Sir, I am not sure whether I can raise this topic in this discussion. Being a fresher in this House, I would like to say that accommodation for the Members of Parliament is one more important problem which we have been facing. So many cottages have been allotted. We are only a thousand people in Parliament today. In spite of this, proper housing facility is not provided to all of us. Many of us have even now been fighting for

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accommodation. Hence, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to give utmost importance to this because we are a thousand people sitting in Parliament as the law-makers of this country. Today, many of the houses that have been provided to us are in a very bad shape and they are not even in a favourable condition to live in. Hence, I request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate a certain Budget for the repairs of these buildings as well as providing proper accommodation to us so that as long as our stay is here, when we represent our constituency in Delhi, we can find it a little bit more comfortable and we can have a peaceful living in Delhi.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me this time. I am concluding with these few words.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget of Delhi. I have stood up to speak in favour of this Budget. President's rule has been imposed in Delhi when Shri Narendra Modi ji is Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Arun Jaitley ji is Hon. Minister of Finance and it has been imposed through His Excellency, respected President. This Budget reflects vision. Our Prime Minister has said that when the country will be 75 years old after getting its independence, then every person of the country will get a house, which is his basic amenity. My friends sitting in front of me could not provide such facilities in sixty years, but by the year 2022, every person will get these facilities. I want to say through this Budget that Modi ji did not say that we will achieve *Achhe Din* in one month or four months, Modi ji had said that the people gave sixty years to Congress, please give us sixty months, and people will definitely see *Achhe Din*. Our brothers are sitting here, Bhagwant Mann ji is also sitting, it is very unfortunate that I just now saw a hoarding of Congress and Aam Aadmi Party which shows a donkey is sitting on neck of a giraffe and the donkey is saying he is unable to see *Achhe Din*. We want to say that donkeys can't see *Achhe Din*, but humans will see *Achhe Din*. I am saying about their thinking, such hoardings have

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been put up at Mahipalpur Chowk and several places in Delhi. That is why, I want to tell my brothers that our AIADMK brothers had said that Jayalalitha Amma ji has presented a tax-free Budget. Brother, it is also a tax-free Budget for Delhi. Not even a single paisa tax has been imposed in this Budget. One of our Trinamool Congress MPs, who is not here now, perhaps he has gone, was also saying that specific provision has been made for the Delhi Budget from the central fund, which has not been done for other metropolitan cities. They themselves are contradicting their own point. They themselves are saying that the Union Government has authority over land, police and universities in Delhi. When the Union Government has the authority, it will definitely provide fund. Why will it be deducted from Delhi's budget? When Delhi is the national capital and everything here is controlled by the Union Government, the Hon. Minister of Finance has provided the fund on behalf of the Union Government, then it must have been done with a big mindset. They should have thought about what they have done for Delhi in the last 15 years. They should have worried. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to tell them. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, now I want to speak about this Budget. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, life begins with health. If a person's life is healthy, if the person is healthy, then everything remains fine. Sir, in the year 1998, we had our government at the centre, ... *(Interruptions)* In the year 1998, there was an NDA government at the Centre, then we had given land for two cancer specialty hospitals, one for East Delhi and the other for West Delhi in Janakpuri, at a cost of Rs. 150 crore. In 1998, they formed their government in Delhi. From 1998 till today, they could build only two hospitals at a cost of Rs. 150 crore. Both the hospitals are waiting for patients. They have not taken any decision till today that whether these hospitals should be run according to PPP or through any other mode, so that patients can be admitted into those hospitals. Sir, our Hon. Minister of Finance has said that we will establish a super specialty hospital in the rural belt of South Delhi in this financial year itself. Sir, he has said that a medical college hospital will be established in Rohini and will provide admission to medical

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students therein this year itself. This is a government which functions as per its vision. I am just explaining about their words and actions.

Bhai Hooda Saheb has left, he too was saying many things in the same way as people narrate stories of their grandparents. He was narrating those stories. But, he did not know much about those things. He must be aware about Haryana but is worried about Delhi. In the last 15 years, despite the order of the Hon. Supreme Court, Haryana has not given Delhi its share of 80 MGD water from Munak Canal. It is within our law, some basic revenues are generated somewhere else, Yamuna River passes through our Delhi, and water in Yamuna comes through Haryana. When late Sahib Singh Verma was the Chief Minister of Delhi, he had given four hundred crore rupees to ensure our share of the water of Munak canal is supplied to Delhi. 80 MGD water used to get wasted through leakages and we should have got that water for 15 years. Hooda Saheb's government is in power in Haryana for ten years, they had their government at centre too, the court repeatedly intervened in the years 2011 and 2014. Despite the intervention of the court, they did not release water from Munak Canal. But they are showing their concern for Delhi.

Sir, I want to tell them that they have not formulated any plan for water in the last 15 years. Population in Delhi is increasing day by day. Delhi is the capital of the country. People from every region of the country have the right to come to Delhi. Five lakh people come to Delhi from outside every year. Just before me, our brother Pravesh ji said that 1100 MGD of water is required within Delhi while 800 MGD water is generated. 744 MGD are from filters, 80 MGD are from raining season wells and there are 2750 tube wells installed inside Delhi. 255 MGD of water is lost due to leakage for the last 15 years, Sir, I am not saying this, it is being said by a leakage and detective agency, its report says that 35 percent of the water in Delhi is lost through leakage. What were these people doing while being in power at the centre? Our Hon. Minister of Finance took care of this and

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gave Rs. 500 crore to improve that infrastructure so that there should be only 15 percent leakage. The water that flows into drains should be available to people for drinking.

Sir, without going into it much, I want to speak about education now. Sir, according to the Right to Education Act, there should be 40 students in a class. Last time, they had promised to open 100 schools. We don't mislead people with unrealistic promises. We think that we will be able to open 20 schools in a year, so we have said only 20. Sir, they had promised 100 schools in their manifesto. Sir, even ten schools were not opened. Please appoint a Committee here, ninety to hundred children sit in one section in the schools located in country's capital Delhi. There cannot be a more shameful thing than having one hundred children sitting in one section in the government schools of Delhi. There is a shortage of twenty thousand teachers in Delhi, they have not recruited teachers in the last fifteen years. Let me give the example of a school located in J Block, Sapna Vihar, where there are twenty-seven hundred students and only seven teachers. I am calling it on the Floor of the House. Only seven teachers are there, how will the children get education there? They talk about welfare of the poor, they talk about education, and not a single new college has been opened in Delhi University during the last fifteen years. One lakh children pass class 12th every year. How will a poor child studying in a government school score 90-95 percent marks? Neither will that child get 95 percent marks nor will he or she get admission in any college. If anyone is responsible for this, then it is these people who were sitting here as UPA for ten years, fifteen years. No one else is responsible for that. They are making noise because it has become an election Budget. They should have clapped. One of our colleagues, Tariq Bhai left, he was saying that BJP has announced this in the manifesto. What can be a bigger organization and party than this which implements its manifesto, we should have thanked him. He himself was saying that this is not the Budget, this is the manifesto of BJP. Tariq ji was saying that it is an election Budget. Be it an election Budget or any other Budget, if the public is getting facilities and amenities then why are they feeling pain in their stomach? Modi ji has said that we are

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going to have good days, perhaps, they are worried about this that when there will be good days, they will have to pack their bags and beds.

Sir, I wish to make my third point regarding the Ministry of Urban Development. There is a scheme called JNNURM. Under this scheme, only the State of Gujarat has the distinction of having completed all ten projects. In the case of Delhi, an amount of Rs. 600 crore was allocated. Out of this, even after including the Commonwealth Games, only projects worth Rs. 148 crore were undertaken in Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I and Phase II, which I have represented as an MLA for three terms. Nearly Rs. 150 crore were spent there, but during the tenure of the Sheila Government in Delhi, Rs. 450 crore under JNNURM lapsed in the year 2012. This amount had been sanctioned in 2007 after framing the policy. We could have invested that money for development within JNNURM. In Delhi, there are 1,600 unauthorized colonies, and not even one was regularized. If Hon'ble Sonia Ji were present here, I would have told her that she was showing dreams like Mungerilal. In 2008, the supreme leader of their party went to Ramlila Maidan, cut the ribbon, and handed over provisional certificates to residents of unauthorized colonies, promising that their colonies would be regularized if they voted for them. Because of this, they formed their Government in 2008. The people were misled by them.

Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. They should also see the mirror, and the people of the country must know the vision of Modi Ji's Government and the so-called vision these people have been projecting for so long. I will finish in two minutes. I want to ask them what their real position is. I also wish to touch upon the issue of environment.

Sir, when you ring the bell, I get confused. Please don't ring the bell for two minutes. This is the first time I am speaking about Delhi, and I carry with me the pain of Delhi. On the issue of transport, Shri Hooda Saheb was saying that 1,300 buses were being introduced. It would have been better if he were here. He could have at least increased the number by 20 more to make it 1,320. But even that policy is ours. Brother, we do not show the people dreams like Mungerilal, as you do. Whatever we say, we provide for. We have

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the provision for those 1,300 buses. Sir, I forgot to mention the first and foremost point. Their education Budget last year was ₹2,046 crore. We increased it to ₹2,482 crore. We added ₹400 crore to it. We have presented an increased Budget for every department. We presented the power Budget, the energy Budget. The previous Government's Budget last year was ₹2,000 crore, and we added ₹675 crore more to it.

I also wish to reiterate the point on subsidy which has been mentioned by Hon. Members who spoke before me. They said that money is being taken out from one pocket and put into another. This has always been their tendency - to mislead people by shifting money from one pocket to another. Delhi Budget has never received direct subsidy from the Central Government in the last 20 years. The only money that was given was in the form of subsidy in the last instance. Our respected colleague, Shri Bhagwant Mann Ji, is also present here. That day, even he, through his poetry, had expressed that he could not see Achhe Din (good days). A hospital was to be built in Ambedkar Nagar, but its ₹400 crore allocation was diverted by the Chief Minister of Delhi to give subsidies to the people of Delhi, merely to mislead them during the Lok Sabha elections. We did not divert any funds. During the Commonwealth Games, their Government diverted ₹600 crore that was meant for SC and ST welfare. Our SC/ST citizens themselves said that the money meant for their welfare had been taken away and given as subsidy. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, please understand, this is pain I am feeling. I sat in that Assembly for 15 years, and I have witnessed this pain of the people of Delhi. The subsidy that we have given is based on our promise of 30 percent. These people are educated, even Hooda Saheb's father has been a Chief Minister, and he himself has studied in good English school. If they calculate properly, they will find that the subsidy we have given, which seems up to 200 percent and even 400 percent in some cases, actually averages out to 33 percent. Whatever we promised, we delivered. And unlike them, we did not divert funds from any head to give that subsidy. We provided it directly from the Central Government, we have given subsidy from outside to Delhi's total Budget of ₹39,000 crore.

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Sir, with one last point, I will conclude my speech. I wish to reflect on what the reality of Achhe Din is. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me share a small story. Once upon a time, there was an orchard in a forest near a river. That orchard was full of monkeys. The gardener of the orchard became distressed due to the monkeys. Unable to handle the situation, he sold the orchard. Another party bought it and began cutting down the trees. The poor monkeys grew anxious, worrying about what they would do once the orchard was gone. So, the monkeys held a meeting in the evening and decided to plant their own orchard. They sowed seeds by the riverside. But the next morning, finding no saplings, they dug up the seeds and planted them. Next day again they found that no tree had grown and they dug up and planted the seeds again. They repeated this several times never giving them time to sprout. Sir, this is exactly the condition of our opposition party. Barely a month into the Government's tenure, they have already begun making noise, asking, "Where are the Achhe Din (good days)?" Even in a family, when a son's marriage takes place, it is the happiest day for the mother, when she hears the wedding shehnai. Yet, for her to truly feel that joy within her home, she looks forward to the day when she has a grandson. Only then does she fully realize that her son's marriage bore fruit. Unfortunately, the former Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram ji, is not present here today. Had he been here, it would have been even more relevant. While addressing the House, he gave a speech related to certain grant on 23rd October 2008. I remember watching it on TV, as I was then a Member of the Assembly. Referring to the state of the economy, he said that when they had handed over the economy to us in 1998, it was heavily in debt, but when we handed it back to them in 2004, it was in very good condition. These were Chidambaram ji's own words. He admitted that during NDA's tenure, we gave them a strong economy in 2004. He even added that because we had left the economy in such good shape, we would never return to power again. That was his statement on leadership. But by the grace of the Almighty, and with the blessings of 125 crore citizens of this country, we are here today, while the respected Shri Chidambaram ji is nowhere to

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be seen. Those who once spoke in arrogance are lecturing us on arrogance today. They now say that we are speaking with arrogance. But what was the language used by Shri Chidambaram at that time? Today, we have come to power. My friend had just said. ...*(Interruptions)* You have apologized. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ninong Iring. Bidhuri ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)... *

[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on Delhi's Budget. Our initiator, Hooda Saheb, also said that this is not just about Haryana or Delhi. Delhi belongs to all of us; Delhi is for the people with a big heart. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)... **

SHRI NINONG ERING: We all love the national capital Delhi as much as you do. From the speeches we have heard, Members here seem quite agitated, but I would like to say that it is unfortunate that some Members have called this a mere election speech. I believe that we should not indulge in allegations and counter-allegations, but rather talk about the development of Delhi. We will not go into numbers. People come to Delhi from the North-Eastern States, from the South, and from distant parts of the country, to see this city. The Member who spoke before me is much younger, but I am speaking of Delhi of the year

* Not recorded.

** Not recorded.

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1962, when my father was a Member of Parliament. And at that time, I held a feeling in my heart that one day I must also come here. I feel proud that I am standing before you all today.

I will not take much time, but our Minister of Finance has presented before us a Budget of ₹36,760 crore, in which he said there will be no imposition of taxes. It is a provision, a tradition that in a State under President's Rule, I stand to be corrected, the Budget does not provide for any new taxes. Specifically, on the issue of electricity, there has been a debate regarding the 30 per cent subsidy provision. Our previous Congress government under Smt. Sheila Dikshit had given a subsidy of ₹2, whereas this time subsidy of only ₹1.80 has been provided. I fail to see what is new in this. However, I do not wish to debate on this further. There are certain issues though. For example, what is the provision made by the Government for the gas supply to the Bawana Power Plant? For sewerage, ₹750 crore has been provided. What we want in this regard is that why are the previously under-utilized and pending projects not completed first? Regarding schools, a provision was made to open 100 schools for the year 2013-14, but they have now made a provision to open only 20 new schools. Regarding hospitals, they mentioned that a super-speciality hospital would be opened in Rohini and 50 dialysis centres would be set up. This is indeed a good step and we also support it. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, who is the Union Minister of Health in the Government of India and had earlier been an MLA in Delhi, is also aware that cases of cholera and typhoid are increasing in Delhi, but what provisions have been made for this? Nothing like that is visible in the Budget.

Sir, atrocities and harassment against women are increasing. A JNU study has shown that every day, one out of a hundred women faces sexual harassment. No provision has been made to check this. Around three to four lakh people from our North-Eastern States live in Delhi - whether they are government officials, students, or working women. A Minister in our Government Shri Ghatowar had earlier made a provision for a hostel for them. During the elections, our respected Prime Minister Shri Modi Ji had said that

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we will not let the people from north-eastern states, especially the working women and studying children, have any difficulties. But it has not been mentioned anywhere in this Budget. This also requires your attention. Commonwealth Games are being held in Glasgow, athletes like Sanjita Khumukchom, Mirabai Saikhom, Mary Kom, and Bhaichung Bhutia are participating. They all are from that region. We are all one. Delhi is ours too; it does not belong only to you. Delhi is for those with large hearts, and we all are people with large hearts - especially the people from the North-East. I only want to say: when there is an action, there is always a reaction. Perhaps mistakes may also have been committed on our side, but leaving those aside, the focus should be on how we can take Delhi forward and make it a world-class city. Particularly, in view of the atrocities still taking place and the Bezbaruah Committee Report, our Government must establish an office to look after the interests of the people coming from the North-East. And the people coming not only from the North-East, but also from the South, the North, and the West must be taken care of.

Sir, without taking more time, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak within this short span. I support what the other hon. Members and Shri Hooda have said on behalf of my Party. We also want the Delhi Budget to be passed in the best possible way. But the provisions proposed by us should also be considered. All the people who are here, whether they have come from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir or North-Eastern States, we all are Delhiites.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Maheish Girri.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Sir, I am on point of order.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Under what rule are you raising your point of order?

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SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: It is under Rule 349 (xvii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It says that the Member shall not leave the House immediately after delivering his speech. But here, the Hon. Member left the House immediately after delivering his speech. Please tell him something at least. This is the rule. ...*(Interruptions)* He left the House immediately after delivering his speech. Please tell him so.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is okay.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHEISH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I have come to this parliamentary complex for the first time, I have come to this temple of democracy for the first time and I am speaking for the first time.

Sir, I feel honoured that I have been given the privilege to stand here and speak for the very first time. If there is anyone who deserves full credit for this, it is the voters of my Parliamentary Constituency, East Delhi, who placed their trust in me. Today, I am here for them, to fulfil their aspirations. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them.

Sir, I feel like that child who, for the first time, sees the world after emerging from the mother's womb and utters his very first words. This is exactly how I feel. Born from the womb of the electoral process, today I am speaking here for the first time as a Member of Parliament. I am experiencing it just like that child. If my words falter in any way, I seek your forgiveness.

Sir, I have come here to voice the pain, the unfulfilled dreams, and the rightful demands of the people of East Delhi. I want to make this constituency an ideal constituency. I want to transform East Delhi into "Apoorv Delhi (Unique Delhi)," and I stand here today to fight for its rights.

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Sir, today I am going to speak on Delhi's Budget. But before I do so, I must set a little context. If we look back into the history of the world centuries ago, India played the role of a Vishwaguru (global teacher). From spirituality to space, from knowledge to science, India always held a central role. Whether in governance, education, trade, or economy, we excelled in every field because the nation's policies empowered these domains. These were the very policies that elevated the nation to the position of Vishwaguru. If this nation was once economically strong, if it was called the "golden bird," it was because of these policies which gave it strength. Conversely, if today this country has fallen behind on the world stage, it too is because of its policies.

Chairperson Sir, this country set forth on the path of "Achhe Din" on the very day when our most respected Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, bowed his head in reverence before this very temple of democracy. When a statesman bows and pledges himself to the service of the nation, he defines the course of its future and commits to lead it towards brighter days. I extend my felicitations to our Hon'ble Prime Minister. From my youth till today, whenever I used to watch Lok Sabha TV or Rajya Sabha TV, I saw certain orators who became the centre of attention through their eloquence. On Lok Sabha TV, I would listen with admiration to the speeches of Smt. Sushma Swaraj ji and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. On Rajya Sabha TV, the oratory of Shri Arun Jaitley ji often captivated me. Many a time, I witnessed how skilfully he articulated his views. Today, I consider it my great fortune that I have the opportunity to speak in support of the very Budget presented under his stewardship.

Chairperson Sir, Delhi holds a distinct place in the nation. Delhi aspires to breathe freely, to soar higher, and if anyone has given wings to this aspiration, it is our Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley ji. For many years, suppressed dreams have awaited fulfilment, and through this Budget he has sought to bring them to life. There has been no substantive criticism of this Budget; the refrain, whether in electronic media, print media,

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or from the Opposition, has been but one: that this is an election Budget, an election Budget, an election Budget.

Chairperson Sir, the Hon'ble Members who spoke before me have made several points. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri ji observed that we are delivering what we promised in our manifesto. Time and again, previous governments have presented so-called election Budgets, but failed to fulfil the promises they made. We should deliver our promises. Our party comes from a culture where "life may go, but promise should not go." It is in that spirit that we have presented this Budget. The guiding sentiment of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" finds true reflection in it. As our Hon'ble Prime Minister has said, this Budget is one that uplifts the poor, the deprived, the distressed, ensures safety for women, creates opportunities for the youth, and promotes trade and employment. Coming to one of its central points, I wish to speak of the Yamuna, which is a national heritage of our country. A lot of money has been spent in the name of rejuvenating the Yamuna. I myself had once initiated a movement - "Meri Dilli, Meri Yamuna." Yet, corruption plagued these efforts, and newspapers too have repeatedly reported on it. The Hon'ble Supreme Court even remarked that it has been reduced to nothing but a dirty drain.

Chairperson Sir, through you, I wish to submit to this august House that despite repeated budgetary provisions, the Yamuna remains in the same dismal state. It is only under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister that a separate Ministry has now been established for the Ganga and Yamuna because, our civilisational ethos commands us to honour this culture, and the Government has rightly recognised its importance. It knows what national wealth and national heritage are. Provision has been made in this Budget for a War Memorial, because if we stand here today, if this nation breathes freely in independence, it is due to the sacrifices of our martyrs, and a War Memorial will be built in their honour. This nation is nurtured by the respect and values to parents, and such honour and values are only truly given when we do something for them. The pension of the elderly people, which is both their right and their lifeline, had been discontinued

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earlier, which has been reinstated by our Government in this Budget. It is an unprecedented step. Many people living in slums still go outside for defecation, and several Hon'ble Members who spoke before me have elaborated in detail for arrangements for toilets, drinking water and sewerage for them, so I will not go deeper into it, but a provision of two thousand crore rupees has been made for drinking water and sewerage facilities., our brother Parvesh ji mentioned just now about the institution Asha Kiran, where there is capacity for keeping 350 mentally challenged children, but 900 children are kept there. Previous Governments should have opened more mental health centres and hospitals where such patients could be treated, but instead of increasing such centres, their policies only increased the number of mental patients.

Chairperson Sir, if I speak of schools, there is provision for twenty new schools. Some of our friends have said that only twenty schools are being opened and asked what is being done in the field of education, but not a single college was opened in Delhi in so many years. East Delhi is the most populated area, where the highest number of youths live.

16.00 hrs.

I deeply regret that not a single university has been established in such a region for the past 65 years due to which the children of our area are compelled to go outside for their studies. I thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance who has given us a university there, with a separate budgetary provision for it. A ladies' hostel has also been sanctioned there, for which the people of East Delhi express their gratitude to him.

Along with this, there are a few demands for our East Delhi. It is a region where the crime rate is very high. The crime rate is high because there is considerable distress and the police force is inadequate compared to the population. I would request the Minister of Finance to kindly extend some support in this regard as well, so that we may bring

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down the crime rate and ensure the safety and security of our mothers and sisters. ...*(Interruptions)* I shall conclude in just two minutes.

In order to increase employment there for the small business owners, there is an area Gandhinagar where, despite the presence of an MLA from their own party, sealing takes place repeatedly, almost on a daily basis. Because of this, small businesses are getting shut down. If trade itself gets stopped there, how will that region progress, how will the youth there find employment? Therefore, I wish to draw your attention to that area as well.

In the Mayur Vihar region, there is a Sanjay Lake, which could become a major tourist attraction. I request my Government to provide some grant from the Centre for its development. We would like to work with the Union Government in this regard.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Delhi wished to move forward a hundred steps, but the Government of the last 15 years and the Government of 50 days pushed it back by 50 to 100 steps. Now, we must move forward by 150 to 200 steps. They criticise us, and we respect their criticism, but please just tell me why their criticism is focused on the education sector and the power sector. We have been here for only two months. What did they do during those 15 years? At least we have taken some steps. We have taken steps for 20 schools, we have taken steps to grant ₹500 crores for electricity, we have taken steps of providing ₹200 crores for water. Even a journey of thousands of kilometres begins with the first step, and we have already taken that step, and we can say with conviction that now Delhi will smile. We have taken that step. If they could not take that step, it is not our fault. If Pappu does not pass, that is certainly not our mistake.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much. I rise to speak on behalf of the Aam Aadmi Party to oppose the Delhi Budget.

16. 03 hrs.

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

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I shall begin first with the Congress. In Delhi's politics, Congress was active for 15 years; but now, it is not active at all. For 15 years, Congress was in power, but today, it is better that Congress should refrain from speaking about Delhi's budget. No one should have any objection to that - neither the public, nor the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* There was a time when the Congress ruled Delhi for 15 years. Now the time has come when even a mother in Delhi can tell her child the story that once there was a Congress.

Shri Hooda Saheb was speaking about what the consequences would be here or there. But before foretelling the fate of others, the Congress leaders should first count their own MLAs here - how many of them are left. Shri Lalu ji has more children than the number of MLAs Congress has. In my view, instead of speaking about the fate of others, they should first look within their own homes and their own generation. Our Aam Aadmi Party was in power in Delhi for only 49 days, whereas they ruled for 15 years. Before that, Sahib Singh Verma and the BJP Government were also in power in Delhi. When I was listening to the Budget presented by Shri Jaitley, it seemed to me as though it had been written by Smt. Sheila Dikshit herself and Shri Jaitley was only reading it aloud. It is, in fact, exact the same budget. This is an old matter which is still being discussed. The torn and faded posters of the BJP promising a 30 per cent reduction in electricity charges are still hanging across Delhi. Thereafter, yet another manifesto appeared, again promising a 30 per cent reduction in power tariffs. But what did they actually do? They withdrew even the subsidy that the Aam Aadmi Party had provided. Subsequently, electricity tariffs were increased twice, and then they tried to placate the people with a lollipop of ₹260 crore, claiming that they had reduced rates. They made complicated calculations and said that ₹1.20 subsidy provided by them amounted to 33 per cent.* I really do not understand how were they calculating their mathematics. I have already asked them earlier—when are the *achhe din* (good days) going to arrive? ...*(Interruptions)* I cannot comprehend, Sir, how they keep speaking of sixty months, asking for sixty months ...*(Interruptions)* And then

* Not recorded.

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they shift the goalpost to the year 2022 ...*(Interruptions)* But if they were given sixty months, those sixty months would conclude in 2019 itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No allegation should be made by taking the name of any Hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: I am taking the name of the Hon. Member. He has given the figures. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The name will be expunged from the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: He is fond of coming here straight, and then apologizing, but what is the use of apologizing. The day he does not apologize two or three times, he doesn't feel his very presence in Parliament is of any use. ...*(Interruptions)* Chairperson Sir, please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly direct him not to disrupt me.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: His name will not be included.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: His name is Hon. * . * who has already apologized.

We had ordered a CAG audit of the power companies within 48 hours of Shri Arvind Kejriwal forming the government. What happened thereafter? The companies have still not submitted their books. Even today, they have not given the records. Their party is in power at the Centre, they control the MCD, and even have seven MLAs here. Why do they not direct these companies to hand over their accounts so that the audit of the power companies can actually be conducted by the CAG?

They claim that they have not increased any taxes. Several of their Members of Parliament say so proudly. But, Chairperson Sir, they cannot increase taxes at all. According to Articles 356 and 265, they do not have the power to raise taxes; they can

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only implement them. Let them demonstrate raising one tax if they can. Yet they start taking credit themselves. ... *(Interruptions)*

They had also spoken about introducing scholarships in sports, yet there is no mention of it in this Budget. These were promises from their manifesto. They had said an IAS and IFS academy would be set up, again, not a word about it here in this Budget. They had promised fifty thousand new jobs. People from across the country come to Delhi in search of employment, yet the Budget says nothing about jobs. On behalf of the Aam Aadmi Party, we had abolished the six per cent tax on farmers for selling their grain, but there is no mention of that here. Embassies and foreign missions are located in Delhi. Particularly the people from North India, especially Punjabis, come here in large numbers with their families to apply for visas. Yet there are not even proper seating arrangements or drinking water facilities for them. People waiting at the embassies are driven away like sheep and goats by the police, and they are forced to move back. Families with children and elderly persons come there, yet there is no arrangement for seating, for drinking water, or for even the most basic facilities. The Government does not even find time to think about them.

Jagat Guru Guru Nanak Dev Ji has written in the holy book Gurbani that “Pavan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahat” - he accorded the status of Guru to air, the status of father to water, and the status of mother to earth. Water has been accorded the status of father, and Delhi suffers the most on this account. There is a severe water crisis in Delhi, and mafias have grown powerful here. When the Aam Aadmi Party came to power, we had made 20,000 litres of water free per month for every household. The tanker mafia had reduced to a great extent at that time. But this Government withdrew that subsidy, and once again the water tanker mafia has become active., they have nothing to offer in this Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in conclusion, I shall recite four lines of poetry, because we have limited time here, and poetry is that very weapon with the help of which great truths can be conveyed

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in a few words. I have the utmost regard for the bell. Kindly advise them also to respect it, for they often disregard it and continue speaking for two to three hours. My poem is this, Delhi is saying this : “ Kabhi tamatar ne, kabhi pyaj ne, Dilli kha li Hai Congress aur BJP ke Raj me, mahangai ki maar se dukhi aam aadami, auto rickshe aur scooter wale, lekin baat hi nahin sunte lal batti aur hooter wale.” (Sometime tomatoes, sometime onions have consumed Delhi under the rule of Congress and the BJP, the common man, the auto-rickshaw drivers and the scooter riders are burdened by the weight of rising prices, but those with red beacons and blaring sirens pay no heed.)

Sir, in conclusion, I wish to submit that once it was said that Delhi belongs to the big-hearted people, but today, on seeing this Budget, it has become evident that Delhi has turned into the city of people having large bills. Here, the bills are so heavy that even hearts tremble before them. Therefore, to preserve the Delhi of big-hearted people, it must not be reduced to the Delhi of people having large bills. I urge the hon. Minister of Finance to take due note of these concerns and assure that if there can be any role for us in shaping the Budget of Delhi, we stand ready to contribute.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am going to speak on the Delhi Budget. I have come here after getting elected from North-West Delhi. I thank the people of my constituency. If there is any most backward area in Delhi, it is North-West Delhi, which I represent. There is no Metro, although the Metro has reached Faridabad and Gurgaon. Our colleague was about to speak about the problem of building by-laws, perhaps he could not. It is becoming very difficult to implement building by-laws in villages. It is a very big problem. I want to speak a little on the Budget, before discussing our regional problems. *[English]* I would like to speak very briefly on its financial implications. *[Translation]* Our Hon. Minister of Finance has paid greater attention to those regions where the need is the greatest. There is water crisis. *[English]* He has not only paid full attention to it in the Delhi Budget, but in the General Budget also enough attention was paid by him and Rs. 5,000 was allocated for making water

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available to Delhiites. *[Translation]* There is the greatest need to ensure proper water supply in the slum areas. One more significant feature of the Budget is that there is a huge problem of toilets in clusters and slums. Community toilets will be installed in all JJ colonies. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for this. 1380 low-floor buses and 400 cluster buses will be run. Earlier, 1200 buses used to run, now, if 400 more buses will be added, then there will be 1600 buses. Although it does not meet out the requirements, still, I think it is a forward-looking and quite a progressive step, given the situation. What we have inherited cannot be rectified suddenly, nor can we transform Delhi into the most beautiful city in the world overnight. *[English]* This will take some time.

Of course, 20 new proposed schools is a welcome step. It depicts that willingness is there. I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister for providing my North-West Delhi Constituency a medical college with super-speciality status. *[Translation]* I am very grateful to him that after a long time, a medical college is going to be opened in Delhi. *[English]* What was the pace of development during the Congress Government? *[Translation]* The colleagues sitting across should look within themselves and acknowledge that it is only after so many years that the opportunity to establish a medical college has finally come; had they remained in power, perhaps this opportunity would never have arisen. He has allocated a sum of ₹3,702 crores in the Budget for the transport sector. In my view, this is forward-looking and is higher than the allocation made in the previous year. For the water channel to be built from Munak to Haiderpur as well, considerable provision has been made in this Budget. *[English]* There is a proposal to make *pucca* parallel channel from Munak to Haiderpur functional after resolving the issues with Haryana, and very soon we will be getting safe water for meeting the needs of nearly 35 lakh people. We are going to fulfil the needs of 35 lakh Delhiites soon.

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[Translation]

Apart from this, the greatest problem of our Constituency, and indeed of the entire city of Delhi, is that most of the area is rural. The villagers there feel that the Government of Delhi or the elite of Delhi are rural-biased and therefore no adequate attention is paid to the villages. This is not our fault; it has been the fault of the previous Governments. I associate with this view. The condition in the villages is so deplorable that if water tankers do not reach, the people are left without drinking water. A tanker goes there only once a week, and the villagers have to sustain themselves solely on that supply.

I was referring to the Metro. The Metro is being extended to Faridabad, Gurugram and Palwal. Can it not be extended to Narela, Qutubgarh or Bawana? *[English]* This part is completely neglected. I would therefore suggest to the hon. Finance Minister to consider this demand of rural Delhi.

[Translation]

In addition, the Lal Dora area was last extended 35 years ago, while the population has multiplied since then. They are really living in very bad conditions and in very congested houses. The area of Lal Dora, which has not yet been increased, should be increased as the population has almost doubled.

Similarly, the farmers whose land has been acquired have not been given alternative plots in lieu of the land acquired. I urge the Government that this must be provided. *[English]* Builders or the contractors acquire huge tracts of land with the condition that houses would be provided to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society. *[Translation]* All the builders should be investigated. There is complete mismanagement in the matter of the Economically Weaker Sections. The poor are not being given their due, while the big builders benefit. I wish to draw attention to this. This corruption is going on for a long time.

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Our colleague Ramesh Bidhuri ji wanted to speak on Section 81. Section 81 provides that if a farmer does not use his land for three years, the Government takes it back. The farmers are in such circumstances that they cannot cultivate there, and their land is forcibly taken away. I consider it a grave injustice. This Section must be amended. They are really anguished. They feel that they are living in India, Parliament is located here, New Delhi is here, Karol Bagh is here - this is India. Their sentiments must also be addressed. I propose one thing. A Ring Road should be constructed around Delhi. It concerns the Government of India and the Ministry of Surface Transport because we should reduce the load within Delhi. It is overcrowded. If we have ever gone to Mayur Vihar or across the Yamuna, it must have taken us one hour to one-and-a-half hours, and we must have reached your meetings late. I am of the opinion that the only solution is to construct a Ring Road around the periphery of Delhi. *[English]* I find that as the only solution. Otherwise, there is no alternative. I will conclude very soon.

About 800 colonies are not regularised. The High Court had given a very clear-cut verdict that even though the colonies have not been regularized, basic amenities should be provided in those colonies. *[Translation]* Basic amenities include water, sewerage and roads, but even these are not being provided. I wish to ask, after so many years of Independence, if there is a right to birth, then do the people not have a right to live? Houses are demolished daily. Houses are built illegally, the MCD officials take money, the police are involved, corporators are involved, leaders are involved - this system is continuing. Where should those people live who come from outside to work here? If they have the right to give birth to a child and the Government does not take away that right, then at least they should have the right of two yards of land to live. This is the legacy left to us by our colleagues sitting on opposite side. It pains us greatly to see whether we are truly living in the independent India or not.

Several works initiated by respected Sahib Singh Verma ji are still incomplete. For instance, there is a sports complex in Ghevra where over one hundred acres of land has

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already been acquired, yet no work has started so far. I also wish to mention the Special Component Plan. When the Congress Government was in power in Delhi, they diverted ₹744 crores meant for the development of Scheduled Castes towards the Commonwealth Games. This itself shows their real concern for Scheduled Castes and the development of Delhi.

Sir, in my Constituency there is abandoned land. I request the Union Government to consider that there is immense scope for foreign investment there. DDA has acquired a vast tract of land, but that land is lying vacant. It is painful to see that miles of land are lying vacant. Neither the farmers nor the Government is able to put that land to any productive use. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Udit Raj ji, please conclude your speech now.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. UDIT RAJ: I want to answer one thing said by Shri Bhagwant Mann ji. ...*(Interruptions)* *He has been my junior. He was also an IRS and I was also an IRS. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please don't take anyone's name.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please don't take anyone's name in the discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. UDIT RAJ: Before forming the government, he had claimed that the electricity companies indulged in 50 per cent corruption. But once in power, he himself realised that nearly 80 per cent of the cost was price of the electricity being purchased by the power companies. Thus, he came to power by making false statements and could not prove that

* Not recorded.

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the electricity companies were engaged in 50 per cent corruption. What can these people say now?

With these words, I conclude my speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If anyone's name has appeared in the proceedings, please expunge it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson sir, about this so-called Budget of “achhe din,” I can only say that after Independence, it is the people from North-East India who have nurtured and shaped the life and pace of Delhi with their blood, sweat and hard work. If they do not toil, then the smiles and happiness that people enjoy in Delhi would vanish. I believe that if you add together the collusion of Delhi’s corporates, mafias, politicians and police, then it is this alliance that has looted Delhi, harassed Delhi, snatched away the life and rhythm of the city, and robbed the common and poor people of their happiness and smiles. This alliance of four has exploited the poor more than perhaps anyone else in this country. Therefore, I wish to say that in just these two months, if you see the statistics released two days ago - after the Nirbhaya rape incident, the whole nation was outraged, but since then, rape cases have increased by 35 percent. Recently, four cases of gang-rape have taken place. Those who shout slogans and boast about “achhe din”, do they not remember these rape cases?

Not only from the North-East, but students from different parts of the country come here, but they have to live in miserable conditions. Contractors of Delhi, lodge mafias and housing mafias exploit them badly, yet this has never been their concern. Today, from UPSC aspirants to ordinary people, if anyone has been beaten the most in Delhi, it is the hawkers, the street vendors, the fruit sellers, the vegetable sellers - those who deliver happiness to the homes of Delhi. If anyone has been exploited the most, it is these poor

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people. And, there is nothing in this Budget for them. Secondly, if anyone else has faced the worst exploitation, it is the students who come from outside to live in Delhi, who should have been provided with hostel facilities. Provisions should have been made for their accommodation, for drinking water, and for the necessities that give rhythm to their lives. Yet, nothing has been provided in this Budget. I would respectfully urge the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that those who repeatedly chant "Delhi, Delhi," must realise one thing. Within only five to ten years, the people of North-East India will demonstrate that this very Delhi - whose leaders and mafia nexus have repeatedly exploited them in order to occupy the Chief Minister's chair and hold on to power - will one day snatch that very power away from them. The people of Eastern India will hand over the throne of Delhi into the hands of their own representatives. If you do not think seriously on these matters, then within ten years, the hardworking people, who form more than sixty percent, will take forward the capital of this country, the very heart of India, Delhi.

Sir, I shall conclude with two or three points, since the Budget discussion is still before us. I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance towards the most pressing issue here - that of water scarcity. The poor people from North-East India come here every day, they toil here, they transform the lives of the people of Delhi, yet the largest nexus of the water mafia exists here. Issues relating to drinking water and sanitation are the most pressing ones, and I urge that special focus must be placed on them in this Budget.

My second submission is that under the leadership of Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Delhi had set an example before the world. People used to say that Delhi was moving towards becoming like Switzerland. I am not criticising this Budget. Delhi belongs to all of us, and Hon'ble Minister of Finance is making efforts to build a better Delhi, a more beautiful Delhi. I have not stood here to oppose, but I must submit that the Congress Government had succeeded in attracting the attention of many great nations of the world - America, Russia, Japan, China and the manner in which Shrimati Sheila Dikshit's government had

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accelerated the pace of Delhi's development, this government too should endeavour to carry it forward with the same strength. The fact remains that there is nothing in this Budget for the poor people from North-East India, nothing to safeguard their interests. It is necessary to see in this Budget how North-East India can be advanced, how the slum colonies can be further developed, and how Delhi itself can be taken forward. There is a need to pay attention to the industries located there.

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I express my deepest gratitude. It is indeed a historic moment for me. Never in my life had I imagined that I would have the privilege to stand in this august House and speak. I am a child from a farmer's family, who longed for a bicycle till the age of 28. Thereafter, through my journey in folk music, I also witnessed a better life. We, the artists, stepped forward from our homes at a time when this nation needed Shri Narendra Modi and the Bhartiya Janata Party.

At present, I represent North-East Delhi as a Member of Parliament. I am sincerely grateful to Shri Arun Jaitley Ji, who has presented such a Budget that has troubled our friends in the Opposition to the extent that they have labelled it as an "electoral Budget." In my view, the basis of their objection is that BJP is now taking charge of the very issues they had left unattended. I belong to a village located in Uttar Pradesh. It is due to the neglect by the UPA that people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand have been forced to migrate continuously. Now, when a Budget has been presented in Delhi that is truly responsive and beneficial for the people who have come here from outside to make a living, I fail to understand the reason behind such opposition. Whenever a government departs after ten or fifteen years, a new government comes with a positive vision, I fail to understand why must there be such resistance? I often think these convoluted speeches must now come to an end, and the real issues of the people must be addressed. The public will no longer be misled by hollow words of absconders. The BJP's resolve is to deliver action. The public will not be swayed by the conspiracies of fugitives any longer.

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...(Interruptions) Chairperson Sir, this is only the first Budget. Why are they already short of breath? The Budget presented by Shri Jaitley ji deserves respect. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I have two or three points which I feel I should place before the House today because my fellow Members from Delhi - Shri Udit Raj ji, Shri Parvesh ji, Shri Mahesh ji and Shrimati Meenakshi ji - have already covered most of the issues. I just have a couple of new matters that should be considered. In the last Budget of 2013–14, only ₹17 crore was allocated for providing toilets in slum areas. In this Budget, the Hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a provision of ₹35 crore. This shows his thinking and his preparedness to move forward in a new direction. During the election campaign, when we walked through the lanes, people used to raise certain demands. I would respectfully place them before the Hon. Minister of Finance. There is no playground, not even a single stadium in my constituency. If attention is given to this, it would greatly benefit the people of North-East Delhi. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in our area, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to consider this, as people have been consistently requesting for it. Since I am an artist, a singer, I began my journey as a Bhojpuri folk singer of India. I have also worked in cinema. Earlier, I could not believe that a Member of this House would give incorrect information here. But just now, one Hon'ble Member, Shri Sougata Ray, said that I do not spend time in my Parliamentary Constituency.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to inform the House that today marks 75 days since I became a Member of Parliament in the 16th Lok Sabha, and out of those 58 days, I have spent 58 days in my constituency. If this is considered too little, I apologize. I have been absent from Parliament for only three days. I would like Shri Sougata Ray to explain how he presented such information in the House, because the whole world is watching, and this amounts to a personal attack on me. I challenge that if my information of being present in my constituency for 58 days is proven wrong, then I am ready to accept whatever is said by him. I understand that many of us feel fortunate to be here, given the many problems our country faces.

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Irrespective of where the MP is from, whenever we go through any route, we keep in touch with the people every day and listen to their problems and issues. There are many such issues that we can raise in the House, draw the attention of the Government, and help bring about real solutions. ...*(Interruptions)* I will express my views briefly, because I do not believe in speaking at length. If my views are voiced here even through another MP, that is fine with me. All I want to say is – please provide livelihood, build roads, provide electricity, ensure water flows through taps, and understand the Budget presented by Shri Jaitley ji. After understanding it, please support it and let the river of love flow further.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): The Delhi Budget in my opinion is a missed opportunity and a betrayal of the Delhi people.

The most important point is that our Constitution provides for a State Budget to be passed in this august House but is this a healthy practice? Is this a practice which any person who takes pride in Parliamentary democracy should accept? I stand before you and ask the Government why it has taken the Government such a long time to decide whether they want to form a Government or whether the Government would want the Delhi Assembly to be dissolved. It is an unhealthy practice which should not have been continued. A Government which has been in power for two months should have taken this decision at the first instance.

Secondly, I would like to ask from the Government, quoting from their own manifesto, to which they are still committed, saying day in and day out that BJP is committed to giving Statehood to Delhi. That has not been mentioned here.

The third point is that the BJP manifesto talked about decreasing the electricity rates by 30 per cent. If competitive populism is good in elections, BJP should have continued with it. Why have they forgotten competitive populism after assuming power? Why

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have they not decreased the electricity tariff by 30 per cent? The AAP had done it in 48 hours. Why did the BJP forget this 30 per cent reduction promised in their manifesto?

When it comes to water, 1,100 mgd. is the demand but only 800 mgd. are being supplied. The Twelfth Five Year Plan says that 1,400 mgd. are required but there is no mention about it. How would you fulfil the water requirements when the Twelfth Plan says that 1,400 mgd. are required.

I would like to know from the Government whether for the development of Old Delhi, is there sufficient amount of fund allocated? How will Old Delhi be developed? Let me give a classic example. Places like South Extension come in Unit A; places like Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid come in Unit E. Why is that subsidy given to people living in Unit A areas? They do not require subsidy to be given. This has to be corrected by the Government.

The BJP manifesto talked about creating 50,000 jobs by making Delhi the new green capital of the world. Have you started any work on that? In your Budget, there is no mention about it. Your election manifesto talks about it but in your own Budget you have not even made a start to providing those 50,000 jobs.

I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Hon. Finance Minister and ask him why small traders and small shopkeepers in Delhi are being harassed day in and day out by VAT people. These are your own core constituency. Why is it that they are being harassed day in and day out? I was expecting the Finance Minister to increase the VAT exemption ciling from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore.

Delhi Police requires modernization and manpower. Neither in the Union Home Ministry's Budget nor in the Delhi Budget there is any mention about it.

Lastly, before concluding, I would have expected that the Budget would have talked about how to protect the heritage of Old Delhi but not a single mention is there about it. You have to protect the heritage of Old Delhi; unfortunately, it is not there.

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[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Hon. Chairperson

Sir, I am very grateful that a large number of Members of this House have participated in the discussion of the Delhi Budget. The question arose as to why this Parliament needs to pass the Budget of Delhi? Naturally, this is a constitutional compulsion. Delhi has a Legislative Assembly, Delhi is a Union Territory, and it has a legislative body that has the right to pass Delhi's Budget. But because of a constitutional situation that arose when a government was formed in Delhi for some time and that government could not last long. Therefore, Delhi Legislative Assembly is in a state of suspension. Until that political situation is resolved through a political process, where naturally only two possibilities exist: either a popular government is formed there, or the people of Delhi are given the option of elections. Until those circumstances are resolved, the authority to pass Delhi's Budget rests with the Union Parliament. It is because of this Constitutional necessity that we are here.

A lot has been said about Delhi here, Delhi has its own character. It is one of the oldest cities in this country. There's a rural part of Delhi where farming is now almost non-existent. This rural area has its own development and economic constraints. The demand for the extension of the Lal Dora area arises because it becomes a source of economic resources for those who have lost their land.

There is also the historic Delhi, which has monuments and the old city that was settled during the time of the Mughals, and because of that historic character, a distinct identity of Delhi was also formed. When New Delhi was made the capital city one hundred and three years ago during the British era, it developed its own unique character and was constructed in a particular way. After that, expansion began rapidly. At one time, people came from Haryana to Delhi for trade. People also came from western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. In 1947, during Partition, a large number of people from across the border

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settled in Delhi and its surroundings. After that, as the city kept expanding, there is hardly any state in the country from which people have not come here. Be it people from the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, South India, or the eastern states, what is called a cosmopolitan character, has emerged, making this city a miniature India. Hon. Sougata Ray was saying that there is a large Bengali population here, and they have a special contribution in the field of education. A large number of people teaching in the University of Delhi are people from there who had settled here.

Since there were more economic activities in Delhi, it was natural for people to come here in search of work. Now what we call the NCR is also developing. The nearby towns around Delhi, which were once considered small towns, have today become cities with global influence. Gurgaon, for example, grew from a small town into one of the most modern cities of the country. Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, and now Faridabad are also expanding. Development is also taking place towards Kundli and Sonipat. Hon'ble Deepender ji rightly mentioned the Bahadurgarh - Rohtak area, where there is good scope for settlement of Delhi's suburban towns.

The government's vision of 100 Smart Cities includes some entirely new cities and some expanded around existing smaller towns. Today, urbanisation and suburbanisation have become almost the norm, and this is also natural. Delhi presents two pictures. On one hand, there is the Delhi we want to make a world-class city. On the other hand, as many hon'ble members pointed out, there is another Delhi where basic facilities are inadequate, which is a matter of concern. Thus, two contrasting characters of the same city are visible. Keeping this character of Delhi in view, the Budget provisions have been framed. Compared to many other states, Delhi has an advantage because its strong economic activity ensures a healthy tax collection for the government. This year, Delhi's Budget amounts to ₹ 36,776 crore. Out of this money, an amount of ₹ 31,571 comes from Delhi itself, which is received as tax by the Delhi government. Some are non-tax revenue, some are capital receipts and the Union Government has to give a grant of only ₹ 3672

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crore. So, 90% of the money for Delhi comes to Delhi from its own resources. In this Budget, a provision has been made that we should improve all possible facilities that can ease public life.

16.47 hrs.

(Dr. M. Thambidurai *in the Chair*)

Delhi's debt-to-GSDP ratio is comparatively low, around 7.9 percent, whereas in many other states, it is much higher. The reason is that Delhi generates substantial tax revenue, reducing the government's need to borrow. The city has a well-developed hospital network, with both public and private healthcare widely available. Delhi has 32 multi-specialty hospitals and 6 super-specialty hospitals under the Delhi Government, with a capacity of about 10,000 beds. This year, the effort is to add 1,400 more beds and expand the healthcare facilities further. Additionally, in the coming year, a new medical college will be established in Rohini, where admissions of students are expected to begin from 2015. Among the areas reviewed, one is the South Delhi Parliamentary Constituency, representing the rural parts of South Delhi, from where Shri Bidhuri has been elected. There is no major multi-speciality hospital in that entire Constituency, and therefore, provision has been made to establish one multi-speciality hospital there. In addition to the thirty dialysis units already functioning in Delhi, fifty additional dialysis units will be made available under Public-Private Partnership. To address accident and emergency cases, one hundred and ten ambulances will be deployed on Delhi's roads, which will be available round the clock.

Apart from healthcare, in the field of education, there is a significant network of Government, Private, and Kendriya Vidyalayas. It has been noted that while the Government has established high schools for girl students in most of the areas, there are still two regions where such facilities do not exist; these schools will be provided there this year. In addition, land will be allotted to set up twenty new schools under the Delhi

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Government. Since people belonging to different faiths from all parts of the country reside in Delhi, it is essential to promote knowledge of languages other than Hindi and English. To strengthen this, academies for Urdu, Punjabi, and Sanskrit are being further supported, along with efforts to ensure the availability of teachers in these languages.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Please establish an academy for Bengalis also.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Dada, you were not here. While you were outside, I mentioned that the Bengali community comes here and teaches us. They are among the largest in our universities. ...(Interruptions) A new School of Planning and Architecture needs to be established, which is likely to be affiliated with the IP University. In addition, several social welfare schemes have been provided for in the Budget, including the scheme for food security. In addition, in Delhi, senior citizens between the ages of 60 and 69 years receive Rs. 1000, and those above 70 years receive Rs. 1500 as pension. This pension had been withheld for a considerable period, but now the number of beneficiaries has been increased, and provision has been made to ensure that 4,30,000 people in Delhi receive this pension. The Budget also provides for the construction of houses for economically weaker sections, the expansion of night shelters, and the strengthening of water supply facilities in Delhi. To ensure water availability, the parallel channel from Munak to Haiderpur is to be concretized, and the construction work of Renuka Dam project is to be undertaken. Efforts are being made to provide water and sewage facilities in unauthorized colonies wherever possible under this Budget. Additionally, nearly 500 drinking water ATMs will be installed across Delhi to ensure the availability of potable water everywhere.

Similarly, sanitation and sewage treatment plants have been built at several locations, and detailed provisions have been made within this Budget. Provisions have also been made for cleaning the Yamuna River.

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In addition to the expansion of Metro for transportation, provisions have been made for 1,380 low-floor buses and 400 new cluster buses for the convenience of the residents living in slum clusters. There should be a system for facilitating power generation and distribution. Delhi faced power shortages in the past few months. Electricity itself was available in sufficient quantities. However, the power distribution network, its infrastructure, has seen reduced investment over the past few years, resulting in weakening and cracking at many points. It also needs to be strengthened. In Delhi, 84% of the people will benefit from the provisions included in the Union Budget, particularly regarding the rising electricity rates. Through government subsidies, their electricity bills will be lower than what they were last month. Hon'ble Members who participated in this discussion have also referred to this matter. The Budget contains a detailed mention of all such schemes. I shall not go into all of them. I am deeply grateful to the Hon'ble Members who participated in this discussion, and I would only request them to approve and pass this Budget.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put the Demands for Grants (National Capital Territory of Delhi) for 2014-2015 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of the payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2015, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 13.”

The motion was adopted.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Demands for Grants (National Capital Territory of Delhi) for 2014-2015 are passed.

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16. 55 hrs.

DELHI APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL, 2014*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the services in respect of the financial year 2014-15.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the services in respect of the financial year 2014-15. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I introduce**the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the Motion for consideration.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the services in respect of the financial year 2014-15, be taken into consideration.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 30/07/2014.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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“That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the National Capital Territory of Delhi for the services in respect of the financial year 2014-15, be taken into consideration. ”

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

“That clauses 2 and 3 be added to the Bill. ”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed. ”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed. ”

The motion was adopted.

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16. 56 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, with your permission, I rise to present the 4th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

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16. 57 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Flood and drought situation in the country

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Item No. 15. Shri Yogi Adityanath to raise a discussion on the flood and drought situation in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Hon'ble Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to initiate this discussion on an issue of great national importance. The situation of floods and droughts in our country is one that we deliberate upon almost every year. I would like this discussion to reach some concrete conclusion. Water is the basis of life. Every year, the country suffers loss of life and property due to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, or tsunamis. Floods are not such a natural disaster that cannot be forecast. Instead of repeatedly spending huge sums on flood control with forecasting, if that money is systematically invested once, we can find a permanent solution to the problem of floods. For this, it is essential that, rather than merely focusing on flood control, we make effective efforts towards proper water management.

17.00 hrs.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi ji, this Government has completed two months, and immediately upon assuming office, it had to face the pressure of an insufficient monsoon. I would like to express my gratitude that the Government recognized this necessity and, at the very outset, initiated action to formulate effective schemes for the five hundred drought-affected districts of this country, holding several meetings at the Government level in this regard. However, there are certain issues that need to be discussed. At the same time in different parts of the country, while some regions

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suffer from the devastation of floods - resulting in large-scale loss of life and property, destruction of standing crops, loss of houses, and damage to livestock - in totality, widespread destruction ensues. Once the floods recede, they leave behind numerous infectious diseases, which in turn cause large-scale deaths. But we generally make arrangements for these things within the country only after a disaster has struck.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Yogi ji, please speak faster.

SHRI YOGI ADITYANATH: We don't prepare for it in advance. So, the current situation, I think Prof. Sougata Ray ji has just come back after having tea and coffee, hence, he seems a bit heated. But we have passed the Budget, and through it, we have given some energy to Delhi. Sougata Ray ji, we are coming to that point. ... (Interruptions) Sir, what is the reason that every year crores of rupees are spent on flood control, yet when we compare 1950 and 2014, we see that the flood-affected area has only increased? I believe there must be some flaw, because despite spending thousands of crores annually, the scale of floods and the damage caused by them has grown. In 1951, the flood-affected land in the country was one crore hectares. By 1960, it had risen to 2.5 crore hectares. In 1978, it reached 3.4 crore hectares and in 1980, it was four crore hectares, and at present it is nearly seven crore hectares of land that each year either gets flooded or suffers severe waterlogging afterward, damaging standing crops. This is the situation in our country. In the North-East, particularly Assam and its surrounding areas, the Brahmaputra and its tributaries cause devastation through floods.

Sir, 16 percent of the total land affected by floods in the country is in Bihar where rivers like the Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, and Mahananda are major causes of floods. Similarly, in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, floods occur due to rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, Sharda, Ghaghra, Saryu, Rapti, and many other smaller rivers, causing massive losses of life and property every year. Surely, the question arises whether proper management cannot be made so that when one part of the country suffers from severe drought, another, at the same time, does not remain submerged and devastated by

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floods? What arrangements can be made for it? I believe that through discussion in this House, we should try to find a permanent solution for it. When we consider the large-scale loss of life and property due to floods, I feel that climate change must be seen as one of the causes. At the same time, human-induced factors, especially the present unscientific approach to development, are also responsible.

Sir, this unscientific approach is evident in the way embankments have been built to control floods. But are embankments truly a permanent solution? Even before Independence, this matter was debated. A committee studied it, and even Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, was part of it. That committee concluded that embankments cannot be a permanent solution to the flood problem. Embankments may protect some villages and settlements, but those areas that fall between the embankments and the river remain unprotected. Secondly, the agencies involved in constructing embankments are steeped in corruption. For some government departments, floods have become a source of income. These departments wait for floods every year, not to address the suffering or compensate for the loss of life and property, but to profit through embankment projects. The construction is not guided by whether people truly need them, but by how officials can use them as a means of personal gain. I believe this has emerged as one of the main reasons for the persistence of the flood problem.

There is another problem with embankments. In North India, most rivers originate from the Himalayas. These Himalayan rivers carry heavy silt and soil along with the water. As a result, riverbeds are now filled with silt, and naturally, the embankments need to be raised every year or two. When water levels rise, the river's level rises too, and then raising the embankments becomes another challenge. But when an embankment breaks, it causes massive devastation and entire villages and settlements are swept away, leaving behind a scene of destruction. So far, no proper system or study has been undertaken to measure how much silt has accumulated in rivers - what was the level of silt in rivers in 1950 and what is its level today in 2014. Naturally, if riverbeds are filled with silt, the flow of water

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decreases, while the raised level of water creates a serious flood risk during the rainy season. Much of the so-called “flood control” through embankment construction has in fact been based on unscientific thinking, and this has become a major cause of the problem.

Secondly, after embankments are built, large populations get trapped between the embankments and the river. This can be seen in case of many rivers - Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Gandak, Kosi, Sharda, Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Many villages are located between the embankments and the rivers, but there are no effective protective measures for those villages. These populations, numbering in the lakhs, are left to face the fury of floods during monsoon. They are virtually abandoned to their fate, with no effective arrangements in place to protect them. This issue needs serious consideration.

Sir, climate change is also a major cause of floods. This year the monsoon has been weak, and it is being said that the El Niño effect is responsible for it. In a country like India, sixty percent of the population depends on agriculture and therefore, agriculture remains central to the development of the country. Although its share in GDP has steadily fallen and is now only about 14 percent, but even today two-thirds of India depends on agriculture for its livelihood. Most of these people live in rural areas, and even today irrigation facilities cover less than 40 percent of farmland. This means that over 60 percent of farmers are dependent solely on the monsoon. So, we cannot leave them at the mercy of monsoon alone. Leaving such a large population to the mercy of monsoons is like pushing them towards the edge of starvation. Especially in today's situation, to produce food grains for this country in the year 2005, India needs 25 crore tonnes of food grains annually. By 2050, the demand will almost double from the present one. If we do not provide proper irrigation facilities and do not double the present production capacity, then there is no reason why we will not fail to meet this requirement. When today's need of 25 crore tonnes reaches 45 to 50 crore tonnes, how will we meet it? Will we not leave a large population of this country hungry?

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That is why I had said that instead of flood control, we should talk of water management. I think that will be more important. Water management not only provides a solution to the problem of floods but also gives a way to solve the problem of drought. Therefore, proper methods of water management should be adopted. We need to think about this. By water management, where the natural flow of rivers should be maintained, there should not be very big dams which, especially in the lap of the Himalayas, can become dangerous, because the Himalayas are a young mountain range and rivers there bring huge quantities of silt. If we construct big dams, they will eventually get filled up with silt in some time. After that, what situation will arise? From the point of view of water management in that region, what measures can be taken is a very important issue, and it should certainly be discussed from this perspective. When we look at the situation of silt in rivers, I had the opportunity to visit Kedarnath during the tragedy there. I saw the situation there. More than a year has passed since that tragedy, but the Kedarnath valley and nearby areas of Uttarakhand have still not recovered. Despite many efforts, all the work remains incomplete. The Char Dham yatra begins for two days and then closes again for ten days. The reason is that we have interfered with nature, exploited nature, acted recklessly with nature. The destruction of forests, blasting of mountains for development, has made the hills fragile, and today we see its adverse consequences. We hear the same news again and again about the cloudbursts in the mountains. Clouds are regularly bursting in the mountains. Due to cloudburst, there is massive flooding of rivers and entire mountains are sinking downwards, carrying silt along. The towns and settlements near those mountains are facing these tragedies, and this should be a matter of concern for us all. That is why I said through you, that the causes are climate change, unscientific development approaches, destruction of forests, tampering with the natural course of rivers, and adverse effects of large dams. There are many reasons. When we are discussing floods and droughts, we must also discuss and study whether the ambitious plan of interlinking of rivers, envisioned by the respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, can help in

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solving these problems, and in that context, from where and how the required funds can be raised. Because, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has also said, and it has also been proposed in the Budget, that a scheme named Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana will be launched for every village in this country. We need to discuss how this ambitious scheme can help and how we can study it further.

Sir, the issues I was raising just now, the Himalayan region, which through its perennial rivers provides pure fresh water, drinking water as well, to a large part of northern India, show how important its role can be. This too requires discussion, and this issue should be a matter of concern for all of us. At present, a large part of the country is also facing drought. What is the current situation of drought? If we look at it, estimates suggest that about 2.61 crore hectares of kharif crop sowing area has decreased this time. That means, whether it is rice, pulses, coarse grains, or oilseeds, normally about 10 crore hectares of land is available for these crops, but nearly one-fourth of that has got reduced due to weak or delayed monsoons. Naturally, this will affect foodgrain production. It is estimated that India's annual foodgrain production is around 12 crore tonnes, of which rice alone is about 9 crore tonnes. This year, a shortfall of 3 crore tonnes is being estimated. If we look at rainfall, it is much lower than normal. About 45 percent less rainfall is estimated in North India so far and I think about 80 percent of the country's land area is currently in the grip of drought. The Government has made announcements and attempted coordination with States, but despite these efforts, a question remains that when some State Governments fail to provide seeds and fertilizers to farmers on time even during a normal monsoon season, can we really expect them to supply short-duration seeds to farmers when the sowing season is already over or nearly over?

This is a serious concern. In theory, one may say that farmers should adjust their cropping patterns accordingly, but in practice this does not seem feasible. Ultimately, it is the farmer who suffers, particularly under the grip of drought. If I take the case of eastern Uttar Pradesh, the data before me shows that against a normal rainfall of 201.7 mm, only

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160 mm rainfall has been recorded. In western Uttar Pradesh, where normal rainfall is about 153–154 mm, only 50 mm has been recorded. Similarly, Bundelkhand has received barely 32 percent of normal rainfall so far. This indicates that rainfall is down by about 25 percent in eastern Uttar Pradesh, 65 percent in western Uttar Pradesh, and nearly 35 percent in Bundelkhand. These figures demonstrate the dire condition of farmers in those regions. As for reservoirs, India has around 85 major reservoirs for water storage. At present, the water level in these reservoirs is also at its lowest level compared to last year and in a decade. As of today, they hold about 3,767 crore cubic meters of water, which is only 24 percent of their total capacity. If rains or the monsoon do not arrive soon, the situation will worsen further. I think, some agencies have conducted a survey in this matter and have projected that rainfall will be 80 percent deficient in North-west India, 75 percent deficient in Central India, and will be less than 50 percent in South India. Only north-eastern India is expected to receive normal monsoon. In other areas, it is 20 percent at some places, 25 percent at some places and 50 percent at some places. These signs prove that drought has gripped a large part of the country. In an agriculture-based country like India, if the farmer is not happy and the rural economy is not strong, then the dream of national development will remain just a dream. Agriculture still contributes about 14 percent to the GDP, and although its share is declining, two-thirds of the population remains dependent on it. We must think about how to make farmers prosperous, provide them facilities, and design effective programmes to protect them from drought and natural disasters. In this regard, the Prime Minister's Rural Irrigation Scheme is expected to play an important role in irrigating 60 percent of the country's unirrigated land.

Sir, there are many reasons for the low growth rate of agriculture in this country, the foremost being the lack of a basic infrastructure for farming. Even today, farmers in villages rely on traditional farming. They have neither new seeds nor modern techniques. Whatever technical knowledge exists remains confined to a few universities and research centres located in big cities and towns.

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Sir, we have to develop this basic knowledge structure from the agricultural point of view. Here, storage is also inadequate. Out of the 25 crore tonnes of food grains produced annually in the country, we have storage capacity for only about 3 crore tonnes.

Sir, Agriculture must become a priority sector for the government. So, we cannot allow 60 percent of our population to remain dependent only on the monsoon for irrigation. This issue requires serious consideration from that point of view. This is a matter of concern for all of us.

Sir, today the issue of global warming is being discussed and it is a matter of concern for all of us because it has altered the rainfall cycle. At present, our meteorologists are saying one thing – that due to global warming, the rainfall cycle has changed. The monsoon is already late by a month. If it continues to be delayed like this, how can we change the crop cycle? Unless studies are undertaken and arrangements are made at the Government level to provide facilities and support to the farmers in this regard, the farmers of this country will continue to commit suicide as is happening at present. In the last ten years, more than five lakh farmers have committed suicide in this country and such a situation is continuously arising.

Sir, I come from Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, from where I have been elected, is affected every year by floods caused by rivers coming from Nepal and the Himalayas. Rivers like Saryu, Rohini, Rapti, Gandak, Narayani, etc. cause severe floods and the area is always seriously affected. There is extensive loss of life and property. This matter has been under discussion since pre-Independence and in the year 1954, on the lines of the Central Water Commission, a Ganga Water Commission was constituted for this region. ...(*Interruptions*) It was then decided that with the help of the Government of Nepal, reservoirs should be constructed within Nepal to resolve the flood problem of this region and at the same time, joint water management with Nepal should be undertaken. In this regard, along with the various hydropower projects in the Kali, Karnali, Pancheshwar Kosi, Bagmati, Rapti and Ghaghra rivers, these schemes should be

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completed with a view to ensure adequate availability of water in this region whenever the people require it. Unfortunately, the schemes formulated in 1954, also known as 'Jalkundi Schemes', have not become effective till date.

Sir, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* When we have assembled here to discuss flood management and drought, I would like to say through you that this plan should not be limited only to the Minister of Agriculture but it must be prepared jointly with the Minister of Water Resources at the national level. The problem of floods, especially in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, must be resolved with cooperation from Nepal.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture hails from the State of Bihar. He is well aware of the flood situation in Bihar. Therefore, through you, I would request him as well as the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to pay attention to the schemes concerning Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Eastern Uttar Pradesh is one of the densely populated regions of the country. At the same time, it is essential to address various diseases caused by natural calamities like floods in that region. In this regard, solutions to these problems should be worked out through dialogue with Nepal. Along with resolving the flood problem there, there is a need to formulate a comprehensive policy for addressing the problems of floods and drought across the country.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We will continue this Discussion tomorrow.

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17. 30 hrs

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Irregularities under MGNREGS

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, we shall take up Item No. 16 – Half-an-hour Discussion. Kunwar Bharatendra Singh.

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH (BIJNOR): Hon. Chairman, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the very important subject of MGNREGA. Most of the Hon'ble Members present here represent rural constituencies. Our voters, by whose mandate we are here, are greatly affected by this policy.

Hon. Chairman Sir, all the Hon'ble Members present here are aware that under MGNREGA, workers come for work at around 10 o'clock, and before the work actually starts, they return home by about 12 o'clock. The entire work is merely on paper and fictitious. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We will continue the Discussion under Rule 193 tomorrow. We have now taken up the Half-an-hour Discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Hon. Chairperson sir, to emphasize my point, I would like to read in English some excerpts from the CAG report and the report presented after the rural visit by the members of the Planning Commission.

[English] From 54 days of work for household in 2009-10, it fell to 43 in 2011-12. Job cards were not issued for 12,455 households in six States. In 31 percent of verified

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Panchayats, MGNREGA Annual Plans were either prepared or prepared incompletely and incompetently. Only 30 per cent which is 39 lakh out of the 129 lakh total approved works were completed. Ninety-five lakh cases of wrong wage calculation have been reported and found in 18 States. 1.1 lakh cases of wrong bill amount for the purchase materials under the Scheme have been found. 14,764 duplicate job cards were found in Ranchi district of Jharkhand alone. 37,229 workers have not been paid unemployment allowances in two districts of Assam. 2,016 ghost workers were found in two Panchayats of Assam. States, prominently Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, do not maintain work inspection records. 18 to 54 per cent of the Gram Panchayats which were checked showed irregular MGNREGA records. 39 districts were never visited by the national level monitors of the Ministry even once between the years 2007 and 2011.

Sir, the Act guarantees at least 100 days of employment a year to at least one member of any rural household who is willing to perform unskilled labour for the minimum wage. This became a nationwide programme in 2008. It aimed at halving property from 1990 to the year 2015. In 2012-13, a massive amount of Rs. 40,000 crore was set aside to be spent in one year of this policy. No cost benefit analysis has been made. We do not know where this money is sinking, and whether the village society or the family that has been impacted got the benefit. No impact assessment was ever done either.

Therefore, Sir, three questions arise. How have benefits accrued to the eligible workers? Secondly, I would like to know whether these benefits have persisted overtime. Thirdly, how useful were the projects undertaken by MGNREGA?

Unemployment levels in rural sectors should have been reduced through this policy. However, unemployment on a Current Daily Status was at 8.28 per cent in 2004-05 and in 2009-10, unemployment rose to 9.4 per cent; of which 7.3 per cent was urban labour force and a staggering 10.1 per cent was rural labour force. There is a large part of the Indian labour force, which is underemployed.

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As we all know, in agriculture, most of the agriculturists and the children of farmers do not get employment. They are completely underemployed in looking after that small plot of land that they have inherited. Hence good implementation should have helped meet the basic need in rural India.

However, the figures given by the Government of India show disappointing performance with deteriorating figures. The average person days for household employment in MNREGA were as follows. In Arunachal Pradesh, in 2009-10, it was 14 but in 2011-12, it came down to six. In Uttar Pradesh, in 2009-10, it was 51 but in 2011-12, it came down to 30. The country average dropped from 46.83 to 32.

The country was assured that 50 million families could get employment at a cost of Rs. 40,000 crore. However, the Audit shows the sad picture. Completing 100 days of work was used to monitor this policy. In Arunachal Pradesh, in 2009-10, nobody completed 100 days of work. It was zero. In 2010-11, in Arunachal Pradesh, yet again nobody completed 100 days of work. It was zero again. In Uttar Pradesh, in 2009-10, only seven people managed to complete 100 days of work but in 2010-11, this figure dropped to 1.9. The data provided by the Government on a nationwide basis was as follows. It was 7.08 in 2009-10, which dropped to 1.39 in 2010-11. Similarly, the percentage of expenditure undertaken of Funds set aside in six years is as follows. In 2006-07, in Arunachal Pradesh, it was 18.27 per cent. But in 2011-12, in Arunachal Pradesh, it was dropped to 1.36 per cent. In 2006-07, in Madhya Pradesh, it was 87.30 per cent but in 2011-12, it dropped to 69.60 per cent.

The figures of Completed Work against Planned Work were as follows. In 2006-07, Arunachal Pradesh completed 18.27 per cent projects, which in 2011-12, dropped to 1.36 per cent. In 2006-07, Jammu and Kashmir completed 68.92 per cent projects, which in 2011-12 dropped to 39.66 per cent. As regards the overall national picture, in 2006-07, it was 47.15 per cent while in 2011-12, it dropped to 20.25 per cent.

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Sir, Clause 11(C) of this Act – Functions and Duties of the Central Council – empowers reviewing, monitoring and redressal mechanism from time to time and recommend improvements. Similarly, Clause 3(B) of this Act – State Council Functions and Duties – empowers it to determine works. But since most of the Councils are headed by officers, who are usually transferred at the whims and fancies of the State Governments and Central Government, who are not answerable to the people, little improvements have been made apart from the continuing terrible performance, which I have just spelt out.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please ask your questions.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am just concluding.

The Government should consider changing the heads of the Committees by elected representatives. We, the public representatives can do intensive monitoring because we carry on to visit our Constituencies and we do not get transferred. So, we can observe the durability of the projects and their cost effectiveness.

Assessment was done according to four criteria – average number of days worked per household, percentage of households completing 100 days of work, percentage of allocated funds spent and percentage of work completed.

The performance has been dismal. In the current Economic Crisis of high Fiscal and Current Account Deficits, the nation needs an efficient system, local participation of farmers, transparency; and public accountability has to be put into place to justify such huge national expenditure. People face the effects of recession, loss of jobs, shortages of income on one hand and lack of money and rising prices on the other. Just to give you a comparative, in the year 2011-12, Rs. 38,371.32 crore was spent on giving fuel subsidy. MGNREGA has Rs. 17,000 crore which is unspent. This amount alone is 44 per cent of the fuel subsidy. This itself has had a substantial effect on the village economy.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please put your question.

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KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Sir, let me complete. I have asked for the discussion.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have already taken 10 minutes.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Sir, the C&AG in 2013 had observed that there was rampant manipulation and no filing of muster rolls. The Block Development Officers, who are in-charge of this, were issuing cheques in their own names. MGNREGA is creating an agricultural labour deficit, especially during peak harvesting and sowing times. MGNREGA is turning into a sinkhole that is contributing to the fiscal deficit of our country. There is corruption at all stages. There is long delay in payments. The local officials and Panchayats are siphoning off funds earmarked for projects; and the project activity is dull. The workers are moving away from their mainstay of agriculture.

An officer has observed that projects of digging pits in the name of ponds are undertaken under MGNREGA but water from these pits evaporates and seeps very fast. Poor people cannot depend on Government for unskilled employment. This cannot be done in perpetuity and it is harming the farmer.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You tell me what you want. Come to the specific question.

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Sir, please give me only one minute more. Under the MNREGA, the nation's invaluable resources are being expended on digging and filling pits. This has been substantiated by reports of the Planning Commission as well as the Comptroller and Auditor General. Has MNREGA resulted in any improvement in the condition of rural roads in the past nine years? With so many Honourable Members present here, we can all attest that not a single rural road has shown meaningful improvement. Has MNREGA delivered any long-term benefits to the rural areas where it has been implemented?

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Sir, there are schemes to create ponds for leaseholders, but I would like to highlight the situation in my region, Western Uttar Pradesh. Scheduled Caste leaseholders are allotted only half an acre of land. Would they like to construct reservoirs in such small plots? There is no proper verification of the works carried out. Complaints lead to only a minor payment to the Pradhan for investigation, yet no genuinely useful work gets accomplished. I am concluding my speech with an observation by an economist.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up. It is not a debate.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: It is wiser to divert funds to better implemented schemes rather than stick with MGNREGA that is clearly a failure. On one hand, there is huge wastage of money and on the other hand, the farmers are facing the problem of shortage of labourers. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Next is Mr. R. K. Singh. Now, only Mr. R. K. Singh's speech will go on.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to only put questions. You have to seek only clarifications. The other Members, whom I am going to call, have to only seek clarifications to the Minister and not make a speech. Speech would not be allowed. Therefore, you put a question or seek any clarification from the Minister regarding this subject because it is Half-an-Hour Discussion. Only the initiator can take 10 minutes time. He can explain things. When we are giving the chance, others have to take one minute time and put a question to which you want clarification from the Minister. Do not give any speech.

SHRI R. K. SINGH (ARRAH): Actually, this discussion has been initiated on a Question which was asked by me. I was the original author of the question. But I had pointed out after the reply when I had asked my supplementaries, as the hon. Member

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before me said, out of the huge amount of money, which is being spent, most of it, in fact, 70 per cent of it is being siphoned off. *[Translation]* No tangible work is visible on the ground. On that day, we had asked the Honourable Minister how the massive expenditure under MNREGA, which is meant for rural development, is being misused. All Members are aware that there has been widespread misappropriation of funds under this scheme. What are the steps the Government is considering to prevent this? The Honourable Minister had informed us that it falls within the purview of the State Governments. Sir, through you, I would like to convey to Honourable Minister that according to the Constitution, MNREGA is a Central Act. The Union Government has the authority to frame rules under it. There is a Council at the Union Government level. Any corrective steps that need to be taken, must be initiated by the Union Government. It is incorrect to say that the responsibility lies solely with the State Governments. The action under this Act must be taken at the Union Government.

I am amazed that we all represent our Constituencies and are connected to the land. We all are aware of the rampant misuse. Yet, why no corrective action is being taken?

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What do you want to ask the Minister?

SHRI R. K. SINGH: I have already asked him.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): Sir, MGNREGA is protecting the dignity of labour. Labour is being guaranteed. During the implementation of the scheme, some lacunae, some defects have been noticed. I am happy that this Government is also going along the same path except that they want to create assets.

Sir, my question is about two major defects that have been noticed. The first one is dearth of technical and professional support in the implementation of this project. The second one is proper financial management. Very often, the money does not reach the

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workers. This Government is also committed itself for the implementation of MGNREGA but only with a different angle of asset creation.

We have noticed these issues and problems during the implementation of MGNREGA. I want to ask the Government whether they will try to regulate it so that it is properly implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, we are having a very important discussion on MGNREGA. Hon'ble Minister hails from Maharashtra, where significant work under MGNREGA has been done. However, today the biggest difficulty we face is that farmers are not able to get the required number of workers to work in their fields. Multiple departments like Revenue, Agriculture, Irrigation, among others, are involved under MGNREGA. I urge the Hon'ble Minister that there should be a single department entrusted with the implementation of the scheme. Even the small farmers working in the fields should be able to fully benefit from MGNREGA.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: After Minister's reply on it, we have to adjourn at 6. 00 o'clock because there is a training programme for MPs.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the primary objective of this scheme was to provide employment to people through digging of soil. The situation of the Gram Panchayats has become such that now there is hardly any earthwork left. Therefore, my humble request to the Minister is that just as 40 percent of funds are allocated for materials and 60 percent for labour, similar provision should be made for the use of machinery in this scheme. My suggestion is that machinery should also be utilized here. This scheme should not be discontinued under any circumstances. It must be continued.

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THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER OF SHIPPING MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI NITIN GADKARI): Hon. Chairperson sir, Hon'ble Members have offered valuable suggestions regarding a very important scheme of our country. This scheme is linked to rural development, agriculture and employment. The Government will examine all such suggestions with utmost seriousness. During the discussion on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, several Hon'ble Members have raised concerns about corruption, particularly highlighting the need for reforms and improvements in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Scheme.

Shri Kunwar Bhartendra Singh Ji, Shri R.K. Singh Ji, Prof. Thomas, Shri Janardan Mishra Ji, and the Members who spoke earlier, have all expressed their views, and the Government has taken note of their views seriously. The expectations expressed by the said Members - on how this scheme can function more effectively, how assets can be developed in rural areas, and how employment can be generated—are being carefully considered by the Government. It is true that in states such as Punjab, Haryana, parts of Maharashtra, and Gujarat, where agricultural growth rate, GDP, and per capita income are high, there is naturally a shortage of agricultural labour. On the other hand, in some states, there are certain tribal and forested regions, backward areas where poor people struggle even for food and livelihood. Therefore, the Government had mentioned all these things while introducing this scheme. Though it seems the then UPA Government could not deliberate on it as seriously as was needed, perhaps due to electoral compulsions. Hence, there have been some lapses which has led to some of the issues being raised before us today. I would like to assure the House that since the name of Mahatma Gandhi is associated with this scheme; the Government will not allow any obstacle. We will take full care that this scheme is not criticised. The Government is fully committed to ensuring employment for rural workers. Regarding the 60:40 ratio which Members have referred

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to, I acknowledge that this is indeed a significant problem. Since assuming this responsibility, I have had Members meet me regularly with grievances about this very issue. Just now, Shri Janardan Mishra Ji raised this very point. If value addition is to be achieved, the 60:40 ratio prescribed at the Gram Panchayat level has to be seen in that context. This scheme is an Act of Parliament, a duly approved law, and therefore we have carefully examined what powers rest with us or with the Ministry.

Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the Government has decided to introduce a slight change in this. At the district level, we are modifying the ratio to 49 and 51 per cent, so that better value addition may take place and more effective work can be undertaken. This new ratio has been approved for implementation. Now, Honourable Members may ask whether we can go beyond this. The law does not permit it. This is the first experiment being undertaken. If, even after this, Hon'ble Members' expectations are not fulfilled, they may certainly approach us again, and the Government will give it due consideration. Accordingly, now 49 per cent will be for materials, which earlier stood at 40 per cent, and 51 per cent will be for labour. Earlier, the ratio of 60:40 was applicable at the Gram Panchayat level. Now, it is being shifted to the district level. It will enable greater flexibility and remove difficulties faced in the execution. I would like to emphasize that my department is particularly focused on water conservation. Through proper management of water, poverty can be alleviated and the country can achieve prosperity. Our guiding principle is simple: use running water for transportation, conserve flowing water through dams or reservoirs, and let the stagnant water recharge the ground water. My department is placing great emphasis on this concept.

Therefore, I would like to make an earnest appeal to all the Hon'ble Members that water conservation programmes must be accorded the highest priority. In our country, while 15 to 20 per cent of rainwater gets conserved in ponds and dams, nearly 60 per cent of it flows away into the sea. Can we all save the water flowing away into the sea? If we are able to save even a part of this, there will neither be drought nor scarcity; wells will

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have water round the clock, and this will help eliminate poverty. In Maharashtra, an MLA from Congress has done a wonderful job. I had also written to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and the then Prime Minister about this. Shri Satav ji must be knowing this. The Congress MLA has implemented the much-acclaimed Shirpur Pattern at Shirpur, in Dhule district. In this project, existing natural drains were deepened up to 35 feet and widened, with due involvement of geology and hydrology. Some soil strata absorb water, while others allow it to flow away as it doesn't absorb water. By placing concrete T-blocks at the water-absorbing strata under the ground, the percolation process was increased three to four times. When I first visited a village in Wardha district, which is known as the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the people there did not even have proper clothing on their bodies. But after the construction of a nine-kilometre-long check dam, their poverty disappeared, villagers bought vehicles and Hero Honda bikes, and the wells got filled with water round the clock. Therefore, I urge all hon. Members to extend full cooperation in prioritising water conservation through the revised 49:51 ratio. With the help of this, villages will be freed from poverty and wells will have perennial water. Our Hon'ble Minister of Finance has proposed one lakh solar water pumps this year. If these pumps are installed, wells will have water round the clock. The farmers will get water and power round the clock, and the question of poverty will not arise then. Agricultural production will increase two and a half times, and the nation will march forward towards prosperity. Therefore, water must be put to its fullest use.

In order to increase productivity - both in rural and agricultural output - and to ensure employment for labourers for their economic growth, we must strengthen this system by focusing on minor irrigation ponds, canals, and other water resource works in the States. In Maharashtra, such ponds are known as Malgajari Talabs, constructed by the Government. Shri R.K. Singh has rightly said that we are permitting such works, and we have included these in the scheme for all those things. State Governments, too, are free to undertake them.

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Secondly, this is all about Team India. I am not blaming anyone, but when this law was originally framed, excessive centralisation of power was done and almost all power was vested in the Union Government, leaving very little authority with the States. Today, I wish to declare before this august House that if State Governments, while providing employment in agriculture or water conservation sector, wish to add new works in the 49 - 51 ratio, they will now be permitted to do so. This is my clear declaration today.

There is another important point. We have received 3,641 complaints so far. Basically, these relate to corruption. There has been misappropriation, manipulation of muster rolls, embezzlement of funds, and delay in wage payments beyond two weeks. Shri R.K. Singh is correct in saying that serious irregularities have taken place. Different types of irregularities have been committed. I, too, have been thinking of effective remedies. I invited the Director of Remote Sensing from Hyderabad and officers of the department of rural development, for a meeting. Two major decisions were taken during that meeting. First, we will deploy flying squads, because, as Hon'ble Members rightly said, it is our duty and responsibility to enquire and take strict corrective action. Therefore, we will implement it. Secondly, we must make use of the remarkable progress made by India in the space technology for monitoring the works being undertaken through the rural schemes. I had called the said meeting for this purpose. What struck me was that remote sensing could be a significant tool in eliminating corruption to a great extent. We are establishing a dedicated section for this purpose here in Delhi.

Sir, every work undertaken by the State Governments under MGNREGA will now be monitored through space technology from right here in this control room. The technology has advanced so much that even while one is walking on the road, remote sensing can detect the dress one is wearing. So, there will be a full-fledged monitoring room here and we will do the monitoring. I want to assure this House whosoever indulges in corruption or embezzlement shall face the strictest action.

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Further, a new technology - the Electronic Fund Management System - has been introduced. We are going to make arrangements to provide direct payment or wages to the workers through electronic fund management system using e-governance. There will no longer be any average delay. I assure you, Sir, there will be no delay, and even if by chance wages are delayed by two weeks, additional compensation shall be given. If any State Government fails to do this, action shall be taken against it, for there is no shortage of funds under this scheme.

I would also like to add that while many Members give suggestions about all these things, certain proposals are not feasible. Whatever is worth talking about, I will definitely do it. For instance, Shri Satav ji suggested that sowing of wheat and paddy and related agricultural labour should also be brought under MGNREGA. I must submit that this is not possible, for then the very purpose of the scheme would be defeated. However, where agriculture-related infrastructure is concerned - such as construction of storage facilities or other works benefiting farmers - those will certainly be undertaken. ...*(Interruptions)*
Sir, please allow me to complete my submission.

[English]

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): The workers who are working in the area of traditional industries like cashew, coir, etc. are facing a big problem. ... *(Interruptions)*

18. 00 hrs.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, now it is six o'clock. If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House till the Minister's reply, followed by 'Zero Hour' matters.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, now the Minister may continue with his reply.

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...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the workers who are working in traditional industries like coir and cashew are facing a lot of problems due to lack of employment. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Sir, I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that not only the State Governments but all of them, as representatives of the people, are welcome to give their suggestions on what kind of works should be taken up under MGNREGA. Our mind is open. Whatever suggestions are practical and acceptable; we shall adopt them and implement them. The very purpose of this Act is to bring value addition and to enhance employment potential. It is true, as has been pointed out, that under the earlier 60:40 ratio, funds were only being distributed without much value addition. Therefore, Hon. Chairperson Sir, I assure you that in this scheme, full monitoring will be done using space technology through remote sensing. At the same time, we will ensure that workers get their wages directly through e-governance and the Electronic Fund Management System and without any delay. We have also decided that if the State Governments wish to introduce new works, they will be permitted to do so within the 49:51 ratio fixed at the district level. Different States have different situations, and particularly the North-East has its own distinct needs. If new works for value addition in the rural and agricultural sector are proposed, beyond the 107 categories of works already approved, the State Governments have been empowered to add them. Any good suggestion given by Hon'ble Members will be considered, accepted and implemented with an open mind. Sir, once again, I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Members for participating in the discussion on a very important subject.

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[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, let us take up 'Zero Hour', Shri Vikram Usendi.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Minister has already given his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I am trying to seek just one clarification. ...
(Interruptions) I am sitting here very silently, and I never spoke. All I am asking for is your permission to seek one clarification.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What do you want?

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, Shri Gadkari has given a very long reply. But it is not correct to say that the MGNREGA was enacted only with an eye on elections or that it was framed in a very flawed manner. ...*(Interruptions)* That may be your perception, but the real purpose of this programme was to provide employment to agricultural labourers in the country who were not getting work. Many of them were compelled to migrate to other States. Therefore, this scheme was introduced so that they could get proper work and wages, and at the same time, the Government could also create assets. That is why works such as repairing and restoring water tanks, undertaking road works, and similar activities were included under the MGNREGA. ...*(Interruptions)* There may be shortcomings in its implementation, but that does not mean that the scheme should be scrapped. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, where has the question of scrapping the scheme come from? ...*(Interruptions)*

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SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Sir, let us start the Zero Hour.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There shall be no further discussion on this issue. Now, let us take up 'Zero Hour', Shri Vikram Usendi.

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[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise an issue during Zero Hour.

In Chhattisgarh, the National Highway from Raipur to Jagdalpur-Konta and Bhadrachalam passes through Kanker district headquarters, where the road is extremely narrow. It has led to frequent accidents and there is always traffic congestion. The demand for a bypass there is lying pending for a long time. Further, beyond Kanker, at Keshkal valley too, the highway is very narrow, causing long traffic jams. In public interest, a complete proposal for bypasses at both Kanker and Keshkal valley has already been forwarded by the State Government to the Union Government. Construction of these bypasses Kanker and Keshkal valley will ease the route from Raipur to Kanker, Kunda village, Jagdalpur, Konta, Bailadila and Bhadrachalam, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In view of the larger public interest, it is necessary to build this road. I, through you, would like to urge the Government to expedite the construction of these bypasses at the earliest.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to Bhagalpur, the silk city of Bihar, where lies Champanagar, Nathnagar, historically known as Champa - the ancient capital of Angadesh. It is here that the fort of Karngarh is situated, renowned in history as associated with the great warrior of the Mahabharata era, Kunti's son Angraj Danveer Karna. The antiquity of Karngarh has been mentioned by eminent historian Francis Buchanan and the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang in their travelogues. In 1970, partial excavation at one corner of Karngarh was carried out under the supervision of Dr. B.P. Sinha, Head of the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, Patna University. Several important artefacts were unearthed but, the excavation was stopped due to paucity of funds and it never resumed. The remains of the Sukha Minar, gateways, adjoining armoury, ancient materials, utensils, bangles, women figurines made of terracotta and ivory were discovered. Archaeologists have identified these figurines as depictions of Mother

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Goddess of Champa whose canonical interpretation has been done by Dr. Ram Chandra Prasad in his scholarly work Archaeology of Champa and Vikramshila. He has described them as the primordial form of the Adi-Shakti. Equipped with eight weapons around her head, this idea was later conceptualized in the modern Ashtabhuja (octagonal) form of Goddess Durga. If there had been extensive and thorough excavation, the ruins of the Mahabharata-era civilization would have definitely come out from the womb of Karnagarh and then the nation would have taken pride in its glorious past and the world would have looked upon this discovery with wonder. But, unfortunately, the Archaeological Survey of India has remained silent as though unaware of this heritage.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to immediately take cognizance of this historical site Karnagarh and after conducting a survey, direct the ASI to conduct a comprehensive excavation to ensure proper heritage conservation so that Karnagarh may be re-established as a national treasure of international repute. Further, in memory of Danveer Karna (philanthropist Karna), a grand Karna Stupa should be erected here as a unique monument for the country and the world. Additionally, a park should be developed on the southern side of the present CTS grounds, adjoining the site, for the benefit of local residents and tourists.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you Sir for giving me an opportunity today. This issue is not only of serious consequence for the people of my constituency in Mayurbanj and Balasore districts but it also exposes a very serious issue for the people of the country as a whole.

Sir, for the last three years, there have been as many as 483 incidents where the people of my area have been attacked by wild animals, mostly by elephants. For the last 11 days itself, six people have died because of these attacks. Why is there a menace by elephants and other wild animals? Why are they coming towards the habitations leaving

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the forests? The basic thing is that there is a dearth of food. There is no food in the forest, so the wild animals are coming and killing the people of our area. Those animals are also damaging crops and ransacking the houses. Now, the fundamental question is how to stop it. I urge upon the Government to take serious cognizance and address this issue so that the merciless killing of the people in my area is stopped forthwith and the remedial measures in terms of trenches, fences and structures are created immediately so that the merciless killing of the innocent people who are mostly tribal are stopped forthwith.

[Translation]

SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAWASTI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the problem of floods and erosion in my Parliamentary Constituency, Shravasti, which has assumed a very serious form.

Due to heavy rains in the Terai and hilly regions, the water level of the Rapti river is rising rapidly these days, creating a grave threat of floods in several villages of Shravasti and Balrampur districts. The rising waters are also causing severe erosion along the riverbanks. People of nearby villages are scared due to rapidly rising water level and erosion.

Since Shravasti and Balrampur districts lie along the border with Nepal, and the Rapti river enters India from Nepal, the primary cause of these floods is the sudden release of water from Nepal into the river. I would like to inform this House that such sudden release of water not only disrupts the daily lives of the people living along the riverbanks, but also devastates their standing crops. The expenditure incurred and the hard labour invested by farmers are rendered futile as their crops are washed away by the strong currents. According to the information from the Central Water Commission, the water level of the Rapti river is rising continuously at an alarming pace. Consequently, nearly 50 to 60 villages, including Andharpurwa, Gauhaniya, Ramgarhi, Baganha, Shikari

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Chaura, Kalkalwa, Virpur, Siswara, Kumhargarhi, Baranga and Laukiha, are under imminent threat of flooding.

Through you, I urge the Government of India to take immediate and concrete measures to control floods and erosion so that in future our farmers may not have to suffer such hardships. I further request that prompt relief be provided to the affected farmers through the schemes already being implemented by the Government of India. At the same time, I also demand that housing facilities be made available to the homeless families who have lost their dwellings due to floods and erosion.

[English]

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRI): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the important matter.

The residual State of Andhra Pradesh which has no Capital city till now, is suffering from a heavy financial crunch including power shortage. After bifurcation of the A. P. State, it has lost the major portion of its revenue. I strongly feel that setting up 1000 megawatt Solar Power Plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh is the need of the hour.

In this connection, the initiative taken by the National Solar Mission, which is promoting development of solar energy system in India is a laudable one. As the entire State of Andhra Pradesh is reeling under the power crisis, if Solar Power Plants with 1000 megawatt is proposed to be set up, it will cater to the needs of the people of Andhra Pradesh. I am also happy to note that Shri Arun Jaitley ji, the hon. Finance Minister has come forward and announced in his maiden General Budget 2014-15, presented to the Parliament that a sum of Rs. 500 crore will be set aside for setting up ultra-mega solar power projects in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir.

I would request the Central Government, through you, that such proposal for setting up of ultra-mega solar power projects to the State of Andhra Pradesh may also kindly be extended in the interest of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

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I would earnestly request the hon. Minister, through you, to kindly accord permission to set up 1000 megawatt solar power plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh by sanctioning adequate funds so that the people of Andhra Pradesh will not suffer from the power shortage.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the continuous targeting of the majority community through repeated incidents of communal violence in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, a major riot took place over the construction of a Gurudwara by members of the Sikh community, despite a court order in their favour. This incident led to the unfortunate loss of six lives. However, no action has yet been taken against the guilty officials or the miscreants who attempted to obstruct construction in defiance of judicial directions.

Since 2012, more than 430 riots have taken place in Uttar Pradesh. In 2012 alone, 118 riots took place resulting in 39 deaths; in 2013, there were 247 riots with 79 deaths; and in 2014 so far, 65 riots have already occurred causing 15 deaths. I, through you, urge the Government to take note of the fact that these riots are repeatedly fuelled by anti-national elements. These anti-national elements enjoy the patronage of those in power. I, therefore, would like to request that all such riots in Uttar Pradesh be thoroughly investigated and action should be taken to see to what extent the said anti-national elements have received the patronage of power. Further, I also call for an SIT inquiry into all these riots in Uttar Pradesh.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Jagdambika Pal and Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Hon'ble Member Shri Yogi Adityanath.

...(Interruptions)

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[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I come from Nalanda district of Bihar. I come from Nalanda district of Bihar. I wish to raise a very important matter concerning my Parliamentary Constituency. Nalanda district has created a world record in the production of paddy. However, despite this achievement, the condition of our farmers there remains deplorable. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The other Hon. Member is speaking. Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)... **

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Sir, due to severe changes in the weather cycle, timely rainfall has not occurred, and as a result farmers are unable to transplant paddy or sow other crops. With scanty rains, the condition of all villages in Nalanda is deteriorating day by day. Along with this, the water level is falling continuously. I may remind the House that in 2012, Shri Nitish Kumar, Shri Krishna Kumar and Shri Sumant Kumar from Nalanda district created a world record by producing 224 quintals of paddy per hectare, thereby establishing Nalanda's record in agriculture. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the grave condition of farmers there. I would like to request that

* Not recorded.

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arrangements for deep boring be made in every village, and hand pumps with deep borings be provided for drinking water.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Smt. Jyoti Dhurve is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): The cottage industry based on Mulberry silk, Muga and Riha is economically very viable and it is a very rich trade, giving lots of employment opportunities to the people. It also has got export potential.

Sualkuchi is a village in Assam, known as the Silk Village. 95 per cent people of that area are engaged in this industry. When Mahatma Gandhi visited Assam during the Independence struggle, he called it the Manchester of the East. Presently, this silk industry is in a dying condition. So, rejuvenating the silk industry is important. The Government agencies like the Central Silk Board, National Silk Development Corporation and Weavers' Training Centre should be very active and should be cooperative. It is necessary that urgent help from these agencies is needed to revive it.

In this regard, I would like to state that a few urgent measures should be taken to revive it. Firstly, duty-free yarn should be given to genuine weavers; yarn bank should be established; protection from big business houses and trade mark should be given to Sualkuchi trade. Moreover, easy loan must be given to the weavers who are engaged in this trade.

Another point is that protected market facility must be given to these poor weavers who are engaged in this trade in village areas. ... *(Interruptions)*

Revival and survival of this cottage industry is necessary because it helps the indigenous trade and gives employment to lakhs of people. ... *(Interruptions)* These weavers, who traditionally are engaged in this cottage industry, never go and beg for jobs elsewhere; they are engaged in this trade with their whole family.

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[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I wish to raise a matter of great concern which relates to lakhs of students across the country. These students should have been sitting in their rooms and preparing for the Civil Services Examination but they are being compelled to agitate in places like Mukherjee Nagar in Delhi, Allahabad, Patna and in the capitals of many States. Their parents had dreamt that their children, being intelligent and meritorious, would pass the Civil Services Examination and serve the nation, contributing to its development. But today, cases are being registered against these innocent students simply because they are raising their voice in a democratic manner that the CSAT system, which has been introduced in the Civil Services Examination, should be discontinued. After all, what is this CSAT? The Civil Services Aptitude Test includes a component of English in such a way that it has become extremely difficult for lakhs of students from Hindi-speaking regions. As a result, the share of candidates from States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, who once used to pass the Preliminary Examination or final exam in large numbers, has been consistently declining. Is it fair that a candidate, though bright and meritorious, is kept out merely due to the difficulty in the pattern of the examination system? It is not fair.

Finally, I wish to submit that the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had earlier given an assurance. On the one hand, the dates for the Preliminary Examination have already been declared, and on the other hand, despite the assurance given by the Government, no solution has yet been found.

Through you, Sir, I urge the Government that until a proper solution is arrived at, the declared dates of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Preliminary Examination should be postponed.

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[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: S/Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Sharad Tripathi and Vinod Kumar Sonkar are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having granted me time to raise a very important matter relating to Haj pilgrimage.

Thousands of Indian pilgrims perform Haj every year and the number of applicants for Haj pilgrimage is on the increase year-by-year. From the State of Kerala alone, 56,130 persons have applied for Haj pilgrimage in the year 2014. Out of this only 3,350 persons have been granted opportunity to visit Mecca. A huge number of pilgrims are awaiting the decision of the Government to increase the quota so that more number of pilgrims can go on Haj. The Union Government has got 300 seats for distribution among various States and the final decision has been taken on the first hundred seats. It is disappointing to note that not even a single application from the State of Kerala has been considered by the Government.

Considering the large number of applications from Kerala, I urge upon the Government to increase the Haj quota and help more pilgrims to go on Haj pilgrimage from the State of Kerala. Thank you very much. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You always quote rules when we wish to seek even small clarifications. I would like to know where the Cabinet Ministers are. ...*(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* What I want to say is that when it is our turn, when we want to speak, then you quote the rule that it is said in the rules.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: The Council of Ministers has collective responsibility.

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[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat. Just now the Cabinet Minister has asked for permission to go as there is a Cabinet meeting. She wanted to attend that meeting and that is why I have allowed her to go.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): The Cabinet Minister has gone there to attend a meeting.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You should remember this is how we can also embarrass you. We do not want to disturb the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise a matter of great importance. In my Lok Sabha Constituency lies the historic town of Kalpi, situated on the banks of the river Yamuna. It is believed to be the birthplace of Maharishi Ved Vyas, who was later revered as Jagatguru Shankaracharya and who composed the Puranas. In this Kalpi town stands a world-famous Sun Temple. While one such temple is at Konark in Odisha and another at Multan in Pakistan, the third is located in Kalpi. Astronomers from across the world visit this temple for their studies and research. This Kalpi town is also home to a unique minaret, similar to the Qutub Minar in Delhi. This minaret is locally known as Lanka and amazing images of serpents, the Nag and Nagin are engraved on it. It attracts lakhs of visitors. Those images of Nag and Nagin extend nearly 86 feet in length.

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Hon. Sir, there are many tourist places Kalpi. The Chandel dynasty had its treasury here. It is also the birthplace of Birbal, one of the nine jewels in Emperor Akbar's court, born in the Mirzamandi locality of Kalpi. He was born in a Brahmin family. His name real was Mahesh Das Dwivedi. Later, he was counted among the 9 jewels of Akbar. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Union Government that Kalpi is a wonderful town. It also houses a large paper mill. I urge the Union Government to declare Kalpi a central tourism site so that this town can be developed.

[English]

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Sir, I am very happy to give a report on Kendriya Vidyalaya located in Thanjavur Air Force Station, which comes under my Constituency, Thanjavur.

Thanjavur is the greenery of Tamil Nadu. A world-renowned big temple which is 1000 years old, is also located in Thanjavur. The integrated Thanjavur district includes Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts also and people living there entirely depend upon agriculture for their livelihood.

Presently, four Universities are functioning in Thanjavur district and students are pursuing their higher studies through them.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya located in Thanjavur Air Force Station is maintained by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi. Presently, more than 680 students are studying in the Kendriya Vidyalaya which is run in a temporary shed provided by the Air Force. Even though seven acres of land has been allocated in the nearby place, no permanent building has been constructed for the pupil. Every year teachers are recruited temporarily which hinders the improvement in studies.

Hence, I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to take necessary action for constructing a permanent building and for recruiting permanent teachers for the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Air Force Station, Thanjavur.

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SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Respected Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me this valuable time to speak. I would like to request the Government to establish a solar power project in Koppal Constituency.

Sir, it gives me pleasure that the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued guidelines for setting up a solar power plant with a capacity of 1500 MW. This is the largest tender which has been issued till now. Koppal is one of the highest solar radiation receiving areas of south-west India. Therefore, I would request the Government to establish as many solar power plants as possible in Koppal and nearby areas. I would also request you to provide solar motors and solar sprinklers to farmers for smooth irrigation. It would be a great favour for the people and farmers of Koppal.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the incident at Saharanpur, which has just been raised by my friend Shri Yogi Adityanath, is indeed a very serious and sensitive issue. Through you, I would appeal not only to the Government but also to all political parties that to ensure such incidents are prevented in the future, we must rise above party lines and formulate a clear policy. Whenever such riots take place, the situation in the country deteriorates badly. The Hon. High Court had given its verdict in favour of the Gurdwara Sahib, and the land was allotted to the Gurdwara. Yet, first the shops were looted and then they were set on fire.

Sir, through you, I urge the Government to take this sensitive matter seriously and please provide compensation to those who have suffered losses. They have suffered losses at least Rupees two hundred crores. The people who have done this mischief should be identified and strict action should be taken against them.

[English]

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to narrate the difficulties and troubles of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

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The attack of Sri Lankan Navy on the Indian fishermen belonging to the State of Tamil Nadu has become the daily news nowadays. Despite various efforts to bring this menace to an end, it still continues as a nightmare putting a question mark on the livelihood of fishermen. This endless misery creates an attitude of destituteness in the minds of Indian fishermen.

Yesterday 40 fishermen along with their five boats belonging to Akkaraipettai village in my constituency of Nagapattinam had been attacked and abducted by the Sri Lankan Navy. In addition to this, 20 fishermen with two boats have also been abducted by them.

Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on many occasions brought this matter to the notice of the Government and on 3rd June this year she requested in person that the Government should protect the traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay and ensure their safety and security which remains a serious issue because of aggressive posture taken by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Sir, therefore, I would also like to request the Government to take steps to get those fishermen released along with their boats immediately and save their livelihood. I would once again urge upon the Government to take effective steps to bring an end to such aggressive acts by Sri Lanka and ensure the safety of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay in future.

SMT. JYOTI DHURVE (BETUL): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you. I wish to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem in Betul. The work on the Betul-Nagpur NH-69 four-lane road is in progress. However, due to the absence of approach roads, connectivity issues persist. The approach road from Parmandal to Multai Bus Stand has not been constructed. The stretch between Mongia Nala and Nagpur Naka has also been not constructed. Several Gram Panchayats are facing great inconvenience because approach roads to this four-lane highway have not been provided. Moreover, the Betul–

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Machna bridge is in a damaged condition. A major accident was recently reported in a magazine where a young man lost his life after being swept away from this bridge.

Sir, through you, I urge the Union Government to ensure that proper approach roads and culverts are constructed at all such locations on the said ongoing NH-69 four-lane project. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak here.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHERI): Hon. Speaker, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of nearly forty thousand members of the Bot and Gurchhiya castes residing in my Lok Sabha Constituency Lakhimpur Kheri. Besides the border areas of Uttar Pradesh, these communities also inhabit Bahraich, Pilibhit, Lucknow and Kanpur.

Sir, their lifestyle, festivals, language, culture, education and traditions are akin to those of the tribals, and they are economically backward too. However, since they are not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, they are treated as part of the general category and are deprived of the benefits of reservation and other welfare measures.

For their economic, social and educational development and upliftment, it would be just and proper to accord Scheduled Tribe status to the Bot and Gurchhiya castes.

Sir, through you, I urge the Government to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the people of Bot and Gurchiya castes. I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this matter.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Sir, recently the Centre has announced its decision to set up new AIIMS in each and every State in the country in a phased manner.

In this connection, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has received a letter from the Union Minister of Health requesting the State Government to identify new locations for establishing AIIMS like hospitals in the State of Tamil Nadu. The State

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Government of Tamil Nadu has already identified the required extent of land at Chengalpattu in Kancheepuram District, Pudukkottai town in my parliamentary constituency, Sengipatti in Thanjavur District, Perundurai in Erode District and Thoppur in Madurai District where land with suitable road connectivity is already in the possession of the State Government and its agencies. Sufficient water and electricity are also available at all five places. They also have an excellent rail and air connectivity.

Establishing AIIMS-like institutions in Tamil Nadu would substantially augment the facilities in the State for providing quality medical education and also make available high-end tertiary level health care in the public sector to benefit the poor and middle classes.

Tamil Nadu has a proud record of speedy implementation of such projects. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the hon. Prime Minister on 20th July, 2014 to include Tamil Nadu in the list of States in which AIIMS-like institutions would be set up during the current financial year itself. Since Tamil Nadu was excluded in the first batch of six AIIMS-like institutions which was set up in 2012-13, I appeal to the Central Government to establish AIIMS-like institutions in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year itself.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Hon. Chairperson sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the House towards certain remote areas located in Jharkhand state and especially Giridih Lok Sabha Constituency like Tundi East, Tundi West, Topchanchi and Peertand where benefits of Indira Awas housing scheme are not being extended to the Other Backward Classes and Extremely Backward Classes. It is because one hundred per cent coverage has already been given to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the allocations meant for OBCs and EBCs are being returned unused to the Government of India. I, through you, earnestly request

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that housing benefits under Indira Awas, which are not being provided to Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries, must be released immediately, and the Government of Jharkhand should be directed to extend this facility to all BPL families across the State without any delay. I thank you for allowing me to raise this issue.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak here. Through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the electricity problem Alapur assembly constituency located in my Parliamentary Constituency. Our Sant Kabir Nagar Lok Sabha constituency is divided into three commissionerates and three districts. Alapur Legislative Assembly is located in Ambedkar Nagar district. When transformers get damaged due to fault in the power supply system, the people living in Raje Sultanpur town of the said legislative assembly are compelled to travel nearly seven kilometres to Ambedkar Nagar district headquarters for repairs, which causes them great inconvenience. Sir, I request through you that if a transformer repair facility is established at the Alapur Tehsil headquarters, the general public would be greatly relieved from the hardships they are presently facing due to the faulty power supply system.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is a State subject.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a. m. tomorrow.

18.38 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, July 31, 2014 / Shravana 9, 1936 (Saka).*

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