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Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Sravana 03, 1945 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 25, 2023/ Sravana 03, 1945 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

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

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Question 61, Shri V.K. Sreekandan.

... (Interruptions)

(Q. 61)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Question 62, Shri Manish Tewari ji.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

11.01 hrs

At this stage, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Sushri Mahua Moitra, Shri A. Raja and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't you want the House to run? Do you not wish to utilise the time allocated for Question Hour?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is very important. I urge you to let the House run. You should participate on discussion during the Question Hour and fix the accountability of the Government.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You should try to make a good effort. Our democracy is the largest democracy in the world. Why do you engage in sloganeering every day? Sloganeering will not solve any problem.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone, please take one's respective seats. I will ensure that you get adequate time and opportunity to speak on every issue. I urge you to uphold the dignity of Parliament. Bringing placards every day is not in accordance with parliamentary traditions.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have requested you earlier as well. You are all Senior Members. Kindly maintain the dignity of the House. Do you not wish to run the House? Do you not want the Question Hour to proceed as scheduled? Are you not willing to hold discussions on serious and important matters?

... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos. 62 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920)

* For Questions, please refer to Master copy of Original version of Debates, placed in the Library.

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

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m today.

11.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs

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

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal in the Chair)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, notices for adjournment motions on certain subjects have been received. The Hon. Speaker has not granted approval to any adjournment motion notices.

... (Interruptions)

14.00½ hrs

At this stage, Shri T. N. Prathapan, Shri B. Manickam Tagore, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

14.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the papers will be laid on the Table.

Item No. -2.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9679/17/23]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (4) Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9680/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, General Duty Cadre (Group 'C' Posts) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 113(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 156 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9681/17/23]

- (2) A copy of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Sashastra Seema Bal, Combatised, Group 'B' (Non-Gazetted) Para-Veterinary Recruitment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.26 in weekly Gazette of India dated 25th March, 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 155 of the Sashastra Seema Bal Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9682/17/23]

- (3) A copy of the Assam Rifles, Rifleman/ Riflewomen (General Duty), Group 'C' Combatised Post

Recruitment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.351(E) in Gazette of India dated 9th May 2023, under Section 167 of the Assam Rifles Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9683/17/23]

- (4) A copy of the Central Reserve Police Force, Constable (General Duty), General Duty Cadre, Group 'C' Post, Recruitment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.271(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9684/17/23]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920: -

- (i) S.O.3051(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2023 designating Dhamra Seaport of Odisha State as an authorized Immigration Check

Post for entry into/ exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

- (ii) S.O.3053(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2023 designating Manohar International Airport, Mopa of Goa State as an authorized Immigration Check Post for entry into exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9685/17/23]

- (6) A copy of the Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing (Subordinate Ranks) Group 'B' and Group 'C' Posts (Amendment) Recruitment Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.195(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th March, 2023, under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9686/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE**

(KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE): Sir, I beg to lay
on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968: -

(i) The Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.211(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2023.

(ii) The Insecticides (Third Amendment) Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.274(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th April, 2023.

(iii) The Insecticides (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.315(E) in Gazette of India dated 26th April, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9687/17/23]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 4D of the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914: -

- (i) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (First Amendment) Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.1801(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st April, 2023.
- (ii) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.2153(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th May, 2023.
- (iii) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Third Amendment) Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.2360(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st May, 2023.
- (iv) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fourth Amendment) Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.2680(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th June, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9688/17/23]

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kailash Choudhary Ji.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Ji

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson,, on behalf of Shri Kailash Choudhary, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955: -
 - (i) The Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Amendment Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.623(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th February, 2023.
 - (ii) The Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Second Amendment Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.1011(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd March, 2023.
 - (iii) S.O.1012(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2023 making certain amendments in

the Notification No. S.O.4496(E) dated 23rd September, 2022.

- (iv) S.O.1025(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2023 notifying specification of Nano Di Ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer (liquid) to be manufactured by M/s Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative for a period of three years from the date of publication in the official Gazette.
- (v) S.O.1026(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2023 notifying specification of Nano Di Ammonium Phosphate Fertilizer (liquid) to be manufactured by M/s Coromandel International Ltd in India for a period of three years from the date of publication in the official Gazette.
- (vi) S.O.1048(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th March, 2023 notifying specification of Nano Urea to be manufactured by M/s Ray Nano Science and Research Centre in India for a period of three years from the date of

publication in the official Gazette.

- (vii) The Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Third Amendment Order, 2023 published in Notification No. S.O.1024(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd March, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9689/17/23]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937: -

- (i) The Named Flours Grading and Marking Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.191(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2023.
- (ii) The Dried Figs Grading and Marking Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.190(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9690/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION (SHRI B. L. VERMA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay the on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2021-2022.

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

[Placed in Library, See No.LT9691/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (KUMARI
PRATIMA BHAUMIK):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I beg to lay
on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding
(Hindi and English versions) between the National
Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation and the
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
(Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for
the year 2022-2023.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9692/17/23]

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

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

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990: -

(i) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Stenographer Posts (Amendment) Recruitment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.451(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th June, 2023.

(ii) The All India Radio (Library Posts) Recruitment Rules, 2023 published in Notification No. G.S.R.288(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th April, 2023.

(iii) The Doordarshan Assistant Director (Official Language) Recruitment Rules, 2019 published

in Notification No. G.S.R.293(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th April, 2023.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at Item No. (i) and (iii) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9693/17/23]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi, for the year 2020-2021.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9694/17/23]

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 9; Dr. Satyapal Singh ji.

... (Interruptions)

14.02 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

130th to 141st Reports

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2022-23): -

- (1) 130th Report on the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC), Gurugram under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.
- (2) 131st Report on the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Chittoor under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education)

- (3) 132nd Report on the delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS), New Delhi under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.
- (4) 133rd Report on the Action-Taken by the Ministry of Minority Affairs on the Recommendations/ Observations made by the Committee in their 25th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi.
- (5) 134th Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 28th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research (NIPER), Raebareli.
- (6) 135th Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 37th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited

Accounts of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh now subsumed in U.P. Education for all Project Board (Samagra Shiksha), Lucknow.

- (7) 136th Report on the Action-Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table in the 50th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding delay in laying of the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru.
- (8) 137th Report on the Action-Taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 51st Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.
- (9) 138th Report on the Action-Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 64th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)

regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Educational Consultant India Limited (EdCIL), Noida.

- (10) 139th Report on the Action-Taken by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 65th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida.
- (11) 140th Report on the Action-Taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 67th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA), Delhi.
- (12) 141st Report on the Action-Taken by the Ministry of Education (Department of Higher Education) on the Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in their 52nd Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) regarding

the delay in laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the National Institute of Technology, Sikkim.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 11; Shri Jagdambika Pal ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Shivkumar Udasi ji

... (*Interruptions*)

14.02½ hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

36th to 38th Reports

[English]

SHRI S.C. UDASI (HAVERI): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2022-23): -

- (1) Thirty-sixth Report on ‘Action-Taken by the Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject ‘Tidal Power Development in India’.
 - (2) Thirty-seventh Report on ‘Action-Taken by the Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in Twenty-first Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject ‘Financial Constraints in Renewable Energy Sector’.
 - (3) Thirty-eighth Report on ‘Action-taken by the Government on Observations/Recommendations contained in Twenty-seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject ‘Evaluation of Wind Energy in India’.
-

14.03 hrs

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

22nd Report

[Translation]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to present the 22nd Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject, 'India's Neighbourhood First Policy'.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 13; Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Nayab Singh ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.04 hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR, TEXTILES AND
SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Statements

[Translation]

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI (KURUKSHETRA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development contained in the following Reports: -

- (1) 27th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the 18th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Textiles.
- (2) 28th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the 19th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- (3) 29th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken

by Government on the 20th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on "Functioning of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)" pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.

- (4) 40th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the 32th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2022-23)' of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.05 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 351st Report of the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI NISHITH PRAMANIK): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Anurag Singh Thakur ji, beg to lay a statement on the Table regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 351st Report of the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants (2023-24) pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. ... (*Interruptions*)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9678/17/23

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. - 9, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury ji.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Sir, from the very beginning, we have been consistently requesting for a discussion on Manipur... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, not that.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: A discussion should be held in the House on the deteriorating situation in Manipur....*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adhir ji, only lay the papers, Adhir Da, you are a Senior Member of Parliament.

Item No. – 15, Shri Ajay Misra ji.

... (Interruptions)

14.06 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Official Language

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI): Hon. Chairperson, on behalf of Shri Amit Shah ji, I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one Member from amongst themselves to be a member of the Committee on Official Language *vice* Shri Balubhau alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar expired on 30 May, 2023".

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“In pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, one Member from amongst themselves

to be a member of the Committee on Official Language
vice Shri Balubhau alias Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar
expired on 30 May, 2023".

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No – 16 – Shri Pralhad Joshi.

14.06½ hrs

**MOTION RE: FORTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS,
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI
PRALHAD JOSHI):** Sir, I beg to move:

“That the House do agree with the Forty-second Report
of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the
House on 24th July, 2023.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 24th July, 2023.""

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated. Let the proceedings continue. If you want a discussion, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.07 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members who have been granted leave to raise Matters under Rule 377, may lay the approved text on the Table of the House within 20 minutes in person.

... (Interruptions)

(i) Need to set up Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling Workshop in Kalahandi Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA (KALAHANDI): My constituency, Kalahandi, is one of the most backward areas of the country, which includes two districts—Nuapada and Kalahandi and are deprived of many facilities even today and as per Prime Minister's vision both districts have been identified as aspirational districts. People migrate to other states due to lack of employment opportunities in their own state. I would like to urge Hon. Minister of Railways that the Union Government has approved a new railway project "Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling Workshop" costing Rs. 186.37 Crore in my Constituency Narla Vidhan Sabha in Kalahandi district. But the work has not started yet. For this

* Treated as laid on the Table

project, the Odisha Government has to provide 328.35 acres of land to the Railways, out of 80 percent land required for commencement of work, 65% of the land has already been acquired by the Railways, hence the work may be started. I request the Hon. Minister that keeping in view the significance of the said important project, the Railways should initiate work on the acquired land at the earliest. Along with Government, the state government should be told to allocate the remaining 35% of the land so that an industry should be set up and employment opportunities should be created. This work is very important for making the country self-reliant and generating new employment opportunities.

(ii) Regarding educational, social and economic upliftment of nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in the country

SHRI RAMAKANT BHARGAVA (VIDISHA): The Government of India had constituted the Renke Commission in 2008 and the Idate Commission in 2018 to identify families belonging to the denotified, semi-nomadic and nomadic tribes. Due to poverty and nomadic tendencies, the major problems faced by the community include lack of permanent housing facilities, minimum literacy rates, the problem of permanent and pucca houses, subsistence below the poverty line for a significant portion of the population, social distancing, involvement of certain communities in hunting and other criminal activities, resettlement problems and unemployment. As these tribes are nomadic and semi-nomadic, there is absence of district-wise official population data in this regard and the detailed information about these communities is not available in India and Madhya Pradesh. I request the Hon. Minister, and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to initiate the process of identification and registration of the families of the de-notified nomadic and semi-nomadic communities living in Madhya Pradesh. Subsequently, their educational, social, and economic upliftment be ensured by

preparing scheme for these tribes and they should be brought into the mainstream.

(iii) Need to correct the spelling of 'Dhangadh' as 'Dhangar' in the OBC list in Maharashtra

SHRI RANJITSINHA HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR (MADHA): The Dhangar tribe is a nomadic shepherd community present in several states of the country, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. This tribe is predominantly found in Maharashtra, especially in the Marathwada region, in large numbers. This tribe is very backward from social, economic and educational point of view. This community is listed as a Scheduled Tribe throughout the country. However, due to a typographical error, their name appeared as 'Dhangadh' instead of 'Dhangar' in the Scheduled Tribe list of Maharashtra and at present, this community is listed as 'Dhangadh' at serial number 36 in the Scheduled Tribe list of Maharashtra. The reality is that there is no tribe named 'Dhangadh' in Maharashtra whereas on the other hand due to a typographical the 'Dhangar' tribe in Maharashtra has been deprived of Government facilities meant for Scheduled Tribes for the last 70 years. I would like to request to promptly issue a

notification to replace the word 'Dhangadh' with 'Dhangar' at serial number 36 in the Scheduled Tribes list of Maharashtra. This will ensure justice for the 'Dhangar' community which is oppressed and deprived for centuries and they may be able to avail all the benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes along with it the relevant certificates may be issued to them.

(iv) Need to set up Mobile Training Centres for farmers in every Panchayat in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):

In our country approximately 60% of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. In this situation, it is natural that the population of farmers in all parts of the country will be by and large in the same ratio. My Parliamentary Constituency, Maharajganj, Bihar is also a rural and predominantly agrarian area where farmers cultivate various crops. Farmers in our region are still lagging behind in crop production due to a lack of proper training. Therefore, farmers in our region require specialized training. The "Mobile Farmer Training Centres" can be set up for imparting specialized training to as many farmers as possible in every panchayat of my Constituency. This will enable our farmers to increase their productivity and enhance their income, thereby improving their quality of life. Therefore, I urge the Government to establish Mobile Farmer Training Centres in every panchayat of my Parliamentary Constituency.

(v) Need to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educational institutions in the country

[English]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Since November 2022, several Generative Artificial Intelligence software tools have taken the world by storm. Chat GPT was launched in November 2022 and is a free software capable of generating original topics and solutions using artificial intelligence. Similar chat bots have been launched since then, such as Google's Bard and Microsoft's Bing Chat. Students nowadays are relying heavily on these tools to fulfil their academic obligations. Universities and schools worldwide are concerned over the misuse of technology by students who submit AI-generated work as their own, which will, have a disastrous effect on the intellectual level of students. In India, RV University of Bangalore has banned the use of Chat GPT. CBSE also issued guidelines against the use of Chat GPT during Board exams. Unethical use and plagiarism are not the only concerns. These tools have frequently given false and outdated information. Generative tools which do not require any effort on behalf of students will entirely defeat the purpose of academic work, which is meant to enhance their intellectual level. Further, without any fact-checks, students might even unknowingly rely on false and outdated

information. Therefore, I request the Government to regulate the use of AI in educational institutions and provide an environment for students to pursue academic rigour fairly.

(vi) Regarding setting up of three kendriya vidyalayas at Jarmundi (Dumka), Deoghar and Mahagama (Godda) in the Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Jharkhand is having two major regions of Santhal Pargana and Chhota Nagpur. No doubt, the spread of Naxalism is an indication of the sense of desperation and alienation that is sweeping over the large sections of the people in the Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region, who have been not only systematically marginalized but also cruelly exploited and dispossessed in their own homeland. Keeping the socio-economic problem being faced by Santhal Pargana in mind where agriculture only is the main source of income, we see an urgent need for a comprehensive plan of action where special emphasis on good and equal opportunity of employment friendly education is given utmost importance. Santhal Pargana districts of Deoghar, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur, Sahibganj and Dumka count amongst socially, educationally and economically backward districts of the country.

A look at the statistics of health, education, income, etc., gives an appalling picture of the poor state of the people. Jharkhand is a rich State. It possesses 40% of India's mineral resources, but the access to resources has made little difference to the lives of the ordinary people. Poverty and ignorance are still causes for low literacy rates, poor school attendance and large-scale drop-outs. I, therefore, seek attention of the Government towards the need to set up three Kendriya Vidyalayas. An ideal location would be JARMUNDI (DUMKA), DEOGHAR AND MAHAGAMA (GODDA) in the SANTHAL PARGANA region.

(vii) Need to fill up the trenches dug up near the forest areas in Singhbhum district, Jharkhand and provide compensation to the family members of people died due to elephant attacks

[Translation]

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): The incidents of wild elephant attack have escalated significantly in the Chakulia Block of the Baharagora Assembly Constituency, located in East Singhbhum district under the Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency. It is known that the said assembly Constituency is adjacent to the border of West Bengal, and due to the trenches dug by the Forest Department wild animals are crossing the trenches and entering the villages instead of going into the forests, causing considerable damage to the common people. Farmers' crops and houses are being damaged. Even 9 persons have been trampled to death by elephants recently. Inordinate delay is made by the Department in providing compensation to the families of the persons killed in these attacks. But the amount of compensation received for crop damage is meagre. Moreover, a considerable delay is caused in providing compensation for loss of life and crop, and in absence of detailed information regarding the amount of compensation available to even Forest Department officials,

affected families are unable to get appropriate and timely compensation.

Therefore, I would like to request the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India, to fill up the said trenches and increase the compensation amount and along with it also ensure that compensation to the affected individuals/farmers is provided on time.

(viii) Need to enhance the amount of pension under EPS–95

PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI (ALLAHABAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment towards the demands of the EPS 95 pensioners.

The 70 lakh retired EPS 95 pensioners from the industrial/public/cooperative private sectors have played a significant role in the nation's development during their service period. However, today their economic condition is pitiable. Even after depositing Rs. 470, Rs. 541 and Rs. 1250 per month in the pension fund during their service period, they are currently getting a maximum of Rs. 1171. As a result, they are unable to fulfil even their daily needs. In the light of the Hon. Supreme Court ruling, dated 4.10.2016 and 04.01.2022, I would like to request to give a sympathetic consideration to the demand of increasing their pension. I would like to request that the pensioners of EPS-95 should be provided with a minimum of Rs. 7500 (with Dearness Allowance) as per their demands, and free medical facilities should also be provided to their spouses.

**(ix) Need to provide treatment of infertility among women in
Government hospitals in Maharashtra and also set IVF
Centres in hospitals in the State**

DR. JAYASIDHESWAR SHIVACHARYA SWAMIJI (SHOLAPUR): Infertility is a condition of the reproductive system where the body's fundamental function of producing children is impaired. Conceiving a child is a complex process that depends on several factors. According to a report by the World Health Organization, one in every six couples worldwide is affected by infertility. In countries with high, middle, and low-income groups, this ratio is slightly higher. In high-income countries, 17.8 percent of adults suffer from infertility, whereas in low-income countries, this figure is 16.5 percent. As per World Health Organization, infertility treatment should be readily available in all countries worldwide. During IVF, mature eggs are collected from the ovaries and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory. Then, the fertilized eggs (embryos) are transferred to the uterus. One complete cycle of IVF takes approximately three weeks. Sometimes these stages may be divided into different segments, and this process may take longer.

In various states of India, private IVF centres are available. This year, a fertility treatment centre has been started by the Health

Ministry of the State Government of Goa. In Maharashtra, private hospitals with infertility treatment centres are present in almost every district. The number of patients seeking treatment in these centres is continuously increasing. Due to the high cost of IVF treatment, which runs into lakhs, ordinary people and especially poor families remains deprived of this treatment. Therefore, I would like to make a humble request to the Ministry of Health, Government of India to take appropriate steps to set up infertility treatment centres in Government District Government Hospitals or Government Medical Colleges in Maharashtra. The Government financial assistance for setting up IVF centres should be provided to the State Government of Maharashtra.

(x) Regarding repair of Muzaffarpur-Janakpur-Orai road and construction of a bridge over Bagmati River in Bihar

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government Union Government towards the renovation of Muzaffarpur-Janakpur via Aurai road stretch and construction of a bridge at Babhangama Ghat over the Bagmati River in my Parliamentary Constituency of Muzaffarpur, Bihar. Since ancient times, the road connectivity from Muzaffarpur to Janakpur in Nepal via Garha, Hathauri, Amanour, Aurai, and Pupri has always been there. This road has been of international standards. Due to geographical upheavals and the absence of a bridge over the Bagmati River this road has been obstructed for the past several years. In this same route, the Bagmati River flows and due to the absence of a bridge at the Babhanagama Ghat between the northern and southern embankments, lakhs of people are facing travelling woes for years. I had made a request to the Hon. Prime Minister, the Government of India through a letter for the construction of a bridge and the renovation of the aforementioned road stretch, but I was informed that this road is not a national highway but comes under the jurisdiction of the Bihar Government's Public Works Department. Thereafter, I raised this

issue before the State Government of Bihar Government several times, but due to the indifference of the Bihar Government in this regard and the difficulties faced by the general public, I would like to once again request the Union Government to direct the Bihar Government to undertake the renovation of the said road stretch and the construction of a bridge at Babhanagama Ghat on the Bagmati River on priority basis.

(xi) Regarding flood control measures in Delhi and payment of compensation to people affected due to recent floods in Delhi

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the havoc wreaked by the recent floods in Delhi causing displacement of thousands of people and significant losses. Amidst the severe devastation, lakhs of people in our Parliamentary Constituency of North-East Delhi, including areas like Burari, Jagatpur Village, Wazirabad Village, Sonia Vihar, Badarpur, Khadar, Sabhapur Village, Shri Ram Colony, Karawal Nagar, Yamuna Vihar, Kartar Nagar, Seelampur, Shastri Park, Khajuri Khas, Bhajanpura, and Gopalpur Village, have been affected by the floods. Cracks appeared in the marginal embankments on both sides of the Yamuna, due to which Yamuna flood water entered in densely populated areas. In 2019, when more than 8 lakh cusecs of water was released, the Yamuna's water level crossed the 207-meter mark. This time, when comparatively less water was released from the Hathni Kund barrage, the water level of the Yamuna crossed the 208-meter mark. It is evident that the Yamuna has not been cleaned up. The marginal embankments on both sides of the Yamuna were not strengthened, and proper drainage arrangements were not made in densely populated areas

on both sides. This led to even greater damage from the floods. I want to request the Ministry concerned to conduct an inquiry into the expenditure incurred by the Delhi Government on flood control during the last 4 years. The doubling of the embankment from Badarpur, Khadar village to Nanaksar T-point on the Vazirabad road should be undertaken immediately. This proposal was put forward by me on October 20, 2021 and it is pending with the Irrigation and Flood Control Department. An alternative marginal embankment should be constructed between Nanaksar and Kashmiri Gate Bridge. Moreover, pending projects for the reconstruction of major drains in the aforementioned colonies, villages, and densely populated areas should be completed promptly. This will help in compensating for the economic losses suffered by thousands of people affected by floods every year.

(xii) Need to provide stoppage of trains at various railway stations in Salempur Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI RAVINDER KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR): The railway is the lifeline of Indian travelling, enabling millions of people to travel daily. Since the Bharatiya Janata Party's Government under the leadership of the world's most popular leader Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji has come to power in the Centre, the Railways has made unprecedented progress. Today, people are getting world-class railway facilities, for which I express my gratitude and thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Railways. I wish to submit to the Hon. Minister of Railways that during the corona period almost all trains were suspended, later train operations resumed. However, stoppage of some trains was discontinued at various railway stations in my Parliamentary Constituency Salempur, whereas those trains used to have stoppage on those stations since earlier times. I urge the Hon. Minister that in the public interest and convenience of passengers the stoppage of some more important trains should be provided in my Parliamentary Constituency. The stoppage of Train No. 15203/15204 at Bhatpar Rani Railway Station, Lucknow, Barauni, Train No. 11123/11124 Gwalior, Barauni, Train No. 15910/15909,

Down Awadh Assam Express, Train No. 15027/15028 Maurya Express on Banakta Railway Station , Train No. 11123/11124 Up Gwalior Barauni, 11055/11056 Godan Express on Salempur Railway Station, Train No. 180201/180202 Durg Express, Train No. 15050/49 Purvanchal Express, Train No. 15021/15022 Shalimar Express, Train No. 11037/11038 Pune Express and Train No. -19490/19489 Gorakhpur Ahmedabad Express, should be ensured. Furthermore, the Revati station, which previously had the status of a station should retain its status as before.

(xiii) Regarding present status of establishment of 100-bedded ESIC Hospital in different districts of Haryana

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI (KURUKSHETRA): I would like to thank Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment for formulating a plan to set up one hundred bed hospitals to provide modern medical facilities to the workers/employees/ESIC subscribers working in factories and various institutions. ESIC has so far opened only dispensaries in Panchkula, Sonipat, Hisar, Rohtak, Ambala, Sirsa, and Karnal. There is no big hospital available due to which ESIC cardholders have to travel to Faridabad ESIC Medical College and Hospital for high-level medical treatment. The plan has been formulated to ensure that cardholders get better medical treatment in their districts. At the same time, medical colleges see heavy footfall of patients. The biggest difficulty is faced in CT scans, MRI, and other diagnostic procedures. The same situation applies to surgical procedures. Patients have to wait for six to eight months for surgery. Taking this into consideration, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has prepared a plan to establish one hundred-bed hospitals in various districts of Haryana state. These hospitals will provide high-quality medical facilities to the patients. Therefore, I would like to request Hon. Minister to provide

information regarding present status of these one hundred-bed hospitals.

**(xiv)Regarding completion of Hejjala-Chamarajanagar new
broad gauge railway line**

[English]

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): Hejjala-Chamarajanagar new Broad Gauge Railway line via Kanakapura was sanctioned during 2013-14. The total length of this project is 152 km falls within the state of Karnataka. The Detailed estimate for Rs. 1382.78 Crore was also sanctioned by Railway Board during 2013. The Government of Karnataka had already agreed in 2014 for 50:50 cost sharing. I raised this issue several times in the House, there are a number of representations given to the Railway Ministers. The State Government also sent their proposals. However, there is no adequate allocation made for this project. This is a very significant railway line to connect Chamarajanagar to Bangalore. So, I urge upon the Union Government to look into this matter to execute the railway line at the earliest.

**(xv) Need to review the decision to close Railway Printing
Press at Royapuram, Chennai**

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH):

The Railway Board have communicated the decision to close down five Railway Printing Presses including the Royapuram Printing Press of Chennai which is functioning since 1890. In course of time, the printing press has developed from composing to DTP technology and now functioning with ROTATEK machine imported from Spain in 2015 at a cost of more than Rs. 15 crores. This Press has been printing Passenger Reservation System Tickets, Unreserved Ticketing System, Passenger Timetable and Working Time Table, Reservation forms and various books & forms and Service Registers essentially required by the Railways. If Royapuram Press is closed now, the valuable assets worth several crores and printing materials purchased recently will have to be disposed of at scrap value. The employees who are well trained in printing work will also have to be redeployed to do unrelated work. Moreover, if these printing jobs are outsourced, there are possibilities for occurrences of fraudulent practices as being frequently reported in the media, and increased price of printing which could ultimately burden the fare paying passengers. I request

the Union Government to do the needful to stop the closure of Railway Printing Press at Royapuram, Chennai.

**(xvi) Need to allocate special funds for improving the
Infrastructure and developing adventure tourism in
Dharmapuri Parliamentary Constituency**

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. (DHARMAPURI): I wish to state that in my Parliamentary Constituency there is huge potential for tourism. Specifically, 1. Nagamarai, Pennagaram Taluk 2. Sittlingi, Harur Taluk. The former has potential for recreational tourism and later has potential for adventure tourism. The scenic location of Nagamarai and Sittlingi has huge advantage for developing as a potential tourism centre whereas Nagamarai is located in Mettur backwaters which is navigable. Nevertheless, it lacks infrastructure facility. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate special funds for improving the infrastructure and developing it as a potential tourist spot.

**(xvii) Need to take steps to maintain law and order and
communal harmony in Manipur**

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Manipur has been seeing ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kuki-Zomis since May. Tribal Students Unions have been protesting on a Court order to send recommendation to include Meitei community in Scheduled Tribe list. A video circulating on social media, showed two Kuki women being paraded naked by a mob. The incident occurred in B Phainom village in Kangpokpi district on May 4, one day after the ongoing clashes. Since then, people from both sides have attacked each other's homes, vehicles, churches and temples. Hundreds of people have been killed and lakhs of people are in temporary sheds/shelter camps. The European Union and Western countries have passed resolutions blaming the violence as a result of divisive policies. The clashes have resulted in complete segregation of the two communities. Manipur violence raises concerns about intelligence failure, heavy militarisation and ongoing economic blockades. The breakdown of law and order in Manipur is an indictment of the Central Government and a setback to New Delhi's long-term strategy in the Northeast. The State and Central Government have failed to protect the human life and livelihood in the State. I urge

upon the Central Government to take urgent steps to maintain law and order and communal harmony in Manipur immediately.

(xviii) Need to construct a subway at Dhulian Ganga Railway station at Murshidabad

SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN (JANGIPUR): I would like to draw the attention of Government towards casualties, and jams happening near all three-railway crossings (Lock gate No- 45/C/T; 44/SPL/T; 43/SPL/E) surrounding Dhulian Ganga Railway Station at Murshidabad District throughout the day due to frequent closure of railway gates. We have noticed that despite the highest density of population, for every closure of the railway gate for 5 mins, thousands of vehicles passers by were caught in a jam badly. Very serious patients traveling by ambulance are also caught in jams regularly. Death in ambulances happen frequently. Despite several requests made earlier, no proper action has been taken in this regard. Dhulian being the busiest town and the gateway to Jharkhand State, students, passenger vehicles, transport vehicles, patients, and ambulances are caught in jams on a regular basis. In the current situation, construction of a subway in one of the railway crossings has become the need of the hour to avoid unintended mishappening. I strongly demand to take necessary action in this regard.

(xix) Regarding treatment of Anaemia among women

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA):

According to the National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS-5), 67.1% children between the ages of 6 and 59 months, 56.5% women between the ages of 15 and 49 in rural areas and 60.2 % in urban areas are anaemic. 52.2 % of pregnant women between the ages of 15 and 49 years are anaemic. Anaemia among adolescent girls (59.1%) advances to maternal anaemia causing maternal and infant mortality. Anaemia lowers physical as well as cognitive growth along with alertness among children and adolescents impacting their future potential as productive citizens. Government has been working relentlessly towards lowering cases of anaemia through Anaemia Mukht Bharat programme, regularly testing pregnant women for anaemia and providing them with Iron and Folic acid supplements. However, wider approach is required to fight current levels of anaemia. I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development to introduce testing and treatment of anaemia using digital methods with special focus on school-going adolescents. Intake of iron-rich food can be increased by introducing Iron fortified foods in Public Health Programmes using

locally available resources. Nutritional Deficiency must be considered as an important indicator by the Government for addressing the situation in a timely manner.

**(xx) Need to include villages of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg under
4G mobile coverage**

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): The Union Cabinet has given approval to a project to provide access to 4G mobile services in deprived villages across the country. This will be financed through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). It will be executed by BSNL, and this scheme will definitely improve the mobile services. I want to bring to the notice of the Government that only 213 villages in my Parliamentary Constituency Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg have been covered under this scheme and many villages have not been included in this scheme. The Telecom Service Providers (TSP) are not making available 4G mobile signal coverage in many villages of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg due to which students, traders, small businessmen among others in rural areas are facing a lot of problems. I would like to request the Government to include all those villages of the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg region that are not

currently included in the aforementioned list, under the provision of providing 4G mobile coverage in the villages. So that all the villagers of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg can avail the facility and benefit from this scheme.

(xxi) Regarding East Coast Rail Project in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): During the year 2007, one of Tamil Nadu's dream project called the "East Coast Rail Project" was laid out and it was decided to build a rail line starting from Chennai Perungudi passing through Mamallapuram, Kalpakkam and Puducherry to Cuddalore. To implement the project, a survey and feasibility of the project has already been completed. The objective of this project is to build a rail line starting from Chennai to Cuddalore through the entire area along the Bay of Bengal. Now for almost 16 years the project has been under active consideration to change/deviate the earlier plan/route and re-route to start from Chenkalpattu instead of Chennai Perungudi. Any changes to the East Coast Rail Link Project will defeat the very purpose of the project. Further, the cost of all building materials has increased. Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary action and give instructions immediately to Southern Railways not to change/deviate the earlier approved route which was decided in the year 2007 so as to build "East Coast Rail Project" from Chennai Perungudi to Cuddalore through the entire area along the Bay of Bengal. I also request to increase the budget to meet the

increased cost to execute this project and complete the project as early as possible.

(xxii) Need to restore the stoppages of various trains in Kollam Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The Indian Railway have cancelled the stoppage of various trains in Kollam Loksabha Constituency while the train service were restarted after Covid19. The stoppage was cancelled on the basis of the revenue during the travel restriction period. The cancellation of stoppage caused much difficulty to the passengers. The stoppage of the following trains were cancelled when the train services were restarted after Covid-19. The repeated request for restoration of the stops were not considered by the Government It is the duty of the Railways to provide public transport, hence, it is highly necessary to restore the following stops.

1.Train No 16366 Perinad 2.Train No.16327/16328 Perinad 3.Train No. 16101/16102 Thenmala 4.Train No.1 6791/16792 Thenmala and Aryankavu 5. Train No. 16629/16630 Mayyanad 6. Train No. 16347/16348Paravur 7.Train No. 16128/16127 Paravur station.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to restore the aforesaid stoppage at the earliest.

(xxiii) Need to include persons belonging to Gond community in Uttar Pradesh in the list of scheduled tribes

[Translation]

SHRI NAV KUMAR SARANIYA (KOKRAJHAR): Gond caste is designated as Scheduled Tribe in 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh and they are still facing many difficulties in getting caste certificate. They do not get caste certificates on time. On the other hand, the Gond community is not currently listed as scheduled tribes in other districts of Uttar Pradesh but has been listed as scheduled caste. The sub-castes of the Gond community have not been listed by the Government. Therefore, I urge both the State and Union Governments that they should be issued the caste certificate without any difficulty. They should be included in scheduled tribe list in those districts where they have not been accorded the status of scheduled tribes and all sub-castes of the Gond community in Uttar Pradesh should be included in the list, and the notification in this regard should be issued, so that no other community is mistakenly included in their list.

**(xxiv) Need to implement the reports on Autism Spectrum
Disorder and Cerebral Palsy**

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU (SITAMARHI): There is a need to implement immediately Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Cerebral Palsy (CP), Report (1) *[Translation]* prepared in January 2022 on permanent and cost-effective treatment of chronic diseases such as diabetes, etc. *[English]*

“List of practices and procedures involving Cell or Stem Cell based preparations for therapeutic purpose as identified by experts and (2) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for control and monitoring of procedures involving cell or stem cell-based preparations for therapeutic purpose” – Immediate implementation is necessary. As in the country and abroad, especially in orphanages/disadvantaged communities, millions of children/elderly/youths are struggling with these diseases, humanity is feeling ashamed besides other things.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, AND MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I request you to take up Item No. 19 first....

(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House is agreed to, taking item No. 19 first.

... (Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 19 - The Biodiversity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 as reported by the Joint Committee.

Hon. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

14.09 hrs

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022*

As Reported By Joint Committee

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, AND MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion was moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Biodiversity Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 25.07.2023

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2022.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as Hon. Minister has pointed out it has come after being passed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Not only that, since the Members of Parliament from all the parties were represented in the JPC, and none of them has given any dissent note. When we presented the final draft after amending it in the Lok Sabha no Member of any opposition party raised any objection whatsoever in the meeting which was held before that... (*Interruptions*)

This indicates that there is unanimity among all the Members of Parliament and political parties regarding this Bill. I would like to thank all the Members for this.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, Sir the Biodiversity Amendment Bill which came in the year 2002 was related to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity.... (*Interruptions*) Nagoya protocol was signed in it that the local people should also get the benefit of any speciality or which is specially grown or come out in that area.... (*Interruptions*) Along with that those things should also be available to everyone. Keeping both in mind, the Nagoya Protocol was signed and India is also a signatory to it.... (*Interruptions*) In the past 15 years, some

states, especially those with State Biodiversity Boards, have started to misuse the biodiversity law for their wrongful gains.... *(Interruptions)* I will take names, and our Jharkhand state is involved in it.... *(Interruptions)* It stated that all the sawmills come under biodiversity.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say in a way that all the sawmills of Jharkhand were closed inappropriately.... *(Interruptions)* All those who were following all the laws of the forest, the poor people whose livelihood depended on 100 mills were harassed in the name of biodiversity.... *(Interruptions)*

Similarly, the Chhattisgarh Government suddenly came up with the idea that coal is our biodiversity product.... *(Interruptions)* Many such things started happening. Pharmaceutical companies used to say that we procure goods ethically.... *(Interruptions)* After that, an officer comes and says that he will put everyone in jail because the herbal products or whatever product you have are stolen.... *(Interruptions)* That is how rumours were spread.... *(Interruptions)* ABS was also involved in this earlier, but if anywhere the most Ayurveda herbal medicine is manufactured, it is in Maharashtra. The benefit sharing that was supposed to be given to the panchayats of Maharashtra is zero.... *(Interruptions)* Similarly, Odisha also has a lot of forests and many medicinal

plants. Despite their presence in village panchayats, Odisha has not received any excess benefit sharing.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, thus there are about 11 states which have the specialty in these things, be it herbs or medicinal plants. It may also be a normal herbal product, but no one was benefiting from it.... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to thank the Government of India, the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji and the Hon. Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav ji for bringing this Biodiversity (Amendment) Bill, 2022.... (*Interruptions*) It was so good and balanced that even all our Congress MPs were ready to pass the Bill with these amendments.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would definitely like to say two things in front of you. This is the first time that Indian companies are being benefited from it.... (*Interruptions*) They can also do their research by simply registering themselves and can also make their own product, which was not the case earlier.... (*Interruptions*) There are rules for foreign companies even today as earlier. Similarly earlier there was no clarity at all regarding Indian companies in which there is foreign share.... (*Interruptions*). Now, if Indian companies are being owned by Indians, they will also be considered as Indian companies and will be given benefit accordingly.... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, the biggest benefit of this is that now any Indian individual or

university can conduct research.... (*Interruptions*) If it is successful in research, it will require special permission.... (*Interruptions*) Some people also spread rumours that foreign companies will take advantage of this.... (*Interruptions*) A patent law will be applicable to them also. The biggest benefit is that when we allow medicinal plants to grow in fields and they are registered in the village, then the theft of medicinal plants and herbs from the forests, which used to happen, will now stop.... (*Interruptions*) Everyone will benefit from this. Therefore, I would request you and the House that just as everyone in the JPC has unanimously approved the amendments, please pass it unanimously even today.... (*Interruptions*) I conclude by fully supporting the Biodiversity Amendment Bill, 2022....(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, a report intended to be laid on the Table remains to be laid.

Dr. Satyapal Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.14 hrs

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

66th to 68th Reports

[Translation]

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2023-24): -

- (1) 66th Report on 'Expenditure over Acknowledged Grants and Charged Appropriations (2020-21)'.
- (2) 67th Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its 41st Report (17th Lok Sabha) on 'Functioning of Directorate of Estates'.
- (3) 68th Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its 42nd Report (17th Lok

Sabha) on 'Expenditure over Acknowledged Grants
and Charged Appropriations (2018-19)'...
(*Interruptions*)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: A very important topic is being discussed. Please participate and attentively listen. This matter is of interest for all of you as it pertains to the nation's progress and involves a crucial Bill on biodiversity. Please listen.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shrimati Aparajita Sarangi.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.15 hrs

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

As Reported By Joint Committee... Contd.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI (BHUBANESWAR):

Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*)

“The value of biodiversity is that it makes our ecosystems more resilient, which is a prerequisite for stable societies; its wanton destruction is akin to setting fire to our own lifeboat.” Johan Rockstrom, the Swedish scientist had said this. ... (*Interruptions*) I must say that the Government of Prime Minister Modi has realised the importance of biodiversity in our country and that is why the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has gone for

the amendment of the Biodiversity Act, 2002 and presented the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2021. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as has been said by the Chairperson of the JPC – of course, a Joint Parliamentary Committee had been constituted and I had the privilege of being its Member – the JPC went for a meticulous exercise and asked for suggestions from all stakeholders, both Government and Non-Government, before finalising the Amendment Bill and sending the same to this august House for ratification. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I must say that India has been a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992 and the Nagoya Protocol. In line with these international instruments, we are supposed to bring in certain changes in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and that is why we are here today to discuss all the amendments that have been moved after meticulous exercise by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. ... (*Interruptions*) As has been said by the Chairperson, in the Joint Parliamentary Committee there was absolutely no disruption and there was no objection to the amendments moved by the Ministry. I must say that I congratulate Prime Minister Modi and the Minister, Shri Bhupendra Yadav for having deliberated upon this particular exercise and presented a Bill of relevance. ... (*Interruptions*)

There are a couple of reasons why we have gone for this particular amendment. During the past years, concerns were raised by various stakeholders representing Indian systems of medicine and biotechnology and research centres urging to simplify, streamline and reduce compliance burden, and encourage a conducive environment for collaboration, research, and investments. ... (*Interruptions*) Secondly, we had to simplify our patent application process. Thirdly, and very importantly, widen the scope of levying access. Nagoya Protocol talks of access and benefit sharing. That is very important. ... (*Interruptions*) The following major amendments have been moved. At the cost of being repetitive, I would be just listing out five major amendments that have been moved by the Bill. ... (*Interruptions*) Firstly, it talks of reducing the pressure on wild medicinal plants by encouraging cultivation of medicinal plants. ... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, it talks of exemption of codified traditional knowledge from the purview of the Biodiversity Act, 2002 for Indian companies – I reiterate, for Indian companies – to provide suitable environment for the growth of AYUSH industries. We are aware of the fact that our hon. Prime Minister is laying considerable emphasis on the promotion of AYUSH industry and that is why this

particular Bill will actually encourage the promotion and the strengthening of the AYUSH sector. ... (*Interruptions*)

Thirdly, it aims at aligning the Biodiversity Act with the Companies Act, 2013. This is very important. This particular Bill will align the Biodiversity Act with the Companies Act, 2013 with regard to the definition of Indian foreign company for attracting more foreign investments in research and commercialisation. ... (*Interruptions*)

Fourthly, it will facilitate fast tracking of patent application process for Indians without compromising the national interest or rather international agreements where India is a party. ... (*Interruptions*)

Last but not least, and it is very important; I must congratulate the Ministry for having actually deeply gone into it. It is a meticulous exercise. I take this opportunity to once again congratulate the Hon. Minister and his entire team, and the National Biodiversity Authority too. It talks of decriminalisation of certain provisions of the Biological Diversity Act by substituting criminal offence with civil offence... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Bill was referred to the JPC in December, 2021. The JPC actually considered the Bill and gave its recommendation. Now, the Bill is there ... (*Interruptions*) I think, this is in the interest

of the country that we pass it. So, I would appeal to all the hon. Members of this august House to kindly pass this Bill. Thank you so much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri K. Sridhar - Not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shrimati Geetha Viswanath.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA):

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important Bill.

I would like to commend the Government for being so proactive with respect to the needs and demands of AYUSH practitioners and entrepreneurs and creating a holistic legal framework to address their concerns.

Sir, many positive points are there. For example, there is an ease in compliance burden. There is also a new Patent Framework, and ease in benefit sharing. Then, there is also simplification in scope of mutual agreement.

Sir, side by side, there are some negative points also and to address them, the Government should take necessary steps. There is no definition of codified traditional knowledge. The Bill exempts

user of ‘codified traditional knowledge’ from benefit sharing with local communities, but this term has not been defined. Neither has it been defined in the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Nagoya Protocols. So, such a gap might exempt almost all traditional knowledge from benefit sharing requirements which is counterproductive.

Sir, my second point is that there is a lack of balance between commerce and local needs. The Bill has given clear weightage to commerce and Intellectual Property Rights, but equal weightage must also be given to the conservation of biological resources.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please do not disturb.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH: Sir, my third point is prevention of habits. The Bill removes` the functions of the Biodiversity Management Committee to preserve habitats while promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. I would request the Government to clarify the logic behind this move as it contradicts the values of our nation. ... (*Interruptions*) The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Bill has also recommended in its Report that this provision must be retained. In fact, they have added that conservation of living things in water bodies should

specifically be added to extend the intent and scope of the provisions ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please do not disturb the House. Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Malook Nagar. Please conclude within two minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR (BIJNOR): Thank you very much, Hon. Chairperson for giving me an opportunity to speak.... (*Interruptions*) There is a daily debate on television regarding who is obstructing the functioning of the House. We want to debate in the House including the situation in Manipur. We want the resignation of the Chief Minister of Manipur, as well as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan..... (*Interruptions*)

We thank Hon. Shri Bhupender Yadav ji for introducing a commendable Bill that will benefit our farmers. Those causing disruptions are infringing upon our fundamental rights... (*Interruptions*) The fundamental rights of the 20 lakh citizens who

have elected and sent us here are also being disregarded.....

(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, today an important Bill is being discussed in this august House. This Bill is significant in this sense that the world is presently facing a triple crisis... *(Interruptions)* On one hand, there is the crisis of climate change; on another, the desertification of land; and thirdly, the alarming loss of biological resources.... *(Interruptions)* Since the Paris Agreement of 2015 India has actively responded to global environmental challenges through concrete climate action under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister and has assumed a leadership role on the world stage... *(Interruptions)* As Hon. Members who spoke before me have also told that India participated in the Earth Summit under the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. Following the adoption of this Convention the Biological Diversity Act was enacted in 2002..... *(Interruptions)*

It is indeed a coincidence that in the year 2002 there was the Government of NDA under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Atal Ji, and even today when the circumstances are favourable, an NDA Government is in power in the country....

(Interruptions) This indicates the significant contribution made in development of the country especially in the environmental sector over the past 9 years under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to elaborate a little because it is necessary to know how the Government is working in the field of the environment.... *(Interruptions)* The three main reasons for bringing this amendment Act are: Over the past 20 years, after the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, we have observed various issues emerging at the ground level. So it became imperative to amend the Act so as to ensure the sustainable use of its components for the conservation of biological diversity, and to guarantee the fair and equitable sharing of benefits particularly with vulnerable communities who rely on such provisions.... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, when this Bill was introduced here, it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Houses. The suggestions provided by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal ji, the President of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and all the Members under his leadership who participated and put forward their suggestions for amendment in this Bill were meaningful. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the Parliamentary Committee for their efforts in this endeavour.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that we want to promote the ease of doing business in our country. After the formation of the Government, the Ministry of AYUSH was set up under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister and how to use biodiversity substances in the Ministry of AYUSH and how to promote the Indian Ayurvedic practices, it has been worked out.... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, amendments have been made in this Bill to facilitate research, collaboration, and academic cooperation in this field. The most significant aspect is that by decriminalizing we have provided relief to those working in the fields of AYUSH and Ayurveda.... *(Interruptions)* The atmosphere of ease of doing business and ease of living that has been created under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister is being further enhanced through the amendments in this Bill.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, earlier speakers have also raised this issue before you. Extensive deliberation has taken place in the parliamentary committee's report involving stakeholders, Governments, and particularly academicians.... *(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Committee has accepted all those aspects. Therefore, I would like to urge the House to pass this Bill. Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Biodiversity Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

Clause 2

Amendment of Preamble

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

Clause 3

Amendment of Section 2

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N. K. Premachandran ji do you want to move Amendment Nos. 13 to 15?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, would you like to move amendment number 29?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray, would you like to move amendment number 37?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adv. Dean Kuriakose, would you like to move amendments number 46 and 47?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 and 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 6

**Substitution of new section
for section 4**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 16?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 30?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Amendment of Section 6

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 31?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 9 Substitution of new section
for section 7**

The amendments made are:

Replace page 4, line 44-45 by–

"(2) In the case of cultivated medicinal plants, the exemption under sub-section (1) shall be available only if the certificate of origin is obtained in such manner as may be prescribed, from the Biodiversity Management Committee:

(3) The Biodiversity Management Committee shall issue a Certificate of Origin under sub-section (2) on the basis of entries made in such books laid in such manner as may be prescribed." (3)

Omit lines 1 to 4 on page 5. (4)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 32?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Roy ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 38 and 39?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adv. Dean Kuriakose ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 48 and 49?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, do stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10

Amendment of Section 8

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N. K, Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment Nos. 17 to 19?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 33 and 34?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 40 and 41?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Adv. Dean Kuriakose ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 50?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 51?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Advocate A.M. Ariff ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 57, 59 and 61?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Benny Behanan ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 58 and 60?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 11 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14

Amendment of Section 15

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 35?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 52?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 16

Amendment of Section 18

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 20?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Advocate A.M. Ariff ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 62?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18

Amendment of Section 20

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 21?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Clause 19

Amendment of Section 21

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 53?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 19 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19 was added to the Bill.

Clause 20**Amendment of Section 22**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 22?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 42 and 54?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 20 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Clause 21**Amendment of Section 23**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 23?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Alok Kumar Suman ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 36?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 43?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 21 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21 was added to the Bill.

Clause 22

Amendment of Section 24

Amendments were made:

In page 9, line 35, substitute "sub-section 3" with "sub-section (2) and sub-section (3)".

(5)

On page 9, line 37, replace "(3)" with "(2)". (6)

On page 9, line 44, replace "(4)" with "(3)". (7)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 to 25 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 26 Insertion of new Section 36A and
36B**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 24?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 55?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 26 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26 was added to the Bill.

Clause 27**Amendment of Section 37**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move amendment no. 25?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Saugata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 56?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 27 stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 28 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38**Substitution of new section****55**

Amended:

Delete clause (a) and clause (b) of subsection (1) on
page 14, line 30.

(8)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri N.K. Premachandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 26, 27 and 28?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 39 to 41 were added to the Bill.

Clause 42

Amendment of Section 62

The amendments made:

Substitute lines 9-10 on page 16 with

"(a) The procedure for obtaining a certificate of origin under subsection (2) of Section 7."

"(aa) The manner of keeping records of statements on the basis of which a certificate of origin is to be issued, and the manner of issuing such certificates, under subsection (3) of Section 7."(9)

On page 16, line 11, replace "(aa)" with "(ab)". (10)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That clause 42, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 42, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 43 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

The amendment was made:

On page 1, line 4, replace "2022" with "2023". (2)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

... (Interruptions)

Enacting formula

The amendment was made:

Page 1, line 1, replace “seventy-third”, with “seventy-fourth”.

(1)

(Shri Bhupender Yadav)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

The Long title was added to the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, now move that the Bill be passed as amended.

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please cooperate with the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Discussion will yield the answer.
Answers cannot be obtained without discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the discussion take place.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 5 P.M.

14.43 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Seventeen of the Clock.

17.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Seventeen of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 18.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

Hon. Speaker.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Why?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The point is that tomorrow morning I'll allow you to raise your point.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: When I've given the ruling, I've given the ruling. The ruling doesn't change.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 18, Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

17.01 hrs

MULTI-STATE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

As Reported By Joint Committee

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

* Moved with the recommendation of the President

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

... (*Interruptions*)

17.01½ hrs

At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Kalyan Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me permission to discuss the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022..... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Prime Minister Modiji led Government has prepared a roadmap of progress in various sectors to define India's role in the changing global economy and towards achieving the goal of a five trillion-dollar economy.... (*Interruptions*) During the formulation of this roadmap, the Modi Government has also taken into consideration the concerns of small farmers, small businesses, as well as street vendors.... (*Interruptions*) I am proud to say that the Modi Government, which has always been committed to the welfare of small farmers, the

poor, and the rural and small business community, has brought the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill to strengthen such cooperative institutions.... (*Interruptions*) There are about eight lakh cooperative societies in this country.... (*Interruptions*) There are 1600 Multi State Cooperative Societies all over the country.... (*Interruptions*) out of which 570 societies are in a big state like Maharashtra.

Sir, through you, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government, Hon. Prime Minister Modi, and Hon. Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, who have not only understood the importance of this sector but have also devised strategies. With the setting up of the Ministry of Cooperation sugarcane producers in Maharashtra have got significant relief. Here, sugarcane producers are a very large group of farmers. For many years there was a provision for income tax relief for the 21 thousand Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, and our Government has recently announced a significant relief in this regard.... (*Interruptions*) For this, I am grateful to Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Cooperation.... (*Interruptions*) Along with this, the Government has also initiated the Sahara Cooperative Refund Portal to provide assistance and return money to investors who have lost their money in Sahara cooperative societies over the years. For this, I am grateful

to the Government.... (*Interruptions*) If you look at the provisions of this Bill, you will see that all these decisions were necessary because cooperative societies or multi-state cooperative societies were operating in various sectors such as agriculture, dairy production, and sugar production, from small villages to medium-sized towns on a large scale in the country. However, due to the lack of provisions for any kind of control over these societies despite having multi-state licenses, many cooperatives have been found involved in scams and malpractices. To restore public trust in the cooperative sector and to check such cases of scams, the Cooperative Amendment Bill has been introduced, wherein the Government is defining its role.... (*Interruptions*) The Government's role in these cooperative societies is crucial because if we aim for a five trillion-dollar economy, cooperatives have their own significance alongside large industries and our Government has realised it.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, this Bill has been brought to showcase the importance of cooperatives and to increase trust within the cooperative sector and among the public.... (*Interruptions*) Not only should these cooperatives be managed efficiently, but they should also become transparent and self-reliant entities in themselves. For this purpose, this Bill has to be used.... (*Interruptions*) For professionally growing in the new environment,

for taking it to the new height there was a need to review this cooperative Bill and cooperative societies and all of such provisions are included in this Bill.... (*Interruptions*) I will keep my point on few points.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, as you know, many times defaulting directors in these cooperative societies defaulted in their own ways, embezzling people's money, and they contested elections by setting up other cooperative societies or by going to other cooperative societies.... (*Interruptions*) Due to the provision of this Bill, they will be banned. If someone has committed fraud in one cooperative society, they will not be able to join as a member or director in another cooperative society.... (*Interruptions*) This is the biggest provision made within this Bill. In addition, to streamline this Bill, we observed that previously directors would place their relatives in positions of benefit or in the CEO position in these cooperative societies, or in various other positions.... (*Interruptions*) After the introduction of this Bill, a provision has also been made that one cannot employ one's relatives in office of profit and the relatives have been defined in 20-22 ways including not only paternal, maternal uncle but in the coming days the director will not be able to give jobs here even to his wife's relatives.... (*Interruptions*) Such a provision has been made in this Bill, and efforts have been made

to check it. It is provided in this Bill that Management will maintain the unhindered rights of SC, ST, and women, in addition to appointing banking experts, professional experts, and knowledgeable individuals in cooperatives in a professional manner.... (*Interruptions*) Due to the appointment of a Cooperative Information Officer, members can now obtain information through this officer as and when they require it.... (*Interruptions*) In a self-sufficient way significant point made in this Bill is that it includes provisions for the Co-operative Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Fund.... (*Interruptions*) To effectively revive and to bring back the weak or ailing cooperative societies in business this Bill makes provisions for this fund.... (*Interruptions*) For the first time in this country the Government has announced a fund to cater to the needs of investors within the cooperative sector, to pay attention to the members of cooperative societies. This initiative reflects the Government's concern from cooperative banks to the welfare of small investors whose interests were infringed upon, everywhere.... (*Interruptions*) The biggest thing about this Bill is that the Government has shown concern for those small investors who are members of these cooperative societies, which is why... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu. Please conclude in two minutes.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

I will just put ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Lavu ji, wait for a minute please. Hon. Member, please conclude your speech soon.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ KOTAK: Hon. Speaker, I believe that the provisions used, or the provisions made in this Bill support the Modi Government's plan to create a unique environment within the cooperative sector throughout the country.... (*Interruptions*) I believe that everyone in this House, while supporting this Bill, is heading towards India's 5 trillion economy, and cooperatives are a very important sector in this regard. I believe that everyone in this

House supports this Bill under the Government's plan to support cooperative societies.... (*Interruptions*) Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I request all of you to go back to your respective seats and express your views. A crucial discussion is underway on how cooperatives can drive economic transformation in the country. Therefore, I once again urge you to take your seats and actively participate in this important deliberation. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Stop adopting this approach. I am telling you again.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Leader, please explain to them. Such behaviour in the House is not appropriate.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu.

[*English*]

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: Thank you Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak on Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: If the dignity of the House is violated, I will be compelled to take action.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: Thank you Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak on Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

The cooperative movement has been the backbone of this country. It has developed a lot of village economy and also propelled many of the State economies forward. ... (*Interruptions*)

Coming to this Bill, there are many good things. I want to start with the addition of Members from the SC/ST community and also the women Members in this Board. Also, the second one is with regard to Section 45 – establishment of cooperative election authority wherein it ensures that elections take place regularly rather than having a board without any elections. ... (*Interruptions*)

With respect to Section 63A, establishment of cooperative rehabilitation, reconstruction development fund is a good move. But there are three suggestions that we have on this Bill. The first one is with respect to Section 63A. It is an addition of new point for sick cooperatives. Already from profits, 25 per cent is paid as tax,

another 25 per cent is used as statutory reserve, 10 per cent is used as bad debts reserve and one per cent is used for education. This is almost 61 per cent. On top of that, another one per cent is being levied for the sick cooperatives. So, I hope that you will find some creative method so that we bring this one per cent from some other ways rather than actually taxing again the cooperatives for the sick cooperatives. ... (*Interruptions*)

The second thing is with regard to banking regulation. It has been included in this. I request the Hon. Minister that banking regulation should be confined to the banking regulatory activities and not to be applied for incorporation, regulation and winding up of these cooperatives. ... (*Interruptions*) With respect to the third thing, there is a Central Registrar that has been included in this. He has wide range of powers. He can declare any multi-State Cooperative Society as ailing and take it up. So, with these many powers, we do not want the Central Registrar to be someone who can exercise these extreme powers wherein no one can go for any redressal. ... (*Interruptions*)

With regard to clause 45 of Section 123, giving powers to the Union to appoint an administrator who may not be the Member of this society, again we have some objections on this issue. So, I hope the Minister will look into it. The request from our side is we want the

cooperative movement to be governed and guided by the Union Government and not to be directed and not to be over-reached by the Union Government. It has to be hand-held by the Union Government. Then, this cooperative movement can move forward. It is good to see at least after 75 years that a Cooperative Minister has been appointed. ... (*Interruptions*)

Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do you want to speak?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sadashiv Lokhande.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Shiromani Verma.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAVASTI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts on the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as you are aware, the purpose of bringing this amendment Bill is to address incidents related to irregularities in some multi-state cooperative societies, such as financial embezzlement, delays

and disputes in conducting elections in cooperative societies, biased selection of auditors, favouritism in appointments, and to check the lack of participation and I welcome the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.... (*Interruptions*)

It is mandatory for any multi-state cooperative society to register before its operation begins.... (*Interruptions*) Due to rampant corruption, officials often delay the registration process pointing out numerous deficiencies consequently, societies which want to do business face various difficulties.... (*Interruptions*)

The Multi-State Government Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 provides for reserved seats for women in the society's board structure as well as makes provisions for reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, I support this Bill. Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILY): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to emphasize that cooperatives have their own unique identity.... (*Interruptions*) The history of cooperatives in our country dates back approximately 125 years.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, since independence whichever party came to power, in the state to which I belong,

politically exploited and damaged the cooperatives since the beginning of this movement.... (*Interruptions*) After the formation of our Government, I wish to convey my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister, through you, for making significant changes and introducing the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill in the year 2022 through these changes.... (*Interruptions*) He worked to steer cooperative banks in the right direction.... (*Interruptions*) Indeed, through this Bill, transparency will also be enhanced, and as we are aware, provisions have been made for Information Officer and Cooperative Ombudsman.... (*Interruptions*) Through this, cooperative banks will now function properly, and the cooperative movement within Uttar Pradesh will also function properly.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, I myself am associated with this cooperative movement.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I am aware that transparency is now visible in the operation of cooperative societies in the country, and I observe in my district how irregularities are actually being addressed through our Government's efforts.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, once again, through you, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs for paying attention to this serious issue.... (*Interruptions*) The cooperative movement will now work

towards making a distinct identity for cooperative societies within the country.... (*Interruptions*) We believe that now work will be done in the right direction.... (*Interruptions*) I, through you ,once again express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government for their efforts in this sector. With this, I conclude.... (*Interruptions*) Thank you.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N. K. Premachandran ji – Do you want to speak?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury – Do you want to speak?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Does any other Hon. Member want to speak?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister – Please speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Today two or three Hon. Members have shared their views on this Bill... (*Interruptions*) I wish to extend my gratitude to all of them on behalf of my Ministry.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, today, I am introducing an important Bill before this august house which will, not only in the multi-state

cooperative societies but also in primary cooperative societies and state cooperative societies, foster a culture of ethics and develop work culture, while accepting them as a concept.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, since the country gained independence, all workers in the cooperative sector wanted Union Government to pay attention to the cooperative sector. To pay attention to the cooperative sector a separate Ministry of Cooperation should be set up within the Government of India.... (*Interruptions*) I want to express my gratitude to Prime Minister Ji on behalf of 8 lakh cooperative societies across the country, millions of farmers, and 60 crore rural poor for setting up the Ministry of Cooperation.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the cooperative sector in our country is approximately 120 years old, and it has initiated several important undertakings that are currently providing employment to millions of people.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to cite some examples.... (*Interruptions*) Amul is a cooperative enterprise from our Gujarat.... (*Interruptions*) which is a federation of milk producers, the state Government.... (*Interruptions*) Today, 36 lakh sisters are engaged in a daily milk trade worth 58 thousand crore rupees.... (*Interruptions*) I also want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in this enterprise with a business of Rs. 58 thousand crores,

no one has invested more than Rs. 100.... (*Interruptions*) An undertaking of Rs. 58 thousand crores have been created with a capital of just Rs. 100.... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, there are organizations like KRIBHCO, IFFCO, and earlier there was Lijjat.... (*Interruptions*) In this manner, many large enterprises in this country have been run through the cooperatives.... (*Interruptions*) However, during the past 75 years, no attention was paid to the cooperative movement, nor has there been public discussion on restructuring its laws, neither at the national level in the country's parliament, nor has there been deliberation at the state level to improve the cooperative movement. After the setting up of Modi Ji's new Ministry of Cooperation, I can confidently say that in the coming 25 years, i.e. when the country will be celebrating the centenary of independence, the cooperative movement will once again contribute significantly to the country's development.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, over the past two years efforts have been made to bring about significant changes in the cooperative movement under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modiji.... (*Interruptions*) The first thing that has happened is in PACS.... (*Interruptions*) The PACS is the soul of the cooperative movement and several efforts have been made to revive the PACS, to make PACS viable, to bring

transparency within PACS and to make PACS multifaceted, multidimensional.... *(Interruptions)* If PACS has to be made transparent, has to be modernised then its first requirement is computerization.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, after the formation of this Ministry, Modi ji approved in first Cabinet note in our Cabinet and granted Rs 2516 crore to 63 thousand PACS for computerizing them throughout India.... *(Interruptions)* I want to say that with the computerization of PACS, PACS will be linked with the District Cooperative Banks, *(Interruptions)* State cooperative banks and they will also have direct link with NABARD.... *(Interruptions)* The audit process will be completely online and after the system integrator is finalised, PACS will connect with a variety of new businesses, which will greatly enhance its viability.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, the third thing we have done was to create a model bylaw for PACS and send it to all the states.... *(Interruptions)* While PACS come under the cooperative laws of the state Government, the Ministry of Cooperation has created model bylaws for PACS.... *(Interruptions)*

These were sent to all states as advisory. I am pleased that except Bengal and Kerala, all states have accepted it, and today PACS across the country are operating under the same bylaws....

(Interruptions) PACS will now also be able to become dairy and fisheries cooperatives, broadening their scope of operations. We have expanded the scope of FPOs, which were previously limited to private limited companies, partnership companies, and proprietorships, now PACS will also function as FPOs and eleven hundred PACS will be registered as FPOs.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Modi Ji has, in a way, provided gas cylinders to 13 crore economically weaker households. Due to the distribution of a large number of cylinders, the need of many distributing organizations have arisen and PACS will be able to carry out the distribution of LPG cylinders according to the new bylaws. Modiji is providing five kilograms of grains per month per person free of cost to sixty crore poor people in the country....

(Interruptions) PACS will now also have authority over this retail outlet, and PACS will also be able to function a retail outlet. Narendra Modi ji has opened generic medicine shops for 60 crore people, known as 'Jan Aushadhi Centres', across the country. Earlier, these 'Jan Aushadhi Centres' couldn't function properly, but now even PACS will be able to run 'Jan Aushadhi Centres'.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Previously, RuPay credit cards were not available for PACS and district cooperative banks, but with the

decision taken last month, both RuPay credit and debit cards will be provided to members of PACS.... (*Interruptions*) Modi Ji has initiated the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' program for 60 crore poor people. 'Nal Se Jal' will reach homes, but if this system is not regularly maintained, water supply cannot function smoothly. To ensure uninterrupted water supply a water committee is needed to maintain the distribution of water in the village. PACS will also work as a water committee and arrange the distribution.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, along with this, we have also worked to connect PACS with storage capacity and now PACS will also handle storage, which will be leased by FCI. This will ensure that the village's grains are stored in the village itself and distributed to all the poor people in the village. With this, PACS is going to benefit from a new type of income.... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon. Prime Minister Modi for making announcements related to cooperation in the last budget. For years, there has been injustice with cooperatives as there was separate taxes for cooperatives and the corporates. Modi ji and the Minister of Finance have worked in the last budget to bring the taxes of cooperatives and corporate companies on the one platform. There has been a reduction in the surcharge on

income tax levied on cooperative societies. Under Section 269 ST of the Income Tax Act, a cash transaction of more than Rs. 2 lakhs have also been allowed, which was earlier Rs. 20 thousand....

(Interruptions) The difficulties faced by cooperative banks, especially urban cooperative banks have been addressed and now they have been granted the authority to make one-time settlement like nationalized banks. Along with this, now there is no need to seek permission from the Reserve Bank of India to open new branches if ten percent more branches need to be opened....
(Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the time limit for the achievement of PSBs' targets have been extended to three years which will greatly benefit urban cooperative banks.... *(Interruptions)* A nodal officer has also been appointed in the RBI to address the issues of urban cooperative banks.... *(Interruptions)*

The RBI has now granted permission for 'doorstep banking' to the cooperative banks along with nationalized and private banks enabling them to offer doorstep services.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, farmers from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh send their sugarcane to cooperative mills, but when the profit from the mill was shared with the farmers, 30% income tax was deducted and the hard-earned income of the

farmer was deducted as income tax.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to thank Modi ji that he has completely removed the tax from the profits shared with the farmers. (*Interruptions*) This tax has been removed, not only this the Government of the Bhartiya Janata Party has also provided relief ranging from Rs. 10,000 crores to Rs. 15,000 crores in the tax that was previously supposed to be paid.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, three new multi-state cooperative societies have been established. The first multi-state cooperative society will serve as a platform for exporting farmers' produce.... (*Interruptions*) If the product of that produce, crop has to be diversified, it will have to go to international markets. However, farmers did not have that much capability, knowledge, or capital.... (*Interruptions*) Even if farmers produce all these, they still couldn't export.... (*Interruptions*) If the farmers produced cumin, they couldn't export it.... (*Interruptions*) If they produce clove, he could not export it.... (*Interruptions*) If the farmers produce cardamom, they couldn't export it.... (*Interruptions*) Any excess material beyond 100 kilograms of any farmer will be exported through this platform which will become an Export Society, and this will prove very important in crop diversification.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, along with this we have also established another cooperative society, which will associate small farmers into seed production.... (*Interruptions*) Until now, only large farmers were involved in seed production but now through the Primary Cooperative Society, this multi-state seed producing cooperative society will also involve small farmers with holding of one acre or half acre in seed production, and it will handle all formalities with multinational companies.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Modi ji has taken the initiative to reduce the use of fertilizers thus contributing to the health of millions of Indians and people around the world. He has also taken steps to improve the health of the earth leading to the growth of organic crops and natural farming and the use of fertilizers in agricultural products is decreasing.... (*Interruptions*) Today, while farmers engage in organic farming, they often do not receive remunerative price for their products. Therefore, the Indian Government has set up a new cooperative society that will try to ensure remunerative prices for farmers by marketing their organic products in India and abroad.... (*Interruptions*) We have also decided to set up ethanol plants by giving loans of Rs. 10,000 crores to cooperative co-operative society's sugar mills through NCDC.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the coming days the Indian Government is planning to introduce a Cooperative University Bill to establish a cooperative university at the national level for cooperative education which will further advance these activities....
(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we had no database of cooperatives in our country.... (*Interruptions*) We have decided to establish a national-level cooperative database to identify dry areas where there are no cooperative societies, along with eight lakh committees.... (*Interruptions*). The work of creating this national cooperative database has started.... (*Interruptions*) I am happy to inform the House that 95 per cent of its work has been completed and before this Vijayadashami we are going to make the National Cooperative Database available online through the hands of the Hon. Prime Minister.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, after the policy of Atal Ji in 2002, no cooperative policy has been introduced thereafter. It was during the tenure of the BJP-led Government under Atal Ji that such a policy was last formulated... (*Interruptions*) During the period from the year 2002 to 2020 no new cooperative policy was introduced.... (*Interruptions*) We will also come up with a new National Cooperative Policy before Vijayadashami or at worst before

Deepawali which will keep the cooperative roadmap of the coming 25 years before the entire country and the world.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have started the work of computerizing the Central Registrar's Office.... (*Interruptions*) Today, as a sequel to it, I have brought a Bill, which I will talk about.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the whole country that Modi ji has started a great yajna to free 7-crore poor of this country from poverty during the last 9 years.... (*Interruptions*) The slogan of the Congress party was to remove poverty.... (*Interruptions*) They did not remove poverty.... (*Interruptions*) Worked to remove the poor.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has carried out the task of poverty alleviation in this country.... (*Interruptions*) Modi ji has connected the poor of this country with the economy by providing them with bank accounts.... (*Interruptions*) Narendra Modi ji saved women from smoke by giving LPG to every household.... (*Interruptions*) Modi ji has honoured women by providing toilets to every poor person. Modi ji brought light in the lives of every poor providing electricity to their homes. Modi ji has made healthcare facilities free of cost for every poor person up to Rs. 5 lakhs.... (*Interruptions*) Modi ji has relieved every poor person from the worry of what to eat tomorrow by providing 5 kilograms of grains per person per

month free of cost.... (*Interruptions*) Modi ji has improved the education system for children by increasing the scholarship for them and providing all facilities within villages.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker, Sir, now there is a need to provide them with employment.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker, how will those who don't have capital get employment? ... (*Interruptions*) The only means for them to get employment is through farming and cooperative movements.... (*Interruptions*) To strengthen this farming and cooperative movement further, Narendra Modi ji has established this Ministry of Cooperation to bolster the cooperative movement.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, today I stand before the House with the Bill in hand, and now I will start discussing it.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Multi-State Co-operative Society is a subject of Centre in our country.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker , Sir, this multi-State cooperative society is a Centre's subject in our country.... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Speaker, Sir, years ago, the 97th Constitutional amendment was passed, but no one implemented that 97th amendment.... (*Interruptions*) Narendra Modi ji has passed this Bill in the cabinet so as to increase transparency, accountability, and profitability in multi-state cooperative societies, and today I have introduced it before this House.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have brought the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill with me. ... (*Interruptions*) It has sections 45A to 45L for electoral reforms.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are often complaints here that there is political interference in cooperatives.... (*Interruptions*) Complaints of political interference are made irrespective of which party is in power. Now we have brought a provision in 45A to 45L. It contains provision for the constitution of an Election Commission.... (*Interruptions*) An Election Commission will be constituted for this purpose which will independently conduct elections. This will reduce Government interference. The powers of the Chairman of the Election Commission are almost equivalent to those of the Chief Election Commissioner. There will be no Government interference.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have also decided that if one-third of the board seats become vacant then elections will have to be held again.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, along with this, we have also put forward a suggestion that discipline in board meetings and the functioning of Government committees... (*Interruptions*) Its section 50 shall compel to convene a meeting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Board within three months.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, if the vice president or president of the board does not convene a meeting, we have decided that it will be the responsibility of the CEO to convene the board meeting.... *(Interruptions)* This will lead to regular meetings. Many times, in case of losing the majority meetings are not called at all, but now such situation will not arise.... *(Interruptions)* A provision has been made that the CEO will convene a meeting.... *(Interruptions)* If a meeting has been called within three months and 50 percent of the members have requested it in writing, then a compulsory meeting will have to be called.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have also accepted the provision of majority for equity shareholders to bring transparency in the administration of the cooperative society.... *(Interruptions)* There is Section 30 to ensure discipline among Members.... *(Interruptions)* No member has been expelled due to non-restraint, earlier he could have contested elections, but now he will not be able to contest elections for three years.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have given reservation to one SC or one ST and two women in these cooperative societies.... *(Interruptions)* This will increase the representation of SCs, STs and women within cooperatives.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have made arrangements for concurrent audit to bring transparency in the Board of Directors. If any cooperative society has a turnover exceeding Rs. 500 crores, then it will be mandatory for all such cooperative societies to appoint a concurrent auditor, and this auditor must be appointed from the panel of CRCS.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, if board members fail to comply with various constitutional requirements, Section 43 will declare them ineligible to continue as board members.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am also associated with the cooperative movement.... *(Interruptions)* Many allegations were used to be made against persons running cooperative societies during the cooperative movement that they give jobs to their own relatives, such as their uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers, sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law.... *(Interruptions)* Now we have decided that no job will be given to any blood relation or distant relative in the recruitment process of employees.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have also made provisions for the constitution of a committee to address issues related to impartial examination, ethics, and sexual harassment.... *(Interruptions)* We have also included the right to information within its purview, ensuring the fulfilment of the right to information.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have made provision in Section 70(2) (3A) to appoint auditors and concurrent auditors directly from the regular panel of CRCS.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have also taken various measures to increase capital. I am confident that with the passage of this Bill in this House, it will mark the beginning of a new era in the country's cooperative movement, and there will be significant changes in the days to come.... (*Interruptions*)

I can understand that those who are raising slogans now have no interest in cooperation, no interest in cooperatives, no interest in dalits, no interest in the welfare of women.... (*Interruptions*) It is very natural for them to raise slogans.... (*Interruptions*) However, I want to reiterate that I have written a letter to the leaders of both the opposition parties today stating that I am ready for discussion no matter how long.... (*Interruptions*) Government is not afraid.... (*Interruptions*) Let those who want to discuss Manipur go ahead and discuss it.... (*Interruptions*) We do not have to hide anything.... (*Interruptions*) I have written a letter to the leaders of both the opposition parties today. ... (*Interruptions*) I say that the public is watching you. ... (*Interruptions*) They have to contest elections. ... (*Interruptions*) Keep in mind the fear of the people and create a proper atmosphere in the House to discuss sensitive issues like

Manipur.... (*Interruptions*) That is my request. Thank you....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

Clause 2

Amendment of Section 3

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 1?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premchandran ji, do you want to move Amendment No. 10?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, both Prof. Sougata Ray and Shri N. K. Premchandran are not moving their amendments, so I am putting all the clauses together for consideration in the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 49 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 49 were added to the Bill.

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

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I once again request all of you to discuss on sectors like cooperative. I am giving you an opportunity. Please go back to your seats. If you choose not to discuss crucial topics like cooperatives and fail to maintain the dignity of the House, such behaviour is not acceptable. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister please move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI AMIT SHAH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 A.M. on Wednesday, the 26th July, 2023.

17.49 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Wednesday, July 26, 2023/Sravana 4, 1945 (Saka).*

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