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Kartika 29, 1941 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Second Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos.1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 20, 2019/Kartika 29, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 41- Shri Gopal Shetty ji.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, we want to raise a matter... *(Interruptions)* There is discrimination against them. This issue is very serious. We want to raise this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. member, your turn has come from the lottery for zero hour and you will get a chance at that point of time. This is your right.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I have also given notice of adjournment motion and please give me a chance under that ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Will give you a chance.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: With regard to your privilege, I am providing you the opportunity after the Question Hour. Right? All the Hon. Members, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 41- Shri Gopal Shetty ji.

(Q. 41)

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Speaker, thank you very much. I am thankful to my esteemed opposition leaders who have maintained peace today. There is a very big issue in the country which is going to be discussed today. Not only me but the people of the entire country respect the three armed forces. We must do so because they do the work of protecting such a big country. The Prime Minister of our country has spoken about them many times. Not only this, he is the first Prime Minister of the country who celebrates Diwali with their family members every Diwali. While raising my issue, I would also like to remember Shri Nitin Gadkari ji who had expressed his feelings four days ago that Defence officials take eight years to decide on a file. I am associating this with this subject because my issue has not been decided for eight years and is entering its ninth year. After the issue of the Adarsh Society Building came up in

Mumbai in the year 2011, a circular was issued to stop all construction in the entire country.

Hon. Speaker, construction has not stopped for new work but as per the circular issued by them repairs have also been stopped. It's been eight to nine years now. I had discussed it here twice through the Private Members' Bill . Minister of State Shri Bhamre Saheb had replied on the floor of the House that we are withdrawing this circular. I would also like to remember Shri Parrikar who had issued the circular after five years and rectified it and talked about permitting all the people. One technical loophole left in it was that the Navy people again stopped the entire work as the number of stations of the Navy was not mentioned. The Prime Minister of the country says that we have to provide houses to all the people of the country by the year 2022. I believe that all the organs, arrangements and establishments of the country should follow the instructions of the Prime Minister. Despite this, the permission for repairing houses of those who had their own houses and were destroyed has been withheld. Many people have even died due to old age but permission has not been received till date. In the reply that has come today, it has been said that we are monitoring this.

Hon. Speaker, it has been eight years. Now how many more years will it take to monitor?

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please be brief. Try to ask your question briefly during the Question Hour and the Hon.Minister should reply briefly.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Member is saying in the question that eight years have passed but this issue is of the year 2016. When the notification of the year 2016 came, there was a notification according to it, but its implementation has been put on hold because some study is going on over it due to security concerns. We have sought opinion from all our forces upon which we have had eight meetings with the Hon. Defence Minister. Our effort is to get this work done in a fast mode. I think we will solve it at the earliest.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Hon. Speaker, I would like to say it very briefly and once again I would like to remind the Prime Minister of the country, he is also sitting here. The Prime Minister of our country has said "ek desh, ek kaanoon" (One country, one law). When we are moving forward with "ek desh, ek kaanoon" (One Country, One Law). Army personnel are giving permission, Air Force personnel are giving permission but Navy personnel are not

giving permission, how will this work? I want to ask the Hon. Minister that the Prime Minister's order and instructions are that one law in one country, so will you try to bring it into force immediately before the Session of this Lok Sabha is over?

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Speaker Sir, security has different meanings. I assure the Hon. MP who is speaking about the Navy that this issue is also at the end and all has been discussed about it and as I have said, the Navy has said that there is no need to change the guidelines for the year 2011. We want development to happen, whatever has to be done for this, the Ministry wants us to move forward with it. So, we want to resolve this issue as early as possible.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Hon. Speaker, I had to raise this issue with the previous Defence Minister of State as well. Now, we have our current Defence Minister here. There is a problem that we are facing in my constituency Thiruvananthapuram, where we exactly have a military camp. It is an extremely peaceful area. There has been no war since 1799. As far as I am concerned, it is inexplicable that people whose houses are within 10m are not allowed to renovate

them. If one day some house collapses on passing by citizens, we will have a tragedy of monumental proportions.

I urge the Government to kindly be reasonable about these matters to issue a quick list, at least, exempting areas that are not in high-security zones so that ordinary citizens can live their lives normally, repair their homes and at the same time ensure the safety of surrounding areas. We have been put into a position where there is a blanket rule, then court cases, further delays, and massive suspension. I think the result is that lots of innocent people are suffering because they do not have an opportunity to actually repair and reconstruct their homes.

I would urge the Government to have a flexible, humane approach in this matter. Let people do their normal work and by all means, in highly sensitive and high-security areas, we understand they need more time but this has been dragged down for three years and many, many people are in danger if this situation gets out of hand. I request for a reasonable response from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Speaker Sir, according to the guidelines of the year 2011, there is no restriction on repairing after taking NOC. So, I want to say and I have said earlier also that

whatever the issues are, we want development and that is why we have changed the guidelines two or three times. Whatever issue you have raised, you can get it repaired by taking NOC and one matter which is with everyone is whether to repair or do new construction, it is in the final stage now and as I said, we will resolve it at the earliest.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Speaker Sir, I support the question raised by my friend Shri Gopal Shetty. I want to inform you that there is a navy Nagar in Colaba in Mumbai which is a navy colony, and there are slums adjacent to it. There are slums on the cuffe parade also. MAHADA had built a seven-storey building and three of its floors are kept vacant to date because the Navy had objected. On the other side of the road are the buildings of forty floors each. But they are refusing to build a seven-storey building. Hon. Prime Minister has brought the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for the poor, in such a situation, if a house is to be built for the slums there then it cannot be built there because the Navy does not give permission. Therefore, on this subject, do not say that you are watching, you have to do it. You have talked about a law but the Navy keeps raising a lot of objections. Buildings of forty floors each are standing on the other side of the road and you do not permit the

building on this side of the road. The state government has constructed a building there. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, houses can also be built for people living in slums. So, I want to know from you, how much time will you take to decide on this?

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Speaker Sir, we cannot compromise on security concerns. That's why I would like to tell the Hon. Member that we will find a solution to this issue at the earliest.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Minister has said in his reply that he has identified 342 establishments of the Indian Army. But no Air Force, Navy establishments and other Army establishments have been identified. When this circular was issued on 21st October 2016 and the Indian Army is implementing it then why the Navy and Air Force have not identified such establishments since 2016? In what time frame will it be identified? Regarding this, the Minister is repeatedly saying that we will work on it at the earliest and discussions are going on over this. This circular was issued on October 21, 2016. After that, the Indian Army identified 342 establishments to be renovated or constructed. Similarly, Shetty Saheb or our other members who are

raising the issue of Navy or Air Force, when will it be identified within the time limit and after that when will action be taken on it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Rajnath Ji is on a foreign visit and Minister of State is responding. But still... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister Madam, I have information that you have to answer in place of Hon. Shri Rajnath ji.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker, thank you, Sir, since I handled the Ministry of Defence in the previous tenure, I want to put forth a few facts because this is a very sensitive matter. Since our Government is committed to development, also committed to urban housing, a lot of study has been done in the Ministry on this subject. I just want to say as an example that it is not that no permission has been given. Permission is given. First of all, I would like to clarify that in all the buildings which were already constructed before 2011, there are some repairs etc. going on in them. It does not come under the new policy. *[English]* They are already there and they can do their repairs in those buildings which have been constructed before 2011. *[Translation]* If we feel that no permission was given after 2017, this is also not true. Since 2017, in

Mumbai, a total of 22 proposals have been received, there is one under examination in that also. If permission has not been granted for some projects due to security reasons, that is a separate matter but permission has been granted for seven. I also have the list of those seven in my hand. *[English]* So, it is not as if *[Translation]* as has been said that we have been making policies for so many years but we have halted in between and we are in sorrow due to the obstruction *[English]* No, it is not so. There are projects which are getting cleared. *[Translation]* But when it comes to high-security matters, it takes time for consideration, study and inspection. *[English]* Yes, is being spent. So, I would appreciate it if the House could please take into consideration that Members of Parliament can meet. I have had at least six meetings to discuss this issue and all of that is now being almost nearing the stage of finalisation. *[Translation]* I would only request that we should have some patience at this time because there are sensitive areas within the city limits. *[English]* As hon. Member, Sawant Ji had raised issues regarding Colaba or areas like that, can we not please remember what happened in the Mumbai attack? These are the very places which are very highly exposed to the insecurities that can be attacked. *[Translation]* Therefore, I believe that intense deliberations

by the army and the Ministry of Defence should be undertaken to formulate some good policies on this matter, ensuring that occupants do not face any difficulty and at the same time, ensuring that national security is not compromised by suddenly evacuating everyone from there. That's why I believe, I am speaking with the list, but wherever they can give permission, they are giving it without any hesitation. But where you have to wait for the policy, have some patience, the policy will come.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: Speaker Sir, we felt that everyone in Mumbai would get relief and I felt so too after the circular was issued on 21st October 2016. I felt that there will be a relief because my own house is next to the Navy establishment and it seemed because of this circular that I am getting benefits. As Madam has said, I am not getting permission to repair my own house citing the reason of national security. Unfortunately, I am a Member of Parliament and my father was an officer in the Navy, now he has retired. My father was in the Navy and I am a Member of Parliament I am not getting permission to repair my own house due to national security. And the officers there give different definitions of national security every time. Like Arvind Sawant Ji said one building next to the Naval Colony has seven floors and the

other building has 40 floors, so everyone should get justice. Because of that national security, the definition that is created, is a fight between civilians and service personnel. We respect all defence officers and also respect national security. We are not going to come in the way of national security and will support it. But unfortunately, the officers sitting there are stopping this development by stating a different definition of national security and by citing a different law. The houses in Mumbai are in dilapidated condition. Buildings might collapse in Mumbai but they could have got relief through this circular. But unfortunately, no relief is being provided through this circular. Through you, I am requesting the Minister to please think a little about the definition of national security. Thank you.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Member to this matter. The height of a building is assumed to be 10 floors and that building is within the limit. Its shadow means those coming in the area of the shadow behind it will get permission up to that floor or less. If they are trying to make more than that then the process will take time. But there is no objection to making the circle up to the height of the radius within which the building is already built. But if they want to make more than that, then the process will take time. That's a

subject. Secondly, if there is a building on the flight line, according to the flight line it is scientifically said that you can build it only up to this height because there should be no difficulty in landing and take-off of flights. This will be understood if you read it in little detail. Hon. Member used a word to harass without any reason on which I want to object but there is no dispute. We all should also think a little for the country. Time is running out, I agree, but it is not the case that there is a dispute between civil, public, army, and defence ministries. There is no dispute. We are working to help but it is taking time, I admit, it is taking time. But please, no conflicts. Thank you.

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE: Namaste, Speaker Sir. *[English]* My question is this. By which time will the revised NOC guidelines come out and which are the guidelines that are being revised? Dhanyavaad.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Speaker sir, as I have said in the answer, the process is at the end. We will resolve it as soon as possible.

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK: Speaker Sir, we also agree with all the questions that were raised in the context of Mumbai and the Minister

has said that national security should be given priority. But how this ordinance is used, it does not permit houses in the area adjacent to the Naval Residence Colony. Where there is an ordinance depot or other issues of safety, that makes sense to us. However there are obstacles in the development of houses or slums adjacent to the place where they reside. I request the Hon. Minister that we accept the security issues that have been decided by the government's standards. But whether it is a rifle range or a naval residence colony, people living next to it should not be affected. That's our request.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Sir, we will think about it.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, thank you for allowing me to ask question.

Any discussion about the army should be done wisely by us, this is also the wish of the government and the entire country is unanimous about it. In my state Jharkhand, there is a different kind of problem after this circular. The army's establishment in Ranchi was earlier outside the city but now it has come in the middle of the city because Ranchi city has grown a lot after becoming the capital of the state. The problem of the army is that the land was on the lease and they did not renew that lease. The army lives in Ranchi illegally. Their lease has not been renewed for the last 25 years. We

built an airport in Ranchi and the route required to reach Ranchi airport was that it does not take 8-8 years, I kept visiting the offices of the government and the entire establishment in Delhi for two and a half years, and somehow after two and a half years we were given way. It is a vacant army land and we only needed a road of 60 metres. My question to the Government through you is that the problems like this, the problem like Ranchi, your lease has not been renewed, the road is needed to go to the airport, even after this circular, such problems arise. Will any kind of committee be formed regarding this or will the common man get relief from such problems?

HON. SPEAKER: Kindly let one of you provide an answer to the questions asked.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Sir, we will give priority to those issues which are of public interest or related to communal interest.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, the capital of our India is Delhi and there is also a cantonment in Delhi. As there's darkness beneath a lamp, similarly in the vicinity of Delhi Cantonment, which is under discussion now, there are several villages within the proximity of the defence establishment where there is no electricity. You can imagine that within the capital of

India, there is a defence establishment and within their area, there is a village where there has been no electricity since independence. People are going through very bad condition there. You can think about it. What's your opinion on this? You can speak on this later. If you don't have information, it doesn't matter. Would you like to find a way to resolve this issue? Please tell a little about this before the House.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Sir, it is our duty and we will consider it as soon as possible.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Hon. Speaker Sir, the people of Arunachal Pradesh play the maximum role in the Indian Army and Public Relations. Every year, a festival called "Friendship Day" is celebrated by the army and the public. It has been 11 years since this. After the 1962 War, as Indian Army came to Arunachal Pradesh from 1963 to 1964, at that time it was NEFA, the North-East Frontier Agency and as soon as the Army came, the public welcomed it and the public gave all the uninhabitable land to the Army. Till date, it has neither been surveyed nor compensated, be it Walong, Mesuka, Along, or everywhere, the public has nonetheless got the opportunity to do cultivation there. The entire army is extending. When Hon. Minister of Finance Sitharaman Madam was

the Defense Minister, I had also requested her and I have a request to today's Defense Minister also. As the people of Arunachal have welcomed the Army and given them cultivable land, for its compensation, when will you get the measurement done for the people of Arunachal to officially acquire it legally?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I would like to answer this because after going to Arunachal Pradesh, I discussed with the Hon. Chief Minister about land acquisition and its compensation in Arunachal Pradesh. As our Member of Parliament are aware of this, a lot of compensation topics have been sorted out, yet I believe that even today there are projects related to compensation on which the Ministry is considering them. I am aware that the Ministry is capable of taking its decision immediately and they are doing it. *[English]* But I can commit myself that I had gone there, sat with the Hon. Chief minister and cleared many of the compensations which were due for people of Arunachal Pradesh who have been extremely cooperative in many of the matters. I recognise their cooperation with the armed forces. But I had cleared many of them. The Ministry is working on the few that are left.

(Q.42)

***SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM:** Sir, what is the total quantity of nuclear fuel waste generated by Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant since the year 2013?

I would also like to know whether Environmental Impact Assessment has been done for the AFR of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant? I want the details.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the concerns of the hon. Member Kudankulam is one of the most important installations of the Department of Atomic Energy and it is a pride of place for Tamil Nadu as well. Actually, this concern arose because there were certain reports among certain sections of Media about waste fuel being deposited in the reactor and then Away-from-Reactor as is the procedure. But actually, what was not realised, even by those who sought to report it was that Kudankulam came as a result of an agreement which was very aptly accomplished by the then Government in 1988 with the Soviet Union. But after ten years, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the agreement was renewed again rightly so by the then Government in 1998. So, as per the agreement, which was finalised in 1988, the waste fuel had to be

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

carried to the Soviet Union. That was the understanding between the two nations. But after the collapse of the Soviet Union, in the year 1998, a fresh agreement was finalised with the Russian Government. The understanding was that it has to be deposited within India. Otherwise, possibly like Tarapur, we would already have an in-built storage facility as is being done in many of the installations now. So, there is no reason to also have any apprehension because this is an accepted and a very safe mechanism. For the first few years, maybe five to seven years, there is an in-reactor storage and then afterwards -- as you cannot allow the reactor to get filled up because then, it will stop functioning -- this fuel waste is carried. We do not call it as a waste because it is re-used also. So, it is carried to a place which is a little distant and as per the terminology of the Atomic Energy scientists, it is called as Away-from-Reactor storage, where it remains for as long as, maybe 40 years and it is kept deep down in the earth.

I may also add that India has also embarked on another programme which is called closed fuel process. We are pioneer in that. We are now also processing this waste fuel for reuse. So, the apprehension is unsubstantiated. Maybe, all of us have to join together to create more awareness among the common people about

the possible apprehensions that have been sought to be raised. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do you want to ask second supplementary question?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

***SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM:** I am asking as to where the storage is being provided.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to urge the House that there are some questions which we should not discuss openly in the House. Every Member has a right in the House and for this, there is discussion in the House.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, this is a sensitive question.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Baalu, I always permit you.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, he has the right to ask the second Supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You listen to me completely.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: In the House, you have the right to know everything, that is why this Parliament has been formed but when it is a question of the country, at least we should think about it here.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, all of you sit down. Right now it is the second supplementary. I was not interrupting them. I was asking for the next one. I have called him after requesting him.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Even though he did not want to ask supplementary, I have requested him.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, It's not your question. Sit down. I have not permitted you.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No Hon. Member should rise in the House whom I do not allow. I want to request again.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM: Which are the exact places the Government has identified for storage?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, the question is well taken and we must appreciate the concern of the hon. Member because he hails from there and he has to address the concerns of the people also. As I said, this is a part of the legacy of the two Agreements which were appropriately accomplished by the then Government, first in 1988 and then in 1998. Now, why this issue of storage has come up is that the in-house storage in that reactor is going to come to its full capacity by 2022. So, before that we are expected to make an arrangement away from the reactor. This process is called 'Away from the Reactor' storage. The exact location, as has also been hinted upon by the hon. Speaker, I may not

be able to identify for security reasons but certainly this is at a reasonable distance from the reactor. The reactor gets filled up and this is then stored for as many as, maybe, 40 years deep down below the surface of the earth by nearly 15 meters and then it can be used for recycling.

The second concern which the hon. Member may have is, which has appeared in a section of Media in Tamil Nadu, that it is going to become a dumping site for waste fuel from all over India. I want to use this opportunity to clarify that it is not going to be so. Please rest assured about this. It is because this is going to be a fuel-specific, even scientifically. So, any fuel which is carried from, say, Tarapore or from Rajasthan will automatically get rejected because the inherent mechanism which is being put in place is like that. So, let us be rest assured that this fuel will be again re-used for the same reactor which is working in collaboration with Russia.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister to please give this House details of the cyber security attack on Kudankolam Nuclear Power Plant. Is it true that the agency in-charge of the security, NPCIL, first denied the attack and then later admitted? Therefore, what steps is this Government taking to prevent future attacks and what is the source of this current attack

which media reports allege that it is linked to North Korea? It is highly unfortunate that when we talk about digital India and smart city that we cannot keep even our nuclear power plants safe from foreign attacks.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the concern of the hon. Member is very valid and of course, it has to be a unanimous concern of the entire House. I also cannot deny, as he has said, that certain clarifications, partly admissions, were made by the Department after they realised what had actually happened. But, I think, what is a matter of great relief for all of us is that, if at all, an error like this or a fault like this happened, it happened only in the internet circuit of the Administrative Block, not *per se* in the nuclear plant premises or the nuclear plant circuit. Somehow, it got projected in the media like that because of lack of understanding or, maybe, timely awareness was not imparted. But there is a mechanism in place to segregate the Internet and the connectivity of the nuclear plant from the administrative block. There are certain new mechanisms in place like hardened Internet, blocked websites, etc. So, it is inaccessible absolutely. As the hon. Member rightly said, and later on the Department also clarified, what had happened was only confined to the administrative office and that too has been taken

care of. Otherwise, we have in place, right from the beginning, a very secure, reliable and confident mechanism of preventing breach of our cyber security which, I think, is better than many other countries. We have Rapid Action Force in place. The alarm goes off immediately and usually, it is not possible to access the Internet circuit of the nuclear plant.

DR. T. SUMATHY (A.) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Sir, I would like to quote verbatim from the reply of the hon. Minister regarding this question. It says:

“Further technologies for separation, partitioning and burning of waste are being developed in the country which will further bring down the quantity of radioactive waste.”

Does it mean that it is still in the offshoot stage? I would now quote the second sentence.

“Considering the small quantity of radioactive waste, there is no need of Deep Geological Repository in the near future.”

I feel that it is unfair to decide about the necessity of repository considering the quantity of radioactive waste. Any day, an atomic reactor is like a Damocles Sword hanging over you. We have had the

worst examples from Bhopal. You have to take up this issue very seriously and provide a double guarded repository place for the waste and also take steps for construction of DGR without considering the quantity as a standard. I would like the hon. Minister to give a convincing reply to this question.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am glad that the hon. Member has raised this issue. I think it requires to be shared with the rest of the House. As she has said that I should give a convincing answer, I hope I will be able to convince her also along with the other Members. The point here is, the radiation which the hon. Member is possibly referring to is not something which is in the lethal or a virulent criterion. In some of the countries in the world today, for example, in France, they have nuclear plants in residential colonies. The safeguard mechanisms are so well built and when this issue came up in the House a few years ago, I did a small research to find out as to how many scientists in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre had actually died of radiation or fallen sick due to radiation. I took out the mortality list and found that there were hardly three or four untimely deaths. Out of them, two deaths were due to cancer which were not related to radiation.

In other words, what I am trying to say is, first of all, it is the responsibility of all of us to launch a mass awareness campaign that there is no radiation risk to health from nuclear plants because the mechanism is so built with safeguards. Otherwise, what is happening is, wherever we start a new plant or, maybe, try to use the exploration site for future prospects of building a plant, due to lack of mass awareness, there are certain kinds of apprehensions and resentments. And then political protests also come in. We faced this in Rajasthan and in Meghalaya of North East.

As far as the closed fuel processing is concerned which you are saying, the deposit is made deep down, maybe, 15 metres below the surface of the earth. It is something which has been practised, tried and found to be reliable after a number of years of experimentation. The atomic energy plants in India are following some of the most stringent methods of monitoring. Right from the time the plant is planned, even before the construction of the plant starts, there is a deep scrutiny done. During the construction, there is scrutiny every three months. After construction also, there is scrutiny every six months. There is a review after three years. Then, after five years, we have a mechanism to get it reviewed by external sources. We have Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. Upon that, we also then

allow it to be monitored and scrutinised by the International Board of which US is also a Member. So, I think, this is a time-tested phenomenon which is going on.

Secondly, I would like to tell the House as to why this apprehension comes in. I must appreciate the hon. Member. She was referring to some of the incidents which happened abroad like Fukushima and all. Those plants were located closer to what is known as the seismic zone/Tsunami zone, because of lack of experience of the scientific fraternity at that time. Whereas, in our case, for example, the Kundankulam Nuclear Power Plant, the seismic zone/Tsunami zone is in Indonesia which is nearly 1,300 kilometres away from it. ...(*Interruptions*) On the other hand, for the other plants which are located in the Western Coast like Tarapur Nuclear Power Plant, etc., the nearest point is in Pakistan which is again about more than 1,000 kilometres away. So, I think, that apprehension is also not substantiated by scientific parameters.

Therefore, I think, we should rest assured. Rather, all of us should try to create mass awareness so that we can go ahead with these expansion programmes. Now, we have brought the Atomic Energy Plants even to North India. Closer to Delhi, we are having

one in Haryana. So, I think, in that expansion campaign that we have started, mass awareness would be a great help.

(Q. 43)

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Speaker Sir, when the poor people of this country gets disappointed from everywhere the only place left to get justice is the court. The Hon. Minister has replied that more than 75,00,000 cases are pending in the court in Uttar Pradesh alone. The Hon. Minister has also said in his reply that there is a lack of infrastructure but some part of it is provided by the Union Government and some part by the state government. Some increase has also been made in the budget for the year 2014-15. Whether we will get to see any time limit regarding the 75,00,000 cases pending in the coming few years so that minimum cases remain in the court?

The second question is justice should be available at affordable prices and this is the priority of the Government. When the ruling party had campaigned in the last election and also it had been continuously demanding for twenty years that a person has to travel 800 kilometers from Saharanpur and Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh to get justice from the High Court. Whereas you can create small states in a day. A movement of people and advocates has been going on for a long time to open the bench of the High Court in

Western Uttar Pradesh in Meerut or Moradabad division, whether the Government is considering it?

جب عوام غریب کی ملک ہمارے صاحب، اسپیکر محترم: (امروہ) علی دانش کنور
 ہوتا کورٹ جگہ واحد ایک کی پانے انصاف تو ہے جاتی ہو **مایوس سے جگہ سبھی**
 سے 7500000 میں پردیش اتر اکیلے کہ ہے دیا جواب نے جی منتری ماننے ہے۔
 کہ ہے بھی کہا میں جواب نے جی منتری ماننے۔ پینڈنگ میں کیسز کورٹ زیادہ
 حصہ کچھ اور سرکار مرکزی حصہ کچھ کا اس لیکن ہے، کمی کی ڈھانچہ بنیادی
 ہے۔ کی بھی بڑھوتری کچھ میں بجٹ کے 2014-15 سال ہے۔ دیتی سرکار ریاستی
 ہیں، پینڈنگ کیس 7500000 جو گے کہ پائیں دیکھ ہم میں سالوں کچھ والے آنے کیا
 کورٹ کیسز کم سے کم سے جس ہے، سکتا ہو باؤنڈ ٹائم کوئی میں بارے اس کیا
 جائیں؟ رہ میں

کی سرکار ہے۔ ترجیح کی سرکار یہ ملے، سستا انصاف کہ ہے سوال دوسرا
 کہ رہی کرتی مانگ لگاتار سے سالوں بیس تھی، میں چناؤں پچھلے جب پارٹی
 پانے انصاف کا کورٹ ہائی کر چل میرٹھ اور سہارنپور اندر کے پردیش اتر مغربی
 چھوٹی آپ جب ہے۔ پڑتا کرنا طے سفر کا میٹر کلو 800 کو انسان ایک لئے کے
 کورٹ ہائی اندر کے پردیش اتر مغربی/ ہیں۔ سکتے بنا میں دن ایک ریاستیں چھوٹی
 اور عوام سے عرصہ کافی لئے کے کھولنے میں منڈل مراد آباد یا میرٹھ بینچ کی
 ہے؟ رہی کر غور پر اس سرکار کیا ہے، رہا چل آندولن کا ایڈوکیٹس

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker Sir, I understand the concern of the Hon. Member. This is also a Constitutional obligation. Our Government is also committed that justice should be speedy. My throat is a little sore, please forgive me. I would like to tell one thing to the House very humbly. Delivering justice is the job of Judges and the Government's job is to provide infrastructure. This is the primary basis of the Independence of the judiciary. The centrally sponsored scheme has been running since 1993. I would like to indicate a commitment to the House, 50 percent of the money given so far, has been given by us for infrastructure during the last five years of Hon. Narendra Modi ji's Government.

Hon. Members, 2278 courthouses and 1937 residential units have been built in your state. I agree that Governments have also been cooperative. At the national level, 19,414 courthouses have been built and 17,103 living units have been built. I would like to humbly tell the House what work we have done. The first instruction of the Hon. Prime Minister was to abolish the old laws. We abolished 1500 old laws. Secondly, the need to cooperate fully in providing infrastructure, we did that work. Hon. Prime Minister has instructed that technology should be used as much as possible. We

created the National Judicial Grid, which has a list of 12 crore decided and pending cases and a list of 10 crore orders and decisions. You can find out by pressing a button.

I would like to tell you what proactive measures we have taken. I still have the details of all the letters in detail. I ask all the High Court judges to please dispose off the ten-year-old cases immediately. *[English]* I have been writing to all the Chief Justices of all the High Courts of India to please expedite the disposal of civil and criminal cases. *[Translation]* Judges listen to PIL, they listen quickly, it is good, it is their right, even the poor go there. I have repeatedly told this to the Supreme Court and also personally. Today in the House, I would like to humbly request the Chief Justices of all the High Courts to take proactive measures and dispose off the cases older than ten years on priority. This is the first thing I want to say.

Secondly, we have done a lot of digitization, 16,000 crores cases have been digitized. This needs to be taken further. Hon. Danish Ali, for your information, I would like to tell you that 1 crore 72 lakh cases have been disposed off in Lok Adalat. I am the Minister of IT as well, there are Common Service Centres and I am running the program of pre-litigation advice through them. Hon. Secretary General was with me when we started work in the Justice

Department. Requests from more than one lakh people come here, we give them. We need to do more work; I accept it and this is our continuing effort.

Although the second question of the Hon. Member is not related to this, I still answer it. Uttar Pradesh is a big state.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Hon. Minister, please congratulate the High Court.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You have done many good things and you have done many more things also, that is why the result came. You leave it.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: It is within your knowledge, please congratulate.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: If you want to ask a structural question then ask and I will answer.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: You should congratulate the High Court, the most beautiful High Court has been built.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please do not answer any Member's question. You only have to answer Danish Ali's question.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member is a senior leader and has been a Chief Minister and now is a former Chief Minister, I have to take notice of him....
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody is senior here, all Hon. Members are equal.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Member, you are very right, this demand has been there for many years. Uttar Pradesh is a big state. I also understand the weight of this demand, but there is a constitutional process for this. The constitutional process is that the full court of the Principal High Court should recommend it and the state government should recommend it and provide infrastructural facilities for it. This work has not been done yet. As soon as this work is done, we will move it forward at a faster pace. As far as where the location should be, this voice comes from many places in the West, you people will have to sit together and decide.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Hon. Minister has said that there is a process for this, I know that this Government is so strong and Hon. Law Minister is so strong that if there is a wish then just simply give the High Court bench in Western Uttar Pradesh. Like in the last session you had brought a bill which was passed in the cabinet in the morning and it came after two hours. It depends on your willpower. My second question is that we know that there are Dalits, backward people and minorities in most of the jails. Does the Hon. Minister, the Government have any data as to how many Dalit people are imprisoned in jails, will you tell?... (*Interruptions*)

اس کہ کہانے جی منتری مائننے صاحب، اسپیکر محترم: (امروہ) علی دانش کنور قانون مائننے اور ہے مضبوط اتنی سرکار یہ کہ ہوں جانتا میں ہے، پرکریا ایک کی کی کورٹ ہائی میں پردیش اتر مغربی تو ہے اچھا اگر کہ ہیں مضبوط اتنے منتری تھے جسے لائے بل ایک آپ میں سیشن پچھلے جیسے جائے، دی دے ہی ایسے بینچ منحصر پر پاور ول کی آپ یہ تھا۔ گیا آ بعد گھنٹہ دو اور تھا کیا پاس نے کابینہ صبح دلت، میں جیلوں تر زیادہ کہ ہیں جانتے ہم کہ ہے یہ سوال میرا دوسرا ہے۔ کرتا پاس کے سرکار پاس، کے منتری مائننے کیا ہیں۔ لوگ کے طبقہ اقلیتی اور پچھڑے گے؟ بتائیں آپ کیا ہیں، بند میں جیلوں لوگ دلت کتے کہ ہے آنکڑہ ایسا کوئی --- (مداخلت)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not interrupt. Hon. Minister is capable and has been the Minister of this department many times.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, do not speak while sitting.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, I would like to tell this House very humbly that the constitutional thinking of India has not yet kept caste in the control of crime and it is very good that it has not kept it, even if it is our government or your government. Whoever is a criminal is a criminal and we should not divide them into any community. But I take your point into notice. Our government's effort is to release those undertrial prisoners if they have completed more than 50% of their undertrial. This provision is also there and I write a letter to every Chief Justice for this. I have also said one more thing if the female undertrial prisoner has completed 25 percent of her sentence, she should be released, this is our continuous effort. We respect the importance of the rights of the undertrial and we want the justice system, the crime investigation system should run objectively and

without any pressure based on caste, community, or religion. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. During the visit of the Standing Committee, we had visited many jails. There we saw a lot of people who are without trial, who have been there for three years, four years, seven years. I would like to ask if it is found that he has no fault after seven years they will say sorry and let him go. But whose responsibility is it that the prime time of his life was spoiled? Please answer in specific one line who will take the responsibility of ending his life.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: One essence of the Constitutional Justice System of India is that if an allegation is made against you, the investigation is done, the police files a charge sheet, *[English]* the court found: “We do not find sufficient evidence to convict him or her.” This is a part of the judicial process. But I get your point that if one is detained for a longer period on a petty offense, bail should be granted. That point is well taken and I am already initiating the process in this regard.

[Translation]

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: Tell us about the undertrial.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You talk there first. You are such a learned professor. You take permission first.

[English]

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Sir, denied justice is equivalent to denial of justice. It is a proverb. It may be a proverb but as far as our country is concerned, I can say that it is a reality in our judicial field. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is taking into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Survey Report 2018-19 on the appointment of additional Judges to achieve a higher clearance rate and establishment of Indian Courts and services. Whether the Government is aware of the impact of a burdened Judiciary on the 'ease of doing business' in the country where the pendency of cases is adding to the economic slowdown?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, since it is a very important issue, kindly allow me to speak with a little elaboration. The mandate of our hon. Prime Minister is very clear that 'ease of doing business' must become important to our governance and, therefore, we have scaled more than 70 points in that process. The Commercial Court and arbitration institutions have been set up.

As far as the appointment of Judges is concerned, I want to tell the hon. Member that we have made 478 appointments of the High

Court Judges in the last five years. It is a record. The number of Supreme Court Judges has been increased. There is a need to expedite the appointment in subordinate Judiciary. We are emphasising on that. Coming to that process again, there is a case for All India Judicial Service. I have said earlier; I repeat it now. I want fresh talent of graduates including of the marginalised community. They must get space like IAS, IPS so that India has a robust all-India Judiciary to deliver justice. This is our very clear approach. I must acknowledge that some High Courts are opposed to it. We are in a discussion. Let me allow that process to continue. But justice delivery system is integral to also good governance. It is a part of our approach. Arbitration, commercial court, specifically the fact that India again is rising up in the ease of enforcement of contract, all this is a part of that process.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would like to take as many questions as possible, that is why I call fewer supplementary. Owaisi Sir is saying something while sitting on the seat. It is you who say that give as many supplementary as possible, then do not quibble because our effort is to take as many questions as possible because at eleven A.M. in the House, I had said that there should be

maximum questions and short answers, that is why I will take the next question after Vinod Sonkar and Manish Tewari. Shri Vinod Sonkar, please speak.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, certainly due to the efforts of the Government, the infrastructure in the court has increased very rapidly and adequate money was given to the Uttar Pradesh government due to which the infrastructure is increasing rapidly. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to know from the Minister that there are many convicted prisoners in the country whose sentence is almost completed or is on the verge of completion but they are suffering from serious illness and are incapable of walking. I would like to know from the Minister that whether the Government is taking any decision to release such prisoners who are suffering from serious illnesses like cancer and are unable to walk and are no longer capable of committing any such crime. Whether the Government proposes to release such persons?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: See, those who have been sentenced are not undertrials. Whether convicted people get parole or not based on medical condition is the right of the respective state governments. If they wish, they can get bail from the court and as per their medical condition can request that their sentence should be

reduced. This right does not belong to the Government of India. Since the execution of crime is a state subject, they will have to appeal to the state government.

[English]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Thank you, Speaker, Sir. The pendency of cases in our court system is a matter of serious concern. The Minister cannot get away by just saying that justice delivery is the job of the Judges and therefore the Government has no role in it. The fact remains that even today there are about two crore cases that are pending adjudication in our judicial system. The fact remains that in our High Courts, the pendency of the non-appointment or the vacancy is almost close to 50 percent. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister a very straight question. He has listed a series of initiatives that the Government has taken in the past five years. Would he like to enlighten the House as to what was the pendency in our judicial system in 2014 when they assumed office and what is the pendency in our judicial system as of today?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I will give that data to enlighten the hon. Member. You are a lawyer yourself. I never said that I would not fulfil what is my responsibility. But you will know as a seasoned lawyer yourself that hearing the case, deciding the

case, giving the judgment is the job of the Judges and it should not be the job of the Government. I am very clear about it. That is what the independence of the Judiciary is all about.

I have also said that we have made the highest number of appointments. We shall continue to make it. I have already said that 478 High Court Judges have been appointed; 34 Supreme Court Judges have been appointed. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have already told him that I will get that data and get back to him.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Don't answer every question. Answer what you have been asked.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Shri Manish Tewari, I will take that data and give it to you. I have everything available. I will write and send you a detailed letter. Are you satisfied now?

(Q.44)

[English]

SHRI N. REDDEPPA: Thank you very much hon. Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak about mobile services in rural and scheduled areas. As per the report, over 77,000 employees of BSNL have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The BSNL's total strength is 1,50,000. It means more than 50 per cent staff is going out. My question to the hon. Minister is this. How can the BSNL run with 50 per cent of the staff?

My second question is this. What are the steps that are being taken to overcome this situation? Is there any chance for any new recruitment to absorb the unemployed youth in the BSNL in the near future?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please answer in brief.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SANJAY SHAMRAO DHOTRE): Hon. Member has asked an important question.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, we were repeatedly asked in the House on the likely time for revival of BSNL and MTNL, we are trying to revive them... *((Interruptions))* Please remain calm.... *((Interruptions)) [English]* Sir, we are going to revive BSNL and make it profitable. I want to assure this house.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 45 to 60

Unstarred Question Nos. 461 to 690

* 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.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received information from Hon. Members on various subjects. Although these matters are important, there is no need to disrupt today's proceedings. These matters can be taken up on other occasions. Therefore, I have not granted permission for any Adjournment Motion notice.

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, papers will be laid on the Table. Dr. Jitendra Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Information Commission, New Delhi for the year 2018-2019 under subsection[4] of Section 25 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 752/17/19]

- (2) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Third Amendment Regulations, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 672(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th September , 2019 under article 320 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 753/17/19]

- (3) A copy of the Right to Information (Term of office , Salaries , Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of the Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission , State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners in the State Information Commission) Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 810 (E) in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2019 under sub-section (1) of Section 29 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 .

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 754/17/19]

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Item number three, Shri Som Prakash.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SOM PRAKASH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Registration and Licensing of Industrial Undertaking (Amendment) Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 637(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th September, 2019 under sub-section (4) of Section 30 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 755/17/19]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I have a point of order under rule 288. As far as the Business Advisory Committee is concerned, I am citing some of the points under Rule 288. Rule 288(1) says:

“It shall be the function of the Committee to recommend the time that should be allocated for the discussion of the stage or stages of such Government Bills and other

business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct for being referred to the Committee.”

[Translation]

Sir, BAC Committee meetings are being held one after the other and we choose the issues. The proceedings of the House has started but till date we do not have any list as to which topic is going to come here.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the report of the Business Advisory Committee has been laid on the Table of the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the report of the Business Advisory Committee was tabled in the House yesterday. Therefore your point of order is not accepted .

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, there is no business for the whole week, I am talking about that.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It has been kept for the whole week only.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, you had agreed about the association, but it did not come.

12.03 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 50th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on "Progress of implementation of BharatNet" pertaining to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SANJAY SHAMRAO DHOTRE): Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the table the statement on the status of implementation of the comments / recommendations contained in the 50th Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on "Progress of Implementation of BharatNet" relating to the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications,

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 756/17/19

12.04 hrs

**MOTION RE: EIGHTH REPORT OF THE
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented in the House on 19 November 2019."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented in the House on 19 November 2019."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now zero hour.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Your question has been listed for today.

... (Interruptions)

12.07 hrs

RULING BY THE SPEAKER

Question of Privilege

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Let me give you the ruling. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Let me give ruling for the privilege motion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN (CHENNAI CENTRAL): I have raised a privilege issue.

HON. SPEAKER: I have seen your privilege motion, I have received it. I am giving ruling for your privilege motion.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: This is a privilege not a Member. It is of the House. I am raising this because the privilege of this House has been violated. *...(Interruptions)* We have already given a notice. This is not of a Member but of the House.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I am giving ruling.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is mentioned in Kaul and Shakdhar, Chapter-11, Page No. 269 (English) and Pages No. 244 and 289 (Hindi) that the scope of privilege does not extend to criminal cases. Parliament cannot give even the slightest protection to any member from the criminal law process.

If a Member of Parliament is arrested in the administration of criminal justice, the arrest will not constitute a breach of the privilege of the House.

The courts of India have also confirmed the above.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I am not talking of the privilege of the Member. I am talking of the privilege of the House. The House should be informed. *...(Interruptions)*. All I am saying is that I am raising this ... *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: When a ruling is given then there is no discussion after the ruling. Hon. Member, you are a very senior member. It is written in the book of rules and procedures that after the Speaker has given ruling on any matter there is no discussion on it.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Adhir Ranjan, you speak.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Speaker, Sir, there is a point of order. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during ‘zero hour’.

[Translation] There is no point of order during zero hours. You are a senior member. You are the Chairperson who runs this House. There is no point of order during zero hour.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan's name is in the list and that is why he is speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Chair as well as the Government to the procurement of rice from the State of Chhatisgarh which has been in a distress condition because the Government has been willy-nilly denying the legitimate right of the State Government of Chhatisgarh. Chhatisgarh is recognised as the rice bowl of our country. You will be astonished to note that as many as 20,000 varieties of rice have been recorded in this region. It is by the sweat of those indigenous and especially, the tribal population, who have been struggling hard for centuries, that it was possible to maintain these many varieties of rice about which we can be proud of. [*Translation*] The priority of the states is to strengthen the farmers economically and make them self-reliant.... (*Interruptions*) For this purpose, in addition to the minimum support price, the state government has also started giving incentive amount

for money generation.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, is it injustice to give incentive amount? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have put forward your matter during Zero Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, the government do not buy rice from there... *(Interruptions)* There are many other states in India from where rice is purchased but rice is not purchased from Chhattisgarh.... *(Interruptions)* This rule was relaxed for the last two years, 2017 and 2018. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: T.R. Baalu, you speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, this government is anti-farmer. ... *((Interruptions))*

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri T.R. Baalu speech.

. . . *(Interruptions)* *

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, at the outset, I thank the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Sonia ji for having declared Tamil as a classical language. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi is a Dravidian major. ...*(Interruptions)* He was the most glorified leader of the Tamil world. ...*(Interruptions)* He donated Rs.1 crore for the Classical Tamil Award and for the development of Tamil language. ...*(Interruptions)* In 2010, a Professor of Finland has been given this award. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, what is it? ...*(Interruptions)* The House is not in order. How can I speak, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let the House be in order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Pandey, what are you saying? What are you talking about Chhattisgarh?

SHRI SANTOSH PANDEY (RAJNANDGAON): Hon. Speaker Sir, farmers have been cheated in Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)* Upon the arrival of the moment of demise, the individual is offered the sacred waters of the Ganges and the calf's tail is ceremonially held.*(Interruptions)* During the elections, the Congress party's agenda and manifesto pledged to prohibit the sale of alcohol

throughout Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)* They had promised to waive the debt of every farmer and ensured the purchase of each grain and seed of rice. ... *(Interruptions)*

The people of Chhattisgarh would like to ask them now. ...*(Interruptions)* They had sworn on the holy waters of the Ganges. ...*(Interruptions)* They had talked about prohibiting alcohol and debt waiver. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, I would like to ask in this assembly that you have talked about purchasing tendu leaves and sugarcane at a bonus of Rs.2,500 twice. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not try to trick the people of Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, the people of Chhattisgarh want to ask you why you delayed the purchase of rice for 15 days.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, I again request the government to relax the rules during the last year and procure 28 lakhs metric tonnes of parboiled rice and 4 Lakhs metric tonnes of arwa rice from our state of Chhattisgarh.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri T. R. Baalu.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir please say something

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No chance. Only T.R. Baalu ji's submission will go on record.

12.14 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary and some other hon. Members left the House)

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, the Tamil major, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has donated Rs.1 crore for the sake of the award and for the development of Classical Tamil. ...*(Interruptions)* It was to create an endowment award. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Baalu Ji, you sit down.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, I have to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to put my demand before the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, in 2010, out of the endowment of one crore rupees, a professor of Finland by name Askar Parpola was given the first Classical Tamil Award for the development of classical Tamil. From 2010 onwards up to this date, nine awards would have been extended to the scholars of eminence, but so far nothing has been done. Sir, 143

permanent posts have been sanctioned by the Government of India, but not even a single post has been filled till now. The Government of India has deserted the institution. It is defunct now. There is no Director; there is no Registrar; and there is no Financial Advisor. There is not even a single person in permanent position.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member no, not you.

[English]

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, kindly give me two minutes. Honourable Speaker, Sir, what is this? Sir, I am not talking for hours together. Sir, my leader Dr. Stalin appreciates our Prime Minister, whenever he tours abroad or India, glorifies Tamil, citing Thiruvalluvar, Kaniyan Pungundranar, Thirukkural and Purananuru and so on. But what is the reality? Sir, it is not fair. You are very generous now-a-days, but I do not know what has happened today. Sir, you asked me to speak and I have to mention my demand to the Government of India. Dear Sir, what I suggest is that the reality is something else.

HON. SPEAKER: No political allegation; please . Put your topic.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, the people belonging to the BJP are saffronising Thiruvalluvar in Chennai.

HON. SPEAKER: No. Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya.

SHRI T. R. BAALU: Sir, my demand is to see that the ruling party comes forward to sanction all the 143 permanent posts, and awards in the name of Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA (RAJKOT): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to Rajkot in the Saurashtra region. Rajkot is the main industrial area of Saurashtra and accounts for 35% of the population of Gujarat. Rajkot is an industrial city compared to other areas of Gujarat and plays a major role in automobile, jewellery, tiles, watches and food processing. In this region, the main attractions are the Gir Forest, known for its wildlife and the historic Somnath and Dwarkadhish Temples. This region attracts everyone's attention due to the aforementioned activities. In addition, activities such as projects, business meetings and religious events are also progressively increasing in this region.

Hon. Sir, I request through you, for the construction of a convention centre and seminar hall to facilitate the aforementioned activities which will play a leading role in guiding all such endeavours. The construction of this convention centre can be facilitated at the NSIC Grounds. This convention centre should be

full of facilities like an auditorium, library, exhibition hall and food court etc. Finally, I would like to request you to intervene in this matter and consider to meet the aforementioned demands of the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Joshi is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya.

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA (MANGALDOI): Thank you very much, Sir.

"Dhanya-Dhanya Kalikaal, Dhanya Nar Tanubhaal, Dhanya Janam Bharatbarsh"

The contribution of the epoch-making luminary Jagadguru Shrimanta Shankardev to Assamese literature, culture, society, and spiritual life is unforgettable. He laid the foundation for a social, cultural, spiritual and economic revolution in Northeast India. To spread Vaishnav culture and Shri Krishna culture in North-East India, Jagadguru Shrimant Sankardev established Bargeet, Ankiya Naat, Bhaona, Naghar, and Satra and gave the message of brotherhood, social harmony, spirituality and cultural nationalism to the residents of the entire North-East India. In the 15th century, the renowned scholar Shrimant Shankar Dev introduced Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ji's Integral Theory, which states that:

"Kukur, Shrigaal, Gadarbharo Atmaram-Janiyos, Sabako Koryo
Pranam Koryo Pranam "

Means- the dog, the mole and the donkey all have the same spirit. Although Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was tasked with bringing the country together, it was Srimanta Shankardev's ideas and deeds in the 15th century that truly united the country. He visited the whole of India twice to enunciate these ideas and principles. Among the great saints who led the contemporary Bhakti movement in the 15th century, Indian nationalism was most defined by Srimanta Sankardeva. He said -

"koti-koti janmaantare jahar aase
mahapunya rakhi hi-hi kadasit
manushya hoy Bharat barishe aasi."

It means that after millions of births, a fortunate soul attains the opportunity to be born in India, reaping the fruits of accumulated virtues. He also said that-

"dhanya- dhanya-dhanya kalikal dhanya nar tanu bhaal dhanya
dhanya bharat barishe"

Srimanta Sankardev articulated the grand vision of Bharat Varsha.

HON. SPEAKER: Please put your demand before the government—what would you like to have done or arranged? If you wish, I can convey the request on your behalf.

SHRI DILIP SAIKIA: Sir, I will conclude in one minute. Regretfully, though, not much is known about this incredible man throughout India. Hence, through you, I humbly request the Hon. Minister of Culture to establish a Srimanta Sankardev Foundation in the country, similar to the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to ensure that the teachings and principles of Srimanta Sankardev reach not only the Northeast but the entire nation of India. Alongside, it is proposed that Srimanta Sankardev's auspicious birth anniversary be declared a public holiday under the N.I. Act nationwide, thereby honouring his ideals and principles with sincere reverence and respect.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, during Zero Hour, present the matter on which you want to draw the government's attention in the House briefly and concisely so that the government and the people of the country can understand your matter. That's my request to you. Shri C.P. Joshi is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Dilip Saikia.

SHRI RANJAN BABURAO VICHARE (THANE): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise an important matter related to my Parliamentary Constituency, Thane during Zero Hour. Sir, Thane railway station is a historic railway station. From here, the country's first train ran between Bori Bunder and Thane on April 16, 1853. This station is about 166 years old. Here, more than eight lakh passengers commute daily, resulting in heavy crowds during morning and evening rush hours. About five months ago, I visited the station on June 30, 2019 and found that the current building of this station has deteriorated due to being nearly fifty years old. Cracks have also appeared in several places in the building posing a risk of collapse at any time.

Through you, I humbly urge the Hon. Railway Minister to provide necessary directives to the relevant department for the demolition of the dilapidated old building of Thane Railway Station and the construction of a new modern structure in its place, incorporating offices, waiting rooms, and museum.

SHRI RAMDAS TADAS (WARDHA): Hon. Speaker Sir, through the house, I wish to attract the attention of the Hon. Textile Minister to the procurement of cotton, whereby the Union Government has set the MSP for long-staple cotton at Rs.5550 per quintal and for

medium staple cotton at Rs.5255 per quintal for the current cotton season 2019-20. The crop cotton, often referred to as "white gold" for farmers, is not proving to be profitable for them this time, as the Cotton Corporation of India, under the union government has not initiated large-scale purchases. Consequently, farmers are compelled to sell cotton at prices lower than the government-decided minimum support price, ranging from Rs. 4000-4500 per quintal resulting in a loss of over a thousand rupees per quintal for them. Due to the global downturn in cotton, the Cotton Corporation of India has set a target to purchase 20 lakh bales. To address this, it is proposed to increase the procurement target to one crore bales, ensuring fair prices for farmers and providing them with competitive rates in the open market as well. Due to excessive rainfall in many parts of Maharashtra today, farmers have incurred significant losses and with the imposition of the President's rule in the state there is an expectation for assistance from the central government. While purchasing cotton, on behalf of the central government the Cotton Corporation of India allows for a moisture tolerance range of 8 to 12 per cent. Considering the geographical conditions of Maharashtra, it is deemed necessary to increase the moisture tolerance to 15 per cent.

So, I request that the union minister of textiles to take a close look at each of the aforementioned issues and address them as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: C.P. Joshi is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Ramdas Tadas.

SHRIMATI QUEEN OJHA (GAUHATI): Hon. Speaker Sir, education in regional languages has not been implemented yet in the CBSE and Kendriya Vidyalayas in Assam. The local population in Assam has been advocating for education in regional languages for quite some time now but so far, no significant progress has been made in this regard. Therefore, through you, I kindly request the Human Resource Development Minister to ensure that education in regional languages is conducted in all CBSE and Kendriya Vidyalayas in Assam. I urge you to provide the necessary directives in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Abdul Khaleque is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shrimati Queen Ojha.

SHRI VINAYAK BAHURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Speaker Sir, through this platform, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism (IRCTC) had issued a circular (Rate Card) regarding the increase in food charges for long-distance

trains like Duronto, Rajdhani, Shatabdi, etc. for the passengers travelling on these trains. A Rate card has been issued and I would like to request through this zero hour that the government should cancel it.

Sir, you know that Duronto, Shatabdi etc. are trains that run two days a week through which lakhs of passengers travel. All kinds of passengers, including common people and those from the middle class travel on trains like Rajdhani. Speaker Sir, I want to inform you that the price of tea which was previously 15 rupees has been increased to 35 rupees. This is the price of morning tea. If the same tea is consumed in the evening, one would have to pay 140 rupees. The charges for breakfast has been increased from Rs.90 to Rs.140 and that for the lunch it has been increased from Rs.145 to Rs.245. It will be a heavy burden on the common man who goes by train in this economic recession.

I would like to request the government, through you, to promptly withdraw the substantial increase in food prices implemented by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation department. The railway minister needs to pay attention to this. Please give justice to the common man.

SHRI ARUN SAO (BILASPUR): Speaker. Sir, my area Mungeli is very famous for Guava i.e. Bihi. This area is mainly based on agriculture. The British government had begun construction on a railway line in the area but the project was shelved after their rule ended. Following the leadership of the esteemed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the concerted efforts of the then Chief Minister, Dr. Raman Singh, a joint initiative between the Central Government and the State Government was established heralding the commencement of railway operations. However, no progress has been evident in that endeavour over the past year. The people of the area are worried. This is a much-awaited demand of the people of the area. Through you, I humbly request the government to expedite the implementation of the aforementioned scheme enabling the populace to avail the benefits of railway services.

SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT (PALGHAR): Speaker Sir, the recent rainfall in my Parliamentary Constituency of Palghar, Maharashtra has resulted in damage of approximately 47 thousand hectares of agricultural land. As Palghar is a tribal area, it has suffered significant losses in crops such as nagli, vari and other produce. Farmers have been completely devastated by this situation. The cultivation of flowers is most prominent in Vasai and

Palghar. Farmers engaged in flower cultivation have also incurred substantial losses. Due to the rainfall, Maharashtra known for its highest production of chikoo has also experienced significant losses in its cultivation. The highest production of chikoo in the state occurs in Dhand. In Maharashtra, Palghar yields the highest fish production emphasizing the necessity to assist not only farmers but also fishermen in the region.

Sir, in the end, I would like to demand from the government through you, that you compensate the losses of the farmers affected by rain in Maharashtra with the amount of Rs.6 thousand per hectare given by the Central Government for Kharif crops which due to the President's rule is Rs.6 thousand per hectare; instead, they should be given a compensation of around Rs.25 thousand per hectare and instead of Rs.18 thousand per hectare for horticulture farming they should be given a compensation of Rs.50 thousand.

SHRIMATI GITABEN V. RATHVA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR):

Speaker, Sir, through you, I am going to present a highly significant matter from my Parliamentary Constituency which could provide a solution for the irrigation issues faced by the farmers in the Chhota Udaipur region. Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency is located in a mountainous and alpine region. Despite the presence of the Narmada

river there, farmers face a lot of difficulty in farming due to water difficulties. Additionally, the general public also has to contend with significant water scarcity issues. Sir, if we construct dams on the Heran river, Men river, Kara river, Orsang river and Rami river in my Parliamentary Constituency, it will help alleviate the water scarcity issue, thereby improving the water level in the surrounding areas as well. The extensive water scarcity issue will also be resolved. Moreover, the farmers in the talukas affected by water scarcity will also benefit from enhanced facilities for agriculture. As a result of this initiative, the groundwater level will rise ensuring the availability of water in wells and borewells throughout the year, thus fulfilling the dream of the government's ongoing scheme "Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Nal, Har Khet Mein Pani." Sir, through you, I appeal to the Hon. Minister to kindly consider the construction of dams on the Heran river, Men river, Kara river, Orsang river and Rami river in my Parliamentary Constituency, Chhota Udaipur. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit. P. Solanki and C. P. Joshi are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Gitaben V. Rathwa.

[English]

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):

Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I want to raise an important issue not for myself only. I am talking for all the hon. MPs, not only elected now, but also for those who are going to be elected in future including yourself, Sir! It will be useful to you and Ministers also. This is regarding MP Local Area Development Funds. ...*(Interruptions)*. Please give me two minutes. It was started in 1993-94 with Rs.5 lakh. Then it was increased in 1998-99 to Rs.2 crore. It was further increased in 2011-12 to Rs.5 crore. But for the last 7-8 years, there has been no increase. Sir, Dr. Kalaigarnar was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1988-89. At that time, I was an MLA. I was the first person to make the request in the House. Then Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaigarnar announced Rs.25 lakh for MLA Local Area Development Fund. Now, after 30 years, it is Rs.3 crore in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am coming to that point. In Kerala, it is Rs.6 crore. In Delhi, it is Rs.4 crore and is planning to increase it to Rs.10 crore. So, on an average, in almost all the States, they have increased it something between Rs. 2 crore and Rs. 10 crore. This is only for one MLA segment. MP constituencies are having in some areas like in Tamil Nadu six MLA constituencies, in Kerala seven,

and in some States it is eight. I would request the Government to increase the MP Local Area Development Fund to at least Rs. 2 crore per MLA constituency. This is a very minimum amount.

HON. SPEAKER: Next is Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, give me one more minute. The MLAs are having office buildings in the Constituency, but there is no office space for MPs. So, I request the Government to please allow Rs. 50 lakh out of the MPLAD Fund to construct an MP office in the headquarters of the Parliamentary Constituency. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Next is Shri K. Shanmuga Sundaram. Is he present?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Haji Fazlur Rehman.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Sir, one more minute. Out of this Fund, we have to spend nearly 22 per cent, that is, 15 per cent for SC; 7.2 per cent for ST; for a national calamity one can give Rs. 1 crore; and for State calamity one can give Rs. 25 lakh.

...(Interruptions) This money should not go waste. It should not be spent lavishly, and no corruption should be there. The Government could have a monitoring committee to monitor this, but it may try to increase this amount and at least double it. So, per MLA constituency, it should be at least Rs. 2 crore. It will be useful to the Ministers also. So, I would request the Government to consider this as early as possible, and I think that all the MPs will support this request. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN (SAHARANPUR): Sir, I sincerely appreciate you for allowing me to speak in the zero hour. Behat is a tehsil in the Saharanpur Lok Sabha constituency where there is no provision for a fire brigade. This is a very serious issue. I would like to bring to your attention the recurring occurrence of fires in slums and shanties during the summer months leading to substantial loss of life and property. In the same way, when electrical wires break in summer, the crop burns to ashes and causes even more damage. Sir, it is regrettable to note that there is no branch of the fire brigade in Behat Tehsil and during the fire outbreak, it takes approximately one and a half hours for the fire brigade from Saharanpur district headquarters to reach the location. I would like to

highlight that the area of this tehsil spans approximately 50-60 kms. So, I request you that this is a very old problem. A lot of attention has been paid to this before but it has not been implemented to date. I request that you undertake efforts to resolve this issue and assist the people of Saharanpur district. Thank you very much.

آپ کہ شکریہ بہت بہت کا آپ جناب، : (سہارنپور) صاحب الرحمن فضل حاجی جناب دیا۔ موقع کا بولنے میں اور زیرو مجھے نے

کا بریگیڈ فائر پر جہاں ہے۔ تحصیل بیہٹ ایک میں حلقہ پارلیمانی سہانپور ہر کہ ہے کہنا سے آپ میرا ہے۔ مسئلہ سنجیدہ ہی بہت ایک یہ ہے۔ نہیں انتظام کوئی کا مال و جان اور ہے جاتی لگ آگ میں جھوپڑیوں جھگی میں موسم کے گرمی سال جل فصل وہاں پر ٹوٹنے تار کے بجلی سے طریقے اسی ہے۔ ہوتا نقصان زیادہ بہت ہے۔ ہوتا نقصان زیادہ بہت بھی سے اس اور ہے جاتی ہو راکھ کر

پرضلع لگنے آگ اور ہے نہیں شاخہ کوئی کی بریگیڈ فائر میں تحصیل بیہٹ محترم، لگ گھنٹہ ڈیڑھ سے ایک بھگ لگ میں پہنچنے بریگیڈ فائر سے سہارنپور مکھیالیہ بیچ کے میٹر کلو 50-60 بھگ لگ رقبہ کا تحصیل اس کہ ہے کہنا یہ ہمارا ہے۔ جاتا مسئلہ پرانا بہت ایک یہ کہ ہے گزارش سے آپ ہماری لئے اس ہے۔ ہوا پھیلا میں پر اس تک آج سے قسمتی بد لیکن ہے، گیا کیا غور بار کافی بھی پہلے پر اس۔ ہے پایا۔ ہو نہیں عمل

ضلع میں کرانے حل کہ مسئلے اس آپ کہ ہوں کرتا گزارش سے آپ میں
میں ہے۔ امید مجھے ایسی گے، کریں کوشش کی کرنے مدد کی لوگوں کے سہارنپور
ہوں۔ کرتا ادرا شکریہ بہت بہت کا آپ

(شد ختم)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Girish Chandra - Not present .

Shri Prataprao Jadhav.

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA): Thank you Sir for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour. Sir through you, I would like to speak on an important issue about my Lok Sabha constituency Buldhana. In the year 2010-11, Rs.26 lakh was sanctioned for the construction of the Khambgaon-Jalna new railway line in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra State. In 2012-13 the Railway Department was given an estimate of Rs.1,026 crore along with the survey report. Thereafter, an investment programme was proposed under the Railway Budget for the fiscal year 2016-17 on February 25, 2016 to construct new lines including the Khamgaon-Jalna rail route at three thousand crore rupees. No action has been taken in this regard so far. Over the past 100 years, there has been a persistent demand from the people for the construction of a new railway line

connecting Khamgaon and Jalna. It is a matter of great concern and surprise that there has been no progress in its construction work. During the Legislative Assembly elections 2014, the Hon. Prime Minister during his electoral rally in Khamgaon stated that if the BJP candidate from Khamgaon and the BJP government in Maharashtra come into power, they will prioritize the commencement of work on this railway line. However, till date, this work has not been commenced. Sir, through you, I request the Railway Minister to consider the plight of Buldhana district which is a backward district. This district is home to farmers who are unfortunately prone to suicides. There is no big industry in this district, so take action to start this railway line as soon as possible.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY (KUSHINAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Indian Railways has made significant progress; however, I would like to draw your attention towards the neglected region of Kushinagar Lok Sabha constituency located in the farthest corner of our country. There are three major railway-related issues. A railway project of 64 kilometers from Chhitauni to Tamakuhi has only been completed up to four kilometers in the past ten years and due to a lack of funds the project has been completely suspended. Hon.

Speaker Sir, drawing your attention to this matter, I humbly request that this project be initiated for the benefit of the people of Bihar, Kushinagar and Nepal. The Kushinagar Legislative Assembly constituency is in the Budha Circuit area. The construction of the international airport is in its final stages. However, they have been deprived of railway connectivity until today. The full DPR for the railway project has been pending with the Railway Board since the year 2018 due to dormancy. This project should be revived and started promptly.

HON.SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Joshi is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, thousands of Wakf properties are still under the illegal occupation of encroachers, and the Government is not taking any effective steps to get them evacuated. Even the concerned Minister himself has reported that more than 2,000 cases of encroachments in the last one and a half years have taken place. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Sir, Zero Hour is going on and there are no Cabinet Ministers in the House.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please make an effort to read the book. There is no need for a Cabinet Minister in Zero Hour. You are a senior member. During a zero hour, there is no need for any Hon. Cabinet Minister to be present. One, two and all the Ministers are sitting.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am taking note of everything. I am the Speaker. It is my responsibility to protect you.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: It is shocking to know that Wakf lands are illegally occupied by the Central and State Governments also. Figures revealed by the Minister show that 16,963 Wakf properties in 25 States are illegally occupied. Hence, I urge the Government to take urgent and necessary steps to evacuate such Wakf land and pave way to use it for religious purposes for which it is meant.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone will get a chance. The House is for everyone.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am speaking on an important topic related to farmers before you, so I need your protection. Farmers have lost their crops across Rajasthan, including the Chittorgarh-Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency....

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Protection is not for anyone to elaborate on extensively but rather pertains to the subject matter itself.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Speaker Sir, your protection on this matter is needed because the Government of Rajasthan is not cooperating with it and is discriminating against farmers.

Sir, during the last tenure when Hon. Shrimati Vasundhara Raje ji was the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, crop damage occurred as well. However, during that time the Legislative Assembly was adjourned for three days and we all returned to our respective areas. The rule for crop damage compensation which was initially set at 50 percent, was reduced to 33 percent for the first time and crores of rupees were disbursed to farmers accounts through the

Indian Government, NDRF and SDRF. The Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency received 8 to 10 inches of rainfall in a single day. Pratapgarh received up to 125 inches of rain which is beyond imagination. There is still water in the fields of farmers. I request the government to provide relief to those farmers. Currently, the state government has initiated a survey based on farmers demands but the officials have been instructed not to show crop damage exceeding 30- 32 percent in the survey despite the actual damage being more than 80 percent.

Sir, I have a demand for this from the government through you. The team from the Union Government had conducted a study earlier also. The actual crop damage should be assessed and compensation for farmers crop losses should be provided accordingly. Sir, there are also opium farmers there. Due to crop failure they could not harvest the entire morphine. Through you, I request the government and Hon. Minister Sir, who is present here, and we have also urged him. If there is a deficiency in this regard, undoubtedly, a decision in the interest of the farmers will not be made. I request this on my behalf. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri C.P. Joshi. The Hon. Members

who have been listed during this week's zero hour without additional time, will not get the opportunity during the zero hour of the next week unless an urgent matter arises. If the matter is very urgent then their number will come and if it's a general matter, it won't. There should be a justifiable system and everyone should get a chance.

SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY (BHIND): Honourable Speaker Sir, Bhind the constituency represented by me in the state of Madhya Pradesh had experienced substantial rainfall on the 15th and 16th of November. Due to the continuous release of excessive water from the Kota Barrage into the Chambal River in Rajasthan, the situation of flooding has arisen. Consequently, large tracts of land that belonged to small and marginal farmers in eight assembly constituencies were destroyed, along with it there was significant harm to hundreds of homes, destruction of roads and suffering for livestock. Numerous cattle succumbed to the calamity. I wish to draw the government's attention towards the need for providing employment opportunities in the flood-affected areas of Bhind district in Madhya Pradesh, as well as offering financial assistance for the repair and maintenance of roads. I also demand financial assistance from the government for the renovation of buildings of those whose houses have been damaged in the floods as well as for

providing fodder to cattle. I also demand compensation for the farmers whose crops have been destroyed. Sir, Thank you very much for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour.

[English]

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI

(THOOTHUKKUDI): Sir, according to the research carried out by the Government, India has lost almost one-third of its coastline to sea erosion. In Tamil Nadu, nearly 41 per cent of its coastline has been lost to sea erosion. In my constituency, Thoothukkudi, we have a large coastline and hundreds of fishing hamlets are located there. Within a few weeks, we are losing half of the village into the sea. It is a very, very alarming situation, and the Government is building seawalls and groynes which is not a permanent solution to this alarming situation across the country. I want to know what the Government is doing. Does it have a long-term plan to protect these villages and the lives of the fishermen?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri B. Manickam Tagore and Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Kanimozhi Karunanidhi.

Shrimati Supriya Sule ji.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, Namaste and thank you. There was an accident in my constituency yesterday. 2 people amongst the followers of the Warkari tradition have died and some 16 of them met with accidents. A programme was initiated under the leadership of Shri Nitin. Fund should be allocated for the Alandi to Pandharpur and Dehu to Pandharpur routes known as the Palki Marg in Maharashtra so that the work may be completed swiftly and efficiently.

[English]

SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR (KANYAKUMARI): I wish to bring to the notice of the House a serious issue concerning poor people of State of Tamil Nadu. The rice distributed under the Public Distribution System has been drastically reduced. It is understood that 10 per cent reduction has been made in the supply of rice based on the sale of rice in October. Because of the insensitive action by the Central Government, major portion of rice of the poor people will be affected due to non-availability of rice. It is estimated that every 100 persons out of 1,000 beneficiaries will be deprived of rice. Respected Speaker Sir, in my Kanyakumari constituency, 25 tonnes of rice have not been supplied to ration shops and in the whole State,

21,000 tonnes of rice have not been supplied. Sir, I would like to remind the House on this occasion that during the Congress rule, rice was supplied to State Governments at the rate of Rs.3.50 per kg, whereas the BJP Government now supply rice at the rate of Rs.32.50 per kg. There are two crore family ration cards in Tamil Nadu. Out of this, majority are getting rice. Due to Central Government's insensitive action, poor people will be affected. Therefore, I request, through you, the Central Government to restore the normal supply of rice to Tamil Nadu and safeguard the poor people.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, even if you have brought it in writing, I request you to take care of one minute, read and speak only that much .

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir. I would like to draw the attention of this august House regarding two incidents in India which took place in JNU, Delhi, day before yesterday, and another incident which took place in Thiruvananthapuram yesterday.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have spoken about the case of Kerala.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: No, I am not raising the Kerala issue. I am raising an issue regarding how the student community in India is being dealt with by the police. The day before yesterday, in JNU, the students were being manhandled like anything. Yesterday, in Trivandrum, Shafi Parambil, MLA, and KSU State President, K.M. Abhijith were on strike. You may kindly see the reason for the strike. Two Dalit girl students of age 9 years and 13 years have committed suicide and the prosecution did nothing and finally, the court has acquitted them. To have a CBI probe in the matter, the student community in Kerala had conducted a march to Assembly yesterday. The MLA was brutally manhandled. Sir, the photographs show how the President of KSU was being manhandled by the police. These types of incidents never happened before. This is not the way by which the student community in the country is being dealt with. So, I am demanding a CBI inquiry on the Walayar incident and also to conduct a fair inquiry into all these matters. The student community have the right to do strike. For the genuine

democratic demands of the student community, they have a right to do strike. ...*(Interruptions)* *[Translation]*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, all of you associate.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri K. Muraleedharan and Shri Kodikunnil Suresh are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour. Today, I will apprise the House of the recent outbreak of dengue affecting the people in West Bengal. I want to speak in Bengali.

[English]

*In West Bengal 50,000 people are afflicted with Dengue and 23 persons have already died. The State Government is not ready to accept this fact. Just yesterday Hon. Chief Minister announced that so many people have died. Therefore it seems that the Government is unable to control this menace. In Kolkata's children's hospitals, 85% patients are suffering from Dengue. Hon. Chief Minister should seek immediate relief from the Central Government's Health

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali

Department. I want to ask her that where the crores of rupees released by the Union Government for vector control have been diverted to? Why the water bodies are not being cleaned regularly by the funds of the National Health Mission and MGNREGA? She should make this clear to the common people. Through you Sir, I urge upon the Government of India that it should ask for a report from the State Government on this issue, should want to know what is the ground reality, how many Dengue deaths have taken place and whether the State Government requires any assistance from the centre or not in this regard. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD (LALGANJ): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I want to submit through the House that we have Purab Gram Powai-Ladpur level crossing no. 50C and Gram Kharewa level crossing no. 52C of Saraimir Railway Station in my Parliamentary Constituency Lalganj. The tracks have been laid here since the British era. People from 50 villages visit these two gates. This is the only way for students to go to madrasas, schools, college blocks, etc. But in January 2018, 50C and 52C have been closed down which is completely affecting the movement of regional people. The administration and officials concerned have been informed about it

but no action has been taken so far. Therefore, you are requested to direct the concerned officer to reopen level crossings 50C and 52C in the interest of public sentiment of the entire public. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Rekha Arun Verma is permitted to associate herself with the matter raised by Shrimati Sangeeta Azad.

[English]

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, please permit me to raise the following matter of urgent public importance in this august House. The Hindustan Newsprint Limited is in great distress for the last one year. More than 5,000 employees are not paid their wages and other benefits for the last one year. This matter was brought up by me before this august House during the last Session of Parliament. There was a discussion held in Kolkata with the liquidator of the parent company, Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, along with the representatives of the Government of Kerala, State Bank of India, Canara Bank and the Managing Director of HNL. It is understood that during the meeting the liquidator has agreed to hand over 100 per cent shares of HNL to the Government of Kerala for a consideration of Rs. 25 crore.

It is my humble request before the Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries to give approval to the same immediately so that the company can restart its operations and employees and workers are paid their wages. This would have a boosting impact on the newspaper industry and for more than 5,000 families depending on this industrial unit for their survival. I would once again urge upon the Government of India through this august House to give consent to this proposal immediately.

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. My constituency Tiruvannamalai is an internationally renowned religious place which attracts lakhs of pilgrims to the Arunachaleshwar Temple for Darshan and Parikrama of the Holy Hill, which is known as Girivalam round the year, every month. There is no direct train between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai. Even the Puducherry-Howrah Express train which passes through Tiruvannamalai does not have a halt at that place. The railway station at Tiruvannamalai is in a poor state; even, there is no waiting room for the passengers. The progress of work relating to the new broad gauge railway line from Tindivanam to Tiruvannamalai is very slow. There is an urgent need for direct train connectivity

between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai to enable passengers to reach the city by train. I seek the personal intervention of the hon. Minister of Railways, through you, to introduce a daily intercity express train between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai in the upcoming General Budget. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the procurement of groundnuts in my Lok Sabha Constituency Churu in Rajasthan. In my parliamentary constituency, 85 percent of agriculture relies on rainfall with only 15 percent benefitting from irrigation. Recently, a few days ago, there was rainfall in our region where groundnut cultivation is prevalent and some damage has occurred to the crop.

13.00 hrs

NAFED purchases through RAJFED. Corruption is taking place under the pretext of groundnut procurement. Farmers are being exploited. They sit outside in the chilly night weather. I request that the Government should focus on this. NAFED should be directed to ensure that procurement is done transparently. A minimum cap of 25 quintals is placed on the farmer, i.e., only 25 quintals of groundnut will be purchased from a farmer. I request that this cap should be

removed. The government should make efforts to purchase as much yield as the farmer has produced. This is my request to the government.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan.

[English]

SHRI VE. VAITHILINGAM (PUDUCHERRY): Hon. Speaker, Sir, from Puducherry near about 1.5 lakh workers are enrolled in the ESI Corporation. Most of the family members of these workers are also included in the three lakh beneficiaries. So, in total 4.5 lakh people are enrolled in the ESI Corporation. There is no direct hospital facility for the workers in the ESI Corporation. So, I would request the ESI Corporation to set up a 100-bedded model hospital in Puducherry as then only the workers can get the facility of major operations like heart operation. At present, there is no operation facility and even the employees are not able to get reimbursement of their medical bills. Through hon. Speaker, I would request the hon. Minister to take steps to set up a hospital in Puducherry.

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up a very important project of renovating all the primary and secondary Government schools. This

is an important issue because the dropout rate has been very high in Andhra Pradesh. Through you, Sir, I would request two things from the Central Government. In line with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padoos Yojana, there are more than 50 per cent girl students who are studying in the Government schools. I would request the Central Government to give 50 per cent matching grant to Andhra Pradesh so that the girl children will have good facilities to study in these Government schools.

Secondly, I would request the Government to integrate the schools' renovation with MNREGA so that all the works relating to painting and carpentry, and even construction of additional classrooms will provide employment to the local labourers.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANBHAI SANJIBHAI DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI): Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you that you have changed my seat. I had made a request for it. I also express my gratitude to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, especially the Madam Secretary General. I want to speak about the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The schemes of the Indian government are quite popular and significant for the poor. Instructions have been given by the Government of India that all the schemes should be

implemented through local bodies and selected units so that the beneficiaries can get the benefits in reality. The order has been issued by the Government of India. Despite this, I have seen that all the schemes have not been implemented properly. This is because local governments have been bypassed and the local administration has kept control of all the programmes. The result was that people did not get the right benefit. Apart from this, there have been quite a few complaints which have also been brought to the attention of the Indian government. In the Union Territory or where there is no assembly, the responsibility of the Central Government is to issue directions and ensure that all the schemes are implemented properly. It is also the responsibility of the central government to take care of them. Directions were issued by the government and even after that it was not implemented. As a result, many people were disturbed. Through you, I would like to request the government to immediately re-inform about the instructions issued in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and implement them properly so that the people can get the benefits of all the schemes. I request the Government through you.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, just now, the matter was raised that due to dengue

fever, 50,000 people have died. In Kolkata city, the death toll has gone up to 23, as per the report of the hon. Chief Minister. Kolkata is the only State, in India, where the hon. Chief Minister holds the portfolio of the Health Ministry. So, naturally, Health Department gets a major priority. I have been appointed by the Government of India as the Chairperson of the National Urban Health Mission for monitoring this situation for the city of Kolkata. I have been appointed by the Government of India and a letter has been issued from the hon. Speaker's Office. So, I would like to say that the House should not be allowed to be confused because Health is a state subject. We are all concerned with the death of the children. We should all see that dengue is eradicated at an early possible time.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (MADHEPURA): Thank you Speaker Sir. Kosi River which originates from the Himalayas in the Saharsa district of Bihar state also passes through this district. The situation is that dozens of panchayats in Saharsa district which are in its western part have been cut off from the block, sub-division, and district headquarters. The boat itself is the only solution to go somewhere due to which people have a lot of difficulty in commuting. In those areas, there is no provision for medical

facilities and if a person falls seriously ill during the night, they are left with no choice but to succumb to their illness. The boat does not move at night. The Kosi River is a vast river and until a bridge is constructed over it, the welfare of the people in that area will not be realised. Not only the Kosi River, but the Bagmati and Kamla Rivers also surround it from behind. The residents daily routines are significantly influenced in that area. We demand from the Government that the people of that area should also get the facility. The Government should construct a bridge at Dengrahi Ghat and Kathdooamar Ghat. This is what I demand from the Government of India through you.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Speaker Sir, continuous distress to birds is occurring within the Sambhar Lake, one of the largest saltwater lakes in the world extending to the districts of Jaipur and Nagaur in Rajasthan. I'll finish it in a minute. Every year, thousands of migratory birds including the Siberian crane, along with other avian species come to Sambhar Lake to boost their life cycle. Unfortunately, more than 17 thousand migratory birds have died. Once again, Rajasthan's inept government has tarnished the image of the country on the global stage as the largest avian tragedy unfolds raising concerns about the nation's

credibility. It is not yet clear even after a lapse of fifteen days how thousands of birds have died. There is no lab for testing in Rajasthan. The team had also gone from the centre but the birds were still dying. The Central Government should intervene on a large scale keeping in mind the humanitarian approach and get the remaining birds rescued there. The negligence in the rescue operation should be investigated at a high level. Another reason for this is that there has been a large number of encroachment of rainfed rivers into the area. The previous government leased the Salt Lake land to a private resort. About 431 bighas of land has been encroached upon. This is also considered a major cause of bird tragedy. A high-level decision on this is necessary because the Salt Lake issue is also related to the Centre and there is a lot of negligence on the part of the State government. Immediate action must be taken on this matter, or else the Siberian cranes may face extinction and their migration to this region could cease. This is my request to the government.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Hanuman Beniwal.

[English]

DR. T. THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): The East Coast Road (ECR), State Highway 49, was the cynosure of all eyes during the visit of our dear Hon. Prime Minister to Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is very scenic and beautiful. But it is one of the most accident-prone fatal roads in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Chennai area. The reason for the accident was high speeding, deep bends, black spots, and rampant encroachments on both sides of the ECR. Though there are many reasons, the main cause of fatality is the lack of a full-fledged hospital with real trauma and emergency care. In 2016, the fatality rate in Tamil Nadu was reported at 17000 which has alarmingly increased by 2019. There is already an existing Government hospital with seven beds at Injambakkam. But that is not a full-fledged hospital that cannot cater to the needs of an emergency. Sir, so, through you, I would like to request to insist upon the State Government through the Central Government to construct a full-fledged multi-specialty Government hospital in Cholinganallur in my constituency for the sake of the people of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED IMTIYAZ JALEEL (AURANGABAD): Hon. Speaker, I know that many such Hon. MPs inside the House are devotees of Saibaba of Shirdi. The route to Shirdi, particularly for devotees coming from southern states, involves disembarking at Aurangabad and proceeding from there towards Shirdi. This route is only 100 km but it is so bad that it takes three and a half hours to travel 100 km. We have appealed to the PWD Minister that the creation of a super expressway linking Aurangabad and Shirdi would undoubtedly benefit numerous devotees. With a journey duration reduced to within an hour or an hour and a half instead of the current three hours, pilgrims would likely arrive within a shorter timeframe, enabling them to offer their prayers sooner. We expect that they will offer their prayers there and if permission is granted for the construction of the super expressway, they will undoubtedly also pray for the government and your esteemed self.

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY (BANERJEE) (BIRBHUM): Hon. Speaker Sir, I had to go to China to attend the Film Festival. I needed to go there for my profession. It had nothing to do with politics. However, they insisted on obtaining a N.O.C from the Home Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs for the visa,

and it was necessary to provide them with the information which we promptly supplied. But I need ten Zero hours to tell the information and harassment that happened for NOC. I am leaving now. But even after I received the visa, the External Affairs Ministry declined my NOC without providing any explanation. I would like to know why I did not receive a NOC. When I called their office to inquire about the reason, they were unable to provide the reason. However, you should interfere in this matter because I have become a MP and that's why I cannot go outside. How is this possible? The most important thing is that on that day we *... (*Interruptions*) .

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not speak in such a manner.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, the question that you have raised, has been brought to the table of the House, so please remember to speak with restrain.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI (INDORE): Hon. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister on

* Not recorded

behalf of the entire Nation and especially the Sikh and Sindhi communities for the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor by Hon. Narendra Modi Ji. However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the requirement of having a passport to go there should be abolished. It is not fair that the poor people and elderly people have to go there to just make a passport. The condition of the passport should be removed. Another point is that they should also abolish the fee of 2000 rupees or 1500 rupees that they have imposed. There should be no charge taken either because when devotees from Pakistan visit the Ajmer Dargah, we do not charge them any fee. If people travel from one place to another to pay obeisance, they should not be charged any fees. This is an appeal to you

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jasbir Singh is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Shankar Lalwani.

SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR (RATLAM): Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to speak in the House. The services of BSNL have completely stopped in the two districts of Jhabua and Alirajpur in my Parliamentary Constituency. Neither landline phones nor BSNL phones are working there. When I spoke to the officials, they stated that we

have not received our salaries for the past five to seven months, we do not have money to pay the workers and we do not even have cables when they get cut. I want to draw the attention of the Government through you, to focus specifically on resolving this issue.

[English]

SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON (KALLAKURICHI): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, through you, regarding denial of students' loan by the banks. Invariably all the banks are rejecting loans even for professional course students. This is so not only in my constituency but also in the whole of Tamil Nadu. When students approach the banks for loans, students are asked for collateral security. How is it possible for the students to give collateral security? There is a clear verdict of the Supreme Court that even for Rs. 4 lakhs of loan, there is no need of collateral security. In this situation, the students end up in discontinuing the course or they proceed to moneylenders and ultimately, it leads to huge tragedy. So, I kindly request the hon. Finance Minister to instruct the banks to give loans to the students who require them.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri DNV Senthilkumar S, is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gautham Sigamani Pon.

KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU): Sir, to Andhra Pradesh, a Central Tribal University was sanctioned. It was proposed to be set up in Relli village of Vizianagaram. Relli village was proposed to be the location of the permanent campus. However, on re-examination by the State Government, it was decided to locate it outside the scheduled area. Several representations were made by the tribal organisations to set up the Central Tribal University in the scheduled area only. For this, the Government of Andhra Pradesh identified 250 acres of land in Saluru of Vizianagaram as appropriate location for the Central University. The Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already written a letter to the Ministry in this regard. I request the Government of India to approve the shifting of the location of the Central Tribal University, AP from Relli village to Saluru in Vizianagaram district.

SHRI NITESH GANGA DEB (SAMBALPUR): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on crop insurance and farmers' distress relating to my parliamentary constituency of Sambalpur of the State of Odisha. My parliamentary constituency, Sambalpur, is located in the western part of Odisha. Farmers of my parliamentary

constituency are on strike for the past almost 28 days. These small and medium farmers totally depend upon their farm produce for their livelihood. Natural calamities like cyclone and drought have destroyed their kharif crops. These farmers are leading a minimum standard of life. Kharif crop failure has taken away their smiles and happiness. They have travelled from pillar to post for getting crop insurance. I have also personally visited them during their strike. Instead of sending Crop Insurance Beneficiary Report to the Central Government, I am sorry to state that the Government of Odisha has held up this Report for almost nine months. This speaks of the negligence of the Government of Odisha towards farmers.

I condemn this attitude of the State Government. I recently came to know that the Government of Odisha has sent the list of crop insurance beneficiaries to the Central Government a few days back. I urge the Central Government through you to release the crop insurance money to the farmers of my parliamentary constituency as early as possible. Sir, I would also request, through you, the Central Government to increase the paddy price as recommended by the Swaminathan Committee, and to strengthen the *Mandis* to purchase paddy directly from the farmers. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring a major and serious issue of elderly persons, differently-abled individuals and widowed women from across the country to the attention of the Government through this Supreme House of the country. When we visit villages we come across thousands of people who complain. The number of such people in my district is in the lakhs and their number in the entire country can be in the crores. Previously, they used to receive pension but now it has been discontinued, whether it is for the disabled, widows, or the elderly. The Union Government also provides pensions and it includes a portion from the state governments as well. Keeping this issue in mind, I would like to request the Union government to identify individuals whose names have been missed out due to the survey or any technical reasons or those who used to receive a pension earlier but have stopped receiving it for some reason, so that the Union Government can conduct a survey again. When a survey is conducted the names of genuine beneficiaries who are entitled to it are often missed out due to mistakes made by agencies. Those local representatives, whether they are MPs or MLAs should also receive a 5-10% concession and

be given a certificate stating that yes, I know them, they are truly poor and landless so those who are entitled to it should receive a pension. This is a plan for the welfare of millions of people in the country which I want to bring to the attention of the government through you, and I would like to request that the well-being of millions of poor people should be ensured.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

DR. S.T. HASAN (MORADABAD): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the artisans of Moradabad. These artisans are so poor that they work all day just to have a meal at night. Suddenly, they are ordered to shut down the furnaces. We had a conversation with Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in this regard. I am grateful to him for providing a positive response. An order has been given to install a PNG connection in Moradabad. I request through you that their furnaces should not be disconnected until the PNG is available there. It should be delivered to their doorstep so that they can earn their living. We all know that pollution is a major issue. However, along with pollution, it would also be a shameful thing for us if people start dying due to hunger or lack of treatment.

SHRI GAJENDRA UMRAO SINGH PATEL (KHARGONE):

Hon. Speaker, through you I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the burning issues of Barwani and Khargone districts under Khargone Lok Sabha constituency. This year there has been significant damage in both districts due to excessive rainfall. This region is famous for White Gold where a lot of cotton is grown. However, due to the government of Madhya Pradesh not conducting organized surveys and not assessing the correct value, my farmer brothers are not receiving compensation. Insurance companies have also conducted surveys. However, despite several complaints from farmers, our farmers have still not received any benefits to this day.

I draw the government's attention through you so that my farmer brothers can benefit soon. Help farmers by providing benefits from insurance companies.

[English]

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity. One Boya community, known as Valmikis, is the largest living community in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Boyas are known for their bravery, courage, fearlessness, values and loyalty.

They are one of the ancient tribes, particularly war tribes. They fought many battles. In earlier days, they served kings and kingdoms like Cholas, Chalukyas, Kakatiya and Vijayanagar with utmost loyalty, valour and values. In the British era, Boya Valmikis were treated as criminal tribe and habitual offenders. In the recent past, Boya Valmikis are being used by warlords, highly influenced politicians, factionists and Naxals for anti-social activities. Due to their innocence, illiteracy, backwardness, Boya Valmikis were involved in brutal killings and as a result of that, if they died, they went to graveyards. If they did not die, they went to jails. Boya Valmikis are known for their loyalty and fighting spirit. They have good qualities, but they are being misused by highly influenced, anti-social elements. So, I request the Union Government, through you, to set up one Boya Regiment exclusively, so that Boya youths can be inducted and they can fight for the country. They will defend the country from enemy countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

More so, in Telugu States, Boya Valmikis who are residing in plain areas are treated as backward classes. The same community in adjoining areas of Telugu States comes under ST category. ...*(Interruptions)*. I request the Government to remove this

discrimination and provide justice to Valmikis who are living in plain areas by granting them ST status.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGAN):

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am extremely grateful to you. You have allowed me to speak on an important public issue. Sir, the government has decided to open passport offices at the Lok Sabha level under a very ambitious scheme for the convenience of people applying for passports, which has also been opened in many Lok Sabha constituencies of the country. Sir, I represent the Maharajganj Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. As of now, the passport office has not been opened in the Maharajganj Lok Sabha constituency. I think the reason the passport office is not opening is that there is a very senior postal superintendent there. I want you to instruct at your level on the arbitrariness of the senior postal superintendent so that he can be stopped. According to the information I have received, he also commit a lot of irregularities in the posting of employees and officers. Employees are also facing a lot of trouble because of him. Strict action should be taken against such officials. I request you to take strict action against such officials by suspending them and giving them a harsh punishment. Sir, I would like to express my

gratitude once again while requesting that the passport office in the Maharajganj constituency be opened soon.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, once the Bill is passed, I will make an effort to allocate time for those Members whose issues are of urgent public importance.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at thirty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

13.29 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.33 hrs

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

(Shri N. K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, submissions under Rule 377. Shri. C.P. Joshi – Not present.

Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

(i) Need to set up a campus of Allahabad University and a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kaushambi Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Today, students living in particularly backward areas of the country are not getting the proper benefits of good education because they lack financial resources and other means. However, the Union Government has established central universities for in-depth study of

education and has set up campuses in nearby areas of these central universities to provide students with good and affordable education. Since life becomes aimless and difficult without education, it is essential to understand the importance of education and its necessity in daily life especially in the underprivileged areas of the country, positive steps need to be taken to provide good education to students. My Parliamentary Constituency, Kaushambi, is a highly backward Scheduled Caste dominated area . There has been a demand to open a campus of Allahabad University and establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in this area for quite some time now. However, neither the campus of Allahabad University has been opened here yet nor any steps have been taken to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya. Hence, I urge the government through the House to promptly initiate the process of setting up a branch of Allahabad University in my Parliamentary Constituency Kaushambi, and to also open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the area so that local underprivileged students can get education easily.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shrimati Poonamben Maadam – not present.

**(ii) Need to set up an IT University in Dhanbad district,
Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the house to the issue arising from the lack of an IT university in my Parliamentary Constituency of Dhanbad (Jharkhand). Many students from Jharkhand state choose to study in other states due to the absence of an IT university in the state of Jharkhand. The people of this state are quite poor and a large number of them are tribals and have to face a lot of financial difficulties to pursue education outside their region. Therefore, I demand from the government through the House that an IT University should be established in Sindri in the Dhanbad district of Jharkhand state, where the oldest engineering college is Birsa Institute and an IT University should be built there.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil – not present.

Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse – not present.

Shri Rajendra Agrawal – not present.

**(iii) Need to organise a ‘Krishi Mela’ in Gorakhpur
Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Gorakhpur is a major metropolitan area in Purvanchal, Uttar Pradesh. Its economy is primarily based on agriculture. Sugarcane is the primary crop in this area. There are a large number of sugar mills located in and around Gorakhpur. Purvanchal's soil is productive. Other crops are also produced here on a large scale. However, the maximum capacity of the fertile land in this area has not been utilized. Farmers require proper guidance. Using modern agricultural techniques plays a crucial role in increasing agricultural production. At times, farmers experience an increase in agricultural productivity with the help of timely guidance from agricultural experts.

Therefore, you are requested to organize a Kisan Mela in Gorakhpur annually. The farmers in this area will experience numerous advantages and result in a significant increase in agricultural productivity. In Krishi Mela, farmers can receive valuable guidance on the latest agricultural technology, high-quality

seeds and suitable fertilizers, which will be extremely beneficial for them. The Hon. Prime Minister has set a goal to double the income of farmers by the year 2022. The Kisan Mela will also be highly beneficial in achieving this goal. Therefore, in this regard, I kindly request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture through the House to please organize a Krishi Mela in my Parliamentary Constituency of Gorakhpur.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre – not present.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers who suffered loss of crops due to heavy rains in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR (DHAR): Sir, if the agriculture sector of our country becomes strong then our country's economy could become the fourth largest economy in the world. Improving the country's agricultural infrastructure, connecting small and marginal farmers through diversification of agriculture, basic

facilities and a high-value supply chain will increase the income of small and marginal farmers because as long as this large section of society remains affected by poverty, there will be no significance to our overall economic development. The condition of small and marginal farmers has worsened in the last few years. The recent excessive rainfall has damaged the crops of farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency, Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. I urge the Government to immediately transfer a suitable amount to the accounts of all farmers based on the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme so that they can receive assistance in dealing with the current difficult situation and can carry out activities like sowing for the next crop.

(v) Need to grant patta to people dwelling in reserve forest areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): Sir, the people of the reserved forest area of Narmada under my Parliamentary Constituency of Bharuch are deprived of basic amenities. They don't have any roads for transportation and their fields are not irrigated. The lack of schools is preventing their children from receiving an education. This happens because of the forest laws which prevent the construction of roads, schools and check dams for irrigation.

The Union Government says there is no delay in the progress of development-related projects but the construction work for the basic facilities of the tribals in my Parliamentary Constituency has not yet been approved. Because of this, the forest dwellers who reside in the woods do not have access to city-like facilities. Many people are not able to get the right to forest land leases in our area.

I hereby urge the Government to immediately grant the right to lease the forest land to tribal communities.

(vi) Regarding Financial assistance to farmers who suffered loss of crops due to heavy rains in Tikamgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Sir, my area of Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh is still lagging in terms of development. Farming and raising livestock are the primary businesses of the locals here. During this monsoon season, farmers in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand regions are facing severe problems due to excessive rainfall. Due to the destruction of crops caused by the rain, the condition of the farmers has become extremely pitiable. The Kisan Samman Nidhi provided by the Government is a huge relief for the farmers. However, considering the current situation, Samman Nidhi is completely inadequate. Therefore, I request the Government to transfer a fair amount of money to the accounts of the farmers who have been affected, just like they did with the Samman Nidhi so that they can sustain their livelihood while preparing for the next crop.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi – Not present.

(vii) Regarding BPCL disinvestment

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): The in principle decision to disinvest 53.29% stake held by the Government in BPCL along with management control for about USD 10 billion is detrimental to the national interest and foundational strategic imperatives envisaged through the establishment of the PSU. With an asset spread of Rupees eight lakh crore, Gross Revenue from operations for 2018-19 at Rs. 3,37,622.53 crore and registering a profit of Rs. 13,000 crore besides being the torchbearer of social justice, in terms of employment opportunities to the SC/ST/OBC/Minorities & disadvantaged groups and primary source of access to affordable energy resources to target beneficiaries of PAHAL (DBTL), I urge upon the Union Government to revoke the decision to disinvest the BPCL forthwith and ensure the Maharatna public sector's survival for the benefit of the nation.

(viii) Regarding providing Ex-servicemen status to retired employees of GREF

SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN (PALAKKAD): The General Reserve Engineer Force was created in 1960 and it was made permanent in 1969. The structure of the Force was on the same pattern as that of the army. The army officers and subordinate personnel are posted to GREF as it is done in any other army formations. In 2015, GREF has been brought under the Ministry of Defence. The hon. Supreme Court of India in its landmark judgment on 6th May, 1983 in the case of R. Viswan & Others Vs. Union of India and others held that GREF is an integral part of armed forces of India and various other hon. courts in the country also held the same view. Vide Notification BRDB No.F81(1)84.Estt/70463/DGBR/E2A(T&C) dated 14th August, 1985, the GREF was declared as an integral part of armed forces of India. Therefore, it is urged upon the Government to provide Ex-Servicemen status to the retired employees of GREF.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Benny Behanan – Not present.

Shri A. Ganeshamurthi – Not present.

**(ix) Regarding water problem in Perambalur Parliamentary
Constituency, Tamil Nadu**

DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR (PERAMBALUR): The lake Panjapatti in my Perambalur Constituency, Tamil Nadu is water-starved. This water body covers about 1,000 acres and has the capacity to cater to the water needs of 30 villages in the vicinity. The water from this lake is used extensively for irrigating agricultural lands and other potable needs. However, this lake has been neglected and it is dry now. During the rainy season, the Cauvery River overflows. The excess water is not stored and most of the time it is drained into the sea. I suggest that this excess water can be stored by channelizing it into such lakes and water bodies instead of draining them into the sea wastefully. If this water is diverted to lakes, apart from filling so many other small lakes on the way, it will not only just increase the groundwater level but also serve agriculture and drinking water purposes. This is also a way of potentially solving drinking water crisis problems permanently. So, I urge upon the Ministry of Jal Shakti, through this august House, to solve this dire water problem in my constituency by some feasible mechanism.

(x) Regarding MVA charges being collected by the Power Grid Corporation

SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM):

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is collecting MVA charges for the power supply receiving at APTRANSCO substations at higher rates. The charges being paid by Andhra Pradesh come around Rs.85 to 100 crore towards power supply transmitting charges every month to the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for taking power from Central Generating Stations NTPC for 2500 MW. Whether the Power Ministry propose to reduce MVA charges being collected by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited to reduce the financial burden on Andhra Pradesh Discoms because Andhra Pradesh is a newly formed state.

(xi) Regarding payment of salaries to employees of BSNL and MTNL

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Sir, in a democracy people must have faith that the Government will always protect them. However, the current situation of PSUs in the country has been quite troublesome lately. In this context, I would like to request that the state-owned PSUs BSNL and MTNL are consistently delaying the payment of salaries to their employees. Over the past few months, employees have not been receiving their salaries or any incentive during festive occasions. This situation is extremely disappointing. The employees are struggling to meet their families' basic needs due to the delay in salary payments. In many households, the employee is the sole earner and therefore struggles to meet the daily necessities. This situation raises questions about the functioning of the Government and what kind of example the Government is setting for the private sector. This matter needs immediate attention. I request the Government to immediately pay the salaries of the employees of these undertakings.

(xii) Regarding rail connectivity in Gopalganj district, Bihar

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, a large number of people from my Parliamentary Constituency Gopalganj visit various metro cities for treatment, education and business. There is no direct train from Gopalganj district up to Delhi. The population of Gopalganj district is around 26 lakh. Therefore, Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I request to run Vaishali Express, Bihar Sampark Kranti Express and other Mail Express from Gopalganj-Thawe Jn to New Delhi so that our residents do not face difficulties in commuting.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri K. Navaskani – not present.

(xiii) Regarding compensation to people affected due to natural calamities in Rajasthan

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the amount received from the Rajasthan State Disaster Management for damages including loss of lives/livestock/ crops is very low due to which even one-third of the actual loss is not compensated. The State Government is also dependent on the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) of the Central Government for the said assistance and had recently sent a letter to the Central Government seeking assistance of Rs.2645 crore for relief from the damage caused by hailstorms and floods in Rajasthan. While drawing your attention to the rules of disaster management and the conditions set for the loss of crops, I urge to alter the terms and conditions for Rajasthan so that the actual loss can be compensated by treating the land record of the field as a unit. Also, the Rajasthan Relief Fund includes many disasters not mentioned in the list of National Disaster Funds, directing the Government to include them in the National Disaster Fund and double the amount received instead of damage caused by natural calamities.

(xiv) Need to include Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan in Tribal Circuit

SHRI C.P. JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Sir, Pratapgarh the tribal-dominated district of the Parliamentary Constituency Chittorgarh has special importance from the point of view of art and culture. Even today, the indelible imprint of their old culture is visible in the lifestyle, food habits, festivals and customs of the residents. Pratapgarh area is a hilly and forested area as well as situated on a plateau. It has immense tourism potential here, along with abundant natural beauty, ancient archaeological sites, special food habits and even in today's modern era, ancient traditional cultures like dance, music, clothing, language style, sports and the theva art done on gold creates an important identity in itself. I request that Pratapgarh should be included in the tribal circuit so that their culture is protected and self-employment should be encouraged.

(xv) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers in Maharashtra who suffered loss and damage to their crops caused by unseasonal rains in the State

[Translation]

DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL (AHMEDNAGAR): Farmers need to be given financial assistance by the Union Government for the loss caused by unseasonal rains in Maharashtra.

15.00 hrs

(xvi) Regarding RCS UDAN Scheme

SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE (RAVER): Under RCS UDAN Scheme, very small cities in the country were connected to big cities through air connectivity. In many such small airports, private air operators have started air travel. Under the RCS UDAN scheme, private air operators have been allotted additional routes in addition to this route which is beneficial to these operators. These private air operators are operating their air services well in such a profitable manner and are seen cancelling flights on the route issued by the Government under the RCS UDAN scheme due to various reasons. Due to the lack of night landing facilities at

these airports established on the routes under RCS UDAN Scheme, the operators often cancel the flights due to this reason. Some routes have been allotted under the same RCS UDAN scheme at Jalgaon airport. Most of the flights on these routes have been cancelled. I request the Hon. Minister, through this House, to review the private air operator allotted on the route of all such RCS UDAN schemes and instruct them to operate air service on the route allotted under this scheme. Provisions should be made to provide this facility at the earliest at such airports where night landing facility is not provided. I demand to provide regular air service facility on the route of RCS UDAN Scheme through the House.

**(xvii) Need to review the residential and other amenities
provided to central civil servants in the country**

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Sir, the country has had freedom for more than 72 years now but even today many of our systems remind us of the feudal era. The residences of senior administrative officers at the district and its divisional headquarters are examples of this. In many places, these houses are spread over several acres. Farming is also performed in them and employees who receive salaries from the exchequer perform other works and their

number ranges from 20-25 or 50. On one hand, the above type of bungalows and royal arrangements make these officials arrogant towards the common people instead of transforming into public servants, whereas on the other hand, the common man is unable to muster the courage to present his grievances in front of them.

Sir, through you, I request the Government to lay down rules regarding the accommodation and arrangements of officers of the Central Administrative Services as per the spirit of democracy.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Subhash RaShriao BhaShrie – not present.

(xviii) Need to address Tuberculosis disease

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Drug-resistant Tuberculosis is a public health issue and India faces the highest burden of the disease in the world. According to WHO data, in 2017, 410,000 people succumbed to the disease and an additional 11,000 deaths have been estimated amongst HIV patients. People from socially and economically disadvantaged groups and with

compromised immune systems face the brunt of this disease. Government interventions in the form of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) and Direct Benefit Transfer through NIKSHAY and the National Strategic Plan (NSP) are necessary. However, civic responsibilities are also crucial. Hence, I urge the House to kindly treat this as an issue of high priority.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Benny Behanan – not present.

(xix) Regarding inclusion of Gloriosa Superba, a species of a flowering plant in the list of approved medicinal plants

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE): Gloriosa Superba is a species of a flowering plant which is grown in a large area of more than 5,000 acres in Tiruppur, Karur, Dindigul and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu. The seeds of this plant have medicinal value. Approximately one lakh tonnes of seeds of this Gloriosa Superba plant were exported. There is a market value in foreign countries knowing the importance of this medicinal plant. Since it is a medicinal plant its value increases due to its large scale exports. The price value is high for this plant in foreign countries. Some businessmen and business organisations procure this medicinal plant

on a large scale from the farmers at a low price and sell them abroad at a high price. Gloriosa Superba seeds are not found in the list of medicinal products or farm products of the Government of India. Due to this, farmers do not get remunerative price for the plants grown by them which makes them unable to get collateral loans from banks. As many as 10,000 small farmers are affected. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to include Gloriosa Superba plant in the approved list of medicinal plants besides making arrangements for direct procurement of those plants so that farmers can get remunerative prices for their produce.

(xx) Regarding Waqf properties

***SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM):** Under Islamic law, a Waqf is an inalienable charitable endowment for religious or humanitarian activities. Waqf properties are spread over six Lakh acres across the country with an estimated market value of Rs 1.20 Lakh crore according to the Ministry of Minority Affairs and there are about 512556 registered and non-registered Waqf properties across the country. However a major part of these

* Speech was laid on the Table .

properties are under encroachment and many cases were registered for fraudulent sale of these massive resources. More than 3000 cases of encroachment of Waqf properties have been filed over the past three years but no strict action has been taken against the accused. It is my humble request to Hon'ble Minister of Minority Affairs to ensure the properties are used for the socio economic and educational empowerment of minorities. Necessary steps should be taken to digitise records of all the Waqf Boards and extend all support to state bodies in this connection.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the matters listed under Rule 377 are over. We will resume the discussion on Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

15.05 hrs

CHIT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 - Contd.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jasbir Singh.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): Thank you, Chairperson Sir for allowing me to speak on this Bill. Chit fund is the oldest and native business in India.

15.06 hrs

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

But 99 per cent of this business is unregistered or unregulated, as we can say. This Bill, I feel, has just got cosmetic changes. It is a paper tiger or toothless tiger because nothing but just the terms have been changed. In this Bill, foreman has got his security. His commission has been increased from 5 to 7 per cent. He can withhold the payment of the group members to a certain extent. You can look into the chit fund scams which have been in the newspaper and they have been very widely reported. Most of the foremen are the companies which conduct the chit funds. They have run away with thousands of crores of people's money. But the common people have not been given any kind of security.

[Translation] Here no provision has been made for penal action or no nodal officer was appointed. If you look at the draft bill, all the

participants have been left to their condition. There is no mention anywhere about the security of the money they pay. If they are cheated, how will they recover their money, how will it be secured, this is not mentioned anywhere. There is no mention anywhere in this bill as to how many groups a foreman or the conducting company can run. I think we should regulate it. Its guilt should be put to an end so that people can be saved from any big scam, any fraud of magnitude, like we have seen in the past that frauds of huge amounts have taken place.

Sir, if we go through this entire bill, there is no regulator anywhere in it. Like, at a small level, there are small complaints of contributors to regulate it, to take care of it, even if there is a complaint of foreman, at sub-divisional level, like SDM is there, no one is doing anything wrong, No one is manipulating, according to me they should impose some kind of regulator up to the local level. It starts from Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and goes up to more amounts in big cities. Sir, it has been seen, like I am from Amritsar, Amritsar is a huge market for gold trading and jewellery of Amritsar is quite popular. The golden fraternity over there also runs a chit fund of their own. But in that the contribution is not made in money, rather certain amount of gold or silver is contributed by every person and

every group member and withdrawal is also done in the same way. If we allow it, apart from money, we can also contribute in gold and silver. We can convert the illegal work that is going on into a legal one, we can regulate it. Everyone's money, whether it is in gold, silver or rupee, can be taken care of. I request the Hon. Minister Anurag ji.

In our country, the Government is also trying to introduce plastic money. But it is not written anywhere in this bill whether this money is to be given by check or in cash, online or by credit card. If we continue with cash like this then only black money will be used. Allow some percent cash to regulate it and curb it. If it has to be regulated well then there should be a provision for payment by cheque. Surprisingly, these small people walk in groups. Ten women will gather in a village and do it for themselves; it is also a source of entertainment for the wives and spouses of senior officers. They will organize a kitty party in a big hotel. will chit-chat and give their contribution as well. Banks can be excluded from GST. Imposing twelve percent GST on chit funds is injustice, it should be kept out. I would request to Hon. Minister Anurag ji that India is a very big country. There is a huge difference between our topography, geography, financial condition and social condition. There is a

saying in Punjab is that our language transforms in Das Kos which is approximately 2.5 kilometers and a distance of ten miles and centralizing them is not a commendable action. I propose empowering the state to regulate and fix the maximum power and limits thereof. I express my gratitude to you once again while expressing my views.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on the Chit Funds Amendment Bill, 2019. I support the Chit Funds Amendment Bill, 2019 introduced by the Hon. Minister of Finance. The Government under the able leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has formed. There should be a transparent system in every sector, in the same way business should be easy, there should be ease in working, along with this business should also come into the system, this is the thinking of our Government and the Prime Minister. The Government has made efforts in this regard. Recently, there have been incidents in various parts of the country in which people were cheated through schemes related to deposits in an illegal manner. Who is the worst victim of such schemes? Poor people become its victims the most. I come from West Bengal, I know how sad the poor people were and how many people lost thousands of

crores of rupees. I have seen with my own eyes how many poor people lost their money and how many agents were thrown out of their homes and kept roaming here and there for a month. How bad the condition of the people had become.

There have been many scams in the name of chit funds. It is spread across several states of the country like Odisha, Assam etc. There has been a lot of discussion on this bill, so I do not want to repeat much. I want to say only two or three things, I welcome the proposal of amendment in the bill brought by this government. This bill will ensure transparency in chit-fund schemes and provide security to the customers. See in Annexure B to Section 2 of the Act in this Bill, how the definition is changing. How good is the government's thinking? 'Fraternal funds' and 'recurring savings and credit institution' have been added to the definition, which defines chit. In this, the system of solving the financial problems of the people through chit funds is also welcomed.

In the Bill, the limit of the total chit amount earmarked for the person has been increased from one lakh rupees to three lakh rupees. The company which belongs to six men has been increased from Rs. six lakhs to Rs. 18 lakhs. What is special about this Bill? The special thing is that the presence of two customers has been

made mandatory either individually or duly recorded by Foreman through video conferencing. This is required under sub-section-2 of Section 16 of the Act.

I would like to give two suggestions to the Hon. Minister of Finance. You have already provided for Rs. 18 lakhs and along with this the share of discount has been given by removing the words dividend and price. It is very good. We welcome it. But there should be a limit on the share of discounts. Otherwise, they will show dreams of chit funds in share discounts and then collect people's money. With this, a big company can create an entire channel with a small chit fund. To stop this, there should be a limitation in the share of discounts so that false dreams do not reach the customers. There should be limits to activity. Where there is an office of a chit fund, its area of activity should be within the limitations of 20-kilometer radius. Such limitations should be implemented. Then maybe the CRF showed more ambition by showing more discounts, but what happened earlier may stop. I support the provision for which the government has come. I want the entire House to agree with this and pass this bill together, if ...*anyone opposes it we will feel that...* this should not happen. Everyone, please pass this bill together.

* Not recorded

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the Chit Funds Amendment Bill, 2019 is being discussed. Certainly, the entire country is suffering from it. These days, as soon as you turn the pages of the newspaper, you come across the news that some company has looted the money of a middle-class person and run away. A poor man who earns two hundred rupees, two hundred and fifty rupees as a daily wage wants his money to be safe somewhere and in the right place, his money should be doubled. Many such companies come and register. Even without registration, this dirty business is running in every corner of the country and state, due to which lakhs of our people are squandering their lifetime earnings in the name of chit funds. There have been big scams in this case. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Finance Shri Anurag ji, who is sitting here. I have a suggestion that a license should not be issued. What is the need for a chit fund? We already have a banking system and other systems here. This will improve gradually. Since Congress has ruined this country for 60 years then gradually there will be some way out. I would like to thank you that you have brought an amendment to the old 1982 Act. You have assured to bring

transparency in chit fund schemes by this Amendment Bill. The people of this country are very hopeful of getting positive results.

The famous Saradha Chit Fund scam took place in West Bengal in which the government also stood in the dock. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You please continue.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Navjeevan Co-operative Society, Adarsh Co-operative Society and PACL in Rajasthan has grabbed crores of rupees. Due to this concern, the Union Government has brought this Bill. A national database of chit fund companies will be created after the passing of this bill then the common man's money will be protected and scams will also be curbed because the depositor will have the first right to the amount seized from the accused.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, this Bill has been brought. Before this, the Motor Vehicle Act Bill came and the schemes which were launched by the Prime Minister through the Central Government were not implemented by many state governments considering that it was a Delhi scheme. Several states have not yet implemented the Motor Vehicles Act. It is not particularly applicable in Rajasthan. It is true that no minister or leader's name was involved in the scam during the last five years of Modi Ji's government. But the

unfortunate thing is that this time the government and their Minister of Finance was not concerned with chit funds. He had violated FEMA, for which he was in jail. Yesterday you people were crying out to bring him out. The High Court or the Supreme Court will grant bail. We will not bring them. You prepare for their bail. But due to the jailing of politicians like this, the country has been brought into disrepute on the world map. On one hand, our Prime Minister takes India to great heights, whereas in the old Congress era, when the Prime Minister used to go to America, the American President did not meet him and he used to return without meeting him. Today, when Prime Minister Modi attended the 'Howdy Modi' program, the President of America honoured him. Increased the honour and respect of our country... *(Interruptions)* Don't worry. You should worry about when....* is going to jail...*(Interruptions)* Do not go, keep this in mind because he is also going to go.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This will not go on the record.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Beniwal, please speak only on the Bill.

* Not recorded.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Sir, I am coming to the Bill itself. There is a request that this bill must pass from here. In this, our opposition friends will also support us somewhere because there are many good people among them, they will support us and they also know that now the public has woken up. If you do not support the right thing then this number will also decrease next time. So we will help. It has been said that suppose a company is registered in the state and has not registered itself with the Centre then the state government will not lodge an FIR against it. He is not obliged. The state governments should be obliged to do this, if such a law is passed in the parliament then the state governments should be forced. They are not going to affect the interests of the state anytime. The system of state governments is different. Today, you have the central investigating agency CBI, CBI will investigate only when an FIR is lodged against any company within the state and the state recommends. You can't do it without it. I requested that in such cases it should be openly discussed as to how the victim gets justice. If someone escapes after committing a scam, how to catch him? By the way, in this, you have also said that the limit for the

state has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakhs and for the company from Rs 6 lakhs to Rs 18 lakhs, this is appreciable.

Certainly, the bill is important to ensure that the money of the common man is not lost but I request that the state governments be restricted separately, if the minister wants, he should take a separate meeting of the finance ministers of the entire country. The Prime Minister should direct the Chief Ministers to support whatever is passed in the Parliament and more than half of the opposition will also support it and they have also said that they will support but they do not have much confidence in it. They talk about supporting inside and coming here in full force. I have been seeing for the past two or three days that they do not want to allow the Parliament to work. This is not sending any good message. The year 2024 has already been booked. Prepare beyond 2024. I don't think there would be any issue left in that. My only request to the Minister was that the common man or the poor man, the middle-class man, whose money is looted by these companies and in many places people are committing suicide. Someone had saved money for his daughter's marriage. Someone had saved his entire life's earnings to build a house. These companies run away with the money by assuring that they will double or triple their income. Strict legal action should be

taken against them. You have brought this bill. You should bring a similar bill so that the common man's money can be saved.

I would like to thank the Government that black money has started coming. Now you will say that black money has not come. Black money is coming. Coming slowly. It will take time. It won't happen in a day. Have dug holes for 70 years. It will take time to fill those pits. Article 370 was abrogated and the Supreme Court allowed the construction of the Ram temple. Within this tenure there have been two major victories and now what is left... *(Interruptions)* I am coming to the Bill only. Well, I have been in the opposition too. Let me speak. Sir, you speak for yourself... *(Interruptions)* I am an all-rounder. I would request that the strong India that the Prime Minister has spoken about, India has been empowered and the suffering is definitely in his mind. You must have won elections for small municipalities. But the municipality members will not sit here. Here the Members of Parliament will come after winning the elections and the one who becomes the PM will run the government. So don't be too happy... *(Interruptions)* Now the country is waiting for the day when the family that looted this country for 70 years, their ... The country wants to see when * will be

* Not recorded

behind bars... *(Interruptions)* When will ED take action?
...*(Interruptions)* I am not in that place... *(Interruptions)* If I had
been at that place, I would have caught it by now... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): What happened in
Rajasthan?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: What happened there?
...*(Interruptions)* They won... *(Interruptions)* One we have come and
one you have come crying... *(Interruptions)* People more intelligent
than me have spoken about the Bill... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record except the
speech of Shri Natarajan.

*(Interruptions) ... **

SHRI P. R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Thank you, Sir, for
giving me the opportunity to speak on the Chit Fund (Amendment)
Bill, 2019. I appreciate the intention of the Bill to bring more
regulatory mechanism to the chit fund sector but am sad to see that
the Bill has a lot of loopholes. The main contention is that the Bill

* Not recorded

does not have a provision for insurance coverage. I remind you the case of Saradha Chit Fund scandal that duped over 1.7 million depositors before it collapsed in April, 2013. Even after this huge scandal, it is unfortunate that efficient regulatory mechanisms are not in place to deal with the ponzy schemes. The following are some of the other issues in this sector.

There are stray cases of employees' fraud in chit fund companies committed on their own or in collusion with subscribers, thereby eroding the trust of the consumers in the sector. The weak regulatory framework makes it relatively easy for errant chit fund companies to get away with fraudulent activities. At times, the foreman also disappears with the corpus fund, leaving the subscribers with no clue about the future continuance of the fund. Chit fund business profits have been found to be used in money laundering activities. The weak financial literacy is one of the major problems in this sector. I strongly feel that the Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill without the provision for insurance coverage for subscribers is a toothless tiger.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak on the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019. As long as this cheat fund remains at a small level, people know each other about it, people collect money from each other and people even call it a committee then it is fine, but when this goes to big companies when people are given big lures that they will double, triple your money and they even give one or two instalments so that people can believe it. Then they say invest your relatives' money in it also, your money is coming back very well. Even if two or three instalments are returned, a chain reaction occurs. People invest the money of their friends and relatives in that company. Hon. Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur Ji is sitting here. Maybe he too have people suffering from that company. That is the 'Pearl' company. There is a village Chhajli in my Parliamentary Constituency. That company ran away with two crore rupees from that one village. Ten men committed suicide because they had invested their relatives' money in that company. Now there is a social stigma that I will face trouble among my relatives, so ten men of a village committed suicide. The 'Pearl' company ran away with the money of many poor people. It has huge assets not only in Punjab and Delhi but all over the country. Five

crore people in the country are affected by that company. When the late Arun Jaitley Ji was the Minister of Finance, I had asked this question. He had said that the owner of that company had been arrested and talked of taking legal action. But people are asking what benefit we got from his arrest. What kind of arrest it is, he is in a five-star hospital on the pretext of illness. He has so much property that he has taken a loan from banks. Give money to the people by confiscating it and selling his property. Even if we leave him, what should we do with him? If he is inside the jail or has fun while sitting in an AC room inside the hospital, people will not get their money back, where should people go? Should they lodge a FIR or what to do?

The crown company ran away with money in the chit fund scams. Now people are losing confidence in banks also. If they invest money in private, the chit-fund people run away. People's earnings are being looted. Minister of State for Finance, let me give an example. There was a man named Alan Stanford in America. He took money from the people there saying that he would double-triple their money. After that, he cheated the people. He survived from the electric chair with great difficulty. There is no provision of hanging there, instead there is an electric chair. He barely survived but was

sentenced to 185 years. Hence, exemplary punishments should be given so that, in the future, such swindlers do not abscond with the hard-earned money of ordinary people. They run away with money from banks. How do we know, which new Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya will emerge now? We have become afraid of even depositing money in the bank. We entrust our money to a private entity, expecting it to provide interest, yet it is the chit-fund company that absconds with it. After all, where should we go? If D.C doesn't listen, he goes to the police but who listens to the poor man at the police station? This is a good Bill. I am not opposing this bill but any accountability for it should be given. Whom to go to? Is there a collector or an officer at the SDM level to whom complaints of such financial crimes can be reported? If any new company comes like this, people's trust is broken again. In such a situation, what should people do?

This Parliament is a big temple of democracy. People listen to every word spoken here and laws made from here. There are so many big scams that even people's minds have been raised by scammers. A scam of so many thousand crore rupees, a scam of 76 thousand crore rupees, we don't even know how many zeros are required to write that amount. Even common people do not read

scams worth Rs 5-10 crore, leave it, it must be some small-time thief. Perhaps the British would not have looted the country in two hundred years as much as our people looted in 70 years. Therefore, such a law should be made so that exemplary punishment can be given and people with chit funds cannot be cheated. Can't run away with people's money. I once again request the Minister of State for Finance to give back the money invested by the people in the Pearl Company by selling the property of that company. The property of this company extends up to Australia, which is benami, in the name of someone's son-in-law, in the name of someone's nephew. Therefore, through international laws, those properties should also be traced and the money of the people here should be returned along with interest. It would be even better if accountability is defined in detail in this bill. I support this bill because common people's money is involved in it. If you have the determination to remove them then it is commendable.

KUMARI PRATIMA BHOUMIK (TRIPURA WEST): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you and my party for allowing me to speak on such a special subject. This bill came in the year 2019, this bill was there earlier too; it came first in the year 1982 and thereafter it was amended. More and more poor people have been

cheated in the chit fund. The state I come from is Tripura. Many people here do not know the name of Tripura... (*Interruptions*) We have suffered the pain of chit-fund. Our population is 37 lakhs, out of which 16 lakh people have become victims of this fraud. Our budget for this year was Rs. 16 thousand crores. In the years 2006, 2007, 2010, and 2011, Rs. 10 thousand crores have been looted from our state and you should worry about this. The poor tea seller and vegetable seller who earns Rs 200 have been looted a lot. Poor people who work are told very well about the pension money to be received after retirement from a job that this money will double in two years and triple in five years. With these false promises, Rs. 10 thousand crores have been looted from these people.

Hon. Chairperson, during the time of our previous government in the year 2018, the government changed due to the influence of Prime Minister Modi. During that time, our state's Chief Minister, known worldwide as a very humble Chief Minister used to walk to the Secretariat. Such a Chief Minister inaugurated Rose Valley Park. Standing in that park...* said that you keep money in Rose Valley and that money of yours will be safe. But when the people of our state were robbed, no one came to know about it. There ... * *he was an agent himself*. In my state ... * All the people

from * were agents. There is no house, where money was not looted in the Rose Valley Chit Fund scam.

Sir, this is a very good bill. I hope that this will bring justice to the people of my state and people will not get scared of chit-funds in the future. All the chit-fund companies, be it Rose Valley, I-Core, Support India, Ramel, Waris, all these companies, these 102 companies had gone to Tripura. The roots of all these are in West Bengal... *(Interruptions)* The first film city that has just been built in West Bengal, has been built with money from Agartala. After this, the people of West Bengal have been looted.... *(Interruptions)* These people have been robbed in the last place... *(Interruptions)* Now West Bengal knows about it... *(Interruptions)* Many people have committed suicide. Now, at least ten thousand boys and girls are no longer in Tripura; they used to work in Rose Valley as agents.... * had given us such a government. Now Modi ji is there so it is possible. They have just left from here. We want that a CBI investigation that is going on regarding the Rs. 10 thousand crore that has been looted from our state, but it would be good if our people get their money. Our budget is 16 thousand crore rupees, Rs. 10 thousand crore has been looted from people. Among them, there are tea sellers, vegetable sellers and some students who take tuition.

Chairperson Sir , we did not have a bank account before Prime Minister Modi's Jan Dhan Yojana. When Modi ji started bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana, he made complete arrangements to ensure that people did not open accounts. They have looted a lot of money from it. I thank the Hon.Minister that he has brought this Amendment Bill. We want that this amendment bill should do good work and good work should be done for those people who have earned money with their blood and sweat, overcoming the bad reputation that has been brought in the name of chit fund. The money that they had kept to protect their future was looted.

Chairperson Sir, I support this Bill. Not only did the poor lose their money in the chit-fund scam, they also committed suicide. My personal opinion is that the people who committed the chit-fund scam and the people who patronized them should be booked for fraud and the money should be taken back from them and distributed among these people. Whatever property they have, their property should be seized and the money should be distributed among these people, you should also keep this provision in this bill.

Chairperson Sir, in the end, I just want to say that the entire House should support this Chit Fund Bill and we should send a message to the world that there is no place for scamsters in

India. With this, I conclude my speech and support the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Thank you.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir for allowing me to speak in the discussion on the Chit Funds Amendment Bill 2019. First of all, I congratulate and thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the Chit Fund Bill that you have brought to the benefit of the poor. Thousands of people have become victims in every state. I come from Bihar and my Parliamentary Constituency is Nalanda. There too, many people are telling us that wherever people are working in Agartala, Bengal, and Rajasthan, people everywhere are troubled by chit funds. Whether the company is named Sharda, Rose Valley or Pearl, people are duping the poor by promising to double or triple their money within two or three years using various schemes. A law should be enacted to prevent individuals involved in such activities from repeating their wrongdoings by setting up a board and initiating fraudulent schemes. This is a well-thought-out plan, in which four people, among the good people, bring educated retired people and by forming a group, they are running the business of fraud by putting up a board in every state. Businessmen are told that I give you one lakh rupees and tomorrow you return me 1.25 lakh rupees. In this way, this work is done by giving money to many people. I would like to mention about P.A.C.L. that thousands of people and also many

people from our Parliamentary Constituency have told that a lot of their hard work money has been wrongly withdrawn by that company. These are all small people. Some work as a street vendor, some operate stalls, there are small shopkeepers, and there are tea vendors. Therefore, I welcome the Hon.Minister for bringing this Bill. I have a suggestion that there should be provisions in the regulations governing chit-fund financial transactions to ensure the safety of people's money. Under no circumstances should the general public lose money. For all the people whose money has been lost, the government should make efforts to get their money out. The government should try to get the money out of their hands by selling their property. I end my speech by saying this. Thank you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): I will speak in very few words because Shri Bandopadhyay has spoken on behalf of our party before. I would like to draw attention to one or two shortcomings of the Government. This Chit Fund Amendment Bill was placed in the last Lok Sabha. After that, it came to the Standing Committee. I was also a member at that time. We had submitted our report in August 2018 and now it is November 2019. After the Standing Committee report, it took one year and three months to bring this bill again. Now look at the date of this bill – “Nirmala Sitharaman, July 31, 2019” Why did it take so many days to bring a bill? This delay reduces the efficacy of the law. I would like to request Shri Anurag Singh Thakur because he has been coming for the past two days, whereas Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman was also absent for two days. I would like this young Minister to see all this so that it happens on time. Secondly, people's perception of chit funds is not clear. Our sister from Tripura spoke and others who spoke were speaking about the Collective Investment Scheme. This chit-fund is a very small thing. Some people together create a fund and the same people divide it among themselves. There is no question of getting money from the public. There is a need to bring changes in this, which have been brought. Now the chit fund will be called the fraternity

fund. The compensation of the foreman will be increased and there should be no objection to this Chit Fund Amendment Bill. One more thing was said that there will be two members and they can participate through video conferencing. I am against it and I think everyone should be present. But still, there is nothing to raise any specific objection in the Chit Fund Amendment Bill, because the government has followed the Standing Committee report and the same has been included in this bill.

While delivering speeches here, all the speakers mentioned Sharada, Rose Valley, Punjab's Pearl, and Odisha's Seashore. Two things are responsible for the scam of thousands and crores of rupees: one is the failure of our banking system. We were unable to reach the people and individuals involved in collective schemes took money from people through personal influence. If the banking system had reached everywhere then people would not have gone towards it. This chit-fund name is misleading. This is not CHEAT, it is CHIT, meaning a small piece of paper. All the speakers continued to talk about Sharda and Narda, but this bill has no connection with them. I want to say that one is the failure of the banking system and the second is the failure of our regulators in the formation of collective schemes. There are regulators in our country. Reserve

Bank of India is a regulator. The Securities Exchange Board of India is a regulator. SFIO i.e. Serious Fraud Investigation Office in our Company Affairs Department can also be a regulator. These people did not do any work and thousands and crores of rupees were lost in this.

Hon. BJP's Members from West Bengal, Smt. Locket Chatterjee and Shri Dilip Ghosh continued to speak on this issue but did not comment on the bill. He has made some allegations against the Chief Minister of West Bengal which I strongly condemn. I appeal to you that the name of the Chief Minister of West Bengal should be expunged from the proceedings. What these Members have said is absurd. They did not understand the meaning of Chit Fund and spoke on it which is not appropriate. We want that the guilty in the chit-fund should be punished. If you have a CBI in your hands then CBI for so long day... *(Interruptions)* I am speaking on a mindless member and it is not an abuse. You say, sir, look at the dictionary... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly address the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We will consider it but please address the Chair now.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Calling him foolish is not a bad thing, it is not disrespectful, it is not unparliamentary.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, therefore, it is not appropriate to say such things here. We need to rectify the flaws in our country's financial system. The government has taken some steps and unregulated deposits have been banned. More stringent steps have to be taken so that the poor man's money does not go to waste anywhere in the country. If there is any case then decide on it as soon as possible, CBI should give a charge sheet and a penalty

should be imposed and whatever has to happen will happen. But alleging in the House that Trinamool people are connected to this is wrong, it should not happen. This is harming the dignity of the house. I hope that people from the ruling party will not say such things. You have the responsibility of running the country. If anyone is found guilty then it is the responsibility to punish him. You should understand that you should fulfil this responsibility properly. Not by fighting but by making false allegations in an empty House, that will not happen. Along with this, I have given some amendments but broadly in principle, I support the chit-funds amendment bill that you have brought, which is according to the report of the Standing Committee.

[English]

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA (JHANSI): Respected Chairperson Sir, I rise to stand here before you to support the Bill. I have gone through some of the provisions of the Bill. It has already gone through the Standing Committee which has made a couple of very good suggestions. The hon. Member who spoke before me did say something about the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. About 185 such cases have been brought forward to the SFIO in 2017. Now, we have had over 30000 registered Chit Fund Companies in India, and if we talk about the unregistered Chit Funds, the figure is approximately 100 times more. So, when you have such a large number in such an informal sector, I am happy to see that the Government is trying its best to regulate this. Chit Funds, Committees, Kitties are the various names given to it, and there has always been a sense of doubt regarding all these funds.

I have had one incident in my own constituency of Jhansi, where a family of four, the Udania Family, was unfortunately burnt alive just before Diwali. It is because most of these people tend to collect the money and reimburse or disburse it back around Diwali. Unfortunately, there was over a crore rupees lying in the house and someone took it. So, we have seen what happens when there is so

much of unaccounted wealth or wealth which is being suppressed and not brought into the system. Such heinous crimes do take place. This constantly seems to be a trend which is mainly because people think that Chit Funds are very necessary. It is not the failure of the banking system, as mentioned by an hon. Member earlier. Chit Funds are for a limited period of time and for a specific purpose. Once that purpose is solved, they are able to lend quicker, they are able to collect the money quicker and people are able to get some kind of return from it. So, I am very happy to see that the Government has brought in certain changes, and provisions like increasing the limit to Rs. 3 lakh for an individual or to Rs. 18 lakh for a firm will definitely help the people.

Regarding technology, the only thing I wanted to know is that if the recording is done through video conferencing, then would that data need to be stored somewhere so that, that can be reverified by all the investors?

It is an excellent thing to increase the ceiling from five per cent to seven per cent, calling it a ROSCA. But we need to bring in as many people into the formal sector. Since both the Finance Ministers are sitting here, my question would be, could a certain size of funds and their communication be monitored like what they are really

communicating and from where they are collecting the money? Could they be asked to submit it? Many times, what happens is like this. When they start promising high returns like 3 per cent, 5 per cent or 10 per cent a month, then it lures the ordinary common person to invest in such schemes. So, that could be monitored or they could be forced to submit it to the local offices, may be, the District Administration or whoever monitors it from the ROSCA. If that communication could be monitored, it will prevent them from making tall claims which cannot be fulfilled. When tall claims are made and extra money is collected, people tend to run away. I would again like to congratulate the Government for bringing in this Bill and using technology for the purpose of monitoring, and hence, I would like to extend my support to the Government on this Bill.

16.00 hrs

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Thank you very much Sir for allowing me to speak on this important Bill. First of all, I want to tell you why this bill was needed. What are the problems in society? The biggest problem was what we call ponzi scheme or chit-fund scheme, these schemes were running all over the country. Chit means a slip of paper, which was drawn

through a slip or committee. Because of that many people were cheated. Its name itself was changed to Chit Fund. If we look at chit funds then why was there a need for them and the need was there because after independence, the people who were to be included in the economy were not included. This is the reason that when our government came to power in the year 2014, accounts of 32 crore people were opened, that is, accounts of 32 crore families were opened in just 4 months. Till 70 years after independence, there were only 12 crore accounts in this country, i.e. you can guess even 12 crore, there will be many families whose have been four, five, eight and ten, so eight to ten crore were the accounts of only families. Everyone else was not associated with the economy. How did they run their business, there was no banking system, how did they raise money from the market, how did they meet their needs? With cooperation, they used to do all this by working together through chit funds, raising soft loans and making soft loans to manage some livelihood. That is why the circulation of chit funds has increased in this country. But due to being unregulated, problems kept increasing here and people kept getting cheated. In the year 1982, an attempt was made to stop all these wrong things by making some legal provisions but it was an unsuccessful attempt.

I remember when we were in school, the Sanchayika scheme was started and we all created an account by adding whatever little money we got through a small piggy bank in our schools with the vision of teaching us banking in school and we all deposited money in the savings bank. All the money was gone. Following the era of savings movements in the 70s, a plethora of schemes emerged, such as Sharda-Narada, falsely associated with renowned Chit Funds, wherein a consortium of approximately 200 entities defrauded around 17 lakh individuals, misappropriating an estimated sum of 5-6 billion rupees from the nation. The poorest of the poor who were not connected to the economy, the farmer was not connected to the banking economy, his money was stolen, his money was gone. All the big names, i.e., the DGPA of one state and the Sports Minister of another state, were caught in such schemes and they were also punished. Before this Chit Fund Amendment Act, the government included fraudulent and conspiracy schemes like the Chit Fund, etc. in unlawful activities. Even in that legal change, work was done on it in the last session, so I want to thank the government for this because the seriousness of the purpose is visible. This system which is running in the country needs to be corrected. When this system needed to be fixed, one of those schemes was implemented, through

which it was fixed. What is the meaning of fraudulent schemes, first I would like to explain this in two to four lines.

First of all, it is a fraudulent scheme in which false promises are made to people. 200 trees, 5000 trees, so much money, so much money, this land, that land is duped by making false promises to people of every kind. When the people's money is collected based on that fraud, it is stolen from them. When a particular society is removed from the financial institution, it does not get institutional access and does not become a part of capital schemes. It requires that states be authorized at the grass-roots level. The States needed to be strengthened so that they could control all such schemes and be directly responsible for them. Because of this issue, the law was modified. The biggest problem in this country is financial literacy. Previously, there was literacy, but now the power of literacy has enhanced; the number of literate individuals has increased, yet financial literacy remains low in the country. People are not aware of the means and other arrangements to connect with the economy. That is why they become part of Ponzi schemes and other such schemes. Many times it was found within the banking system that banks were not available to the poor man. We have seen this change in the last 5 years. The Government has changed the attitude

of the Banking Officers. Now whether it is Atal Pension Yojana or other accident-related schemes. With all those schemes, small schemes, starting with the opening of accounts, today the banker goes to the house of that poor person and does all this work. He puts up a camp inside the area, which was earlier not allowed to enter the bank. Through this, financial literacy is required. Somewhere the government is trying to work on it. Due to a lack of financial literacy, people get trapped in such schemes. An alternative opinion is that there are investment initiatives that are abused by scammers and because people do not know how to double their money, or increase their money overnight, they fall into their trap. Somewhere, people need to explain that if the interest rate is 8 to 9 percent then you cannot earn 50 percent or 100 percent of money. When you cannot earn so much money, the scheme that is luring you like this is wrong.

There were Sharda and other such financial scams and about 200 private companies have been involved in such schemes. In the year 2013, that case came to light, the impact of which was seen by everyone. I want to take the names of some prominent personalities. Sadly, our members in Parliament were Kunal Ghosh, Shrinjoy Bose, who was the DG, Rajat Majumdar and Debabrata Sarkar, who

was the Sports Minister. These scams have come to light because of this circulation. There was a need to differentiate between the Price Chit Money and the Money Circulation Bill, which was earlier banned by the same government. This provision was brought for how the chits should be regulated after banning them. I want to go through a paragraph of the 35th Report of the Standing Committee, 2015-16. *[English]* In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has submitted as follows:

"The Government has undertaken a massive exercise of financial inclusion through the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana wherein about 21 crore bank accounts have been opened to provide regulated financial services. Further, through the three Jan Suraksha Schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana, over 12.53 crore citizens have been covered under the social security schemes of life or accidental insurance and old-age pension."

[Translation]

What I want to say is that these were the main reasons for which Ponzi schemes were run. The government is trying its best to control the situation. I feel that when the state governments have

been given more powers then the state governments should also come forward and work for financial inclusion and financial literacy so that the business of such schemes does not run within their areas. In this, I want to mention one word which is an amendment. The word fraternity fund has been added to it. The reason behind adding fraternity funds is that the way discretionary funds because chits and money circulation prize money ones have been banned. Therefore, the regulated schemes named Fraternity Fund, which are run by people themselves together for the benefit of the poor people, have been given the new name of Fraternity Fund so that those schemes cannot be compared with prize money scheme.

Providing two persons as foremen and if for some reason, because many times these schemes are running in the interiors, in villages and people are sitting away from them, then the foreman will be allowed to do this through video conferencing. I am happy that many Panchayats have been connected through 'Digital India'. If a panchayat at the village level wants to run such a scheme in a regulated manner then they could run it. Also, by maintaining transparency through video conferencing, we can remain available there and its legal system can be improved by the government.

Thirdly, in view of the feasibility report, I urge the government to facilitate high-speed internet above ground level as we endeavour towards financial inclusion, connecting people via telephones and through the BHIM app, thereby necessitating the provision of high-speed internet to the maximum extent, directly intertwined with financial inclusion. The foreman received 5 percent of the work done as a commission. The current interest rate has been increased from 5 percent to 7 percent because the funds acquired through improper means were previously unregulated and by regulating them, if you provide them with funds then theft and malpractice will decrease.

[English]

The Report of the Standing Committee on Finance of 2017-18, in Page 62 says,

“It also seeks to allow the foreman to have a right to lien for the dues from subscribers so that set-off is allowed by the chit fund company for the subscribers who have already drawn funds so as to discourage default by them.”

[Translation]

Those who take the chits first are ultimately responsible for deceiving as they allow for an escape route after taking the money. Therefore, their property, money and lien on them can be kept by the foreman so that if they cheat, it can be confiscated and better action can be taken. Therefore the foreman has been given this authority, which is a much better work. Section 85B of the Chit Fund Act has been removed in the amendment. Because earlier, the sealing was of 100 rupees. In 1982, there was a sealing of Rs. 100, but today, the sealing of Rs.100 holds no significance. Therefore, the government has done an excellent job of removing it and I want to thank the government for this.

An additional term 'Rotating Savings and Credit Institution' has been included. The gullible people, the innocent people, who do not have much knowledge about the economic policies, should not get trapped in this and to save them, this provision has been made by including the companies. Chit funds, somewhere, I feel, have become the reason for a huge gap in the economy, which has not been filled or completed even after 70 years of independence. This was the only way for people to get soft loans and keep money savings. As the formal system gets better, as the formal institutions reach the grassroots and as their availability increases, schemes like

chit-funds will spread and end among the people through more information.

I want to express my gratitude to this government that they have brought a good bill and there is a need to strengthen it systematically. We are with the government. The government should take full-fledged action on it. Thank you very much.

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Hon. Chairperson, over the past two days, there has been discussion about the Chit Fund Act and I certainly welcome the amendment brought to it because it reflects the hope and trust with which it has been brought, even though this amendment has been brought after 38 years through the Standing Committee and hence there is no significant opposition to it by the Hon. Members. I am a member of the ruling party. I would welcome it.

16.14 hrs

(Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi *in the Chair*)

Hon. Speaker, I want to say that the need for Chit Funds arose because as Madam Lekhi has just said it is certain that we did not have the facility of roads, communication means or so many banking facilities in those times after the independence of the country and those who used to save small amounts at that time could somehow gather a lump sum somewhere. With this in mind, a small chit was drawn and the maximum amount was given to a person, which was collected by all the people together. This way it was named Chit Fund. Chit means letter and it is derived from the word letter. When its name gradually spread among the people and the people running

it became intelligent, they started the work of cheating through chits. Later, it became a cheat fund instead of a chit fund and they started looting through it. If we look into it, we will find that those who were looting the common people were more educated and the common people were the poor, small labourers and farmers of the villages who collected small amounts of money and deposited it in it.

Hon. Chairperson, I would say that as is the name, so is its quality. From the name chit itself, it seems that it is a cheating company. We have seen this over the years. A law is coming for this after 38 years. For this, I would like to thank our respected Modi ji, Minister of Finance ji, respected Anurag ji and the Standing Committee that they have done the work of changing its name. At least, now its name is not Chit Fund. Now its name is 'Fraternal Fund' Fraternity means our relationship with each other. Just as respected Modi ji has given the slogan that *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*, in the same way, the money deposited by all the people will be deposited with brotherhood and unity and this fund will be used as recurring savings. The work that has been done to change its name is right because people were suspicious of the word chit. Whatever happened in the past, we have a saying that forget the

past and think about the future. Before this, how many people were dishonest and how many mistakes were made, now a new system has been introduced, different from all that. Now it has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 3 lakhs. We are working to give 7 percent profit to the people running it instead of 5 percent. Similarly, a group of people will operate it instead of an individual. Corporate was increased to Rs. 18 lakhs. This fund was increased because more money would be required now. Earlier this amount was less, now there has been some economic prosperity among the people. Now, people can earn up to Rs. 18 lakhs in this. Earlier people used to do the work by drawing chits, but nowadays it is a medium of communication. If someone is present through video conferencing, he can watch through conferencing. All these amendments are very good.

Hon. Chairperson, one thing I would like to say in this is that generally people who need money, still need it. Until now, those who were not registered were more susceptible to deception. The work that was done through registered companies, used to loot people by doing work that was more than their ceiling. Today everyone's attention has gone towards him. In this way, there are many acts for the unregistered persons, through which we arrest

them. We all are MPs and public representatives, hence it is our duty to look into all these issues. Numerous unregistered entities within the vicinity engage in fraudulent practices, circumvent financial regulations and undertake banking operations. Just as you highlighted the operational status of the accumulator, I am equally cognizant of the emergence of numerous banking entities. These banking companies employed people from our locality who were a little educated, they also employed some well-known people.

Chairperson Sir, I feel sad to say that even a person like me was asked at that time. At that time I used to practice as a doctor and later became an MLA also. People from such companies came to us also and said that they would make us the head of Sahara India, and the head of Sanchayika. Since then I was afraid that these people were not right. The poor people of the village were employed to collect money. Through them, they used to deposit Rs. 10- 20 every day and later collect the money and run away. A skilled company came to my place for construction work and later on all these companies ran away. Just as it is said, once bitten, twice shy. Strict action must be taken against all the other banking companies that have looted people just like cheating fund companies. Today, the government of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi is taking action by opening

all the banking accounts. Today Jan Dhan and Mudra Yojana have been launched. Mudra Yojana also came out of this through which people who do not have money can do their business by taking a loan of Rs. 20 or Rs.50 thousand.

Sir, in the government of respected Shri Modi, efforts are made for the betterment of villages, poor farmers, and labourers. I support the Chit Funds Bill 2019. While supporting this, I would like to say that for those five percent is increased to seven percent will benefit from it. Those who are concerned about earning more money by doing wrong may not be able to do so. Therefore, I conclude my speech by supporting all the amendments and thank the Minister of Finance again.

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): Thank you Madam for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill in this august House. This chit fund system is more useful to the rural poor. These rural poor people and their families use this system to improve their economic development. The chit fund scheme is a good plan for the poor and middle-class people to do the savings. It gives a good return for their savings. But many organisations are indulging in fraud and they cheat people. If the poor people are cheated by these organisations, it should be considered as a criminal offence. Stringent punishment should be given to the culprits. The State Government should also monitor these chit fund cases by appointing some supervisory body.

This is the easiest way for the poor and the middle-class people to save money. So, the Government should encourage these chit fund organisations by giving them incentives and other things. A separate police wing may be set up, especially to monitor and inquire cheating related to finances in the chit fund system. My last point is that exemption from GST should be given to the chit fund organisations because poor and middle-class people use the chit fund

scheme. That is why, I am requesting the Government to give GST exemption to the chit fund organisations.

[Translation]

ADVOCATE AJAY BHATT (NAINITAL-UDHAMSINGH NAGAR): Madam, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important bill. This action represents a firm stance against corruption once more. There are moments when you wonder what would happen to the country if Prime Minister Modi were not in charge. One corruption after another and Bengal is badly shaken by this.

We were expressing our opinions here. We have spoken a lot about Ponzi schemes which are called unregulated deposits. Now this has been made an Act. Last time, under the leadership of Shri Modi the government made an Act that all such transactions would be illegal at any cost. They were not even valid to date. Last time, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Bill was also passed. There are also provisions for strict punishment in this. This is known as a Ponzi scheme. Consider Sharda, Pearl, Adarsh, and many more, who usurped people's money and went abroad. Just now my friend was saying that their land extends till Australia. No one was paying attention in the country; people were being looted, they were dying,

there was a crisis and no one was paying attention to making laws. Let what is unfolding unfold; grind the person without acknowledging its importance; let the current state persist without amendments; if someone is dying, let them perish, allowing each of them to remain in their current circumstances. Upon assuming office, Prime Minister Modi systematically addressed various issues leading to the nation's decline, including those impacting families and resulting in instances of despair and suicide, employing a methodical approach akin to repairing damaged items.

This bill is also a severe blow to corruption. Now there will be no more Sharda, Pearl and Adarsh. Many incidents like these were reported but now such incidents and accidents cannot happen anymore. There were already three types of crimes in this and provision of punishment has been made for the one who runs or starts such a scheme. Whoever runs such schemes and cheats people, tells them wrong things and for operating and supporting such schemes, if a film actor says that there is such a scheme, deposit money, cricket or badminton player, football player or wrestler, like they give advertisements these days if they also give such advertisement then they are also criminals and they will also go to jail, under this law, its provision has been made in the first session.

Hon., Prime Minister has brought very good amendments. This act was introduced a long time ago but it had several flaws and many shortcomings. The individuals I mentioned earlier were flourishing, indulging in luxuries, residing in lavish accommodations equipped with air conditioning and regularly traveling in executive class. The way they speak, the way they walk, the way they dress, the way they talk to common people with a frown on their face, as if the common man is nothing. They employed bodyguards who would brusquely dismiss individuals seeking repayment by rudely instructing them to leave. They remained impervious to any attempts to approach them regarding the whereabouts of our money. I was just in my city Haldwani-Nainital. Mothers and sisters came to me and said that we will have to commit suicide, please arrange money from somewhere, we have invested all the relatives' money in this. The story of every state is more or less the same. Now no person in the country can do such a thing, whoever does it will die, go to jail and suffer. Our government has made perfect arrangements for this.

Hon. Shri Narendra Modi and the Central Government deserve congratulations. We are making significant changes in all areas including injustice, corruption and the increasingly prevalent unregulated activities. It seems that today there is a guardian of the

country, and he is going to save it. They used to say - Do you have any head, is anyone the guardian of the country? Today, we can proudly proclaim that Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the guardian of us all, the guardian of the nation and the protector of even the poorest among us.

Some changes have been made in this act but they are not very big. It was made in 1982 and at that time anyone who operated a chit would operate it up to Rs one lakh. Now it has been given a discount of up to Rs three lakhs. If a firm used to run chit in the past then it is exempted up to Rs. 6 lakhs. Now they can run chit up to Rs. 18 lakhs. Let's conduct business with utmost transparency, open any chit but ensure there is accountability for every single penny, with meticulous tracking of each account. Let's adopt this as a business practice, there's no issue with it; but whatever is taken, will be returned along with interest. In this way, it is a completely pure banking system. Earlier, to run a chit, the foreman, that is, the one who runs the chit, used to bring any two persons, make them stand, and withdraw the deposit. But now to bring transparency, either the account holder or depositor will be visible in video conferencing or will be physically present. There will be physical verification, even if it is through video conferencing. Now there can be no fraud

anywhere because the administrative expenses have increased, the costs have increased. The law previously provided Foreman with a legal commission of up to five percent; however, that amount has since been raised to seven percent. If you are running a business or a chit, you should also get expenses to run it so that your curiosity increases and you can do better work. Everyone's interests have been protected in this Act.

The biggest thing is that the state governments have been given the power to decide up to what amount they can give exemption. Some operate Ponzi schemes, others run different schemes; we were talking about Ponzi-type matters, indicating to what extent one can exempt others. The provision of exemptions is also with the state government. Now, there will be no corruption in state governments. It cannot happen because every state government has a Registrar of Chits where the registration of the chit is mandatory one can be out of this. If he goes out, it will be called an unregulated deposit and based on that he will go to jail. There is no place for doubt anywhere in this Act. It is being amended now and a very good law is coming into existence. The common man can also consider it as a business. This will remove unemployment and people's deposit money will also remain safe.

I want to extend my congratulations to the government and Hon. Prime Minister Modi for their efforts in taking even the smallest matters forward to ensure the security of India. Today our country is safe in the hands of Shri Narendra Modi . Whether we talk about the ruling party or the opposition when people go abroad, they are asked "where they live and get a response like "Oh, you are from India, Modi's country. Welcome, welcome!" Those people who criticize here are getting respect in foreign countries in the name of Modi ji. I request everyone to pass this act. I rise in support of this. Thank you very much.

SHRI. P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Chit Fund Bill, 2019 is a landmark Bill in itself. It seems like that it won't have a significant impact, whether it's a matter of employment or savings, its indirect effect will be positive for the Indian economy. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for considering amendments to the Chit Fund Amendment Bill which is much needed. I support this bill.

I would like to highlight that Prime Minister Modi's vision and thinking, which extend to the remotest corners of society, whether in villages or cities and regardless of one's economic status, are reflected in the banking system we observe. This system, with its formalities, time-consuming processes and complexities, necessitates the forthcoming amendment in the Chit Funds Bill, which will prove immensely meaningful in safeguarding their interests. Just like the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, Chit Fund Amendment Bill or such instruments, these are a huge tool for financial inclusion. Because during the previous tenure, through the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, millions of bank accounts were opened in the country, expanding the banking system to a much wider population. Because in the previous tenure, crores of bank accounts were opened in the country through the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, earlier the

banking system was available to very limited people. The way chit funds operate in villages, they also function in cities and it is due to the foresight of our Prime Minister that their promotion has been facilitated. Because without financial inclusion today, we cannot give momentum to the economy. To give momentum to the economy, whether it's related to the Jan-Dhan Yojana, Prime Minister Mudra Yojana or the Chit Fund matter, I believe that these are excellent tools that will promote financial inclusion. If we talk about employment, even if the impact is not visible in direct employment, we can see it in millions in indirect employment. This will result in indirect employment for millions. Because when we work for financial inclusion and the poor people work together to boost the economy, it is a big deal in itself. As I told you, when it comes to credit in the banking sector, a lot of formalities have to be completed to get the credit. Eligibility and rigid policies exist for everything. All these things have been streamlined by further amendments in the Chit Fund Act. This has been further institutionalized for greater ease.

Our MSME sector is a very big sector, which we can call the backbone of the country. Today, we are witnessing the 90 percent employment generation coming from our MSME sector. The

amendment to the Chit Fund is also very helpful for this sector. The credit gap is huge because I was listening to many speakers and I saw that the credit gap for MSMEs is about Rs. 17 lakh crores. This huge credit gap that has been created for MSMEs will be breached and reduced by the Chid Fund and our MSME sector will get a big push economically from the point of view of the economy, a lot of work will be done in MSMEs. Community-based financial and credit arrangement, which stands as a parallel system distinct from banking institutions, is crucial in its own right. There are often concerns that people might think it's not safe but I believe that the chit-fund investment itself is inherently safe. Because its governing authorities are state governments. It is very important for any institution working here to be registered. If it is registered, there will be accountability, liability, and a checking mechanism. The regulatory mechanisms provided in the 1982 Act specifically cover this. It has many advantages. This serves as both a saving and borrowing product for ordinary individuals and those of modest means. It can accommodate both saving and borrowing needs, with minimal paperwork requirements and offers high returns as well.

Apart from that, if someone invests money in the market, be it in equity, bonds or mutual funds, there can be fluctuations in it and

there might be a loss. But this is such an instrument that the chances of loss are very low. In numerous instances, when emergencies arise, the need for funds becomes apparent. While conventional banking procedures entail a formalized mechanism for loan and credit disbursement, the notable ease and absence of formality in this context prove distinctly beneficial during such crises, whether about medical emergencies within families, children's educational fees, or considerations for initiating small-scale businesses. As I am giving an example, suppose someone saves Rs. 10,000 per month and for 6 consecutive months, we consider that Rs. 60,000 has been accumulated. Interest is earned on it and in addition to that, he can also withdraw 80 percent of the amount; this provision is also included in it. But I am seeing some challenges like Association with Investment and such scams, we will have to strengthen the law further.

Many people were associating it with Ponzi schemes. Ponzi schemes are entirely different and if we look at the Chit Fund Act of 1982 there is a significant difference between the two. This should not be examined in isolation but rather in conjunction with its connections. I would like to express gratitude to the Minister of Finance for bringing forth these commendable amendments, as they

have introduced new technologies alongside traditional players, thereby ensuring further smoothness in the functioning of chit-fund schemes. The fraternity fund given in place of the chit fund will be viewed from a positive perspective. Taking all these into consideration, I would like to say that the person sitting at the last end of society, whether he is in the city or in the village, who is poor, who has small businesses, who is needy, will be useful for them too and along with that employment will be generated on a large scale.

[English]

***SHRI OM PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on Chit Fund Amendment Bill, 2019. I fully support the amendments made in this bill. Hon. Chairperson, while discussing this bill, we should keep in mind the people who have invested their money in these schemes. The people living in the rural areas and the labourers who earn only Rs. 200-300 per day have invested their money. It is their hard-earned money. They had invested in these high return schemes just to secure their future and to marry off their children. The companies like Pearl India,

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Samruddh Jeevan have duped people at large. The people were deceived and did not get their money back. They have been waiting for the last 8-10 years for their money. This money belongs to the poorest of the poor and it was their very hard-earned money. Their money has got stuck in these chit fund companies and the investors are now completely helpless and clueless. Hence, I would like to request to seize the properties of these dubious and defaulter companies and by selling off their properties, the money should be returned back to these poor people immediately. I would also like to request you to kindly stop the financial activities of 91 defaulter companies which are blacklisted by SEBI. These kinds of companies are mushrooming everywhere and hence the defaulters should be punished. Helpless people as well as the agents are forced to commit suicide. The investors are completely devastated and seeking help from Government. Hence, I would like to demand of the Hon. Finance Minister to make a necessary provision for strict and panel action against these defaulters in this bill.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate and support the Government for making these amendments in this bill. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. AMAR SINGH (FATEHGARH SAHIB): Madamji, this chit-fund issue has been going on since yesterday and the day before. This is a very serious matter because the citizens who get trapped in it are mostly poor or middle-class people. Not a very rich person gets trapped in this. What is the basic reason why the only poor get trapped in this? Unfortunately, there is no one from the Finance Department here, only the Parliamentary Minister is here. Ever since the country became independent *(Interruptions)* You please move aside. Let the chair face me... *(Interruptions)* She will listen to us very well. Madam, this is my opinion and I request you to sir, what is the reason for failure? The Minister is here and we welcome. No matter who the government was, we could not understand and created any instrument for the poor to save money. Now if they have to open a bank account then we get wasted while filling out the form. In my opinion, perhaps even an hon. MP cannot fill out the form himself. The problem of the man of the poor is that he wants to save Rs. 50-100 but he is not getting any means in the financial formal system.

The Minister of State for Finance is here, I would request that this is the basic thing why the poor man is getting trapped in this,

because we are not giving any means to his small savings of Rs 10-20 in the formal system, hence they are favouring chit funds. Someone from the same locality who knows the person who is running the chit fund says, Hey! Don't worry, I will double, triple, and quadruple your money. Then he says, whatever money you have, put it in this, you will certainly get something from it. We need to think about how to bring the small savings of the poor man into the formal system. Sir, which is the second biggest shortcoming, you have also given amendments, the question is not about the organized sector. Even today, those who register chit funds can be caught under the law. The question is about the unorganized ones, who are sitting here and there and in villages. I have read all the amendments. You are saying that we will fix those which are unregulated and unorganized.

The major point which is missing in this and I would like to request what is the insurance for the money of those poor people, here there is no insurance for bank accounts, even if we have 20 lakh rupees lying around, we will get insurance of only one lakh rupees. Unless the poor people are brought into the formal system, no insurance arrangements are made then these unregulated, unorganized firms that are coming up, there will not be much control

on chit funds unless there is some arrangement for them. You have tried well because the original Act is of 1982. So many years have passed, so there should be amendments to it. But we request you, since you have the majority, you can push this amendment. No problem, but the question is what will be the result of this? Whether the poor will get justice or not, I feel that the poor will not get much benefit. If you accept our request then how can poor people save in insurance and mutual funds? How can you bring in those unorganised firms that open up in various places? Those who are formal, those who get registered, were trapped earlier also and will be trapped now also, the question is for others. You have not given this answer anywhere in your amendment. This is what I want to request from you. This needs a lot of transparency and standardization. That is my suggestion. I don't want to say much. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

My dear brother, Shri Anurag Thakur, who happened to be the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance has been displaying inexhaustive presence by hearing, by listening to all the arguments dished out by the Members of this House with rapt attention. That is why, he is deserved to be praised lavishly. I would simply add two or three points. Yes, it is a fact that chit fund is itself an institution, which has been existing in our country for centuries. So, it has huge potentiality but the consumers who are entitled to enjoy the benefits of these financial institutions are considered less empowered, vulnerable and poor. So, my first observation is that consumers should be given the legal protection. What are the legal protections enshrined in this legislation so as to save those less-empowered, poor and vulnerable sections, who are using these institutions as a credit and savings institution simultaneously?

In our country, the chit fund institutions, in spite of having all its potentialities cannot escape the anathema attached with its name. The name, 'chit' immediately haunts the spectre that it is meant for cheating and deceiving the people. So, the anathema is attached with the name itself - 'chit', which is interpreted as 'cheat'. This

anathema needs to be done away with. In this legislation, you have tried to do away with this kind of name attached to anathema. I would also like to suggest that you should also replace the word 'foreman' because it appears to be discordant with the objective of this legislation.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the issue. Would the Chit Funds Act 1982 by itself prevail over the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996? The position with respect to jurisdiction of consumer courts in entertaining chit fund disputes is yet to be settled in view of the divergent views taken by the Madras High Court in N. Venkatesa Perumal Vs. State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission in 2003 which held that consumer forums had no jurisdiction to entertain complaints pertaining to chit fund transactions. The hon. High Court in Margadarsi Chit Fund Vs. District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission held that consumer forums can deal with chit fund transactions. So, there lies some confusions. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission held that the Consumer Protection Act provides an additional remedy in terms of Section 3 thereof. So, what is the opinion of your Minister in that regard? I would like to flag the attention of the hon. Minister that under Section 87 of the

Principal Act, the State Government is empowered to exempt some chit fund companies from any or all the provisions of the Chit Funds Act. It has been submitted that the criteria for exemption should be transparent and certain, and a level-playing field should be provided to all the entities operating in the chit fund sector. This has been cited by other hon. Members also. I also require further clarifications.

Yes, there is no dispute that the Bill should be recognised as a bold and transparent step but the fact remains that, in our country, we do not have any dearth of legislation. Plethora of legislations is being enacted in Parliament but, at the same time, there is no dearth of fraudulent scamsters and unscrupulous elements, who are deceiving the poor, less empowered and vulnerable population by cocking a snook to all the existing provisions in our Acts. So, we need a very robust and comprehensive legislation in order to stem the rot. In spite of all the legislative instrument that we have had at our disposal, we cannot save the vulnerable people from being deceived. That is why the hon. Members are expressing concerns.

I am also hailing from that State which has already earned the status of notoriety. It may be called 'collective investment fund', there may be various nomenclature to hide the intention but the fact

is that the entire State of West Bengal has been ravaged by those unscrupulous elements who have deceived lakhs and lakhs of common people. Still, many of them are roaming with impunity. Not even a single penny has been recovered. Sometimes, I feel do we require further legislation with all the punishments. Though all the mechanisms are stated to have been existed in the present legislation, what more teeth do we require?

17.00 hrs

[Translation]

What else do we want? We cannot stop. There is fraud going on regarding the chit fund. Crores of rupees are being looted. The issue our colleagues from Bengal, even if they are from the BJP party have raised is correct that lakhs of people have been looted in Bengal. Thousands of crores of rupees were looted. But yes, chit fund and capital are indeed different, as Shri Chowdhury has also said. Everyone gets confused. We are not aware that there are so many legal implications that it becomes difficult for us to know about it properly. Unscrupulous elements take advantage of this and ruin the poor people. I want to make one more point and that is that you said that the Bill secures the interest of the foreman by giving him the right of lien to secure the dues from the subscribers.

However, the Bill does not secure the interest of the subscribers in case of a default by the foreman. We are making arrangements to protect the foremen, but we do not provide any means to protect the subscribers and the poor people from the foremen. One more thing I want to bring to your attention is that – *[English]* The major players of the chit fund industry observe that the said Bill does not have the potential to solve the basic problem confronting the sector – the unorganized players. T.S. Sivaramakrishnan, General Secretary, of All India Association of Chit Funds has categorically observed that the Bill does not have a provision to bring the unorganized players into the organized fold. The focus of this legislation is stated to bring the unorganized sector into the organized arena. Experts opine that the number of unorganized entities is many times more than the organized ones, and this does not bode well especially when the size of the industry is valued at over Rs.50,000 crore. So, I am extending all our support to this legislation without any hesitation with the hope that henceforth poor and vulnerable people will be adequately safeguarded by this legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Many of our colleagues have spoken in the entire House and everything has been discussed in detail. I just want to say one thing this government has changed a lot of laws and this means that there were some loopholes left somewhere in the laws made earlier. This discussion is also happening so that everyone can give their suggestions. The bill which has come for amendment today doesn't need to be correct. There may be a flaw somewhere in this also. Therefore, I want to say that in some villages the chit fund is called a committee and at some places, it is called a society. Cheating happens by changing different names and those people are so clever that they find such an environment and such a place where people are not aware of this law. Therefore, they set their setup at such places only. Mostly those people fall prey to this, who do not know the law, who do not have resources, who are less educated, who are not financially strong and who have faced a shortage of money. They fall into the trap of being lured by the thought that their money will double or triple. I want to ask only one thing from the Hon.Minister in this amendment bill that has come, whether the government has made any such budget for those poor

people who have been cheated in the past, no matter in which state? Has a provision been made so that they can get some help at the primary stage and can sustain their livelihood? Those who are in a situation of committing suicide, those who are in a situation of dying of hunger, whether the government has made any provision for them? Second, whether the government thinks that whoever had money, gave it to chit funds, whoever had money, gave it to committees and whoever had money, gave it to societies then the way the government has the provision of a creamy layer in the reservation and similarly, the government thinks that it should create such a layer that a certificate of his earnings will be issued by the government and if his earnings are so low and below this, the earning is the same then only it's for them so that the very poor people, who are not getting food under any circumstances are in such a situation and those who do not have money for medicines and have been cheated. Fights are happening in people's homes and people are committing suicide so that they can be saved from this, I would like to request you that this should be sent to the committee. I am also a member of that committee and according to the suggestions from the committee, the bill should be presented again after making amendments. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The bill has been passed by the committee and its report is quite lengthy.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Madam Chairperson, you have just gone to the Chair after speaking from here, so naturally you know both places and it will be difficult to speak in such a situation but still I will try. Madam, first of all, I would like to congratulate the government, we have heard about such schemes since childhood but it was never possible to understand their scope. From time to time, there was discussion on this issue when it was known that Rs 30 thousand crores had gone to someone. Sometimes it was known that something like Rose Valley had happened and Rs 60 thousand crores had gone. Our government has at least collective schemes, which were passed in the last session, or chit funds. Earlier there were many regulatory funds, which SEBI could not cover, so the chit fund was also one of them. It should have been passed in the last session itself because it has been going on since 2018, but fortunately, our government has had the opportunity to pass this bill. It's the stated size. Unless there is a discussion in the House, because normally there is not much opportunity for reading, it is not possible to estimate what is the size of the things we are discussing.

If we talk about the chit fund then it goes up to Rs. 500 billion which is the cost. There were three types of chit-funds. One used to be done by the state governments, their subordinate PSUs etc. used to do it. To some extent there was control over them, but there was no control. After that, there was the second category which was privately registered. There was some kind of control over that also. But there were loopholes in it too, which people could not pay attention to. But apart from these, there were unregistered chit funds, their number in the country, when the Chit Fund Act was passed in the year 1982, there were more than 10 thousand chit fund institutions. There were many possibilities in it, due to which there was leakage and it was not even under the jurisdiction of SEBI. In this way, a large financial system of the country was through chit funds. It has been traditional for more than a hundred years. This was there even before the independence of the country and is continuing even after the independence of the country. But the truth is that we all are politicians, MPs and MLAs. In the system in this country, there are only three thousand MPs and public representatives in the whole of India. But the number of government people is much more, whether they are in the state government or the central government. We come and go for five years. But the number

of officers who institutionally stay for thirty years is more. We will all come for a limited time. When they come inside the House for five years, they will discuss, then they will go out of the House and someone else will come out victorious. We do so much work within this partial five years. But the officers looking after the institutions have been responsible for the last 70 years. If they had looked at this issue carefully, 70-72 percent of the people of this country invest in chit funds, there is also a report of such a committee. More than Rs 80 thousand crore of people's money has been looted in this. Right now there are more than 30 thousand chit funds in India, their evaluation has been done and the business they are doing among themselves is worth around 35 thousand crore rupees. These are the registered ones, whom we know. There are a hundred times more than this who are unregistered, which means that business worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore is done in this and there is potential in it. I think that on the one hand, if banks do business of one lakh, two lakh or three lakh crores, then there is also Rs 3.5 lakh crore in the chit fund system. This is what becomes a cause of great worry.

Madam, who uses them after all? I mean, for whom does it attract? This is not for people like us. Let us leave aside the issue of kitty parties, which in India are traditionally organized among elders,

that is a different matter. But the people who get associated with chit funds are small shopkeepers, small people, shopkeepers, people who work in farms and barns. They think that sir, now deposit a hundred rupees and after depositing four-five hundred rupees we will get five thousand rupees, that is the centre point of attraction. Similarly, we remember that different types of schemes have been coming in India. One of our senior ministers is sitting here. He had done Emu farming in Patna. When we reached his house, the Hon. Minister had at least four hundred emu in his house and was selling emu eggs. For the first time we understood but before that we had heard somewhere in the south that this was an Australian bird. Hon. Minister, we are giving your example. They are lost in some other knowledge. Hon. Minister your emu is being discussed. There is talk about your emu which was in your house. We are speaking here, you are shaking your head there. We are talking about you. Madam, he brought four hundred emu. At that time he was a minister in the Bihar government. Now I understand that when I saw an emu for the first time in my life, large birds were circling his house. He said that there is a big trade in eggs. Until then, I had not seen emu carefully. But later when we turned the paper and saw that emu traders in this country were making four out of two and eight out of four and

people were investing money in the name of emu. I can't believe that the Minister did the emu business with his own money... *(Interruptions)* But there were such schemes all over India in the name of Emu. Then someone said that if you visit Israel and do such things then we will open schools and hospitals in India from the tourism profit that we will earn from your visit. Later that person left with about ten thousand crore rupees. It is very difficult to find out how many such knowledgeable people are there in India and where they are. *(Interruptions)* He was the Agriculture Minister and he had said that emu eggs have to be sold and delivered all over India. I am not raising that topic, just referencing it. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Madam Chairperson, I have to respond to the Hon. member. The emu which the Hon. Member has discussed has no connection with chit funds.... *(Interruptions)* I had brought that emu to my house... *(Interruptions)* Take a note of it. If you don't know then increase your knowledge a little more... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, I have said it clearly and only said exactly this much that Minister ji, my knowledge about

emus increased after seeing those 40 and 50 emus in your house ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Hon. Members, so where did the chit-fund come from?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I don't know. You are a Minister of the Government of India, at least from what you are saying, this is what is being discussed about chit-funds, that once a scheme was run in the country, in which people had collected money in the name of Emu. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH: Madam, there is no record in the country that EMU came in chit-fund. We had taken Emu but did not find customers for Emu, but this has nothing to do with chit-funds. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Alright Hon. minister, you are right. Emu had a plan, about which I have told you... *(Interruptions)* The rest who have been able to understand, have understood.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister, it has nothing to do with you... *(Interruptions)* Madam, I was saying. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE; MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Madam, I want to say that whatever Shri Giriraj says should not be crossed further, but should be accepted, no matter how it happens. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, I have a lot of papers with me. I want to speak. But tell me one thing the minister is sitting here and this is our junior minister of this department, junior and senior ministers are sitting here. The government of the country and the Prime Minister of the country, after looking at all these things, have implemented a very big scheme. Don't know how many places the Hon. MPs took advantage of this. But in my Parliamentary Constituency, the Prime Minister had started a scheme, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Shishu Yojana, looking at all these circumstances, money had to be invested here. I have distributed at least around 150 crore rupees under Shishu Yojana in my Parliamentary Constituency. Regarding the schemes we have, I would like to tell you that all the people to whom I got money, I asked them that under the Shishu Yojana, you have taken a loan from the bank, you have a sewing shop, you have a meat shop, you have a grocery shop, you have a bangle shop, you have a mobile repair shop and all these people were running their shops. When I

provided loans to all the people, all the people who were doing their business for Rs.10 thousand, Rs.20 thousand, Rs.50 thousand, had never taken a loan from the bank in their life. This is an experiment.

Madam, I just want to say one thing. I would like to give an example of my area to all MPs. I had deposited 23 thousand applications in banks under the MUDRA scheme. Out of these, hardly 700-800 applications were accepted and 21 thousand applications were returned by the bank for some reason or the other by imposing a format. Mudra Yojana is the biggest scheme of the Government of the country and the Prime Minister, if we all implement it together and the Government of India and the hon. ministers monitor it then there will be no need to bring such Chit Fund Bills. The poor will withdraw money from his bank account and after that the amount will be debited. He will return it after completing his business. When the Government of the country and the banks of the country, if the attraction banking services among a few people here then I do not think that there will be any need for such big scandals or the type of regulations that we talk about. I will request the Hon.Minister through you as a pilot that you are sitting here as the Minister of Finance of India. If you just get Chhapra examined as a pilot once. I have requested how many applications

have I submitted under the Mudra Yojana in the financial system to reach the poor. How many have your banks rejected and how many have approved by putting out a pamphlet without any reason? If you pilot this by selecting one district then I think there will be no scope for the possibility of such bills being discussed in India. We can take the poor people of the country forward and there will be no dishonesty with anyone. Whenever we get a chance in the House, we will elaborate on this subject... (*Interruptions*) Madam, you are angry with my words, you are getting up, don't get up.

17.18 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

I thought you would leave angrily at my words. Hon. Speaker Sir, since we were making a big point, let us once again put the same point in brief before you. It is my privilege that Shrimati Meenakashi is going and you have come and sit in this chair. The desire to speak increases even more in the face of your smile. Hon. Speaker, I would also request that before this chit-fund, we also pass the bill on the Compulsory Deposit Scheme. We have taken action to save people's money and their deposits in the country. Through you, I would like to make only one request to the Hon.Minister and the Government that Chhapra district, you should consider as a pilot district. If you consider Saran district, which is my Parliamentary Constituency in

Bihar, as a district where we have received 23,000 applications for Mudra Yojna, hardly 700-800 applications have been approved, and around 21,000 applications are pending. I request you to get Saran district examined as a pilot by the Hon.Minister to see how many applications were made and how much money reached the poor. There will be no need to make laws and possibilities of such chit funds. When this money starts going directly from the Government banks to the poor, to the youth, to the bicycle makers, to the grocery shopkeepers, to that poor woman selling bangles, then naturally we will be able to control the losses that take place in the country and the system of looting of the poor in the country. Hon. Speaker, I would like to request this through you. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Thank you Sir,. The Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was discussed here in detail and I am happy that whenever the concerns of the poor of the country and small traders are raised, everyone in this House has expressed their political views. Rising above the parties and ideologies, people come together and agree to make the law and put forward their views and suggestions and support for this law has been seen from all sides. Therefore, I express my gratitude to all the hon. MPs, who have expressed their views on what further improvements can be made, what improvements will be brought about by this bill, what challenges are there in the society and have thrown light on all these issues. It was also discussed whether the deposit scheme or the money collectors running away with the money was also discussed, somewhere it was also seen that there was a mix up. We have often mixed unregulated deposits with chit funds. If you remember that in the last session itself, when we had come here to make a law on banning of unregulated schemes deposit then also in this House as well as in the Rajya Sabha, all the hon. MPs who participated in that discussion

had given very good views and those who had given amendments had also withdrawn all the amendments at that time saying that this is a bill in the interest of the poor so that their honest money and small savings do not get wasted. Therefore, at that time also all these people had cooperated. This matter is merely two to three months old. Chit fund Bill might have come at that time.

Last time when this came up here in the 16th Lok Sabha, the Standing Committee on Finance was asked to look into it, it was discussed in detail. Earlier, a key advisory group was formed on this. They had made their separate recommendations. Having listened to all the deliberations of the finance committee, their 21st report was also heard, which contained their detailed findings. Then, in the 35th report, they stated that a robust, strong and effective law should be enacted to ensure that those who contribute to the Chit Fund are safeguarded somewhere and strength is provided there. What was prominent in that, which was banning unregulated deposits, were the companies that take deposits, which are outside the 9 regulators, like RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and Housing Finance Corporation. It has a very clear explanation. Those registered in 9 will be regulated and those outside 9 will be unregulated. That was a different bill. This is for chit fund, which is

not deposit-making; it is subscription-based, and you have to give your subscription at a scheduled time and different intervals. It was also mentioned that previously when the topic of dividends arose, there were some objections within the Companies Act as to where the dividends would be sourced from. On that too, it was said that the name should be changed. Everything has been done to bring more awareness. Where unregulated deposits are illegal, chit funds are legal. You get registered and after registration, when you get permission then you can float your chit. People can become a part of it and subscribe. It was also said that the foreman, since his commission could not be increased after 1981, the standing committee as well as KAG both said that it should be increased, hence it was increased to 7% so that the foreman's commission could be increased. Many things came up in this discussion.

One thing I would say is that this is a system in itself where you get both credit and savings in one scheme. Apart from this, what was said here about changing the name, why new names were given, in many speeches, especially, the Hon. MP from West Bengal, he mentioned one thing that in both Chit and Cheat, There is a lot of difference between chit and cheat. I want to tell you that it was brought in the same spirit as the Ponzi schemes which are there are

completely different. They are deposit-based, scam operations. Chit fund is a legal system through which it can be run. Therefore, whether it is a matter of Fraternity Fund or R.O.S.C.A., a system has been created to give it an alternate name, so that further benefits can be availed through it.

It came to the point that long ago this cap was imposed that an individual's income could be up to Rs. 1 lakh and a firm's income could be up to Rs. 3 lacks or Rs. 6 lacks. This was before. Now it has been increased three times according to the inflation rate of the year 2001. Its limit was increased to Rs. 3 lakhs for individuals and Rs. 18 lakhs for firms. A question came up in the field of banking, we give loans to corporates. Shri Veeraswamy had said that there is a shortage in priority sector lending. I would like to bring to your attention that there has been a steady increase every year in priority sector lending, especially in agriculture. Apart from this, it was also done for economically weaker sections, as some of our Hon. MPs just said how they have got the benefits of the schemes. I will also give you further information on that. You talked about GST exemptions. This is an operational matter. And this topic can be considered in the GST council. I don't think there is a need to bring any amendment to this. You talked about affecting housewives. The

only thing I would say about this is that earlier there was a cap of Rs. 100, many MPs indeed said that in today's time Rs. 100 is very little. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of different states, we have given the right to the governments of those states to decide it as per their state. The state government will play a role in deciding this. Small people, those who are poor and women and housewives will also get benefit from this.

As far as chit funds scam is concerned, Supreme Court-monitored committees are working in many places. I think we should not raise any question mark on the Supreme Court. Yes, it should speed up. We all are concerned that the money invested by the people should be returned soon. But, when it comes to getting that money back, many people, even those sitting in such high positions, try to create hurdles in it, which I think is not right because this money belongs to the poor. No one should create obstacles in that investigation. It should be the priority of all of us that the poor get back their lost money as soon as possible no matter who he is, after all, no one has the right to snatch away the honest earnings of that poor person. We should all try to ensure that no one becomes an obstacle in this investigation monitored by the Supreme Court.

As far as video conferencing is concerned, it has been done so that if you are busy, if you cannot reach there, then you have been given an option because a few years ago, we probably did not even think that someone would be able to do video conferencing or that data would be used so much but in the last four years, we have seen a huge revolution in India that data consumption has started increasing the most in our country in the whole world. On the other hand, the Government of India has also made efforts from its side. Through the National Optical Fibre Network and Digital India, work has been done to connect every village and panchayat of the country with optical fibre. It is such a big thing that within the next year, every panchayat and village in our country will be connected with optical fibre. This will be a very big facility available to every village. This will also give strength to Digital India. Video conferencing is not a big deal. When the result of his chit is declared through video conferencing then within two days the people who have participated in the video conferencing have to get their register signed. This has been made mandatory so that no rigging can take place in it. We have also made provision for this in this.

When it comes to insurance, it is an operational matter. Now you say that the subscribers of any chit or chit should feel that we do not want to spend the money on insurance, we are fine without insurance. If someone feels that he should get insurance then I think he should get insurance. Anyone can approach IRDA. If someone wants to get his chit insured through regulators or insurance companies, we have left it to them. There was no need to bring an amendment in this because the cost of insurance would also have fallen on those poor people. As far as reducing the security deposit is concerned, you said that it should be reduced from 100 percent to 50 Percent. I think this would be an injustice because we have made provision for the complete security of those who have invested their money. The Standing Committee on Finance and Advisory Group had also said about this. I think all of you will also agree that whoever invests money in this, money should be safe and no one should lose even a single rupee, for this the House should take the decision with full priority.

Apart from this, RBI also did not accept this demand and secondly, Hon. Mahtab also said. We have given the right to register chit funds to the state governments only. The Registrar has also been given many rights under this law. *[English]* Under Section 47 of the

RBI Act, even RBI can inspect chit books and records of any chit fund. Apart from this, hon. Speaker Sir, under Section 73, RBI can advise any State Government on any policy, either on its own or if requested by the State Government. *[Translation]* It was said that RBI do not have some powers. I think RBI has the authority under these rules. RBI can use their authority under these rules. *[English]* Under Section 87, the State Government can exempt any chit fund from the Act but only with the consultation of the RBI. *[Translation]* Supriya Ji was saying that RBI has nothing but I think RBI has a lot to offer.

Apart from this, a question was raised that there should be a coordination committee. It already exists. There are state-level coordination committees. Hon. Speaker Sir, the Chief Secretary chairs it. He is the highest official in the state. This committee has officers from SEBI, RBI, Income Tax, SFIO, CBI, Police, and Economic Offences Wing. I think all those who are related to fraud or other regulators are involved in this. There is a Chief Secretary in the state and he has a stake in where the registration is to be done. There the committee meets once every three months, so I don't think there should be any doubt in anyone's mind. They also have enough powers. They also have a rule to meet every three

months and they also have the right people to provide justice. They talked about the protection of the interests of subscribers. I want to say two or three things about this from my side. Shri Mahtab is not here. *[English]* Chapter 5 of the Act provides detailed provision to safeguard interests of subscribers so that the subscribers who have won in any particular round continue to pay in the future rounds. Chapter 3 lays down the rights and duties of the foreman, including the provision of security to safeguard all subscribers. Chapter 4 has the provision of action against defaulting subscribers, such as their removal and substitution to safeguard the interests of other subscribers.

[Translation]

Apart from this, RBI has launched a portal named 'Sachet' on which this information is also available. If you remember, we have also made a provision in the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Bill that a data bank of the people running the scheme should be created through information technology and it would be available on their portal. There was a provision for punishment in that also and there is a provision for punishment here also. The provision of punishment has been made so that no one runs away with the poor man's money. If the House feels that there should be

punishment then its provision has been made in this law so that this thing can be taken care of in the future. Shri Adhir Ranjan has said that *[English]* whether consumer grievances relating to chit funds can be considered by consumer forums. Consumer complaints are covered under the Consumer Protection Act. *[Translation]* You also given examples of two or three High Courts and Consumer Courts here. *[English]* It is decided by the judiciary as to whether any consumer grievance or complaint is covered under the Consumer Protection Act. *[Translation]* Therefore, perhaps somewhere there is a problem, not only in this case but in many cases. It is very reasonable for you to raise this issue and I also agree with you to some extent. You said that the name of the foreman should be changed. This was discussed in detail in the committee before an advisory group was set up and some MPs also said something, so I think that its responsibilities and its name have been very clearly defined in it. All provisions have been made up to his lien. This can happen anywhere in an individual or company. I think its definition is very clear and there will be no need to go into it further.

Shri Amar Singh has said that people should get access to a formal financial system and insurance. I agree with you. When we all raise this issue, I think that we should also look at the last few

years and see where we were and where we have been able to reach. Till a few years ago there were not many bank accounts. A lot means, more than 37 crore people did not have bank accounts. I want to read out the exact figure to you. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, 37 crore 30 lakh bank accounts were opened till 16 October 2019. Just imagine, the state of poor people whose accounts had not opened in the last 70 years when on 15 August 2014, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said from the ramparts of the Red Fort that we would connect every poor with the economy and we would open a bank account. When we had said this, a lot of mockery was also made relating to the person who would deposit the money, and who would open an account in Zero Frill Account. Hon. Speaker, not only the accounts have been opened, but the poor of the country have deposited Rs. 1,05,523 crores in these and have worked to take the country's economy forward.

There was talk of plastic cards or plastic money. I would say that the world went from coins to plastic cards or plastic currency. *[English]* India has moved first from coin to paper currency and from paper currency to digital payments and we should be proud of the fact that under the UPI platform, last month, we had more than one billion transactions; I repeat one billion transactions.

[Translation] We had started UPI a few years ago. If 1 billion transactions happen in it, it is a very big deal. The poor of the country, the common citizens and the people living in the villages, everyone has accepted it. RuPay Debit Card has been launched. The poor man never dreamt of going to the ATM? We have given them strength. Nearly 28 crore people have RuPay debit cards within the country and now a huge campaign has been launched to accept Indian currency in Singapore, UAE and other countries as well. I would like to congratulate and thank the Hon. Finance Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister for that. You can check the valuation of MasterCard, Visa or SBI card . Today whatever their valuation is but tomorrow if the valuation of RuPay debit card is done in the market then I think that it will become such a big platform in itself that our RuPay debit card can be valued in thousands of crores of rupees. We have made efforts at the level of financial inclusion. I agree with you that we will make more efforts to improve whatever is needed. Supriya Ji has said that NPA in the bank has increased a lot.

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member is not here and there is no need to answer.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Hon. Speaker Sir, she has said that read the article of Doctor Sahab and she did not read the

bill but said everything on the article of Doctor Sahab. I will have to give some answers. I say this without taking names because there was nothing on the Bill but it was on the economy. That's all I have to say. Who has given NPA?... (*Interruptions*) Given their seniority, I deemed it appropriate to mention their name in my remarks. When our government came, I was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. At that time, Shri Raghuram Rajan had come forward and stated that the provision of NPA loan has been continuing since the reign of the UPA Government. These loans were given at that time and later became NPA. At that time it was buried under the carpet. We did not hide anything; we told the country that there was NPA and it came in front of the people of the country. We have tried to conduct an asset quality review. We have come up with a four-R strategy policy, which includes Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalization and Reforms. We have tried to change the banking system through this. We did not hide anything. The ten PSBs will now be reduced to four entities. We have worked to increase their capacity so that they can give more and more loans. When they came out of the PCF framework then it was because of our government. We have worked for their recapitalization and our government has invested lakhs and crores of rupees in it. At that

time it was said that what big thing have you achieved by bringing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code? What has happened because of this? We have achieved a big goal. We had the courage so we have brought the law and about four crore eighty-four lakh rupees have come back to this country through the fear and provisions of that law and it has come through it or its fear or its provisions. This has improved the debtor-creditor relationship. Some were resolved before NCLT and some were resolved after NCLT. Bhushan Steel is a great example in itself. Maybe it would take the first four years and the money would not be recovered. After this law was enacted and that time has reduced to less than half and thousands of crores of rupees have started coming back. We made the law and implemented it. When it came to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, you paid the money and they ran away. To bring them back, we made a law and jailed those living abroad and have also started the process of bringing back many people. We have done it, that's why we say it. As far as financial literacy was concerned, it was said that no work has been done on financial literacy in this country.

Speaker Sir, I would like to take at least five minutes from you. There are 1483 financial literacy centres here. This figure is till March 31, 2019. From April 2018 to March 2019, a total of 52,084

special camps on financial literacy were organized, including 93,343 specific camps. 3,05,672 camps were organized in the rural branch and last year 2,64,120 camps were organized. Apart from this, a separate financial inclusion fund has been created. We also started Financial and Digital Literacy Camps. We have given funding support to RRB and RCB, they give six thousand rupees per camp. Five thousand camps have been set up in 330 special focus districts. Demo vans are also given in special focus districts so that more information can be obtained. Financial literacy can be done in specially focused districts. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Scheme was created on September 7, 2016. Its work was to administer, educate, protect and provide information. IEPF has signed an MoU with Common Service Centres, CSC e-Governance Services, which comes under the Ministry of Electronics Information Technology. Investor awareness programs will be conducted so that there is more sensitization and information in the future. In the financial year 2018-19, 27,639 Investor Awareness Programs were conducted. Professional institutes conducted the CSE e-governance mechanism. In the current year and the years to come, we shall commence more than 15,000 Investor Awareness Programs,

encompassing approximately 117 aspirational districts, wherein programs through CES will be conducted.

Nehru Yuva Kendra, which is just an institution in which very little work is done, we have taken the initiative to add it to this. We will conduct this through a customized investor awareness program. In this, we will give information to officials and volunteers so that they can give information to lakhs of people. We are discussing running Investor Education and Financial Literacy programs at an advanced stage in rural India through the India Post Payments Bank. Post Bank has opened around 650 branches across the country on the instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister. Through these branches, a total of 3219 programs will be conducted. 20,000 villages will be linked with it and information will be given to 3 lakh 21 thousand 9 hundred citizens of India through this. So many programs have been started through financial literacy. There's a long list beyond this, but I think I'll go on a bit. I have talked about IBC and Apex Court, and I have also raised the topic of the Jan Dhan Yojana. It was also said that the collection decreased because people were not paying money. Direct tax collection in the year 2013-14 was 6 lakh 39 thousand crores which increased last year,

demonetization is a big reason for this. Our government has taken a big step.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: This is like a reply to the budget.
[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): You have raised the issue. That is why he is replying.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: I am not ready to answer any of this, if you want, we can pass this bill with consent. But some Hon. Members have raised the topic and I am trying to give as much information as I can. We had the strength, we took the step of demonetization, hence the collection increased from Rs 6 lakh 35 thousand crores to Rs 11 lakh 38 thousand crores, the collection almost doubled. Income taxpayers also almost doubled. Hon. Speaker Sir, I am not asking anyone to listen; I am saying this because as I saw unregulated deposits, Ponzi schemes were mixed with chit funds. Someone used the word 'ignorant', but I won't say anything about it. in the absence of information, this has happened

many times, it happened to me too, it happens to everyone. Maybe I am the minister of this department, so I have more information; the information should reach everyone and reach the country. We want to make the country a five trillion dollar economy and we will achieve this by the year 2025, I want to say.

Most of the questions were on the economy, I have made notes on them. If you say so, I can take action on each one individually. A very important issue has been raised. Pearl Company was also mentioned. Wherever there is a Supreme Court monitoring committee, whether it is in one state, another or a third, I believe that they should also set a deadline. If the House feels that it is within the stipulated time then I cannot impose it on the Supreme Court. However, of the committees that are formed, we have seen for many years that one is formed for one year and it continues to function for ten years. Work should be done on it within the stipulated time, money should be given to the poor, I understand the sentiments of all of you. Through this House, the media can also convey that feeling to as many people as possible. Our government will do required amendments to the law, with the cooperation of all, to ensure that no impoverished individual's funds are misappropriated in the future. There will also be financial literacy

programs. The full power of the law will be given to them and provisions will be made to ensure that information reaches every person. I urge all of you that whenever you organize any program, ensure to educate the attendees about the distinction between a Ponzi scheme and a legitimate chit fund. These regulated deposits, which are registered under 9 institutions, how are they genuine, how are they legal and what is illegal, if you spread this to the masses then it will be of great benefit. You tell the public on social media and media. I will also try from my side that when these financial literacy programs are conducted in the future, wherever possible, MPs should also be invited so that the participation of the MPs is also there and made available to the public. I will not comment specifically on any state. No matter how much anyone says to me about a particular state or a particular scheme, today I stand here for the welfare of the poor of the country. I won't go into that at all. The priority of our government is to protect the interests of the poor and this bill has also been brought for the same. Therefore, I request you all to rise above politics and pass this bill for the benefit of the poor so that this does not happen in the future. You can go on the streets and do whatever you want but the House has given us the capacity or power to make laws. We will make a law here because other parties

have also risen above politics and given their suggestions here, so I thank everyone. Because he has risen from politics and supported this bill.

PRO SOUGATA RAY: The Minister has provided such an excellent response and therefore, please extend my compliments to him.

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Sir, the Minister has given an excellent reply. I thank him for that. But I am very sad that the issue of GST has neither been confirmed nor denied. He has said that it has to be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish my question. It is only a small suggestion. You were saying that the insurance part of it has to be borne by the individuals. When you are collecting GST, why should the Central Government not look into this? ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a matter of GST it is a matter of chit-fund.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Why should the Central Government not insure all these registered chit funds? If there is any

default by anybody, then the insurance will be there. It is paid by the Central Government through the GST which it has collected.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Honourable Speaker Sir, I think when I started my reply, I have particularly mentioned the hon. Member's name and replied accordingly that this issue relates not to the Bill but it is concerned with the GST Council. It will be looked them.

Apart from that, about the insurance, we said the size may vary from one chit to another chit. So, let us leave it to the subscriber whether they want it to get it insured or not insured because the cost has to be borne by the subscriber and the chit fund.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That a Bill further to amend the Chit Fund Act, 1982 be considered."

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

'That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 4 Substitution of New Section for
Section 11**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, do you want to present Amendment No. 1?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I have raised a very serious apprehension, at the time of my intervention, that how this will affect the poor marginalised sections of the society because Self-Help Groups, Kudumbashree Groups and Samata Groups are all having these Fraternity Funds as well as Rotating Savings and Credit Institution. You are incorporating two words, that is, 'Fraternity Fund' and 'Rotating Savings and Credit Institution'. This will come within the purview of the definition of section 2, clause (b). When this is being incorporated, what would be the impact as far as the

poor people who are doing some rural works are concerned? It is because if one group having 10 persons is contributing Rs.30,000, it will be Rs.3 lakh and they are doing credit and saving. Everything is there in the scheme. What would be its impact? That is why, I have given a notice of amendment to remove Fraternity Fund, ‘*kuri*’ as well as Rotating Savings and Credit Institution. They have to be omitted from the definition of section 2, clause (b). No clarification has been given by the hon. Minister. Hence, I am moving the amendment.

I am moving Amendment No. 1 to Clause 4.

I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 24 and 25,--

omit ‘, “*kuri*”, “fraternity fund” or “Rotating Savings and Credit Institution” ” . (1)

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 1 to clause 4 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

Amendment was put to vote and negatived .

HON. SPEAKER: Sri N.K. Premachandran, do you want to move Amendment No. 2?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am moving Amendment No.2 to Clause 4.

I beg to move:

Page 2, line 36,--

for “one year”

substitute “six months”. (2)

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 2 to clause 4 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: Hon. Speaker, the amendment given by me and the one given by Shri Premchandran are the same. Listen to me.

HON. SPEAKER: You have to speak on 6 and 7.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, my amendment is to omit it because it leads to significant misunderstandings. What is a chit fund, what is a ponzi scheme,... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please tell me whether you are moving it or not.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: I am saying this because Shri Premachandran has also raised this question. But the Minister has given a good answer, so I am not moving.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Amendment of Section 13

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 3?

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am moving Amendment No. 3 to Clause 5.

I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 43 and 44,--

for "rupees three lakhs"

substitute “rupees two lakhs”. (3)

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 3 to clause 5 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Pro. Sougata Ray, do you want to move the amendment no. 9.

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, my amendment is, Page2, line 32, *for "one year" and substitute "six months"*. It is a minor amendment. What has been said now is that he should be recruited within a year. Our point is to get it done within 6 months. But I am not moving my amendment.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I am moving Amendment No.14 to Clause 5. I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 38 and 39,--

for “rupees three lakhs”

substitute “rupees four lakhs”. (14)

HON. SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 14 to clause 5 moved by Shri K. Suresh to the vote of the House.

Amendment was put for voting and negatived.

18.00 hrs

HON. SPEAKER: The question is: :

"That clause 5 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 Amendment of Section 16

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, do you want to move Amendment No. 10?

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, it was said here that anyone can attend the chit-fund meeting through video conferencing as well. I am against video conferencing.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, let the amendment be moved.

HON. SPEAKER: Dada, amendment is moved or not ?

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I am moving my amendment No.10 to Clause 6 of the Bill.

I beg to move:

Page 3, line 2, --

omit 'or through video conferencing duly recorded by the foreman'. (10)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 10 to clause 6 moved by Prof. Sougata Ray to the vote of the House.

Amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if the House agrees, the time for the proceedings of the House is extended till 6.30 PM or until half an hour after the passage of this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Bill will also be passed and Zero Hour will also be discussed.

The time for the proceedings of the House is extended till 6.30 PM.

Clause 7

Amendment of Section 17

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 11, 12 and 13?

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I am moving my amendment Nos. 11 to 13 to clause 7 of the Bill.

I beg to move:

Page 3, line 6, --

omit 'or through video conferencing'. (11)

Page 3, line 9, --

omit “through video conferencing”. (12)

Page 3, lines 10 and 11, --

for “within a period of two days of the date of the draw”
substitute “on the same day”. (13)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now I put Amendment Nos. 11, 12, and 13 to clause 7 moved by Prof. Sougata Ray to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 15 and 16?

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am moving my amendment Nos. 15 and 16 to clause 7 of the Bill.

I beg to move:

Page 3, *omit* lines 5 and 6. (15)

Page 3, line 9, --

for “through video conferencing”

substitute “in person”. (16)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now I put Amendment Nos. 15 and 16 to clause 7 moved by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Amendment of Section 21

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premachandran, do you want to move Amendment No. 4?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I am moving my amendment No.4 to clause 8 of the Bill.

I beg to move:

Page 3, line 13, --

for “seven per cent.”

substitute “six per cent.”. (4)

Sir, regarding the submission on the foreman, the ceiling amount of the chit fund is being enhanced. As the ceiling limit will enhance, automatically the foreman's commission will also increase. Why five per cent is being increased to seven percent? It is the subscribers who will have to suffer. So, I am making an amendment for just a marginal increase from five per cent to six per cent. This is my amendment. It may kindly be accepted.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I now put amendment No. 4 to Clause 8 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

Amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, do you want to move Amendment No. 17?

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I am moving my amendment No. 17 to clause 8 of the Bill.

I beg to move:

Page 3, line 13, --

for “seven per cent.”

substitute “eight per cent”. (17)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I now put Amendment No. 17 to clause 8 moved by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh to the vote of the House.

Amendment was put to vote and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

"Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Long title were added to the Bill."

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Sir, I beg to move:-

“That the Bill be passed.”

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me time to speak on a topic of public importance. The Contributory Pension Scheme was introduced by the Union Government for all the employees/teachers and officers appointed by the Government after January 1, 2004 and the Government of Uttar Pradesh also implemented the National Pension or New Pension System from 1 April 2005. Under the old pension scheme, there was a provision of a deduction equal to 10 percent of the basic salary per month from the salary of the employees which was called the General Provident Fund. With the retirement of the employees, all the funds deducted in the form of GPF were given to the employees, with compound interest and the employees were getting pensions equivalent to 50 percent of their last salary after retirement.

Under the National Pension System or New Pension System, a deduction is being made per month equal to 10% of the total salary of employees appointed on and after April 1st, 2005 in Uttar Pradesh. Further, the amount equal to 14 percent of the total salary of the employees is also being deposited by the employer. In this manner, the reduction in employees' salaries and the deposited

amount by the government are entrusted to three fund managers, namely, the State Bank of India, the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the Unit Trust of India. The money collected by these three fund managers is being invested in the market. The amount received by the employees upon their retirement based on the gains or losses from the invested sum will be distributed with 60 percent allocated to the employees while the remaining 40 percent will be designated for pension provision for the employees. There is no provision anywhere in the new pension system that if the money invested in the market sinks or incurs a loss then there will be a provision for giving pensions to the employees. Therefore, I request that you please reinstate the old pension system.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Malook Nagar is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Girish Chandra.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak. I have raised this matter numerous times in the House in the past as well. My Lok Sabha constituency is Jamshedpur which is popularly known as the industrial house. Big entrepreneurs like Tata are established there. There is also a big MSME sector in Adityapur. There are nearly two thousand industries here including small and big industries, in the

MSME and automobile sectors. Besides this, there is also a huge area of mines here. Despite the approval of the airport in Dhalbhoomgarh, the work has not yet started. The Bhoomi Puja took place last January. Hon. Minister in the Government of India had performed the Bhumi puja ceremony at that place but the work has not started. The Airport Authority of India has allocated around 100 crore rupees for this but the work has not started yet due to non issuance of NOC from the Forest Department. I would like to request the Hon. Minister through you that if an airport is built in that area then not only Jharkhand but Kharagpur, Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia in West Bengal and Baripada, Mayurbhanj, and Baleswar in Odisha will also be connected to the big city like Jamshedpur.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

[English]

SHRI RAMULU POTHUGANTI (NAGARKURNOOL): Honourable Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an important issue during the 'Zero Hour'. I represent Nagarkurnool Parliamentary Constituency in Telangana State which is a very backward region. The population of Scheduled Tribe

community is predominantly high in Achampet. The population of Scheduled Tribe community is three lakhs. The literacy rate is very less. Although the Union Government and the State Governments have enacted a lot of schemes and welfare programmes for development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, yet most of the fruits of these welfare schemes have not reached them. It is learnt that a total of 226 ESHRISs, Eklavya Model Residential Schools are functional across the country at the end of 2018. It is high time to establish such ESHRIS at Achampet which comes under my Nagarkurnool Parliamentary Constituency. Due to lack of sufficient schools, particularly Eklavya Model Residential Schools, students belonging to Scheduled Tribe community are facing a lot of hardships for getting quality education. I firmly believe that establishment/opening of Eklavya Model Residential School at Achampet is the need of the hour. Keeping in view the above, I would, earnestly request the Union Government and the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs, through you, to kindly accord approval for sanctioning of Eklavya Model Residential School at Achampet in my Nagarkurnool Parliamentary Constituency so that the students belonging to Scheduled Tribe community could get

adequate opportunity to get quality education without giving any financial burden to their parents.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL (PHULPUR): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Sangam city. The wooden planks placed on the banks of the Ganges in Prayagraj since hundreds of years were used for the worship by the pilgrim priests as per religious beliefs. At these sites only the pilgrimage priests used to facilitate religious rituals for pilgrims arriving from all over the country and abroad. On 14.11.2019 at one o'clock in the afternoon, all their planks were overturned, destroyed, and demolished by the army men with the help of JCBs and other large machines. This has caused great resentment among our priests. Therefore, I request that they be permanently allocated a place along the banks of the Ganges so that this centuries-old worship and ritual can continue and we can all maintain mutual respect and honour. This incident occurred in my Parliamentary Constituency where there is a public movement, hence I have brought this matter to your attention. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Keshari Devi Patel.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Hon. Speaker, the matter that I am raising here is a notice for which I am expressing possibility because I know that something is going to happen for which the Railways as well as the State Government will be responsible. Sir, I am trying to raise this issue in this House. I want to get on record. A decision has been taken by the Bihar government and the Railways which has been opposed by the Railways. A bridge was constructed connecting Patna to North Bihar. The railways constructed a bridge from Digha to Sonpur. Later, the State Government constructed a road over that bridge but it was agreed upon between the Railways and the Road Department of the Government of Bihar that 16, 18, or 20-wheel trucks would not run on this bridge. Sir, these 10, 12, 16, and 18-wheel trucks will not run on this bridge between Digha and Sonpur from 10 pm onwards tonight. Trucks weighing 30-40 tonnes will pass over this bridge which connects North Bihar and the entire North-East India by rail. I am afraid and I have written. The Railway has also written to the Bihar Government that if big trucks carrying sand ply on this bridge and if the railway line and the bridge get damaged due to running on this bridge then any train accident may occur. Therefore, this operation should be halted.

Speaker Sir, I would like to convey to the people of Bihar and the country at large that the state government has permitted for the railway to cease operations in response to a possible incident for which it has issued a cautionary notice. If there is an accident, all the officers I have been writing from time to time will be responsible. This subject will also arise in the House as the Railways have expressed the possibility of this accident in writing, which I want to bring to your notice. I also want direction from your side because there is a technical possibility that there can be an accident there. If a major bridge can collapse because of unregulated movement of trucks on it then it is my duty as a MP to draw your attention to this matter in the House and also seek your direction.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA (KALAHANDI): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this. There are three pilgrimage centres- Harishankar, Narsinghnath and Jogeshwar Temple Pator in the Bolangir, Bargarh and Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituencies adjoining my area within a radius of just 100 km. Thousands of pilgrims reach there daily and

the people of Chhattisgarh and West Odisha consider all three places as Ganga. Therefore, it should be recognized as a tourism centre and along with this, people get down at Naupada Railway Station and go to visit all the three holy places of interest. Therefore, Naupada Railway Station should be developed as a modern railway station. Naupada falls in district headquarters. Therefore through you, I request the Government and the Hon. Railway Minister that all the express trains passing through there should definitely be given a stoppage at Naupada. Thank you.

SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to raise awareness regarding the adulteration of melamine in milk, dairy products, other food items and animal feed in the interest of the nation and the public. Melamine was created by a German scientist in 1830. It is a white-coloured powder used in the plastic industry to make a variety of products and tiles.

Speaker Sir, melamine is a slow poison. It is adulterated in milk, milk products and other food items that contain animal feed. The mixture is high in protein content. The use of these adulterated foods poses a risk of severe diseases like kidney stones and cancer. In 2008, thousands of children fell ill due to the use of

melamine-rich milk in China. Institutions such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have also strictly prohibited the adulteration of melamine in food items.

Speaker Sir, as a result, the United States has imposed a ban on the import of milk and other dairy products from China. Similarly, India's organisation FSSAI has also imposed a ban on milk and other milk products imported from China which is being increased from time to time but at the same time FSSAI has set a quantity which can be added to milk, milk products and other products. It is a strange thing. So far no incident of melamine adulteration has come to light in India.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am again urging that the Hon. Members who can conclude in a minute, should speak in the House at this juncture. The House will adjourn at 6.30 pm today.

SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA: Sir, I request you to do away with the quantity prescribed by the FSSAI to prevent the adulteration of any kind of melamine in the future due to this contradiction so that the loss to the children and livestock of the country can be avoided.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Ram swaroop Sharma.

[English]

DR. M.K. VISHNU PRASAD (ARANI): Thank you, Speaker, Sir. I represent the Arani Parliamentary Constituency in which only in Polur Assembly Constituency a railway line is there. There was a train running from Chennai to Katpadi, and suddenly it was stopped due to various reasons. I urge upon the Union Government to resume the train no. 66018 coming from Chennai to Katpadi to be extended till Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram and finally back to Chennai. Moreover, we are very close to Tiruvannamalai temple -- Shiva temple, which is a very famous temple, and *Pournami Girivalam* is a very big event, with almost five lakh people visiting that particular place. So, I would humbly request the Union Government to stop the following trains at Polur because we have only one station in my Parliamentary Constituency, namely, Polur. The following trains should have a stoppage at Polur, namely, Rameswaram-Tirupati Express, Trichy-Hyderabad Express and Rameswaram-Hyderabad Express. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RITESH PANDEY (AMBEDKAR NAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, the Human Resource Ministry has appointed 30,000 teachers for children studying in madrasas in Uttar Pradesh. After appointing these 30 thousand teachers, only eight thousand rupees were given to graduate teachers and 12 thousand rupees were assured to post-graduate teachers. But it is pity that this money is not only less because it is not enough to sustain a living but for the last four years, these people's money, their salaries and their honorarium has not been given. I request you through the House that 11 crore rupees are stuck with the state government and 551 crore rupees are stuck with the central government. I request through this House that the concerned Minister be directed to expedite the payment of salaries to these madrasa teachers which encompass teachers from all religions. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Malook Nagar and Shri Girish Chandra are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Ritesh Pandey.

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw your attention to the Lord Rishabhdev, whom we call Kesariyaji Bhagwan under my Lok Sabha

Constituency Udaipur and the Shwetambar and Digambar sect of Jainism consider Rishabhdeva as the first Tirthankar. Also, the people of the tribal community have faith in them. All the tribes of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat consider Bandhu Kesariya ji as their God. I request the government through you to include Kesariya Ji Temple in the darshan yojana of the Indian government so that the people reaching there can be facilitated. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudhir Gupta, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Kirit P Solanki are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Arjun Lal Meena.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Thank you, Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue concerning Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. The Hon. Minister of State for Finance, in a reply to a question in this House on the 18th had said that the Central Government is planning to sell its stake in 28 Government companies in this financial year in which the Government has a plan to privatize BPCL and Air India. As per my knowledge, the Empowered Group of Secretaries has already approved the proposal for the privatization of BPCL. The management and employees of BPCL's Chembur Refinery, Mumbai

had approached me and expressed their anguish over the unfair proposal of the Government. It is also in the report that the process of privatization and advertising for the appointment of legal advisors has already been released in newspapers. BPCL was awarded the status of Maharatna in 2017 for its continuous performance over the last several years. It has been one of the Global Fortune 500 companies for the last 16 years. Then, we are unable to understand the reasons for the proposal of privatization of BPCL. The petroleum sector is a major sector for the development of the country and BPCL has proved its contribution since 1976 after its nationalization. In my view, privatization of BPCL can adversely affect the growth of our nation.

Sir, I am concluding. As a result, private monopolies may emerge in the oil sector, which could pose a serious threat to energy security of our nation. The future of officers and employees is at stake.

There is a long list of stakeholders that will be affected by privatisation, like the company workers and officials, daily wage labourers, contractors, CSR activities, diesel subsidy to fishermen, contractors' labour, vendors, security, etc. This is not only in Chembur Refinery but there are a large number of stakeholders

across the country. Therefore, I demand that the government should stop such harsh proposals and reconsider any privatisation plans, including BPCL in the interest of national security and the people. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Saptagiri Ulaka and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale. Hon. Members, if the House agrees, many Hon. Members still have to speak during the Zero Hour, therefore, should the time be extended till seven o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Hon. Speaker Sir, if there is a need for change in any sector in the country then it is the situation related to agriculture and farmers. I welcome the efforts of the Hon. Agriculture Minister, Government of India and the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar for their initiatives, including the Crop Insurance Scheme, Accelerated Irrigation Scheme, Irrigation through Electricity in every field and providing financial assistance of 6 thousand rupees per farmer annually among other efforts. Today there is a need for such basic facilities which can compensate for the crop destroyed due to excessive rain, drought, flood, hailstorm and other natural calamities and ensure their

respectable living. Fertilisers and seeds should be made available in adequate quantities at low prices. The crisis of expensive seeds faced by farmers in the name of hybrid crops is proving to be a big hurdle in the path of their traditional farming.

Therefore, through this august House, I earnestly request the government to overhaul the fundamental framework of agriculture, production and traditional marketing methods to uplift farmers from distressing situations ensuring that they receive the maximum value for their produce at minimal costs. To raise the standard of living of farmers, we have to implement a system of agricultural production that can increase their income. Due to the exorbitant cost of modern agricultural equipment used in farming activities and the shortage of farm labourers, middle-class farmers are unable to afford them. Therefore, the government should provide interest-free loans to farmers. Thank you.

[English]

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR (TIRUVALLUR): Sir, thanks for the opportunity. My constituency is sandwiched between Andhra Pradesh and Chennai city. This constituency faces a perennial water shortage, particularly during the summer, it is very disheartening to see our sisters and mothers carrying the pots, and running around for

water. There are three rivers flowing through the constituency. During the rainy season, if the water is stopped and made to percolate, water scarcity would end. I request the Government to take this into consideration and to provide check dams across the three rivers which would solve the water problem in my constituency.

SHRI DNV. SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): *Vanakkam* Speaker Sir. The river, *Then* Pennayar, originates from Karnataka and flows through five districts in Tamil Nadu - Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore, Villuppuram, and Thiruvannamalai – and then enters into Puducherry. According to the Inter-State River Agreement established in 1892, and amended in 1933, construction of either big or small river project is not supposed to take place in Karnataka. But at present, there are five projects on which work is going on. These are two pumphouse stations, one diversion technique plant, one lift irrigation scheme, and one reservoir is being built. We request the Central Government to intervene, and to establish an Inter-State Water Dispute Tribunal, and to ask the Karnataka Government to stop these projects, which the State Government has failed to do. Our leader, *Thiru Stalin Avargal* has

promised an agitation tomorrow in these five districts. Hence, we request you to intervene in the matter.

SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL (BOLPUR) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an important issue about posting of Central force at Viswa Bharati University in Bolpur. We are not satisfied; we are highly dissatisfied with this because it is a world famous, holy, academic institution of *Kabiguru* Rabindranath Tagore. It shows a plunder of dignity and fame of this university actually. The 'law and order' is under the State Government. The intervention of the Central Government is unjust, disagreeable, and unreasonable. I would request the Central Government to withdraw the Central Forces immediately.

[Translation]

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Speaker Sir, I come from the Bundelkhand region. The issue of stray cattle in our region of Bundelkhand known as the "anna paratha," poses a significant concern. I had requested the Union Government in this very House that those who are rearing cows in Bundelkhand should be given a monthly allowance of one thousand rupees. I would like to express my gratitude to the esteemed Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi and the Chief Minister

of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath. He has decided to provide Rs 900 per month per cow. I want to make my point by saying one thing to you.

Speaker Sir, the government is making proper arrangements for cows in our Bundelkhand. I demand to designate Bundelkhand as a 100 percent organic agro-economic zone, whereby agriculture throughout Bundelkhand would rely on fertilizers obtained from cows instead of urea, DAP and pesticides. On the pattern of Sikkim, big purchase centres should be set up in Bundelkhand and purchase centres of all the big organic companies should be set up in every district so that the farmers of Bundelkhand can live their lives with dignity.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Speaker, Sir, Members are speaking but the Minister is not present.

HON. SPEAKER: Two senior numbers are sitting. Hon. Member, Cabinet meeting is going on so the Minister has taken permission from me. They had requested to attend Cabinet meeting. I had told him to ask the Minister of State to attend the proceeding of the House. And as far as other issues are concerned, I am sitting here to listen to you.

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: You have clarified, that's fine..

HON. SPEAKER: I am going to listen to everyone. The Minister has gone in the Cabinet meeting after taking my permission.

DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN (BALAGHAT): Thank you very much, Speaker, Sir for allowing me to speak in the Zero Hour. I come from Balaghat Lok Sabha, which is an area bordering Maharashtra, Nagpur. Most of the people here have to go to Nagpur for treatment and business. For this, there used to be a train running from Balaghat to Nagpur, which has been discontinued for the past four months. It used to run under the name Itwari-Balaghat. As a result, passengers are facing significant inconvenience and travelling has become difficult for them. Due to this, patients, students and businessmen are facing problems. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the introduction of a new train service from Balaghat to Nagpur in the morning and from Nagpur to Balaghat in the evening so that patients, students and traders from our area can benefit from it. Thank you very much.

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA): Speaker, Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency Rewa, Madhya Pradesh has three main Kharif crops - paddy, urad and moong. Urad and moong have been destroyed due to heavy rains and paddy has been destroyed due to the Kando disease. But to date, despite such massive protests and all

demands, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not conducted any survey for the loss of these crops. Along with this, the Kisan Samman Nidhi being given by the Union Government is also being obstructed. It is not been made available. I request through you that the Government of Madhya Pradesh be directed to conduct a survey regarding the damage caused to the urad, moong and paddy crops, to provide appropriate compensation to the farmers and to make arrangements for providing the Kisan Samman Nidhi amount immediately. Thank you. Jai hind.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Dabwali city falls under my constituency Sirsa. The railway line divides the city into two parts. When the goods train or the special train goes there, the gate remains closed for ten to eleven hours. The entire city comes to a standstill. This particular train operates at least four to five times a month. If it is the season time then you see that even if one train goes in a day, the city will standstill for ten-ten, twelve-twelve hours continuously throughout the month. The people there are suffering a lot. Therefore, through you, I request the Railway Ministry to build an alternate system there. Our government is ready to give them land, the people there are ready to give everything, ready to give

land. If an alternative medium is built there then those people will not face any problems again. After loading and unloading there, people will be able to move smoothly from there.

Hon. Speaker, along with this, a very good reply was given to Question number-46 during the question hour. Our MP had raised the question. I had requested that the Haryana Government is ready to do everything necessary to undertake the work on the railway line from Hisar to Sirsa via Agroha, Fatehabad and complete it as soon as possible. I would be extremely grateful if it is done promptly. Thank you.

HON.SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Sushri Sunita Duggal.

Shri Deepak Baij. Deepak Ji, you stand up at your seat and the mike will turn on automatically. This is my responsibility.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ (BASTAR): Sir, thank you for giving me the time to speak. Bastar district of Chhattisgarh is a Naxal-affected and extremely sensitive area. The Union g Government is earning revenue worth crores of rupees from the mineral wealth of Bastar district. It is the misfortune of Bastar that for the convenience of the people of Bastar, the railway line between Raipur and Bastar has not been connected yet. Therefore, I request the Union government

through you to kindly connect a direct railway line between Bastar and Raipur for the convenience of passengers. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Mandavi - Not present.

Dr. Bharati Praveen Pawar.

DR. BHARATI PRAVEEN PAWAR (DINDORI): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak.

Sir, I want to talk about agricultural loans given to farmers. The banks providing agricultural loans to farmers do agreements in English. The majority of farmers are not familiar with the English language. The bank officials get the farmers signature on that agreement.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, kindly note this issue. This is a serious issue. I humbly request you to kindly take notice of this matter.

DR. BHARATI PRAVEEN PAWAR: Sir, thank you. Farmers also sign it out of compulsion. Farmers are often not fully informed about the main points of the agricultural loan schemes formulated by the Government of India. As a result, they may not understand the rules and regulations of the scheme, due to lack of information. These agreement papers are provided by the bank. The

agreement paper of agricultural loan should be in Hindi or local language so that the farmer can know the agricultural loan scheme well and get his rights.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jagdambika Pal.

Bharti ji, you have made your point. I have taken notice.

DR. BHARATI PRAVEEN PAWAR: Sir, thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Bharati Praveen Pawar.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. I would like to bring an important matter of the country to the attention of the government through you. To remove regional imbalances in the country, the Prime Minister of India has taken 115 such districts of the country through NITI Aayog which were lagging in health, education, or other parameters or indicators, as aspirational districts. These 115 districts were identified from all the states of the country, 28 states. Today, the Government of India also has a nodal officer of the Joint Secretary level in each of those districts. The effort is to

ensure that those aspirational districts can be brought into the mainstream or compared with other districts of the country. Here, *[English]*even today in Siddharth Nagar, institutional delivery to total estimated delivery is 39.8 per cent; standard children is 62.7 per cent; elementary school complying with RTE specified teacher is 55 per cent; youth certified short-term and long-term training is 0.2 per cent; Gram Panchayat internet connection is 40.87 per cent; children performing optimally in mathematics in Class VII is 17.12 per cent; children performing in language is 11.16 per cent; pregnant women receiving four or more antenatal care check-ups is only 15 per cent. *[Translation]*Today, I request the Government through you that these ongoing schemes should be run in those districts to bring these districts into the mainstream of the country. Unless some special package is given to these districts like my Siddharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, like Balrampur and Shravasti are aspirational districts. There is no industry in this area and there is absolutely no industrial activity taking place here. Through you, I request the Government to declare it a sugarcane area and set up an industry there to bring it into the mainstream of the country. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALA RAY (KOLKATA DAKSHIN): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the ever-increasing consumer complaints regarding the problem of call drops across India. Though in October, 2017 TRAI announced stricter norms and penalties for operators failing to meet the call drop benchmark, telco consumers in India are till now subjected to major inconvenience due to this massive nationwide menace. It is also adding extra expenses for common people at the cost of giving additional revenue to select telecom operators who are dearer to the Government. This may be a calculated menace to benefit a select few. This is unacceptable. The Central Government needs to investigate this further and outline a robust solution at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India towards the fact that people in my Lok Sabha constituency are facing problems through Punjab and Maharashtra Bank. People are in great trouble. There are approximately one lakh account holders in my Lok Sabha

constituency, including those from Kalyan, Badlapur, Dindoli, Ulhasnagar, Ambernath and Bhiwandi who have deposited their retirement savings in the bank. Their children are still studying. They don't have the money to pay their fees. The Reserve Bank has imposed some restrictions that only forty thousand rupees can be withdrawn in a month. People are very upset. Their entire Diwali was spent in darkness. 6,000 retired military people have kept all their money in this bank. Some people are unable to afford medical treatment at hospitals due to financial constraints. People who were in government jobs should run their household with their retirement money so they have kept it in a savings account. Their household expenses were covered by the interest earned from that money. They have nothing to eat. About ten people have died till date. Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank to provide facilities to these people. The Finance Ministry should give such instructions to the Reserve Bank that those whose money is stuck there should get their money as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Please tell us about the new system, what is the new system? Did you get a paper?

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: Sir, I got it.

HON. SPEAKER: Then tell us what is the new system.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: On behalf of all the hon. Members, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker that he has just started a new system that whoever will be the next speaker will get a paper in advance. I have received a chit. On behalf of all the people, on behalf of the entire House, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Whether this is the reason why you are standing up to congratulate?

HON. SPEAKER: You have not yet received it.

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you and through you bring to the attention of the Ministry of Railways, Government of India an urgent matter about the safety of thousands of people every day.

Thousands of people travel on the railway line from Delhi to Saharanpur. According to Discovery Channel, this is the sixth most crowded route in the world. People sit in the toilets, sit on the roof and travel. Where it has a capacity of 90 people, 350 to 400 people travel in it. Even today, I have shown a video to the Minister of State of Railways and two months ago I showed it to the railway officials that a big accident can happen. In this very house, the Indian Parliament had approved Rs 1600 crore for this in the budget of the year 2016 and in January 2017, the Hon. Minister of State of Railways performed the bhoomipujan but till date no work has started on it. To avoid a big accident tomorrow, I request the Government of India and the Ministry of Railways, through you, to start work on this as early as possible. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL (BANASKANTHA): Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to raise an important issue of my Parliamentary Constituency. Sir, due to unseasonal rains in my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha, our farmers have suffered huge losses. All crops including castor, cotton, groundnut, jowar, millet, and kathol have suffered huge

losses. The Gujarat government has also ordered to conduct a survey in this regard. Through you, I would like to talk about the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, it is a very good scheme, but due to the negligence of the insurance companies, farmers are facing a lot of problems. There is a need to amend the 72-hour deadline set by insurance companies. No one is available to answer the toll-free number or mobile numbers of officers, leaving farmers unable to voice their opinions. I also want to suggest to you that the deadline fixed for 72 hours needs to be amended. When someone goes there to conduct a survey, it is important to gather the opinions of farmers at that time too. Secondly, we have a castor oil park where the crops have been damaged due to unseasonal rains and have been infested with insects. It is called Semi Looper in English. Because of that, all the parks of farmers have been destroyed. Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to assist the farmers there.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel.

SHRI DURGA DAS UIKEY (BETUL): Hon. Speaker Sir, you have allowed me to speak, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you. Due to heavy rains in my Lok Sabha constituency Betul, Harda,

Harsud, Madhya Pradesh, there has been a huge financial loss in all my eight assembly constituencies. Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I request the Hon. Union Minister of Agriculture to understand the plight of the hardworking farmer brothers of my Lok Sabha Constituency Betul, Harda, Harsud area and take prompt initiatives to address it. The Madhya Pradesh government has conducted a survey of farmers in a discriminatory manner. The compensation amount has not been paid to the affected farmers till date. Sir, even the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi has not been paid to the farmers of my Lok Sabha constituency. I request, through you, to please take immediate action in this direction.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Margani Bharat Ji - Not present.

[English]

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY (MEDAK): I would like to bring to your kind notice the need to protect the Defence lands of Secunderabad cantonment area in Telangana State. In this regard, I would like to bring to your kind notice that Secunderabad cantonment area is being misused for the last 30 to 40 years. Some authorised and unauthorised occupants have grabbed the Defence lands and unauthorizedly constructed commercial buildings like, luxurious marriage function halls, educational institutions, hotels,

restaurants and big godowns without any valid permission and with all civic amenities. The Government is not getting a single pie in the form of revenue. Telangana Government has already requested the Union Government to allot these Defence lands for construction of skyways and expressways for use of the general public. For better utilisation of Defence cantonment lands, I would request the hon. Minister of Defence, through you, to kindly intervene in the matter and an inquiry may also be initiated to punish the culprits according to law.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU

(NARASARAOPET): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. This is a subject which is close to the heart of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, as well as close to the heart of our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the setting up of medical colleges in three phases. In the first phase, 58 medical colleges have already been set up; in the second phase, 24 medical colleges are planned to be set-up; and in the third phase, right now, they are planning to set-up 75 medical colleges. Hon. Speaker, Sir, they have been setting-up these medical colleges by taking district as a unit instead of taking Parliament as a unit. Take

the example of my own Guntur district. In Guntur district, they have two private medical colleges, one Government medical college and also AIIMS college. But whereas in my Parliamentary constituency, there is no medical college that is available. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to take Parliament as a unit and take steps to establish . I would like to raise one more point because it relates to everyone here in the Parliament. Recently, Tamil Nadu, which has 39 Parliament seats, has got only 28 Government medical colleges. Our State, Andhra Pradesh has been bifurcated only five years back. We are still struggling with the revenue deficit. So, I would like the hon.Minister to be generous and sanction seven medical colleges which we have applied for recently.

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister through you. I am requesting to start an Up and Down Intercity Express from Thawe Junction to Patna, Patliputra Junction via Chhapra in my Parliamentary Constituency Gopalganj, Bihar. Earlier, when there was a narrow guage then the number of trains was 6 pairs. Today, the number of trains has been reduced to one pair two years after the

construction of the broad gauge. Electrification work has also been completed on this line.

Sir, I request through you that the service of 6 pairs of trains including Intercity Express be restarted from Thawe Junction to Patliputra Junction, Patna.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Speaker Sir, I want to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak. I have been trying for three years to start local service from Karjat to Panwal in my constituency. In the last 3 years, a provision was also made for it in the budget. The entire area falls in the Central Railway zone. Due to its proximity to Mumbai, lakhs of passenger travel. Most of the people travelling to Mumbai are workers, employees and businessmen. The work of land acquisition on this route is going on at a very slow pace. Due to this reason, the railway line did not start operating on this route. Through you, I request the Minister of Railways that the railway service be started from Karjat to Panwal as soon as possible, so that the passengers get convenience and at the same time it will generate more income to the Railway Department.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.

SHRIMATI QUEEN OJHA (GAUHATI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak once again. I want to speak about a very important topic. This needs to be given utmost importance. Nowadays, vegetables and fruits are laced with chemicals and sold. This is not just a matter of my area, it is happening all over India. I have seen that chemicals are being used indiscriminately in fruits and vegetables from farming to artificial ripening. Chemicals are being added to milk also. To make milk appear dense, urea is added. The fish farmers now add urea to their fish farms to harvest them more quickly. By doing all this, cancer is becoming very high in Assam, in the entire eastern region, ... *(Interruptions)* in the entire country. It didn't even spare the child. People who are doing this are doing it for profit. I urge you to provide health to people by using special law.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Queen Ojha.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): Hon'ble Speaker sir thank you for giving me an opportunity. Right now there is a discussion about implementing NRC all over the country. The work has already begun in Assam. It was started by Dr. Manmohan Singh's government in centre and Shri Tarun's government in Assam. The Modi government took this work forward under the supervision of the Supreme Court. The State Coordinator of the Supreme Court...* said that after the final list was published, his life was not safe hence the Supreme Court transferred him. Recently the state government has appointed a new state coordinator. This officer has given a lot of updates on social media which is quite objectionable. It is against some organizations, some against the community, and some against the political party. I have also written a letter to the Chief Minister of Assam. NRC is not just a state subject, therefore, through you, I request the government to immediately change the state coordinator and give the job to another impartial officer. NRC has been implemented in Assam. Now they are saying that it will happen again, our resources and time were wasted due to it happening again.

* Not recorded.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the House towards the arbitrary collection of fees by private schools in Delhi. We all know that education is the strong pillar of any nation on which the foundation of the bright future of that country is laid. But we all are familiar with the condition of education in the present environment. Education today has fallen prey to school mafia and commercialization. Due to the exorbitant fee hike by private schools in Delhi, the parents of the children studying in them are very upset. There are about 400 such private schools in Delhi which are running on land given by DDA at cheaper rates. Despite this, even after the government guidelines, these schools are arbitrarily hiking the fees and collecting it and the Delhi government seems incapable of controlling it. The parents of the children studying in those schools are being exploited by the private schools. For example, there are dozens of such schools which have many branches located in Delhi.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Rama Devi. Therefore, through you, the government is requested to stop the arbitrary collection of fees from parents by private schools.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL (KHADOOR SAHIB): Speaker Sir, first of all, I want to thank you for the two provisions you have made. This must be welcomed. We organize sessions for providing information on Bills which are introduced and this time we have started with the Chit Fund Amendments Bill . It is very good and we have got information. The wooden planks in front where we mark our attendance were enhanced by replacing them with brass plates. Thank you for this.

HON. SPEAKER: You have taken your time, please finish within 2 minutes.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: Speaker sir, what will we do if we do not tell about the good things that are happening? I want to draw the Government's attention to the activities of ISI to disturb Punjab. Last month, a drone made by ISI taken seven rounds and the capacity of that drone was approximately twenty-five kilos. Several kilos of RDX and AK-47 rifles were sent from Pakistan to the Tarantal district of Punjab. Our youth is very passionate and firm. I am ready to go to every door barefoot. An army recruitment centre should be opened there. Thank you.

SHRI AKBAR LONE (BARAMULLA): Speaker Sir, you and the entire administration must be aware. Markaz and Riyasat also know.

There has been recent untimely snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir, which has caused a lot of damage there. A common farmer has suffered the most from that loss. Dry fruit producing trees have been destroyed. I request the Prime Minister through you to approve special fund at the disposal of the Government of Kashmir.

اور ہوگا معلوم بھی کو آپ صاحب، اسپیکر جناب: (مولہ بارا) لون اکبر محمد جناب و جموں ہے۔ معلوم بھی کو ریاست اور مرکز ہے۔ معلوم بھی کو انتظامیہ پوری نقصان کافی وہاں سے اس ہے ہوئی برفباری وقت ہے جو میں حال ابھی میں کشمیر کے اس ہے۔ آیا کسان عام ایک زیادہ سے سب میں لپیٹے کے نقصان اس ہے۔ ہوا مداوا کوئی کو ان ہیں۔ گئے ہو ختم ہیں، گئے ہو نہیں تہس بالکل درخت میوہ دار ہے گزارش سے ذریعہ کے آپ سے صاحب اعظم وزیر جناب میری لئے کے کرنے at the disposal of کریں منظور لئے زمر کے اس فنڈ اسپیشل کوئی وہ کہ جائے گا۔ رکھا Government of Kashmir

19.00 hrs

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Hon. Speaker, you know that Professor Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics this year along with two others. He has studied at Presidency College in Kolkata where I had also studied and the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. He has done research on randomized control trials. This is the best system to see the condition of the poor. He had come to Delhi and met the Hon. Prime

Minister. I propose that the worthy son of India should be given a reception by the Parliament. Earlier, Yusuf Saheb was also given a reception in the Central Hall. I propose to give a reception to Dr. Abhijit Banerjee who has worked to alleviate poverty.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Pratima Mandal, Shri Aseet Kumar Mal and Shrimati Mala Rai are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Prof. Sougata Ray.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Members agree, should the proceedings of the House be extended till 7:15 p.m.?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: The proceedings of the House are extended till 7:15 p.m.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL (BHADRAK): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House. Sir, in my constituency, Bhadrak, six lane expansion of NH-5 (New NH-16) from Chandikhole-Bhadrak and Bhadrak-Balasore is going on. The following places highly require flyover bridges, underpasses and

vehicular passes for traffic and public thoroughfare. Expansion of the existing underpass bridges on four-lane road near Charampa, Ranital, Markona, Soro, Bahanaga, Barikpur Chhak and Chatabar entrance to the railway Stations is required. These bridges are narrow and of low height. Regular public agitation and dharna are going on for the expansion of the existing bridges. At present, the expansion work has been stopped due to public agitation. I would request you that these existing underpass bridges should be expanded to a higher level in the greater interest of the public. Sir, through you, I again request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to look into the matter and resolve the above issues at the earliest.

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA (SURENDRANAGAR): Sir, there is no passenger train service for more than 20 years now in Patdi Taluka of my parliamentary constituency. The Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary is situated in Patdi Taluka which attracts national and international tourists. There are three big pilgrim places there, namely, Shakti Mataji Mandir, Dhama, Swami Narayan Temple, Varnidham, and Ramapir Temple, Piplidham. Many people throughout the year visit these holy places and many workers, students and other labourers regularly keep

moving there up and down from nearby places. So, I would request the hon. Minister for Railways to kindly start new passenger trains or extend Valsad-Viramgam train to Patdi Station for the benefit of visitors to Patdi Taluka.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Mahendrabhai Munjapara.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Thank you Speaker Sir. Siliguri is the second largest city in Bengal after Kolkata and is also very important from the national security point of view. The population of this city has increased rapidly in the last few years. It is the hub for the entire North Bengal. But, the development of this city has not taken place in the way it should have been. There is a huge problem of water and drainage system. About six thousand people come to the airport every day, yet the condition of the airport is bad. The condition of education is also pathetic. There is only one hospital in North Bengal named North Bengal Medical College and its condition is also very bad. Considering all this, if we develop this city under Smart City scheme, it will be very good for the large population living there and from the security point of view. Through

you, I want that Siliguri be included under the smart city list and develop it.

SHRI MAHABALI SINGH (KARAKAT): Speaker Sir, you have allowed me to raise a very important issue of my Lok Sabha Constituency in the House, so I express my heartfelt gratitude to you. In the years 2007 and 2008, Indian Railway Electricity Company Limited acquired 2200 acres of land from the farmers in Navinagar Block under Karakat Lok Sabha constituency for power generation. At the time of land acquisition, the company had requested the farmers there that when the production of electricity starts, 80% of the displaced farmers will be given jobs and all facilities that are in the interest of human welfare will be provided in them which are displaced villages. Since 2017-18, 750 MW of power is being generated there but the agreement with the displaced people which provided for giving 80% employment, whose land has been lost and are not fit for cultivation or not worthy of task, are not being employed but employment is being provided to outsiders. After the installation of the plant, the water is being extracted from very deep and due to which 20 villages have been suffering the scarcity of water . Therefore, through you, I want to

request the Government to provide jobs and other facilities to the displaced families and farmers there.

ADVOCATE AJAY BHATT (NANITAL-UDHAMSINGH NAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am grateful that you have allowed me to speak. I would like to tell you about the Indian Medicines Pharmaceuticals Corporation Limited (IMPCL) which was set up 41 years ago at a place called Mohan, located in the Milani areas between District Nainital and District Almora in the state of Uttarakhand. The process of its disinvestment is underway. At present, 500 employees are working there. Its objective was that by exploiting the herbs of the Himalayan states, the poor, unemployed, and weaker section people would make medicines here using cow dung, urine, and herbs there. At present this factory has been running continuously in profits from the year 1978 till date. Therefore, I request that the process of disinvestment going on there should be stopped with immediate effect in the public interest. Unemployment and migration are the main problems of Uttarakhand. That is why a new state was created. If disinvestment takes place, about 5000 men out of which 500 are employees, will be rendered jobless immediately. Therefore, this is a matter of great public importance, on which it is very important to get your instructions.

[English]

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards low conviction rates in POCSO cases. The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation had undertaken a study, that is, 'the status of pending trials in child sexual abuse cases in India', in which it is stated that the conviction rate in cases registered under POCSO Act is just nine per cent. The study also stated that at the current rate, the victims of the pending cases will have to wait till 2029 for justice, even if no new case of child sexual abuse is reported. The Report of Delhi Commission on Protection of Child Rights has exposed the sorry state of child rape victims and their families in Delhi, and the lack of assistance from the Government agencies, be it in the form of compensation, support of persons, health and education, or legal aid. This deplorable situation is prevailing in all the States including my State, Kerala. Hence, urgent necessary steps – both administrative and legislative – must be taken to protect the children in India from diabolical sexual predators.

[Translation]

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Hon. Speaker Sir, today we can see the country in two parts. 20 percent of the people living in

urban areas and 80 percent of the people living in rural areas are farmers or other castes related to farmers. Unfortunately, yesterday there was a discussion on farmers for 4-5 hours and yesterday, instead of listening to the farmers, the opposition party was engaged in some agitation. As far as the government is concerned, there is a BJP government in Uttar Pradesh as well as in the country. Shri Rajendra Agrawal is sitting, please pay attention to this. Sugarcane is grown in large quantities in this area as well as in other places and this also helps in controlling pollution. It is a big tree. Its price has not been increased for three years. Thousands of crores of rupees are owed to the farmers. Their livelihood is not going well. In such a situation, I want to say only one thing in the last three years, inflation increased by 8 percent. Inflation increased by 7 percent and then by 6 percent. If inflation has increased then at least to equalize the rates, the rate of sugarcane which is Rs. 325 per quintal, should be increased by around Rs. 100. The government's policy is to provide double income to the farmers. According to that, 400 becomes 800. Accordingly, the state government should be directed to provide at least Rs 500. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Girish Chandra is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Malook Nagar.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, my parliamentary constituency is Nabarangpur. Nabarangpur district has Chennahandi Block-1 in which Kudi Panchayat does not have any mobile facility yet, like San Battemara in Jharia Block, Papadahandi Block, Goddevpali and Tandurkhunti Block where there is also no mobile facility. Malkangiri district is also a Naxalite-affected area. Malkangiri has Uduka Panchayat, Chitragunda area has mobile facilities in some areas but there is no internet facility. Banking work is not being done there. 108 mobile facilities are also not being used which is the Maithili area. That is why I request the Minister to provide mobile facilities there as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Saptagiri Ulaka is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Ramesh Chandra Majhi.

SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (KATIHAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, the Ganga River flows in my Lok Sabha constituency under Katihar district and all the rivers like the Kosi River, Mahananda, Karikosi, Barandi, Gandak River etc. join the Ganga River and the flow of water is so high during floods that due to the flow of water many villages including Dilarpur, Awadhpur, Bolia, Baghmara, Gandhi Tola, Peer Pahad Mazar, Gola Ghat of Manihari

block under Katihar district are affected by the fast flow and erosion of the Ganga River . And similarly many villages like Mehutola, Jhabbutola, Kirti Tola, Yusuf Tola of Ahmedabad block are badly affected by the Ganga River and Mahananda and are suffering from erosion these days. This is a very serious problem. I demand from the Union Government that protection from erosion should be provided there and arrangements should be made for the rehabilitation of thousands of erosion-affected families.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, four hours have passed and right now I am coming from the Standing Committee after aggressively arguing my case and so this is a good chance. I will speak in the House for the people of the area. When this Constitution was framed it was the clear opinion of the Constituent Assembly as to what kind of people would get reservations and whether people from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should get reservations. Two different provisions were provided in it that if the Scheduled Castes would convert their religion then they would not get the benefit of reservation but it was not provided for the Scheduled Tribes since their way of living, culture, conduct and practice are different and that is why a reprieve and a reason was given to the Scheduled Castes.

Situation in Jharkhand is such that out of 47 it has 26-27 percent tribal population. At that time, only three percent out of the 26 percent were Christians, the conversion was only three percent. In the year 1937, a law was enacted regarding conversion, which said that if there is a conversion, if someone wants to change his religion, then there is no objection to it, but the DM should be aware of it and the conversion should take place. Today the situation is such that out of that 26 percent tribal population, 20 percent people, about 1.5 crore people, have converted their religion, and due to conversion their entire culture has changed. The people indulged in converting are getting them converted by influencing them educationally, socially and especially economically. That is why I insist that when there was a debate in the Constituent Assembly, our forefathers said that if such a situation prevailed then the Scheduled Tribes would also not get reservations after religious conversion like the Scheduled Castes. Through you, I request the Government of India that the Scheduled Tribes should also not get the right to reservation after conversion like the Scheduled Castes and therefore, we should stop the conversions.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Thursday, November 21, 2019.

19.17 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 21, 2019/Kartika 30, 1941 (Saka).

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