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(English Version)

Seventh Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 24, 2016/Phalguna 5, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON.SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: So, hon. Members, let us proceed with the Question Hour, now.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will give you an opportunity. You know it better. We are going to discuss it. We have decided it.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion regarding university affairs in Hyderabad and the Jawaharlal Nehru University… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You please raise it at 12 o'clock. I am ready to give you a chance.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: These are two very important issues.

HON. SPEAKER: I know.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We want to discuss them first because Hyderabad and Jawaharlal University are very important subjects. They should be taken up. The entire State is burning; and everywhere, the crisis is increasing. Judicial system is also under threat… *(Interruptions)* There is no law and order in the universities… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Notices have been received on this subject, and by combining all higher educational institutions, we are working out a proposal because some of you have also given individual notices and we will discuss it today if we schedule it for the afternoon. I am not saying no to that.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHADGE: It would be fine if it is taken up today itself. *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I said that it would be done today itself.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Hon. Speaker, as you have just mentioned, the government has no problem in combining and discussing the issues being raised by Shri Kharge and other Hon. Members. We are prepared for it. We also want a discussion on it at the earliest. Please let the question-and-answer session continue for now.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

Now, let us go to the Question Hour.

… (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please, that point has been settled. Why do you keep repeating the same thing? I've already said it today. But let I be processed a little. Shri Khadge ji you know, it will be done today itself.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHADGE: Madam, you have so much discretion. The entire house is under your control. You can suspend the question hour if you desire so, You have the authority to change any rule. We have given you wide ranging powers. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. If you have given it, that's a very good thing. Surely, it will happen today; don't worry. It will be on time.

11.04 hours

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question number 1 - Shri Pralhad Joshi.

(Q. 1)

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, in the Rail Budget of 2015-16, the setting up of a mechanism for making regulations and setting performance standards were announced; and in this regard a Committee was also set up. That Committee had given its Interim Report in December, 2015. Now, the final Report has also been submitted.

The concept of public consultation has been brought into the system for the first time by the Ministry under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modiji.

My question is, whether this proposed Regulatory Authority would be sufficiently provided with the powers by the Indian Railways. I am asking it because specially in the previous regime, the Indian Railways had been misused as an effective

political instrument to pursue the agenda of a person in-charge of this organization. So, in a given time, can such happenings in the past, since Independence be curbed? Why I am raising this question is that whoever person was heading this Ministry previously, just to promote his political agenda, particularly in the State, which he belonged to, the Railways had been misused.

That is why, even the statistics relating to the Rail Route Length Density in the entire country is quite low, and moreover it is not uniform in the entire country. In Karnataka also, the RRLD is just 15.72 kilometres whereas it is 35 kilometres in Tamil Nadu and 32 kilometres in Punjab. I do not want to go into the other States. My only question is this. Out of total 175 talukas in Karnataka State, the area of 81 talukas, that is, around 40 per cent area is not having rail networks after 60 years of Independence. My question is, whether this regulatory authority, while envisaging the future projects, will be given the full power to decide on the basis of merit? This is my question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, first of all, I thank The hon. Member for raising the issue. As we are aware, the

railways are the lifeline of India and, therefore, whatever the Railways does, it helps to develop the socio-economic activities in the region where the railways go. We have seen over a period of time that the resources of the Railways are constantly dwindling. Two-thirds of the revenue come from freight; one-third comes from passengers and hardly anything comes from non-railway revenues which are normally the major source of financing railway development globally.

This has happened over a period of time that for various reasons the freight and fare is not decided in the most optimum manner. There has been a huge cross-subsidisation of passenger fares by increasing the freight. As a result of which, we have seen declining share of freight that Railways gets as opposed to the other modes of transportation. So, if you continue with this trend, probably, the Railways will be in a very big distress over a period of time, and, therefore, we need an independent application of mind which will look at the interests of the Railways and obviously also look at the interests of other stakeholders like the passengers as well as the freight operators and make sure that the tariffs are fixed in such a way that will be

not doing injustice to either of them. Therefore, this is one of the functions of this body.

Second is, when the cost of the railway goes up, if we keep transferring the cost and loading it on the services provided by the Railways, this is also not the right way to do it. So, there has to be an efficiency parameter which has to be decided and which should be inbuilt fixed into the structure of fixing freight and fare. Therefore, that is another function that this authority will do.

And, the third function that the authority will be doing is that because of paucity of resources in the Railways, we need lot of private participation into the railway networks. When we get private participation, there are obviously questions raised whether we are compromising with public interest or if we try to tilt too much in their favour, whether we are not taking care that we are not allowing the private sector to come in to begin with, which in long-term will serve the public interest in any way. Therefore, to balance the public and the private interests, to have a proper trade off between the two, the Railways has decided to set up this organization. They will do three functions, fix the

tariff and fare, look at the efficiency parameter and also look at the larger public interest, and they will also be making sure that the private interest is also taken on board so that more and more development of railways will take place.

As my friend has pointed out that Karnataka has suffered because of lack of railway networks which is true for most of the States of India. The demand for railways is much higher than the type of services we have been able to provide in the past. We have, therefore, in the last Budget increased the share of allocation by more than double. I cannot tell you today. But tomorrow, in more than 24 hours, you will hear how much we are increasing in the next year's budget to ensure that we will take everybody on board and make sure that over a period of time we will have a rapid railway network expansion in the country.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, he has elaborately replied and also said whatever he had said here last year regarding doubling. He has provided the highest budget for Karnataka for doubling. I am really thankful to the hon. Minister. This is the

first time that the highest budget has been provided for doubling in Karnataka.

In order to improve private participation, the Bibek Debroy Committee has recommended non-discriminatory access to both Indian Railways and to the private operators and they should be given rights over new tracks presently being built as a part of two freight corridors by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, DFCCIL. Would the Ministry, thus, be willing to establish a separate autonomous DFCCIL which separates from the Indian Railways for such purpose? This is my question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, there are various options available. The idea is to increase the freight movement of Railways. This will be in the larger interest of the country; in the larger interest of the customers at- large; and also to reduce the cost of transportation and increase the speed of transportation, which is extremely important. So, we will explore all possible means. This is one of the options. I thank The hon. Member for putting it across to us.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri. B. Vinod Kumar -- not present.

Shri K.C. Venugopal

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In answer to Q. No. 5, the hon. Minister has replied today about the allocation of passenger amenities to the States and expenditure thereon. We can see that the expenditure on Southern Railways is showing a decreasing trend. We know that the Railway Budget has sanctioned considerable amount, but the expenditure on that side is very low.

The hon. Minister rightly pointed out that some of the States have been given a lower amount of budgetary support. Kerala is one of the States, which is suffering a lot because of budgetary constraints. Further, for doing the construction works, there is a CAO's Office in Kochi. Hon. Minister knows that CAO's Office was withdrawn by the Railway Ministry and the Minister intervened in that matter and it has already been …

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask your Question.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Now, I am bringing to the notice of the hon. Minister that the CAO has not been posted in Kochi. This is clearly a discrimination towards Southern Railway, especially, to the State of Kerala. Therefore, I am urging upon

the Minister to do justice for the State of Kerala, which is the most important State.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Madam, the Minister had given an assurance that the Office will be re-instated. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The hon. Member knows about it that very recently the Chief Minister of Kerala along with his very senior Cabinet colleagues as well as accompanied by most of the Members of Parliament including my good friend, Shri Venugopal as well as Shri Suresh and everybody -- I cannot take everybody's name because then the Question Hour will be over, but all of them -- accompanied the hon. Chief Minister. We had a very long discussion. We discussed each and every issue that was raised by the delegation threadbare. Subsequently, the hon. Chief Minister told the media, just outside my office, that he was very happy and satisfied with the meeting that was concluded. Many of your Members, who accompanied them, also said the same thing.

I know that Kerala is one of most important States of the country. They always suffer because they are at the tail end and there is lack of attention, but as you have seen that we have

provided a lot of connectivity to Kerala. Just wait for some more time to know what we are going to do tomorrow, and I am sure that all of us will work together. There has been an agreement, which has been reached between the State of Kerala and the Ministry of Railways. So, we will take it forward. Just wait for some time.

Again, I would like to mention that everything cannot be done in one year. There are enough numbers of years left for us to make sure that our Railways will be developed in a proper manner. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, the issue raised by me about the CAO's office has not been answered. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I really thank you for all the help. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: What about the office? … *(Interruptions)* The Minister had promised about it. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, we need your intervention in this matter. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: He had given an assurance. … *(Interruptions)* We are asking about the assurance given by the hon. Minister. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudheer Gupta is not present.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam, I am here.

HON. SPEAKER: Why don't you stand on time?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, that's not the way. tomorrow, the Railway Budget is also coming. Please sit down.

Shri Sudheer Gupta, please ask your question.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Madam, he is trying to evade an answer on the issue. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam, I would like to know from the Minister, in view of the way he has mentioned about

promoting customer interests encouraging competition, and fostering market development, what steps are likely to be taken to promote competition? How will he encourage local businesses or residents on the lines of the beautification of local railway stations and the development undertaken at airports?

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudheer Gupta, this question pertains to the regulatory authority. Tomorrow, the Railway Budget is coming. You will see it in that.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Madam, they have responded specifically regarding the authority.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, he has specifically asked with regard to the regulatory authority.

People have different concerns about rail, and keeping all the concerns in mind we are working on addressing the same. As you have also expressed concern, then on that concern, we have started working separately.

(Q. 2)

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam, in the reply, the hon. Minister has said that 4G has been launched in the country. In rural India, the density is very high, but access to a good telephone line and the call drops in urban areas seem to be a huge problem. With 4G, do you see it being reduced?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, we are in the exploding field of technology – first 2G came; then 3G and now 4G is there. About four operators have taken license for 4G. The hon. Member has asked a specific question about BSNL providing an avenue for that. We have said that excepting those areas where we have surrendered our spectrum in 2.5 GHz, there is a provision and we are going for a revenue-sharing model for which a pilot project is there.

The second issue is about Wi-Fi connection. As I had said in my reply that Wi-Fi connections have been provided at over 300 locations, and I wish to share with this House that by March, 2016 we are going to have Wi-Fi installations at nearly 2,500 spots in the country. We are going to do it. A lot has been done.

As far as the larger issue of BSNL is concerned, I have told the House earlier also that we had legacy issues. In 2004, BSNL made a profit of Rs. 10,000 crore, but in 2014, BSNL incurred a loss of Rs. 8,000 crore. However, I am happy to tell the House today that after one year and four months, the same BSNL has recorded an operating profit of Rs. 672 crore for the first time in the last five years. BSNL revenue has picked up by 4.1 per cent. The same BSNL is giving good service during floods, etc. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: What about call drops?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am giving the reply to that, so please be seated.

Madam, as far as call drops are concerned, our Government has taken a very strong measure on that. I am happy to tell this House that because of our intervention, in the entire country, 19,000 2G BTS towers have been installed by private operators; 44,450 3G BTS towers have been installed in the entire country. In Delhi alone, hon. Speaker, Madam, 3,119 3G and 1,972 2G

towers have been installed. Improvement is there and a lot is required to be done.

You may know that TRAI has come out with a regulation of punitive provisions, which have been challenged in the court. Therefore, all steps are being taken to address the issue. I have myself taken the meeting; our Secretaries have taken the meeting; they have been assured of cooperation and, therefore, I told you that just in the space of four months, 44,450 plus 19,000 towers, which means 65,000 BTS towers have been installed. We are doing that and surely, improvement will come. A lot has been done; however, more is required to be done. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: That is the reason why we do not get connection at our residences. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please ask your second supplementary.

*… (Interruptions)... **

HON. SPEAKER: This is not allowed.

… (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: The hon. Minister is talking about Wi-Fi, but the Wi-Fi access does not seem to be very effective. In your reply, you have said that Delhi Circle has been given to a private operator. But your Government constantly talks about Digital India. It is unfortunate to share, but I think all my colleagues will agree me, that 3G does not effectively work in the Indian Parliament. It is so hard for us to use Wi-Fi here. If you could intervene and if we get Wi-Fi at least in this Hotspot to start with, and effectively use it in the country, especially for the use of students in the universities, it will be a good service on all our behalf.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I must clarify to The hon. Member, for whom I have a lot of personal respect, the situation in Parliament. I am myself monitoring the situation in Parliament. Our hon. Speaker is kind enough to extend all the cooperation. But when it comes to Parliament, we must understand three things: one is the heritage status of this building; the second is the security issue. I was very keen to install in-building solution in the entire Parliament Complex. A view came from the Parliament Secretariat that we had to take a call about the classical status of this building. Therefore, we are

making a provision for mobile towers. One has been installed and two are in the process of being installed. One tower has been installed on the Library Building and it has become operational. Therefore, apart from the Department, I am personally monitoring the improvement aspect of it.

As regards the question raised by my eminent Lawyer friend from Bengal is concerned, I can tell you that proper optical fibre network is also being laid so that broadband is available to all the houses of the hon. Members of Parliament. A lot has become operational and lots are in the process. … *(Interruptions)* WiFi has also come. … *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. Shri Venugopalji, I know that Kerala is doing. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not allowed.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: If he has got any specific problem, I will personally look into it. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not answer to such questions. I have not allowed those questions. Then why are you answering to them? You answer only to the particular question.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I can only tell my learned friends sitting on that side that I am willing to have a debate on BSNL as to what happened during their Government and what we have done. I am ready to have a clear debate. Therefore, improvement is there. A lot will be done subsequently.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan -- Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any suggestions for extension of internet facilities to the villages to be provided only by the service providers where there is no such facility and where it is difficult to lay an optical fibre line. With the unprecedented digital expansion in the country, we can provide this facility to the last village.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. I would like to inform this House that under Digital India, we are establishing optical fibre networks in 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across the country. Back in May-June 2014, only 257-300 km of fibre had been laid, and about 2,000 km of optical pipes had been installed. I am quoting

a report released two days ago, that we have installed optical pipes across 1 lakh 20 thousand kilometres and laid fibre over about 99 thousand kilometres. We work speedily . From just 257 kilometres in three years, we have now laid 120 thousand kilometres in just 1 year and 4 months—this is our way of working. The hon. Member mentioned that connecting all the villages with optical fibre will make broadband access convenient. You are absolutely correct. In some mountainous areas that are not easily accessible, alternative arrangements need to be made. For those areas, we are using microwave systems and partnering with many foreign companies on new pilot projects utilising wireless technology. Our entire approach is very collaborative. It is the vision of our Prime Minister and the goal of this government to provide internet access everywhere. Where optical fibre cannot be provided, we will ensure connectivity through alternative arrangements. This is what I want to assure you.

[English]

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that insecure Wi-fi networks are capable of

being misused without any trail of user at a later date. True enough. He has also just said that he is providing proper broadband services to MPs' houses. Let me give a very specific example. I received summons from the President and came to attend this Session of Parliament and found that my WiFi network, my broadband connection had been changed recently. It was a completely insecure network. I naturally made some enquires and found that the MTNL, which had provided a working service in the building in which we live, had sub-contracted these services to a private company called Sanghvi Company based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Now, first of all, there was an insecure network. When I asked for this network to be protected by a proper WPA password, I discovered that this company did not have any certificate from a trusted issuer. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what procedures are followed when the MTNL sub-contracts the provision of services to private companies both to assure efficiency and also security? If this is happening to MPs, I wonder as to what is happening to ordinary citizens who rely on the MTNL service.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Speaker, let me reply to the specific query of the hon. Member. We in the DOT

have given a proper regulation, which I have mentioned about, which all the operators have to follow as far as sanctity and security of the entire system is concerned. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do listen to the Minister's reply. That's why the Question Hour is important.... *(Interruptions)*

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The hon. Member has asked a specific query. When I say it is binding on all the service providers, it is also binding on the MTNL. Since he has raised a very specific query and he has himself stated that now the system has changed, I will personally make an enquiry about it and revert to him whether in his case in specific terms proper security considerations have been addressed or not. And if they are not, I want to assure the House that for all the system proper security will be in place. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Baijayant Panda's question.

*… (Interruptions)... **

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Madam, in this very important issue one fundamental aspect is being forgotten and I would like to ask the hon. Minister about this fundamental aspect.

Madam, it is a fact that in India the spectrum available, not just to BSNL but to any of the telecom companies, is limited compared to other countries because we have spectrum allotted to the armed forces which is not available for commercial use and so on and so forth. The irony is that Wi-Fi is not based on licensed spectrum, it is based on unlicensed spectrum, so it can be easily spread without the blockages that we are facing in spectrum which is leading to call drops and which is slowing up our penetration of internet.

BSNL has a tremendous advantage of having large quantity of fibre optics throughout the country. It is not dependent on the

*Not recorded.

2.5 GHz spectrum. With the fibre optic connectivity in cities and in villages, they can put up Wi-Fi without any interruption, without any problem, and that is the way to very quickly spread. This is an advantage that BSNL has over many of the private competitors.

I am glad that the Minister is going to expand these 300 Wi-Fi hotspots to 2,500 - it should be 25,000, it should be 2,50,000 Wi-Fi hotspots - but the call drop problem will not get solved unless certain policy blockages which are self-created are removed. We are one of the few countries, almost no country has a blockage on internet voice telephony being allowed to connect to landlines and being allowed to connect to mobiles. India is one of the few countries which block it. And this is an area where you can bypass the call drop problem by allowing anybody to access Wi-Fi and using that to make calls to also landlines and also to mobiles. BSNL has a tremendous advantage in this.

Will the hon. Ministeragrees to bring out policy in line with most of the countries in the world so that voice telephony

interconnectivity between internet voice, landlines and mobiles, that self-created policy blockage is removed?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam, as far as the policy part is concerned, I will just come to the specific query. As regards the optimum use of spectrum, it is our Government which came with the spectrum sharing and spectrum trading policy, pending for the last ten years, for optimum utilization, for liberalization, for harmonization. Therefore, our Government took the stand and the Cabinet approved the defence band so that the defence band entering into our band is resolved for the first time. All the policy decisions we have taken. If further more is required, we will do it.

BSNL will take a call as far as the optimum use of their fibre network is concerned, which they are doing as I said. When I said 2,500, it is only by this year. It does not mean it is going to end this year. It is going to expand further. But surely, I will convey The hon. Member's advice to them.

Regarding the specific question on internet voice telephony, it also impinges upon, as the hon. experienced Member would know, on regulatory issues where the view of TRAI, where the view of the other operators who are having lience to give voice services will have to be taken in to account. It is not simply a

policy issue there. It is also a larger issue impinging upon the entire licensing conditions of those operators and the TRAI regulations. Surely, I take your suggestion on board and I will convey. Let the TRAI take a call on it.

(Q.3)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the Minister if the Government of India has any proposal or plan to modify the Rural Skills Development Scheme to enhance skill development opportunities for rural youth. If so, what changes are being considered, and when will the same be implemented? How will the youth of rural areas benefit from the change?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: The hon. Member has asked a question. In this country, with its demographic dividend, there are large numbers of youth and workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors, and providing employment to them is the biggest challenge. However, for years, skill development was considered a subset of education and education remained

dominant. The significant decision the country made was linking skill development work to the Labour Ministry, which was non aspirational. The Government of India, under the hon. Prime Minister, separated it from the Labour Ministry and turned it into a distinct focus on skill development, which is now being carried out through many institutions. Traditionally, the first work related to skill development in this country was through ITIs. After 1952, NCVT certifications were introduced. Today, there are about 12,000 ITIs in this country, with approximately 9,000 in the private sector and around 3,000 in the government sector. But even this wasn't enough. The current government introduced the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. In its first year, the scheme had some shortcomings, and what you have mentioned is absolutely correct. We are now taking this proposal to the Cabinet to ensure that skill development initiatives reach the Panchayat level as well. In this proposal, model skill centres will be set up in each district, which will function up to the village and rural areas. As I mentioned earlier, there was some delay in this work because we couldn't finalise the structure due to certain shortcomings. We have now started reorganising the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Skill

development has moved beyond traditional ITIs and now covers sectors such as construction, automotive, retail, beauty and wellness, life sciences, health, and other mainstream industries. A significant emphasis is being placed on including people from the unorganised sector, whether they are in agriculture or working as labourers. Our particular focus is on integrating youth into these sectors.

At the tertiary level, we are working on integrating skills into school education. For years, we have discussed incorporating skills into the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades, but we have made limited progress. Now, through the National Skill Development Corporation, we are starting skill development initiatives in collaboration with state boards. We believe that within this financial year, there will be a Human Skill Development Centre in each district, where skilling work will be carried out under the [NSQF]. Today, many Ministries are involved in this work. We aim to align all efforts under the National Skill Qualification Framework and scale up skilling initiatives across the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Will you ask a second supplementary question? You have received a good reply to the first one.

SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA: The hon. Minister has mentioned that with new changes and renewed hope, we will move forward. According to my information, around 4,50,000 seats in engineering and polytechnic institutes remain vacant each year in this country. Is the Government of India considering using that unused infrastructure for the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Speaker Madam, that's an excellent question. Currently, there are about 17,00,000 engineering seats in this country. Out of these, approximately 8,00,000 seats remain vacant, indicating that people are not opting for engineering degrees. Many engineering colleges in the country are either closing down or on the verge of closure due to lack of admissions. Today, around 17 percent of engineering graduates are unemployable because skilling in this country should be a primary focus. While we need engineering graduates, we have proposed a solution from our end.

Engineering colleges come under higher education, specifically under AICTE.

In this country, including your parliamentary constituency, there are engineering colleges with buildings, labs, faculty, hostels, and cycle sheds, which are either closing down or on the verge of closure. If a proposal comes through by the 27th of this week, efforts are underway to convert these closed or near-closure engineering colleges into skill centres so that aspirational people from rural areas can also access these facilities for skilling. We are convening a meeting to discuss converting such engineering colleges into skill development centres. The Hon. Prime Minister has also instructed that the infrastructure lying vacant, built with crores of rupees, should be repurposed as skill development centres. We are considering the proposal put forward by the hon. Member, and we are taking steps in this direction.

[English]

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Hon. Speaker Madam, the hon. Minister has informed that the Government has planned to upgrade 400 Government Industrial Training Institutes under the

Skill Development Programme. I welcome these steps. However, a major number of equipment installed in Government ITIs are outdated. So, I would like to know whether the Government would support the State Governments to replace all the outdated equipment and if so what is the estimated financial implication for the upgradation of Government ITIs with latest equipment.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This is a very important question. Ever since this whole vertical of ITIs was migrated to the Ministry of Skill Development, I have been visiting a lot of ITIs, even the Government ITIs, the private sector ITIs and some of the ITIs which are run by the Union Government. It is a very big issue because the ITIs primarily have been centres of excellence in this country for creating skilled manpower on hard skills. Somehow over the years we have not been able to pay attention and there has been a lot of proliferation but I can say so far as the Government of India is concerned there have been a couple of programmes on ITIs. ITIs have huge infrastructure where they are of the State Governments but somehow it has lost the focus of even the States because resource constraints are there. That is why we have decided this. Earlier, there were the

vocational VTITs where we had given about Rs. 1,663 crore for the ITIs to the State Governments. This scheme ends in 2016. We are also developing model ITIs and giving about Rs. 300 crore to the ITIs which have been suggested by the State Governments. The only limitation is that these numbers are very large. Since much of the resources have been devolved to the States, the Union Government in this head does not have enough resources to take the responsibility of converting all those State run ITIs which are more than 3,000 in number. We are not talking about the private ITIs. We are talking about the State run ITIs and the infrastructure available with them, the faculty available with them, the buildings available with them, and the land available with them are huge but still the resource constraint is creating this problem. What The hon. Member has said is very important. We will try to see – with more schemes in the future – to create and look forward. I would suggest that hon. Members of Parliament to recommend certain ITIs through the State Governments which they want to be upgraded. The Prime Minister has said that we should create centres of excellence so that it could be said that these are the model

centres of training. ITIs have a very important role to play but we have allowed a lot of ITIs.

[Translation]

There has been another huge crisis because there are some trades in ITIs which have recognition for government jobs in the public sector and government services. As a result, of all the 250 trades, only eight or nine trades are... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The answer is very long; please shorten it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, they are not fulfilling their promise. It was agreed in front of you that there should be at least eight to nine questions. Therefore, the Member's specific question should receive a specific answer... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This has been your department. I am giving replies related to your department... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please give a short reply. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: That's it. The role of ITIs... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: There should be a specific answer... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Kharge sahab, if you too had done some work, I wouldn't have to bear such a heavy load... *(Interruptions)* So many questions shouldn't be asked. I understand this is difficult, but I told you... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATAN LAL KATARIYA: Speaker Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister while skill development work has been initiated in more than 18 Central Ministries, and over 40 skill development schemes are underway in these ministries. ITIs are playing a crucial role in this. Will the Kaushal Vikas Yojana-related works in these departments be implemented within ITIs? Today, the country is moving towards a digital revolution, which, after information technology, will create many employment opportunities. Are there any schemes to introduce new initiatives for skill development in the context of this digital revolution?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, since the formation of this Ministry, skill development work is being done in around 24 Ministries of the Government of India. The Prime Minister has stated that we must focus on convergence. Earlier, this Ministry didn’t exist, and each department was making independent efforts in skill development, whether it was in MSMEs, poverty alleviation, textiles, leather, or other areas. Since the work of skilling is happening on a certain scale, it's essential to converge smaller schemes under one ministry for better coordination. For example, the Ministry of Minority Affairs is doing commendable work, and Nirmala Ji is also doing excellent work in the Ministry of Petroleum and Leather. The challenge is that, as skill development work is ongoing in every ministry, people put questions to me, even though the work is being carried out elsewhere. We aim to strengthen ITIs in the coming time. As far as hard skills are concerned, ITIs are the backbone of this country, and the Government of India is keen to take initiatives to strengthen them.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Thank you Madam Speaker. I do appreciate the initiative taken by the hon. Minister in the skill development and training programme. Madam, in my State these kaushal vikas centers had already started even before the Prime Minister's Kaushal Vikas Yojana. The hon. Minister also visited my parliamentary constituency and visited the skill academy but at least he should have informed me as a Member of Parliament.…*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This doesn't happen; please sit down. Why are you shouting? will not go on record.

*… (Interruptions)... **

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, I am not making any complaint. I am only saying that when the Union Ministers visit a constituency and visit some academy at least the concerned Member of Parliament should be informed. … *(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: It seems you do not have any question. *[Translation]* Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Why are you shouting? There will be only questions.

… (Interruptions)... *

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, my question is 24 lakh persons have to be trained. The targeted beneficiaries are 24 lakh persons. A number of agencies are coming to the Members of Parliament for getting certificate and for getting recommendation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what monitoring mechanism the Government has to ensure that skill training of genuine persons is going on. I would like to know the mechanism being followed by the Ministry.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, with regard to his first question regarding my not informing him, I would like to say that the Prime Minister had asked us to visit maximum number of places. I was going along the road... *(Interruptions)*Just a second, hon. Minister of the State, Shri Shibu Baby John said that since I was passing that way I should stop for five minutes and visit a beautiful institute which was

coming up there. I must appreciate the State Government of Kerala for creating such a beautiful infrastructure which has come as an example for me. Thank God, I stopped my car just for five minutes to look at it. It was a beautiful structure and I must congratulate you for that. I would have missed that opportunity if I had waited for the time to invite you.… *(Interruptions)* I also praised you there. I always take care of Members of Parliament. I am sorry, but it was just five minutes stoppage.

Madam, he has also talked about the monitoring mechanism. All the Members of Parliament will kindly appreciate that the system of giving skill training has been there in the country with more than lakhs of NGOs doing it. You pick up any corner of the country, go to any house or a building, you will find one skill training programme going on there.

[Translation]

Today, skill development worth approximately Rs 7000 crores is going on in one corner or the other of this country. During the last decade, such a system had come into being that even small organisations were doing good work; therefore, the

monitoring work had become very difficult so that a good model centre could be created by concentrating at the district level. We are also trying to ensure that this happens under the supervision and monitoring of Hon. MPs so that skill development can be created for lakhs of people. First, a good centre should be established, and then smaller centres can be controlled.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.P Chaudhary -Not Present

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi.

(Q.4)

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI: Madam, the villagers have indeed benefitted from the core banking facilities in post offices. The Minister, in his reply, has mentioned providing connectivity to 1,30,000 rural post offices, but even today, many villages remain deprived of banking services. There are still people who wish to open accounts, whether for scholarships, MNREGA, or to avail themselves of other benefits. Will these villages be connected to these post offices in the future? Many accounts have been opened due to account core banking. Saifi company has leased lines from BSNL, and as a result, the system has become disorganised due to the increasing number of

accounts. Has the Minister made any plans to improve banking facilities by expanding those lines.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, the Postal Department has 1,55,000 post offices, of which approximately 1,30,000 are rural and classified as GDS. There are 25,297 departmental post offices, all of which are on a computer network. We have launched an initiative for banking, and you will be happy to know that 17,057 of these post offices are now on the core banking network. I am pleased to inform the House that the Postal Department has the highest number of post offices with Core Banking Solutions in India, surpassing all banks. This achievement has been made after our government came to power. What will happen with Core Banking Solutions? Banking services will become faster, and e-banking will be enabled. You asked what we are doing for rural areas. For rural areas, rural postal workers are being provided with hand-held devices through which all these services can be delivered, and these devices will be connected to the computer network. By next March, we will have distributed these devices to approximately 30,000 postal workers. By 2017, 1,30,000 rural postal workers will be equipped with hand-held devices so they

can perform their duties more efficiently. The Postal Department has also integrated with e-commerce. Today, Speed Post services have improved, resulting in a 12 per cent increase in revenue. Due to the growing e-commerce delivery activities, the Postal Department's parcel revenue, which decreased by 2% in 2013-14, grew by 45% in 2014-15 and by 102% till January 2015-16. We are also planning to introduce a payment bank in the Postal Department, which will commence by next March. The Prime Minister has directed that the Postal Department actively cooperate in Digital India and Financial Inclusion, and we will extend our reach to every village. You mentioned the network. In response to an earlier question, I had stated that we are connecting these post offices via optical fibre. We have instructed the department to prioritise optical fibre connectivity for all rural post offices. Additionally, we plan to introduce 35,000 new Wi-Fi technologies in the next 3-4 years. These measures will contribute to the development and expansion of postal services.

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI: Madam Speaker, the Government is indeed doing a commendable job in expanding banking facilities. However, I would like to ask another

question. Currently, the work is being done with the existing technical staff. Will the Government recruit more technical staff in the coming days so that the general public can fully benefit from these services? Is the Government considering this?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, in a previous question, the hon. Minister of Skill Development was asked about skilling. We have a comprehensive plan underway to ensure that all postal employees in the Postal Department are trained in digital technology. As for The hon. Member's suggestion, if there is a further need for staff, we will certainly consider that as well. However, our government is firmly committed to ensuring that the Postal Department plays a vital role in India's digital development and financial inclusion, and we will continue to make significant efforts in this direction.

[English]

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Madam Speaker, I am thankful to the hon. Minister because he has taken a lot of care so far as Postal Department is concerned. Lately, people, in general, in the rural areas have been helped by the Department

to open Jan Dhan accounts and also accounts under Accidental Insurance Scheme.

I want to know whether the Postal Department is going to open accounts for the rural people so far as Kisan Bima Yojana is concerned. If so, has the Department got sufficient work force to help the farmers in operating the accounts opened under the Kisan Bima Yojana announced as the hon. Prime Minister's scheme?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, as far as the postal services are concerned, we have revived the Kisan Vikas Patra which has become very popular of late. Whatever other services are required to be done, we shall do it. I have given clear instructions to my Department that post office, whether it is in the rural areas or in the semi-urban areas, must become the centre of digital spread of financial inclusion. Today, the Government has decided that all the rural post offices will also become common service centres for delivery of a lot of services like MNREGA, financial services and insurance services.

As regards the specific query of banking, you may know that postal bank account is very popular. We are going to modernize it and once the payment bank comes into operation from March, 2017, I am sure that the postal network in the field of banking will grow further including for the rural poor.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, I must admit that I am not totally persuaded by the Minister's remarks on rural post offices because there are two problems. When he speaks about e-commerce, we have not even got to the connectivity that we need in the rural post offices that will permit the use of digital technology. They have renamed the National Optical Fibre Network as BharatNet and announced that they will connect 2.5 lakh gram panchayats with optical fibre for broad band connectivity so that they can use these digital services. But so far, the Government has only been able to connect 37,000 gram panchayats and in fact at a much higher implementation cost than has been estimated earlier.

The problem with this is, when your target is 2.5 lakhs and you have only connected 37,000, how do people in the rural areas get the connectivity they need? The use of post offices to

pay e-bills by individuals can actually be an important source of revenue for the Postal Department. But the post offices have reported many delays in processing payments primarily due to technical glitches, poor connectivity and poor software. Therefore, many individuals are not using post offices for the payment of e-bills.

My question to the Minister is, what can you do about both these things, that is, improving the facilities in the rural post offices, creating better connectivity, expanding the optical fibre network so that we can actually reach anything close to the target of 2.5 lakh gram panchayats. So, the people using the rural post offices will actually give the postal service more revenue by paying their e-bills through the post offices.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Madam Speaker, normally it is difficult to persuade my good friend, Dr. Shashi Tharoor but I will try my best to persuade him and I hope that he will be objective with me.

Let me tell you that e-commerce in India, Dr. Tharoor, is growing at the rate of 67 per cent and 60 per cent of the

catchment area is coming from small villages and small mofussil towns. It is the reaffirmation of aspirational India.

You talked about optical fibre. Yes, to the last query, I said that we will give it on a priority basis but since you have questioned our pace, it is important to recall the exact pace.

This programme commenced in 2012. In June 2014, my legacy was 2,292 kms. of optical fibre pipe and 358 kms. of optical fibre in two and a half years. Now, on 22nd February, 2016 we have laid optical fibre pipe in 1,22,639 kms. and optical fibre in 94,689 kms. … *(Interruptions)* Please sit down. Therefore, your speed of two and a half years and our speed of one year and four or five months is very clear.

We have told the Department very clearly that all the gram panchayats must be connected on a priority basis. We have already connected entire Kerala, Chandigarh, and Pondicherry. Around 50,980 worth GPs are there in the OFC pipe and 40,333 GPs are there in the optical fibre. We are monitoring it. Our whole architecture is to complete it by next year end. But regardless of completion, wherever completion is done, e-

commerce, e-education, e-marketing and connectivity of the postal departments in rural areas are going on simultaneously.

I will take your feedback also from your State and your constituency and if something more is to be taken, we will surely do it.

(Q.5)

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the government has given one exhaustive reply. I would like to say, in light of the reply given, that there is a huge gap in the presentation and management of the implementation of the Model Railway Station Scheme in relation to the convenience of passengers. What steps does the government propose to take to bridge this gap? Specifically regarding the East Central Railway Zone in Hajipur, it is often said that the eastern and northern parts of India are advanced in knowledge but lag behind in wealth.

I want to say through you that while the budget has been presented for the East Central Railway Zone in Hajipur, there remains a significant gap in the arrangements being made by you. Is this gap a product of your imagination? Does it reflect

your level of responsiveness? I would like to know about the steps you have taken to bridge this gap.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Hon. Speaker, it is absolutely correct that our esteemed colleague and former Railway Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan Ji, announced and established this in Hajipur. We will try our best to bridge the gap by implementing the project in some way or another. We don't want senior MPs like you to remain concerned about this gap, and we will certainly do our utmost to implement it effectively. You are, after all, a valued colleague.

For your information, I would like to inform you that since the inception of this scheme, we allocated a sum of Rs. 8 crore 57 lakhs in the previous budget, which was increased by 50 per cent to Rs. 12 crore last year. You must have noticed that there are several areas in the country where trains rarely run, and the people there are also troubled. To assist individuals like myself who are older, we have implemented schemes such as lifts and escalators in these locations. We also plan to implement similar schemes in the areas you mentioned. Various schemes have been in place since 1999 to develop numerous stations across the

country. I believe this needs to be carried forward. Funds are essential—when the funds are available, the work will follow. We will strive to combine both resources and public cooperation to implement it.

Madam, as my friend Venugopal Ji had enquired about Kerala, not only for the station, but Rs. 349.80 crore was allocated for Kerala in 2008-09.

12.00 hours

[English]

In 2008-09, Rs. 349.80 crore was given to Kerala. In 2013-14, this amount decreased to Rs. 265.41 crore. However, in 2015-16, we increased it to Rs. 1,050 crore for Kerala alone. That is for your information.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister for his reply, and at the same time, I would like to bring to the Minister's attention that there is a district named Sheohar under the East Central Railway Zone where there is neither a single railway line nor a single station. Do you

plan to take a positive decision on this in view of the coming budget?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: He has asked whether I will pay attention? I will certainly pay attention. As for whether the funds will be available or not, wait and see for one day.

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*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 6 to 20

Unstarred Question Nos. 1 to 230

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*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-answersfor more information.

12.01 hours

ASSENT TO BILLS*

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Sixth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 30thNovember, 2015: -

1. The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
2. The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2015;
3. The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2015; and
4. The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of the following 6 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President: -

1. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015;
2. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) BilI,2015;

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4098A/16/16

3. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2015;
4. The Commercial, Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, 2015;
5. The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015;

   and
6. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

12.02 hours

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

12th to 14th Reports

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Committee on Estimates (2015-16): -

(1) Twelfth Report on the subject 'Rationalization of Demands for Grants' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) of the Committee on Estimates (2015-16).

(2) Thirteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on Estimates (2013-14) of Fifteenth Lok Sabha on the subject 'Development of Tourism' pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Culture.

(3) Fourteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained

in the Fifth Report of the Committee on Estimates (2014-15) of Sixteenth Lok Sabha on the subject 'Regulatory Mechanism of Protection of Interests of the Depositors of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) – An Overview' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services).

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12.02 ½ hours

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

27th Report

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR): Madam, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Subject 'Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Financial Institutions' of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services).

12.03 hours

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25th Report

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the 25th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.03 ½ hours

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Committee on Estimates

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Madam, I beg to move the following Motion: -

> "That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty Members from amongst themselves

to serve as Members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Committee on Public Accounts

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I beg to move the following Motion: -

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam, I beg to move the following Motion:-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Committee on Public Undertakings

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (KANGRA): Madam, I beg to move the following Motion: -

> "That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from amongst

themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I beg to move: -

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st

May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam Speaker, I beg to move: -

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam Speaker, I beg to move: -

> "That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2016 and ending on the 30th April, 2017 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hours

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Delimitation Act, 2002.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Delimitation Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I introduce the Bill.

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 24.02.2016.

12.08 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

(i) Need to conduct an inquiry into alleged irregularities in appointment of teachers in Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE (AKBARPUR): The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) located in my parliamentary constituency, Akbarpur, Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, is the

*Treated as laid on the Table.

largest educational institution among the Indian Institutes of Technology in the country. It is a matter of pride for the Kanpur district in the field of education. Students from across the country and abroad come to IIT Kanpur for study. Graduates of IIT Kanpur have achieved global recognition. However, I respectfully inform you that in this esteemed institution, for the past few years, there have been numerous irregularities in the teacher selection process and financial irregularities in other appointments. As a result, the absence of the best and most experienced teachers has led to a decline in the quality of education, jeopardising the future of students. In the teacher selection process, candidates are allegedly being chosen arbitrarily, receiving unjustified increments, and several have been appointed based on caste considerations. Moreover, in many departments, far fewer recruitments have been made than the number of vacant posts. This arbitrary recruitment has disrupted the teaching process, putting the students' futures at risk. I have already raised this issue with the hon. Minister. Therefore, I urge the government to issue necessary orders for a high-level committee to investigate the appointments of teachers

and other staff in this institution so that students may benefit from quality higher education.

(ii) Need to construct slip lane and service road on National Highway No. 76 passing through Bassi area in Chittorgarh parliamentary constituency, Rajasthan.

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister for Road Transport and Highways to National Highway 76, which passes through Bassi town in my parliamentary constituency, Chittorgarh. A bypass has been constructed in Bassi town, which connects to various villages and destinations such as Negadiya, Saran, Sasalaria, Thumidhiya, Bhagdiya, Sadas, Amarpura, Phalodi, Amba, Harni Mahadev, and Bhilwara. Although underpasses have been constructed at two locations on this national highway, there are no slip lanes or service roads for entering or exiting the underpasses. This causes significant inconvenience for the residents of Bassi and nearby villages, and there is a constant risk of accidents on the highway. The people of Bassi and surrounding villages have long been demanding the

construction of a service road. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to direct the concerned authorities to construct slip lanes and a service road on the bypass of Bassi town on National Highway 76 in order to reduce the risk of accidents and safeguard lives and property.

(iii) Need to release a commemorative stamp in honour of Jhala Manna, the great hero and loyal associate of Maharana Pratap.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Seven generations of Rana Jhala Manna, the king of Badi Sadri, sacrificed their lives in battles against foreign invaders of Mewar and Rajputana between 1527 and 1576. Jhala Manna's family left the state of Halvad Kathiawar, Gujarat, and moved to Mewar during the rule of Maharana Raimal. At that time, the estate administration of Mewar was at its peak. The Jhalas took control of several villages in Mewar and established their dominance. The Badi Sadri estate was granted to Rajrana Ajja as

a jagir for seven years. From Ajja to Aasa, six successive generations devoted themselves entirely to Mewar.

Recognising the security of Mewar under Maharana Pratap, Jhala Manna remained his close advisor, playing a significant role in military organisation and operations from 1572 to 1576. He always anticipated the inevitability of war and bravely stood on the battlefield.

On June 18, 1576, when Maharana Pratap was surrounded by the Mughal army at the Battle of Haldighati, Jhala Manna quickly took the royal insignia and flag from Maharana Pratap, ensuring the Maharana's safe exit from the battlefield. He then fought the enemies valiantly and attained martyrdom. Due to this act of bravery, Jhala Manna's estate of Badi Sadri was granted the right to bear the state insignia of Mewar, elevating it to equal status with the Maharana of Mewar.

I request that, in recognition of Jhala Manna’s sacrifice, a postage stamp be issued in his honour as soon as possible, as a true tribute to his bravery, devotion, and loyalty.

(iv) Need to increase the number of work days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): The ongoing drought over the past two years has plunged the country's farmers into deep distress. The Ministry of Agriculture itself has acknowledged that the country received 15 to 16 per cent less rainfall than normal. This has severely affected the Kharif crop, particularly rice, pulses, and coarse grains. In Madhya Pradesh, the soybean, green gram, and paddy crops have also suffered significant damage. As a result of the drought crisis, people are migrating from rural and hilly areas to distant cities, where they encounter further difficulties. In this situation, I urge the government to address this issue by allocating funds from the disaster relief fund. Additionally, to prevent further migration, the number of workdays under MGNREGA should be increased, ensuring that every poor household can afford to arrange food twice a day.

(v) Need to provide reservation on social and economic grounds

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): The framers of the Indian Constitution envisioned a unique system of protection for all citizens, as stated in the Preamble, with critical components such as justice—social, economic, and political; equality of status and opportunity; fraternity among people; and the resolve to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation.

However, after almost 69 years of independence, many poor and vulnerable sections of society have not yet benefitted from the reservation system, while many affluent families have repeatedly received such benefits. Consequently, the poorest sections of society remain in the shadows. Today, many individuals from upper castes and other communities are also facing the challenges of poverty and helplessness.

I request that the government extend reservation benefits to economically and socially disadvantaged people of upper castes and that a high-level review be conducted to ensure that those who have already benefitted from reservation policies are no

longer eligible, thus reserving these opportunities for the truly deprived.

(vi) Need to set up Centres of Skill Development in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): My parliamentary constituency, Maharajganj, falls under two districts of Bihar state, Saran and Siwan. This is a very backward area of the state, but there are no constraints when it comes to skilled people here. The people have acquired traditional skills, with a strong presence of youth among them. These skilled individuals are proficient in various arts and often showcase their talents in different places. Wooden and iron items, earthen pots, and artwork carved on houses by masons are some of the specialities of the people here, who are rich in various arts. In such a situation, in line with the Government of India's Skill India initiative, there is a great need to bring out these hidden skills by utilising new technologies and to enhance and develop them further. In this regard, I insist that skill development centres be established in my parliamentary constituency, subdivision, and block headquarters, including

Maharajganj, Chapra Sadar, Masrakh, Ekma, Manjhi, Baniyapur, Taraiya, Lahladpur, Goreakothi, Bhagwanpur, Lakri Nabiganj, and Ishauvpur. The establishment of such centres will not only create employment opportunities for the youth and others in the region but also revive our ancient arts and enhance the pride of our country.

(vii) Need to send a team of agriculture scientists to Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh to suggest ways and means to increase groundnut production in the district

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): I would like to draw the Government's attention to the declining yield of groundnut in my parliamentary constituency, Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh). Twenty years ago, peanut cultivation was widespread in Sitapur district, and the yield was very high. But today, due to the decreased yield of peanuts, no farmer in Sitapur district cultivates peanuts, even in name. As a result, all the peanut oil mills have shut down, leaving workers unemployed, and a crisis in edible oil has arisen.

I demand that the Government take meaningful steps by sending agricultural scientists to increase the yield of peanuts in Sitapur district so that we can resolve the edible oil crisis.

(viii) Regarding development of strategic projects in Deoghar, Jharkhand

[English]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Deoghar has been included in the list of prominent cities and has been declared as a mega tourist destination from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Deoghar is the unique and extremely revered site of one of the 51 Shaktipeeths and also of Dwadash Jyotirlinga in the country. This is a religious and cultural capital of Eastern India which catapult the holy place to an International level and is visited by over 5 cr. pilgrims every year. Deoghar requires the following: -

1. Requirements of land for the proposed Military Station, the area available will be approximately 400 acres to 500 acres which can be reduced or increased once the feasibility is done. The land will be near the

ongoing DRDO centre project at Deoghar (Jharkhand);

2. DRDO Lab is at Deoghar;

3. An international airport at Deoghar. The proposed airport at Deoghar has already seen a MoU being signed between Government of Jharkhand and the Airport Authority of India earlier in 2012 February, after the ground-breaking ceremony in October. Since then, the process of Land Acquisition has also picked up with as many as 800 acres being acquired;

4. Ordinance Factory or any defence infrastructure project at Deoghar;

5. Sainik School at Godda (Jharkhand) and

6. Defence recruitment centre at Deoghar.

Large parts of the state are affected by Naxalism and terrorist activities. The spread of Naxalism and terrorism is an indication of the sense of desperation and alienation that is sweeping over large parts of Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana

region, which has been not only systematically marginalized but also cruelly exploited and dispossessed. Jharkhand Government is more than willing to help in this important strategic endeavor. I, therefore, request the Government to do the needful.

(ix) Need to examine meticulously the emission rate of electro-magnetic radiation by mobile towers in the country

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER): TERM Cell, under the Department of Telecommunications, has recently conducted testing of Radiation Norms for Mobile Network Coverage (BTS) at more than two lakh locations up until 28 February 2015. Surprisingly, during this testing, not a single private service provider was found emitting radiation beyond the prescribed norms. This testing provision is not efficient because the officials inform the private service provider in advance, specifying the date, location, and particular mobile tower (BTS) where radiation norms will be tested. The providers are required to showcase that specific tower. In this provision, routine testing is carried out, but not efficient testing. If the air gap of the tower (BTS) for transmitting the radiation exceeds the rule of 2 km, a penalty of Rs five lakh is imposed.

The Department of Telecommunications probably does not possess the necessary equipment to measure Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR), which can only be accurately recorded when the mobile tower (BTS) is within the prescribed air gap. Either the testing staff do not use the equipment, or they do not wish to use it. Due to the radiation norms of mobile towers (BTS), there has been a significant decline in the number of birds and other animals in those areas. Additionally, the effects of EMR pose serious health risks to humans, which could become fatal in the future. This large amount of EMR is directly affecting the services of government companies like BSNL and MTNL, which adhere to the written rules. If this EMR survey continues to be conducted inefficiently, human life will continue to face long-term health issues. I urge the hon. Minister to ensure that private service providers emitting high levels of EMR radiation are tested using advanced equipment so that the risk of diseases affecting humans can be mitigated, birds and animals can be protected, and government companies can benefit as well.

(x) Need to provide toilet facilities in all the households in villages declared as Nirmal Gram.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA): The *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* is progressing well throughout the country, and this has increased public awareness about cleanliness. Naturally, the general population is also participating in it. There is competition among villages to achieve open defecation-free status. However, during my visit to my Lok Sabha constituency in Rajasthan, I encountered challenges in securing funds for toilets in villages previously declared as *Nirmal Gram*. When a village was declared *Nirmal Gram*, it was assumed that all households had toilets, but the reality is different. This declaration was made in the past, simply to confer the *Nirmal Gram* title. For example, in my constituency's *Gram Panchayat Patan*, Panchayat Samiti Asind, District Bhilwara, Rajasthan, which was declared *Nirmal Gram* in 2008-09, many houses still lack toilets. Due to the village's *Nirmal Gram* status, no budget is being allocated. Therefore, it has now become essential to resurvey all *Nirmal Grams* nationwide, identify households without toilets, and provide funds for their construction.

(xi) Need to upgrade State Highways in Naxal affected areas in Bihar

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): National Highway No. 98/139 connects Mehendia in the Arwal district of Bihar state to Hariharganj, passing through Haspura, Pachrukhiya, Phesar, Sundarganj, Mali, Navinagar, Tandwa, and Ramnagar. Similarly, NH 3 and NH-75 are important routes connecting Bihar and Jharkhand, starting from Sherghati and passing through Boke Bazar, Imamganj Kothi, Salaiya, Manatu, and Patan, and connecting to NH-75 at Patan Turn.

These roads are crucial interstate routes connecting sensitive areas of Bihar. Unfortunately, much of the route is affected by left-wing extremism, often resulting in law and order disruptions.

In the public interest, I request that these roads be upgraded to national highways. This will strengthen law and order, provide development opportunities to people in insurgency-affected areas, and help foster social, cultural, and economic harmony, benefiting residents of these regions as well as other states.

(xii) Need to construct a permanent building for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya No. 2, Japla, Palamu district, Jharkhand

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya-2, located in Japla, Palamu, my parliamentary constituency, is currently operating from a temporary building. The land for constructing a permanent school building was registered on 30 August 2010, but construction has not yet started. Due to the lack of a permanent building, students and teachers are facing significant difficulties. Presently, the classes are being held in the rooms of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. The incomplete boundary wall of the school premises raises security concerns, worrying the parents. Additionally, there is no accommodation for students and teachers. Some classes even need to be closed during examinations due to space constraints. Currently, the student strength is 183, but with the construction of a permanent building, this number will increase.

Considering the inconveniences faced by students, teachers, and parents, I urge that the construction of the permanent

building for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya-2, Japla, Palamu, Jharkhand, be completed as soon as possible.

(xiii) Need to formulate a comprehensive programme to check dwindling farm production due to climatic change

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Due to changing weather patterns, crops are being severely affected, placing farmers in a dire crisis that needs immediate attention. There is an urgent need to promote new crop varieties that can thrive in changing climatic conditions to boost production. It is crucial that the government machinery reaches the farmers in a timely manner. The inefficiency of the government machinery is further exacerbating the problems farmers face, raising concerns about a potential decline in crop production in the future. In a country like ours, where providing nutritious food to a large population is essential, this looming crisis must be taken seriously.

(xiv) Need to accord sanction to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for construction of dam on Girna River

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): We all know that for the last four to five years, there has been a drought situation in the country, especially in Maharashtra, due to less monsoon, and it has become a serious problem now. The drought has completely ruined the farmers at large in Maharashtra. The main reason for this is that due to lack of water retention in the rivers of the country, the rivers have completely dried up. To solve this serious problem, we have sent a pilot project of constructing seven rubber domes using new technology and low cost on the Girna River in Jalgaon to the Union Government after getting approval from the state government, and it is still pending. Due to severe drought for many years, the condition of the farmers has become pitiable, and they are being forced to commit suicide. A delay in the construction of the project is likely to worsen the situation further. If the Union Government immediately approves this proposal as a pilot project and allocates funds for it, then it will be a life-saving measure for the farmers of Maharashtra. With the completion of this project,

lakhs of farmers from about 1000 to 1200 villages of Jalgaon will get relief from the problem of irrigation and drinking water. With the completion of this project, the level of groundwater will also improve significantly.

Hence, the government is requested to approve the said project as soon as possible and solve the problem of irrigation and drinking water in my parliamentary constituency.

(xv) Need to start construction of sanctioned road projects and resume construction work of various roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Sheohar parliamentary constituency, Bihar

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Through Rule 377, I want to draw the attention of the government towards the incomplete work of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna not being started in my parliamentary constituency, Sheohar. My parliamentary constituency is affected by floods and droughts and is a Maoist and Naxalism-affected area. The contractors who were given work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna have not started the work. Because they are facing problems in construction work due to anti-social elements, and many companies are committing irregularities. Due to which the

roads constructed under this plan have deteriorated within one year, and many potholes have appeared on the roads. Poor-quality material was used on the roads. Many roads have remained incomplete for many years. The result of all this is that my parliamentary constituency is not getting the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, and the rural people are facing many problems in their work. I have submitted the list of incomplete roads of the Belsand division and Sheohar division to the Ministry of Rural Development , but no action has been taken so far in this regard, and no one has been held responsible for the work being done in violation of rules.

I request the government to complete the incomplete roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in my parliamentary constituency Sheohar soon and start work on the roads announced under the said scheme at the earliest.

(xvi) Need to appoint Programme Officer for programmes running under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme in Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Urbanisation is increasing day by day in comparison to rural

areas. In urban ICDS service areas, currently, 2.58 per cent of children are severely malnourished, 18.8 per cent are moderately malnourished, and 82.6 per cent are of normal weight. Meanwhile, in rural areas, 1.43 per cent of children are severely malnourished, 12.47 per cent are moderately malnourished, and 86 per cent are of normal weight. These figures clearly show that the prevalence of malnutrition is higher in urban areas. To address this, it is necessary to appoint a programme officer for the consolidation of every ICDS. As per the ICDS Programme Guidelines, wherever there are 5 or more ICDS projects, a Programme Officer post has been created. This has also been recognised by the Government of India.

More than 5 projects are currently running in Ahmedabad and Surat, yet there is no post of Programme Officer in either location. Apart from these two places, there is also a significant need for programme officers in Jamnagar, Rajkot, Vadodara, and Bhavnagar.

Therefore, I request the government to issue orders for sanctioning the post of Programme Officer for ICDS projects.

(xvii) Need to accord early approval for change of alignment of the proposed new broad gauge line from Nalgonda to Macherla in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY (NALGONDA): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the matter of proposed New Broad gauge Railway Line from Nalgonda to Macherla along with approval for change of alignment. The detailed estimate was sanctioned by Railway Board vide their sanction letter dated 20.9.2011 and also the project was notified as "Special Railway Project".

Later, twice the site was inspected by railway officials along with the then Panchayat Raj Minister of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh on 24.12.2012 and by the then MOS Railways on 30.3.2013 in which the suggestions for change of alignment were agreed upon and the proposal was sent to Government of Andhra Pradesh on 18.4.2013 for incorporating underlined changes in the alignment of the line between Annareddigudem and Haliya Stations. The consent of the State Government was accepted by railways vide letter dated 19.8.2013. Later the

proposal was sent to Railway Board for change in alignment for approval. The approval is still awaited.

In view of this inordinate delay in the matter, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to issue necessary orders to the concerned authorities for early approval of change of alignment and also allocate sufficient funds in the coming budget for the said Special Railway Project.

(xviii) Need to amend section 124A of the Indian Penal Code

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution is indispensable to our democracy. But Sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code infringes upon this right by harassing citizens who simply disagree with the Government.

This archaic and oppressive provision is a legacy of our colonial masters, introduced in pre-independent India. Even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had stated that “the sooner we get rid of this provision, the better”. The Constituent Assembly abstained from including it as an exception to Article 19.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also ruled that acts of sedition should be put through a test of 'tangible evidence of actual harm', to establish a direct link between the 'action' and the 'reaction' before punishing individuals. Therefore, I urge the Government to amend Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code to ensure that it is only used when words directly result in the incitement to violence.

(xix) Need to withdraw service tax on all life insurance premiums

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): As announced in the 2015 budget, service taxes on all life insurance premium were increased from 01.06.2015.

Levying of service taxes on insurance premiums including premiums paid for risk cover had deterred the people from opting for Life Insurance policies. This move is not investor-friendly and will hit hard the morale of saving which is already showing signs of decline. The gross domestic savings as percentage of GDP for 2013-14 has declined to 30.7% as against 31.9% in 2012-13. The Service Tax acts as a disincentive to savings which is not in tune with this Govt's declared policy.

Service taxes will affect LIC very badly, since its market share is 83% with 30 crore policy holders. It has been contributing to the development of our economy right from the beginning. It has contributed Rs. 7,04,151 Cr. to the 11th five year plan from 2007 to 2012. In the last 3 years of the 12th Plan alone, its share was Rs. 7,52,663 Cr. It proposes to spend Rs. 1,50,000 Cr. for Railways. In 2014 alone, it had spent Rs. 34,857.81 Cr. for public sector infrastructure development.

LIC is forced to exempt collection of service tax on its popular plans like endowment and money back. LIC, as a result, may face a bit of resource crunch which may not help it to augment its infra-investment initiatives. Due to the imposition of service tax, the contribution by LIC for public sector undertakings has gone down to 1.6% from 1.7%. The levying of service tax proved to be counterproductive and has boomeranged. The policy holders of LIC, who constitute 1/4 of our population fear reduction in bonus and other benefits. They are also fears that the Government may not hold back its temptation to increase the service tax in future.

The service tax on life insurance premiums for 2013-14 was a meagre Rs. 6504, which is 4.3% only on the total collection of Rs. 1,50,9741/-.This is a negligible amount that can be withdrawn.

Hence, I submit that service tax on insurance premiums may be withdrawn, alongwith the tax moderation effort to be undertaken by the Government in the ensuing budget.

(xx) Need to provide urgent central assistance for Athikadavu-Avinashi flood canal scheme in Tamil Nadu

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme envisages diversion of flood surplus of 2,000 cusecs from Bhavani River at Pillur to 31 Water Resources Department Tanks, 40 Panchayat Union Tanks and 538 Ponds in Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. Following the order of Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a G.O. was issued on 18th February 2016 to provide water for drinking and irrigation to over 50 lakh people. Administrative sanction for Rs 3.27 crore has been granted to take up preliminary works for implementing the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme as an irrigation, ground water recharge and drinking water scheme. Tamil Nadu Government has sought financial

assistance including the cost of land acquisition from Government of India for implementation of Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme. Though initial proposal was sent in 2011, a revised proposal is being sent to the Centre on the matter. I urge upon the Centre to provide the required financial assistance to Athikadavu-Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme without delay.

(xxi) Need to protect Universities from interference

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The ruling party at the centre and the RSS are allegedly trying to establish their hold in Universities particularly in Central Universities. This is leading to campus clashes and a situation where Universities are closing down, firstly the Central University at Hyderabad on the basis of complaints by some student group, Union Ministries allegedly put pressure on University authorities to take action against some students who had clashes with some Dalit students. This led to some research students including Rohit Vemula, being suspended from their hostels and this led to the tragic suicide of Vemula, a Dalit research scholar. This led to widespread protest on the campus and outside.

In Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi the elected president of the University Students Union, was arrested by the police on charges of sedition. It was alleged that he had supported some anti-national students who were protesting against Afzal Guru's hanging. The authorities have not provided any proof on these charges. His arrest has led to strike by students and teachers of this premier University.

The ruling party at the Centre must follow a hand off policy towards campus unrest and protest. Forcible efforts to intervene will only lead to vitiating academic atmosphere in universities.

(xxii) Need to provide civil service aspirants who opted for regional vernacular language three additional attempts as a one time measure

SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA): I would like to draw the attention of Government of India to the plight of the civil service aspirants particularly those who appeared with vernacular language between 2011 and 2014 in Civil Services Examination. Till 2010, the exam used to have two papers — one on general studies and the other on an optional subject. This

was changed from 2011 onwards, when the UPSC decided to replace the optional subject paper with a paper that tests the aspirants' aptitude.

The syllabus for this paper, protesting aspirants allege deny equal opportunity to the vernacular linguistic group. However, as recommended by the committee, Government of India in 2015 incorporated the decisions in CSE Rules- 2015 that English Language Comprehension Skill Portion from the General Studies Paper-II of Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination will continue to remain excluded.

But aspirants having regional vernaculars who appeared in CSAT during 2011- 2014 are barred to appear in the examination from 2015 onwards due to age bar & exhaustion of number of attempts.

I urge the Government to kindly allow three additional as a relief for the loss suffered by them during 2011- 2014.

(xxiii) Need to run a train between Bhubaneswar and Delhi via Keonjhar, Banaspani and Chaibasa

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAKUNTALA LAGURI (KEONJHAR): There has been a longstanding demand for laying a railway line between Bhubaneswar and Delhi via Keonjhar, Banaspani, and Chaibasa for several decades. This area is predominantly inhabited by indigenous communities and is extremely backward. However, it is rich in various types of raw materials. In the absence of a direct railway line between Bhubaneswar and Delhi, residents of the regions around Keonjhar, Banaspani, and Chaibasa must travel through several cities, which takes a lot of time and causes significant inconvenience. It is the responsibility of the railways to contribute to the balanced development of backward regions by enhancing the railway network in these areas, but for many years, no work has been done in this regard. Railway facilities are not being provided in areas lacking existing railway services.

I urge upon the government to initiate rail service between Bhubaneswar and Delhi by constructing a railway line that passes through Keonjhar, Banaspani, and Chaibasa, as this is in

the public interest and will promote balanced development in the country.

(xxiv) Need to honour Anna Hazare, Social activist with Bharat Ratna

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE (SHIRDI): Social worker and respected Shri Anna Hazare Ji was born on 15 June 1937 into a farmer family in Ralegan Siddhi village, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. His childhood was spent in extreme poverty, with his father working as a labourer and his grandfather serving in the army. Witnessing the burden of hardships on his family, he began working at a flower seller's shop outside Dadar station for a salary of Rs. 40. Following the Indo-China war in 1962, in response to the government's appeal for youth to join the army, Anna enlisted in the Maratha Regiment as a driver in 1963. On 12 November 1965, all the soldiers stationed there were killed in a Pakistani air bombing on the post. This incident changed Anna's life forever. In 1975, while posted in Jammu, he took voluntary retirement after completing 15 years of service in the army. He then moved to the nearby village of Ralegan Siddhi,

which became his social workplace, where he dedicated himself to social service. He resolved to remain unmarried throughout his life and commit himself entirely to his work.

In 1997, Anna Hazare launched his campaign from Azad Maidan in Mumbai in support of the Right to Information Act. In August 2006, he undertook a fast unto death against the proposed amendments to the Right to Information Act, which garnered nationwide support. As a result, the government reconsidered the amendment.

He has received the following awards to date:

- Padma Bhushan Award (1992)
- Padma Shri Award (1990)
- Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award (1986)
- Krishi Bhushan Award (1989) from the Government of Maharashtra
- Young India Award
- Man of the Year Award (1988)
- Paul Mittal National Award (2000)
- Transparency International Integrity Award (2003)

- Vivekananda Seva Award (1996)
- Shiromani Award (1997)
- Mahavir Award (1997)
- Diwaliben Mehta Award (1999)
- Care International (1998)
- Basavashree Prashasti (2000)
- Giant's International Award (2000)
- National Integration Award (1999)
- Vishwa-Vatsalya and Santbal Prize
- Public Service Award (1999)
- Rotary International Human Services Award (1998)
- World Bank's Gill Memorial Award (2008)

I request the Union Government to take the necessary initiative to honour Shri Anna Hazare with the Bharat Ratna in recognition of his social services.

(xxv) Need for early commencement of work relating to development of LNG Terminal at Gangavaram Port in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): M/s. Gangavaram Port Ltd., proposed to construct and operate a 5 MMTPA LNG Terminal with a provision to expand further to 10 MMTPA, with M/s. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL). The proposed LNG Terminal is to be designed, developed, financed, constructed, managed, operated and maintained by the Joint Venture Company, which will have equity contributions from Petronet LNG Ltd (16%), Gangavaram Port Ltd (8%) and other parties such as prospective LNG suppliers/ buyers or any strategic investor. Petronet LNG Ltd will be the majority share holder and will have complete management control over the JV Company.

In this respect, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh have issued orders according approval to M/s. Gangavaram Port Ltd., for establishing LNG Terminal at Gangavaram Port and to allow the grant of License rights under the concession agreement to the JVC.ln the letter dated 20-09-2014 the MD, Petronet LNG Ltd

was requested to send the details for creating connectivity from LNG Terminal to Kakinada Srikakulam Pipeline to the APGDC. He has been requested to expedite implementation of the project as agreed in three years period.

The Vice President (Finance), Petronet LNG Ltd. has informed on 6-11-2014 that all statutory clearances from Govt. of India have been received and that they are in correspondence with APGDC for having pipeline connectivity from Kakinada to Srikakulam. Discussions are also being held with other pipeline operators — RGTIL for GITL for connectivity with East-West pipeline and Mallavaram — Bilwara pipeline.

I would request the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to issue necessary instructions to the concerned for early commencement of the work relating to development of LNG terminal at Gangavaram Port in the State of Andhra Pradesh as the said terminal will contribute immensely for the development of the region by providing low cost alternate fuel to the sectors like power, fertilizer etc., which in turn will result in substantial downstream investments in these sectors.

(xxvi) Need to raise the import duty on rubber

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): The drastic decline in the price of the natural rubber has worsened the situation for rubber growers in India especially in Kerala. The price of rubber per kilo has come down to 90 from 240 two years back. This is due to the uncontrolled import of the synthetic rubber from foreign countries. Though a number of discussions have been held with the government but no substantial action has been taken. Hence, the condition of the rubber farmers is becoming very serious. Therefore, I request the government to take immediate steps to raise the import duty of Rubber and provide support price to farmers to compensate their loss.

(xxvii) Need to provide proper and adequate remuneration to fishermen of Lakshadweep

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Lakshadweep Islands are blessed with the natural resources such as coconut and sea food. Colombo is on the biggest buyers of "Massmeen" (dry Tuna Fish) from Lakshadweep. Since, the buying process is carried out through the hands of several middle men, the fishermen in Lakshdweep are always unfortunate to get the right

value for their product. The Government should take necessary steps to ensure right remuneration to fishermen and to improve the trade relation with Sri Lanka.

(xxviii) Need to include Haryanvi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I would like to urge the government to declare Haryanvi as one of the official languages under VIII Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Till now 22 languages have been recognized under the Eight Schedule of the Constitution as official languages. The Haryanvi language also has a very rich cultural background particularly in terms of folk songs that are called Raginis as well as folk dramas and has been used widely in various national and international fora including movies, drama, music and other cultural arena. However, till date this language hasn't been given due recognition. The people of Haryana constitute the 2.09% of the total population. Therefore, I urge the government that the widely spoken Haryanvi should be given the status of official language and be included under the VIII schedule of our constitution.

12.09 hours

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business of the House

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it was agreed that a Short Duration Discussion on the issue relating to the functioning of universities, including the incidents in Jawaharlal Nehru University and Hyderabad University etc. will be taken up. In view of the demand by several Members, I have allowed the discussion to be held after moving of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We will start it and after the speeches of the Mover and Seconder of the Motion, the Short Duration Discussion can start.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any objection in this regard?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, a meeting of the BAC was held yesterday. It was decided very categorically there that a full-fledged discussion will take place tomorrow from 3 p.m. onwards to as much as time it takes up.… *(Interruptions)* It was also decided that today the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will be discussed throughout the day. This decision was unanimously accepted by all the parties. It was proposed by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia ji and seconded by the Ruling Party. I would like to know the reason as to why it is suddenly changed. We have agreed that it will be discussed tomorrow throughout the day but *suo motu* this is decided now. I just want to know whether it is going to be changed. I came one minute late in the House. I do not know the actual developments. I want to know as to why this decision is going to be changed. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There are some developments. It happens sometimes. So many people have raised their questions. They want this discussion today itself. That is why this decision came.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): We have agreed for the earlier discussion. But in your presence it was decided that this discussion will take place after the Railway Budget. Why is it changed now? … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I know that. *[Translation]* Why do you guys answer each other when I'm talking?

… *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam, after you complete, please give me one minute.

HON. SPEAKER: Sure.

So, I am allowing the discussion. Tathagata ji, now everybody is accepting it. Tomorrow, there will be the Railway Budget and everybody will be busy.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Madam, we are not accepting it. We want ample time for this. It was all discussed in front of you. It is imperative that it should be held tomorrow as planned and I am sure hon. Members agreed to it. Just because one or two people do not agree, Madam, you should not change your decision.… *(Interruptions)* Let it be done tomorrow at 3 p.m. You had yourself agreed that 3 p.m. onwards, after the Rail Budget, it will start and continue till everybody gets a chance to speak. Madam, this is a very serious issue. The students and youth of this country are concerned. Let us not hurry up and let us not do it as a job that we want to finish quickly. This is not a job. This is our responsibility.… *(Interruptions)* I would request you that let it be discussed tomorrow after the Rail Budget and give us ample time. Thank you.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Madam, yesterday whatever has happened in BAC, after that all the Members of our parties got together in the afternoon. … *(Interruptions)* We told them what has happened in the BAC. We have made our people ready to speak on this issue. Now, all of a sudden, at 11.15, you come out and say that you have to

speak on that. My Member is not even ready for that. … *(Interruptions)* I request you that as we have decided in the BAC, that should be taken up in the same way because we always want to uphold the sanctity of BAC.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I thank you because you have agreed to discuss this topic today. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have just read half a page. I am ready, but other people are not.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why I am requesting them, since this matter is very important and is being discussed everywhere, especially by the TMC Members, who have also expressed their objection. When this issue is so crucial and there are protests happening over it, we thought it would be beneficial to bring up the adjournment motion we presented in the morning for discussion today, as it is also being discussed in the other House. If we take it up for discussion after the Railway Budget, it may lose significance. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Let him complete...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why we request you to take up it today, as it is important. Since you have received consent, you are taking it up. It needs to be addressed today. If they don't want to, that is a different matter. ... *(Interruptions)* But we will have to stay... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It's not so that they don't want it. Do not speak like this. They also want discussion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: So, let it happen today.

HON. SPEAKER: Mohammad Salim Ji, please put your point in just one minute; there is no need for a lengthy speech.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Madam, Kharge Ji has also mentioned that opposition Members were saying the government is also ready for a discussion on JNU to be held as soon as possible. This was our earlier demand, but in the presidential address yesterday, only the government's side was

presented. Today, you are also saying that one Member will move the motion and others will second it, which means that only the government side will speak on it, and then there will be a discussion on JNU. This was not the spirit of the BAC. The spirit of the BAC was that if it is such a priority, then JNU should be discussed right now, and afterwards, the President's address can be moved. Alternatively, as was decided in the BAC, it should be discussed tomorrow. It is not right that today it is the government's decision and tomorrow it will also be the government's decision while we remain in the middle. Because of the discussion... *(Interruptions)* The issue about the debates is that you must listen to both sides and keep the sanctity of the BAC in mind... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All of you are repeatedly mentioning the BAC meeting; generally, it is not discussed in the House, whatever happens there. However, today some conditions have arisen, which is why this matter is being addressed. *[English]* Yes, I agree.

Now, Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, I am genuinely surprised by the way some Members are trying to assert that the government has changed its stance. As far as we are concerned, the government is willing to adhere to whatever the BAC decides. We came prepared for that as well. Keeping that in mind, *[Translation]* this is not a matter of protocol. That is why, when the suggestion arose in the Council of the States, we accepted it. The Minister will be present there in the afternoon and will respond to the discussion. Later, after coming here, I was informed that many members have submitted adjournment motions on various issues and that they want to discuss what is happening in all the universities, especially in three to four universities. We have been saying from the very beginning that it is our priority to let the House run; hence, I agreed to it and stated that we should have the discussion. But, by decorum, the President's address should commence, and if any discussion is to be held afterward, we are ready for it.

Madam, you decide after considering what others are saying; there is no issue from the government's side. The only concern will be that hon. Minister will be present, and one of us will have to reply ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, this also happened when someone came to meet me; the matter was being discussed and was raised here as well. Even then, it was stated that this matter is absolutely correct. Yesterday, you all mentioned it, and it was also discussed that when this is to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha today, the Minister will not be here; he will be there. All these things he has said are not incorrect. Today, that's all we observed in the morning—that there was a request and some members had even submitted notices of adjournment motion, and the government was prepared. We thought that once the Motion of Thanks begins on hon. President's address, if all of you agree, then we will discuss it in the afternoon.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: That is why we submitted an adjournment motion; based on your assurance, we withdrew that.

HON. SPEAKER: It is my job to allow or disallow the adjournment motion, and it is taken up at 12 o'clock only.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, you know that we also want this House to function properly, but if such conditions are imposed on everything, then it is not right.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, no one is doing this. Don't get angry. Now sit down.

Shri Anandrao Adsul Ji, please speak.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI): Madam, this was the general consent in the Business Advisory Committee. People from all parties... *(Interruptions)* Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia Ji had proposed that after the Railway Budget, we will have a discussion about universities; we will discuss all the universities en bloc... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Circumstances change with time.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: If his own colleague had proposed it and some people from the same party give an adjournment motion to change it, then I feel that it is inappropriate to make any changes.

SHRI ADHALARAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR): Adjournment motions come every day... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You should not talk about this among yourselves. What I am saying is that it won't make much difference. What you all have said is right. It was decided to do it tomorrow, but it also happens that if the Railway Budget is presented tomorrow, then what will happen after that, and where?

[English]

So, please accept it.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam Speaker, whatever decision you will take, we will abide by that for the interest of the Opposition sides' view. As the Congress being the largest Opposition party has proposed it, we agree to your proposal.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

So, the subject, which we have accepted is: "Situation arising out of recent incidents in Institutions of higher education in reference to Jawaharlal Nehru and Hyderabad Universities and all universities."

Hon. Members, the notice from Shri K.C. Venugopal has been received first. But Venugopalji has requested me to allow Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia in his place to initiate the discussion, and so, I have given this permission.

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12.21 hours

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS... Contd

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Just now, we will start the discussion on the Motion of Thanks. After that, at about 3 o' clock, we will start this discussion.

Thank you.

There will be no 'Zero Hour' now. It will be taken up after 6 o' clock.

… (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Zero Hour will not happen now. First we will discuss the motion of thanks on President's address. Therefore, zero hour will be taken up after 6pm. Now you sit down.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I stand before this august House to open the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on behalf of my colleagues.

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Hon. President for raising many important issues related to national interest in his address and discussing the main points. We all got a chance to listen to him.

[English]

To begin with, from the beginning, Madam, India for long, was at the cusp of reaching the pinnacle of global leadership as a major epicentre of economic, military and soft power. Yet years became decades and that did not happen. In spite of all advantages in the form of democracy, demography and demand, somewhere India remained mired in its own problems.

The world kept waiting for us, but we were too reluctant to board the bus. It was not pacifism but also some sort fascination for some illusionary socialistic model that brought India down in

the early Nineties. The beginning of the new millennium did offer many opportunities and major opportunities for India to take the whole position.

Global politics was changing; Asia was becoming the hub of manufacturing; and China was racing past the west, and once again, India was poised. The Telecom Revolution, the Golden Quadrilateral were some projects, which did shape up India to an extent, yet for decades, since then, India did not board the bus once again. Policy paralysis, rampant corruption, appeasement politics, nepotism, red-tapism and giving priority to populist measures rather than the real welfare issues, became the policy of this country, which put India in a very poor light and the future looked really bleak.

When Shri Narendra Modi's Government took over the mantle, India was known more for corruption than anything else. The 2G scam, CWG scam, coal scam, and the list of scams just goes on, became the talking point for the world. Investors were shying away from investing in India. Modernization of Armed Forces was pending for a decade. There was lack of optimism

both within the country, inside the country and outside the country. It was then the Narendra Modi Government emerged.

Hon. Speaker Madam, I take this opportunity to put forward some of the initiatives of this Government to fulfil the aspirations of 126 crore Indians. India became the fastest growing economy. Our governance paradigm seeks to undertake development and development for each and every section of this country and of this society. Our goal is to reach out to the poorest of the poor, every section of society and to the remotest corner of the county and ensure delivery of services and effective policy making in this regard. Economic development alongside social justice in a time bound manner needs coordination and efficient implementation through all stakeholders – be it States, local Governments, businesses, NGOs and most importantly, people of this nation.

The process has been slow because of the enormity of the situation and the task ahead. Reforms are relatively slow but effective methodology for achieving the goals requires constructive blending of skills, capital and reform mechanism. In this regard, whether it is in the area of skilling, it is in the area

of getting investments or having reformist attitude towards various reform mechanisms or regulatory mechanism, the Government has actually been very serious and is working towards that. The Government of India's centre piece programme for changing or transforming the country is actually 'Make in India'. 'Make in India' has three major parts – construction of infrastructure, Railways and defence, and these three along with Telecom sector are going to transform the way our country progressed till now and is likely to progress in future.

The paradigm shift to transform India is definitely that we are inching towards our goals and India is likely to become the global manufacturing powerhouse. Since its launch, the Prime Minister, Shri Modi has pulled all steps, all full stops for the global participation is India's story. In the recently concluded 'Make in India Week' in Maharashtra, projects worth eight lakh crore rupees have been inked. More than two lakh jobs, thus, shall be created. Our manufacturing landscape is in the process of rapid reforms whereas 'Ease of Doing Business' is facilitated by the Government and many State Governments have their own

transformatory objective to achieve and participate in nation building.

12.28 hours

(Shri Anandrao Adsul *in the Chair*)

The related business with respect to 'Make in India' is integration of various opportunities which are available to business houses, respective States, national and international stakeholders to provide win-win situation and economic climate for all. Some of the proposals in 'Make in India' programme include – direct tax exemptions for the first three years for MSMEs, tax holidays for local manufacturing of defence, aerospace products, sops for R&D, tax benefits to attract electronic and telecom manufacturers amongst others. The programme is designed to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, protect intellectual property and build best in class manufacturing infrastructure.

The 'Make in India' initiative has created fans and admirers both domestically and internationally and global leaders are also admiring this process. The world is eager to partner India in this initiative. The 'Make in India' recognizes Ease of Doing Business and as an important factor to promote entrepreneurship, a number of initiatives have already been

undertaken to ease business environment. Steps are being undertaken to delicense and deregulate the industry during the entire life cycle of the business.

High value industrial sectors are sought to be created and FDI liberalisation has actually brought in FDI in this country. To specify a few statistics, the FDI cap has been raised from 26 per cent to 49 per cent, portfolio investment in defence sector permitted up to 24 per cent under the automatic route and 100 FDI allowed in defence sector for modern and state-of-art technology on case to case basis. Also, 100 per cent FDI in automatic route is permitted in construction, operation and maintenance in specified rail infrastructure.

India today is two trillion dollar economy in terms of GDP and more than eight trillion economy in terms of purchasing power parity. If one looks across the globe, very few countries are today poised to take the quantum leap in terms of economic growth as India is poised. Effort of the present Government to outline ‘Make in India’ as the focal point of India’s development is much appreciated. India became the largest recipient in FDI in the first half of 2015 and around 31 billion of FDI has come into

India. India claimed five notches to the 113th rank in the latest 2015 UNDP Report on account of rise in life expectancy and per capita income.

Despite adverse international conditions, India's GDP is poised to grow at seven per cent per annum. With inflation figures much below five per cent and healthy domestic economic climate, India is fast emerging as a world leader in economic sphere. In recent quarter, Indian manufacturing output grew by 9.3 per cent. The Indian Railways got Rs.40,000 crore deal with GE to make electric and diesel automatic locomotives in India in collaboration with Railways is a great example of how 'Make in India' has started showing results. When we discuss the issues regarding railways, I must bring up HOG, Head Over Generation, which, at a smaller level, the Railways has initiated in which the extra carriage capacity is taken care of. Wind mill, renewable energy, electricity and transforming the railway travel are the various initiatives that are being constantly undertaken by the Railways and 'Make in India' is taking shape through the railways and railways is becoming an engine to drive the economy forward.

The dynamic nature of our export-import regime needs quick and assertive decision making upholding our domestic demands. Exports in certain items have declined in the recent quarter. For some analysts, that is a cause of concern but it is not so because similarly when the exports have declined, imports have also declined. Our trade imbalance gap, which used to be very high, reduced drastically. This is because domestic manufacturing is picking up and we must support such a scenario as it generates more employment for the aspiring youth of India.

Despite two consecutive years of rain shortfall and drought in many parts of the country, we could still administer a smooth and unhindered supply of food grains. Our farmers stood up to their mission and they are ensuring quality agriculture produce at all times. One of the serious challenges of this Government is its inheritance of agrarian crisis which we have inherited from the previous years.

Farmers' suicide is another issue. We simply cannot ignore it. The crises have been for decades. Therefore, its solution also requires a little more time. But every stakeholder has to be on

board to deal with this particular aspect. All the State Governments must come forward to support this cause and let us ensure that agrarian crisis does not take the better of our brave farmers.

Our agro infrastructure comprises many stakeholders, which also include banks, local Governments, commodities, markets and the farmers. Our priority has been to provide irrigation, water and fertilizer. The solution, therefore, needs a coordinated approach amongst all the stakeholders – the local governments, the State Governments, the Union Government, commodity markets and also the farmers themselves. The soil health card, fertilizers – especially urea coated with neem, compensation for farmers of drought affected areas are a few of many initiatives which have been undertaken by this Government.

[Translation]

Hon. Chairperson, the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme is One of the schemes which provides relief to farmers. One very big change is about to come. Especially for that helpless farmer who never got complete compensation. Under this scheme the definition of disaster has been changed. To

improve this scheme, the good things of the old scheme have been retained, and efforts have been made to remove the shortcomings. The amount to be paid to the farmer under this scheme is very low, and new technologies, including mobile phones, have been used to make a better assessment of the loss and provide full compensation to the farmers in a timely manner. Under this scheme, Rs. 8800 crore has been kept aside to complete the insurance premium through insurance. This will also have a huge impact on the way farmers commit suicide because of debt or loans. It is the intention of the Government that by using phone technology, satellite technology and all kinds of other advanced technologies, the compensation amount should be immediately returned to the farmers, and it should be paid as soon as possible.

An action is being taken to extend the coverage of compensation scheme to the maximum crop area. This plan with the lowest premium and best results is in itself a historical step for independent India. Only two per cent is to be given for Kharif crops which include food grain produces and oilseeds, and only 1.5% is kept for Rabi crops, and every type of disaster is covered under the insurance scheme of Rs. 8800 crores. The

remaining premium amount will be paid by the Union government, and 50 per cent of the crop area, i.e. 194.40 lakh hectares, has been covered under this scheme. The scheme will be implemented in the upcoming Kharif season, which begins in June, and this step has been taken to compensate a farmer for his loss during the time from sowing of seeds to final harvesting. There is no upper limit, and the outstanding 90 per cent amount will be given by the government. Under this provision, by paying the lowest instalment, the lowest payment, this scheme of maximum benefit will continuously reduce the losses of the farmers.

This will also have a huge impact on the way farmers commit suicide because of debt or loans. It is the intention of the Government that by using phone technology, satellite technology and all kinds of other advanced technologies, the compensation amount should be immediately paid to the farmers, and it should be paid as soon as possible. Such is the intention of the Government.

Keeping farmers in focus, there was also a need to work on the export-import policy in which value-added initiatives have

been taken and work is being done on ensuring that farmers get benefits from all the agricultural produce in the international market.

12.42 hours

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[English]

Organic farming, use of technology for irrigation with better quality seeds will enhance the productivity and benefit all the stockholders. A robust pricing mechanism, which seeks to eliminate hoarders and middlemen from the system, will ensure effective delivery. *[Translation]* With everyone, as I said earlier, there is a need for continuous unity among the various stakeholders so that middlemen can be eliminated from this entire cycle and those who are continuously involved in blackmailing and this type of black marketing, whether it is onion season, potatoes, pulses, or all this can be eliminated and a unified market can be created in the country. The government is continuously aware of it and is working on it.

The government has also done excellent work in foreign policy initiatives, the benefits of which we are reaping from all sides. *[English]* On the Foreign Policy initiative, the Government has done an excellent job. The Make in India *mantra* coupled with aggressive campaign has made India a

respectable and trustworthy destination for many international players to do business with. Barring a few glitches with our neighbourhood, our neighbourhood is far more secure and safe.

Our diplomatic community has done a splendid job in upholding the tenets of our national interest while dealing with friendly and sometimes hostile regimes of the world. Our engagement with the United States, France, China, Russia, Japan and the United Kingdom has improved manifold.

India's viewpoint and concerns are articulated effectively in international events. We, therefore, negotiated the climate change and COP-21 very successfully.

Our foreign direct investment has almost doubled. The recently concluded International Navy Fleet Review was a super success.

Many countries have realized to come together to fight against terrorism. This Government has set up robust mechanisms to exchange intelligence information and prevent terrorist attacks, and to an extent, the example was set by Pathankot incident. It was the worst form of terror attack on

India and if it is compared with 26/11 incident, we handled it very differently.

The Swachh Bharat Scheme has raised our collective consciousness towards the clean and green environment. The various components of the scheme are beginning to show results. More than eight lakh toilets have been built in schools and rural areas. It is a slow but effective campaign which will transform our country into a clean and safe place to live in. The Swachh Bharat Campaign has a major component of health and it specifically affects the health of young children and women in particular. So, the entire focus having shifted to Swachh Bharat, lot of investment from private and government bodies is coming and the collective consciousness has actually led to a better environment. A lot of work needs to be done and we are on the right track.

I am glad to inform this House that more than 95 per cent of our citizens are connected with *Aadhaar* Cards. Most of them are connected to their *Jan Dhan* Accounts as well, which enables this Government to deliver services effectively. So, all the intermediaries, who were not working towards letting the

benefits pass on to the ones who needed it the most, the *Aadhaar* Card initiation has helped and the biggest example was when this particular Scheme was utilised during the Chennai floods to deliver the services.

Our Social Insurance Schemes have helped the poor and the downtrodden. The *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* Scheme is gradually transforming our communities towards support for gender equality while creating social awareness towards such sensitive issues. *[Translation]* Haryana was in the news some time back for some other issue, but according to me, the biggest achievement of Haryana has been in Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. Where the ratio used to be 817 per thousand men, today it has increased to 899 in just one year. I would especially like to thank my government for the way the Haryana Government implemented the Union Government's scheme. Under schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, when you work with awareness among people and all the stakeholders work together, the results are soon visible to you all.

[English]

The recently launched Start-up India and Stand-up India Schemes seek to focus on risk-free employment activity supported by the Administration through single-window approval mechanism. These Schemes are channelising the entrepreneurial energies of our youth, women and backward classes and creating productive employment.

Skill Development of our human capital has been a key area where a lot of work is being done. Incentives for Skill Development Centres by way of finance, technical know-how and integration with the industry have yielded desired results. *[Translation]* Today, I feel that if there can be any biggest social work, then it can be the act of imparting skills to the youth. The government has taken a great step in this skill programme and has tried to bring the youth power forward and make them stand with dignity, and this government is commendable for the way it has given attention to skills. *[English]* It is because Skill India can actually change the way our systems operate and for India to become a global player, whether in economic market or any other market, we need skilled youth force and skilled youth

force can only be guaranteed by Governmental intervention. I can very proudly exhibit that the Government has worked very hard towards providing skill to the youth; bringing forward the required youth; and getting them required employment in this process.

The Government has allocated more than Rs. 7,000 crore to develop Smart Cities. By the year 2020, people's participation with all the stakeholders will make it possible. The concerned Ministries have rolled out ambitious roadmaps for the coming months and years to ensure speedy implementation of Smart City Project.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, on all the fronts, the biggest drawback in the past systems and the one which led to corruption of various kinds was the banking system. So, the banking system had to be improved and banking facilities had to be brought in because a lot of people talked about inclusive India and rights for the poor, but there was no inclusion happening on the ground. But this Government has taken some serious steps for inclusive development including for all the people who really needed it.

An improvement on the banking sector has been one of the major achievements, according to me, of this government. *[Translation]* In 2015, the Government of India came up with Mudra Bank, and its main objective was to provide money to people who contribute 42 or 48 per cent of the GDP. To date, there was no scheme for them, and no government had ever thought about the betterment of people or made any scheme for those doing small-scale jobs, people running tea shops, or people doing tailoring. This government tried to reach out to those people through Mudra Bank because most of the loan facilities were given to those big businessmen, those big industrialists, who were not able to return the money to the banks and were also responsible for NPAs. But there was no scheme for the betterment of those people who want to return the money by working honestly and want to earn a living, but through Mudra the government has tried to do this work and has created an institutional fund to reach out to the micro and small businesses. 5.7 crore micro-units which directly employ 12 crore people, and if their families are included, then about 30-32 crore people are dependent on it. The government worked to ensure that they obtained proper help, financial assistance and proper

loans. RBI has declared 10 such small finance banks and 11 payment banks. I was listening in the morning; in response to a question, the answer was that there is no payment bank, so such an order has been given to India Post also, and the licence of payment bank has been given to them. In the Jan Dhan Yojana, as of 30th September 2015, 76.81 per cent of the accounts had zero balance or no funds were received, and there were no transactions. Today in the month of December it has come down to just 32 per cent, and 30 thousand crores have been deposited in these 20 crore accounts.

Everyone is familiar with the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima and Jeevan Bima Yojanas, but these are such schemes that have been brought to benefit the poorest of the poor, and these are schemes of just one rupee per day and 12 rupees. There are two types of insurance schemes ... *(Interruptions)* – one is insurance, and the other is life insurance. There is a casualty scheme of Rs. 360 and another of Rs. 12. These schemes were never available to the poor people of this country to date. For the first time, this government brought such a scheme for the poor, which can benefit even the poorest of the poor. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, about which I have already spoken, will also

benefit the successful candidates who come out of this skill development programme and will also be given money ranging from 5 to 1.5 lakh rupees by the government, and 34 lakh youth will be able to take advantage of this, which is our plan for the next five years.

Digital India is a programme in which the government is constantly trying to set up the best possible system and infrastructure in the country, and in response to a question in the morning, Minister also explained how we got it, how far we took it, and how much the cable network was expanded and efforts were made to connect as many villages as possible to it in a planned manner. 2.5 lakh villages are connected with this. *[English]* Digital infrastructure is a necessity and utility for every Indian whether it is through public cloud, cyber security, bank account, Common Service Centres, broadband highways. *[Translation]* The benefits of all this are being provided through governance and services, and the government wishes that every citizen should benefit from it. There should be transparency in the system, and due to that benefit, we should be able to eliminate corruption as well. The Digital India programme has

obtained Rs 4.5 lakh crore through investment and created 18 lakh new jobs.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, which was launched on 25 June, 2015. Under this scheme, 305 cities and towns have been identified so that people can get better houses, and there are nine states where this scheme is going to be implemented.

[English]

Even in the power sector, when the NDA came to power, the condition of coal supply in the country was precarious with many power plants shutting down and had critically low reserve of coal. Supplies were not being able to match up to the demand. Today the situation of power sector has witnessed massive improvement. Coal production has reached a level of 336 million tonnes. Many of the critical issues of the power sector especially with respect to coal supply and power transmission has been taken care of. The Ministry has added 22,566 megawatts of electricity generation capacity out of 20,830 megawatt in the thermal sector alone. The Government has a target of generation of 100 gigawatt of solar power by 2022. The target has now been split into 40 gigawatt of roof top and 60

gigawatt through large and medium scale grid connected solar power projects and is expected to entail an investment of Rs.6,000 billion. The overall target is a generation of 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022. Solar Alliance is another success which India has been able to achieve.

[Translation]

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is a scheme under which work has been done to provide 24-hour and seven-day power supply to every household in the villages and rural areas, and through this scheme, the task of providing electricity to 18,500 villages within three years has been undertaken. There will be 3.5 thousand villages which will get off-grid renewable energy, and there are five thousand villages which have been electrified. *[English]* in the current fiscal till now under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. *[Translation]* Exemptions and all those things have been made easy for us, especially taxation, so that more and more people go to the manufacturing hub, but in the meantime, another good and better message for all of us is that Japan has decided to invest a

package of 12 billion dollars in India, which will benefit India in the long term and will also bring a bullet train.

13.00 hours

Even amidst this volatile global environment, India is continuously moving towards improvement. This government has gained the trust of its people by fulfilling the kind of expectations that were cherished from this government and it is continuing to work on the same.

[English]

So far as threats are concerned, threats to India exist from both State and non-State actors. Initiatives are being taken for capacity building of the law enforcement agencies, and in spite of volatility across the world, India has remained relatively stable. Apart from an impressive growth rate, India continues to have healthy foreign exchange reserves of more than USD 350 billion. Major initiatives have been taken to root out corruption. In FDI, we have removed the restriction in tea plantation as well. In defence sector it has been raised from 26 per cent to 49 per cent.

[Translation]

When we were kids, in every story, every fairy tale, there was always one or the other witch. In any good story, there was

always some monster or demon, and as I grew up, it seemed like every growth story had some glitches along with it. *[English]* While this is the growth story of the country, we do have certain glitches and the glitches come from people who some times use the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar to cause a vivisection of the country. Let me remind them that Babasaheb was a nationalist. He was a patriot and not a secessionist. He was a reformist with a cause and not a rebel without a cause. As regards his views on Jammu and Kashmir, he never saw it as a problem, he saw it as a solution. While a lot of people wanted to protect the interest of some particular section, he wanted to protect the interest of the nation he served and he thought that was paramount.

For some, solution had to come from a particular leader in Kashmir: for Babasaheb the solution was available in the Constitution and ethos of this land. When we look at various opinions in various universities, I miss the nationalistic opinion of Babasaheb Ambedkar and that really haunts me that where has country gone from 1947-1950 to now.

When we discuss certain atrocities of certain kind, a specific State I would like to mention and that is Kerala. The atrocities

on campus are constantly forgotten and the regressive policies of the left actually have tried to whitewash its brutalities. Constant attempts have been made to deface nationalistic polity.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Can you cite one example?

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): I will. I have a list. Durgadas, P.S. Anu, Sujit, Kim Karunakaran, Bimbi, Muruganda, Vishal, Sachin, Gopal, these are the names of young students and young people who have been murdered on the campus and in the most Talibanised fashion. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): These are false allegations.… *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI: These are not allegations. These people are executed in cold blood, in Talibanic fashion. Bestial mindset can be judged by the morbid and ghastly murder of Jaikrishna Master.… *(Interruptions)*

While a young person committed suicide, one can understand the pain he was undergoing and the steps which have been taken as unjustifiable but at the same highlighting a tragedy

as a Leftist law for Dalits is wrong. … *(Interruptions)*I wish to take them back to 2010. Karakkadan Vineesh, a Dalit youth was murdered when LDF was in power and his dead body was left hanging in the Talibanic model of execution. … *(Interruptions)* Vineesh's family continues to fight for justice. Have you heard of Deepa Mohandas, a Ph.D. scholar who was harassed by Marxist goons, Marxist syndicate operating in Kottayam? Megha from Kalady was battered by SFI which has left her blind.… *(Interruptions)* All I am trying to exhibit is the contemptuous attitude these people have towards the progress of the nation, the contemptuous attitude these people have towards the development of the nation. … *(Interruptions)* On one side, the economy is doing extremely well. On the other side, they keep raising these issues to derail the development agenda. I actually want to tell that the 'kiss of love' campaigners, the regressive campaigners, the Kerala couple Rahul Pashupalan and his wife Rashmi Nair were arrested for being involved in sex racket and indulging in pedophilia running under the guise of online marketing. … *(Interruptions)* Now, these are the people who constantly haunt the agenda of development and these are the people who have hypocritical attitude. …

(Interruptions) Most hilarious are the rules and regulations of Pallikoodam, a school run by Ms. Mary Roy, mother of famous ultra-left Arundhati Roy which prescribes the distance between boys and girls to be one metre at all times. …*(Interruptions)* This is the kinds of rules and regulations these people propagate.… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you can present your views later. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Hon. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank and agree with the manner in which Hon. President highlighted the issues of the country and explained the work done by the government. ... *(Interruptions)* But, to those who want to insult the Indian flag, I just want to remind them that the flag is always hoisted on a pole. ... *(Interruptions)* Just as a person needs a backbone to stand up, this stick does the same work. This pole means ‘rule of law’. Whoever breaches the statute will be punished.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1415 hours.

13.09 hours

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

14.17 hours

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

(Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Contd.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi to continue.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I rise to move:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms: -

‘That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 23, 2016’. "

Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): Thank you, Sir.

I rise to second the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address as proposed by my colleague Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi. I would like to start by thanking the people of India who created history in 2014 by voting in a majority government after a long period of almost three decades, that too giving us a leadership of a Prime Minister who has personally faced the hardship of being born in a poor family and has had to face the challenges throughout what today probably millions of poor people in our country are facing. I think it is a fact that despite all odds, despite all challenges, by the sheer strength of his hard work, his dedication, his commitment, he has risen to the post of leading this entire nation to the future. I think, the credit goes to the people of India who have recognized his true value and his true strength.

We have a leader today who for the last 20 months has probably worked more than 18 hours every day without a break. I do not think there is anyone else in this House who can take

credit that we can work 18 hours a day for 20 months at a stretch without a break. I think, this single-minded dedicated focus of his to transform the way our country is perceived in the world, to transform the way our country delivers to its people, and most importantly transform the way that this country has been working till now goes to the credit of this Prime Minister. It makes me proud today to say that our leader is a leader who has a vision based on experience. He has the perseverance and the dedication to continue to work towards his goals despite all odds and despite all the hurdles and all the roadblocks being created.

I think it is probably historic that where one individual is working day and night for the progress of the country - probably for the first time in history a new Government has come into power – out of the six Sessions of Parliament which has taken place under a new Government more than three have been a wash out due to disruptive politics of the people, I will not mention but the entire world knows who is in the Well of the House and who is sitting in their seats trying to conduct some business. You know and the country knows which Party it is. I will not go into that.

After ten long years of a sluggish, stagnant economy reeling under policy paralysis, corruption, scam-after scam where the entire world had given up on this country I am proud to say that in 20 months this has been turned around. I think the credit of this goes yet again to the Leader who has travelled all across the globe to increase the confidence of the world in this country. I think that is the reason with his hard work overseas and within the country we have achieved many landmarks in 20 months. We still have three-and-a-half years to go and I will say that in short 20 months India has today overtaken the super powers like China, US, UK, Germany, Japan and has become the fastest growing economy in the world. Inflation is under control. Current account deficit is being brought under control. The fine balance between growth requirement of the nation and the fiscal deficit discipline being followed by our Prime Minister and our Finance Minister is being lauded by economists all over the world. Our GDP grew by 7.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2015-16. Our manufacturing growth is 12.6 per cent in the last third quarter. World over there is a renewed confidence the way the world is looking at this country and that is why in the FDI….

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): What about farmers' suicides?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I am coming to that. Please wait. Let me finish. I will cover every topic. We have done so much that you cannot even imagine.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not give running commentary. You shall also get your turn to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, they do not have the capacity to listen; that is why when we speak about our achievements, they will create noise and will not let the Parliament function. They cannot tolerate that people have thrown them out and have brought here a Prime Minister who is busy doing his work; they cannot tolerate this. But I would like to say that while there is a global meltdown, a global gloom all over the world... *(Interruptions)* Today India is the only country where, in the last 20 months, *[English]* there has been a 39 per cent increase in FDI, the highest ever in this country. *[Translation]* You too could have done this, but you couldn't;

we did it in 20 months. *[English]* The highest ever FDI inflow of 39 per cent, in the last 20 months, has been there in this country despite global gloom. Foreign exchange reserves have increased under the dynamic leadership of our visionary Prime Minister.

Please look at various benchmarks. I am quoting what is printed in the world platform. No, I have not twitted. Let me tell you what it is. Due to the visionary changes in the policies of this Government, for example the ease of doing business, following benchmarks have been recorded:

- Transparent systems are being followed.
- Old and unnecessary laws are being repealed. Hundreds of obsolete laws have been repealed.
- Transparent and corruption-free environment has been created.
- A stable and predictable tax regime.
- All these changes that have taken place in the last 20 months have led to a jump of 16 positions in global competitive front. This is as per the World Economic Forum not me.

- India is up 12 ranks in the ease of doing business as per the World Bank and not me.

- Top FDI destination as per US Foreign Policy magazine, not us.

- From an era of scams and corruption India now ranks second in the world trust, as per the National Government Survey. The trust confidence which used to be 55 per cent has now come up to 73 per cent making us the second in the world.

There is unprecedented growth of 32 per cent in national brand value. There is 13 points jump in the ranking in travel and tourism index. All these rankings in a short span of 20 months go to show something whether you admit it or you do not. The facts and figures speak for themselves.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): We are happy.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I am glad that you are happy.

Not only did the hon. Prime Minister travel across the globe to build the confidence of international community and the rest

of the world towards us but I must say that even within the country if you look in the short time the kind of landmark decisions that have been taken clearly bear his decisive stamp and his intention to reach the last man in the line in every way.

For the first time, in the true spirit of collective federalism, the Government decided to transfer additional funds to the States from 32 per cent to 42 per cent which no Government did till now. Our Prime Minister decided to do it… *(Interruptions)*. Who else has done it?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

Additional funds to the States have been something which our Prime Minister has done instead of holding everything which earlier Governments used to do. One thumb rule applied to everyone. Here we have opened our hands and given it to the States and let them decide what they want to do with their funds.

Transparency and honesty is the hallmark of this Government. I am happy to say that in a corruption ridden and scam riddled past that we inherited, today this Government in its 20 months has worked to ensure transparency and honesty. Scams and corruption crony capitalism have been eliminated.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (RATLAM): Corruption has reached its highest point. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't talk while sitting.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I talk about corruption. When auctions used to take place during the tenure of your party's government the country knew where billions and crores of rupees used to go. ... *(Interruptions)* Today our coal auctions have taken place, and spectrum auctions have taken place... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not interrupt like this. Nothing would go on record.

*… (Interruptions)... **

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: They are intolerant of hearing. ... *(Interruptions)* they had a habit of looting. ... *(Interruptions)*, they would definitely have a problem as they have not got any opportunity of looting for the last twenty months. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: When your turn comes, then you can reply. *[Translation]* You please sit down. Your turn to speak will come.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There should not be any running commentary. You will have fair chance to reply. Now you please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Those who had a habit of looting for many centuries are not getting loot for twenty months now; as such it is but natural to have heart burn.

... *(Interruptions)* We do not have any cure for his problem. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Whole of Punjab was looted. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: If we looted, then how come we are here for a second time? Will form the government for the third time. ... *(Interruptions)* They talk about the looters; where have they taken the country by looting themselves? ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the money which they used to loot, I am proud that today our government is filling the treasury with money by auctioning the same things. ... *(Interruptions)* If I talk about coal auction... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Their request is not to look at them. They don't want to hear or see the good news. Therefore, look towards the hon. Chairperson ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are a senior Member. You know that running commentary is not good.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You please go to your seat. Please do not change your Party in the House.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Also sitting in a wrong seat is not part of parliamentary procedure. *[Translation]*Today, I would like to disclose to the country that there used to be a government of robbers and no one knew where the money from the treasury that was looted went. Today I am proud that within twenty months, when coal was auctioned, 3.3 lakh crore rupees were added to the country's treasury. The country wants to know where it used to go earlier... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bhuria Ji, please sit down.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: When there is a talk of spectrum, the scams that occurred in this area were discussed all over the country. They claimed that the country did not suffer any loss from these scams. Our government has filled the country's treasury with Rs. 3,30,000 crores from coal and Rs.

1.10 lakh crores from spectrum in the last 20 months. Nobody knows where this money used to be diverted after it was collected. Sir, today the country's treasury is being filled with funds, and I am happy that the government is working day and night for the progress of the country using this treasury. I would like to share some milestones with the House. I have not fabricated these figures, and you cannot deny their reality. In the last 20 months, 8,000 kilometres of highways have been constructed in 2014-15, which is an increase of 125 per cent compared to the previous government. They could have achieved this too, but they did not... *(Interruptions)*. If we talk about rural roads, they could have built roads in villages, but they failed to do so. Our government has constructed 36,000 km of rural roads, which is 11,000 km more than the previous government, in just 20 months. The railway broad gauge conversion has increased by 65 per cent. What do people in rural areas want today? Infrastructure should be developed, roads should be built, houses should be constructed, and electricity should be provided. I am proud to state that, in the last 20 months, our government has increased electricity generation. They could have done this as well; why didn't they? The

installed capacity for solar energy has doubled in these 20 months, and the tariffs for solar energy have also been reduced. This is the contribution of this government. Regarding coal, I have already mentioned the substantial contributions made to the treasury. I am pleased to report that there has been a 9.1% increase in coal production in Coal India, marking the highest increase in the coal sector's history. There has also been a 63% rise in the number of broadband users. Unprecedented work has been accomplished by the hon. Prime Minister. Considering the background from which the hon. Prime Minister comes and the challenges he has faced, today the country is utilising all its resources with the understanding that the last person in the queue—be it the poor, downtrodden, or backward farmer—needs schemes that can reach them. What was once mere talk is now becoming a reality. Perhaps many people are unable to digest this reality.

The aim of the hon. Prime Minister is to uplift the poor over the next five years. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, poor people who could not even see the inside of a bank are now able to open accounts. Today, accounts for almost 100% of people have been opened in the country, including 21 crore new families...

(Interruptions). Rs. 32,000 crore has been deposited in these accounts. Today, a scheme has been launched to provide insurance security to the poor. Many governments have never experienced poverty themselves and have merely taken photographs in the name of poverty. Such a cost effective insurance scheme—costing only one rupee per day or one rupee per month—probably never existed in the history of the world. Whether through PM Suraksha Yojana, which requires a payment of only one rupee per month, or through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana, where one rupee is paid per day, even the poorest individuals can obtain insurance coverage of Rs. two lakh per year by contributing Rs. 12 per year or Rs. 330 per year. A person at the bottom of the economic ladder, whether they are a beggar or a poor individual, can also benefit from this insurance scheme by saving one rupee daily or one rupee per month.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister for considering the poor, whom everyone talks about but few help. Today, millions of people have taken advantage of this insurance, which provides them with security knowing that if any accident occurs, they will leave something behind for their family.

When we visit our constituencies and the villages, the first demand of the poor is that they should be provided a house. I am proud that the Prime Minister has set a target of building two crore houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for slum dwellers and the poorest of the poor who are economically backward. Under this initiative, Rs. 26 thousand crores have been sanctioned for building four lakh twenty-five thousand houses, and our government has started this work in the last 20 months. This government has provided new subsidised gas connections at zero cost to 50 lakh BPL families in 20 months. We often see in our schools, particularly concerning girls' education, that they stop attending school due to the lack of toilets and latrines. Our Prime Minister recognized even these small issues. I am proud to say that in the last year, 4 lakh 18 thousand toilets have been built in more than two lakh schools, benefiting approximately 14 crores of children. This small change can lead to significant improvements in the lives of a large population.

Employment for youth is a vision of the Prime Minister. Sixty-five percent of the population in this country is youth. If these young people are skilled, they can become assets for the

country; if they are unskilled, they can become liabilities. Recognising this, I am proud that the Prime Minister launched the Skill India initiative, under which 76 lakh youth have been trained in the last year. Our aim is to equip five crore youth with skill and help them become self-reliant. The vision of the hon. Prime Minister is not merely to train them and leave them to fend for themselves in the market. Following this, a Mudra Bank scheme was introduced, youth with talent who wishes to start their own business to obtain loans ranging from Rs. 10 thousand to Rs. 10 lakh without collateral. I am proud that in the last year, two crore sixty lakh youth have started their ventures by borrowing Rs. One lakh crore from this scheme. Notably, most beneficiaries of this initiative are women. In the coming days, *[English]* this will revolutionize the status of women in our society.

[Translation]

Sir, can any one of you tell me whether there has been any government which has opened two new IITs, six new IIMs, and a new Indian Institute of Education and Research for the youth of our country in just 20 months? ... *(Interruptions)*. A new NIIT

has also been established in this period. ... *(Interruptions)*. This demonstrates the government's commitment to youth education, whether through skill development or empowering them to establish their own enterprises. ... *(Interruptions)*. Skill India and entrepreneurship initiatives are making progress. Our Prime Minister is striving towards the dream of transforming youth from job seekers to job creators.

Sir, I believe the topic closest to my heart—and everyone else's—is the Prime Minister's dream of farmer prosperity. Today, it is evident that the situation of farmers across the country has not worsened only just over the last eight months, ten months, or twenty months. This predicament is the result of those who campaigned for votes in the name of farmers but failed to improve their circumstances. Farmers work tirelessly day and night to feed the world's second-largest population, yet they have become so helpless due to their circumstances that they find themselves in dire straits... *(Interruptions)*. They are committing suicide. This tragic outcome is a result of the actions of the leaders in governments that visit farmers merely to take photographs rather than to improve their conditions.

I am proud of the fact that, instead of merely talking like previous governments, Hon. Prime Minister talked less and worked more. We are aware of the conditions and problems faced by farmers. Sometimes there are unseasonal rains, sometimes there is too much rain, and sometimes there is too little. When there is no rain, diseases occur, leading to situations caused by the weather that result in huge losses for farmers. Historically, there was no increase in compensation for farmers; compensation was given only when at least 50 per cent of the crop was destroyed. As soon as Hon. Prime Minister took office, he changed this by removing the requirement for a 50 per cent loss and fixing compensation for a 33 per cent loss. This means that even if the loss is less, compensation will still be provided. This increase in compensation was implemented last year.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana will serve as support for farmers in distress, providing them assistance when adverse weather occurs, thereby preventing situations that might lead to suicides caused by weather conditions. The scheme will strengthen farmers, ensuring that they can rely on complete insurance coverage even in the event of damage caused by weather. Previously, much politics was involved in the name of

insurance and farmers. Promises were made regarding insurance, but the interest rates were exorbitant, ranging from 12 to 15 per cent. When compensation was provided, a cap was imposed, limiting it to Rs 11,000. Consequently, only 24 per cent of farmers in our country opted for insurance. I am proud that hon. Prime Minister recognised that if insurance is to be provided, it must benefit the farmers. Under his government, the interest on farmer insurance ranged from 15 to 20 per cent. Hon. Prime Minister has now reduced it to only 1.5 to 2 per cent, meaning farmers will pay just 1.5 to 2 per cent, with the remainder covered by the government. Previously, their government imposed a cap, creating a barrier that limited compensation to Rs 11,000. Today, that barrier has been removed, allowing farmers to secure as much insurance as they need.

This is why, due to the new crop insurance scheme, farmers will receive support in difficult times. Currently, only 23 per cent of farmers have insurance coverage, but our government's target is to ensure every farmer is insured within the next year or one year and a half. While this is a new scheme, it is crucial to remember that water is essential to for every farmer's land.

Every farm must receive adequate water to ensure good yields. There is no doubt that the water level is declining, necessitating a focus on maximising yield from each drop of water. Irrigation facility should be ensured for every farmer's field. Hon. Prime Minister has allocated Rs 1,000 crores specifically to provide targeted water support to farmers. Sprinkler systems and drip irrigation will be promoted, encouraging farmers to achieve more crop per drop. All these initiatives are aimed at empowering farmers and motivating them in the right direction. Farmers take care of the food security of our country, and it is undeniable that continuous overuse is damaging the soil. Hon. Prime Minister has recognised this issue and has issued Soil Health Cards to approximately 90 lakh farmers, with the target of issuing a Soil Health Card to every farmer by March 2017. Just as a human being should know about their health, farmers should also be aware of their soil's health, enabling them to identify ways to save money, reduce the use of fertilisers, and enhance soil yield.

The 24x7 Kisan Channel has been dedicated to farmers, providing them with information on the latest technology, new farming methods, and various other updates, ensuring even those

in remote areas can learn about weather forecasts, optimal sowing times, and irrigation schedules.

Hon. Prime Minister has taken significant and innovative steps. I come from a state where farmers used to approach us, expressing their frustrations about the lack of timely urea availability, leading to conflicts and violence over urea shortages during crucial sowing periods. Hon. Prime Minister implemented a visionary and revolutionary solution to eliminate misuse and address these shortages. I am pleased to report that there were no issues this year; no calls or letters were received from any state regarding urea shortages, as neem-coated urea reached all farmers.

As a result of these measures, milk production and fisheries have increased in our country. However, I still believe that if we want to truly prosper our farmers, we must guide them not only towards farming but also into food processing. Today, there is a pressing need to emphasise how farmers can increase their income by adding value to the crops they grow. The food processing industry serves as a crucial link between farmers and

the market, acting as a bridge. The more food processing advances, the greater the demand for farmers' crops will be.

In the past, farmers have rushed to markets, hoping for someone to procure their produce at a fair price. Now, the industry will focus on farmers, ensuring that their crops are in demand. When demand rises, farmers will receive appropriate prices, and this industry will forge partnerships with farmers to cultivate profitable crops. It will provide farmers with technology, equipment, and seeds that they cannot access independently.

Therefore, I think that Hon. Prime Minister has recognised this, and I am happy that the Food Processing Ministry which was previously a part of Ministry of Agriculture, has been carved out to give full focus to the food processing industry. This is the reason that infrastructure should be created so that farmers can benefit on the ground. Schemes like the Mega Food Park and Cold Chain exist to prevent wastage of farmers' crops, allowing them to store their produce and obtain the right price for it, enabling them to sell at the appropriate time. After selling in the market, whatever remains that is not purchased can be

sent for processing, allowing farmers to receive payment for it. Therefore, to create infrastructure for all these initiatives, I believe that the Mega Food Park Scheme was an excellent idea conceived by their government and their Minister. However, merely having ideas does not help anyone; it does not fill the stomach. It is very important to turn these ideas into reality, and I am saddened that this scheme, which should have been completed in 24 months, has seen only two out of 42 Mega Food Parks could become functional in six years. But under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, we have started five more in twenty months. This could have happened earlier. Today, seven Mega Food Parks are operational in seven different states, which will directly benefit farmers in the coming days.

14.50 hours **(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)**

I am also proud of the fact that cold storage and cold chains are essential today in a country where the population is increasing every year. Given this rising population, our food consumption is projected to increase thirty times in the next 15-20 years, essentially doubling. On one hand, food consumption is increasing, and on the other, wastage is also growing. Hence, to reduce this wastage and make food available to a wider population, there should be cold chain infrastructure so that nutritious food can reach people at the right price with zero wastage, seamlessly from farm to plate.

I am proud to say that the creation of cold storage, which the government accomplished in four years, has resulted in the establishment of 37 more facilities in just twenty months. Additionally, we have set up a quick fridge with a capacity of about 1.2 MT of cold storage out of a total of 35 MT, along with 12 lakh litres for milk processing and 206 refrigerated banks. All these arrangements have been made for our people and for the farmers so that they can benefit.

This government has been targeting every aspect, whether it is farmers, youth, the poor, roads, electricity, water, or agriculture. In just 20 months, no one can deny that the world has changed its view towards us. The world that used to ignore us earlier is now looking at us closely. I don't think there's a need to speak, but we have done so much work that I enjoy sharing our achievements. As I mentioned regarding the national highways, where there were 3,500 kms in the past, we have completed 10,000 km in 20 months. In the rural roads sector, we built more than 11,000 kms of roads in just 20 months. As for solar installed capacity, we have doubled it. LED efficiency, which was at 1 per cent previously, has increased to 12 per cent. If you look at it this way, whether it concerns coal supply, grid efficiency, or broadband users, the progress India has made at every level in the last 20 months is unmatched by others.

There is no doubt that in the past 20 months, perhaps for the first time in history, a new government has been formed that has conducted six parliamentary sessions, out of which three have been total wash-outs. Who is responsible for this? You all know better than I do.

There are some parties sitting here that have worked to halt the economic development of this country. *[English]*They are responsible for stalling the economic growth and the development of this country and this is proved by the fact, *[Translation]*that today more than 55 Bills are pending in the Council of States. Why are they pending? Because the House does not function, and who prevents it from functioning is well known to you and the country.

Everyone also knows that there is unrest among the youth in many states of our country. People want jobs quickly, and the reason behind this is that *[English]* the job generation can be kick-started by certain policies, for example, the GST. *[Translation]* This policy will lead to job creation and advance the country's economic development agenda. Today, they are not allowing that GST Bill to be introduced in Parliament... *(Interruptions)* They use all kinds of destructive tactics because they cannot tolerate that once GST is introduced, Hon. Prime Minister will receive praise all over the world, and the people of the country will also commend him. They cannot sleep at night thinking about it. Therefore, this is why they resort to any tactics

necessary, and today they demand discussions on intolerance and student politics in universities but refuse to allow discussions on GST... *(Interruptions)* They can sit and discuss all this for hours, but the country will not progress through such discussions. The country cannot move forward by talking about intolerance and university politics. The country's progress relies on passing GST, which they cannot tolerate. Today, these people have only one target: how to make Modi Ji fail. They do not understand that, like Arjun, our Prime Minister has a single objective: to advance the country. Their sole aim is to make Modi Ji fail, but they do not realise that their disruptive politics is not hindering Modi but harming the country.

Madam, in conclusion, I want to say that Hon. Prime Minister, like Arjun, will continue to work with a singular objective in mind. I also want to quote our Guru, our Tenth Father, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, who said: “This is my only boon to you: never shy away from good deeds. I will not be afraid even if I have to fight. Be confident and achieve your victory.” Our fight is for the progress and development of the country. These people may keep trying to stop us, but we will

definitely win and demonstrate the progress of the country under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister. Thank you.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips at the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Only those amendments, slips in respect of which are received at the Table within the stipulated time, will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case Members find any discrepancy in the list, they may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officers at the Table immediately.

We will continue this discussion tomorrow.

TEXTS OF AMENDMENTS

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of barrage on Koshi river to generate power." (57)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to improve irrigation facilities in Madhepura and Saharsa districts in Bihar." (58)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to set up a state-of-the-art hospitals in Madhepura and Saharsa districts in Bihar."(59)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about

making ground water free from iron and arsenic in Kosi region of Bihar."(60)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing free of cost treatment to poor patients suffering from life threatening diseases like cancer, liver and kidney diseases."(61)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking steps to provide pure drinking water in rural areas of the country, particularly in Madhepura parliamentary constituency of Bihar."(62)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up an Engineering college in Madhepura, Bihar."(63)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a medical college in Madhepura,

Bihar."(64)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to set up a Central University in Madhepura, Bihar."(65)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for effective implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme in Madhepura constituency of Bihar."(66)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to install CCTV cameras in all Government offices and public places in Madhepura constituency of Bihar."(67)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to provide super speciality medical treatment under Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana in

Bihar."(68)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the arbitrariness of private hospitals exploiting the poor people across the country."(69)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about regulating the arbitrary fees charged by private educational institutions."(70)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing Takht Shree Patna Sahib, Rajgeer, Nalanda, Gaya, Buxar, Maner, Madhubani, Munger, Sonepur, Vaishali, Balmiki Nagar, Vikramshila, Jeeradoi, Sasaram, Visphi, Purnia, Barabar Pahar, Sonepur, Jagdishpur, Bhitrahva, Sitabadiyara, Simriya Ghat, Qutubpur and Shinheswar of Bihar into world class tourist spot."(71)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to implement prohibition all over the country."(72)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any mechanism for reviews of development schemes by public representatives."(73)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up a branch of Aligarh Muslim University in Kishanganj district of Bihar." (74)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about granting status of special state to Bihar."(75)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to re-open the closed sugar mills in Bihar."(76)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added,

namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to re-open the closed paper mill in Saharsa of Bihar."(77)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the re-opening of the closed jute mill in Katihar of Bihar."(78)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completion of N.H. 106 in Bihar (from Birpur to Bihpur) lying incomplete due to paucity of funds."(79)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about broadening of N.H. 107 in Bihar from Maheshkhut to Purnia via Saharsa."(80)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about

the need to repair Gandhi Setu at N.H. 19 connecting North Bihar and South Bihar and the Rajendra Bridge at N.H. 31 keeping in view its dilapidated condition."(81)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to make functional the high capacity transmission in Saharsa of Bihar which is ready for operation."(82)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing special package for growth and development of areas in the Seemanchal region affected by floods and other natural calamities."(83)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a Kamdhenu University in Bihar."(84)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up wrestling centres of international level in

Bihar."(85)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up an Agriculture Science Centre in Madhepura district of Bihar." (86)

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about suicide by farmers in the country which has reached a peak in Marathawada region of Maharashtra."(89)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the agitation for reservation in Haryana and Rajasthan leading to the death of 19 people."(91)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added,

namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the arrest of JNU student Union leader."(92)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the suicide by a Dalit student at the Central University of Hyderabad." (93)
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about atmosphere of intolerance in the country."(185)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the preservation of legacies of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekanand."(186)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the agitation by Patels in Gujarat for reservation in employment."(187)

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

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing intolerance in the country.”(94)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent incidents JNJ campus and Hyderabad University."(95)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the threat posed to the secular fabric of our country."(96)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy for resolving inter-state water disputes."(97)
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about framing of any policy aimed at ensuring adequate water supply to every household."(98)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for revival of sick NTC Mills, especially Parvathy Mills, Kollam."(99)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to provide revival package to Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)".(100)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about waiver of agricultural loan to farmers."(101)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about urgent requirement for an exclusive ministry for taking care of Non-Resident Indian."(203)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing an amount of Rupees One thousand crores for protecting the rubber farmers."(204)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing a minimum pension of Rs. 3000/- to all PF pensioners without imposing any condition."(205)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing fund for establishing a joint venture public undertaking at KMML chavara Kollam, Kerala for manufacturing value added products using mineral sand."(206)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to stop violence in the name of reservation."(207)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move:

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:

but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the objection raised by the Government of Odisha to the go ahead signal of the Government to the construction activities of Polavaram Project."(102)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for demarcation of Saupalgarh situated at Bhubaneswar to protect it from encroachment by land sharks"(103)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about extension of East Coau Economic Corridor, upto Balasore in the State of Odisha."(104)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a Science Park/Sub-Regional Centre near Pathani Samanta Interpretation Centre,

Khandapada."(105)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inclusion of Dhauali-Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi Buddhist Circuit of Odisha for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme."(106)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the delay in upgradation of Vijaywada-Ranchi Corridor (NH 326) adversely affecting the socio-economic development of the tribal areas of Odisha."(107)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any steps for complete elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis disease in the country and to provide adequate funds to Odisha for the purpose."(108)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of an underpass across National Highway

No. 5 at Sikharpur Square, Cuttack." (109)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to accord Special Category Status to the State of Odisha."(110)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about delay in construction of Motu-Sileru Bridge across Sileru River to give momentum to the activities countering maoist menace in the States of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh."(111)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for port connectivity in the country."(112)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the only relief to the State Governments for development of irrigation infrastructure."(113)

He That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about landscaping/beautification in the dividers of National Highways in the State of Odisha which runs through cities like Cuttack and Bhubaneswar."(114)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about support to reduce the Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate"(115)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about development of infrastructure in naxal affected areas in the State of Odisha."(116)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any measures for the welfare of fishermen of the State of Odisha."(117)

That at the end of motion, the following be added,

namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about distribution of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to States to promote afforestation and regeneration activities."(118)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-
"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about subsidy to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer Programme."(119)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing a world class University in the District of Cuttack, Odisha."(120)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about establishing & Textile Park at Chaudwar, Cuttack"(121)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about

declaring Cuttack City as a Heritage City"(122)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the threat of Zika Virus in the country."(123)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to provide adequate funds to the State of Odisha to reduce the Maternal/Infant Mortality Rate."(124)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR *ALIAS* BULO MANDAL (BHAGALPUR): I beg to move:

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving special status to the state of Bihar to overcome its e economic backwardness."(125)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete policy to control the prices of essential commodities."(126)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy to provide employment to all educated unemployed youths."(127)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to increase the minimum support price in proportion to increasing input cost of agriculture products."(128)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy for providing free treatment to patients ailing with serious diseases in various parts of the country."(129)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy to control naxalite activities in naxalite affected areas of Bihar."(130)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a unit of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(131)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any measure to control flood in Kosi river of Bihar."(132)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of new national highways in Bihar."(133)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about exploring the use of alternative to modes of

communication to reduce the increasing pressure of traffic in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(134)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about opening of a unit of Indian Institute of Management for higher education in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(135)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of corn based food processing industries in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(136)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of another bridge parallel to Vikramshila setu over the river Gangas in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(137)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of a world class skill development centre for imparting employment oriented training to

the unemployed youth in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(138)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about introducing domestic airline service in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(139)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of industries for processing of Litchi, Mango and Banana in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(140)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy to provide arsenic free water in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(141)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about construction of check dam on rivers for irrigation in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(142)

That at the end of motion, the following be added,

namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about development of tourism in Bhagalpur, Bihar."(143)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy to promote sports in the state of Bihar."(144)

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): I beg to move:

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about intermittent and negligible disbursement of central assistance for natural calamity relief to state governments."(150)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to find a solution to the agrarian crisis

in the country in the wake of incidents of suicide by Farmers."(151)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lack of policy interventions in higher education sector to improve the quality of human resource being created."(152)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to augment exports in crucial sectors."(153)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about over 1.3 crore toilets remain defunct due to lack of maintenance and running water."(154)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about creating awareness among people regarding sanitation habits."(155)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for adequate diplomatic efforts to revitalize ties with Myanmar and improve trade relations."(156)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Government's commitment to upholding academic and intellectural freedom in educational institutions across the country and restricting its interference in the functioning of such institutions."(200)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government will to ensure that a Minister of State (MoS) will fulfil the mandate of the erstwhile Ministry of Overseas India Affairs and will be dedicated to the affairs of the Indian diaspora abroad, under the new arrangement involving the merger of

the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs."(201)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government promises of financial and technical assistance to State Governments, including the State of Kerala, to develop infrastructure to effectively implement the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan."(202)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government will to enact the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 to amend and strengthen the existing welfare provisions for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and fulfill India's commitments under the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)."(334)

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need of set up a ‘National Agricultural University’ in Kalvarayan hills, Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu.”(208)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures taken by the Government to protect the fishing rights of Indian Fisherman and to retrieve the Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka."(209)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about use of Tamil as official language in High Court of Madras."(210)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any comprehensive programme for establishment of 'Emergency Care Medical Centres in different pat of the country.”(211)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to establish mors medical colleges in rural areas."(212)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up a Cauvery Management Board/Authority to implement the Cauvery Tribunal final award."(213)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any comprehensive programme for improving the depleted ground water levels in the country." (214)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about comprehensive programme to create awarencess among the public about the Indian Constitution and Indian laws."(215)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the inter-linking of rivers in the country."(216)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about measures taken to prevent migration of people from rural areas to urban areas."(217)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to reduce the inflation and prices of goods by passing on the benefits of reduced prices of crude oil to the general public."(218)

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): I beg to move:

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about passing the benefit of reduced prices of crude oil to consumers."(219)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need tackle growing intolerance in the

country."(220)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to pay urgent attention to the number of farmer suicides leading to the growing agricultural distress. in the country especially in Maharashtra which alone has witnessed 1000 reported farmer deaths in 2015."(221)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to spread awareness about our culture and heritage and also about the contribution of Shivaji to our country."(222)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to give Bharat Ratna to our national leaders. Mahatama Phule and Savitribai Phule."(223)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address

about rise in prices of essential commodities like pulses."(224)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to adress the problem of Non-Performing Assets of our national banks."(225)
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the timeline by which the black money stashed in offshore accounts will be brought back into the country."(226)
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective steps to prevent terrorist attacks despite advanced intelligence inputs."(227)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret there is no mention in the Addres about labour welfare "(244)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about falling prices of Indian rupee in International Market"(245)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about high fuel prices."(246)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about farmers suicide."(247)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about ensuring net neutrality."(248)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to ensure that the educational institutions be free from external interventions."(249)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about tea gardens becoming enclave of death and destitution."(250)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regrer that there is no mention in the Address about deplorable conditiomo people living in makeshift camps after exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh."(251)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about air pollution."(252)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about right based approach like right to health, right to housing, right to pension, right to entrepreneurial

financial assistance and entitlement."(253)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about assurance of strictly implementing the Food Security Act."(254)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to enhance minimum support price of agricultural produce."(255)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take steps to cleanse contaminated ground water."(256)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-
"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revamp the national education policy."(257)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for special attention to the forest areas inhabited by poor tribals."(258)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for all round development of the north-eastern region."(259)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to make the country self-sufficient in defence production."(260)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps to tackle terrorist organisations active across the border and to improve the security situation, particularly in the wake of withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan."(261)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to reduce pollution of other rivers in addition to the River Ganga."(262)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about zero tolerance to communal violence."(263)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of SIT in pursuance of the Supreme Courts directions."(264)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about betterment of railway amenities."(265)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely;-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about accumulation of non-performing assets in banks and financial Institutions."(266)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the serious situation arising in the Central Institutions of higher education with specific reference to JNU, Hyderabad Central University and IIT, Chennai."(267)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing intolerance manifesting the violence and spread of communal polarization in the country.”(268)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent attack on the Indian Air Force base at Pathankot."(269)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address

about the high incidence of suicide among Dalit students in the country."(270)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any steps to curb the unpredented rise in prices of essential commodities."(271)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the is no mention in the Address about guidelines for the Government in regret to liberalizing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)."(272)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deprivation of vast majority of poor people to get food under Public Distribution System in the country."(273)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to re-define poverty line."(274)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the violent protests and subsequent loss of lives and properties including burning down of railway station in Haryana on the question of reservation."(275)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about huge increase of bad debts of PSU Banks affecting their financial health."(276)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the corporate defaulters of Public Sector Banks."(277)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for early passage of Women Reservation Bill."(278)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added,

namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take steps to continue the independent foreign policy of the country which has withstood the test of time."(279)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about tackling global economic recession affecting Indian industries and loss of jobs of lakhs of workers and employees."(280)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking steps to strengthen the Non-aligned Movement."(281
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-
"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to play an effective role in the United Nations."(282)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address

about any concrete steps to protect indian citizens from racial attacks in various countries."(283)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps for release of Indians languishing in jails in various countries."(284)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to review the Centre-State relations as per the demands of the State Governments."(285)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the he need to allocate six per cent. of GDP for education."(286)
That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to invest enough money in public sector and social sectors to face the ongoing economic meltdown."(287)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the procurement of obsolete ammunitions."(288)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about urgent need for drastically revising and/or correcting the official definition of 'poverty line' which has turned obsolete."(289)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Chit Fund Scams in West Bengal and other States."(290)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there it no mention in the Address about the need to take serio steps on the disastrous impact of global slowdown on millions of workers who have lost their jobs livelihood and earnings due to closure, lay off, wags. cuts, retrenchment, etc, across various sectors."(291)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's attempt to redefine India's fundamental principle of 'per capita emissions norm while negotiating how the burden of reducing green-house gases globally is shared."(292)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special package for the special category States to enable them to narrow down regional disparities."(293)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a one-time Debt Relief Package by writing off all the outstanding Central Government loans including interest thereon to the North-Eastern States."(294)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for employment for unemployed youth of the Special Category States."(295)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any comprehensive legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers in the country."(296)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps to control unabated suicides being committed by the farmers in the country."(297)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to expedite land reforms in the country."(298)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about universalisation of Integrated Child Development Scheme."(299)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address

about realignment of the proposed Trans-Asian Highways and Trans Asian Railways to pass through Tripura."(300)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the strong reaction of agriculture experts, economists and opposition political parties on the Government's decision of decontrolling the prices of all fertilizers, except nitrogen-based urea."(301)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps for development of under-developed remote villages."(302)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps to bridge the gap of demand and supply of electricity."(303)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address

about supply of coal according to the needs of power plants in the country."(304)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete steps to make Air India viable."(305)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective steps to make providing of at least 35kg of foodgrains at two rupees a kilo universal right."(306)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-
"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective steps to stop crimes against women and children in the country."(307)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective measures to check the malnutrition among women and children in the country."(308)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, narnely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the demand of universarlisation of public distribution system and a complete ban on. speculation and futures trading in the commodity market."(309)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making conditional the employment protection."(310)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the strict enforcement of all basic labour laws without any exception or exemption and stringent punishment for their violation."(311)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the universal social security for the unorganized sector workers and creation of a National Social Security Fund with adequate resources as per the recommendations of the National Social Security

Board for Unorganised Workers."(312)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completely stopping the disinvestment of shares in the public sector units, both central and state."(313)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to tackle the menace of black money, its generation and also to assess the quantum of black money both inside and outside the country."(314)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-
but regret that there is no mention in the Address about eradication of pract of Child Labour from the country."(315)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to liberalize the educational policy for access of higher education to all irrespective of thes paying capacity.”(316)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

but regret that there is no mention in the Address about emergence of pac news that has been a dangerous phenomenon in media world distorting parliamentary democracy."(317)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to develop efficient water transport in the country."(318)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rationale behind raising the excise duty 7 times on petrol and diesel even when the prices of crude oil in the internatinal market are declining."(319)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective steps to provide the life saving medicines at subsidized rates and steps taken by the Government to ensure an effective Drug Policy."(320)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about fixing the minimum wage at not less than Rs. 10000."(321)

That at the end of the wotion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the removal of all ceilings on payment and eligibility of Bonus, Provident Fund arid increase the qunatum of gratuity."(322)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for pension to all.”(323)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days and immediate ratification of the ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98."(324)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revisit the present economic policy regime which drastically curtails whatever meagre social security benefits are available to workers."(325)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to tackle economic showdown."(326)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementation of the recommendations of Justice Ranganath Misra Commission report regarding 10 per cent, reservation for Muslims and 5 per cent. for other minorities based on socially and economically backward criteria."(327)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing statutory backing to the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) by enacting a suitable legislation to ensure social justice."(328)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check atrocities on Dalits, SCs and OBCs in the country."(329)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy for the differently abled population in the country whose interest cannot be protected in the absence of institutional mechanism."(330)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to have a stringent and better legislation particularly for women and children."(331)

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14.57 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation arising out of recent incidents in institutions of Higher education in reference to Jawaharlal Nehru and Hyderabad Universities

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: We will now take up discussion on "Situation arising out of recent incidents in institutions of higher education in reference to Jawaharlal Nehru and Hyderabad Universities". Two hours have been allocated for this. It is because, generally two hours are allocated for this, so I am giving two hours.

Now, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia *ji* to initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, every New Year brings a ray of hope for the citizens of the country, but the incidents that have happened in our country in the last 50 days, whether the terrorists tried to question the unity and integrity of the country by infiltrating Pathankot, in which the failures of the

government have also been exposed, and whether an innocent student in a university was forced to commit suicide by this government, or whether students in another university were accused of treason, these incidents have made the government's intentions clear. Today this basic question is before all of us: what is the duty of the government? Is it the duty of the government to protect the principles of democracy and to bring in a new ideology for the welfare of the citizens or something else? It would not be an exaggeration if I said that this should not become the responsibility of the government; rather, it should become the religion of the government.

15.00 hours

We have observed over the last two years that the atmosphere of intolerance is increasing in the country, with every possible effort being made to crush dissent by any means. Such an environment has been created in which every citizen and human being does not feel secure. In the last session, we celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. We marked November 26 as Constitution Day, demonstrating our commitment to Baba Saheb. However, today I recall a Hindi poem that says, "An elephant's teeth are different for eating and different for showing." It was stated in this House that we should protect the values of the Constitution, yet outside the House, the rights enshrined in the Constitution are being brutally crushed every day. This clearly reflects the government's mindset. The government seeks to propagate one ideology, asserting that only one religion, one culture, and one thought will prevail in this country, whereas the essence of our nation is encapsulated in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — that the entire world is

one family. This narrow ideology will not work. We must adopt a broader perspective. I have stated before that our country is like a bouquet, where the fragrance of flowers from every caste and religion spreads throughout the world, showcasing the uniqueness of our nation.

The Prime Minister has referenced the youth of the country several times. Discussions often revolve around the demographic dividend and how we can educate and skill our youth. I agree that the youth is the cornerstone of our nation and our greatest strength. However, what is the status of youth in our country today? Madam, the Vyapam scam occurred in both your and our state, Madhya Pradesh. Drugs are rampant at the regional level in Punjab. The voice of the people has been silenced regarding the institution of FTII. This incident stemmed from the pressure following Rohith Vemula Ji's tragic suicide and the actions of the Union Minister, a Minister who took an oath to uphold the Constitution, indicating that government machinery was misused. This situation arose because any ideology differing from yours or mine is seen as one that should be crushed, which reflects the government’s thinking. After Rohith Vemula's suicide, the government’s attitude has been

revealing. There is an English saying: it is either my way or the highway. Rohith made a poignant statement in his suicide note:

[English]

> “My birth is my fatal accident. I can never recover from my
> childhood loneliness. The unappreciated child from my past.”

[Translation]

We must reiterate this statement repeatedly in our hearts. Like Carl Sagan, who aspired to be a science writer, Rohith's background was humble: his mother was a tailor and his father a security guard. With their life’s savings, they admitted him to the Central University of Hyderabad for his Ph.D. However, this young man made one mistake: he dared to express his thoughts. He was an enthusiastic student, engaging in discussions on numerous issues, including Baba Saheb Ambedkar and communal riots.

Madam, it is true that agitations and conflicts are an integral part of any university globally, but we need a Vice Chancellor capable of managing and resolving such situations.

Unfortunately, this Vice Chancellor has exceeded all limits. Four students, including Rohith, were suspended. Not only was he suspended, but his scholarship was also cancelled, and he was expelled from the hostel, forced to live in a tent outside. He was also barred from entering the college campus. Economic and social constraints were imposed on him. This was done to fulfil the political needs of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar. Hindu scriptures were even torn to pieces. The Vice Chancellor employed principles of induction and banishment, "pitting the excluded against the entitled". It would not be an exaggeration to say that this very ideology has led to inappropriate interference from the Central Ministers of our government. What did our Minister, Shri Dattatreya, say about Rohith in his letter?

I quote: “... casteist, extremist, and anti-national...” This was said about a young student. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):

Madam, my only solemn request is that the letter he is quoting..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I am not yielding..... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Whatever you want to say, you can express at the time of your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Speaker Madam, subsequently, our Human Resource Minister, Shrimati Smriti Irani Ji, wrote five letters in four months, demanding immediate action.... *(Interruptions)* I am compelled to ask in this House whether following the path of Baba Saheb Ambedkar constitutes treason to the nation. We must address this question here. The entire administrative machinery was misused to ensure the success of the Sangh Parivar's policies and programs. The reality is that the Government of India came down heavily against a few students. Have we ever witnessed in Indian history such extensive interference by the Government of India in the functioning of a university?

What did Baba Saheb Ambedkar Ji teach us? He said, "Be educated, organised, and raise your voice against injustice." ... *(Interruptions)* On one hand, this government professes the values of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Ji, while on the other, it perpetrates atrocities against Dalits. ... *(Interruptions)* This stark contrast between their words and actions is revealing the true nature of this government. I was astonished that our Prime Minister, who generally tweets on every issue, remained silent for five days following the suicide of this young student. He only spoke when it became a global issue. When it was time for "Mann Ki Baat", he said not a single word about this young man. While we cannot bring back that son of Mother India to his mother, we must at least provide peace to his soul by taking action against these Ministers.

We sought action, but instead, I was dismayed to see a debate in the cabinet regarding whether an ordinary student is a Dalit or not. The entire governmental system is being manipulated. I do not have much experience in politics; I have only been involved for 15 years. I have never heard.... *(Interruptions)* You should have the capacity to listen and not exhibit your intolerance. ... *(Interruptions)* I have never seen the

National Security Advisor reporting to the cabinet regarding whether a person, a citizen of this country, is a Dalit or not. NSA reports came stating that he is not a Dalit. Following this, our Ministers — the External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj Ji; the Social Justice Minister, Thaawar Chand Gehlot Sahab, who comes from my state; and the Scheduled Tribe Minister, Jual Oram Sahab — all gave TV interviews one after another, asserting that Rohith is not a Dalit. What does this say about the value of a citizen's life in our country when the debate revolves around whether a person is a Dalit?*If we assume, for a moment, that the person was not a Dalit, whether he belonged to the Vadhera caste, OBC, or any other caste, would that diminish the burden on our Ministers? ... *(Interruptions)* Is this the only principle remaining in our country that determines a person's worth based on caste and dictates whether we can express grief? Today, this government must answer this question..... *(Interruptions)* Madam, they will have to listen... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, as a woman, I would like to say that the word... *… *(Interruptions)*

Sir, when you are addressing a female Minister, the least you can do is not to use that word in the context of a woman… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I am not yielding… *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: However, if that is has how you would like to do your politics, let it be done; and I will answer… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Speaker Madam, yesterday Hon. President said in his address,

[English]

> "Political Democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it, a social democracy."

[Translation]

. *Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: If there is any word wrong, I will check it later.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Today, the reality is that discrimination against Dalit and minority students is taking place in our institutions. If we talk about Hyderabad Central University... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, today at Hyderabad Central University, when any student who is a Dalit goes for any administrative matter, he is asked to stand outside. Scheduled caste and tribe students take more time to get a guide. *[English]* An Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the university has said:

> "These are not suicides but 'institutional murders'. They are the fallout of discriminatory caste-based interactions in classrooms and hostels."

Sir, the professor says that he recollects how one professor at the university told a student from a marginalized community that he was not fit for mathematics and would be better off being an agricultural labourer like his parents. He also recollects that 'another SC student was told that a Central university was not

the right place for him; instead, he should enroll into a State varsity.'

[Translation]

Speaker Madam, Rohith had taken admission on a scholarship based on the general category. ... *(Interruptions)* Listen, your turn will also come.

HON. SPEAKER: Please, take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down, what are you doing?...

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The administrative staff was never arranged on a university parameter. ... *(Interruptions)* Rohit was asked by two professors whether he came from the reserved quota or the general quota. This is not the first incident at Hyderabad Central University. Three Dalits were tortured in the last six years. ... *(Interruptions)* had committed suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* Please listen. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please Sit down.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: A judicial enquiry was conducted, and at that time it was said that Hyderabad Central University is not fit for Dalits. Despite this, the Human Resource Minister, Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani Ji, goes on TV and says:

[English]

"This is not a Dalit versus Non-Dalit issue."

[Translation]

If we wish, and hope for taking action, that is a different matter, but the government has completely washed its hands of this incident. Rohit said that 'my birth is my fatal accident.' We do not choose our parents; we do not choose our caste in this country. But merely being born as a Dalit during the tenure of this government is a fatality and accident that forces a person to live his life along with extreme inequality and cruelty or compels him to die prematurely.

What is the objective of the university? Is it to mark attendance and appear in exams? The objective of the university is that there should be an exchange of ideas. The university's objective is that the status quo should be challenged. But the

way Rohit committed suicide, the action taken against students in FTII, the way the JNU incident happened, and the way the Ambedkar Periyar Circle was expelled from IIT Madras, it all indicates that this government wants to silence the voice of the youth. There is no doubt about it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Speaker Madam, JNU has worked and contributed immensely to the unity, integrity, and development of this country. ... *(Interruptions)* Why is my fellow MPs getting so agitated? Listen to them, and then say whatever you want to say in your reply. Please do not show intolerance; please listen to me. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you doing this? I request everyone not to politicise this. If something is happening in the universities, then everyone has to think about it seriously. One should not comment like this. This is not about any Dalit or anyone else; everyone has to think about everyone.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam Speaker, when a high-level inquiry has been set up into a disciplinary incident, should the government not wait for its outcome? At the behest of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi

Police entered the campus and arrested whoever they wanted. An attempt has been made to completely destroy the institution by ignoring the internal processes. ... *(Interruptions)* Slogans have been raised, and I believe no resident of this country can support those slogans. ... *(Interruptions)* First, you should have the patience to listen. You will understand only if you listen to me. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, I have not finished yet. ... *(Interruptions)* Bidhuri Ji, please sit down. You have plenty of time to scream. Your capacity is enormous; your voice's potential is also enormous.

Madam Speaker, I believe that no resident of this country can support those slogans. Such slogans deserve to be condemned in the strongest possible words. But due to the sloganeering of eight students... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Apart from Scindia Ji's speech, nothing else will be recorded...

(Interruptions)[*]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There can be nothing worse in this country than bringing a stigma on

[*]Not recorded.

universities with eight thousand students. ... *(Interruptions)* Nothing can be more inappropriate than Yogi Adityanath Ji calling every part of any university treason. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, if they calm down, then I will put my point.

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down. Bidhuri Ji, calm down. Here, everyone is capable of answering.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam Speaker, he is shouting so loudly lest he should get sick. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Bidhuri Ji, don't worry; your Ministers are also capable of answering; they will respond.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He is shouting so loudly that someone might get into trouble. I am worried about his health. There cannot be a more tragic incident than tarnishing a university's image based on the statements of eight students. I will quote what the ruling party MP Yogi Adityanath Ji said: *[English]* It has become a habit there. “Running with grants provided from the tax paid by the people, JNU has become a blot on education. Such an institution should be closed down in the interest of the nation.” *[Translation]*

What did the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Rajnath Singh Ji, say about this incident? I quote: “The country needs to understand the truth. The JNU incident has the supplementary support of Hafiz Saeed.” When it became known that there were no tweets from him, then he did not have a face to show to the entire country. Shouldn't the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of the country get the facts verified before making any statement? I would also like to say that this behaviour of the government towards JNU is not only based on the slogans of 9th February. This government wants to silence the voice of this organisation. Why? Because JNU students raised the issue of saffron terrorism, JNU students raised the issue of Dadri, JNU students raised the issue of budget cuts in front of UGC Bhawan, and JNU students raised the issue of Rohit Vemula. Therefore, attempts are being made to silence their voice... *(Interruptions)* The question is... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mohammad Salim Ji, why are you speaking?

… *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You are also instigating. Please keep quiet.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Madam Speaker, they want to shut down that JNU where the country's Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar Ji has come from that institution, Nirmala Sitharaman Ji has come, the Niti Aayog Chairperson has come from that institution, and Shri Sitaram Yechury Ji has come from this institution. This is his thinking and ideology towards that organisation. I was so surprised when sedition charges were put against these students. What is the reality? We strongly criticise those slogans and oppose them... *(Interruptions)* There is no second opinion about it... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me, and then you will understand... *(Interruptions)* I am not going to yield... *(Interruptions)* I am not going to come under your pressure. You cannot suppress my voice in this Parliament... *(Interruptions)* You have to listen to what I have to say; I would like to respectfully request you... *(Interruptions)* You are older than me; I would like to respectfully request you... *(Interruptions)* You have stood up again? ... *(Interruptions)* No matter how

much we criticise those slogans, it will be less. But merely raising slogans does not come under the category of criminalisation, does not come under the category of treason... *(Interruptions)* Now I will also give proof... *(Interruptions)* There is a Supreme Court judgement on Kedarnath Singh... *(Interruptions)* I am not going to yield, no matter how much you shout... *(Interruptions)* I have the right to raise my voice, and you cannot silence me. You can't silence my voice as much as you want. I have as much right as you have... *(Interruptions)* You may not agree with me; I have no problem with it, but you cannot silence my voice. You may oppose me; I have no problem with it, but you cannot silence my voice. This right has been given to me by the Constitution of my country... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening? You sit down.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is going on? Jyotiraditya ji, you should also address the Speaker; this is not a meeting at Rajwada Chowk. Why are you addressing them?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sorry, ma'am, I agree, I agree with you a hundred per cent. In the case of Kedarnath Singh, the decision of five judges of the High Court is that treason means *[English]* sedition is proved only if there is 'incitement to violence or public disorder.'*[Translation]*; otherwise, sedition cannot take place. Herewith, there are three judgements of the Constitution Bench – Indira Das vs. State of Assam, Anupbahan vs. State of Assam, and Balwant Singh vs. State of Punjab. Just using words and sentences which we will condemn, you will do it, we will do it, this entire House will do it, there is no doubt about it. But this case cannot come under treason and sedition. The BJP have many lawyers who will themselves tell them that this cannot come under sedition. After this, Madam, I want to ask why the Delhi Police made Kanhaiya an accused in the case of sedition? He was made an accused because Kanhaiya does not agree with the ideologies of the RSS and also because Kanhaiya became the president by defeating the ABVP candidate in the election; that is why this case is being filed against him.

HON. SPEAKER: It is not required to take the name of any organisation again and again; it is not required to take the name of the RSS.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We can take the name of Kanhaiya. Who will teach us the definition in the matter of nationalism? There can be a difference between your thinking and our thinking... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, your thinking and ideology completely apply to us, but there can be a difference in our thinking. Like if I say that Sakshi Maharaj Ji said that Nathuram Godse is a patriot, I can say that he should be charged with sedition. You have charged Kanhaiya with sedition, but you are not ready to charge sedition here. The one who killed the father of our nation is called a patriot; there is no problem in that. Therefore, we have to ensure that Kanhaiya said what he said and that he was arrested without any proof. The video that has been shown has been tampered with, and that Zee News reporter Vishwa Deepak has himself resigned, and he himself has said—

[English]

“The video which had no ‘Pakistan Zindabad’ slogans in it, we played it repeatedly to spread madness. How did we establish that Kanhaiya and his associates were chanting slogans when all we heard were voices coming from the darkness? Our biases made us hear Bhartiya Court Zindabad as Pakistan Zindabad.”

[Translation]

You have arrested a person against whom there is no evidence, on charges of treason. He is being produced in court, and there is a convoy of twenty police vehicles. All the policemen are sitting; he comes out of the car, the journalists are beaten, he is beaten, the lawyers are beaten, and the police are standing as mute spectators, silent spectators. The people behind this…*, who are supporters of the BJP, say

…*I will also bring petrol bombs; no matter what kind of suit is filed against me, even murder, I will not leave you. I will go to jail. If I am arrested, I want to go to Kanhaiya's jail. I will kill the bastard there. To tell you the truth, the police were fully supporting us.”

* Not recorded.

This is his quote. You can arrest a person against whom there is no evidence for treason, and no action is taken against the person who beats up people in the court, the pillar of this democracy, until last night when he was arrested and then granted bail. But that student is still in jail, and these people are granted bail.

Madam Speaker, the BJP legislator... *has done a miracle…*

One CPI(M) functionary was beaten to the ground, and what do they say? They say...

HON. SPEAKER: No one's name will be mentioned who is not present here.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He says that if I had a gun, I would have shot him... *(Interruptions)* If someone abuses your mother, won't you beat him? Today, the BJP government is not doing any proceedings against these people. What Sakshi Maharaj Ji says is that these traitors should be punished with the death penalty or a police bullet; life imprisonment will be too little; otherwise, wrong things will keep happening. Herewith, government MLAs from umpteen

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* Not recorded.

states—one of them... BJP legislator from Rajasthan says that Rahul Gandhi is a traitor... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No one's name will be mentioned; say umpteen legislators.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: They say that…* those who point a finger at Mother India are traitors and should be shot dead... *(Interruptions)* Madam, such words are used against an MP in this Parliament, and the government is standing as a mute spectator... *(Interruptions)* Is this our democracy? Are these our rules? Are these our traditions? Today, traditions are talked about, and it is said that Congress has a golden history of patriotism. Our Prime Ministers Indira Ji and Rajiv Ji both sacrificed their lives. Sardar Beant Singh, who was the Chief Minister of Punjab, has sacrificed his life. V.C. Shukla Ji has sacrificed his life, and today this government is going to give us the thinking and ideology of patriotism... *(Interruptions)*

Speaker Madam, this government is the successor of the ideology of... * and the tricolour flag of the country was not

* Not recorded.

hoisted in the office of the RSS for 52 years. A suicide took place, and a meeting of vice chancellors was convened to decide that a 207-foot-high Indian flag hoisting should be in every Central University. Madam, what is this joke? ... *(Interruptions)* On the one hand Afzal's protesters are implicated in Sedition case in Delhi, and on the other hand they are joining hands with the PDP which said that Afzal Guru's hanging was unjust... *(Interruptions)* Where from this statement has come?

Madam, the same Masood Azhar who was released and sent to Kandahar in a government plane by a previous government, is the mastermind of Pathankot. Now these people will give us the sermon of patriotism. Madam, in the end, I want to say that every year, new slogans emerge... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have said that no name will be disclosed.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Last year it was Digital India and Make in India. This year it is Start-up India and Stand-up India. The reality is that today our youth want honour. *[English]* Live and let live in India. *[Translation]* Prime Minister gave the mantra of 4 D. *[English]* D for

Democracy; D for Demography; D for Demand; and D for Deregulation. *[Translation]* In the case of democracy, freedom of expression of one's views was crushed. In terms of demography, our soldiers are standing on the road. In the case of demand, the farmer is committing suicide, and in the case of deregulation, the autonomy of university is being completely undermined by tightening its grip over it. Your slogan was Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Today, the citizens of the country are helplessly standing on the streets, asking whose support and whose development is it any way?

Thank you.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Madam Speaker, I want to share the voice of a young man who wrote one blog prior to his martyrdom. Captain Pawan Kumar, only 22 years old, before leaving, wrote on his Facebook that some want reservation, some want freedom; brother, we don't want anything, just our quilt. That young man, sitting on the border, was serving the country. On the other hand, Lance Naik Hanumanthappa, who sacrificed his life for Mother India, was found buried in a blanket of snow. These are the youths who gave their lives for the country and sacrificed themselves for the tricolour, which is for them just a slogan, a flag. If he is ready to die for his country, then he is a soldier of the country. He was their 22-year-old only son. Madam, I want to ask you what might have crossed the father's mind when he came in front of the TV and told the whole world that he was my only son, that he wanted to live and die for the country, that he had been martyred for the country, and that he was proud of him—proud, proud.

Madam, the whole country is proud of him, but we feel ashamed of these people because you could not go to their house; they are also from JNU... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): How can you put it against the Opposition? … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, this should not be allowed. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You should sit down.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You may speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, he had got the degree from JNU... *(Interruptions)* Madam, since JNU's name was taken here, if JNU is being talked about, then the truth should be revealed to the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Anurag Thakur.…

(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: This was merely an effort to defame JNU... *(Interruptions)* There may be people supporting Maoist ideology in JNU; people who support separatism may be there... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. You should sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I will see the records.

… (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: But these Congress leaders could not reach Captain Pawan Kumar's house but went to JNU to meet those who were trying to break the country... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down, please sit down.

*... (Interruptions)**

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, what happened?... *(Interruptions)* Madam, what happened on 9th February?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is unconstitutional.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I will see the record. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: While our soldiers fought for India, fought for the Indian nation for 48 hours on 22nd February in Srinagar, Congress leaders did politics for them... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Are you yielding?

… (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you yielding to them?

… (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, I have not taken anyone's name. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He has not taken anyone's name.

… (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, they themselves are intelligent. ... *(Interruptions)* Have I taken anybody's name?... *(Interruptions)* This itself... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have not taken anyone's name; you please sit down.

…(Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, if you look at the poster... *(Interruptions)* These are the advertisements for the cultural evening of that day... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: They are not yielding. What should I do?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You also did not yield, nor did they. What can I do?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: If he has said something wrong, then I will see it. *[English]* I will see the records.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, those who talk about intolerance were saying a little while ago that their voice cannot be stifled. If your voice cannot be stifled, then my voice also cannot be stifled... *(Interruptions)* We are common people and do not come from royal families, but our voice cannot be suppressed. We are also Members of this House... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Madam, please see the record. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, what was written in the name of the cultural evening on the date 9th? It was written that *[English]* 'Against the judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat!'

[Translation]

Your leaders stand in solidarity with and join the big programmes organised on the date 9th in the name of Afzal Guru, who carried out the attack on Parliament the temple of democracy where Modi Ji comes after being elected and he bows his head and pays his respects and for the security of which Delhi Police personnel, our gardeners, and security guards of the Parliament staff sacrifice their lives, and... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): You are doing it with PDP in Kashmir. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: You have to decide whether you are with Afzal Guru, whether you are with those who attacked the Parliament, or whether you are with those who saved the Parliament... *(Interruptions)* You will have to decide that... *(Interruptions)* It must be decided whether it should be with those who take lives or along with those who save lives; this will have to be decided by the Congress Party... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, the country wants a reply... *(Interruptions)* Today, it should be decided in a just and reasoned manner... *(Interruptions)* Today the country wants answers... *(Interruptions)* I am also emotional because my grandfather was a soldier... *(Interruptions)* My father first raised the issue of One Rank One Pension in this House... *(Interruptions)* Our government has also resolved the issues of One Rank One Pension. The Bharatiya Janata Party has done it for the soldiers of the country, for those who sacrifice their lives while serving the country's army. When we talk about nationalism, I come back to the same issues. What happened on 9th February? After all, for whom was this torchlight procession was taken out? Who was Afzal Guru? I ask you a question. Where have they gone?

Have you gone? ... *(Interruptions)*I haven't even started asking my questions yet. Now who do I ask for answers from? *(Interruptions)*... *

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: I want to address this question to the House through you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Anurag Ji, please sit for a minute. I request all of you to consider that you have chosen this sensitive issue for discussion. Therefore, everyone will have to listen to each other. Only the statement of the Member to whom I speak will go on record. *[English]* I am sorry; *[Translation]* you can answer about yourself, but there will be *[English]* no interference. *[Translation]* No one else's statement will go on record. Whatever one says, only that will go on record.

*Not recorded.

[English] Please don’t try to do this. *[Translation]*You have selected this objective. Everyone knew that it was a sensitive issue, and this had to happen. Now, I will have to listen a bit. When your turn comes, *[English]* you can give your reply. *[Translation]* If anything wrong is said, I will remove it from the record. *[English]* will go through the record, if there is anything objectionable.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, those placards dated 9 tell us, and this question mark stands before the country as to who Afzal Guru was. Today, the country wants to know this, and I want to ask the Congress President through you whether Afzal Guru was a terrorist or not. The country wants to ask why did Rahul Gandhi stand in solidarity with the people of DSU in the name of whose martyrdom the programme was organised. The country wants to know why your young leader was standing with those who attacked this institution of democracy; you will have to answer this. You cannot run away from this question. It was written: 'Afzal tumhare armanon ko ham manjil tak pahuchayenge.' What were Afzal's’arman’? Who

is Afzal Guru? The whole country wants to know. He had to wait for eight years to be hanged before the 2014 elections. ... *(Interruptions)* You have to decide. Madam, the organisation that was going to organise this programme, the Democratic Students Union – which organisation is this, after all? Madam, I certainly know this much: the question that ultimately arises before the country is, What is the Democratic Students Union? After all, Rahul Gandhi Ji went shoulder to shoulder with them, and, without giving a second thought, he kick started a motorcycle and reached there, sorry, not a motorcycle; he reached there by a car. When he arrived there, with whom did he sit? With DSU. What is DSU? If you look at the question dated 18th February 2014, asked by A.T. Nana Patil in Lok Sabha, R.P.N. Singh was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs at that time. He belonged to his party. Perhaps he is no longer in this House. In that question, it was asked which organisations supported the Naxalites.

In reply to that, he said: *[English]* "On occasions, during operations by security forces, the CPI Maoists underground cadre shift to softer areas, including urban areas, looking for safer hide-outs. On such occasions, the over-ground front

organization provides safe hide-outs to the armed cadres. They are also adept at disseminating propaganda and disinformation to demonize the State and the security forces. The list of active frontal organizations of the CPI Maoist operating in the country is annexed."

[Translation]

What is there in it? Everywhere there are names of institutions, from DSU to those with whom Rahul Gandhi Ji had gone and sat in JNU. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, on one hand, this letter is from his government; it is not mine. It was given by the Minister of State in the ministry of Home Affairs during his government. It may be that Rahul Ji and Jyotiraditya Ji have been MPs for 15 years. I have also seen the House only as a Member of the 14th, 15th, and 16th Lok Sabhas. Salim Bhai, you were not there in those five years; you were not elected, and you were not a Member of the 14th Lok Sabha. I remember what happened at that time. *[English]* While the recent program of Afzal Guru was organized by the activists of DSU, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) President, Kanniya Kumar, *[Translation]* and the Vice President

is from ASI, and there is another Vice President from AISA. What organisations are these? Getting associated with Marxists of communist ideology—what do they do, after all?

Has JNU's grant decreased in the last one and a half years? I would like Smriti Ji to answer at that time too that we have neither reduced anyone's money nor any facilities, but if the country's taxpayers' money has to be spent to incite someone against the country, then should this be done or not? I will not say anything on this; through you, I want to leave this question before the House. The taxpayer asks, "You deduct my money and give subsidies there, but will you keep those who insult the tricolour and the soldiers of the country sitting and gathering there?" Madam, this will not work. And not only this, if you see after this, what slogans were raised there? Slogans were raised: " ‘Kashmir ki azadi tak jung rahegi. Bharat ki barbadi tak jung rahegi’ What did he say next? Listen, right now there are 6-7; I will tell you 6 out of 25. "bandook ke dam par lenge azadi," and whose freedom? "Go, India—go back. Indian Army, Murdabad." ... *(Interruptions)* I will not sit in peace. Madam, listen further: if any one of these people is in favour of India, if they are in favour of India, and if those who attacked the House

are called martyrs, what slogans are raised in their favour? "We will not sit in peace until India is destroyed." These slogans were raised: "India will be divided into pieces, Insha-Allah, Insha-Allah." And further, a slogan was raised: " Afzal Guru, Maqbool Bhatt, jindabad." "kitne Afzalmaroge? Ghar ghar se Afzal niklega" Are these Members of the House ready to witness another attack on the House and to encourage more terrorists in the country? Madam, if this is called freedom of expression, then unfortunately, this is not freedom of expression. No one will give any chance to such anti-national forces to come forward to disintegrate our country. You said that; he also said, "bharat ke tukde honge, Insha-Allah, Insha-Allah." Madam, they can wait for India to be divided; we will get ourselves cut into pieces but will not let India be divided.

Madam, this is not something to be said only in the House. ... *(Interruptions)* If you bring out the recording of this House from July 2010. At that time, stone pelting was going on in Kashmir. More than two thousand soldiers were injured in it. Even then, these people were in power. You people were in power at that time. Two thousand soldiers were injured, and your government did nothing. But I was in opposition. I was the

president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. I toured the entire country raising the slogan of "India First". ... *(Interruptions)* From Kolkata to Kashmir, I did "Rashtriya Ekta Yatra", and your government arrested me. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, their government arrested me for hoisting the tricolour flag in India. Not only me, but Sushma Ji and Arun Jaitley Ji, who were opposition leaders, were arrested and put in Jammu jail on 26 January. Do they have the face to talk about Kashmir?

Madam, I want to ask Sonia Ji through you that Jawaharlal Nehru University is named after Nehru Ji. ... *(Interruptions)* Thousands of people sacrificed their lives for freedom. When the opportunity to become the first Prime Minister of the country came, Jawahar Lal Ji got it . We have no problem with this. The country gave an opportunity to your family for a very long time. In the same university, which is named after the first Prime Minister of the country, a Member of his family goes there and sits with anti-national forces. ... *(Interruptions)* It is very sad. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire country must be thinking that they were given sixty years to remain in power. ... *(Interruptions)* For

the family that ruled for sixty years: "Family first, party next, nation last." This is their slogan. For us: "Nation first, party next, self last." This is our slogan.

Madam Speaker, I definitely want to say one thing through you. I want to tell Sonia Ji and Rahul Ji that there is a difference between the Government of India and India. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a difference between the Government of India and India. You can criticise the Government of India. Criticise to your heart's content. Criticise the Minister, criticise the person, criticise our policies, our programmes... *(Interruptions)* But do not criticise our India; do not criticise my India. ... *(Interruptions)* I will not tolerate criticism of my India. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, in the year 2010, 76 CRPF jawans were martyred in Dantewada. Two soldiers from my constituency were martyred. His wife was pregnant. She was crying. They don’t know what happened to him. 76 CRPF jawans were killed in Dantewada. Ask what their families might have gone through. His family was in grief. ... *(Interruptions)* But this same Democratic Students Union and other Communist organisations were

celebrating the deaths in Dantewada right here in Jawaharlal Nehru University. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, when the martyrs of Dantewada die, their martyrdom is celebrated. Yakub Memon, Afzal Guru, and Maqbool Bhatt are shown as martyrs. ... *(Interruptions)* Is this intolerance? You should sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, a former Minister of the Congress government said in this House, during the U.P. elections, that during the Batla House incident, Sonia Ji cried a lot when those young men died. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, sit down. Let the point of order happen. Is there a point of order?

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I have a point of order. Rule 353 states: 'No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person unless the Member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply: Provided

that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any Member from making any such allegation if he is of the opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served... '

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You should sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker Madam, the fact that he has made a derogatory allegation against the Vice President of the Congress Party, claiming he was present to support anti-national activity, is completely against the truth. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I am sorry.

… (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker, the very fact that he has made a derogatory allegation is furthest from the truth. It must be expunged from the record.

HON. SPEAKER: Everybody has spoken.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: That I will see.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I am telling you. One minute, you listen. You sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The first thing is, there is no point of order.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Wait a minute, I understand. No point of order, that's one thing. I have already said that it is a sensitive issue. You also took the names of many people present in the House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: One minute. *[English]* Now you will have to see.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Names of many people have been taken. This happens umpteen times, and he talked about the circumstances that wherever he went, the circumstances were like this, so there is no point of order.

… (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, I want to know from Shri Rahul Gandhi: If the 1975 Emergency defined Congress Party's democratic values, does he not find a parallel between Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Hitler? *[Translation]*They talk about freedom of speech... *(Interruptions)* As seen during the Emergency, friends from the media were put in jail, and leaders were put in jail. ... *(Interruptions)* What kind of environment has been created for the common man to live in? Today, the same people talk of intolerance and freedom of speech; then it is painful, Sonia Ji, it is painful. ... *(Interruptions)*

My journalist friends who experience blackouts today know this; they probably don't remember the year 1975. They have forgotten the time of the Emergency. Those who talk about freedom of speech today, perhaps you have not seen that time. ... *(Interruptions)* Sonia Ji talks about freedom of expression... *(Interruptions)* Okay, I will not take names. ... *(Interruptions)* The former Minister said in a meeting that Sonia Ji cried a lot over the killing of terrorists by police bullets in the Batla House incident. ... *(Interruptions)* I did not say this; their Minister said this. I will first show the record. Now I want to ask whether you visited the house of Inspector M.L. Sharma, who was martyred, or not. ... *(Interruptions)* But you have definitely shed tears in the name of others. ... *(Interruptions)* This shows it. ... *(Interruptions)* When it comes to Inspector M.L. Sharma, even Rahul Ji could not go to his place, but he went to the house of a person who was not only accused of being a terrorist but was also killed. Therefore, you have to decide whether you are with Afzal Guru or along with the Parliament and the democracy of India. It is up to you to decide whether Afzal Guru is a terrorist or a martyr for you. The country asks you for answers. Do you

have Gandhian ideology, or do you support Maoist ideology? ...
(Interruptions)

16.00 hours

It has to be decided whom are we supporting? You support Maoist thinking and separatist thinking in JNU, who incite against India daily, who get funding from India and speak against the Indian flag and the Indian army, are you with those traitors or with the patriots? We are nationalists; we have never aligned with the Maoists... *(Interruptions)* There is a difference between your words and actions. You say something and do something else; we do not want to go in that direction.

Speaker Madam, the police are standing outside JNU. I have to ask the question: why can the police not go inside JNU? This question has been arising in my mind... *(Interruptions)* A question was asked during Sheila Kaul Ji's tenure; a question was asked during the Congress government, and in answer to that question, she said that yes, the situation was such that the police had to go inside and arrest more than 370 students. But today, in the same JNU, if someone commits treason, rebellion, or talks about breaking and destroying India, then there is no reason why the police should be stopped. Strict action should be taken against those traitors and rebels... *(Interruptions)* This is

not what I said... *(Interruptions)* I have brought out the complete record of your governments. During your rule, your R.P.N. Singh Ji used to say that the DSU is a CPI (Maoist) front that stays here and supports the Maoists, promoting their ideology. And Rahul Gandhi Ji goes and stands with them to promote the same Maoist ideology; this raises a question mark... *(Interruptions)* Why is he standing with them, with the DSU, AISF, and AISA? Why is he standing with these Communist ideologies? ... *(Interruptions)* The country is asking questions again and again... *(Interruptions)* I was surprised by this... *(Interruptions)* I don't know whether Rahul Ji went there after knowing the truth or without knowing the truth... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Anurag Ji, please do not make allegations. *[English]*You can ask questions.

[Translation]

Madam, I submit that voices were raised against this country earlier also in that university... *(Interruptions)* Where some people used to promote the opinion of Maoism and separatism. We have to decide whether we should stand with those who promote Maoism and separatism or speak against them...

(Interruptions) You would have filed charges against him... *(Interruptions)* If ABVP informed the VC about this programme, then no one has done a greater patriotic deed than going there and informing him. Rabindranath Tagore has said that the one who tolerates injustice is more wrong than the one who does it... *(Interruptions)* Do you agree with this opinion? ... *(Interruptions)* If you agree with this opinion, then ABVP did the same. If someone was working against the country there, then the VC has been informed about him... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Anurag Ji, please conclude your speech.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Your time to speak will come. Because Rahul Ji was saying outside the House that he would not be given an opportunity to speak in the House, but he will definitely be given an opportunity to speak. Let him speak; we are ready to listen to him.

HON. SPEAKER: You address the chair and complete your speech... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, today the question before the country and all of us is that the name of the

person in whose name the programme was being organised there is Afzal Guru... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Arrest him... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Scindia Ji is saying that he should be arrested. He has been hanged; where should we arrest him? ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, the problem of Kashmir is raised there... *(Interruptions)* Congress spokespersons used to call him. Afzal Guru Ji... *(Interruptions)* The one who is a terrorist is given the status of a martyr. The country has been suffering from the Kashmir problem given by Nehru Ji for the last 67 years. The country wants answers. You have kept the Kashmir issue a problem for 67 years. Kashmir is an integral part of India. We consider it an integral part. Whether you believe it or not, I want to ask you questions: *[English]* Is Kashmir an integral part of India or not? *[Translation]* ... *(Interruptions)* The House has passed it, but the JNU Student Union says it is not so. You go and stand with him. You speak in favour of Kanhaiya. Do you promote the same opinion that Nehru Ji had said at that time for special states? What is the

status today? Those who say that they will break the country into pieces, Rahul Ji, please tell us which piece they would like to rule over. Which piece are you waiting for? You are so hurt that we came to power. We have come to power to serve. You have come to divide the country; we are sad about this... *(Interruptions)* Let us supplementary support those forces... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I am concluding my speech... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record

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

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: If not allowing the country to be divided into 10 parts is wrong, then yes, we are wrong. If speaking against those who deliver anti-national slogans in the country is wrong, then yes, we are wrong. If it is wrong to deliver injustice against those martyrs who saved the parliament of this country, then we are wrong. If it is wrong to fight against terrorist and separatist movements, then yes, we are

*Not recorded.

wrong. If not allowing the country's name to be tarnished is wrong, then yes, we are wrong. But we will not do anything wrong that will break the country into pieces, nor will we stand with those who will ruin this country. We are with the nationalist ideology, not with the Maoist ideology... *(Interruptions)*

I won't speak that slogan in the end— *[English]* 'I am Gandhi. I am not a Maoist'. *[Translation]* I would say that I am a nationalist and will always remain a nationalist. I will fight for this country; I will stand for the country. Thank you.

[English]

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in this highly charged and sensitive debate as someone who has been a teacher at universities for three-and-a-half decades. I hope that my colleagues in this august House will have the patience to listen to me. This is after all a forum for debate and discussion, as the President reminded us only yesterday.

Just over a month ago, a Dalit research scholar at Hyderabad Central University, Rohith Vemula tragically took his own life.

The death of a bright young Dalit scholar is not new in Indian universities. The Thorat Committee that was appointed in 2007 to investigate the growing number of suicides among students in elite educational institutions discovered that of the 23 suicide cases 19 were Dalits, two tribals and one Muslim. This alarming figure should have raised several questions of academic justice and freedom that our nation needed to seriously ponder.

Rohith Vemula left us a poignant message when he chose to leave this unfair world. In "the only letter" that he was going to write, he told us: "I always wanted to be a writer - a writer of science. Like Carl Sagan I love science ... stars." Rohith today is not dead. He lives up in the Heavens as a star "of purest ray serene" to serve as a beacon light to posterity.

Rohith's tragedy should have stirred our collective conscience, including that of our Government. Unfortunately, we have a heartless Government that refuses to listen to the cries of despair coming from the marginalized sections of our society. Instead of assuring social justice to all, the ruling party wishes to use the student unrest in our universities to claim a monopoly on

nationalism and tar all of their critics with the brush of "anti-nationalism".

Madam Speaker, I am not a communist. In fact, I won this seat in the Lok Sabha by defeating a prominent communist candidate. But I stand today in support of the right to freedom of expression by young students who may be inspired by Marx as well as Ambedkar. Madam Speaker, I am a nationalist. I believe in a kind of nationalism that instils a spirit of selfless service in our people and inspires their creative efforts. But I know that nationalism can be a truly Janus-faced phenomenon and I deplore the brand of nationalism espoused by Members of the Treasury Benches that I find narrow, selfish and arrogant.

Following the unrest in Hyderabad, there were incidents that took place in Jawaharlal Nehru University, a University named after our great first Prime Minister. Earlier this month at one or two events on that campus very disturbing slogans were raised and deeply troubling posters were put up. We unequivocally condemn those slogans and posters. However, we strongly oppose the attempt being made to portray the entire university as a hub of anti-national activities and the onslaught of State forces

on academic freedom. We were horrified to witness the scenes of students, teachers and journalists being assaulted within the court premises of Patiala House. It was not the students, but the black-coated storm-troopers affiliated with the ruling party who defiled and desecrated the image of Mother India.

The reverberations of the JNU incidents were felt in my home State, especially in Jadavpur University. There too unfortunate slogans were heard in the streets around the campus. But by contrast with what happened in the nation's Capital, the West Bengal state administration led by Kumari Mamta Banerjee and the university administration knew how to defuse tension and to not unnecessarily escalate a crisis. It knew how not to over- react. After all, the idea of India is not so brittle as to crumble at the echo of a few slogans.

You cannot be a true nationalist if you are opposed to freedom. It is not a crime to seek freedom from caste oppression, freedom from class exploitation, freedom from gender discrimination. We must give our students and youth the freedom to think, the freedom to speak, the freedom to be idealistic, and, yes, the freedom to make mistakes, and learn

from them. What must be avoided at all costs is the criminalisation of dissent… *(Interruptions)*.

I heard the speech given by Kanhaiya Kumar on You Tube.… *(Interruptions)*. I agreed with many things that he said. I disagreed with some of the things that he said. I agreed with him when he extolled Ambedkar's commitment to Constitutional rights and Constitutional morality. I agreed with him when he expressed admiration for our great revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh, Asfaquallah, Sukhdev and Rajguru. He, of course, said that the RSS took no part in our freedom struggle. There too he was right… *(Interruptions)* but as a teacher I would have liked to have a discussion with him about history and I would have pointed out to him that even the Communists had actually taken part in the freedom struggle but also betrayed the freedom struggle at crucial moments during the 1942 movement and during the Azad Hind Movement led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. So, we condemn the vigilantism of self-appointed protectors of the nation who are trying to create a climate of fear.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Did the Communists not betray the 1942 Movement? … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Communists were anti-nationals and they were not there in the freedom movement… *(Interruptions)* You are not the Master of the House… *(Interruptions)* You are behaving as if you are the custodian of the House… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan Banerjee, you are disturbing the Member from your own Party. He is speaking very well. Please take your seat.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Madam, Speaker, as I have said, I stand for the right to free expression of my Communist friends and they will be speaking in this House soon afterwards. But we condemn the acts of vigilantism by self-appointed protectors of the nation which foments a climate of fear and I believe that students, teachers and university personnel must all be permitted to express opinions freely even if they conflict with the Government's political stances and the Government must end the witch hunt for anti-nationals and the shameful scape-goating of university students. Why? It is because we believe that this

witch hunt is meant to distract the nation from issues necessary to the nation's development such as employment opportunities and poverty alleviation. We insist that no group within the Indian polity or in its Diaspora is the univocal spokesperson for the nation. History shows us that State-sponsored or State-condoned campaigns against, so called, anti-nationals leads to authoritarian rule and the destruction of democratic principles. If universities and students are attacked, then the legacy of anti-colonial freedom struggle and of democratic reconstruction is gravely undermined.

Madam, Speaker, we learn our lessons in nationalism from great figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose and those of us who are from Bengal are also inspired by what we have been taught about patriotism and nationalism by figures like Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh. I was wondering whose definition of nationalism might be acceptable to my friends in the Treasury Benches. I thought that at least I would try by citing before them the example of Aurobindo.

The issue of Kashmir kept coming up in the speech given by Shri Anurag Thakur. Now, it is incumbent on all of us who are the elected representatives of the Lok Sabha to give a greater sense of belonging to the Union of India among the people of Jammu and Kashmir and all of our far-flung States. The issue is about what kind of Indian Union do we want.

What did Aurobindo say about this? Aurobindo touched upon 'the secret of the difficulty in the problem of unifying ancient India'. And he cited ancient texts. He said that the *rishis* from the Vedic age onwards, propounded 'the ideal of the Chakravarti, a uniting imperial rule, uniting without destroying the autonomy of India's many kingdoms and peoples' from sea to sea'. The ruler was meant to establish a suzerainty. The 'full flowering' of this ideal, Aurobindo found in 'the great epics'. The Mahabharata narrates the legendary and quasi-historic pursuit of this ideal of empire which even 'the turbulent Shishupala' is represented as accepting in his attendance at Yudhisthira's *dharmic* Rajasuya sacrifice. The Ramayana too presents 'an idealised picture of such a Dharmarajya, a settled universal empire'. It is, in Aurobindo's words, 'not an autocratic despotism but a universal monarchy supported by a free

assembly of the city and provinces and of all the classes that is held up as the ideal'. He goes on to say that according to his ideal, unification 'ought not to be secured at the expense of the free life of the regional people or of the communal liberties and not therefore by a centralised monarchy or a rigidly unitarian imperial State'.

Now we are not a monarchy any more. We are a democracy but the nationalism that is being talked about from the other side of the House represents centralised despotism and it is talking about a rigidly unitarian imperial State.

I mentioned Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore composed our National Anthem. But he was also a powerful critic of nationalism. He knew that nationalism could be both a boon and a curse. He wrote beautiful patriotic songs during our Swadeshi movement. But then he also saw that nationalism could lead to the carnage of war in Europe during the First World War. And that is why, when he travelled the world in 1916, he first went to Japan and then the United States of America, he gave lectures on nationalism and it was a powerful critique of nationalism that we

find in those lectures. These lectures were published in a little book titled ‘Nationalism' by 'MacMillan’ in 1917.

I sometimes fear that those who are defining nationalism so narrowly will end up one day describing Rabindranath Tagore, the composer of our National Anthem, as anti-national if they read some of the sentences in his book on nationalism. … *(Interruptions)*

We always had different visions of nationhood and it is really a debate and discussion about what should be an ideal form of the Union of India that has animated the thought of all of the great figures that I have talked about.

Chittaranjan Das of course had debates with Rabindranath Tagore but they were respectful towards each other. Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das felt that you could have a nationalism where you are very proud of Bengal, your region, but you can still be a very proud Indian nationalist at the same time. All of this of course has to flower in the garden of internationalism.

I know that Shri Anurag Thakur tried to quote Netaji Subash Chandra Bose even though he confused the two great Bengali

luminaries, Netaji and Rabindranath Tagore, the patriot and the poet. When I said that the nationalism that they represent is narrow, selfish and arrogant, I was, in fact, quoting from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. He spent a number of years in exile from 1933 to 1936 in Europe. As he was leaving and coming back to India to be imprisoned here, he pointed out that the new German nationalism that he had witnessed in Europe was narrow, selfish and arrogant.

Then, in 1937 when Japan invaded China and at that time the Indian National Congress sent a medical mission to China, at that time too Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose said that we must pursue national fulfilment in every direction, but not at the cost of imperialism, and not at the price of self-aggrandisement. So, we must understand that nationalism can have a liberating aspect. That is what inspired generations of our freedom fighters. But nationalism in its narrow form can also be extremely oppressive. This is a topic and a concept on which we ought to be able to have healthy debates.

The President speaking to us yesterday pointed out that this Government is trying to repeal many obsolete laws. There are

many colonial era laws that need to be done away with from our Statute Book. I venture to suggest that the law on sedition is one of them. This was a law that was deployed to persecute our freedom fighters. We ought to be able to have a discussion with our children, with our students, with our youth. We ought not to be subjecting them to trumped up charges of sedition based on very dubious evidence, based on morphed visual evidence. We ought not to be doing this to our students and to our youth today.

I have said what I have wanted to because it is not always necessary to make a long speech in order to stand for academic freedom. Free our universities, free our students, let our youth dream a glorious future for our country. I have mentioned that Tagore wrote this beautiful little book on nationalism. At the end of the book he printed an English rendering of a Bengali poem that he had composed on the last day of the 19th century. It says:

> "The last Sun of the century sets amidst the blood-red clouds of the West and the whirlwind of hatred. The naked passion of self-love of nations, in its drunken delirium of greed, is dancing to the clash

of steel and the howling verses of vengeance. Keep watch India. Let your crown be of humility, your freedom the freedom of the soul. Build God's throne daily upon the ample bareness of your poverty. And know that what is huge is not great and pride is not everlasting."

From this poem, I would like to simply underline three phrases. Let us not be deluded by the naked passion of self-love of nations, let our freedom be the freedom of the soul and let us remember the admonition of the great sentinel that what is huge is not great and pride is not everlasting.

Thank you very much.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): I am a troubled man today because as Members of the highest temple of democracy we are supposed to be giving solutions to the people of this country.

But we see the impatience; we see the carelessness; we see the arrogance; and we see their attitude of one sidedness. When this whole nation is watching us that what solutions do these leaders put up before the nation during these discussions, these

very delicate discussions, concerning the youth, concerning the democracy, concerning terrorism. Here, we are a bunch of people shouting and screaming at each other, and unable to actually address the real problems. It is sad, and while sitting here, and patiently listening to all sides, I am heartbroken to say that the youth of this country does not deserve us. We are the most undeserving set of people to be in this House today.

We were supposed to carry out this discussion tomorrow, Madam. I do not know what was the great hurry of mudslinging from both sides. One side demands, and the other side accepts that we had to move it earlier. I am not interested in taking sides with any of these Parties. I am interested to hear, and I wish to sit till the end of these discussions to hear who has a word of solace, who proves that he or she has a point of solution to the problems that the nation is facing today.

Is it only votes that matter? Is it only us and them? Are we not simplifying matters by breaking the country up into two parts – us and them? If you love your country, you love me. If you don’t love me, you don’t love the country. So by dividing the country in this manner, we are creating a bunch of people

whose petty, political ambitions are to be assuaged, are to be satisfied at the cost, a heavy cost to the country. I would like to quote Voltaire, who said: “I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

The Government refused the help of the Pakistan army. They said that they have easier access to Siachen; they will reach our post quicker; and they will save our soldiers. The Government refused. And for six days, the young men of our Army were under 25 feet of snow. There was one braveheart – that is the word being used – one brave soldier with tenacity and love for his motherland, who survived. He was brought to the hospital. Then I do not know whom amongst us he saw, that he gave up his last breathe. It is sad for this nation that we are not able to recognise these brave people.

I am not standing up to glorify Afzal Guru. I believe in democracy honestly. I believe that modern human intellect till the 21st century has not, as yet, thrown up any better system of governance if we see across the world any better system of governance than democracy. I know; we all know; we are all parts, a little molecules in this whole system. We all know that

there are lots of discrepancies, lots of shortcomings and disappointments. Even we are disappointed with ourselves, with our own performances.

But yet, we all recognize that today modern man has not yet evolved and brought about a better system of governance than democracy. So, when you have a scoundrel by the name of Afzal Guru who dares to come and attack this temple which is sacrosanct, there can be but killings and there can only be hanging which is the result that we saw. The very system that he wanted to destroy, that system allowed him to breathe for 11 years, 1 month and 11 days after he was nabbed for this dastardly attack. That very system allowed him to go on appeal from one court to the other court till the Supreme Court; that democracy allowed him to go on a clemency petition to the President which also elongated his lifespan. The man that scoundrel did not have that much of understanding how great this system is and the Parliament is. There should be no mercy shown for people of that level. Absolutely I am certain about that. Yet, there are those amongst us who glorify a person like Afzal Guru and, directly or indirectly, they are willing to stand shoulder to shoulder with those very people who say that we

want to break up this country. … *(Interruptions)* Hang on, please wait, have patience, it is coming. … *(Interruptions)* They have no shame to align themselves and go to the university. Unfortunately Sir, you, your Government, have shut down the water supply for the last six days. … *(Interruptions)* You have stopped water supply to the JNU Campus. … *(Interruptions)* Don't say no; you are aware of it, don't say no. … *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would like to bring back the discussion on track. In this whole pell-mell of confusion, in our desperateness to politicize on one side Rohit Vemula issue, nobody said that whether he is Backward or whether he is Scheduled Caste or Dalit or an Upper Caste Brahmin, that does not matter, he was a young man of India. Nobody is bothered about that because these people want to politicize on that and those people, sitting there, they want to politicize on the 'us and them' issue and, so nobody is better Madam. They are all on equal footing. We lost sight of this critical anti-India movement because you lost sight, you forgot that trying to propagate, trying to help a bunch of students with political ambitions, a bunch of non-students who entered the university premises, trying to support their political

ambitions, you lost track of the greater picture as to how, within a campus, an anti-India movement is being built up, a campus that is funded by the tax-payer of this country.

Then, on the other hand, if you look at the very country that they were idolizing and now you are idolizing, the US, if you look back, a couple of months ago, in the University of Missouri, the African-American students, the coloured students, in that university raised slogans against the US and the words that they used were 'discreet racism', how their faculty, their fellow students, everybody was a racist and how they were punished for that. It has happened in the US and the Government tolerated it. It spread throughout many universities. The Government there tolerated and handled it with kid gloves. This problem in the JNU could have been handled better. This is not the first year that they are doing it. After the hanging in 2014 of Afzal Guru, in 2015 also a similar documentary screening, a similar discussion was held in the JNU. But at that time, this bunch of young people who are now for some political recognition, they did not exist in the JNU. The so-called Leftists who raised slogans against India, they were present. And because they were larger in number, there was nothing that the

Government could do. But this time through, when a small, little spider went up and got one single post, then the Government got worried and then the Government suddenly thought of nationalism. So, when I think of nationalism, I remember Benito Mussolini, Italy; I remember Adolf Hitler and his national socialists. That is nationalism for me. But if you ask me, as an Indian, I am a patriot. I love my country. But then I cannot ask you or anybody else that if you love your country, you love me. I have no rights for that. Nobody owns this country. This country is owned by all of us. All of us are temporary; all of us are here for a short while; but this country is for all of us.

When frauds, dressed as lawyers, attacked students, beat up professors, beat up journalists, the police – the face of the Union Government because this was Delhi Police – stood as a mute spectator. Today, that is why, because of your mal-intentions, people are questioning your veracity, your honesty. It is not because you are Indians; nobody questions you on that front. Nobody questions your love for the country. But people question your intentions.

The educated in India is now in double minds and you put them in that situation. They were very clearly in your favour at the initial stages. When people saw those doctored television broadcasts, they all supported you. But your actions damaged your own cause. The way the police was seen standing as mute spectator, the way that the Commissioner started speaking, the way the hon. Home Minister started quoting tweets of all things, tweets are gossips and your label somebody as a terrorist because of some tweets. Terrorism is something that is punishable by death. So when you made these mistakes, you turned the country upside down, you confused those same people who wanted to support you, please remember that these acts of yours have created a severe loss of confidence on the establishment amongst the youth and the students.

I would also request you to remember that the Government or the system of governance should welcome criticism. When your faults are thrown up at your face, you have an opportunity to rectify it. When you shy away from looking at your own faults, you do not realise what is happening till 2019 hits you from the head. Then it will be too late. This country needs action now, not police action. You cannot deal with this country, with

the students of this country, with the youths of this country by beating them up with goons, black shirts, grey shirts, the Schutzstaffeln and the police. You have to deal with them as a civilized society and a civilized Government.

Madam, I will speak just a few more words. Unfortunately, we are all aware that the story does not end here. The story, actually, starts here. How does it start? Where lies the problem? It is not so much Afzal Guru who actually bothers you. Let me be very honest. That 'us' and 'them' divide, *khaki* or *non-khaki*, that also does not really bother you. You are in seat of power. What bothers you is the appalling economic system in this country and the appalling economic situation in this country. Your banks have collapsed. The Rupee is dipping 6.6 per cent in a few days time. On February 23rd it was Rs. 68 to a Dollar. By yesterday, it had reached Rs. 70 to a Dollar.

I also love travelling abroad. Given an opportunity, I would travel any time. But despite that I keep in touch with my country, with my State and with my constituency. I do not forget my nation when I travel abroad. The State Bank's record is damned by the Punjab National Bank. The Punjab National

Bank's NPAs have been outdone by the Bank of Baroda's NPAs. If we see bank-by-bank, it is not bank nationalisation that is to blame, it is the present day administration that is to blame.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I would beseech your attention Madam. A Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India in the Supreme Court recently asked the Government lawyer. I am quoting the Chief Justice's words:

> "People are owing thousands of crore to the public banks… it is a big fraud. Top ten public sector banks have written off Rs. 40,000 crore alone in 2015. It is all there in newspaper reports. Public financial institutions are lending money despite knowing no returns... What are you doing about it? "

So, this is a kind of situation. … *(Interruptions)* This is not a tweet. This is from the Supreme Court. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Tathagata Satpathy ji, conclude your speech now.

… (Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Yes. These economic mishandlings, the total callousness and the total inaptness of this Government has disillusioned the youth of this country, has disillusioned the students of this country. They do not think the future of this nation is safe in the hands of these people or those people. They throw them out. Now, they are waiting for their opportunity to deal with them. The country is under dire economic stress. The Government should make their citizens honestly aware of what their responsibilities are. You cannot hide under the fuel excise. Just because the petrol prices are low, you are making some money out of it. That is a temporary benefit. Eventually, when this boomer ends, you may not be around but the country will be around.

I would suggest that the time has come that the Government of the day comes clean and tells the people what the situation is. Let us not hide behind smoke screens of agitations for reservations and student troubles. All those are the things of the

past which these people used and failed. Let us not replicate their moves. Find new ways. Be honest with the citizens. Come out clean and tell the citizens what you expect from them. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I request that all the hon. Members who will speak now complete their speeches in three to four minutes. We have to consider the time.

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker, it is with a sense of great sadness and pain that I stand up to speak today. I am aggrieved because painful incidents are occurring in this country. Not just one day, but every day, we are witnessing terrorist attacks, and our soldiers are becoming martyrs. Civilians are being attacked daily. Whatever events are happening in the country, every person sitting here should observe them introspectively.

I heard the speeches of all the hon. Members. Some were scholarly; some spoke in a different manner. Before what happened at Jawaharlal Nehru University, we were pained by the incident that took place at Hyderabad University in

Telangana. A young student pursuing a PhD committed suicide, and this is not a good thing. When it came to Jawaharlal Nehru University, I looked at it with great pride. It was established in the year 1969 and has many faculties. Jawaharlal Nehru University has three to four student organisations, such as the Democratic Students Federation, AISF, and similar organisations. A cultural evening was organised there on the third death anniversary of Afzal Guru. It really pains me that you organise a cultural evening for Afzal Guru and raise slogans like “Hum Kya Chahein Azadi. Our right is freedom. We will fight and get our freedom. Kashmir demands freedom." You have come to Jawaharlal Nehru University to study, and yet you are raising such slogans there. We all talk about freedom.

I don't understand why we go to schools and colleges. Whose freedom are we demanding? We go there to study. If we are there to study, then instead of focusing on our education, we are diverting towards different subjects. Later, someone stated, "The war will continue until Kashmir gets independence. There will be war until India is destroyed." Doesn't this shock you? We talk about democracy. This organisation talks about Maqbool Bhatt. Today, I want to remind you of Maqbool Bhatt. On 14

September 1966, Maqbool Bhatt joined hands with Pakistan and attacked the police. Inspector Amar Chand was killed. Maqbool Bhatt hijacked an Indian Airlines plane in 1971. The main operation was conducted by Maqbool Bhatt. In 1976, the Indian Army captured him. The Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front trial against him continued until 3 February 1984, and he was sentenced to death. After being sentenced to death, he petitioned the president for a pardon. In 1984, Ravindra Mhatre Ji, who worked in the consulate, was kidnapped, and they demanded the release of Maqbool Bhatt. At that time, Indira Gandhi Ji was the Prime Minister. She stated that we cannot bow down to terrorists. Four days later, Maqbool Bhatt's men assassinated Ravindra Mhatre and threw his body on the road. Within three days of this assassination, on 4 February, the then Prime Minister, Smt Indira Gandhi, presented a petition to the President, requesting a decision on the petition. According to the decision, the president did not accept the petition, and Maqbool Bhatt was hanged on 11 February. He was hanged in 1984, and to this day, people have not forgotten Maqbool Bhatt, while we have forgotten Ravindra Mhatre.

We talk about Siachen; we will forget Hanumanthappa; we will forget the Pathankot assassination, but whatever slogans the students raise in the name of freedom and democracy, we will support them unconditionally. I feel very bad that you support them unconditionally. There is politics involved in your support. A new government came to power in the country; yes, that is okay. Even the government makes mistakes. I am not saying you should not criticise them; you should definitely criticise them. However, if there is any threat to the integrity of the country, then we all should come together and fight against it. But that is not happening. Today, we are telling you what you did and what we did. We are watching a fight between the two here. I feel very bad; I am very aggrieved. Why did the incident at Jawaharlal Nehru University happen?

After this, I want to disclose two to three important things about where it all started. All these incidents are connected with Naxalism. They are leftists. There is nothing wrong with being a leftist, but being a leftist and harming the integrity of the country is wrong. When did this happen? When Russia fell, and China embraced capitalism, we began to understand what to do. Today, this entire base has become a den of Maoists. Jawaharlal Nehru

University has become a den of separatists. My request to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is to tell whether our intelligence is getting weak? There was an attack in Pathankot as well. As soon as we caught the students at Jawaharlal Nehru University, the definition of sedition is still being discussed. Yes, it is true that during the British government, sedition was imposed on all those who were fighting for the country. Section 124(A) was imposed on all of them. This is how we are doing it today. The youth is the strength of this country. We should not forget that one incident like Ishrat Jahan happened in our Mumbai. You remember that girl was killed; everyone knows why she was there. Then all the government officials stood behind her and even went to court. Today, it was revealed through Headley that Ishrat Jahan was there to assassinate the Prime Minister, and you people play politics on everything. You played politics even on Ishrat Jahan. We have a legislator in Maharashtra; he immediately went to her house and gave her family one lakh rupees, crying that Ishrat Jahan had been killed. Today, we know who Ishrat Jahan was.

Madam, what has happened is that someone asked what the measure of patriotism is. Today, new people are asking this

question. I deliberately want to tell all of you that this separatism that is ongoing needs to be taken a little seriously. India has been divided into pieces, and I will tell you where its foundation lies. Madam, on 28 January 1933, in a house at 15 Herberston Road in Cambridge, Rahmat Ali drew out a slip of paper for the first time and wrote on it why a separate country called Pakistan should be formed. It would not have occurred to anybody at that time that someone would think of something like this in the future, especially in London. After all, Pakistan was formed, and today these people who are talking about Kashmir, I request them to repeal Section 370 first; only then will something happen.

17.00 hours

This courage is increasing, not Kashmir-Kashmir and Kashmir; this Section 370 should be repealed first; only then will something happen. This is the foundation of what is happening today. All these Marxist people have come here. The constitution of the Maoist people was there. Jawaharlal Nehru University means that a big organisation of people fighting against the country has established itself there. Well, sometimes there are some good things in evil too. This is bad, but one good thing has happened. Now, we must take precaution. Our Subhash Chandra Bose used to say, You give me blood, and I will give you freedom. Freedom cannot be achieved without sacrifice; it has to be taken by force. This was also said by Subhash Chandra Bose. It is like this also: Kashmir will have to be taken by force. It is not likely to be won over like this right now. When we take Kashmir away, only then will all these things end. Coming here, you will raise slogans for Afzal Guru; coming here, you will raise slogans for Maqbool Bhatt. Tomorrow, you may even raise slogans for Kasab. I don't know whether they will say that Kasab would also have been killed in the same manner. Therefore, I request that, in the future, these

Muslim fundamentalists or terrorists and Maoists who have gathered in Jawaharlal Nehru University should be investigated, and those who talk against the country and divide it should be dismembered first; I demand this.

Today, I remember that if our Balasaheb Thackeray were here, he would not have even listened; he gave the slogan of Jai Hind. We want integrity in that Jai Hind. There are people from every province. Speak in your own language; live for your province, but we will not let the integrity of the country be compromised in any way. Having said just this, I come to an end of my speech. Jai Hind.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please, everyone may finish one's speech in two minutes each because there is not much time left now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Speaker Madam, I would like to put my point briefly; all the speeches have been completed. As far as the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University are concerned, this university has been targeted on the pretext of these students. As far as Jawaharlal Nehru University is concerned, it is a very

prestigious and internationally recognised university. Since the university was established 47 years ago, it has produced highly capable administrators and scholars who have obtained a reputation at both the national and international levels as well. As far as comparison with other universities is concerned, it has obtained more resources and facilities. In today's politics, there are student leaders who have emerged from this university, such as Prakash Karat, Sitaram Yechury, D.P. Tripathi, and other leaders who have also emerged from here. In this way, such leaders will be there in every party; they will be there, and they have been on our side too. Ideological debate, freedom of speech, and progressive thinking have been the specialities here. The university had been targeted prior to this, but the entire university was not called anti-national. For the first time, it has been called an anti-national university. We know about the incident that happened prior, but no one called it anti-national.

Now, as far as Afzal Guru was concerned, he was accused of being involved in the planning of the attack on Parliament by terrorists. The Supreme Court had sentenced him to death. It is our national duty to honour the decision of the country's highest court. Whatever decision our Supreme Court has taken,

everyone should and will have to accept it. That decision cannot be challenged.

Regarding the incident that happened at JNU on the night of 9 February and the slogans that were raised, what was printed was something else, and what was shown was something else. There are serious differences of opinion on that. But it should be thoroughly investigated. Those who raise inimical slogans cannot be forgiven; I support this. However, at the same time, it is also important that innocent students and the university as a whole cannot be put under the anti-national section. It cannot be said that all the students of the university have become inimical and that the university has become anti-national. This is the responsibility of the government, and some such statement should come from their side. This message is going among the general public that everyone has become anti-national. This matter is under discussion, but no one from the government is speaking. This should be stated by the government; we are already saying it. A balanced statement should come from the government so that the honour of this university is maintained. This is our advice and opinion to the government. I have already told you about the incident that happened in JNU on the night of

9th February in which slogans were raised. There are serious differences over what was printed and shown. There should be a thorough investigation to find out whether anti-national slogans were raised or not. If anti-national slogans have been raised, then give the biggest punishment you can.

But now, how much is true and how much is false? There are two kinds of things that have come up for discussion in front of us; some things may have come up in front of you too. Therefore, you should get a complete investigation done in this regard. You should not delay in getting this test done; you should get it done quickly to find out what is right and how much is wrong. Those who are guilty cannot be forgiven. This is our university. We do not want to speak at length; we have said three things. Other long speeches have already been made; we have placed our three points before you. Along with these words, we complete our speech. Thank you.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Ravindra Babu. You take only three minutes and not more than that, please.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Madam, this most unfortunate incident happened in Hyderabad Central University leading to the death of a Dalit scholar who has reached the top position of Ph.D and he committed suicide. We have totally forgotten the issue. We have totally forgotten the plight and sorrow of the parents of the student. What dreams they must have dreamt about him when he was sent to the Central University? We have totally forgotten to pay tributes to that person and pay any condolence or show any sympathy to his parents. That is the most unfortunate incident that happened in the Hyderabad Central University.

Coming to Jawaharlal Nehru University, there is a popular saying about Jawaharlal Nehru University that whatever JNU thinks today, India thinks tomorrow. JNU is known as the most intellectual hub.… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: What West Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU: That is fine. That adds to my observation. Therefore, JNU used to be the hub of most of the

intellectual discussions and debates. So many times so many people used to go there, both before and after the election of the Students' Union. There has never been any acrimonious incident. There used to be a very healthy debate. For the first time after Afzal Guru was hanged, a controversy has arisen, and that too he had been hanged after following the due process of law for an activity which has been proved beyond doubt. There is no question of any discussion. There is no question of any postmortem after that. But unnecessarily, there is a controversy which has arisen in the minds of the students. We, being the elders, being the Parliamentarians and responsible people, instead of understanding the mentality of those students who are participating, are unnecessarily invoking sedition Act against the students. I think it is too harsh a measure on such an incident. If at all sedition Act needs to be invoked, there are people as Shri Tathagata Satpathy mentioned. How many banks, one bank after the other, have declared NPAs? Everybody is competing. There are economic frauds committed by people who are belittling the country, who are embezzling the country's money outside, making India emasculated and economically weak. Those are the people who need to be invoked sedition clause and not the

students. Students are very innocent. They are like our children. If there is any wrong understanding; if they are going on a wrong route, we are here to correct them, bring them on the correct path and tell them that this is what is correct. We cannot do it by punishing them. By punishment, they will become hardcore criminals. Let us not do that.

Our universities are the centres for excellence. We feel proud of them. IITs, IIMs, JNU, etc. – we are very proud of all our institutions. There has always been unity in diversity. Ambedkar ji always believed in that. If anybody who criticizes India has to be labelled as anti-national, then Ambedkar also needs to be labelled as anti-national because he is the one who burnt the *Manusmrti* book in the public. He denounced Hinduism by saying that Hinduism has caste discrimination.

We, being a tolerant society in India, we love India, we love the unity in diversity. Let us spread the spirit of nationalism; let us have the nationalism first. That is why I strongly believe that we should be tolerant for different views expressed by anybody. Ultimately, we are all Indians; we are all Indians; we are all Indians. Jai Hind! Jai Telugu Desham!

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. The University of Hyderabad, where the spark called Rohith Vemula got extinguished, is in Chevella, which is my parliamentary constituency. I am a Member of the Court of the University of Hyderabad. So, I have a few insights. Madam, I would appreciate if you give me two-three minutes extra.

The last letter of Rohith Vemula says:

> "Don't get angry on me. I have no complaints with anyone. I have always wanted to be a writer. My birth is a fatal accident. There was no urgency. But I am always rushing desperate to start a life and I would not be around when you read this letter."

He was boycotted, his scholarship was withheld and he was suspended. Probably, the country lost another Carl Sagan itself.

Madam, the institutions have become insensitive. Every stakeholder in an institution is important – the students, the teachers, the staff, the parents and the local society, the local community where the University is, as well as the Union Government and the HRD Minister. But I think the behaviour of

the Vice Chancellor (VC) and the administration now in this Government as well as the VCs in the past Government – I had the opportunity to interact with three other VCs in the past Government – is same. Regardless of the Government the VCs of Central Universities say they are accountable for nobody except the Ministry in Delhi. I think that has to change.

Madam, in the same constituency next to Hyderabad University there is the Indian School of Business. Some of the Universities in India and abroad go out of the way to involve local communities, take opinion and integrate themselves with the culture and become sensitive to the issues. That is not happening. We are not even doing the mandatory.

On 4th December, we got a two month's notice, that is, one month's notice in November saying that 4th December we will have a Court meeting of the University of Hyderabad. I and two other MPs are Members of that and we requested for it to be postponed. They would not even answer. We requested it because the Parliament Session was going on. If they are not sensitive to us and the local community, I doubt, they will be sensitive to the students. We did not even get a written letter.

The autonomy of the institutions is being destroyed and that is the main culprit. Like I said, it was happening in the previous Government. The appointments to the boards are made without proper feedback and it is only the elitists who are in the administration. But I think that those allegations are true. If you look at the senior most officers from the VC onwards, they are all elitists and I think they have lost touch with the students.

Madam, we have heard of many adventure tourisms, we have heard of medical tourism, we have heard of culture tourism. But we invented a new thing. It is called 'political tourism'. The hub of political tourism was my constituency. Every party of every kind, especially those who are against the Ruling Party have made it a political tourism destination. Do we need to politicize this issue? I, being in the centre of the house, have the benefit of speaking objectively.

This is not the first suicide. There were nine other suicides, including the ones committed by Senthil Kumar and Raju in the same university, Balraj and so on. Why is this happening now? It is because of political opportunism. I would not want to blame this side of the House or that side of the House. I would blame

equally both of them. They are not focussing on the solution and the diary. The issue is being politicised.

Madam, at the same time, we had the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad which were held ten days later. Being in my constituency – our political rivals and friends in the Parliament are here – it was a great opportunity for us to politicise that incident, but our Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, emphatically told that 'being your constituency, you go there once, but do not sit in the dharna and never talk about it in the GHMC elections.' We have swept Telangana. If there was an Achilles' heel for our party, it was Hyderabad. Despite it being so important for us to win, our Chief Minister and our leader, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, had emphatically mentioned to us not to politicise it. Not once did we broach this issue. That was the constituency where we had zero corporators and now we have 100 per cent of the corporators without politicising this issue. We have won 100 per cent of the corporators there. That is the statesmanship that we require. That is what we require from both sides of the House. On the issue of the impending GST Bill, we also need some bipartisanship.

Every once in a while we have to confront these issues. There are various causes and reasons attributed to Rohit Vemula's case – nationalism, casteism, Dalit issue, secularism etc. Just as secularism cannot be the patent right of the Congress, nationalism cannot be the patent right of the BJP. I think, being in the centre of the House - as they say that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers – I would say that we are not the grass; we are the voice of the country. I think, that is very important that we understand what is required and that bipartisanship system is required.

Madam, in some democratic countries, for chewing gums, `they are caned in public. In other democratic and developed countries, for saying 'lotless' and 'Yakub Memon should not be jailed or hanged', they would have gone to rendition camps, but our level of tolerance should be much higher.

Madam, I think, both my friends, Shri Anurag and Shri Scindia, raised the word *[Translation]* Traitor, but traitor is not there in our law.*[English]*We do not have sedition laws. The closest is Section 124A. There are two solutions. One is autonomy of the institutions. Secondly, we should have laws

which are not ambiguous. The closest to sedition laws is Section 124A where the subjective words which can be interpreted any which way they want are hatred and things like that. We should have definitive laws. Hopefully, in the coming sessions, we make definitive laws.

Lastly, it was Carl Sagan who said that we make our world significant by the courage of our questions and the depth of the answers. Rohit Vemula has asked us a question and we need to find the courage and the wisdom to find the solution.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri M.B. Rajesh will speak.

You have only three minutes to speak. I am giving you one minute more from my side.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, please give me ten minutes.

HON. SPEAKER: No. Sorry.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, we are discussing this important issue at a time when the campuses across the country are boiling in an unprecedented outrage and protest. Tens of thousands of students are coming out on the streets to fight an undeclared emergency imposed by the Government against the universities and campuses.

Madam Speaker, two incidents have shaken the conscience of the entire nation. One is a suicide. It is, in fact, an institutional killing of Rohit Vemula, a brilliant student who wanted to become another Carl Sagan. He belonged to Hyderabad Central University. The second incident is of sending Kanhaiya Kumar, the elected President of JNUSU, to jail.

Rohith Vemula is a Dalit student and Kanhaiya Kumar belongs to an extremely poor family whose mother is an *Anganwadi* teacher and whose family is surviving on a meagre income of Rs. 3,500 per month. What does it mean? This means that they do not want Dalits and deprived sections of students / youth belonging to Dalits and deprived sections to be in Universities. *Eklavyas* continue to lose their thumbs. This is continuously happening.

Rohith Vemula was suspended due to continuous pressure exerted by two Union Ministers and when the Union Ministers sent 8 letters in a period of three months and when the Vice-Chancellor refused to take action against Rohith Vemula, a brilliant student, then they removed the Vice-Chancellor and a stooge was appointed in the Chair of Vice-Chancellor and he took action against Rohith Vemula. Unable to withstand the pressure that brilliant student ended his life by committing suicide. Hence, I said that this is not merely a suicide, but it is an institutional murder.

Yesterday, I saw his mother and brother. They were in Delhi. Have you done justice to that family? Have you done justice to his mother? She has sought justice and she came to Delhi seeking justice. You have not done justice, but not only that you have added salt to the wounds by making insulting statements against Rohith Vemula. Even the Union Ministers have made insulting statements against Rohith Vemula.

Now, they are targeting JNU, and even before JNU they targeted IIT, Chennai – a small debating forum called Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle. It was targeted; Delhi, IIT was targeted;

and Pune, FTII was targeted. The students of FTII were accused as drug addicts and anarchists. The students of Chennai, IIT were accused as extremists. So, everybody who questions / challenges their ideological hegemony is being branded either as anti-national or drug addicts and anarchists. This is happening in our country.

JNU has always been their prime target. They wanted to appoint one of their close man as Vice-Chancellor or Chancellor whatever it is, but they could not do it. Now, they are branding an entire University as anti-national. Which is this University? It is a University, which has made immense contributions to all walks of our nation's life. Your Foreign Secretary is an alumnus of JNU and at least four dozen Government Secretaries under this Government … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: It includes their own Minister.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Yes, but I do not want to name that Minister.

Anyway, more than four dozen Government Secretaries are alumnus of JNU. … *(Interruptions)* Even the man who is steering the 'Make in India' is also from JNU; the Chief of Anti-

Terrorist Division of RAW; and your CBI, Director are all from JNU.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, conclude your speech. There are so many people from that University.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Madam, we were targeted by them. Now, we have to counter it.

Pawan Kumar, who laid his life bravely fighting the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir recently, is also an alumnus from JNU. How can you brand such a prestigious University as centre of anti-nationals?

HON. SPEAKER: The University is not anti-national, but some persons may be. Please conclude now.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Do they have an iota of evidence to brand a University as a centre of anti-nationals and put the President of JNUSU behind bars? Yes, I can tell you that there has been fabrication of evidences and there have been photoshopping. In just a single week, there were four instances of photoshopping and fabrication of evidences.

The first was the so-called tweet which turned out to be a fake tweet, and the Home Minister was quick to believe what the Lashkar-e-Toiba leader has said and he accused them of having terror links. What is the credibility of the Home Minister then? Secondly, there was photo-shopping of a photo of Kanhaiya Kumar with the background of a divided map of India. That was also photoshopped. There was a morphed video. Have you got any answers? Can you tell us who conspired to fabricate such a video? Who are the beneficiaries of that video? On the basis of a morphed video, you are putting a promising student leader and an elected President of the Students Union behind the bars. There was again another fabrication. The National Human Rights Commission told us that a statement was fabricated -- the Police forced Kanhaiya Kumar to make a statement. So, there were these four instances of fabrication of evidences in a single week. Now, you are accusing all students as anti-nationals. … *(Interruptions)* I can give you a lot of such instances. … *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF OFHOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF OFPARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Shri Rajesh, who said it? We have our own students in the University. You are an educated man. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: I am talking about JNU.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Can you yield for a minute? Nobody can brand the entire University or all the students as anti-nationals. People who have put up a poster and held an event called "The Country Without A Post Office". It means, *[Translation]*there is no name or symbol, such a poster was put up.It is written in it, *[English]* "Against the Brahminical cannibal collective conscience; against the judicial murder of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat; in solidarity with the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their democratic right for self-determination." This is what the poster says. People are saying that this is anti-national. Why are you sympathising with those people? You are not an anti-national. Nobody called you an anti-national. Nobody can give a certificate as to whether one is a

nationalist or an anti-national. You are trying to take cover under the students. Students are nationalists. Some fellows, who have been inspired by the Maoist ideology, are trying to mislead them, misguide them and put them into difficulties. That is the situation.

Nobody can say anything against the Jawaharlal Nehru University. It is a great University. We want that University to flourish from where great people have come. However, some people are now doing these things. Please do not try to divert the attention. Nobody is indulging in morphing. Morphing is being done by those people who are involved in the first instance and, subsequently, they have changed their stance. That is the evidence. Do you want to see the photographs? Everything is there. If any morphed photographs are there, then we can take action against them. We have the photographs with names, who have participated in the demonstration; who are the persons who were there; and what were the slogans that they have raised. All these things are on record. Let the University come out with its report. There is an inquiry going on. But do not make sweeping comments.

You are a very hard-working Party worker and there is nothing wrong in that because so are we. We are also Party workers. But you cannot say before the House that every student is being branded as an anti-national. No fool on the earth can say such things, I can tell you. Secondly, whether you are a nationalist or not, people will decide. How can one brand the entire institution as anti-national? We have no such intention. It is a wrong perception. Please do not try to mislead the people.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: I am happy that the hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, has clarified the position, but he should advise his own MLAs and leaders on this. What did your Rajasthan MLA say? I do want to quote him: *[Translation]* "When students are protesting oppose you, you are talking about detention." Your MLA stated this. *[English]* One of your National Secretaries wanted one Member of Parliament to shoot his daughter because she is an anti-national. So, please advise your own leaders, your own MLAs and MPs on this.

Madam, I am coming to the last aspect. Now, we are also being targeted or branded as anti-nationals. Now, you are creating a divide between 'nationals' and 'anti-nationals', or

'nationalists' or 'anti-nationalists'. We are thankful for giving us an opportunity to expose you. Who are anti-nationals? I would like to say that we would rather allow our bodies to be cut into pieces than allowing the country to be cut into pieces.

We have bravely fought throughout these years in Kashmir, in Assam, in Punjab. We have fought the extremists and terrorists in Kashmir. Many of our comrades have become martyrs. Hundreds of our comrades have become martyrs fighting extremists in Punjab. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: This is an important and emotional issue. Many of our comrades have become martyrs fighting Khalistan extremists in Punjab, in Assam. We have got a glorious history of freedom struggle. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, the legendary communist leader, at the age of 16 years, braving the bullets of British, hoisted the National Flag, the Tricolour in Hoshiarpur Collectorate. The British Government had put a prize of Rs. 50,000 on the head of Shri EMS Namboodaripad during the freedom struggle. Shri A.K. Gopalan was the first Leader of Opposition. He was still in jail when the country

attained Independence on 15th August, 1947. That is the legacy of the Left; that is the legacy of the Communists. Our legacy is that of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad, Raj Guru and Kishori Lal were with us. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Varaprasad Rao.

Now you have to conclude.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: What is your tradition? I do not want to create any problems here. … *(Interruptions)* Can you give me a single name. ... *(Interruptions)* who had not sought clemency from the British... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now conclude. I am sorry.

Shri Varaprasad Rao.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have taken his name. Now, nothing will go on record.

… *(Interruptions)... **

HON. SPEAKER: It is all right. I am sorry.

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*Not recorded.

… (Interruptions)

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I also thank my Party and my leader Shri Jaganmohan Reddy. I wish that the discussion should have been made into two parts. You are very kind to repeatedly say that this issue is extremely sensitive. But what happened in Hyderabad is altogether a different one. It is based on the caste whereas in JNU it is on the national issue. So, altogether these are two different issues.

I would like to stress on what happened in Hyderabad. As many people said Rohith Vemula was literally driven to commit a suicide. Let us see the reasons as to how it happened. I would also request the Government here to ensure that such things should not happen at least in future. He was selected on merit. He was one of the brightest boys. He has come from a very poor family, a *Dalit* family where his father had deserted his wife, that is, his mother. They were living in poverty. The Vice Chancellor, Shri Appa Rao – let me quote it because it is an open secret – had earlier a bad history. As the Warden, he had

suspended several *Dalit* students from the mess. The second person who is involved in the suspension here is Shri Vipin Shrivastava, who is the Chairperson of the Executive Council. He also had a bad history as far as *Dalits* are concerned. When this person was the Dean of the Physics Department, he did not allow or did not allocate for one or two years a P.hD guide to a *Dalit* student Senthil Kumar. As a result, he also had committed suicide. This time the same person Shri Vipin Shrivastava was the person for suspending these students.

The Hyderabad University since its inception from 1972 or 1973 – I repeatedly request the hon. Minister of HRD -- that there is not a single representative of the *Dalit* in the Executive Council which decides the policy. Please listen, we have the right to speak here. … *(Interruptions)*

Madam, the problems of SC people are extremely peculiar. We have been suppressed for centuries, we are poor people and poverty is the common thread for all of us, we do not have any social status, we do not have any political power. Therefore, the Government on its own should provide that security for us so that such things do not happen again.

Hon. Central Minister who is stationed in Hyderabad is an extremely graceful person, there is no doubt about that. He is a very seasoned politician. In his innocuous letters he used certain words that suspension is a small punishment. But he forgot that behind the suspension, the issue is very serious. For six months he was not given the JRF fellowship and there was no money with him to live outside. Living outside the campus costs at least Rs.15,000 to Rs.20,000. Students were barred from the library. Where would they go? And where would they go when the mess is closed for them? And Hon.Minister says that suspension is a small punishment. Yes, it is so in normal cases. But when it comes to Dalits, it is a question of their life. Therefore, before Ministers act in such a way, they should kindly take the backgrounds of the Dalits into consideration.

And, definitely there is involvement of RSS here. … *(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. This information is in the papers. There is nothing secret here. Every political party has its own student political wing. For example, when I studied in 1973, the hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, who is sitting here, was our leader for ABVP. We had never witnessed such kind of incidents. It was purely student versus student and union

versus union kind of thing. There was no political interference at any time. Therefore, the Government should keep in mind that when students fight it is after all a storm in the cup. Why should the Government react? If the JNU students had pasted some posters out of sympathy for Jammu and Kashmir, not in favour of Afzal Guru or anybody, it is … *(Interruptions)* Listen. Let us get back to the history. Repeatedly we have betrayed them. Wherever there is a majority of the Muslims, we are supposed to give it to the other side. We have not given it. Thereafter we have promised a referendum and we have not done it. Therefore, some students, I am not supporting it, kindly listen, …

Madam, universities have a certain freedom of expression. The students have their rights. Why should we react to that? Why should the Government react to that? After all it is ABVP vs FSI or some other union or Maoists and we should leave it to them. Therefore, I repeatedly request that Government should not involve itself in issues like this.

I would request the hon. Minister of HRD to kindly look into the Dalits issue in a different manner. I request her to see

that a Dalit representative is put up on Executive Councils where there is none now.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Madam, one last point. This is extremely important. We are not speaking on political grounds.

Now the Government has announced a judicial probe into the incident. The Government should see that at least such things are not repeated. A pucca machinery should be put in place whereby Dalits and the weaker sections could be protected in the long run.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN (JAMUI): Hon'ble Speaker, many opinions were expressed during the discussion on this subject today. Both parties have their own strong limitations. I don't want to add much to what everyone has said. All the young MPs sitting in the House right now must realise the responsibility that

it is more important for them to become the voice of the youth than to become the voice of their party, whether ruling or opposition; the youth have many questions in their minds. Today, rather than finding solutions to those questions, they must be paying attention to whether their questions are being raised in our Parliament or if politics is being done by targeting the youth along the lines of 'kahi nigahen kahi nishana'.

A question is arising in my mind: what is the turning point in the thought journey of Indian society where a youth is forced to such an extent that he is compelled to accept defeat in his life? A scholar from Hyderabad Central University committed suicide after being disappointed with the system, while, on the other hand, a renowned university in the country is in the news these days due to issues related to anti-national activities. It is beyond my understanding why there should even be a possibility of discussion or debate on anti-national lexicons. What is wrong is wrong. If anti-national slogans are being raised in the country, whether the divisive elements operate from JNU or any other university, and if they are trying to achieve their intentions by resorting to student politics, then it is wrong, and strict action should be taken against them. The feeling of treason is not a

mere aberration; it is a punishable crime. There would hardly be any person brought up on Indian soil who would harbour such a mentality. But if such elements exist in our society, then our system is capable of removing them from society and dealing with them. We should always remember that freedom of speech does not mean becoming the voice of the enemies of the country. This cannot be tolerated at all. It is very important to handle such issues seriously. I do not want to involve myself in caste politics. Today, it is sad that such matters are being politicised.

Please give me two extra minutes just because I am young. Due to mishandling at the administrative level, many times common issues become matters of student politics, which later escalate into national politics. As a result, we deviate from the real issues facing the country that we should discuss, and we waste our time on other issues. We also need to know whose fault it is here. Whatever happened at Hyderabad Central University recently, Shri Ramchandra Paswan Ji, our party MP and leader of the Dalit Sena Cell, had gone there. After coming back and giving the information, only one question arises in my mind: whatever happened to Rohit, can any Member sitting in

this House justify it? Can we all together help ease the pain and suffering his mother is going through? I humbly admit that if this issue had been handled with a little sensitivity, the results would have been different.

I want to thank the Union Government for accepting our demand for a judicial inquiry. Now it will be investigated impartially through an independent agency. I am thankful that a time-bound investigation has been ordered. After the report comes out, everything will be clear. What pains me the most is the thought that if his Dalit background is the reason for his suicide, then I am also dissatisfied with this kind of thought process in society. Student politics is the fundamental strength of any democracy. Apart from the knowledge gained from course books, the practical knowledge of political organisation that we get through student politics is what truly brings perfection to a student. It has always been the case that students challenge the organisation or become its strength, but it has also been the organisation's responsibility to involve students in the work of nation-building. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have to conclude your speech.

SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN: Madam, please look at your watch and give me one more minute. I have been in touch with many existing and present students of JNU. Like other states, many students from Bihar also go to JNU, and many of them got involved in research work. Many went into civil services, many became teachers and lecturers, and there will be many leaders here too who would have come from JNU.

Speaker Madam, I am proud of JNU, and I hope most of the Members will agree with me when I say that I am proud of JNU. We need to avoid politicising such issues. I would urge our politicians and political parties that when such issues arise, we should keep ourselves away from student politics as much as possible because our students are capable of thinking about their own good and bad. They can learn from their mistakes. They are the future of our country. If they make mistakes, they will learn. But when we politicise it, when we make such issues a photo opportunity, like our colleague just spoke , we make it a political destination. If people go there for tourism and take photographs, then this is wrong.

In the end, on behalf of my party and as a young MP, I fully understand my responsibility and want assurance from this House that those who are trying to infect the country should be eliminated. At the same time, we should also ensure that the innocent should not be made to suffer on account of misdeeds of their fellows. Thank you.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Speaker Madam, what happened with Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad has been occurring for a long time in our universities, educational institutions, and society for years, even centuries. The cruelty of the caste system in India has unfortunately become a part of our society. Individuals like Rohith fall prey to this every moment. Rohith's suicide and the aspects connected with it have ignited nationwide anger among the student youth. There were two student groups at Hyderabad Central University. Based on the information from reports published in newspapers, I would like to reiterate that there were two groups at Hyderabad Central University. One group had the support of the Vice Chancellor and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This was

the reason why Rohith's research fellowship was banned. How could a research scholar, whose mother works as a tailor in the village and supports the family by stitching clothes, complete his research without a fellowship? It is said that, on the instructions of the Union Minister, the Vice Chancellor announced strict action against Rohith along with his friends. Meanwhile, sitting here, we cannot imagine what might be going on in the mind and heart of Rohith, who comes from a very poor family. Perhaps in this dilemma, he decided to commit suicide. By a Central Minister in the student dispute.

... (*(Interruptions)*)

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone knows the story, so it would be better if you found some solution.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: I will complete my speech in two minutes. Taking full favour of one group and portraying the other as anti-national and casteist; perhaps this is where the background for Rohith's suicide was created. Madam Speaker, regarding JNU, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here, and the Education Minister is also present. I believe that, in

the way all the actions were taken in the JNU case, some haste was shown because the Vice Chancellor is there and other people are also involved. It was decided that an inquiry committee would be formed by the Vice Chancellor, and its report should have been awaited before any police action was taken, but a lot of haste was shown. This haste worsened the situation at JNU. Today, we all see with our own eyes how the Union government has become active; a siege is being laid, and efforts are being made to portray JNU as a centre of treason. Everyone has said that whatever happened in JNU on 9th February was a shameful incident, and every Indian will condemn this. Those who raise slogans against the country cannot be forgiven. Whatever action can be taken under the statute should be taken. What kind of justice is this, where even those who are not guilty are being tortured? I would like to quote an excerpt from the letter that student union president Kanhaiya Kumar handed over to the police. It says, "I believe in the Constitution of India. It is my dream to contribute in every possible way to implement its preamble. I believe in the unity and integrity of India and do not support any unconstitutional activity contrary to it." This statement is by Kanhaiya Kumar,

who is the president of the JNU students' union. The government should at least keep this point in mind before making any decisions. We have all seen what happened with Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad. If such an incident occurs, it is not a good thing.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that we can clearly see how much government and political interference can render these systems ineffective. A matter that should have been resolved at the Vice Chancellor level has entangled everyone from the Delhi Police to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs of the country. The incidents involving students Rohith and Kanhaiya from the University of Hyderabad and JNU should be kept in mind, and no hasty steps should be taken that could affect the students' future.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, before the Minister respond to some of the issues, as an individual I am so disappointed that some people are trying to divert both the main issues and trying to make some sort of political points against each other.

The first point is, Madam, what happened in Hyderabad University, Rohith Vemula incident is unfortunate, condemnable and the Government has appointed an Inquiry Committee to get into this entire gambit and come out with its findings. If anyone has got any other issue they should also refer it to the Committee and the Committee can go into that.… *(Interruptions)*

The point which I want to bring to the notice of the House is, because I also have some connection with the city, in the Hyderabad University, Shri Jagdish Prasad Yadav, Ashima Dhawan, MSc Biotechnology, from backward class, died. Senthil Kumar, Ph.D student, Scheduled Caste, died. Keshava Charry, M.Phil, OBC, died. Balaraju, OBC…

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Did all of them commit suicide?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, they committed suicide. I am trying to raise a serious issue. Try to bear with me. I am just coming to that, Sir. In the Hyderabad University itself so far 12 students have committed suicides and they belonged to weaker sections, poorer sections. This is happening since long from 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 to 2016.

So, we have to understand the background as to why these things are happening. Why are social disharmony and discrimination there in the seat of learning? Who is responsible for this? Should the society in general not ponder over this subject and then come to some conclusion? Should the academic community and particularly the administration of the Universities not ponder over this issue and come to some conclusion? Then the political leadership of the country are trying to make it a political issue and trying to tar somebody as pro-Dalit or anti-Dalit and score a political point is not good. As Shri Chirag was saying, some are making it a political yatra and then going there and getting garlanded also. Somebody died there and how can anybody has a garland, I am not able to understand. Why I am saying this? We are trying to divert the attention from the main issue.

The main issue is, what the circumstances are which are forcing the students to commit suicide. That is the issue which has to be focussed. I only hope that the inquiry which has been ordered and the academic community in general will come out with solutions. Some people have mentioned not only in this University but in different Universities also, he gave a number. I

am not going into that. That is one issue. All of us, should really feel ashamed if there is a social discrimination and on the basis of which such things are happening.

Secondly, what has happened there also and what sort of slogans were given, that also should be understood. It has nothing to do with Rohit. The slogans were – Yaqoob Memon, festival to commemorate, etc. The clashes were happening there. The Universities are meant for academic excellence, pursuance of studies, perusal of Ph.Ds. or not meant for such festivals and fight among people. Should we keep quiet and say that they are free and is Independent India we should allow such things to happen? This is the point I wanted to raise before this House.

Thirdly, today we are discussing about JNU. As I told you earlier, nobody is saying that JNU is anti-national. But definitely certain anti-national activities are happening at the behest of an organisation which is allied with Maoists. It is because the Maoist Organisation, PDSU and RSU are banned and as they are banned, they have taken a new avatar and then acting as Democratic Students Union. In the name of Democratic Students Union, they are doing such things. My blood is boiling.

I do not know why other people are not getting agitated on this issue. I am happy that Tariq Anwarji has just now said that nobody can condone those slogans and those utterances. I had thought that the entire House would speak with one voice which would have sent a good signal. But if you speak in different terms and try to justify that and then try to connect it to dissent, then you are sending a wrong signal to encourage such tendencies and divisive tendencies among the students.

I am not going into the details of what is happening. The heading of the poster says: 'A country without a post office'. Is India without post office?The entire world is looking towards India under the great leadership of Shri Narendra Modiji today. The world wants to invest in India. I am a Minister of Urban Development and I can tell you that 36 countries have approached me in the recent past saying that they want to invest in India because this is the best place and also it is a hope for investment. That is the mood. The world is respecting India and some people are putting up posters saying: 'A country without a post office', 'against the judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhatt, in solidarity with the struggle of Kashmiri people, etc.'

I would like to say to my friends from Congress to please discuss this quietly and clarify your position also. That will be useful to you in the long term. We may score political points against each other. Jyotiraditya said something and Anurag has to counter it. What I am asking is, should we not speak with one voice and condemn this action. The programme was 'Join us for a cultural evening'. A permission was sought from the University. The permission was given because initially this Afzal Guru and other things were not there. Some cultural programme goes on and There is ongoing brainstorming at JNU. That has been the practice of that University and that is speciality of that University also. We have no problem on that count. Let the best thing come out of that *vichaar manthan*. When the University came to know of this at 3 o'clock, as per our information, the University withdrew the permission because the backdrop which was put there was about Afzal Guru, Maqbool Bhatt, etc. This happened on 9th February. The permission was withdrawn but these people went ahead without permission and started raising all these slogans and making all these speeches.

18.00 hours

It is unfortunate that some of my colleagues without knowing what is happening there, what is the purpose, who are the organisers, what is their intention, what is their background had joined there and expressed solidarity with those students. What is the solidarity? I can understand that after the arrest of Kanhaiya one can debate whether sedition charges against him should be there or not. I will come to that a little later. I am not defending it. I am not defending it either way. My point is that instead of knowing the background as to what has happened and what has been happening over the years, some people went there and expressed solidarity and then tried to make it as a battleground to fight against the Government of India instead of fighting against anti-national forces and instead of nipping it in the bud, some people tried to express solidarity with those people who are eulogising Afzal Guru. Who is Afzal Guru? I was there in the Parliament that day along with the Home Minister. If he had succeeded, what would have happened to the hon. Members of Parliament? None of us would have existed that day. We may have belonged to any Party. Such a fellow who is an anti-national, who is inspired by Pakistan and a person

who is involved in this… *(Interruptions)* This is not the charge of Venkaiah Naidu. The Sessions Court, the High Court, the Division Bench, the Supreme Court after exhaustive long years of trial have decided on this case.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is six o'clock. If there is consensus in the house, the proceeding can be extended until this discussion is completed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, of course.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am under little emotion. Forget about political differences. We have our own differences. Everybody has got his own emotions but we should not create commotions unnecessarily. We have to check the commotion by controlling our emotion and to put in motion is our mission. All of us should understand this.

Madam Speaker, what was the slogan given? *[Translation]*Afzal Guru, the incomplete work you left behind, we will complete it. *[English]* "What is that *adhura kam*? The *adhura kam* was not being able to blast the Indian Parliament.

That is the work that has been left behind. It is the time that we should remember the great people who saved all of us, including me and all other colleagues, the senior Members of Parliament – Late Jagdish Prasad Yadav, Security Assistant, Rajya Sabha Secretariat; he was given Ashok Chakra posthumously, Matwar Singh Negi, Security Assistant, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Kamlesh Kumari, Constable, Central Reserve Police Force, Nanak Chand, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Delhi Police, Ram Pal, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Delhi Police, Om Prakash, Head Constable, Delhi Police, Vijayender Singh, Head Constable, Delhi Police, Ghanshyam, Head Constable, Delhi Police, Deshraj, Gardener, Central Public Works Department. An ordinary gardener who was working in the Parliament garden, they all come to our rescue. I salute their memory and the martyrdom they have. It is because of them that we are alive here. These people are saying such things today. Whether they are guided properly or misguided or whatever it is, some people may say that they are misguided and they are youngsters and all, but I do not think so. They have been indoctrinated in such a manner that they believe that power comes through the barrel of a gun. That is not acceptable at all. That is why the Communist

Party got separated from the CPI(ML). The CPI has got separated from the CPI(ML). The CPI(ML) had given this slogan and they are working according to that.

18.04 hours

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair)*

So, keeping that in mind, any sympathy with such people like Afzal Guru or Maqbool Bhat or Yakub Memon and all is nothing but clear anti-national; nothing but against the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of the country. I would not like to take much time. I would like to quote Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar because some people have quoted Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Rabindranath Tagore citing nationalism. What is nationalism? It is thinking about the nation; the nation includes people; people includes all caste, communities, religions and sects. This is nationalism. This is my understanding. If some people have got more knowledge because of their studies in some great universities, I do not know. We have all studied in street schools because we are ordinary people and the regime at that time did not provide us with such great opportunities. You can use liberal phrases. Can anybody be liberal with such anti-national activities? Can Indian Parliament be a silent spectator when such things are happening? Is it not the duty of all the elected representatives

from all sides to speak in one voice; to rise in one voice and condemn and segregate the handful of people and not thousands of people? Double of thousands of people have also held demonstration. … *(Interruptions)*You know what is acting. You have acted for 50 years.

On 25/11/1949, Dr. Ambedkar predicted what is likely to happen. He predicted it in 1949. Speaking in the Constituent Assembly at the time of the concluding discussion on the Constitution, he said:

> "Here I could have ended. But my mind is so full of the future of our Country that I ought to take this occasion to give expression to some of my reflections thereon. On 26 January 1950, India will be an independent country. What would happen to her Independence? Will she maintain her Independence or will she lose it again? This is the first thought that comes to my mind. It is not that India was never an independent country. The point is that she once lost the independence she had. Will she lose it a second time? It is this thought

which makes me most anxious for the future. What perturbs me greatly is the fact that not only has India once before lost her independence, but she lost it by the infidelity and treachery of some of her own people. In the invasion of Sind by-Mahommed-Bin-Kasim, the military commanders of King Dahar accepted bribes from the agents of Mohammed-Bin-Kasim and refused to fight on the side of their King. It was Jaichand who invited Mohammed Ghori to invade India and fight against Prithvi Raj and promised him the help of himself and the Solanki Kings. When Shivaji was fighting for the liberation of Hindus, the other Maratha noblemen and the Rajput Kings were fighting the battle on the side of the Moghul Emperors. When the British were trying to destroy the Sikh Rulers, Gulab Singh, their principal Commander, sat silent and did not help to save the Sikh kingdom. In 1857, when a large part of India had declared a war of Independence against the

British, some stood and watched the event as silent spectators.

Will history repeat itself? It is this thought which fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is deepened by the realisation of the fact that in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or will they place creed above the country? I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above the country, our Independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our Independence with the last drop of our blood."

This is what Dr. Babasahib Ambedkar has said. This is what is required to be thought by every Indian, this side or that side,

irrespective of party affiliations. We may have ideological differences. We had and we will have them. In a democracy, differences will be there. But at the end of the day, as far as the question of integrity and unity of the country is concerned, nobody can compromise, nobody can be lenient, nobody can be soft about such activities also.

I want to say that we, the Government, feel that we cannot compromise on India's security and safety and also compromise on the sovereignty of India. India is one. Ideologically we may discuss that your ideology is right and our ideology is wrong. That is for the people to decide as to whose ideology is wrong and whose ideology is right. But the final point is, India is one country.

Indian Parliament passed a Resolution during the period of Shri Narasimha Rao that not only Jammu and Kashmir but also Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is also part of India. That is the Resolution passed by the Indian Parliament unanimously, by all the parties.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Please go and bring him, sir, and resolve the issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Alright. I am very happy with the suggestions they have given. If needed, we will go and take them along. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: You are the patriot; the public has entrusted you with this responsibility, not us. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The unity and integrity of the country is not a matter of one person, one party, one leader, or one state. It concerns all Indians. Whatever needs to be done, everyone will do it together. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Madam, I just want to conclude by saying – I am sorry, Madam has converted and Sir has come – please understand the background of what is happening in universities; what happened in Hyderabad; what happened in Jadavpur. I do not want to repeat that. …*(Interruptions)* I am worried because Jadavpur is in India. Otherwise, I would not have worried at all. I am worried because I am an Indian. … *(Interruptions)* What

happened in Jadavpur? What is happening here? … *(Interruptions)* West Bengal is not an independent island. It is part of India and it is a pride part of India. What is happening in Jawaharlal Nehru University? A handful of people, who are in the periphery, who are not in the mainstream are misleading. Some are misleading and some are being misled. So, try to understand the factual position. Let us try to stand with the nationalist forces and then see to it that these forces which are trying to weaken India are nipped in the bud. This is the need of the hour. This is the call of the nation. If anybody has got any other view, like the people who are sitting in the studios and making some commentaries sympathizing with Dawood Ibrahim, Afzal Guru, let them see the public opinion. In the on-line survey also, 99 per cent is on one side and only one per cent is on the other side. This has to be understood by all. … *(Interruptions)* Shri Karunakaran, you need not get disturbed. … *(Interruptions)* We are handling this situation firmly because it is a delicate matter. People do not want to enter the university. People do not want to hand over those people. It is the responsibility of people who are there, who are saying that they do not agree with them, they should identify them. …

(Interruptions) What happened in Patiala Court is totally condemnable. Nobody can accept that. Nobody can take law into their own hands, whether it is MLA belonging to this party or that party. That is totally wrong. There is no second opinion about that. But do not try to divert the attention from the main issue as some people are trying to do. … *(Interruptions)* You are talking about our Maharaj. I can talk about hundreds of Maharajas of yours who have made such nonsensical statements earlier also. So, let us not get into that. He was civil enough to say that day. If someone's feelings have been hurt, I apologize for it. ... *(Interruptions)*is what they have said. Action will be taken against people and is being taken. If you have any suggestion and if you have evidence, please come out.

I wish that Shri Kanhaiya Kumar, who is a youngster should have come forward as President of the Students Union saying that, 'Sir, I was not one of them, but I went there to see. These are the people who were present'. Who were the people present there? It is all open. All these photos are there. … *(Interruptions)* By defending them, you will be offending the national sentiments. … *(Interruptions)* Who is innocent? Is Afzal Guru innocent? Is Maqbool Bhat innocent? Is Yakoob

Memon innocent? … *(Interruptions)* Please remember the sacrifices made by our jawans here, by our security forces here. Please remember the sacrifice made by Shri Hanumanthappa, Shri Unni from Kerala, and then the sacrifices made by ten soldiers who were martyred by the Kashmir avalanche recently protecting the nation at extreme weather conditions, like Havaldar Elumalai, S. Kumar, Lance Naik Hanumanthappa, Shri G. Ganesan and Shri Ramamurthy. If Kashmir is negotiable why should these people go there and sacrifice their lives coming from that part of the country? That is a question that one should ask to himself. So, please understand. Let us not try to politicize this. Let us confine to the main issue and then try to speak as one nation as far as anti-national activities are concerned.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Chairperson, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, repeatedly pointed out here... *(Interruptions)* You sit down; we are well aware of your entire history. He mentioned that the Congress supporters are backing anti-national elements, supporting Afzal Guru, and supporting

Maqbool Bhat. ... *(Interruptions)* You speak first; I will speak later. I condemn the repeated attempts being made indirectly to defame this party. Let any anti-national forces remain, whether they are in the university, professors, lecturers, or anyone else. If they work against the country, hang them first; we are with you. But I want to ask, you have 80,000 constables and police, and you live here. Yet, despite that, you couldn't find and remove the eight to ten boys who were causing trouble or engaging in anti-national activities? Whose fault is this? Is it our fault? It is your responsibility. Instead of finding them and educating them, you are defaming everyone. You are defaming students on one hand, and on the other, you are trying to tarnish a political party.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please refrain from giving a speech; you have made your point. Now, let the proceedings of the house continue.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I want to ask, are you the only patriot while others are not? Just as you quoted Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's quotation here. The same quotation that was debated here in the context of 124 years, I quoted the entire quotation here: *[English]*"Till the last drop of our blood, we will

defend." That is our case. But how are you treating Vemula? How are you treating Rohit? That is more important. *[Translation]*What is your response to that? You did not include a Dalit Member in that committee.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your point is complete; please do not give a speech. Please sit down!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You have constituted a committee in which not even one Dalit has been included, so what justice will be delivered to them? Therefore, through you, I appeal that you should not attempt to tarnish other political parties just to score political points. They will not tolerate it. If someone tries to erase us, we will never be erased. We know that the patriotism you have for this country is matched by our own. Our people have sacrificed for the country, and you are teaching us? Did you hang Afzal Guru? You are forming a government there by making friends with the PDP.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You previously governed with them and showed the way.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You took a special flight to release a terrorist and are now giving us lessons on

patriotism... *(Interruptions)* We do not need to learn lessons on patriotism from you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Alright, now please sit down. Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav, due to a shortage of time, you need to sum up your remarks in two minutes.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Chairperson, I will conclude my remarks in five minutes. There is a debate in the House on two sensitive matters. One is the incident in Hyderabad related to Rohith Vemula, and the other is related to Jawaharlal Nehru University. Firstly, I want to say that patriotism is ingrained in every fibre of our being. We all fought together in the struggle for the country's independence. However, what happened at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where children from the rural environments of the country, Dalits, the oppressed, and the poor come to study—a hub of knowledge—there is a deliberate attempt with great cunningness to divert the issues there. They want to hoist the saffron flag there through the student union. This will never be allowed to happen; we know this.

No one can be the custodian of nationalism. They want to hoist the saffron flag. The tricolour might be a compulsion for some, but it is essential for us. We do not need to take certificates from anyone. That's why disrespect is being shown. Jawaharlal Nehru University is a temple of knowledge for progressive students. There, issues are being deliberately diverted. Dr B.R. Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary was celebrated, and it was said that Dr Ambedkar is the heritage of our nation. Dr Ambedkar had once said, "Although I was born in the Hindu religion, I do not want to die in it." Even after so many years of independence, Rohith Vemula is still compelled to commit suicide. Even today, there is increasing oppression against Dalits and the poor. Students are forced to commit suicide. Therefore, those in power should wake up in time. The Bharatiya Janata Party should realise that this is injustice. Whether it's about Jawaharlal Nehru University, the incident at Hyderabad University, or Jadavpur University, today the agenda set by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the RSS is being implemented. Our country is large, so the aspirations of the BJP and RSS will not be fulfilled even in seven lifetimes. Jawaharlal Nehru University, which is a hub for students, fosters

progressive students, and Kanhaiya Kumar is a youth from Bihar. We are proud of him. The law is taking its own course but intentionally trapping our Kanhaiya Kumar under a conspiracy. Therefore, whatever schemes you are plotting against him today may not come to fruition. In the end, justice will prevail.

18.23 hours

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, I thank you. Tagore criticised communalism; Gandhi spoke about communal harmony among the masses, and both gave priority to patriotism over communalism. The discussion was about communalism from the BJP's side. I want to know from them, since they are sitting with their shop open, will they give a certificate of communalism? Will Congress give a certificate of communalism? I want to ask the BJP, what is the Naga Accord? They call it Naga Lim and do not recognise Hindustan. You did not talk to them in India; you talked to them in Singapore. Can you please tell me who is communal? The Chief Minister of Punjab set the Indian Constitution on fire in 1984, and you are praising him. Who is communal? Thirdly, you speak in Afzal's favour. I do not accept the slogans raised in JNU. I do not agree with him, but slogans are shouted in Srinagar on Fridays. Will you shut down Srinagar? Why are you supporting the PDP? Where did your patriotism go? Where did your communalism go? Where are those slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai"? Where is

your love for Hindustan? When the PDP declared Afzal Guru a martyr, it was called a travesty of justice. You do not talk about him.

I want to tell you that the Afzal issue is not trivial. What is happening in Kashmir? Will you pay attention to it? When Congress people were talking about freedom of expression here, I did not accept their argument. During their tenure, Afzal was hanged. That was a decision of the law. But why was Afzal's widow not allowed to meet him? Why wasn't Afzal's body handed over to his widow? The Congress party is equally responsible. When it comes to sedition, you applied sedition in Maharashtra; today, you are applying it again. I am challenging the BJP and asking, will you be able to prove allegations against Kanhaiya? And if you cannot, will you apologise and withdraw from politics? There are no allegations against Kanhaiya; it's a false accusation. No slogans were raised, according to the police report.

Madam, now I will speak about Rohith. Rohith wouldn't have died if Dattatreya hadn't written a letter. Rohith wouldn't have died if Shrimati Smriti Irani hadn't taken action against

him. Rohith's killing is a deliberate murder. Rohith cannot get justice.

In conclusion, I am finishing my statement. I am telling you that if Congress were in power, they would say that our ideology is liberal. If the BJP remains in power, the ideologies of Savarkar, Golwalkar, and Deendayal Upadhyay will prevail. How long will you keep talking about both ideologies? Where has the Constitution of India gone? Has it been reduced to dust? You are imposing your ideology on the Constitution of India, and we are imposing it on our necks. If I am opposing the ideologies of Savarkar and Deendayal Upadhyay, if I am a rebel, then I will take pride in my rebellion. I will continue to rebel against you, but I will not rebel against the country. That is why I am telling the government through you that Dalits cannot get justice from you because you are anti-Dalit. If someone raises a slogan that he is against Manuism and communalism, what is the big deal in that? That is why I want to tell the government that what is happening in JNU is wrong, and by doing this, you cannot enter JNU.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude; your point has been made. Rajesh Ranjan Ji, now you speak.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, I would sum up with this submission that please do not impose ideologies and adhere to the law of the country as well as comply with the constitution of India which enshrines freedom of expression and take action against all the news channels which were spreading misinformation that slogans had been raised against India. Thank you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Speaker Madam, this country, this civilisation, and this humanity can never be in danger, and caste, religion, and sects can never be in danger. When the power and votes of a political figure are threatened, it endangers not only the country but also caste, religion, and sects. I will say with great humility that just as fish cannot survive without water, similarly, a person cannot be developed without spirituality, high morals, and ideals.

Madam, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here. In this country, we had Dr. Abdul Kalam, who had a blend of the Gita, Bible, and Quran. He dedicated his life to humanity

and nation-building. On the other hand, in Pakistan, there was Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who neither had spirituality nor human civilisation, yet he sold the nuclear energy which he developed, to the world. This is the difference between the two countries. Until human development occurs, no matter how much we talk. We are not here to abuse or insult. We went to Kanhaiya's village; Kanhaiya used to study in Patna earlier. We met Kanhaiya's mother and father, and we also visited JNU. We would like to say only this much regarding the issue of Vemula.

Madam, we were just talking about Shri Narendra Modi. There is definitely a lot of discussion about him in countries and abroad, and Narendra Modi is praised. But regarding this arrest, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has criticised the incident at JNU University with the mindset of 455 academicians from institutions such as Columbia, Allahabad, and Cambridge for its critical thinking, democratic disagreement, student activism, and its multitude of humanitarian ideas. Certainly, on one hand, if you talk about Narendra Modi being respected by the entire country or world, on the other hand, the same country and world have strongly criticised this incident. Will you not accept this? My only point is that without 100 per cent tolerance and

humility, history involves exploitation, whether it be Shiv, Ram, Krishna, or anyone else.

When it comes to Baba Saheb Ambedkar, he criticised Ram the most and opposed the killing of Shambuka. Will we oppose that? The struggle of ideas will continue unabated. He cannot be anti-India. I am saying within this House that Vemula will continue to die. It is because of the kind of politics being conducted by politicians, from the past to the present, that this is happening. If we talk about POK (Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir), there is a saying in the village homes that the weak man's wife is everyone's target, while the strong man's wife is everyone's mother. If we talk about Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), I would urge Venkaiah Naidu ji that the entire House is with you. Attack Pakistan's POK and the area that China has taken over, and take back India's territory. Nobody will stop you; we will give you full support. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, all I have to say about the Kanhaiya incident is that a thorough investigation should be conducted into it. The actions taken by the lawyers should also be investigated. Kanhaiya was brutally beaten; that too should be investigated. Kanhaiya is

innocent, and I can personally say that. The sedition case against Kanhaiya should be withdrawn, and the freedom of expression of any student should not be challenged.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Speaker Madam, while we are discussing JNU and Hyderabad University today, I want to bring to the House an incident from the 18th that concerns students. The hon. HRD Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are present here. At Rohtak's MDU University, students at Nekiram College and Jat College, who were still awake at 8 PM, faced a lathi charge. According to the law, officials must obtain permission from the principal or proctor before entering any campus. However, DSP Amit Bhatia, along with over 150 police officers, beat 40 to 50 unarmed students. Later, at 12:30 in the morning, he brought in central security forces to disperse those young students who were protesting for their rights, using lathis (sticks). When the entire state of Haryana was shut down, the Deputy Commissioner issued orders on the evening of the 19th for *[English]*students have to leave the hostel within five hours otherwise they will be forcefully removed.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to ask the government whether we have turned our youth into mere playthings. When the entire country and the state were shut down, with no trains or buses available, orders were given to these young men to leave the hostel, threatening force if they did not comply. I am not discussing JNU, where the Delhi Police could not enter, nor am I addressing the incident in Hyderabad, where a young Dalit student committed suicide. However, in Haryana, where young men suffered physical injuries, including fractures and head injuries, the police did not take them to the hospital. Therefore, I demand a judicial investigation into this matter.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Speaker Madam, I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on this sensitive issue. Today, the country is discussing the Rohith case in JNU and Hyderabad University. I believe that strong action should be taken against anyone engaging in anti-national activities. Those involved should face strict consequences. However, regarding the controversy at JNU, where student

Kanhaiya, a resident of Bihar, was arrested, I want to know if the government made any efforts to ascertain the facts or conduct an investigation before his arrest. Was there an investigation into the slogans of that unarmed student leader before charging him with sedition? Does any citizen not have the freedom of expression? Are we not violating the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution?

Speaker Madam, JNU is considered a prestigious institution with a distinguished history. The country takes pride in institutions like JNU, but today the government seems to be trying to defame it. No one should be allowed to infringe upon students' freedoms. If criticising government policies or actions is equated with sedition by unarmed individuals, then what will happen to the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution? Today, it is the government's actions that are causing the spark of JNU to ignite in many universities across the country.

Madam Speaker, Rohith came from a Dalit family and received a scholarship from the CSI (CRF). Due to the oppressive practices of the university and government, he was forced to commit suicide in his hostel room on the night of

January 17, 2016. This Dalit researcher had not received his scholarship for the past seven months, with Rs. 1 lakh 75 thousand withheld. He could not pay his fees. The university administration had suspended five students from the Ambedkar Student Association, including Rohith Vemula.

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Kaushalendra Ji. You were given a minute's time. There is no purpose in repeating the same points.

Mahesh Giri Ji, I will give you only two minutes as well. It's your party's time, but I will only allow two minutes. Please make your point quickly.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Speaker Madam, I thank you. After hearing everything today, I am very surprised. I am deeply dismayed because I am the person who went there to file the FIR. When I was filing the FIR, I only had one thing on my mind, I did not think about being a Member of Parliament or which party I belong to. Hearing slogans against the country saddened me so much that I went straight to file the FIR without a second thought. The anger I felt was due to the fact that this nation, which gives me everything, is defended by young people

who sacrifice their lives for it. Hearing some of the remarks here today feels like a cruel mockery of that sacrifice. I remember when Lord Ram was leaving Lanka, Lakshman said, "We have conquered Lanka; Ayodhya has Bharat; let him rule there, and we will rule here." Then Lord Ram replied, "Mother and motherland are greater than heaven." I love the mother who gave birth to me and my motherland, which is greater than heaven. Today, I am reminded of the slogans raised there. The individuals chanting those slogans could be anyone, whether it's Kanhaiya or others, but the slogans themselves are very detrimental to this country. In 1915, someone chanted the slogan "Pakistan Zindabad", which led to Pakistan's separation. There is a significant difference between a mistake and a conspiracy. It is often said that a mistake occurred; it was their mistake. Mistakes can be forgiven, but conspiracies cannot. Those who are chanting slogans are causing a lot of confusion in Parliament. They are not of student age at all; they are middle-aged individuals who have been there for nine years, involved in various anti-national activities.

I urge the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to conduct a thorough investigation, as various types of anti-national

activities are going on. In conclusion, many such things have been said within this country numerous times. The reality is that those who ruled this country for 60 years cannot digest the fact that a person from a backward caste has become the Prime Minister. A tea seller has become the prime minister, a messiah for the poor has become the prime minister and they cannot accept this. This expresses the pain of that very sentiment.

[English]

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important discussion.

Firstly, I want to say that I am a Member of the Communist Party of India and Kanhaiya Kumar is also a Member of the Communist Party of India. He is a leader of the All India Students Federation and he is an elected Chairperson of the Jawaharlal Nehru University because he believes in the electoral system. The Maoists do not believe in the electoral system. They say that power grows out of the gun.

Madam, Kanhaiya Kumar is a Member of the Communist Party of India and also a leader of the All India Students

Federation. Elections were conducted and he was elected as the Chairperson of the Jawaharlal University and he is my brother.

Now, they have put him behind bars. The main …* behind the arrest of Kanhaiya Kumar is the Delhi local MP, who spoke just now. He was behind it. He is against that Chairperson because of his ego. He is not invited to the Jawaharlal Nehru University for discussions, seminars and for inaugurations. That is his ego. He wants to smash that Chairperson, Kanhaiya Kumar.

Madam, Kanhaiya Kumar belongs to a poor family. He belongs to the third generation of a family of Communist in Bihar, who had made immense sacrifices not only during Freedom Struggle but also continue to fight for people's rights and to defend democracy, secularism and rule of law. But such a man is, now, behind bars; and he is accused that he is not patriotic.

We heard in Kerala that somebody is selling patriotism in Delhi. Is it in RSS office or is it in ABVP office that patriotism is sold?Is it a wholesale business or retail business of patriotism?

*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: All right. Now, Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: We communists know what is patriotism. Kanhaiya Kumar knows what is patriotism…*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What can I do? You cannot tell the whole story. You have to conclude, now.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, please conclude, now.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: The internationally reputed Jawaharlal Nehru University has been targeted from the day the BJP Government came to power. The BJP and its sister organizations, RSS and ABVP are preparing ground… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It is okay. Now, nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

… *(Interruptions)... **

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*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important debate.

'haathii ke daant khane ke aur dikhane ke aur, very well stated by Scindia Ji. But I fail to understand who was he actually referring to – the NDA or the UPA. In the 10 years of the UPA regime, lots of cases of suicides came up but at that time, my friends from the Congress party, never raised the issue of caste-based oppression and discrimination in our central universities nor did they, at that point of time, see any such institutional murders, which they are referring to, happening within our central universities.

Madam, caste-based discrimination and oppression in our central universities is a reality but this has been in existence for a very long time. It is not something that has come up since the time, the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has come to power. It has been in existence for many years; and for much of the period after Independence, it is the Congress party, which has ruled over the country. Had they been so serious and sensitive about this issue of caste based oppression and

discriminations in our central universities, then they would have really created a mechanism to sensitise our faculty Members in the Central Universities to deal with students coming from varied social backgrounds. They would have also created a legislation to protect the students coming from the marginalized sections of the society against all forms of caste based discrimination and also they would have made efforts to fill up the backlog of the SC/ST/OBC vacancies in the faculties so that we see a social diversity in the caste composition of our faculties in the universities. But they never made such an effort. So, this '*haathii ke daant khane ke aur dikhane ke aur*.' applies more to the Congress Party than to the NDA.

Madam, there has been a lot of hue and cry about sedition.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Madam, please let me speak. This is a very important subject on which I want to speak. I will finish in two minutes.

According to the Supreme Court, 'mere criticism of the Government or comments on the administration, however, vigorous or pungent or even ill-informed does not constitute

sedition'. The question then automatically comes to my mind is this. Are we confusing Indian Government with India as a nation?It is because the kind of slogans which were raised in the cultural evening on 9th February within the JNU campus were not against the Indian Government. They were clearly against India as rightly pointed out by Anurag Thakur Ji. And, my friend from the Congress Party, Scindia Ji says that our party strongly condemns these slogans. I do not understand then what was his party Vice-President lending support to, when he went to visit those students who were raising such anti-national slogans, and you ask, "Is it a crime to follow Ambedkar?" Did Ambedkar any time say that you have to raise anti-India slogans?

Madam, people here are misinterpreting the fundamental right of freedom to speech and expression. It does not mean that it is an absolute right and we can raise slogans against our nation. We have to really review our definition and understanding of this fundamental right.

I wish to point out that as far as sedition is concerned, incitement to violence is the essential ingredient of offence of

sedition. So, can the House deny today that the kind of slogans which were raised in the JNU campus were not having the potential of raising and giving rise to violence in the nation? I think it is up to the court to decide.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Madam, the universities in the country are really in turmoil, not only in JNU, whether it is Hyderabad Central University or any other university. But who is responsible for this? That is the question. Venkaiah Naidu Ji was explaining in an elaborate way that it was the innocence of the Government. But with all the politeness, Madam Speaker, I wish to ask that, then who is responsible for this?I wish to say that it is the Government and the Government alone is responsible. The Government is responsible for creating such a situation. With all the politeness, I wish to say that it was the teamwork of two Central Ministers along with the Vice-Chancellor who is having a bad record of Dalit harassment, ABVP and BJP functionaries there. Because of this teamwork, such a situation, which is shameful for the nation, has been created. I wish to say that you cannot escape from this sin. What happened there really?The Ministers - I do not want to name any Minister - have shown undesirable interest

in that. You are instrumental in creating all these problems. One Minister wrote a provoking letter to the Central Minister. Who authorized you to send this kind of letters? You want to encroach the university's autonomy.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: You are liberal in giving time. I am just concluding.

HON. SPEAKER: I am not liberal today.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: So, they are instrumental for this. They have added fuel to the fire. So, they are responsible for creating such a situation.

Actually, you have to think about the JNU affair also. JNU is like a volcano. You see, you are saying that the students are anti-nationals. What is the evidence with you? Depending upon some photographs and some reports, you are branding the brilliant students as anti-nationals.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you are repeating. Please conclude.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: My case is new. So, what I am saying is, they should not brand the people like this.

Do you think that branding them as anti-nationals is an easy thing as you think? It cannot be tolerated. I would like to tell the Government that the Government should desist from doing this kind of things. The Government is really doing this. The Government is playing with fire.… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Premachandran. Premachandran Ji, you should also follow the rules.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, thank you very much.

Madam, we are discussing a very serious and sensitive issue regarding nationalism, patriotism and the unity and integrity of our country. I fully support and endorse the views expressed by the learned colleague in this House, Prof. Sugata Bose, and also I would like to congratulate him for having made such an exemplary speech in the House, which is raising the standards of debate of this House also.

Madam, the two issues, which I would like to highlight, are the Rohith Vemula case and the detention of Kanhaiya Kumar case. These two incidents are manifestations of dissatisfaction and unrest among the people of our country. Why is it so? It is because of the political system of governance that is now prevailing in our country. Due to paucity of time, I am not going into the details. There is a feeling of insecurity among the people, especially, among the Dalits and Backward Communities of the society as well as there is a feeling of unhappiness and insecurity among the minorities and also

among the free liberal, independent thinking and progressive people. Those who are so secular are also having a feeling that there is a threat to the secular fabric of our country. That is the political situation prevailing in our country. This is only because of the Government and because of those who are responsible and holding office in the Government. I am not going to elaborate all the statements made during the last 20 months. This feeling of insecurity and dissatisfaction is because of the action of the Government.

I am not quoting the statement of the Haryana Chief Minister. Those who want to eat beef, go to Pakistan. If BJP fails in Bihar, then firecrackers will crack in Pakistan. So, you want to divide the country or you want to polarize the population of our country as national and anti-national and pro-Pakistan and anti-Pakistan. This is there in almost all the issues if you go through so many statements. Then, ban on non-vegetarian foods in the universities, especially in the IITs. This is only a controversial statement.

Regarding review of reservation policy, now Haryana is burning.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Review of reservation policy by the responsible persons, indiscriminate killing of intellectuals and rationalists, appointment of BJP loyalists in the Film and Television Institute of India and so many other higher institutions—all these would go to show that there is a threat to the secular fabric and the minorities, the socially backward Dalit communities are having unrest, unhappiness and dissatisfaction. That is the main reason why this incident is being discussed.

Madam, Shrimati Anupriya Patel was talking here. Prior to her, Shri Venkaiah Naidu was also speaking. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 also, there were Dalit suicides. Why has this issue risen up?This issue has risen up now because of this apprehension and because of most of the statements made by them. So, my point is, the BJP Government has to review the political philosophy and the way they manage the affairs.

How was the Jadavpur University issue managed by the West Bengal Government? They beautifully handled it. It did not become a national or international issue. Madam Speaker,

you may kindly see that now this issue has become an international issue. Who made this as an international issue?

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: A university issue and then it is being made as an international issue is only because of that.

My last point is that sedition will never hold good. I will make another point. The Delhi Police Chief, Shri Bassi is there. What are his speeches? He is making political policies. I wonder that one fine morning he was saying he would not oppose the bail.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: So, my point is that the Government has to correct and review the policy and the system of governance which is responsible for this situation in this country.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, I am allowing you only because Shri Kharge ji has requested me for it. Please do not take more than two minutes.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, I am a senior Member, please allow me to speak for five minutes.

HON. SPEAKER: No. I am sorry. I know that you are a senior Member but I am senior to you. Please complete your speech in two minutes only.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate. I would like to remember and honour the sacrifice of Rohith Vemula, a brilliant *Dalit* student, who had fought for his education rights. This coincides with the 125th birth celebrations of Baba Sahib Ambedkar and is a disappointing incident that *Dalit* and *adivasi* students are not being considered as an integral part of the nation building. With various budget cuts and non-transfer of scholarships, the exclusionary processes are being followed in the higher education.

Madam, I will point out two-three important points. I would like to invite the attention of Hon. HRD Minister. I am not going into the politics. I am only placing the issues which our *Dalit* students have been facing in the campus.

Institutions of higher education in India have been affected by perpetuating caste based discrimination in a systemic way. As a result of this, education experiences for SC and ST students come through great struggles and at times through costs including cost to live. There are many challenges. The economic conditions of majority of SC and ST students being worse, their accessibility to higher education is restricted. The caste attitude of the privileged communities such as teachers, administration and peers towards students of marginalised communities is a cause for majority of dropouts in higher education.

Majority of *Dalit* and *adivasi* students come from rural background and lack necessary social capital. They lack awareness about educational entitlements and government provisions. Even if students are aware of the government provisions, there is a systematic denial from colleges, universities, UGC and Ministries to access basic entitlements like scholarships, hostel, student support, fee reimbursement, etc. Further more, majority of faculty as well as administrative positions in institutes of higher education which were supposed to be filled by SC and ST candidates remain vacant even after repeated court orders just because there is a strong resistance

from the dominant caste or class in such institutions. There is a huge gap not just in appointments of faculty and staff, but also a number of seats are vacant in admission of SC and ST students especially in specialized courses.

Madam, the allocation in respect of higher education for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan has been cut short by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In the previous years, there was a huge amount allocated for spending on the welfare of SC and ST students.

Madam, there is a very strong demand from the *Dalit* as well as *adivasi* communities. We need a 'Rohith Vemula Act' similar to the 'Nirbhaya Act'. We request the Government to come up with the Rohith Vemula Act without delay, which may constitute the following things. An anti-discrimination monitoring authority named as Equity Committee in each and every education institution of the country with equal representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the body which will be responsible for receiving complaints, holding enquiry and ensuring preventive and protective

measures on the complaints of caste and ethnicity based discrimination in educational institutions. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh, please conclude. Hon. Minister may give the reply.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: After a long time, my friend Suresh has spoken on some issues. I congratulate him for it.… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: That is why I allowed him to speak.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, I rise today after four and a half years as a parliamentarian. I am trying to address a gamut of issues before me. In my 20 months as a Minister I have served my country, my position and my people without any prejudice. And, those who lay seize upon my integrity in this very august House need to know the following.

19.00 hours

[Translation]

An idea has created in this country that the HRD Ministry only responds to letters from Ministers of this government. From 01.05.2014 to 23.02.2016, a total of 66,230 grievances from ordinary citizens were received by my ministry, and during this period, I resolved approximately 61,892 issues. For those whose issues were resolved, I did not enquire about their religion, caste, or whom they voted for. They raised their voices for justice, and to the best of my ability, I endeavoured to deliver that justice to them. Some may mock and claim that this is a party of the Sangh that places minorities in an insecure environment. I want to tell them today that on February 12, 2015, a student wrote to me stating he was not receiving his scholarship or fellowship. That student was from Kashmir, and his name was Ikbal Rasool Dar. I have documentary evidence to support this. He was not receiving the fellowship, so he raised the issue, and within a month, I ensured justice for his fellowship of over one lakh rupees through my ministry. ... *(Interruptions)* Today, I draw your attention to the fact that

many people in this House have made accusations and asked, "By what authority do you write letters?" ... *(Interruptions) [English]*

Sir, I am coming to the issue. Have patience. You accuse us of intolerance. Be tolerant. Here is my answer, Sir. I am giving my answer. … *(Interruptions)* Or, do I claim to be a victim of my circumstances and say that since I am married to amicro-minority family and since I am a woman, you disallow me to speak in this House? … *(Interruptions)* Do not, Sir, play your politics with me. Let me give youan answer today that I have patiently waited for days to give.

[Translation]

I was told, "By what authority do you respond?" ... *(Interruptions)* I have also received several letters from Hon. MPs. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: All of you have taken her name. Now please listen. You will have to.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not do this.

…*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Shri Hanumanth Rao is not a Member of my party. ... *(Interruptions)* He is a Member of the Congress party. ... *(Interruptions)* He wrote me a letter stating that there is a need for justice at the University of Hyderabad. I want to say today with humility that please do not laugh at Hanumanth Rao's ... *(Interruptions)* … *(Interruptions)* Sister, when it comes to admitting children, you are the one who write a letter, and I ensure the admission is completed. ... *(Interruptions)* Ranjan Ji, I can show you Pappu Yadav Ji's letter regarding who needs admission in the Central School. I accomplished this by going outside the quota. ... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to my response. ... *(Interruptions)*

19.04 hours

(At this stage, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.)

Hanumanth Rao wrote to me saying who the Vice Chancellor has been appointed by the Congress government. ... *(Interruptions)* During his tenure as vice chancellor, Dalit children committed suicide. ... *(Interruptions)* Hanumanth Rao told me to seek justice... (Controversy) We wrote how many letters to the University of Hyderabad on behalf of Hanumanth Rao? ... *(Interruptions)* Today I come among you with evidence. A reminder: Hanumanth Rao, MP, Congress Party,9 December 2014, 4 September 2015, 30 September 2015, 6 October 2015, and 20 October 2015 wrote letters for submission of petitions... *(Interruptions))*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. Please go to your seats.

… (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: On 19 November, 2015 and 6 January, 2016, We wrote all these letters for submission of petitions, whether they belong to a Congress MP or any other party, expecting a response from those whom we have trusted; I fulfil that expectation. ... *(Interruptions)* Today in this gathering, allegations were made against me regarding under what authority I write letters... (*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not the way.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I respectfully show those Congress leaders the documents... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You go to the first seat first, then I will speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats first.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: On 5th May, 2011, Narayan Swami Ji, a leader of the Congress, wrote in a letter. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats and then only I will say something.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: How will I say? No, you will have to go to your seats.

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Don't make excuses.

... *(Interruptions)*

19.06 hours

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

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker, I shall not apologise for my duty which I discharged *(Interruptions)* Narayan Swami Ji's letter, dated 5 May, 2011… *(Interruptions)* …was not my leader… *(Interruptions)* fulfilling duties in the government. … *(Interruptions)* Narayan Swami Ji wrote a letter in which there is a mention of His Excellency the President. … *(Interruptions)* Go away, go away, don't listen to the answer because you didn't want to hear the answer anyway. … *(Interruptions)* Your intention was dishonest; that's why you are being shown the door today… *(Interruptions)* Listen to the answer. … *(Interruptions)* Scindhia Sahab, you told me to sit down and listen. … *(Interruptions)* Now it's your turn to listen; listen. … *(Interruptions)* I was fulfilling my duty, and they are trying to hang me today." … *(Interruptions)* They will punish me for contesting from Amethi." … *(Interruptions)* Then listen to my answer today. … *(Interruptions)* This is written in Swami Narayan Ji's letter--

[English]

"Communication received from Members of Parliament specify that such communication should be attended to promptly and acknowledged within 15 days followed by reply within 15 days.". … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You must answer without getting agitated.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

… (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Shame on you!

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Shame on you, Madam. You do not have the courage to listen to what I have to say. You just want to do your politics. Hear what I have to say if you have the courage today *[Translation]*… *(Interruptions)* Today I want to say to you that Shri Owaisi and I stand on opposite sides of politics… *(Interruptions)* Perhaps we will never see eye to eye in the world of politics. ... … *(Interruptions)* But Shri Owaisi

wrote me a letter. … *(Interruptions)* I did not do any favour; I just fulfilled my duty. … *(Interruptions)* In his letter, he wrote that an atrocity is taking place; it is an appointment of a lecturer, Madam, you see… *(Interruptions)* Owaisi sahib , I did not write your letter, but the ministry wrote it… *(Interruptions)* Listen to the response… *(Interruptions)* Owaisi ji, I am responding to your letter. … *(Interruptions)* That's the point. … *(Interruptions)* I am being hanged because my department wrote a letter… *(Interruptions)* In response to Owaisi ji's letter dated 17.10.2014 and 30.01.2015. ...we made a request *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister has to do it.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Please try to understand that she is not saying that she has done something great. A question was raised as to why the Minister is interfering and why she is writing letters. So, she is explaining it. … *(Interruptions)* It is not one person, but a number of people have written letters from all Parties. … *(Interruptions)* This is what she is submitting.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam, I am responding. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't be excited.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: As a mother, she has to follow your advice, but try to understand her pain and agony.

HON. SPEAKER: I can.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The way she has been cornered also.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I can understand it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: On August 10, 2015, Oman Chandy, the Chief Minister of Kerala, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, who is an MP from the Congress party and a former HRD Minister, also sent several requests. While fulfilling our duties, we forwarded that letter, asking for assistance in responding. Today, Sougata Bose is not here. He repeatedly wrote letters. Pradeep Bhattacharya also wrote letters, stating

that Vishwa Bharati, established by Rabindranath Tagore, had a Vice-Chancellor appointed by the Congress government who had committed atrocities against a woman, and they expected justice from Narendra Modi's government. We did not discriminate. I did not discriminate as to which party's leader presented papers to me for which order or request. Today, allegations of discrimination are being levelled against me. If I had wanted to make allegations, on the day I held a press conference, I could have alleged as well. When a child dies and there is political rivalry over that death, the country knows that the Executive Council that dismissed Rohit did not have a single Member appointed by the NDA government but instead was appointed by the UPA government. The committee, seeing that there were no Dalit Members in this faculty, co-opted a Dalit Member. The Chief Warden himself is a Dalit. He explained to the children and communicated his decision to them. ... let my response be completed.

[English]

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI): But he had objected to the suspension. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat now. Do not give any reply to that.

… (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record, except the Minister's speech.

*… (Interruptions)... **

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam, today I want to say that when I made a public statement about this incident, I stated not to view it from the perspective of caste. I talked about a child, not about a Dalit student. I challenge anyone to point a finger at me and say that I dared to dispense justice or injustice based on caste. My name is Smriti Irani. Try to identify my caste; you cannot. Today, I am angry because when you accuse the one who gives birth, it's natural that she will be shattered from within.

[English]

*Not recorded.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Hon. Minister, do not take it personally.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I am taking this personally, and I will explain why. *[Translation]* Today, I will prove how this child was used. I called KCR ji this morning as soon as I received information about the incident. Since his government is there, I sought his assistance to ensure there would be no issues regarding law and order, as this is a matter of state law and order. However, I was informed that he was busy and unable to talk. I did not make a public statement about this, and it is recorded in my call records. I also mentioned this to his daughter. I have never made a public statement against the Chief Minister. I have been waiting for his call until today, but it hasn't come.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam, I take strong objection to this... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Sir, please allow me to finish what I have to say. *[Translation]* The information I have received, Owaisi ji. *(Interruptions)* indicates that a Cabinet

Minister is seeking assistance. Please verify this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The interruptions will not go on record.

*... (Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: The police have submitted documents to the Telangana High Court. What is written in those documents? It states that... *(Interruptions)*the police received information at 7:20 PM. It is noted that when the police arrived at the scene of the incident. ... *(Interruptions)[English]*And I am quoting it. My friend in Telangana can possibly have access to that document, verify it and if I am wrong, can correct me. Police is saying when they rushed to the university, they found the room open, dead body removed from the hanging and kept on a table. A hand written suicide note was written which did not blame anybody and specifically stated that nobody is responsible for this act. My

*Not recorded.

request is that this is not my submission but that of the police in a State. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: She is not yielding. Why are you asking?

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: That is why I am saying. If I am wrong, correct me. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is it?

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Madam, when her phone call had come, I personally was there. He was in a meeting. Immediately, he called the IG (Intelligence) Shri Shivdhan Reddy. He told him to enquire about what has happened. After fifteen minutes, the IG (Intelligence) came and told about all this. He also said that the mob is there. They are not allowing the body to be removed immediately. So, he told them to arrest Shri Dattatreya ji so that the mob can be controlled. After that, he wanted to contact her. He told the same matter to the Prime Minister. When he went and met him, he told him that Shrimati Smriti ji had called up and we have taken action. We have also given instructions to

arrest Shri Dattatreya ji so that law and order could be controlled. We had totally helped her. We were with her. You cannot put an allegation on us. Shri KCR has acted in a proper way. We had the elections. We did not put any allegation. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

… *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: It is interesting that in his statement in this very august House, he says, "Arrest Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, if you want to control a mob, not because he is guilty, but arrest him nonetheless because you want to control the mob." … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: It was because of the letter. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Let me read the letter. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: How can that be possible? … *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Let me read the letter. Let me also read what happened there. Nobody allowed a doctor near this child, to revive this child, to take him to the hospital. Nobody allowed a doctor near him. The police has reported that not one attempt was made to revive this child, not one attempt was made to take him to a doctor. Instead what was done was that his body was used as a political tool, hidden. No police was allowed till 6.30, the next morning. It is not me but the Telangana Police is saying this. When I say that I am pained *[Translation]* People say that the way politics happened over the unfortunate death of a child. It is evidence of that . The police there are capable of delivering justice, but no doctor visited the child until seven-thirty because those who were making noise did not want justice; they wanted politics. Who declared that child dead? *[English]* Who was medically equipped to declare this child dead? How many cases go when an individual tries to hang himself, the vertebra does not break, pulse goes down to 30, 40 and an individual can be revived medically. There are people who are more expert. How many people? Who tried to help this child? My accusation today is this. The people who passed a judgment to have this child disbarred are not people

appointed by the BJP led NDA but by the Congress Party. In everybody's political experience, has anyone ever seen Shri Rahul Gandhi going to one spot twice? No, he has never gone. About six hundred students died for the Telangana movement. Did he go once? He did not go once. But in this, he saw a political opportunity. …*(Interruptions)* This child in his statement says, no one is responsible for my death. But yet, you seek to use this child for your own political ends. That is the tragedy. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: We never wanted to politicize it.

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: People who espoused the cause of free speech and attack this Government, who say that we are anti-minority, anti-Dalit, anti-tribal, time and again they have been requested, do not make this and use against them. I am not certifying your patriotism, but do not demean mine. I am not certifying your idea of India, but do not demean mine. And to them I say, Madam Speaker, this is the permission slip from JNU which clearly says that Omar Khalid, one student,

wanted to book the venue from 5 o'clock to 7:30 on the 9th. The form asks what is the purpose of booking the venue. He says, poetry reading. The form asks whether any special arrangements are required. He says, electricity for mic. And very well, the university gives him the permission. What transpires later is something many people have question-marked. *[Translation]* This is untrue That is untrue. Tariq Anwar said, First let the university conduct its investigation, then let the police come. The report from the university's security department dated 11.02.2016 states that 35 security guards and three female guards gave their statements, saying, "At 16.45, the security team arrived at the scene of the incident; 35 plus 3 equals 38 people. *[English]*They have given a written response. They are a part of the security of the university, not the police. And they say*[Translation]*-The crowd started increasing. Students Omar and Anirban stood there. Afzal Guru, Maqbool Bhatt Zindabad. There will be a war until Kashmir gets freedom. There will be a war until India is destroyed. The Kashmir where we have shed our blood is ours. What do we demand? Freedom. We will take freedom with guns. Go, India, go back. Indian Army murdabad. Two or three more people had their faces covered with cloth.

This is not a video; this is not a police; this is not Arnab Goswami. This is the security department, which has no concern with the government. The office order is issued. I am studying at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where... (conflict) Hello Jay Prakash Ji, I am reading. In this office order, the Chief Proctor is there. *[English]* Deans of all Schools, Deans of all students, Chairpersons of Centres, all Provosts, all Senior Wardens, Controller of Examinations, Librarian, CMO, Deputy Director (Sport)*[Translation]*This is the letter for all of the above. This committee, which has no concern with the government, a gentleman from the Communist Party said here that Smriti Irani made a big effort to appoint a VC of her choice but someone else was appointed, the candidate who was recommended by her was also a Padma winner, whom the Congress honoured, not us. It is the prerogative of His Excellency the President; he appointed the VC. There are teachers there whom we did not appoint; they issued this order. *[English]* Misrepresentation of proposed event as cultural evening although the objective was to hold a political meeting, forcefully holding the event when the permission to hold was withdrawn, creating a law and order

situation on campus, and the *prima facie* Enquiry Committee finds the following individuals to be involved.

The individuals who are named by the Faculty of JNU are Syed Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya, Ashutosh Kumar, Rama Naga, Anant Prakash Narayan, Kanhaiya Kumar, Aishwarya Adhikari and Shweta Raj. Considering the seriousness of the offence and in order to enable a fair inquiry into the incident, the inquiry committee has recommended that the above mentioned students may be academically suspended from JNU with immediate effect during the pendency of the inquiry. However, they will be allowed to stay in their respective hostels as guests during the period of inquiry.

[Translation]

This is not an order from the Home Ministry; the university faculty has made its decision after considering all the facts. Some people have levelled this allegation. Accusation is considered a hallmark of a successful democracy. Therefore, I present evidence against their allegations, which is attested to by the university's registrar, who are the registrars we did not employ. The previous government gave them the job. This is a

pamphlet from February 22, 2013. Today, Mallikarjun Kharge ji was speaking very passionately. *[English]* hang everybody including professors. Hang them if they speak against the nation. *[Translation]* If he were here today, I would show him this. There are two professors on campus who organised a Kashmir solidarity rally when their government was in power. *[English]*- to show solidarity with the struggle for freedom in Kashmir and refuse to be a part of the collective conscience of this country.

[Translation]

Another piece of evidence that has been obtained from the university. *[English]*Abolish death penalty, burn effigy of Home Ministry, not Minister. Speak up against the judicial murder and hanging of Yakub Memon. *[Translation]* Who was in Mumbai? My mother's birthday is on 12th March, so I still remember that day today. There was a blast. Indians were killed. Before killing the nationalists, they did not ask about their religion or caste. What is written on this poster? *[English]*Supreme Court judge, Hindu Fascist State of India. The State was scared of Yakub Memon. Our media is a communal corporate media. We are a murderous republic and our cannibal collective conscience was

satiated by hanging Yakub Memon. We must rise against this judicial murder. A call to rise against the Supreme Court which you approach for bail now, a call to rise against the President of India to whom you go and implore and say. *[Translation]*Those who call them executioners go to their homes and knock on their doors; they welcome them by opening the door. This is the power of our democracy. One gentleman is not here. They said, *[English]*I am from the Communist Party. Kanhaiya is my brother. I agree. This is a poster which has the name of this child. I look at this child as a child who has been mobilized as a weapon against the State. This is a child who must not have had an idea that India is not one, but who must have been infested with this thought by those who want to bear arms to overthrow the State. It bears the name of Kanhaiya Kumar, Shahila Rashid and Rama Naga. They are all Members of the Student Union. Apart from condemning the hanging of Afzal Guru, they claim it as a nervous attempt by the Congress Government. This is a notice given on the 10th of February, 2016.

On the 9th night, this transpires on the campus. On the 10th, this is a pamphlet which is stuck all across with these signatures.

It says that the public meeting was also disrupted for Mahishasur martyrdom day. What is Mahishasur martyrdom day, Speaker?

Our Government has been accused and I miss today Saugata Roy and Sugata Bose in this House, champions of free speech because I want to know whether they would discuss this particular this topic which I am about to enunciate in this House on the streets of Kolkata. I dare them this. Posted on the 4th October, 2014, a statement by the SC, ST, OBC and minority students of JNU; and what do they condemn? Like I said Madam Speaker, this very pamphlet on the 10th February highlights what the Communist leaders call Mahishasur martyrdom day.

Madam, may God forgive me for reading this. Durga Puja is the most controversial racial festival where a fair skinned beautiful goddess Durga is depicted brutally killing a dark skinned native called Mahishasur, a brave self-respecting leader tricked into marriage by Aryans. They hired a sex worker called Durga who enticed Mahishasur into marriage and killed him after nine nights of honeymooning during sleep. Freedom of speech, ladies and gentlemen! Who wants to have this

discussion on the streets of Kolkata, I want to know. Whether Rahul Gandhi will stand for this freedom, I want to know. For these are the students. No, they are students. What is this depraved mentality? I have no answers for it. I thought is it only because many leaders say, that they are children," they are saying, "forgive them. But how does this depravity get seeded in the minds of our children?

Unfortunately, the rows of the Congress Party are empty today, Madam Speaker. I have said time and again *[Translation]*do not turn education into a battlefield. I have repeatedly pleaded with folded hands in this assembly and in other assemblies, but no one listened to me. *[English]* I am compelled to say this, Madam Speaker. Are these just slogans? I seek to quote a European philosopher, a Roman at that, who said:

> "A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly

> whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works secretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear."

[Translation]

If today I were to cite Chanakya here, people would say it's Saif-ur-Rehman, so today I've quoted a Roman philosopher, and I thought, where do our children learn these things from? I present before you today a piece of evidence that has just arrived on my desk. This book is about the history of Class 4 children. *[English]*What are our teachers taught?

[Translation]

The author of this book is Tista Sethalwaad. This book is commissioned by Shri Kapil Sibal of the UPA. He is from the UPA, whose chairperson is Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. What is

written in the book, and what should be taught to the children of Class 4? *[English]*I quote, Madam:

> "In our text and our syllabus we continue to perpetuate the colonial legacy of portraying ancient India as synonymous with Hindu and medieval India past with the Muslim."

I would like to quote from this book, Madam. *[Translation]*Shri Arvind Sawant Ji from Maharashtra *[English]* the school of my colleague, Shri Piyush Goyal. I quote:

> "When we teach Shivaji, Akbar, Aurangzeb as responsible educators, animators we need to ask which Shivaji do we take into the classroom."

[Translation]

It's not written only against Shivaji.

[English]

> "Congress politicians allowed the killings for three days in the Sikh riots."

That is also taught.

"Hindu, Christian riots in Kanyakumari; how the propaganda of Hindu organizations target Christian minorities". You are teaching this to a child in the Fourth Standard. This is their idea of secular education.

History taught to Standard Sixth and I quote:

> "Kashmir is a much demonized land today. That the State militates against the atrocities of the Indian State."

You teach this to a Sixth Standard child. Are we shocked that when these children go to a university they said that *[Translation]* we will fight for the freedom of Kashmir.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Deenanath Batra also said something; please tell us about that as well.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: You listen to Owaisi Sahab.

[English]

Scenario 4 on Page 5:

> "Orders issued to Delhi schools after the death of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi: Check what a trainee

teacher teaching English sail through her period. One of the words given to the children to draft a sentence was the word 'arrive'. Of the several children who raised their hands the one that the teacher chose to read out is a sentence, 'When a Sikh arrived in Delhi he was killed by a Hindu."

Scenario 2 and the title is fascinating; 'Calling breeding prejudiced minds'. This, commissioned by the UPA led by the Congress Party, is given to children in the Sixth Standard.

Scenario 3; "Teaching of History in school Boards all over Maharashtra has a single prescribed textbook on Shivaji. Teachers from the schools in Mumbai have expressed great difficulty in controlling emotions. One of them has said, the schools which have an active enrolment of Muslim students, 'I rush through the Chapter on Afzal Khan and Shivaji's confrontation. It is a politically and socially loaded connotation. I cannot meet eye to eye with my Muslims students so I start my chapter with an apology'."

There are many Afzals in my class, says this teacher teaching in Class Sixth.

I begged and pleaded, ‘do not make it about us and them’. Our children are not vote banks but nobody heard me.

[Translation]

Madam, the committee that inspected all those books during the government of that time, NCERT claimed and said, "Don't distribute these books," but NCERT's words were not accepted. That NCERT was not ours; it was not of our government. This committee studied these books and the entire incident behind them thoroughly. *[English]* I am compelled to say that one of the Committee Members is a Muslim Vice Chancellor appointed to his post as proposed by the Congress Government, an Income Tax Officer who served under the Congress Government and now a Supreme Court lawyer. I did it so that I will not be accused of politicising something which should be a matter of concern for every Indian citizen and every parliamentarian. What do those people say about the books that they read?They said that this Committee fails to understand as to what and whose purpose is this Trust serving by quoting from Pakistani

author’s writing pertaining to education of Indian students to an impressionable mind of a standard VI student. This Committee was enraged when the name suggested an intention and action – Allah’s army in Pakistan and Hindutva hell in Hindustan.

Madam Speaker, I have not shied away from answering any question in this House or the other. My plea is this. Across universities when the Vice Chancellors said that they want to raise their flag proudly, they were condemned. Shri Gandhi went to Uttar Pradesh and said *[Translation]*- all Vice Chancellors share the RSS background. Perhaps, he does not know that even today in this government, there are 20 Central Universities' chancellors and 16 vice-chancellors appointed by the Congress. Today, I can challenge any vice-chancellor appointed by the Congress to come forward with evidence and say, "I have made the saffronisation of education," I will quit politics.

Today Sonia Ji is not here; I cannot speak about her. Perhaps in this very House , Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had said that India is not just a piece of land but a living, vibrant nation. Atal Ji had said, "This is a land of salutation, a land of greeting, a land of dedication, and a land of fulfilment. Every river is like the

Ganges for us; every pebble of it is like Lord Shiva for us. If we live, it is for India; if we die, it is for India. Even after death, if someone listens by putting an ear to the flowing water of the Ganges to our ashes, only one voice will be heard – victory to Mother India.

The question arises whether Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, when he said this, also supported Indira Gandhi Ji, considering her as an embodiment of Durga. When for the glory of the nation, Indira Gandhi Ji said, "Go and protect humanity. Today I saw *[English]* they say politics makes strange bedfellows. *[Translation]* when Sugata Bose ji was speaking academically his was an excellent speech, even I appreciate that but Sonia Ji, Rahul Ji, *[English]* they were like compelled. They should. We all should compliment each other. They shook his hand. I only wished that Dr. Bose was here to give them a book called '*Dead Reckoning*' by Sharmila Bose. Who is Sharmila Bose? She is Dr. Bose's sister, a renowned historian. In the '*Dead Reckoning*' she wrote that the Bangladesh liberation war was a fallacy and that the Pakistani Army never did anything to the Bangladeshi's that Indira Gandhi went to support. *[Translation]*Therefore,

today the question arises that while Indira Gandhi also lost power, her son never supported slogans of India's destruction.

Therefore, I urge you, it is unfortunate, Venkaiah Ji said that many children died; in 2012, UGC regulation was made that an anti-discrimination officer should be on every university campus. We called a meeting of vice-chancellors and urged them, and they agreed that there will be an anti-discrimination officer on every campus. We formed a judicial commission. Those children did not get justice who sacrificed their lives when the Congress party was in power, but we did not engage in biased politics. We said there should be justice; whoever is guilty should be hanged. We formed a judicial commission, not out of favouritism, but to administer justice and make an effort. I make this effort every day.

My earnest appeal is that if we turn education into a battlefield and make children mere vote banks, then what slogans will some misled students of JNU raise? However, the politics that lead this country towards destruction will even exploit a child's death for political gain. Therefore, I fold my

hands and request that where there is justice, let it do its work. Where there are police, let them do their work.

Today, I call upon Rahul Gandhi if he himself had asked me, "Smriti Irani, let's go," together we will tell the students of JNU: those of you who chant slogans of India's destruction, who feel ashamed to see the tricolour flying, there are some students of JNU who sacrificed their lives on the border so that you can chant slogans of destruction in free India .But Rahul Ji did not do that.

I appeal to all of you wherever you feel there are challenges; today you have said that there should be faculty for SC and ST students. This is the same request I have made to all vice-chancellors. *[English]* I have myself requested to every Vice-Chancellor that listen to all children, to every university which functions under the aegis of Government of India; listen to children for they come with their emotional legacies and their social challenges and it is incumbent upon us to provide them refuge and a productive life. My request is help me build this nation and not destroy it from within.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI A.P. JITENDRA REDDY: Speaker, I have heard her statement carefully and in detail. She has said what she needed to say in detail. *[English]* I would like to make one thing clear that we did not politicalise that issue. We were in the midst of elections. I was in charge of that Gachbouli area when the elections were going on and the university was under me and if we really wanted to provoke the students there when they were giving slogans on BJP, we did not do that but instead we controlled them. Our hon. Chief Minister very categorically gave instructions that law and order should be maintained. If we would have provoked them there, then the officers and all others would have been vandalized. We did not do that. The Government may take a proper report. Look at the post-mortem report. We came to know about it only after the death incident took place. After that proper action was taken and we controlled the mob there. The allegation that has been put on us is absolutely wrong.

I am saying this only because she has to keep the record straight. Madam, we were out of the scene. We were in the

midst of elections and we did not want to side anybody but at the same time, we have really taken care of Shri Dattatreya there. Our Chief Minister has given proper instructions to take care of him.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker, regarding the discussion happening in the House, you have instructed me to speak on this matter. I understand that our colleague Smriti Irani has delivered her speech in the assembly after listening to the hon. Members' views. Whatever praise is given to her is less than what she deserves. I do not hesitate to say that Smriti Irani's speech is not just an eye-opener for Parliament; I believe it is an eye-opening speech for the entire country. As I sat there, I was thinking about what to say because there's nothing significant left for me to present before the assembly.

I would like to emphasise that Jawaharlal Nehru University is one of the best educational institutions in our country. I believe it is a centre of excellence. Our government does not

consider Jawaharlal Nehru University a centre of anti-national activities. In various sectors of society today, whether in education, administration, or politics, Jawaharlal Nehru University has provided opportunities for highly talented individuals to fulfil their responsibilities with exceptional competence. I want to clarify our government's stance regarding this university. As far as students are concerned, a student is an asset to any university or educational institution, a significant resource. I also understand the challenges students face because I have been a student myself, and all the people sitting in this Parliament are former students. A student's life is very revolutionary. If there is oppression and injustice, and there is opposition to it, then I understand that this is freedom of expression. No one should take offence to this, but freedom of expression also has its limits, and if someone crosses that boundary, no vigilant society will forgive them in any form.

Whatever has happened at Jawaharlal Nehru University, and whatever action is being taken by the police, there is no interference from the government. Should sedition charges be filed or not, there could be a debate on this. However, I think we don't need to debate this matter. Whatever investigation the

police conduct, if done correctly, I believe the country's courts will uphold it. If they (the police) do wrong, then the court can dismiss the sedition charge and acquit them of all allegations. However, I believe there is no need to argue about that matter. I want to assure the House that no innocent student will be harassed by the police. We will not let anyone be harassed, and that is what I want to assure the House.

Regarding the events that occurred in Patiala House Court, the police have taken action in that regard and continue to take action. Those who are guilty will not be spared; this is also what I want to assure the House through you.

I would like to emphasise that the slogans raised on the JNU campus on February 9, 2009, were not supported by the entire nation. The entire House strongly condemned them in very harsh words. The entire case is currently sub judice. I understand that we should await the court's decision.

I want to make it clear in the House that whenever I speak, I do so after careful consideration, based on both direct and indirect facts. I never speak without evidence. I just want to say this much because I, too, have taken an oath of confidentiality.

Therefore, on this occasion today, without saying anything more, I conclude my address by congratulating my colleague, Shrimati Smriti Irani, for her speech today.

HON. SPEAKER: Alright, that was a very good address. Now we will take a break, during which only the names of 20 people will be announced.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dushyant Ji, there is nothing more to discuss on this matter. We will only take the zero hour for 20 people, no more than that. Dr. Kirit Solanki, you may speak.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Speaker Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak during the zero hour. In the Jakhau maritime area of Gujarat, fishermen go there to catch fish for their livelihood. However, when they reach the international maritime border, they are captured by Pakistani security forces, and their boats are also seized. Currently, about 281 Indian fishermen and their 844 boats are in Pakistan's custody. I want to remind you that our Prime Minister had arranged for the release of fishermen, whether they were from Tamil Nadu or Gujarat. Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that those fishermen be released immediately and that their boats be returned. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki.

SHRI D.S. RATHORE (SABARKANTHA): Hon. Speaker, for the past three months, a large number of Indian fishermen from the coastal areas of Kachchh, Gujarat, are being apprehended by the Pakistani military, including their boats. The lives of poor fishermen there are increasingly becoming high-risk. Through you, I appeal to the government to take immediate action for the safety of Gujarat fishermen and expedite efforts for the release of fishermen detained in Pakistani jails. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri D.S. Rathore.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam Speaker, thank you. My 'Zero Hour' submission is in respect of having a separate Ministry for Overseas Indian Affairs.

According to a survey conducted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, India has the largest diaspora population in the world. There are about 25 million Indian migrants as of now spread across 200 countries and India topped

the chart with 70.4 billion dollars among the remittance receiving countries in the world.

Considering the significance of this fact, the UPA Government established a separate Ministry, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and it was effectively functioning. But recently the Government of India has decided to merge the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs without any in-depth study or discussion with the stakeholders. The decision of merger is against the interest of the NRI community. A separate Ministry is indeed essential to look after the affairs and ensure the welfare of NRIs. Therefore, it is urged that the decision of merger of two Ministries be reviewed and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs be retained as such. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri N.K. Premchandran.

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA): Hon. Speaker, various regional languages are spoken in the states of our country. The area of Maharashtra is quite large, encompassing the economic city of Mumbai as well as other urban and rural areas where Marathi-speaking people reside.

20.00 hours

Alongside them, people who come and settle here from other states also speak Marathi in a very simple and fluent manner. The Marathi language, like Hindi, is straightforward and accessible. This language can be easily understood, especially when spoken by illiterate people in rural areas and extremely backward regions. Madam, through you, I urge upon the government to grant the status of a classical language to the Marathi language. Swift action by the government is required in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rajiv Satav are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nana Patole.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Speaker, today I am deeply distressed because my state, Haryana, is experiencing widespread unrest. Some individuals peacefully took to the streets to voice their demands, but a fellow Member of this House continuously provoked them. Madam, the situation in our state is such that an emergency has been declared not just

in one district but in 11 districts across Haryana. This action has been taken by both the government of Haryana and the Union Government. Hon. Chairperson, a Member of this House has been consistently provoking people for the past one and a quarter years, and today we see the consequences of that. The brotherhood and unity that the late Chaudhary Devi Lal fought to establish within Haryana in 1966 has almost completely shattered.

Madam, through you, I request the Union Government to conduct a judicial inquiry into the entire incident where certain individuals from both sides have worked to undermine the sense of fraternity in our state. The inquiry should ensure stringent actions against all involved and provide at least ₹25 lakh compensation to each victim, as well as secure a job for one family Member affected by this incident. The Union Government should take immediate action because, over the past nine days, the government of Haryana has completely failed. Today, I would like to thank Rajnath Singh Ji for his intervention. After his intervention, peace and tranquillity have returned to Haryana. The Union Government should work to punish all those guilty individuals who incited these sentiments.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Hon. Speaker madam, I would also like to draw the attention of the entire House towards the tragic, sorrowful, and extremely serious incidents that have occurred in Haryana, especially in my parliamentary constituency, over the past week. In my constituency, such large-scale incidents of violence have never occurred before, leading to extensive loss of life and property. According to government figures, 21 lives have been lost so far, although the actual number could be higher when the truth comes to light. Estimates by ASOCHAM indicate a loss of property worth ₹36,000 crores. Many people have lost their property, shops, livelihoods, and other means of sustenance. Through this House, I want to express my deep sympathy to all families affected by the violence. The most regrettable aspect is that, as Dushyant Ji mentioned, this violence in Haryana has deeply impacted the centuries-old bonds of love, brotherhood, and social harmony. Today, I am not standing here to discuss politics in this moment of sorrow. I would like to present two major demands before the House through you, as this matter is so delicate that an impartial investigation is necessary. The absence of an impartial investigation could affect the social

fabric of the state. Therefore, my demand is that there should be an investigation into how the events of the 19th escalated into violence. It was proceeding peacefully before, so how did it turn violent on the 19th? Additionally, how did the situation remain out of the control of the state government for the following three days? I demand that this matter be investigated in a timely manner by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. Along with this, the government should immediately fully compensate those families who have lost innocent lives and suffered property damage.

Furthermore, many other questions arise regarding where the shortcomings occurred—whether in political handling or administrative handling. The entire responsibility for law and order lies with the state government. The state government cannot shirk this responsibility under any circumstances. In the past two days, the home secretary and the director general of police of Haryana have formally issued statements holding the state government accountable for the entire incident. The state government has been completely unsuccessful in dealing with this matter. I also demand that the state government take moral responsibility for this situation.

HON. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. The state government's words do not hold here.

… *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… *(Interruptions)*…*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have two demands.

… *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Their party Members themselves are being accused of instigating this, as reported in the news. ... *(Interruptions)*What response will they give about this? ... *(Interruptions)*are being shown throughout the entire networks of TV channels. ... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: It's okay up to only two demands.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is being shown throughout the TVchannels ... *(Interruptions)* This was done during the tenure of the former Chief Minister and has provoked violence, which is also being shown on TV. Do we need to go into politics? People are being killed there, and people are suffering losses, yet we are doing politics. Everyone has seen who encouraged it and whose hand is behind this; if there is an investigation of all subjects, it will be known. Our message is not to indulge in politics.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: That's all. No one is discussing this here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The investigation will be conducted, don't worry; the investigation will be conducted, but don't politicise it. ... *(Interruptions)* Deependra, please don't engage in politics right now.

[English]

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Railways to name the Puri-Paradip Super Fast Express Train in the name of Mahakabi Sarala Das.

Madam, I would like to state that Sarala Das, known as Adikabi and Sudramuni is a 15th Century poet and scholar of Odia literature. It is hard to believe that how a self educated man from a remote hamlet named Kanakpur of coastal Odisha, which is in my Parliamentary Constituency Jagatsinghpur, could venture an incredible feat to write the Mahabharata, Ramayana and Chandi Purana along with many more in Odia. It is important to note that he is the first scholar to write in Odia. As an originator of Odia literature, his work has formed an enduring source of information on Odisha's history, religion, civilization, culture, philosophy etc. for succeeding generations. The sense of Odia nationality has appropriately been reflected in his writings.

So, to memorize the contribution of such a great personality, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Railways to name the Super Fast Express Train running between Puri and Paradip *via*

his birthplace, Kanakpur in Jagatsinghpur as Mahakabi Sarala Das Super Fast Express Train.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulamani Samal.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Madam, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. Through you, Madam, I wish to draw attention of this august House to a burning issue regarding the sad plight of rubber farmers across the country.

The sharp fall in price of natural rubber has caused deep distress to more than 10 lakh rubber farmers in Kerala and elsewhere.

The decision of the Government to allow indiscriminate import of rubber is intended to support powerful industrial lobby and corporate houses.

The small and marginal rubber farmers are on the verge of abject poverty and it is impossible for them to eke out a livelihood. The attitude of the Government towards rubber

farmers is callous and cruel. So I urge upon the Government to put a ban on indiscriminate import of natural rubber.

I also request the Government to announce a package to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore to the State of Kerala or to the Rubber Board to ensure fair and remunerative price for natural rubber.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullapally Ramachandran.

[Translation]

SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you very much. I want to draw attention to the country's judicial system, highlighting the direction towards Asia's largest High Court, located in the Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency of Allahabad district.

Sir, resolving legal cases is a major issue facing the country. I would like to mention the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi case. The case was filed on January 14, 1950, and it has been 66 years now, yet a resolution has not been reached. Currently, it is pending before the Supreme Court. In the Allahabad High Court, there are 160 positions for judges, but as of today,

combining both benches in Lucknow, there are only 77 judges. On March 13, this court will complete 150 years of its establishment, and many prominent personalities, including His Excellency the President, the hon. Prime Minister, and the Chief Justice of the country, are expected to attend.

I demand through you that the government appoint judges to the vacant positions in the courts of this country. In Allahabad, many cases are pending where a person files a case in the district court and is punished there. Cases that were appealed in 1986 and 1987 have not yet been heard in the Allahabad High Court, and those involved are nearing death while imprisoned. I urge you to convey to the government the necessity of expeditiously filling the vacant positions of judges in the courts so that people can receive timely justice and also to expedite the resolution of the Ram Janmabhoomi case.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Thank you, Madam, for giving me the opportunity. Vellore District wherein my Parliamentary constituency is situated is a place steeped in history. It abounds with many archaeological monuments of considerable interest. It is already a destination for high-end medical and engineering education because of the CMC Hospital and the VIT University. It is also a place for medical tourism. Now that the golden temple has come up there, it also attracts considerable tourist influx.

There are so many historical monuments of interest there which can be developed into major tourist centres. Already, Yelagiri, Jawadhu Hills, Punganoor Lake, Jalagambarai Waterfalls etc. attract considerable tourists. There is also the Vainu Bappu Observatory which has one of the largest lenses. Therefore, there is considerable potential to improve the place into a major tourist attraction. There is a small aerodrome which can also be developed on PPP model.

I would request the Ministries of Tourism and Civil Aviation to look into these aspects. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri B. Senguttuvan.

[Translation]

Shri Ravneet Singh ji, please do not make any allegations against anyone and also do not raise any regional matters here, as this matter seems contentious to me. Otherwise, I will not allow it.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Madam, I want to draw your attention to a serious issue. A new party attempting to establish itself in Punjab has adopted a very dangerous agenda that could ruin both the country and Punjab. Last month, a poster was released, and messages were circulated on WhatsApp stating that those who destroyed Punjab, …* along with the Chief Minister of Delhi and all the Members of Parliament, had their pictures printed. It was announced that as many people as possible should gather in their villages and join their movement on the 12th of this month, which is the birthday of... *I understand that the agenda which the people of Punjab rejected

* Not recorded.

many years ago is now being attempted to be brought back again by ... * and the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab. The agencies abroad, which have many people working for Khalistani and pro-Khalistani activities... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The name of the Chief Minister will not go on record.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: The money being used in their party's elections and functions is coming from abroad, and this should be investigated. This party always sensationalises any issue or matter first and then retreats.

HON. SPEAKER: The name of the Chief Minister will not go on record.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Our Home Ministry should quickly file an FIR on this matter because the state government is doing absolutely nothing. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Thank you hon. Speaker Madam. Our beloved leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has written to the hon. Prime

*Not recorded.

Minister to expedite the long pending Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu. The important railway lines, Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 kilometres) and Tindivanam-Nagari (179 kilometres) are the long pending demands of the people of Tamil Nadu. The construction was started four years ago and still it is nowhere near completion. These projects have been included in the last year's Railway Budget too without any definite date for completion and I am sure they will be included in this year's Budget also. It may be recalled that these two lines were provided with budgetary provision of Rs. 227.40 crore and Rs. 587 crore respectively four years ago. In the last four years, very less money has been spent and the progress going at a snail's pace. As there is no deadline fixed for the completion of the projects, no serious efforts were taken to complete the two important lines. A series of demands made by me as a Member of Parliament on the Floor of the House have not been taken seriously so far.

Hence, I once again urge upon the Union Government to expedite the works and facilitate the speedy completion of these two important railway lines.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra - Not present Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Speaker Madam, you have provided a very important opportunity to speak on this issue. Thank you very much. I want to draw the government's attention through you to the Prime Minister's rural road scheme in Bihar. This scheme, initiated by the NDA government in the year 2000, has regrettably not achieved its targets in the past 16 years. All villages with a population of more than 500 are still deprived of roads today. Looking at Bihar's current situation, half of the population still lacks access to roads.

I request the government to settle the outstanding payment of approximately 11 thousand crore rupees for the Prime Minister's rural road scheme that has accumulated over the years. Additionally, I urge upon the government to expedite the approval of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 3,000 kilometres of roads constructed in Bihar. I am making this

demand and would like to draw the hon. Minister's attention to it.

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister is no having the charge of the ministry of rural development. Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Speaker Madam, Sapphire International School is established in our Lok Sabha constituency of Ranchi, on Khunti Road, Ranchi. Since it is a boarding school, on Thursday, February 4th, a 12-year-old child named Vinay Kumar Mahato was brutally murdered in the school's hostel. Everyone expressed deep sorrow over this murder, and there were protests in Ranchi for several days, leading to a shutdown of the city. Since Vinay Kumar's murder, his family Members and the entire community have been working to ensure the release of innocent individuals caught by the local police in this case.

I appeal to the Union Government through you to conduct its investigation through the CBI. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairo Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary.

[English]

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak about the problem of my State.

It is expected that by this Budget Session, the broad gauge line connection of the Railways would be in our State. The State Government people and Members of Parliament of the State are constantly demanding to start the super- fast trains from the beginning of the broad gauge operation. For this, it is necessary to connect the State Capital, Agartala with the national Capital, New Delhi and as such, Rajdhani super-fast train is needed to start from the beginning of the broad gauge operation in the State of Tripura. Similarly, south bound and west bound trains are also necessary.

The links between Tripura and Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata are being demanded by the people of Tripura as they are bare necessity.

The superfast trains like Duronto, Sampark Kranti, Garib Rath and local passenger trains can be introduced in the coming Railway Budget.

The line expansion from Agartala to Udaipur is at the verge of finishing stage and that the connecting trains with Udaipur are also needed. The work of the line expansion up to Sabroom should be done as early as possible.

In tomorrow's Railway Budget I hope that the Railway Minister would allocate funds for this purpose. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Hon. Speaker, through you I am raising this issue for the third time. In my constituency, there is a place named Narsingh Nanded, where thousands of people come from Punjab. Our Bittu ji also came there in between. Out of the twelve Jyotirlingas, one Jyotirlinga is Aundha Nagnath, and out of the six Shakti Peeths, one Shakti Peeth is Maahur's Devi. Three national highways connect these

three places – National Highway No. 161, which goes from Washim-Hingoli-Waranga to Nanded; National Highway No. 361, which goes from Nanded-Hadgaon-Umarkhed; and National Highway No. 222, which passes through Basmat-Nanded. I request the government for their reconstruction through you for the third time. Here Venkaiah Ji himself is seated, so perhaps my plea will be heard by the government; this is my expectation from the government.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rajeev Satav.

[English]

Shri Yogi Adityanath – not present.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 25th February, 2016 at 11 a.m.

20.22 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 25, 2016/Phalguna 6, 1937 (Saka)

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