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Agrahayana 27, 1937 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XIV Contains Nos.1 to 17)

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CONTENTS

**Sixteenth Series, Vol.XIV, Sixth Session, 2015/1937 (Saka)
No.17, Friday, December 18, 2015/Agrahayana 27, 1937 (Saka)**

S U B J E C T

P A G E S

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Starred Question Nos.281 to 285	30-68
----------------------------------	-------

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos.286 to 300	69
---------------------------------	----

Unstarred Question Nos.3221 to 3450	69
-------------------------------------	----

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 70-111

**REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AT 131ST
ASSEMBLY OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION (IPU)** 112

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE
HOUSE**

Minutes 112-113

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES**

5th Report 113

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i)(a) Status of implementation of the
recommendations contained in the 3rd

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

114

- (b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 38th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Tax Assessment/Exemptions and related matter concerning IPL/BCCI, pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

Shri Arun Jaitley

115

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

116

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

117-204

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) Re : Alleged lathi charge by Police against the people participating in protest march in West Bengal 204-209
- (ii) Re: Need to ensure protection to the students from Sikkim especially in Institute of Technology and Forward Management, Chandigarh 210-219
- (iii) Re : Need to expedite the construction work of Ghorghat Bridge connecting Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in Bhagalpur under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana 220-223
- (iv) Re:Need to construct a Panchnad Project in Bundelkhand region to solve the problem of drought in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh 223-229

- (v) Re:Need to repair Ganga Ghats in
Dumdum Parliamentary constituency,
West Bengal 230-240

**MOTION RE: 17TH REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Shri Ratan Lal Kataria 241

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS-Introduced 242

- (i) Mentally Retarded Children (Welfare)
Bill, 2015

By Shri Om Prakash Yadav 243-244

- (ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
*(Insertion of new articles 16A and
16AA)*

By Shri Om Prakash Yadav 244-245

- (iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Substitution of new article for article 331)
By Shrimati Poonam Mahajan 245
- (iv) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation
(Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of section 26)
By Shri Vinod Kumar Boianapalli 246
- (v) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation
(Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of section 31)
By Shri Vinod Kumar Boianapalli 247
- (vi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Substitution of new article for article 130) 248
By Shri Vinod Kumar Boianapalli
- (vii) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill,
2015

*(Substitution of new section for
section 124A)* 248-249

By Dr. Shashi Tharoor

(viii) Asylum Bill, 2015

By Dr. Shashi Tharoor 249-250

(ix) Clinical Establishments (Registration
and Regulation) Amendment Bill,
2015

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

By Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy 263

(x) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Insertion of new articles 77A, etc.)

By Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy 264

(xi) Transgender Persons (Welfare) Bill,
2015

By Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar 264-265

(xii) Scheduled Tribes and Other
Traditional Forest Dwellers

(Recognition of Forest Rights)

Amendment Bill, 2015 265-266

(Amendment of section 2)

By Shri Raju Shetty

(xiii) Destitute and Neglected Women

(Welfare) Bill, 2015

By Shri Gopal Shetty 266-267

(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Insertion of new article 300B)

By Shri Gopal Shetty 268

(xv) Bureau of Accountability Bill, 2015

By Shri Gopal Shetty 269

(xvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Substitution of new article for article 21A)

By Shri Jayadev Galla 270

(xvii) Savita Ambedkar National University
for Women Bill, 2015

By Dr. Udit Raj

271

(xviii) Free Educational and Hostel Facilities
to Students Belonging to the
Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled
Tribes and Economically Weaker
Class Bill, 2015

By Dr. Udit Raj

272

- (xix) Constitution (Amendment) Bill,
2015
(amendment of articles 124 and 216)
By Dr. Udit Raj 273
- (xx) Supreme Court of India
(Establishment of a Permanent Bench
at Aurangabad) Bill, 2015
By Shri Chandrakant Khaire 274
- (xxi) Anganwadi Workers (Regularization
of Service and Other Benefits) Bill,
2015
By Shri A.T. Nana Patil 275
- (xxii) Representation of the People
(Amendment) Bill, 2015 *(Amendment
of section 30)*
By Shri Rahul Shewale 276
- (xxiii) Right of Children to Free and
Compulsory Education (Amendment)
Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

By Shri Rahul Shewale 277

(xxiv) Persons Belonging to Economically Weaker Section (Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services) Bill, 2015 278

By Shri Rahul Shewale

(xxv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of articles 338 and 340)

By Shri P.P. Chaudhary 279

(xxvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of article 16)

By Shri P.P. Chaudhary 279-280

(xxvii) National Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 1, etc.)

By Shri P.P. Chaudhary 280-281

(xxviii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Insertion of new article 123A)

By Shri P.P. Chaudhary 281

(xxix) Artisans (Welfare and Promotion)
Bill, 2015

By Shri Maheish Girri 281-282

(xxx) National Cadet Corps (Amendment)
Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 6)

By Shri Maheish Girri 283

(xxxi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of articles 341 and 342)

By Shri Nishikant Dubey 284

(xxxii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
*(Substitution of new article for article
130)*

By Shri Nishikant Dubey 284-285

- (xxxiii) Special Financial Assistance to Santhal
Pargana Region of the State of
Jharkhand Bill, 2015

By Shri Nishikant Dubey

285-286

- (xxxiv) Consumer Goods (Right to Free
Return) Bill, 2015

By Shri Nishikant Dubey

286-287

- (xxxv) Protection of Refugees and Asylum
Seekers Bill, 2015

By Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena

287-288

- (xxxvi) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order
(Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of the Schedule)

By Shri Ninong Ering

288-289

- (xxxvii) Regulation of Computer Training
Centres Bill, 2015

By Shri Rajesh Ranjan

289

(xxxviii) Control of Rising Prices Bill

By Shri Rajesh Ranjan 290

(xxxix) Neglected and Suffering Widows
(Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2015

By Shri Rajesh Ranjan 291-292

(xl) Distressed and Neglected Widows and
Divorced Women (Maintenance,
Support and Welfare) Bill, 2015

By Shri Rajesh Ranjan 292-293

(xli) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
(Amendment) Bill, 2015

*(Substitution of new section for
section 28)*

By Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab 294

(xlii) Religious Conversion (Prohibition)
Bill, 2015

By Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab 294

- (xliii) Special Drinking Water and Irrigation Development Fund (For Dark Zone Areas) Bill, 2015
- By Shri Devji M. Patel** 295-296
- (xliv) High Court of Bombay (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Pune) Bill, 2015
- By Shri Shrirang Appa Barne** 296-297
- (xlv) Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2015
- (Amendment of Section 2)*
- By Shri Shrirang Appa Barne** 297-298
- (xlvi) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2015
- (Amendment of the Schedule)*
- By Shri Shrirang Appa Barne** 298-299
- (xlvii) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Insertion of new section 61B) 299-300

By Shri Shrirang Appa Barne

- (xlviii) Sex Workers (Rehabilitation and
Social Security) Bill, 2015

By Shrimati Poonam Mahajan 300

- (xlix) Traditional Fishermen (Socio-
Economic Protection and Welfare)
Bill, 2015

By Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut 301-302

- (l) Widows' Welfare Bill, 2015

By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 303

- (li) Mega Projects (Timely Completion)
Bill, 2015

By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
304

- (lii) Jharkhand Atomic Authority Bill,
2015

By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 305-306

- (lii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)
By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 306
- (liv) Distressed Veteran Sports Persons
(Welfare) Bill, 2015
By Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 307-308
- (lv) Compulsory Physical Fitness of
Children Through Sports in Schools
and Development of Sports
Infrastructure Bill, 2015
By Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 308-309
- (lvi) Distressed Farmers (Special Facilities,
Protection and Welfare) Bill, 2015
By Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 309-311
- (lvii) Electronic Waste Bill, 2015
By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 311-312
- (lviii) Commission of Inquiry (Amendment)
Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 3)

By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 312

(lix) Solar Energy (Development and
Compulsory Use) Bill, 2015

By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 312-313

(lx) Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of sections 4 and 9)

By Shri Kesineni Srinivas 314

(lxi) Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 73, etc.)

By Shri Kesineni Srinivas 315

(lxii) Witness Protection Bill, 2015

By Shri Om Birla 316

(lxiii) Constitutional (Amendment) Bill,
2015

(Amendment of article 84)

By Shri Dushyant Chautala 317

- (lxiv) Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill,
2015
(Amendment of section 2 etc.)
By Shri Dushyant Chautala 317-318
- (lxv) Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill,
2015
*(Substitution of new section for
section 15)*
By Shri Dushyant Chautala 318
- (lxvi) Code of Criminal Procedure
(Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of section 358)
By Shri Dushyant Chautala 319
- (lxvii) National Asylum Bill, 2015
By Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi 320
- (lxviii) Special Financial Assistance to the
Backward Region of Bundelkhand
Bill, 2015

By Kunwar Pushpendra Singh 320-321
Chandel

(lxix) Drought Control and Protection of
Farmers of Drought Prone Areas Bill,
2015

By Kunwar Pushpendra Singh
Chandel 322-323

(lxx) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
Amendment of articles 84 and 173)

By Shri Rajeev Satav 323

(lxxi) Medical Consultancy and Other
Services (Rationalisation of Fees) Bill,
2015

By Dr. Manoj Rajoria 324

(lxxii) Airlines (Fare Structure) Bill, 2015

By Shri M.K. Raghavan 325

(lxxiii) Railway Security Force Bill, 2015

By Shri M.K. Raghavan 326

(lxxiv)	Provision of Financial Assistance (For Upgrading of Hospitals) Bill, 2015	
	By Shri M.K. Raghavan	327
(lxxv)	Cleaning of Rivers (Provision of Financial Assistance) Bill, 2015	
	By Shri M.K. Raghavan	328
(lxxvi)	Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2015	
	<i>(Amendment of sections 3 and 65)</i>	
	By Shri Chandrakant Khaire	329
(lxxvii)	Payment of Minimum Wages (for Workers and Others) Bill, 2015	
	By Shri Chandrakant Khaire	330
(lxxviii)	Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015	
	<i>(Amendment of article 371)</i>	
	By Shri Chandrakant Khaire	331
(lxxix)	Prohibition Bill, 2015	
	By Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	331-332

(lxxx) Residential Schools (for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Bill, 2015

By Shri Kodikunnil Suresh 332-333

(lxxxii) Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Private Sector Bill, 2015

By Shri Kodikunnil Suresh 333-334

(lxxxiii) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of Schedule I)

By Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal 334-335

(lxxxiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015
(Amendment of article 312)

By Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal 335

(lxxxv) Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of section 31)

By Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal 336

(lxxxv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015

(Amendment of article 338)

By Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal 337

(lxxxvi) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill,
2015*(Omission of section 309)*

By Shri Jagdambika Pal 338

(lxxxvii) Rainwater (Mandatory Harvesting and
Collection) Bill, 2015

By Shri Jagdambika Pal 339

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2014 340-391

Shri Dadan Mishra 340-347

Shri Udit Raj 347-348,
349-353

Shri Rabindra Kumar Ray 354-361

Dr. Banshilal Mahto	361-367
Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa	367-375
Shri Jugal Kishore	375-379
Shri Bhola Singh	379-382
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	382-384
Shri Ramen Deka	384-386
Shri Devendra Singh Bhole	386-391

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 18, 2015/Agrahayana 27, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Sougata Ray, Sarvashri Bhagwant Mann, N.K. Premachandran, Mallikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, K.C. Venugopal and Y.V. Subba Reddy on different issues.

The matters, though important enough, do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised – some matters have already been raised - through other opportunities.

I have, therefore, disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, a new turn has taken place.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You may raise it after the Question Hour and not now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, please be kind towards the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Q. No. 281, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

... (Interruptions)

11.03 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What has happened? You raised the same issue yesterday as well. Every day, the same issue will not be raised.

. . . (Interruptions)

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

HON. SPEAKER: Whatever has been said in the High Court will not be raised here.

. . . (Interruptions)

THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION, AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER (MR. M.

VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam, the reference to High Court should not go on record. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

11.04 hours

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 281, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

(Q.281)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Madam, the answer given by the Minister shows that he is indifferent towards the farmers. The contribution of the agricultural sector to the overall GDP is significant. However, there has been a consistent decline in this over the past two years. In this situation, the Central Government has reduced the grant for the National Agricultural Development Scheme from the previous Rs.9864 crore to Rs.4500 crore. This means it has been reduced by more than half. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how there will be an increase in production in the agricultural sector?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a very important question, which requires careful consideration from all of us. The agricultural crisis has arisen due to the deficient

rainfall during the monsoon after many years. Even in the year 1986-87, there was a deficient monsoon. Now, we have to face a deficient monsoon once again. Especially the steps we have taken in the agricultural sector are very comprehensive and extensive. Firstly, we have increased the agricultural credit, ensuring that all resources available to us are provided to our farmer brothers and sisters. Simultaneously, it has been rightly mentioned that the Agricultural Irrigation Scheme for which we have allocated 50 thousand crore rupees, which we will spend over the next five years. The figures that they have cited indicate that this year we have allocated Rs. 4500 crore for this. It depends on how effectively we can manage this expenditure and adjust it. We have determined that we will spend the allocated Rs. 4500 crore accordingly.... *(Interruptions)* Along with this, we are also making all the arrangement for Soil Health Card. ... *(Interruptions)* We are getting them issued to our farmer brothers and sisters through Krishi Vigyan Kendra enabling them to determine the best crops to grow and how to increase production. ... *(Interruptions)*

The third point is the minimum support prices, especially where we are currently experiencing a decline in the production, such as in pulses, we have increased the minimum support prices for it. ... *(Interruptions)* This will provide further incentives to people and encourage them to produce pulses.... *(Interruptions)* Despite the

deficient monsoon, the production of cereals is reported to be quite well. ... *(Interruptions)* Simultaneously, we have also made efforts to liberalize agricultural price setting, carefully examining inputs and exports to determine how we can incentivize farmers.... *(Interruptions)* We have also brought significant improvements to the Agricultural Produce Marketing Commodities Act.... *(Interruptions)* In order to ensure that farmers get fair prices.... *(Interruptions)* Despite the deficient monsoon, the agricultural production, which saw only a one percent increase last year, has now increased by two percent.... *(Interruptions)* As our farmer brothers and sisters are diversifying, they are observing that if they are not receiving sufficient returns solely from crop production, they are increasing their production by diversifying into livestock, fisheries, and dairy.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to make a request to everyone that all of you should understand that this House functions according to its rules, and businesses are taken up accordingly. As I mentioned yesterday, if a notice has to be given, it should be a substantive notice. If the court has made a statement, then instead of slogans here, there is also the experience of governing for many years. There are also many people here who have experience of running this House. The rules have also been formulated collaboratively with senior

individuals over the years. Work will indeed be done according to the rules, so whatever slogans you are giving here, according to those slogans, neither the Government nor anyone else can make decisions, nor can the Parliament function. Notices should be given in an appropriate manner. I have already mentioned this yesterday, please give notices in the appropriate manner and only then the same will be considered, but please do not disrupt the House by shouting in this manner. I also mentioned this yesterday, we have been observing this kind of behavior every day. Creating rucus is not appropriate.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow in this way. I have requested that you should give a substantive notice.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Madam, the answer given by the Hon. Minister, is not in the interest of the farmers. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Minister has mentioned increasing crop yields for the benefit of the farmers. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Only the Hon. Member's question will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister why the foreign seeds are expensive, such as maize seeds cost 5,000 rupees per kilogram, soybean seeds cost 2,000 rupees per kilogram, and wheat seeds cost 1,000 rupees per kilogram. ... (*Interruptions*) In such a situation, has the Honorable Minister made any arrangements to provide foreign seeds to the farmers at cheaper rates for their benefit? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam, the farmers require many inputs when they strive for production.... (*Interruptions*) We examine all these inputs and wherever we can provide relief in these inputs, we definitely do so. ... (*Interruptions*) We are also concerned about the seeds they mentioned and wherever necessary whether it's fertilizer, electricity or seeds, we take all of these into consideration and after examining them and providing Minimum Support Prices, we then formulate our policies.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. K.V. Thomas.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ajay Mishra.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask questions. ... (*Interruptions*) Since the NDA Government came into power, it is because of the various positive schemes rolled out by the Hon. Minister of Finance there has been an increase in GDP and at the same time, people's trust in the Government has also increased.... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Madam, while there has been an overall increase in Gross Domestic Production, but there has been relatively less growth in rural areas as compared to the urban areas, primarily due to the lower growth rate in the agricultural sector. I would like to inquire Hon. Minister through you, about the steps the Government is planning to take to increase the growth rate in the agricultural sector and whether there are any plans to initiate financial processes directly in the agricultural sector, such as providing mobile banking facilities to every household?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, we have taken several effective measures, including providing resources in the agricultural sector to increase production and enhance the income of our farmer brothers and sisters. Along with that, I would like to reassure the Hon. Member who is inquiring about agricultural credit and mobile banking that under the Jan-Dhan Yojana and Mudra

Yojana we have facilitated a significant increase in agricultural credit. Presently, 11 payment banks and 10 small banks which are licensed, are opening numerous branches, further expanding access to financial services. We have also granted licenses to post offices as payment banks, and it is expected that ATMs, micro ATMs, and banking services will be available through post offices, which are spread across the country with around 1 lakh 25 thousand branches. We expect that agricultural credit should be accessible to all our farmers, whether they reside near urban areas or in remote rural regions. Therefore, full banking and financial services will be made available to them.

[English]

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, I thank you for allowing me to put this question.

We all know that the rate of growth of Gross Domestic Product is well related to our industry. Industrial output plays a vital role in the growth of a nation *vis-à-vis* its GDP.

Madam, due to severe rains in Chennai, there is an apprehension that there will be a reduction in the industrial output from the industrial belts in and around Chennai, particularly in the Ambattur Industrial Estate in my Sriperumbudur constituency, which have been ravaged by the recent rains. Though we were in a pathetic condition,

yet our hon. Prime Minister and our hon. Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu declared and announced: “We are with Chennai, not to worry.” For that, we are very happy.

Apart from that, the need of the hour now is survival of the industries in the Ambattur Industrial Estate. Our hon. Chief Minister Amma is taking all the efforts to bring comfort to the people of rain-raved coastal district of Tamil Nadu. Apart from that, I want to know from the Centre whether the Government would come forward to give moratorium on repayment of loans for six months. Will the Government waive excise duty, VAT, Sales Tax? Apart from that, I am asking for a compensation of Rs.5 lakh for each industry. It is our humble plea to him. That is all.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, we are all most distressed with the tragic floods in Chennai. Our Government has taken a number of swift steps to ensure disaster relief. The hon. Prime Minister has already visited Chennai and assured the hon. Chief Minister that the Central Government would take all necessary steps. The hon. Finance Minister is going tomorrow as well.

As far as financial service is concerned, we have taken a number of emergency steps including the provision of micro ATMs for cash disbursement. We have told the insurance companies to process the claims as quickly as possible, whether they are residential customers

or commercial customers who have suffered damages as the hon. Member is suggesting.

As far as insurance as also the provision of financial service is concerned, both of those are done in as expeditiously a manner as possible. In addition to that, we recognize that there are important industrial areas in and around Chennai. Of course, I am sure the State Government will do whatever is necessary to bring them back to full, normal functioning as quickly as possible. The Central Government will assist in all ways possible.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTI: Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak on a matter of great importance. The Honorable Minister has provided extensive information on this matter. When we discuss GDP growth, especially in the context of a slowdown in the global market, India's uniqueness lies in our ability to perform well despite adversities. There is optimism for further improvement in the days to come. We have made significant contributions to GDP growth through infrastructure development, industrial expansion, real estate, road connectivity, and agriculture. However, alongside these major initiatives, as my predecessors have also highlighted, it is imperative that we pay even more attention to rural areas in the days ahead. As an example in urban

areas, delays often occur when Central and State Governments discuss cooperative federalism regarding development plans, such as roads and infrastructure. These delays hinder the approval of these projects by State Governments and municipal bodies, which impacts GDP growth and employment opportunities for the general population. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there are plans to expedite decision-making in this regard in the coming days to boost GDP and ensure employment opportunities for the common people?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, our Government's policies are aligned with the goal of enhancing the prosperity of farmers and providing employment opportunities to the youth. We have also implemented numerous policies aimed at uplifting the poor. These policies are expected to benefit all the citizens while working for the welfare of the entire nation.

In particular, we have extensively explained about the agricultural sector whether it's about irrigation schemes or rural road projects, fertilizer policies or Minimum Support Price policies. If we look at all these policies comprehensively, our endeavour is to prioritise the advancement of the agricultural sector above all. The agricultural investments, particularly in the agricultural sector are receiving special attention from us. As I have previously mentioned

we have allocated Rs.50,000 crores for the irrigation schemes and for the rural road projects, we are allocating additional funds. When we combine both of these initiatives aimed at agricultural and rural development, I believe that the country, as well as rural areas, will benefit significantly.

[English]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Madam, not merely agriculture but the manufacturing sector which is an important element of GDP growth is not performing well for quite some time. This is mainly because of low demand and poor purchasing power of the people. This is also because of falling employment and income. According to the Labour Bureau's data, the job loss in the last quarter was 43,000. My question, through you, to the hon. Minister is this. What measures have already been taken and proposed to be taken to arrest this trend of falling employment and manufacturing growth? What measures are proposed by the Government to boost both manufacturing and employment?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam, I would like to just correct some numbers that the hon. Member has mentioned. Actually the manufacturing is doing rather well and in fact, in the last quarter, manufacturing growth was at 9.8 per cent which is at much higher level than it has been in the last few years. If you look at overall growth rate in the manufacturing sector in comparison to 2011-12

prices, the numbers are – in Q1 – 7.2 per cent; and then, this year - 9.8 per cent.

In the first half, manufacturing has grown at 8.2 per cent. Manufacturing is growing because our Government has taken very important steps to boost manufacturing. Starting of course with 'Make in India' which has attracted a lot of FDI in India which has led to a lot of investment in the manufacturing sector, and boosted employment.

In addition, the steps that we have taken in regard to 'Ease of Doing Business' have improved India's ranking in the world from 142 to 130. Of course, it has shown a very positive momentum in various States that are also focusing on 'Ease of Doing Business'. They have also attracted manufacturing investments. I would also like to emphasize that if you actually look at the numbers of GDP growth rate, you will find that capital goods and consumer durables both of which are driven by manufacturing have also shown very good growth and in particular numbers of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles have also gone up dramatically.

... (*Interruptions*)

So, overall I would say the manufacturing sector is doing well. It is proceeding forward quite robustly and, in fact, that is also demonstrated in our share of global exports. Even as our exports have

come down, our share of global exports has remained steady because our manufacturing sector today is quite competitive globally....
(*Interruptions*)

(Q.282)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Madam Speaker, the term "AYUSH" stands for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy. ... (*Interruptions*) The primary objective of Ayurveda is - Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam [The preservation of health]. ... (*Interruptions*) Protecting human health is its first campaign.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the health policies formulated to keep the citizens healthy by utilizing these five medical systems of AYUSH?... (*Interruptions*) What policy has been made for its extensive promotion and implementation in the country?... (*Interruptions*) In the manner a research paper from Harvard University has emerged, stating that heavy metals are present in AYUSH medicines and many countries like the United States and Canada have imposed bans on its products, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the establishment of research centers to promote AYUSH methodology in the country and ensure its quality. ... (*Interruptions*) What is their

number?... *(Interruptions)* Subject-wise and medicine-wise details of the research conducted? ... *(Interruptions)* What effective steps are being taken by the Government to ensure their quality?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Ayush is working in two ways to promote the five medical systems - Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.... *(Interruptions)* Firstly, under the centrally sponsored scheme of AYUSH, we have launched 'National AYUSH Mission' through which provisions have been made for the development of these five paths.... *(Interruptions)* Secondly, under the central sector schemes, we have eight schemes through which we are working to promote AYUSH.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, the topic under discussion is that of health status.... *(Interruptions)* Through these two main schemes, we procure proposals from the states.... *(Interruptions)* Those who require assistance submit proposals through these centrally-sponsored schemes and we provide them with financial assistance.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: These Hon. Members are engaging in external discourse. All names must be noted.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Honorable Minister through you whether the Minister is aware that before January 2025, the facility of postgraduate (MD) in Ayush system was available at very few places, in very few subjects?... *(Interruptions)* If yes, whether CCIM and CCH have relaxed their rules in the educational institutions of AYUSH?... *(Interruptions)* if so, the details thereof? ... *(interruptions)* If strict standards have been made, then why were colleges approved indiscriminately after the year 2005?... *(Interruptions)* On one hand there is no MD and on the other hand a large number of such colleges have been approved, so what measures have been taken to complete the educational system in all those colleges?... *(Interruptions)* Will their standards be reinstated?... *(Interruptions)* If not, the reasons therefor?... *(Interruptions)* whether the Minister is aware that the Ayurvedic medicines, Homeopathy medicines are available at general stores to grocery shops? ... *(Interruptions)* This is the reason why along with unreliability, many questions are being raised on that pathy. ... *(Interruptions)* Will arrangements be made to license pharmacists for the distribution and licensing of Ayurvedic and homeopathic medicines on the lines of allopathic medicines? ... *(Interruptions)* If so, the time by which such

arrangements are likely to be made and if not, the reasons therefor? ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Hon. Madam Speaker, regarding the point raised by the Hon. Member, I would like to clarify that we have two councils namely the C.C.I.M. and the C.C.H., which oversee Ayurvedic and homeopathic practices respectively. ... *(Interruptions)*

The standards and regulations, in both these councils dictate that educational institutions are granted permission based on these standards alone. ... *(Interruptions)* You must have noticed, that until those deficiencies are rectified, we do not grant them permission....

(Interruptions)

The second question of the Hon. Member pertains to the fact that our Ayurvedic or homeopathic medicines are available in all stores. ...

(Interruptions) We do not have any rules in place regarding this matter

yet. ... *(Interruptions)* As requested by the Hon. Member, I would like to inform that we are considering making an Act in this regard. ...

(Interruptions)

PROF. RAVINDRA VISWANATH GAIKWAD: Madam Speaker, the Central Government provides assistance for Ayurveda through numerous schemes. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, financial assistance is provided to patients, particularly those suffering from diseases like cancer. ... *(Interruptions)* Do you

have a report indicating the existence of Ayurvedic medicine or treatment within Ayurveda claiming a one hundred percent success rate in curing diseases like cancer. ... *(Interruptions)* Will the assistance be provided to the patients taking treatment under Ayurveda as well from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Ministry of Health? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a question regarding assistance. ... *(Interruptions)* The assistance provided is from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. ... *(Interruptions)* We have also written to the Prime Minister stating that such assistance should be available from their fund for Ayurvedic treatments as well. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. RAVINDRA BABU: Thank you very much, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. In Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha etc., there is administration of some medicine somewhere or the other. ... *(Interruptions)* Whereas, there is an Indian Acupuncture medical system wherein there will be no administration of any medicine; there will be no side effects. ... *(Interruptions)* They usually give the treatment by Acupuncture or by Acupressure which is relieving a lot of small ailments like backache, sciatica, cervical pain etc. ... *(Interruptions)* I already made a request to the Minister to include

Acupuncture also as a part of AYUSH so that it will become AAYUSH.

I would request the hon. Minister, through you, hon. Madam, to include Acupuncture also in the AYUSH so that our native medicines also will get a lot of fillip and encouragement in the international area. It has already gone to China; it has become very popular....
(*Interruptions*) Please include Acupuncture also in the AAYUSH. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Hon. Speaker until now, there have been only five pathies in AYUSH. ... (*Interruptions*) This includes AYUSH, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy. ... (*Interruptions*) We have received numerous representations for various paithies, but they have not so far been included in AYUSH. ... (*Interruptions*) Certainly we can think about it in detail. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Thank you, Madam. The recent rejection and wide coverage regarding rejection of Ayurvedic treatment in Defence Forces has sent out a wrong message with regard to the Ayurvedic treatment and has created discouragement. ...

(Interruptions) Hon. Amma's Government has been popularizing Ayurvedic treatment in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Ayurvedic medicines are being provided to the pregnant women.

(Interruptions) The Siddha Wing of the Health Department is providing 'Nilavembu kashayam' for Dengue prevention throughout the State. The Health Department has been providing herbal medicines through Government hospitals and primary health centres across the State of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any plan to further popularise the AYUSH in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Hon. Madam Speaker, as mentioned earlier, the promotion of AYUSH is facilitated through various schemes. ... *(Interruptions)* As a result, it is a subject of the State List. ... *(Interruptions)* Our job is to provide them financial assistance. ... *(Interruptions)* Unless the proposals from State Governments submitted to us, we will not be able to help them. ... *(Interruptions)* Like both the schemes, be it AYUSH Central Scheme or Sponsored Scheme, you send your proposal, we will consider it.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG: Madam Speaker, first of all I am grateful to the Minister for giving recognition to AYUSH, a traditional medicine system prevalent in the entire Himalayan region. ... *(Interruptions)* This system is known as 'Sowa Rigpa'. ... *(Interruptions)* It is widely prevalent in Ladakh. ... *(Interruptions)* This practice is prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, parts of Uttarakhand, and also in parts of Himachal Pradesh

.... *(Interruptions)* The Hon. Minister mentioned in his reply that AYUSH means Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. ... *(Interruptions)* Already, "Sowa Rigpa" has been recognised in AYUSH. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore another "S" should be added to AYUSH. ... *(Interruptions)* So that 'Sowa Rigpa' gets importance. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to urge the Minister that even after the recognition of "Sowa Rigpa," it has not received sufficient support yet.... *(Interruptions)* As mentioned in your response regarding research on Unani at Kashmir University.... *(Interruptions)* Similarly, will the Government also establish a research institute in Ladakh, which will become the center for 'Sowa Rigpa'?

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for extending the funding pattern of the AYUSH mission to Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh, similar to that of the North-

Eastern States, with a ratio of 90:10. ... *(Interruptions)* I hope that 'Sowa Rigpa' receives the same level of support and facilities as other AYUSH practitioners have been provided.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Madam Speaker, the work in underway for 'Sowa Rigpa'. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to assure them that its formalities are yet to be completed. ... *(Interruptions)* The idea of its recognition has just moved forward. ... *(Interruptions)* Once it receives recognition, as requested by the Hon. Member, efforts will be made from our end to provide support and assistance to institutions and some regional organisations wherever 'Sowa Rigpa' services are utilized.... *(Interruptions)*

(Q.283)

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for providing such a comprehensive answer. ... *(Interruptions)* It is indeed disheartening that even after so many years of independence, the status of women in the country remains extremely disappointing. ... *(Interruptions)* Along with presenting some statistics, I would like to seek certain information from the Minister regarding the steps being taken in that direction. As mentioned earlier, in the paragraph, we were ranked 114th in the 'Global Gender Gap Index' in 2014, but now we have improved to the

108th position.... *(Interruptions)* Is this satisfactory progress?... *(Interruptions)* Today, we rank 108th out of 145 countries in the 'Global Gender Gap Index.'... *(Interruptions)* Due to the increasing participation of women in political partnership, you have dropped five ranks.... *(Interruptions)* There has not been much progress in the fields of education and healthcare.... *(Interruptions)* Secondly, the figures available are quite disappointing. *(Interruptions)* Crimes against women are increasing. ... *(Interruptions)* Our work is confined only to enacting some laws. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to say that even in BRICS, there are 5-6 countries where our situation is worrisome, all of which are ahead of us.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to seek information from the Honorable Minister as to how gross neglect has been meted out to women in the world's largest democracy. Whether the steps taken by you are sufficient to improve the status of women? ... *(Interruptions)* If they were sufficient, then today you would not be stating that we have slipped back from 114 to 108. ... *(Interruptions)* You should state that we are at the second, fourth position. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I agree with him that the condition of women is not good. In the last so many years, very little has been done to redress the condition of women. ...

(Interruptions) In fact, even when this Ministry was made, it was downgraded and it was not really taken very seriously. ...
(Interruptions) The Prime Minister has taken this Ministry ...
(Interruptions) and this is the first time, this Ministry took Cabinet Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

More than that, I would like to tell the hon. Member of Parliament what we have done. When we inherited the situation, we were number 108. ... *(Interruptions)* In the next two years when the next survey comes, I assure him that we will have done much better. ... *(Interruptions)*

One of the things that we have done for women's gender disparity is to start at school level. At school level, a new thing has been introduced in schools and colleges called 'Gender Champion'. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not only being introduced in textbooks but children who have behaved well towards women will be awarded for being gender champions. ... *(Interruptions)*

Then, this Government has put 33 per cent of women in the Police Force. Seven States and all the UTs have put 33 per cent and every single other State has promised that they would be doing it. ... *(Interruptions)* This will go a long way in the protection of women and in preventing crimes against women.

We have also made a new thing, which will go into first by next month, which is Special Police Volunteers. ... (*Interruptions*) One girl, over the age of 21 and having finished her 12th Standard is appointed in every village, and her job is to keep an eye on any crime, potential crime against women, from wife beating to eve teasing to molestation. ... (*Interruptions*) In fact, it also means keeping an eye on parents who are preventing the girl children from going to school, on malnutrition being deliberately created by giving women and girls less food. ... (*Interruptions*) So, the Special Police Volunteers will go a long way.

Then, we have women's helpline coming in for the first time. That is being put in various States and then it will be universalized. ... (*Interruptions*) We have a new thing, Madam, which I would like to tell you about, which is being just decided and in the last week it is agreed to. ... (*Interruptions*) Every cell phone in India will have an in-built panic button. Now, all the new cell phones will be made with panic buttons. But in the case of all the old cell phones you can go to the person who owns the company or the dealer and they will adjust it for you so that there are no apps or nothing in the hardware of the cell phone. ... (*Interruptions*) If a woman is in trouble, she can just press the button on the cell itself and she will get immediate help. ... (*Interruptions*)

We also have something called Village level Convergence and Facilitation Centres in 15 districts so far. These Convergence Centres have two people at each Centre teaching with what are their rights and how they can make money ... (*Interruptions*) to help them and to protect them. ... (*Interruptions*) We are extending this Scheme to all 100 *Beti Bachao* areas. ... (*Interruptions*) We chose 100 of the worst districts in the country against women. ... (*Interruptions*) We have for one year running intensive campaign and I have to say that the figures at the end of one year are looking extremely good. ... (*Interruptions*) So, we are doing much better than ever done for women. I am happy to inform the Member that let him ask this question two years from now, then, we will give him much better figures.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the steps taken by the Hon. Minister are commendable, you have prepared excellent scheme. ... (*Interruptions*) Schemes have continued to be formulated for the last 50 years, but we need to brood over why all these schemes failed to be effective. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to present an example without taking too much time. ... (*Interruptions*) Last month, I visited America, where ... (*Interruptions*) I had the opportunity to address an organization there. ... (*Interruptions*) The Indian woman residing there narrated her plight and said that how should we go to

India, seven years old girls are raped there. ... (*Interruptions*) No one is safe. ... (*Interruptions*) A perception has been formed about the country that no woman or child is safe here. ... (*Interruptions*) We have also established women's police stations and the number has increased. However, along with the increase in the number of crimes, harassment has also increased which is a matter of great shame. ... (*Interruptions*) Only two countries, Armenia and China are below us in gender ratio. ... (*Interruptions*) In a list of 145 countries, we are ranked 143th. We should be concerned that merely taking steps will not suffice; it is the implementation of those steps that matters ... (*Interruptions*) We need to be concerned about this. We formulate schemes and assume that the plan will be successful, ... (*Interruptions*) without reviewing whether the scheme has yielded any benefit or not. ... (*Interruptions*) All the steps taken so far for the advancement of women, ... (*Interruptions*) for the protection, for the growth of the birth rate, would you please review them and make efforts to plug the loopholes. ... (*Interruptions*) Merely making laws will not serve the purpose. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Madam, I am happy that the hon. Member is worried about Indian women in the US complaining about rape figures in India. In actual fact, rape figures in

India are amongst the lowest in the world and they are much lower than rape in the United States and in Europe which are not just ten times higher but over a hundred times higher. So, those Indian women should be worried about the violence in those countries that they have adopted rather than in India.

Secondly, we have started something new ‘One Stop Crisis Centres’. We have set up ten centres. We are aiming for 660 centres. All those ten centres that have been started are doing extremely well. Over 200 women come during the week. Each one of them has a problem. We give them free medical help, free legal help, police help, lawyers help and they have become deterrence to crime in those areas. We have been monitoring daily. It is not weekly, it is not monthly, it is a daily monitoring of all ten centres as to what they do and what crimes come to them. If we can get these done in every district that is in 660 districts, they will go a long way.

The Hon. Members has said that *Mahila* Police Stations do not work. It is probably true that *Mahila* Police Stations do not work because as usually, those *mahila* police stations are at present one per district and it is secluded in one centre. We have started a new thing which 33 per cent of all police people, if they are women, then, you would not need to have *Mahila* Police Stations because in every police station, a *mahila* assistant will be there. That will go much better.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri K. Raghavan – not present. Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Thank you so much Madam for giving me an opportunity to ask a supplementary question.

Madam Speaker, I think after independence this is the first time in Lok Sabha where we have got the highest ever representation of women to the extent of 12.2 per cent. So, irrespective of all the criticisms, this is the highest ever. Not only this, the women representation in the Union Cabinet is 22 per cent this time vis-à-vis nine per cent during the last term. So, this is something positive which is coming.

Madam Speaker, having said that, the point of worry is that India still continues to rank 130 out of 155 countries in Gender Inequality Index. Even our position is much worse than countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh. Several factors are contributing to this. One of the factors that is contributing to this is higher education for women.... (*Interruptions*) The percentage of our women who have higher education, even up to the secondary level, is only 27 per cent compared to 34 per cent in Bangladesh. So, my specific question to the hon. Minister, through you, is this.... (*Interruptions*) Is the Government coming up with some specific concrete action plan to see

that women get higher education in a much bigger number so that the issue can be addressed to a large extent? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Actually, it does not come under my ministry. [*Translation*] But yes, the scheme has been launched in several states so that girls can pursue higher education. ... (*Interruptions*) Bengal is at the forefront in those schemes. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have done very good work. ... (*Interruptions*) Under this scheme, every girl is given money to go to school. ... (*Interruptions*) We have initiated a new scheme, wherein every village where a woman becomes the sarpanch ... (*Interruptions*) the National Commission for Women has been consulted, and we have devised the scheme ... (*Interruptions*) Recently, around 2 lakh new sarpanches have been elected, and we will train these sarpanches about how to manage the village, how to raise funds, and how to ensure the safety of women... (*Interruptions*) If we train the sarpanches in this regard, then in villages where girls do not feel safe ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER : Please provide the Hon. Minister with some water.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER : This is correct, but they are not able to understand. They have not read the rules, so what should we do now?

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Madam Speaker, I apologize.... *(Interruptions)* As I mentioned, we will provide training to the sarpanches. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government schemes that have been initiated, under which money will be provided to girls.... *(Interruptions)* if they join college, if they go ahead, then those schemes are also being recommended by us.

HON. SPEAKER: Mrs. Saumitra Khan, please ask your question briefly.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN: Madam Speaker, mother India is divine nation of women. ... *(Interruptions)* [English] I would like to inform you that in unreserved compartments, there is sexual harassment of women passengers by other passengers.... *(Interruptions)* In this regard, I would like to know whether the Ministry has taken up this matter with the Ministry of Railways or not, and if yes, please give

me the details. I would like to inquire about the unreserved railway compartments. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER : You are asking questions about Railways. I am sorry.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN: Have you discussed with the Railways about the sexual harassment of women there? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is suggested that you should talk to the railways regarding this. This question is not directly related to the original question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 284)

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, from the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is very clear that a large number of posts are vacant at different times and also in various categories. In the year 2013-14, there were 3,000 posts vacant. In the year 2014-15, it has increased to 8,000. In 2014-15, in clerical posts, there are about 14,000 posts vacant.

Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is possible to function satisfactorily especially for the public sector banks without having the actual strength. I would also like to know whether these banks are employing contract workers on the vacant posts.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, I would like to just explain these numbers a little bit better so that the hon. Member understands exactly how vacancies are filled in the public sector banks. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Member is correct to point out that in the year 2014-15 the recruitment numbers were a little bit below the vacancies that were available at that time. However, these vacancies are carried forward every year. What happened in 2015-16, the banks set down, they did

their workforce planning and their vacancies were carried forward. On the basis of those carried forward vacancies, the automation, the productivity benefit of new technology and so on, they estimated that there would be 21500 vacancies as far as officers are concerned and 37039 vacancies as far as clerical staff is concerned. ...

(Interruptions)

The allotment that has been done through IBPS this year takes into account exactly what the indents are coming from the public sector banks and more than meets them. So the backlog of last year has been included in the requirements for this year and the requirements for this year are exceeded by the allotment that is being done for them. So, whatever vacancies that might have been created last year have been fulfilled this year. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, in almost all the public sector banks the number of clerical staff and sub staff is higher than the officers. But in IDBI, which is also a Government owned bank, out of 16505 total staff, the number of officers is 14473, which is a huge number. At the same time, the clerical staff and sub staff comes only to 2082. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, the business has increased by 53 per cent; the number of branches has increased by 143 per cent; officers strength has increased by 51 per cent but at the same time the clerical strength has decreased

by 21 per cent. What is the justification for that? I want to know whether there is any other method the banks are adopting to fill up the vacancies by other workers. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: The public sector banks have managerial autonomy in terms of the human resource policies. These are large institutions that are board managed. They do their workforce planning with great diligence and thoroughness and they come up with what their estimates are with respect to various positions that they need to fill. So, we have to trust their judgement and their autonomy in making these decisions. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would also like to explain to the hon. Member that because of productivity improvements, because of all the job creations that are being done through Banking Mitras, through our people that are developing technology for these banks, there is significant job creation happening as well. We should leave it to these well-managed and very capable institutions to decide for themselves what the appropriate HR policy should be. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Hon. Madam Speaker, when our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Jan Dhan Yojana, the people of the country supported it wholeheartedly. Even 19 crore families, who had never seen a bank before, opened accounts in banks.

More than 25,000 crore rupees were deposited in banks. It is my personal experience that in my electoral constituency of Amravati, in the tribal areas, I witnessed 1000-2000 tribals coming to each branch to withdraw their money. These people receive money under schemes like NREGA and others. These people had to stay there for two to three days to withdraw 1000-2000 rupees.

Madam, after my suggestion, ATMs were installed there and people got some relief. However, the Hon. Minister will have to acknowledge that there is a shortage of branches of our public sector banks and that there is not more than two staff in each branch. It is also true that our technology has not reached everywhere. It is necessary to expand the reach of bank branches and recruit more staff simultaneously and the Hon. Minister must acknowledge this. The Hon. Minister has not specifically replied whether they are going to recruit staff or not, and if so, the time by which they are going to do so?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, every year 38 thousand employees retire from public sector banks and more than 60 thousand people are recruited. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the number of employees is on the rise in the public sector banks. The Hon. Member is correct in stating that there is still a shortage of ATMs and bank branches. Our country is very large and due to the Jan-Dhan

Yojana, there has been an increase in demand from people. We are trying to expand ATM, micro-ATM, banking correspondents, and bank branches under small banks and payment banks so that everyone can avail of the facilities.

As I mentioned earlier also, our effort is to install ATMs and micro-ATMs through the postal network, where there are one lakh twenty-five thousand post offices. Since every village has a post office located two, three, or four kilometers away, in the coming years, when ATMs and micro-ATMs are installed in post offices, the problem that people are facing today will be resolved.

DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the Question Hour. I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that there are 206 vacancies in Government banks in my district. Whether it's the Mudra Yojana, Fasal Bima, or the matter of providing loans to farmers, whenever we inquire as public representatives from the bank, we have received the answer that there is a shortage of staff. As a result, the work is not being completed within the stipulated time.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what the Government's purpose is in filling these vacancies? Along with this question, I would like to suggest whether we can train local people from villages and recruit them on a contract basis for such banking work that do not

require technical knowledge. This way, to some extent, the problem of unemployment can be addressed, and the speed of bank operations can also be increased. Additionally, this will also reduce the burden of permanent recruitment on banks. Can the Government provide any guidelines in this regard?

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: Madam, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for her excellent suggestion. In today's times, we are striving to address staff shortages in banks by temporarily integrating individuals, particularly banking correspondents, so that they can gain employment and expedite banking operations

As I mentioned earlier, each bank determines the number of persons required to be recruited. This figure is furnished to the I.V.P.S. This indent determines how the vacancies are to be filled.

(Q.285)

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Madam Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for providing a comprehensive reply to the question.

Madam, the hepatitis B vaccine is administered in nearly 150 countries worldwide, but it has been introduced in India in the last few years only. The vaccination drive is still not being fully run in many parts of our country. Especially in rural areas of Jharkhand, due to

lack of awareness about it among youth and hence they often come to know about the infection at a later stage. As a result, their liver gets badly damaged, and the situation becomes very serious.

I want to know from the Hon. Minister through you, about the steps the Government is taking to prevent and particularly to stop the spread of this disease among youth? Is the Government conducting any research to prevent Hepatitis C infection, and if so, the Hon. Minister may kindly provide the information to the House in this regard?

12.00 hours

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam Speaker, the esteemed Member has raised a very relevant question. ... *(Interruptions)* As far as hepatitis A and E are concerned, it is caused by contaminated drinking water. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, our endeavour is to improve rural drinking water supply, and the Ministry of Rural and Drinking Water is looking into it. ... *(Interruptions)*

As far as immunization is concerned, ... *(Interruptions)* a universal immunization program is underway for Hepatitis B. ... *(Interruptions)* Under that program, we are observing what can be done for Hepatitis B. ... *(Interruptions)*

Regarding Hepatitis C, ... *(Interruptions)* a new medicine is available, which can significantly enhance our ability to cover it, ... *(Interruptions)* and our endeavour is to raise awareness among as many people as possible so that it can be effectively treated. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am deeply saddened by the improper conduct happening here, where notices are not given according to regulations and false accusations are made, harming the health of the entire house. I am greatly distressed by this matter.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 286 to 300

Unstarred Question Nos. 3221 to 3450

12.00 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 786(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th October, 2015 under sub-section (3) of Section 79 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3678/16/15]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 469 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) The Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.111(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th February, 2015.
- (ii) The Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.442(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2015.
- (iii) The Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 669(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st August, 2015.
- (iv) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Second Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 695(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th September, 2015.
- (v) The Companies (Management and Administration) Second Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th September, 2015.
- (vi) The Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Third Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 841(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th November, 2015.

- (vii) G.S.R.395(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th May, 2015, seeking to rescind Notification No. G.S.R.179(E) dated 3rd March, 2011 and G.S.R.650(E) dated 29th August, 2011
- (viii) The Companies (Incorporation) Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 349(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2015.
- (ix) The Companies (cost records and audit) (Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 486(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2015.
- (x) The Companies (Accounts) Second Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 680(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th September, 2015.
- (xi) The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 728(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st September, 2015.
- (xii) The Companies (Management and Administration) Third Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 862(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th November, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3679/16/15]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.679(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 7th September, 2015, making alterations in Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 under sub-section (3) of Section 467 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3680/16/15]

... (*Interruptions*)

(4) A copy of the Mid-Year Economic Analysis, 2015-2016 (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): I beg to *lay on the Table:-*

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990:-

- (i) Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
 - (ii) Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3681/16/15]

... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences, Aizawl, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Institute of

Paramedical and Nursing Sciences, Aizawl, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3682/16/15]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HSCC (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the HSCC (India) Limited, Noida, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3683/16/15]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lokopriya Gopinath

Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3684/16/15]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3685/16/15]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3686/16/15]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3687/16/15]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3688/16/15]

(8) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) for the year 2014-2015 alongwith Audited Accounts in respect of the following centres:-

- (i) Population Research Centre (Institute for Social and Economic Change), Bangalore.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3689/16/15]

- (ii) Population Research Centre (Utkal University), Bhubaneswar.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3690/16/15]

- (iii) Population Research Centre (Department of Statistics, Patna University), Patna.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3691/16/15]

- (iv) Population Research Centre (Department of Statistics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics), Pune.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3692/16/15]

- (v) Population Research Centre (Himachal Pradesh University), Shimla.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3693/16/15]

- (vi) Population Research Centre (Andhra University),
Visakhapatnam.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3694/16/15]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3695/16/15]

(10) A copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 4/15015/30/2011 in Gazette of India dated 4th August, 2015 under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3696/16/15]

(11) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th July, 2015 under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3697/16/15]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Wardha, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Wardha, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3698/16/15]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronic Limited, Banglaore, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Electronic Limited, Banglaore, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3699/16/15]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3700/16/15]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3701/16/15]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3702/16/15]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2014-2015.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3703/16/15]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3704/16/15]

- (g)(i) Review by the Government of the working of the BEML Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the BEML Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3705/16/15]

- (2)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and

Development, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3706/16/15]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3707/16/15]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Boards for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cantonment Boards for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3708/16/15]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA, YOGA AND NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3709/16/15]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3710/16/15]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3711/16/15]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3712/16/15]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3713/16/15]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3714/16/15]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3715/16/15]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3716/16/15]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3717/16/15]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3718/16/15]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3719/16/15]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, Hyderabad, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3720/16/15]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Madras School of Economics, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Madras School of Economics, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3721/16/15]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3722/16/15]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3723/16/15]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3724/16/15]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working and activities of the State Bank of Hyderabad for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of Section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 as amended by Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 1985 and sub-section (3) of Section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 as amended by Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3725/16/15]

- (8) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2015 together with Auditor's Report thereon:-

- (i) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3726/16/15]

(ii) Bihar Gramin Bank, Begusarai

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3727/16/15]

(iii) Utkal Grameen Bank, Balangir

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3728/16/15]

(iv) Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank, Varanasi

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3729/16/15]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3730/16/15]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratichi (India) Trust, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3731/16/15]

- (11) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the first quarter of financial year 2015-2016 under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3732/16/15]

- (12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959:-

- (i) The State Bank of Mysore General Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. F. No. 5/2015-16/01 in Gazette of India dated 7th December, 2015.
- (ii) The State Bank of Hyderabad General Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. F. No. BM No:2015-16/395(Item 1) in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015.
- (iii) The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur General Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. 382 in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015.
- (iv) The State Bank of Patiala General Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. F. No. 357/20 in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015.
- (v) The State Bank of Travancore General Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. LAW/72 in Gazette of India dated 7th December, 2015.
- (vi) The State Bank of Travancore (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 published in Notification No. F. No. 01/2011 in Gazette of India dated 22nd July, 2015.

- (vii) The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. 290 in Gazette of India dated 10th October, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT
3733/16/15]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (i) The Securities Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Presiding Officer and other Members) Amendment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.683(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th September, 2015.
- (ii) The Securities Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Presiding Officer and other Members) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in

Notification No. G.S.R.742(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3734/16/15]

(14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 920(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd December, 2015.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security (Amendment) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 921(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd December, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3735/16/15]

(15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) The Income-tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 1660(E) in Gazette of India dated

22nd June, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) The Income-tax (10th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2070(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th July, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) S.O.2031(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th July, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.709(E) dated 20th August, 1998.
- (iv) The Income-tax (11th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2155(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The Income-tax (12th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2240(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th August, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) S.O.2241(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th August, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the districts, mentioned therein, of the State of

Bihar as backward areas under the first proviso to clause (ia) of Sub-section (1) of Section 32 and sub-section (1) of Section 32AD of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

- (vii) The Income-tax (13th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2604(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th September, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (viii) The Income-tax (14th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2663(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th September, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Income-tax (16th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2860(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th October, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Income-tax (17th Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. S.O. 2877(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th October, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3736/16/15]

(16) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :-

- (i) G.S.R.932(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Melamine Tableware and Kitchenware products', origination in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam for a period of five years, pursuant to the final findings in anti-dumping investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (ii) G.S.R.933(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of 'Phthalic Anhydride', origination in, or exported from and Russia for a period of five years, pursuant to the final findings in anti-dumping investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (iii) G.S.R.934(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2015, together with an explanatory

memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on imports of 'all kinds of plastic processing or injection moulding machines, also known as injection presses for processing or moulding of plastic materials, having clamping force not less than 40 tonnes and not more than 1000 tonnes', origination in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, for a period of five years based on recommendations of Sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3737/16/15]

(17) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R.894(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd November, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 10/2008-Cus., dated 15th January, 2008.
- (ii) G.S.R.901(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2015, together with an explanatory

memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Cus., dated 17th March, 2012.

- (iii) G.S.R.902(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 52/2003-Cus., dated 31st March, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3738/16/15]

(18) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R.899(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012- C.E. dated 17th March, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R.900(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2015, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/2003-C.E. dated 31st March, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R.780(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th October, 2015 together with an explanatory

memorandum directing that the service tax payable on the service provided by an Indian Bank or other entity, acting as an agent to the Money Transfer Service Operator, in relation to remittance of foreign currency from outside India to India, in the period 1.7.2012 to 13.10.2014, shall not be required to be paid

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3739/16/15]

(19) A copy of the 25th Progress Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto, December, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3740/16/15]

(20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3741/16/15]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3742/16/15]

- (22) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the IDBI Bank, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3743/16/15]

- (23) A copy of the Consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Rural Banks for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3744/16/15]

- (24) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government [Defence Services (Air Force)](No. 38 of 2015) for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3745/16/15]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 43 of 2015)-Compliance Audit of Ratna and R-Series Hydrocarbon Fields, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3746/16/15]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 47 of 2015)-Information Technology Audit of Crew Management System in India Railways for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3747/16/15]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 35 of 2015)-Performance Audit of the Construction Activities in Central Armed Police Forces, Ministry of Home Affairs for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3748/16/15]

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 49 of 2015)-Performance Audit of the Public Private Partnership Projects in Major Ports, Ministry of Shipping for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3749/16/15]

- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Defence Services)(No. 44 of 2015)-Army, Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3750/16/15]

- (vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 36 of 2015)-Performance Audit of the Mid Day Meal Scheme (2009-10 to 2013-14), Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3751/16/15]

- (viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise and Service Tax) (No. 46 of 2015)-Working of Automation of Central Excise and Service Tax, Department of Revenue for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3752/16/15]

- (ix) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise and Service Tax) (No. 45 of 2015)-Compliance Audit of National Skill Development Fund and National Skill Development Corporation, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3753/16/15]

- (x) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 48 of 2015)-Status of ongoing projects in Indian Railways for the year ended March, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3754/16/15]

- (xi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 40 of 2015)(Autonomous Bodies)-Special Audit of Medical Education Projects of Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3755/16/15]

(25) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) The Punjab National Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. Pension/Misc/2015 in weekly Gazette of India dated 8th May, 2015.
- (ii) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector concern after retirement) Amendment Regulations, 2013 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P-7/2015 in Gazette of India dated 8th May, 2015.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3756/16/15]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Prasar Bharati, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3757/16/15]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3758/16/15]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Film Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Film Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3759/16/15]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3760/16/15]

... (*Interruptions*)

12.02 ½ hours

**REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AT 131ST ASSEMBLY OF
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) ***

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the 131st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Geneva (Switzerland) from 12 to 16 October, 2014.

... (Interruptions)

12.03 hours

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE**

Minutes

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Third sitting of

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3761/16/15.

the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitzings of the House held on 9 December, 2015.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.03 ½ hours

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

5th Report

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (MANDLA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 'Role of Educational Institutions including Universities, Technical, Medical and Engineering in socio-economic development of SCs and STs - Implementation of reservation policy in University Of Delhi' pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education).

... (*Interruptions*)

12.04 hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

(i) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 3rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2014 -15), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 3rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3762/16/15 and 3763/16/15 respectively.

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 38th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on `Tax Assessment/Exemptions and related matter concerning IPL/BCCI, pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 38th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on `Tax Assessment/Exemptions and related matter concerning IPL/BCCI, pertaining to the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I may just clarify for the benefit of Members that at Item No. 2A what I have laid down is the Mid-Term Economic Analysis for the year 2015-2016.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER : I had informed him.

... (*Interruptions*)

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3762/16/15 and 3763/16/15 respectively.

12.04 ½ hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay on the table, a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3764/16/15.

12.05 hours**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE***[English]*

THE 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): With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the remaining part of the Session will consist of: --

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper;
2. Consideration of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

12.06 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Shashi Tharoor, are you making your submission? Not at this moment.

. . . (Interruptions)

DR. VEERENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam Speaker, I kindly request the inclusion of the following topics in the agenda for next week's proceedings:

1. The serious crisis has arisen before the farmers and citizens of all districts of M.P. Bundelkhand region... *(Interruptions)* - Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna, Damoh, and Sagar - due to drought conditions. Need to send a central team there to provide financial assistance to farmers as relief and ensure the supply of drinking water by mining from deep bore wells in the water-stressed areas.... *(Interruptions)*
2. Regarding the need to expand the roadways, air services and railway facilities for tourism employment opportunities at Khajuraho and Orchha and Mau Sahaniya, the workplace of Maharaja Chhatrasal and other centers in the region, Bundelkhand which are internationally significant sites from the tourism point of view. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, I hereby request you to be kind enough to include the following in the next week's List of Business. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record except what the Hon. Member is speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

HON. SPEAKER: You go on speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH: Madam Speaker, millions of poor people are losing their meagre savings and facing debt trap due to so-called micro finance schemes and ponzy schemes floated by certain organizations. Hundreds of crores of rupees are being swindled by the modern day shylocks. Funds received from various financial institutions for low rate of interest are being lent to poor people at an exorbitant rate of interest. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You should read only the subject matter. It is not like that.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All of you, please be seated. He has given it; it is before me. I also have it.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: That submission is in written form.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH: The Indian Cable Television Industry comprises of 6000 Multi Service Operators (MSO) and 600000 Local Cable Operators (LCO) and the Phase III Cable TV market comprises of 37 million customers out of 99 million total Cable TV customers. Almost all the STB's are imported and supply of STB's are not as per Phase – III requirements. Non-availability of Intercity Links are also another problem. Cable TV industry requires more time to implement the Phase III digitization. It is the DTH industry which is actively pursuing to switch off the analogue signal on 31st December without extension of time to capture the Cable Television Market. Six months' migration time is required to complete the mandatory digitization of Phase III markets. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Only the subject needs to be spoken.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.09 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):

Madam Speaker, I would like to request the inclusion of the following matters of public importance in the proceedings of the House: ...

(Interruptions)

1. Today, the Hon. Prime Minister lays special emphasis on solar energy. Through this house, I would like to urge upon the Government to install a large solar energy plant in the Saran district, particularly in the Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency in order to make solar energy accessible to the populace of that area. Solar energy does not pose any harm even to the environment. Therefore, I once again would like to urge upon the Government to install a large solar energy plant in Saran district and to provide solar energy kits to the poor people by providing subsidies. ... (*Interruptions*)
2. Today, the condition of the roads constructed under the Prime Minister's scheme in the entire Saran district is shabby leading to

frequent accidents. Hence, I would like urge upon the Government to send a central team to inspect the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Saran district and to rebuild all roads under this scheme. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh - No.

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to request the inclusion of the following subjects in the agenda for next week's proceedings:

(1) Efforts should be made to undertake necessary measures for the installation of private and Government tube wells to alleviate the irrigation problem in my Parliamentary Constituency.

(2) Efforts should be made to take necessary action to discontinue the collection of illegal toll charges at the Bara Toll Plaza (Chakeri-Itawa Highway) situated in my Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam Speaker, I propose that the following matters be included in the List of Business for next week's proceedings -

(1) Regarding the need to formulate stringent Rules and Regulations for setting up a hydro-electric power plant without any delay in Bihar in the light of the Government of India's plan to set up 25 solar parks

in the next five years and in view of the immense potential of a solar park and hydro-electricity there and also the fact that a poor state like Bihar is reeling under the shortage of electricity.

(2) The Raghuram Rajan Committee report designates Bihar as the second least developed state after Odisha, and **the National Rural Health Mission** report for 2012-2013 reveals that 80 percent of children upto 5 years' age in Bihar suffer from malnutrition and 68.2 percent of women in Bihar are malnourished. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of diseases in Bihar due to the high levels of iron and arsenic in its groundwater, which is commonly used for drinking purposes, is alarming. This is also a contributing factor to malnutrition. In such circumstances, it is imperative to enact stringent regulatory measures to ensure the availability of iron and arsenic-free water from groundwater sources to prevent malnutrition.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Madam Speaker, I would like to request for the inclusion of the following matters of public importance in the List of Business for next week's proceedings and get them discussed for their redressal in the House -

(1) There is a lack of irrigation facilities in the Banda and Chitrakoot districts of my Parliamentary Constituency. The region has been reeling under drought for several consecutive years. Therefore, I would like to urge the inclusion of both Banda and Chitrakoot districts

in the Prime Minister's Irrigation Scheme this year, with the implementation of new lift irrigation projects from the Yamuna and Wangai rivers, along with the installation of a minimum of 100-100 tube wells per district.

(2) In my Parliamentary Constituency, the Government spinning mill in Banda district, which has been lying closed for years, and the work of Float Glass Limited at Bargarh in Chitrakoot district, which has been stalled for many years, should be started as soon as possible and the doors of development should be opened by providing employment to the unemployed and using raw material at the local level.

PRO. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD (OSMANABAD): Madam, I propose the inclusion of the following matters of public importance in the List of Business for the upcoming week -

(1) The famous Mata Tulja Bhavani Temple is located in my Parliamentary Constituency. As per the Government's priority, it has been declared to be imperative to connect all religious sites with the railway routes. Therefore, it is necessary to link the Solapur-Tuljapur-Usmanabad-Aurangabad-Jalgaon railway route. This initiative will not only benefit the railway department but also facilitate traders involved in transporting both perishable and non-perishable goods alongside passengers.

(2) Marathwada is a drought-affected region where fodder scarcity is a pressing issue. To address this, the Government provides a grant of 35 rupees for small livestock and 70 rupees for large livestock to procure fodder through fodder camps. The allocated amount is insufficient. It should be increased, and provision should be made to directly deposit this amount into the accounts of farmers.

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, Only Subject No Speech.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would request the following matters to be included in the Government business for the coming week:

1. The allegation concerning the Union Finance Minister made by the Delhi Chief Minister on irregularities and corruption in Delhi Cricket Association while the Finance Minister was President. The allegation was made after Delhi CM's office was raided by CBI on Wednesday... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You only speak out the subject. It is not required to read the entire subject matter.

. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY : Madam, I am reading exactly what is written. These allegations levelled against the Finance Minister should be looked into. ... *(Interruptions)*

2. The smog and pollution in Delhi are causes of serious concern. The Supreme Court has ordered several steps including the stopping of registration of over 2000cc diesel vehicles. The Delhi Government has proposed odd/even number vehicles to be run on the road in a single day from January 1. The Central Government must intervene.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Madam Speaker, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for granting me the opportunity to speak on the issues germane to those marginalized individuals sitting at the fag end of society. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like solicit support from all the Members belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and disadvantaged communities who have emerged victorious. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, with regard to the above subject, it should be noted that on 19.10.2006, the Hon. Supreme Court, in the case of M. Nagaraj vs. Union of India, issued an order providing for reservation with consequential seniority based on three conditions... (*Interruptions*) In view of the aforementioned order, the Government of Bihar, through the General Administration Department, issued Resolution No. 11635 dated 21.08.2012 for the implementation of reservation with consequential seniority, based on the collection of merit-based data... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Only Shri Paswan's speech will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: The Hon. High Court, Patna, has annulled this resolution through its single bench and double bench. ... (*Interruptions*) As a result, despite the provisions of the 77th and 85th Constitutional Amendments, employees/officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes have been deprived of the right to reservation with consequential seniority in promotions. ... (*Interruptions*) This will lead to the exacerbation of social backwardness and economic vulnerability among the entire Scheduled Caste/Tribe community, with nationwide ramifications.... (*Interruptions*)

In this context, it is expected that the 117th Constitutional Amendment Bill, already passed in the Rajya Sabha and pending in the Lok Sabha, which pertains to reservation in promotions with consequential seniority, will be enacted, and the passed Bill will be included in the 9th Schedule for the benefit of Scheduled Caste/Tribe employees and the entire disadvantaged community. ... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I would like to humbly request that necessary action may please be taken at the highest level to ensure the passage of the

pending 117th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the upcoming session of the Lok Sabha and its inclusion in the 9th Schedule to the Constitution, in order to safeguard the Constitutional rights of the Scheduled Caste/Tribe employees/officers and protect their interests. Thank you. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shrimati Krishna Raj, Dr. Yashwant Singh, Shri Ashok Kumar Dohre, Shri Shyama Charan Gupta, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Janak Ram, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri Kamlesh Paswan and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chhedi Paswan.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I want to raise before the House some important issues of the fishermen in various parts of the country, especially in Kerala. ... (*Interruptions*)

Now, the Central Government has given financial assistance to the fishermen as part of the Fishermen Welfare Fund Scheme but the unit cost under the Scheme is only Rs. 75,000 and 50 per cent has to be met by the State Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

As far as Kerala is concerned, it is not possible to construct a house with Rs. 75,000 since the price of construction materials and v workers' wages are increased. So, even though the present Scheme is implemented, it is impossible for the fishermen to construct houses without borrowing money from private persons at high interest rates.

... (*Interruptions*)

The Government of Kerala has increased the unit cost to Rs. 2,00,000 but the Central Government is giving only Rs. 37,500. As a result, the State Government has to bear a huge amount. ...

(*Interruptions*) So, I request to increase the unit cost of the house under the Fishermen Welfare Fund as Rs. 2,00,000. Otherwise, it would be impossible for the Government to take a big financial burden or for fishermen to take their own means to construct houses. ...

(*Interruptions*) Many of the houses for which construction has already started are lying in the half-way mark due to financial difficulty.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri Joice George and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gutha Sukhender Reddy – not there. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT): Thank you.

I would like to inform the august House that in Assam human trafficking is rapidly going on. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.22 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon.

Members left the House.)

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT): In the recent days, more than 1,000 human trafficking cases have taken place and no rescues are there. ... (*Interruptions*) [*Translation*] So I want to tell the House that most of the women and children in Assam are taken from here to Bangladesh, Myanmar and the other side.

Madam, that is why, I would like to tell the Government through you that arrangements have been made by the Home Departments, Human Resource Departments and other Departments to stop it. But the human trafficking which is going on in the North East, if it is not stopped, then we will have a lot of problems.... (*Interruptions*) So, we want the Government to look into it immediately.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE 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): Speaker Madam, we would always like the Opposition to raise its issue in the house and today both our Ministers, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Finance wanted to respond to the issues regarding Arunachal which our Hon. Opposition wanted to raise. But we also have a right that when our MPs want their questions be answered during the Question Hour and at that time if someone come inside the House and make such a noise and when the time comes at 12 o'clock and raise the demand by going to their seats which is not appropriate. We will always want the House to remain in order and whatever questions the Opposition wants to raise. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

We would 100 per cent like to answer them. We will answer them but this is not the process which has to be adopted. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: That is why I have not allowed it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: We are ready for any question being raised by the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*) We are 100 per cent ready. We are 100 per cent confident that we would be able to satisfy the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I know it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This process is not acceptable. ... (*Interruptions*) The way they come and disturb the House for one hour and the way they want to raise the question is not appreciated. ... (*Interruptions*) I fully agree with the decision you have taken.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: It is unnecessary to repeatedly articulate what everyone already knows. Dr. Kirit Somaiya, please speak

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Hon. Speaker Madam, providing the metropolitan gas pipeline connections in Mumbai has been discontinued for approximately six months now. There are approximately 40 thousand pending applications and the unavailability of new meters has caused this problem. Inordinate delays are occurring, particularly in my constituency of North-East Mumbai, Ghatkopar, and Mulund. I would like to request the Honorable Petroleum Minister to pay attention to this issue and resolve the problem of the shortage of new meters

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA (DHAURHARA): Madam Speaker, I am a Member of Parliament from the Dhaurahra constituency in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers in my constituency have stopped growing crops such as pulses, oilseeds, wheat, rice, etc. The farmers are growing sugarcane only under compulsion. The biggest reason for this is the Nilgai. This animal has caused damage to crops so much is so that farmers in that area have discontinued farming in fear of Nilgai. Nilgai is also causing damage to sugarcane crops. Throughout the night, farmers endeavour to protect their crops from Nilgai by setting up makeshift shelters in the fields but to no avail. The most viable solution to evade these animals is to catch them and rehabilitate them

into larger forested areas. Therefore, through you, I would like request the Minister to make efforts to catch these animals and rehabilitate them.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Madam, a provision for the construction of an over bridge near Tati Silve station on Ranchi-Purulia railway line in my constituency was made in the budget of this financial year. I am constrained to inform the house that even after passage of 21 months, the construction work on the above mentioned over bridge has not yet been started. With the non-construction of over bridge, the traffic remains jammed on the road for hours and moreover the road remains blocked for four- five hours every day. It is a very important and busy road. Therefore, the Government is requested that as per the provision of the budget the construction of the said over bridge near Tati Silve Railway Station should be started soon in public interest.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Madam, kindly allow me to speak from here.

Madam, Speaker, the Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme covers 250 districts in 27 States. It is a unique Central fund as it puts the panchayats and municipalities at the forefront of planning and implementation and gives them free rein to use the funds as long as it

fills a development gap and the identification of the work is decided with people's participation. In rural areas, 56 per cent Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 40 per cent OBCs are beneficiaries of this Scheme.

One of the parameters of identifying a district as backward is based on the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. The district of Cooch Behar in West Bengal has a population of which 50.11 per cent comprise of people from Scheduled Castes. However, Cooch Behar has not been identified as a backward district. The district is basically agrarian but modern agricultural techniques have not been adopted on a large scale. Hence, this sphere needs special attention. Agricultural marketing also needs to be improved with proper development of rail, road, cold storage, markets etc. Also, credit facilities are not smoothly available to the MSE sector. A 15 per cent tax rebate on setting up of new industries, which backward districts are entitled to, would greatly help in the development of the area and raise the standard of lives of the people.

Madam, Speaker, I would urge the Government to include Cooch Behar and other districts in the country which have more than 50 per cent Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in the BRGF Scheme for all-round development of the district and to improve the lives of the people. I would also like to bring attention to the worrying

fact that West Bengal still owes 40 percent of Central funds for BRGF over the last five years.

Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue concerning my Parliamentary Constituency, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.

The Companies Bill in its revised guidelines in 2012 specified that public sector undertakings earning profit up to Rs.100 crore, Rs.100 crore to Rs.500 crore and more than Rs.500 crore would spend 5 per cent, 2-3 per cent and 0.5-2 per cent respectively towards corporate social responsibility by emphasizing upon capacity building, empowerment of communities, environment protection, inclusive socio-economic growth, promotion of green and energy efficient technologies, development of backward regions, and upliftment of the marginalized section of the region.

In this connection, I would like to state that the public sector undertakings or privately owned companies established in Paradip, Odisha, are not appropriately utilizing the funds earmarked for corporate social responsibility, though they are so claiming. As there is no such specific mechanism to assess execution of CSR funds as well as absence of involvement of district administration and people's

representative in the process, it becomes very difficult to know about the percentage of funds being aimed at various socio-economic welfare projects meant for local people or developmental activities of the region.

So, I urge upon the concerned Ministers to direct different industrial setups in Paradip to spend appropriate amount in regard to corporate social responsibility and disclose the expenditure to the public by involving the peoples' representatives.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise a question of great importance pertaining to my state during Zero Hour. Under the provisions of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000, the Central Government increased the rate of basic duty (Cess) on petrol and diesel from Rs. 2 per litre to Rs. 6 per litre between January, 2015 and March, 2015, so that necessary funds can be mobilized for the Central and State level road projects. However, until now, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has not allocated the share of funds from the Central Road Fund for the road projects of states, which has resulted in the non-availability of the essential funds for the road projects of the State of Maharashtra. In my parliamentary constituency, Jalgaon, the condition of roads is also very poor and no

funds have been allocated from the Central Road Fund for the repair of the roads. The State Government is unable to allocate funds for road repairs due to financial constraints caused by drought.

Madam, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to intervene and take necessary action to allocate an increased share from the Central Road Fund to states for road infrastructure projects, especially for improving the condition of roads in rural areas like Jalgaon. This would enable the construction and maintenance of roads in the state, particularly in Jalgaon. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri A.T. Nana Patil.

SHRI DADDAN MISRA (SRAVASTI): Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and the Minister of Panchayati Raj to the prevalent corruption in the ongoing Panchayat elections in Uttar Pradesh. The elections for the members of the block Panchayat, members of the district Panchayat, followed by the elections for village heads and village Panchayat members have recently concluded in Uttar Pradesh. The elections for the District Panchayat Chairman and Block Chief are still pending. The notification for the election of the District Panchayat Chairman has already been issued, which is scheduled to take place on January 7.

Hon. Madam Speaker, horse-trading has begun on a large scale in these upcoming elections for District Panchayat Chairman and Block Chiefs. Members are being openly auctioned. The market for horse-trading is currently very active.

HON. SPEAKER: This is a matter of State.

SHRI DADDAN MISRA: In such a situation we would like to urge upon the Government of India through you to conduct these elections directly by the public rather than indirectly, enabling strict control over corruption.

HON. SPEAKER: That's all. This is a matter of state.

SHRI DADDAN MISRA: Elected representatives chosen through corruption will not take interest in public welfare activities. ... *(Interruptions)* They will not be directly accountable to the public.

HON. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Dr. Kirit P Solanki.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole', Shri Sharad Tripathi and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Daddan Mishra.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam, nowadays health facilities and medicines are becoming increasingly expensive.
... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kirit, please have a seat for a moment.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I mentioned that this is a State matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): The Hon. Member has said something regarding Uttar Pradesh, so I must respond. ... *(Interruptions)* This is incorrect, unsubstantiated. ... *(Interruptions)* It's a misleading or diversionary statement. They have lost badly and will lose again. ... *(Interruptions)* We agree with what the Hon. Member has said. If the Government wants the district Panchayat to be directly elected by the public, then I agree with it. You get it done. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Daddan, please, sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, please take your seat as well.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. What is this?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing like this will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

HON. SPEAKER: Please engage in debate there, not here. You sit down. Please do whatever you have to do there, not here. Please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The discussion about Panchayat elections does not take place here. Please, have your seat. Mr. Daddan, please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, you have also spoken, and your statement has gone on record.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, you have expressed your views. I have also mentioned that it's a state matter. You have made your point.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I agree with what the Hon. Member has said. You should make the law. I have informed the Hon. Speaker, and I am also telling you that I agree that the election of District Panchayat Presidents should be conducted directly by the public. ... *(Interruptions)* I agree. It will also be known by conducting the elections. ... *(Interruptions)* When they lost so badly... *(Interruptions)* If the election was conducted by the people, how could there be any dishonesty? Can anyone commit dishonesty in a village? Samajwadi Party won when elections were held in the villages. If we have won, then what is causing the concern? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Now, the demand is to conduct the election of the District Panchayat Chairman by the public.... *(Interruptions)* Certainly, conduct the elections. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There won't be any reply at the moment.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I agree with your demand for the election of the District Panchayat President by the public. I have previously stated my desire for this as well. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You all should go there and work. You sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, I am extremely grateful to you for allowing me to raise an important issue in the House. As far as the issues of the poor and common people are concerned, the cost of healthcare, medical facilities, and treatment has become very expensive these days. As for the performance of our Government, I commend the Indian Government and the Ministry of Health for their efforts in making essential medicines and drugs available to the poor and common people through generic medicine stores at affordable rates. Due to this initiative, approximately 80 percent of medicines and drugs have become cheaper and accessible to the general public. I would like to request the Government through you to open as many Jan Aushadhi stores as possible for the benefit of the people. So far as the fatal diseases are concerned, efforts should be made to make medicines for life-threatening diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer available at affordable rates.

12.39 hours (Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one more thing. Regarding the issue of heart attacks and cardiac diseases, particularly, concerning angiography and angioplasty procedures, where stents are implanted, there is a lack of regulation in terms of M.R.P. I request the Government to mandate M.R.P. labeling on stents. The M.R.P. should be fixed for both simple stents and

medicated stents, enabling the general public to access them at affordable rates and ensuring that we can provide them with this facility at reasonable prices.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri P.P. Chaudhary, and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for allowing me the opportunity to raise an important matter pertaining to my Parliamentary Constituency, Mumbai South Central in the House during the zero hour.

Sir, between Elphinstone Road Railway Station and Dahisar Railway Station in Mumbai, there are approximately 1454 slums settled along both sides of the railway line. These individuals have been residing here for the past 40-45 years. Most of their houses are also permanent. The families residing here have been provided with ration cards, voter ID cards, Aadhar cards, PAN cards, etc. by the Maharashtra Government. However, railway officials demolish their houses once or twice a month. The task of resettling these families elsewhere is not undertaken by the railway department. The entire land here is under the jurisdiction of the railway which is why the

Maharashtra Government is unable to take any action under the S.R.A. Act. There is also a lack of basic amenities here. Here, those families are living a very difficult life. These families have to reside in tents. The raw-paved houses that these people build with their savings and make them livable, are demolished every month by the railway officials.

I would like to humbly request the Railway Minister to make arrangements for the relocation of these 1454 families to alternative accommodations. If that is not feasible, they should be considered for housing under schemes such as the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, or any similar scheme under the Maharashtra Government's SRA. The recent demolition in Delhi last week resulting in the death of a child is a tragic incident that should not be replicated in Mumbai. Therefore, until these families are resettled through the State Government's intervention, their demolition should be halted.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale.

Dr. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to draw your attention to a matter of utmost importance. Thousands of doctors, engineers and other people from

my Lok Sabha Constituency Latur, Maharashtra go abroad for jobs. Everyone knows that Latur Pattern is famous in the country in the field of education. The people here have to go to Nagpur, which is at a distance of 500 kilometers, to get a passport.

Through you, I request the Government to start a new passport office in Latur for the convenience of issuing passports, so that people can get rid of these problems and save money as well as time. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as you know, I am representing the State of Tripura.

The State of Tripura is connected by only one road, that is NH 44. The condition of NH 44 is such that during the last monsoon for more than one month that route was not motorable. Due to that transportation of food grains, medicine, and other essential commodities have got struck. Maintenance of national highways is the responsibility of the Central Government, particularly of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. But during the last one year, hardly

one per cent of the total requirements of the fund has been released by the Ministry. One and half years ago, the Ministry was kind enough to accord sanction to another national highway. But till today not a single rupee by way of fund has been released.

So, I appeal to the Government, particularly to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to release adequate money so that this route is properly maintained and also the work for the new road could be taken up. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am raising the issues of Paddy growing farmers in this House during Zero Hour.

At present, the paddy crop of farmers from Maharashtra, along with those from several other States, has been harvested. Every year, in the first week of November and December, the State Governments start paddy procurement centers on the instructions of the Central Government and the State Government tries to purchase paddy according to the rate fixed by the Central Government. Unfortunately, despite the commencement of the third week of December, rice procurement centers have not yet been started in my region of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg in Maharashtra and several other districts. The brokers there take advantage of this situation. This time the

Government had fixed its price at Rs. 1450, but due to the non-commencement of the procurement centers, the brokers there buy it at Rs. 700-800.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you I would like to urge upon the Central Government to issue directives to the State Government start the rice procurement centres not only in the Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg district but also across the country.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne are allowed to associate with the demand raised by Shri Vinayak Raut during the 'Zero Hour' today on paddy procurement in India.

[Translation]

SMT. RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER): Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Department of Defence Production, has recently formulated a new draft policy, which includes provisions for improvement in recruitment of ex-trade apprenticeship holders in Ordinance Factories for the current S.R.O. and R.R recruitment as per Section 22 of the Apprenticeship Act, 1961. The new draft policy is currently pending with the Ministry of Law and Justice for suggestions and legislative

comments of the Ordnance Factory Board. Under the Apprenticeship Recruitment Scheme the seniority should be accorded to the ex-trade apprentices in the factory where they completed their apprenticeship. The provisions in this regard have been incorporated in it. Ex-trade apprentice holders from various states have been protesting for several days regarding this issue.

Sir, through the House, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to grant immediate approval to the apprenticeship of ex-trade apprentice students whose numbers range approximately from seven to eight thousand under Section 22 of the Apprenticeship Act, 1961, and provide them relief.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the demand raised by Shrimati Rakshatai Khadse.

[Translation]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Urban Development Minister to a very serious problem which has arisen in Delhi. The process of eviction of approximately one million tenants

of Delhi has started. Before independence, there existed a Pagri (Advance payment) system. Pagri amount was almost the amount of the realization of property and the cost of the property. They were charged a nominal rent for the same reason, as almost cost price was already paid by them. Now there have been changes made to the Delhi Rent Act. The Supreme Court has given its judgment in the year 2008. Now there is a differentiation between commercial and residential property. This has caused a lot of trouble across Delhi, and millions of traders are being evicted from their shops.

Sir, when Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Rent Act was introduced there at that time. That Rent Act is a Balance Act. Neither is it in favour of tenants nor heavily in favor of landlords. There should be a balanced Rent Act in Delhi as well because the current Act in Delhi is very partial. Therefore, a solution to this problem should be sought. At present Mr. Amit Shah, our party's National President, drafted the rent act in Gujarat. A similar rent act should be introduced in Delhi to protect these traders from starvation. They are small and medium traders. They are being thrown on the road.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Maheish Girri, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi, Shri Rajesh Ranjan,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya are allowed to associate with the demand raised by Dr. Udit Raj.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMADNAGAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak during the zero hour.

Sir, I wish to raise a matter of utmost importance pertaining to farmers' interest in this House. Soil has always been invaluable and the foundation of our life. The irony is that the real value of this greatest wealth is unrecognized and ignored. Its quality is deteriorating. It is not visible, but it seriously affects our economy, livelihood of crores of people, food availability etc. Soil has the ability to hold water, aerate and provide many types of nutrients to trees and plants in a balanced form. When this entire system breaks down, the fertility of the land is destroyed. Equal attention must be given to its preservation and maintenance. For the last two centuries, devastaton and deforestation have taken place on a large scale and soil fertility has been greatly damaged. The heavy use of chemicals has proven detrimental to the fertility of the soil. Our elderly farmers, still possess knowledge of traditional farming practices which can save the fertility of the soil. Agricultural land can be gradually freed from toxic

elements. We have to make full use of the compost available in our village. For this, farmers need technical and financial assistance.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to conduct soil testing of every farmer's land to conserve and nurture our country's soil, and to publish a report-card containing the results. This report-card should advise farmers about which crops to grow to promote their economic progress. From this perspective, there is a need for guidance in this regard. The Government needs to take steps in this regard.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are allowed to be associated with the issue raised by Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): In our State, West Bengal, minorities contribute 2.57 crore, that is 28.1 per cent of the total population. The present Government has increased the budgetary support for development of minorities by five times, from Rs.472 crore in 2010-11 to Rs.2,383 core during the current fiscal year.

We met the Hon. Minister, Shrimati Najma Heptulla with a delegation just two days back at her residence in the morning and discussed in detail. We have some issues. Firstly, scholarships are offered by the Central Government under the 15 point programme. In West Bengal, it was 20 lakhs, this year we have received applications of near about 30 lakhs. We would like to appeal to the Central Government to consider increase the quota from 20 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

Secondly, Multi Sectoral Development Programme during 2015-16, the Government made an appeal for a grant of Rs.415 crore, and only Rs.100 crore has been allotted. The balance may kindly be delivered at the quickest possible time.

About the clusters of minority areas outside NCBs, proposals for approval of minorities clusters under the MSDP are pending, approval may be given to the name. About Cyber Gram, the State has proposed to the Minister this. This Government has sanctioned 243 Madrasas, out of 615 Government-aided Madrasas. Balance may be released as per the proposal.

The State Government has undertaken the project of Skill Development Programme with a project cost of Rs.86.46 crore under MSDP; Rs.6.02 crore has been sanctioned towards administrative cost for this purpose. But the same has not yet been realized.

West Bengal is one of the largest minority dominated States in the country. Next to Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, West Bengal is the third largest minority dominated State in the country. I would like to appeal to the Central Government to extend their hands of cooperation with the State Government and to take up their issues with top priority.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: DR. Ratna De, Shrimati Arpita Ghosh, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, and Shrimati Renuka Sinha are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sudip Bandhyopadhyay

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Sir, there are more than 34 nationalized banks in Sheohar district of my Parliamentary Constituency, but no bank has its own currency chest. The license of the currency chest is given by the Reserve Bank of India. In Sheohar district, Reserve Bank of India has given license to Bank of Baroda which is the leading bank of the district yet despite having the license for the last 5-7 years, it is not able to open the currency chest. The result is that banking transactions are facilitated by sourcing supplies from Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts, leading to difficulties for people due to shortages of cash.

It is noteworthy that Sheohar district is a Naxal affected area and there is a risk involved in the movement of money to and from other

districts. I believe that if Bank of Baroda is facing any difficulty, then in such a situation, action should be taken by granting a license to open a currency chest in the State Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued a notification in this regard.

Therefore, through his House, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to take necessary steps to open a currency chest in Sheohar keeping in mind the public interest so that the issues faced by the people can be resolved.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Through you, I would like to convey that domestic workers both women and men, from the States of Jharkhand and Bihar migrate to cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and other States and they do domestic the work. The biggest irony is that their number is approximately 15 to 20 lakhs. This is a government figure. There is no provision for the security and allowances of those people. They are not registered anywhere so as to find out the location-wise number of persons employed. When they wish, people remove them from their jobs, harass them and make them distressed. Especially, for the tribal families coming here from Jharkhand state, in search of employment, they face significant challenges. We urge you to consider listing them and formulating a nationwide applicable rule for their protection. That is my request to you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to raise a very important matter regarding the tragedies of Indian fishermen.

The safety of the fishermen in our country who go for fishing in the high seas and some who stray into the international waters is a matter of great concern.

Some time back, an Italian ship was directly involved in shooting and killing our poor and innocent fishermen from Kerala. I fear appropriate action was not taken against the culprits. Hence, I have apprehensions that such situations may recur.

Our fishermen may inadvertently cross the international borders and be caught and imprisoned by countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Diego Garcia, etc. In such circumstances, they undergo inhuman treatment and it is not known how many were killed in the foreign waters. They languish in threatening environment in foreign jails for a considerably long period and at home their near and dear ones undergo anguish and agony. Such transgressions into foreign

waters can also lead to international conflicts and alarming disputes between the countries involved. In such complex situations, the legal process involved is circuitous and cumbersome.

In view of these circumstances, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps to alert our fishermen who cross the international border by using an early warning system.

[Translation]

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to bring to your notice some issues related to the closed Incab Industries Limited in my Parliamentary Constituency of Jamshedpur. This company was established in Jamshedpur city in the year 1921. The company had established itself as a leading entity with significant profits from its inception until the year 1952. However, due to mismanagement by certain officials, the company began to decline gradually. The company was referred to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. Finally, it was declared a sick company on 04.04.2000. Subsequently BIFR invited three companies to bid for the revival of that company in which Tata Steel, RR Kabel and Pegasus Assets Reconstruction participated. The BIFR considered Tata Steel as the most suitable bidder. The remaining two companies appealed against this decision of BIFR in the Delhi High Court. The Hon. High Court reserved its judgment on

this petition while hearing the case on 27.05.2015. As a result, the families of nearly 3000 employees are wandering from pillar to post for a square meal. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the the Hon. Minister to consider this matter with due regard to the comprehensive welfare of the workers.

13.00 hours

***SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI):**

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has proposed a scheme to provide Distress Alert Transmitters as a measure of enhancing the safety to about 30000 fishermen having motorized and mechanized boats. These transmitters will also provide information about climate changes and warnings. Thus Scheme will be implemented gradually for the current year. I urge that the Union Government should provide 75 per cent grant to this Scheme in order to benefit more number of fishermen. The Union government should immediately release the remaining dues of Rs.207.30 Crore for construction of fishing harbours in Colachel, Chinnamuttom, Poompuhar and Thengapattinam. The guidelines pertaining to Coastal Regulation

Zone are posing restrictions and affecting the livelihood of fishermen of Tamil Nadu. I urge that the fishermen of Tamil Nadu should be exempted from these restrictions. The Government of Tamil Nadu led by Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has been encouraging deep sea fishing activities. In order to implement this programme in a coordinated way, the Union government should release an amount of Rs.1520 Crore to the State of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is especially the responsibility of the police department to enforce the law and order properly in the country. Therefore, the Government established the Bureau of Police Research and Development which was mainly assigned with the task of conducting essential research from time to time and work for the development of the police force. However, over the past three days it is being observed especially in newspapers like *Rashtriya Sahara* that too in the front-page articles with facts and figures it is being shown that under the guise of research and development, officials are indulging in favoritism towards their own people catering to their needs to keep them happy. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to ensure that research activities are utilized for their intended purpose, as not only is the police department suffering

losses, but also revenue is being compromised. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to pay attention to this matter and strengthen research and development centers of the police department.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: S/ Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, and Keshav Prasad Maurya, are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Hon. Deputy Speaker, in my parliamentary constituency in Maharashtra on 28th October, 2015, four temples located within the compound of the MIBCI's Bajaj Nagar were demolished along with a church. Notices have been issued to 1,389 temples, mosques, Buddhist viharas, churches, and gurdwaras. The Supreme Court's order does not mandate such actions, yet our administration is doing this in the guise of the said court order. A significant crowd gathered during the demolition of the temples. I had intervened to stop it. Notices have been issued today regarding temples that are 300-400 years old. Such as Nath Mandir, Dutt Mandir, mosques, dargahs, gurdwaras and so on in my constituency. I informed Hon. Ahluwalia Sir that there is a Gurudwara that is 400 years old. They had come themselves. It was also declared illegal, implying an attempt to demolish it. If that

happens, how will things proceed? Bala Saheb Thackeray's Kul Daivat Karla Devi, which is in Pune District near Lonavala, has been there for many years. Notices have also been served for its demolition. The administration is claiming that this is in accordance with the Supreme Court's orders, but the Supreme Court's order does not state such a thing. Through you, I would humbly request the Government of India to file a review petition in the civil court. ... (*Interruptions*) Likewise, there is a notice regarding 40 thousand temples in Maharashtra. A Babri structure collapsed. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: S/Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Arvind Sawant, Shrirang Appa Barne, Rahul Shewale and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the ten-year Guaranteed Warehousing Scheme of the Food Corporation of India. In the year 2011-12 a tender was floated for this and some people have constructed warehouses. However, the Joint Venture of the State and FCI often delays in awarding contracts and others do not receive subsidies within two to three years despite

being entitled to receive them within one year. The team of officers from the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and DMI and also officials from NABARD go for surveys, but due to their delays, significant losses occur. If a farmer has a loan of 5 crores, and if he does not receive the subsidy for two years the interest will exceed the principal amount. Through you, I would like to draw the Government's attention to immediately provide the subsidy of 50 lakhs because Madhya Pradesh is experiencing drought, and farmers are in crisis.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

Hon. Members those who have given letters about their subjects will only be called to raise matters in the House.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI): Sir, most of the rural road schemes in the Mandi are included under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Under the Gram Sadak Yojana in Himachal Pradesh, a budget of 2603 crores was approved, out of which only 1343 crores have been spent so far. However, it is surprising that many construction works under this scheme have been found unsatisfactory. The designated verification process for

construction works is also unsatisfactory. Out of 603 roads in the state, quality inspections for 50 percent of them have not been completed yet. In the inner village of my constituency, the condition of the following roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is also worse which is creating difficulties for the general public. In the state, there were around 2100 approved roads, out of which approximately 577 roads have not been constructed yet. If the work continues at this slow pace in the state, especially in areas like Kullu and Mandi, the residents may not be able to avail the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I would like to request the Ministry of Rural Development to allocate special financial assistance under this scheme for the hilly regions of Himachal Pradesh. This will ensure that the needy rural population can benefit from the scheme, and incomplete roads can be completed.

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): Deputy Speaker Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Rajgarh Malwa region abounds in its historical, religious and cultural heritage. The ancient sites of Siddh Shakti Peeth Mata Bugladevi Nalkheda, Bhainswa Mata, Jalpa Mata Rajgarh, Kapileshwar Mahadev, Rani Roopmati Smarak, Sarangpur, Bag-Bageshwar, Mahadev Chachoura and Narsinghgarh, along with numerous prehistoric rock paintings in the Kotra Shaka Shayamji and surrounding mountainous regions, are abundant in my area. The

people of Madhya Pradesh know it as the "Kashmir of Malwa" due to its natural beauty filled with cascading waterfalls, ancient and culturally significant temples, forts, beautiful palaces, the Pashupatinath Jal Mandir and picturesque lakes along with the series of wildlife sanctuaries, Chirikhon and Baijnath Mahadev temples nestled amidst the mountains. The region's religious and cultural heritage is exemplified by various remnants from medieval India and the glorious tales of valour associated with the first struggle for independence, notably the martyrdom of the brave warrior Ranvir Kunwar Chain Singh ji. The entire Parliamentary Constituency, including Narasingarh, highlights the potential for tourism. This area is located at a distance of only 80 kilometres from National Highway 12 and Bhopal International Airport. If the Narsingharh area is developed as a tourist destination, it will not only promote regional development but also provide employment opportunities to residents.

DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVANAGAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Bhavnagar there is a vast pastoral area comprising the Velavadar region and its surrounding areas, adorned with beautiful grasslands. In these areas, thousands of blackbucks can be found. As a result, it was declared a blackbuck sanctuary in 1976. It is spread over an area of approximately 42 square kilometres. There are no boundaries or

fencing around this sanctuary, so the deers roam into surrounding areas and cause significant damage to farmers' crops. This causes a lot of problems to the farmers. It is because of the beautiful grasslands and the presence of blackbucks, this could become a beautiful tourist destination but due to the lack of facilities, they have remained just grassy jungles. Through you, I would like to request the Government to install fencing around all four sides of this area to prevent hunting of the blackbucks.

[English]

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dindigul district is having administrative divisions of seven taluks, 14 blocks, 539 Panchayats and 341 villages. The district is a part of Cauvery and Capecomerin to Cauvery basin and parts of Vaigai and Pambar sub-basins. The important rivers in the basin are Shanmuganadhi, Nangangiar and Kodavanar. They are ephemeral in nature. The southern part of the district falls under Vaigai sub basin. The important rivers are Maudhanadhi, Manjalar and Vaigai. These are also ephemeral in nature and receive flow during the monsoon period only.

Systematic hydro geological surveys were carried out and subsequently re-appraisal hydro geological surveys were carried by the Central Ground Water Board of the Ministry of Water Resources.

The Rain Water Harvesting Movement launched in 2001 was the brainchild of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. It has had a tremendous impact in recharging the groundwater table all over Tamil Nadu. To consolidate the gains, various measures have been taken up for rejuvenation of Rain Water Harvesting structures created already in both public and private buildings, besides creating new ones.

I urge upon the Ministry for water resources and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to help the Tamil Nadu State Government in improving the groundwater development in the Dindigul parliamentary constituency.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR): Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 6 crore people in the country are unemployed and are often engaged in low-paying jobs to sustain their livelihoods. Mudra Yojana is an ambitious scheme of our Honourable Prime Minister. This scheme aims to provide employment to all including adolescents, adults and others, enabling them to sustain their livelihoods effectively. It's unfortunate that despite the Mudra Yojana's noble intentions, corruption has marred its implementation in my constituency after the appointment of a Lead Bank officer from

the bank. Only after making payment of 50 percent of the amount, whether it's 50 thousand rupees or 5 lakh rupees, people are provided with the amount under the said scheme.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance, through you, whether she is likely to issue directives to the banks to insulate the said scheme from the corruptions so that hasslefree implementation of the scheme can be ensured enabling the people to avail of the benefits of the scheme.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Krishna Raj.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is an extremely backward and impoverished State. After the Raghurajan Committee, this fact has also been revealed. For the past 25-30 years, there has been a talk about developing Bihar, sometimes about providing special packages or granting it special State status. I have repeatedly requested that out of the one lakh 68 thousand crore rupees announced by Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I urge that funds be allocated for the revival of closed factories, whether they are

in Dalmianagar, Saharsa's Baijnathpur Paper Mill, sugar mills, jute mills, or silk mills. I have said many times that the most of the workers of this region migrate. They go out for employment. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to request that all the closed sugar mills whether it be the sugar mill in Banmankhi or any other. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Deputy Speaker, I will conclude in a minute. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to talk about sugar mills. ... *(Interruptions)* All the sugar mills are closed, be it Banmankhi, Udakishanganj. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise only one point.

Now, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the State of Gujarat has about 1600 kilometres of maritime border adjacent to Pakistan, which is very volatile and porous from the country's security point of view. On this long sea border many important infrastructure activities like very important ultra power projects/ports, major petroleum, refineries etc. are going on mainly in Kutch and Jamnagar of Gujarat, for the security

of which the Government will have to give priority and make as serious efforts as possible.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that the Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal to the Government of India in 2005 to set up 51 marine police stations in 11 districts adjacent to these sea coasts for comprehensive security of this long maritime border, but the Government of India has yet to fully implement the aforementioned proposal even after ten years have passed. Apart from this, the coastal area between Meedi and Jakhau in Kachch district of Gujarat is completely deprived of the surveillance of police/BSF marine contingent which is a matter of great concern. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we remember those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country, the names of a number of men come to mind spontaneously but the names of many women do not come to mind because somewhere in history we have failed to give adequate importance to our brave women. The whole country knows the name of Rani Lakshmibai, who was the first spark of the freedom struggle of 1857 but the name of the bravest soldier of her army, Jhalkaribai Kori, is still not remembered in the country. During the struggle against the British for the Jhansi Fort, she camouflaged herself as Rani

Lakshmibai and fought against the British to safely evacuate Rani Lakshmibai from the fort. When this truth came to light, the British hanged her. Even today, the story of Jhalkaribai Kori's sacrifice is recited in Bundeli folk tales. Through you, I would like to request the Human Resource Development Minister to include the details of Jhalkaribai Kori's struggle in the history curriculum of school education so that the future generations of the country can know about this brave woman who fought for freedom.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Birender Kumar Choudhary, Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak not only about my constituency but also about matters concerning the entire nation. The PYKKA Yojana was rolled out in 2009 to promote and develop sporting talents in the rural areas. The budget of this scheme was very low, till the year 2014, only a few sports were organized in this scheme but it could not play much role in improving the talents. Ultimately on April 1, 2014 this scheme was

converted into Rajiv Gandhi Sports Abhiyan. For the last five-six years, very little budget is being provided for this scheme whereas a stadium is to be built in every block every Panchayat Samiti. In the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 a very low budget was allocated. However, across the country there is a need to build stadiums in 10-15 Panchayat Samitis in each state with an estimated cost of Rs.1 crore 60 lakhs each.

Through you, I request the Sports Minister and the Minister of Finance to increase the budget.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Manoj Rajoria, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Pushpendra Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C.R. Chaudhary.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): This is regarding discovery of a very important Buddhist relic cascade from Lalitgiri in the year 1985-87 by the Archaeological Survey of India but unfortunately, the discovery is still there and has not yet properly displayed. So, I would like ASI to display those relic cascades which are very sacred and very important in the Buddhist world. If it is displayed in the Odisha State Museum, then, tourists from different countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Japan will come and see.

I would also request to bring the Buddhists circuit like Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri under the Buddhist Heritage of India. Under my Bargarh Parliamentary constituency of Odisha, there is a famous Buddhist site that is Muchhalinda Buddha in Ganiapali but unfortunately, the two Buddhist images were beheaded and were stolen. So, I would request to have the security by ASI.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, Coimbatore is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu and the most important commercial centre in South India. Coimbatore and its surroundings have a large number of Industries and textile units doing exports to foreign countries particularly, the Gulf Countries. Coimbatore District is the hub of textile and knitwear industries and contributes substantial foreign exchange reserves to the Government of India through exports. At present, people from business community, industrialists, skilled professionals in both Coimbatore and gulf countries have to catch a flight either to Mumbai or Chennai to reach the destinations as there is no direct flight service between Coimbatore and gulf countries.

Coimbatore is also attracting more people from gulf countries including business people, buyers and even patients for medical treatment. There is a huge demand for direct flight services to gulf countries from coimbatore and will be more profitable too.

I, therefore, urge the Government of India to provide a direct international flight services between Coimbatore and gulf countries to facilitate the air traffic requirement of the people of Coimbatore.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker, you yourself are a farmer, you are aware of drought under which most of the States of the country are reeling. In Uttar Pradesh, 50 districts have been declared drought affected. Paddy crop has not been produced as much as it should have been in Kharif. The Minimum Support Price declared by the Central Government was 1535 rupees per quintal. Today due to non-opening of paddy procurement centres anywhere in the State farmers have to sell the produce at 900, 950 or 1000 rupees. On one hand, when farmers harvest produce from their fields, they have to sell it at low prices, and on the other hand, when they buy in the market, they have to pay high prices. Most of the members in the august House are farmers' representatives elected from rural areas. Nothing can be so serious a problem as it is. In order to fulfil its responsibility to ensure that the produce of the farmers are purchased at Minimum Support Price, the Central Government may give advisory or instructions to the State Governments that the produce which the farmer wants to sell will be

available at the Minimum Support Price. Paddy, the most important crop of Kharif has not been procured. I would like to request that at least the Central Government should direct the State Government in this matter.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan and Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika pal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to raise the issue of respect for the State of Maharashtra in the House. Every year on 26th January, tableaux from every State of the country march down Rajpath, showcasing the art and grandeur of Maharashtra State. In the year 2015, Maharashtra State's tableau and Chitrarath got the first position. Every year on 26th January, the tableau and Chitrarath of Maharashtra state have been included. Now Maharashtra State has been informed by the Central Government that the tableau and Chitrarath of Maharashtra State cannot be included in the programme of 26 January in the year 2016. This information has been given to the State of Maharashtra. The former Chief Minister of Maharashtra has raised

this issue in the ongoing Legislative Assembly session in Nagpur. Out of total 48 seats in Maharashtra, 42 MPs are in this House.

I demand to include Chitrarath of Maharashtra state in the program being held at Rajpath on 26th January, 2016.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Rajiv Pratap Rudy Ji, please take note of this. It is a serious thing. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (VADODARA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, International Airport is under construction in my constituency Vadodara. It will become operational in the next few months and international flights will also commence. The current runway of Vadodara Airport is 8100 feet, the length of which is proposed to be increased to 10,500 feet. This will enable the inclusion of international flights. To complete this work, National Highway No.8 will need to be diverted from its current location. The collaboration amongst the Airport Authority, concerned department of Gujarat State Government and Vadodara District Administration

has been established. Land acquisition has also been started in which the National Highway Authority of India is also involved. More than 2000 metres of land is required on National Highway No. 8.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to take this work forward.

[English]

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I wish to speak from this seat. I wish to speak in Tamil.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes

***SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:** Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has stressed the need for immediate release of Government of India's share towards the disbursement of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu, which now totals Rs.1549.76 crores for the period up to 2015-16. Tamil Nadu is implementing the centrally sponsored scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes pursuing higher studies in recognized institutions. Under this scheme, 100 per cent Central Assistance is provided to all States/UTs beyond the committed liability. In 2015-16, the Government of Tamil Nadu has

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

to incur a total expenditure of Rs.1295.55 crore towards Post-matric Scholarships, out of which Rs.942 crore is the Government of India's share. For the period up to 2014-15, arrears amounting to Rs.1175.10 crore were pending. During 2015-16, so far, only Rs.567.34 crore has been released by the Government of India, leaving a total balance of Rs.1549.76 crore. Sir, timely release of scholarships is very essential to keep the students, most of whom are from very poor families, adequately motivated to pursue their studies. I therefore urge for immediate release of Government of India's share of Rs.1549.76 crores for the period up to 2015-16 towards the disbursement of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOWDHURY (JHANJIHARPUR): Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency Jhanjharpur, Bihar, dozens of rivers originate from the Terai of Nepal in which water flows throughout the year. Like Vihul, Bachharaja, Sugarve and Adhwara River. If sluice gates are installed on all these rivers, then irrigation facilities will be available for thousands of acres of land. This will increase the farmers' yield umpteen times. While the Government of India has mentioned the irrigation of farmer's land. There are no other employment opportunities in Bihar except

agriculture. If sluice gate is installed on all the above mentioned rivers then the farmers of Bihar will not have to commit suicide.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Agriculture and Irrigation Minister to get sluice gate installed after conducting a survey as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Road and Transport Minister through the august House.

Sir, the National Highway-210 starts from Trichy to Ramanathapuram. The length of the road is nearly about 200 km. Out of 200 kilometre about 100 kilometre passes through my constituency, Sivaganga. The road is under the control of National Highway Authority of India. It connects the main pilgrim places like Rameshwaram, Devipattinam and Dhanushkodi.

The Union Government has already allotted funds for widening and reconstruction of the road. Tender formalities have also been completed two years back. The tender was taken by a contractor in 2013 but he never started the construction. As per the NHAI norms, all the roads under NHAI should be maintained every three years. In respect of this highway, no maintenance work has taken place since

2009. The contract company purposefully has been evading construction of the road for the last two years.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has allotted Rs.50 crore for immediate repair of the roads which have been affected by recent flood and rains. So, I request the Union Government either to compel the contract company to start the construction of road immediately or to cancel the contract and take necessary steps to lay the road from Karaikudi to Ramanathapuram.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Sir, the old sadar hospital in our Parliamentary Constituency of Buxar city has been closed for the past five years, and a new sadar hospital has been established in a remote and desolate area far from the city. As a result, the residents of the city face significant difficulties in accessing medical treatment. Especially during the night, people who suddenly fall ill or encounter accidents, as well as women facing difficulties during childbirth, have to struggle with distress.

Sir, on 27th November the lawyer from Buxar Mr. Prem Prakash Sinha was shot and injured by criminals in retaliation for intervening in a harassment incident involving his daughter. Due to the distance of the hospital and the lack of timely treatment he succumbed to his injuries later leading to widespread public outrage.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Ministry of Health, the Government of India to establish a "Urban Health Center" equipped with modern facility with specialized physicians in the old Sadar Hospital in Buxar under the National Urban Health Mission. This will provide proper medical facilities to the residents of the city. In addition, a large number of people from the Buxar-Bhojpur and Shahabad regions travel to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Varanasi for intensive medical treatment. after suffering from serious illnesses and accidents. Establishing a branch of this institute in Buxar to provide super-specialty medical services would be highly beneficial. Also, with central assistance a medical college along with a trauma center should be established in Buxar soon. Apart from this, necessary action should be taken to provide a compensation of 50 lakh rupees to the dependents of the advocate for his death due to the mistake of the administration and the State Government and to provide a Government job to his widowed wife.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Sir, through you I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that the day before yesterday the Lokayukta of Haryana State has asked the Government to register a case of bribery against five former MLAs of Haryana for getting the files related to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan approved through CLU. Over the past decade, approximately 73 thousand acres of land

in the state of Haryana have undergone change in land use (CLU). The land scam was the biggest scam in Haryana state. I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister, through you, that within ten years, because the Chief Minister himself had the department dealing with the CLU, a complete investigation should be done by CBI and whoever is found guilty of committing the scam and embezzling the money should be brought to book. The Central Government should punish them.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dushyant Chautala.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister to the assembly constituency of Bilhaur which falls under my Lok Sabha Constituency of Mishrikh. This area holds strategic importance as it lies along the main route from Kanpur to Bareilly, Farrukhabad, and Kannauj. Additionally, the Kanpur-Farrukhabad-Mathura-Delhi railway line also passes along this main route.

Due to Kanpur being an industrial city there is heavy vehicular traffic on this route and when the gate at the Bilhaur railway crossing on the Rasoolpur, Uttaripur and Bilhaur-Kakwan route is closed long queues of vehicles form.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways through you to kindly consider the construction of railway overbridge at the Bilhaur railway crossing at the earliest on the Rasoolpur, Uttaripur and Bilhaur-Kakwan route taking into account the problems faced by the general public.

[English]

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Hon. Amma Government in Tamil Nadu has been implementing many popular schemes for the betterment of pregnant women and newborns, such as Amma Master Health Check Up, Amma Woman Special Master Health Check-up, Amma Arogya Scheme, Amma Pregnancy Sanjeevi and Amma Baby Care Kit for newborns. These schemes have benefited lakhs of women across the State. The ayurvedic medicines boosting immunization are being provided to the pregnant women on stage-wise basis and this has helped paving the way for healthy delivery and healthy newborns.

The Amma Baby Kit worth Rs. 1,000 is gifted to the newborn and it has 16 items including a towel, dress, bed, protection net, napkin, 100 ml baby oil bottle, 60 ml shampoo, sachet, a soap box, a soap, a nail clipper, toy, *Kilu Kiluppai*, a 250 ml hand wash liquid and a 100 gram soap bar for the mother. The scheme has benefited more than 6.7 lakh children across the State.

Another scheme being implemented by our hon. Amma Govt. is of having rooms in bus terminals across the State with an aim to help lactating mothers, who are travelling, to feed their newborns.

These are all popular schemes introduced by our hon. Amma and several lakhs of women and newborns have been benefited out of it. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to introduce these model schemes, which have been introduced in Tamil Nadu by our hon. Amma Government, as national schemes and also provide funds to the State of Tamil Nadu for the said schemes. Thank you.

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, I am from Murshidabad District. This district has at least 100 kilometres of Indo-Bangladesh international border. Also, due to some historical reasons, both the Hindu and the Muslim have their relatives on both the sides of this border. In spite of these people having passports, they cannot go to the other side to meet their relatives due to lack of Land Custom Service, that is, Indo-Bangladesh

Transit Service. There was a Land Custom Service at Lalgola, but I do not know why it is closed till date.

So, I would urge upon the Government, through you, to re-open the Lalgola Land Custom Service or sanction a new Land Custom Service in Murshidabad District.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K. Ashok Kumar – not present.

Shri V. Elumalai.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you.

I wish to raise an important issue. The population has grown manifold over the years. As per 2011 census, the population of Tamil Nadu stood at 7.2 crores compared to 6.5 crores at the time of introduction of limit for appointment of Public Notaries. The number of courts has also increased *vis-a-vis* the litigations or cases filed in such courts. It is relevant to say that besides commercial activities, notarial purposes have also increased. Moreover several thousands of applications are received by the State Government of Tamil Nadu for appointments of Notaries in the State.

The Notaries Act, 1952 regulate the profession of such Public Notaries. Rule 8 (4A) of the Notaries Rules, 1956 was amended and the number of Notaries to be appointed by State Government of Tamil

Nadu was reduced.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Minister for Law and Justice to consider the proposal of the State Government of Tamil Nadu to make provision for increasing the number of Notaries appointed by the State from the existing 1,088 to at least 2,500 favourably in view of the huge population to be attended by these Public Notaries. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on December 8/12/2015 within the jurisdiction of Manikpur Police Station of Chitrakoot district in my parliamentary constituency innocent villagers in Saraiya village were subjected to lathi charge and 15 individuals were forcefully detained from their respective homes with improper conduct towards women and children by the police resulting in serious distress. Dozens of individuals are still falsely implicated in serious charges, and hundreds of others have been listed as unidentified. Their only fault was that they opposed the misconduct of the local station in-charge, Prabhu Dayal Yadav, and the way he was favoring one party in the panchayat elections. Consequently, the station in-charge himself formed a party to silence those who opposed him.

Similarly, on 9/12/2015, under the same Saraiya Police Station jurisdiction, police carried out a brutal lathi charge on people in the

village of Pateriya on the day of the Panchayat elections. The officers are protecting the guilty individuals. Therefore, I would like to request you to issue directives for the suspension of the guilty Station in-Charge and to initiate a judicial inquiry into the incidents in Saraiya and Pateriya villages. Furthermore, I would also like to request you to issue directives for the withdrawal of the serious charges imposed on innocent villagers and thereby ensuring their release.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

[Translation]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of the country's farmers, particularly sugarcane-producing farmers, is extremely pitiable. Within Uttar Pradesh, approximately Rs. 2300 crore of dues from the previous year's sugarcane harvest is still unpaid to the farmers. In my Lok Sabha constituency of Baghpat, the biggest defaulter is the mill owner Modi, who operates two sugar mills in Malkapur and Modinagar. The Malkapur sugar mill was established in 1998, and since then until today, he never made payments to sugarcane farmers during the current year. A payment of 211 crore rupees is still pending from the

Malkapur mill, 128 crore rupees from the Modinagar mill, and 26 crore rupees from the Kinouni mill. In my Parliamentary Constituency, approximately 365 crore rupees of sugarcane is outstanding. Despite the orders of the Allahabad High Court, the farmers are still not being paid their due amount. The condition of the farmers is extremely precarious. They cannot afford medical treatment, young girls' marriages are being postponed, and children are unable to pursue their education. Therefore, despite the proposal of the Government of India to provide interest-free loans of Rs. 6000 crore to mill owners, the Modi mill does not fulfil the conditions laid down therefor. Innocent villagers are unaware of the distinction between the State Government and the Central Government, so they have high hopes from the Central Government. Will the Government of India take any concrete steps to prevent sugarcane farmers from being subject to starvation? When will the entire House, Government and the opposition come together to make some concrete decisions regarding the farmers? The path to the country's development emerges from the well-being of the farmers. Forgetting about the farmers will be akin to shooting oneself in the foot in the times to come.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Satyapal Singh.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise an important matter during 'Zero Hour'.

Tamil is a Dravidian language predominantly spoken by Tamil people of India and northern Sri Lanka. It is the official language of Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry, Sri Lanka and Singapore. Tamil is the first Indian language declared as a classical language by the Government of India in 2004 and is one of the 22 languages recognized under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Tamil is spoken by more than 100 million people around the world, that is, in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Mauritius, Canada, South Africa, Fiji, Germany, the Philippines, the United States, the Netherlands, Indonesia and France as well as the smaller emigrant communities elsewhere. Sir, as regards disseminating information in the official websites of the Union Government and Parliament of India

relating to policies and programmes, the contents are available only in English and Hindi. Many Tamil speaking people find it difficult to download and understand the contents. The Union Government is not giving due importance to all languages, especially, to the classical languages. So, I would request the Union Government, through you, that henceforth all the official information may be uploaded in Tamil language also. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (FOOLPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the world-famous Prayag Magh Mela, where every six years the Ardh Kumbh and every twelve years the Kumbh Mela are held, with the Magh Mela taking place annually. Approximately 50 lakh pilgrims and revered saints from across the country and abroad come to observe their rituals by staying overnight. This fair continues from Makar Sankranti to Mahashivaratri. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the arrangements made in 1990 for pilgrims, ascetics, and religious and social organisations are still being implemented in the same way today. Until 2015, the country's population increased, institutions had grown, and the number of pilgrims attending the fair had also increased. I would like to urge the Central Government, through you, to enhance facilities and allocate 500 crore rupees annually for the Magh Mela in Prayag, catering to the needs of pilgrims, religious-

social organizations, similar to the facilities provided during the Ardh Kumbh and Kumbh Melas. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in 'Zero Hour'.

Today, I would like to speak about ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Sir, today is his birthday. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: That is how I got the opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just come to the point.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Sir, I would like to speak about the problem of my Srikakulam railway station which is very peculiar because there is no direct entry to any of the platforms. If you have to get on the train, whether an old man or a child or anyone, they have to climb all the stairs and get down on any one of the platforms. Other than the inconveniences that the passengers are

facing, the real problem is that all the services that are offered to the passengers are put on the platform like the toilet, VIP room, the waiting room, the cargo room, the postal services and everything is on the platform. So, the sanitation or the connectivity or the logistics and everything is a problem.

My single request is that if you have to take this project individually and you want to offer a direct entry to any of the platforms, it takes up to Rs.4 crore or Rs. 5 crore. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want? You tell me that.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Yes, Sir. My request to the Government is this. The Government is taking up the expansion of the third line under the Golden Quadrilateral. This station also comes on that. When this expansion is going on, I would request the Government to take up the realignment of the platform within this project instead of taking it as an individual project.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. India was one of the exporters of match boxes. This industry is particularly a cottage industry employing about a million people. Over the last decade, about 8,000 of them are closed down. There are only about 2000 that are left. Most of these are situated in Sivakasi, Kovilpatti and Gudiyattam which are within my Vellore Parliamentary constituency. Now the industry is in

doldrums. It is facing troubles. The cost of raw materials has gone up because of that. The export incentive has been reduced by the Government and there is competition from other foreign countries. I would request the Ministry of MSME and the Commerce Ministry to look into the problem, increase export incentives of five per cent and give subsidy to the raw material.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWADA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on February 25, 2013, an MoU was signed between Indian Railways and BHEL to establish a factory for manufacturing MEMU coaches in my Parliamentary Constituency Bhilwara. An MoU was signed between the Rajasthan Government and the Ministry of Railways for the transfer of land. The foundation stone for this factory was laid on 22.09.2013 but construction of the factory has not yet commenced. I would like to urge upon the Hon. Railways Minister to expedite the construction of this factory without delay.

[English]

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): I thank you Hon. Deputy Speaker. The Medical Council of India is

introducing a Common Entrance Test (CET) for admissions to Medical and Dental courses and had recommended to the Central Government for approval. MCI has also suggested to the Government to amend Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act to make sure of proper carrying out of the scheme.

This has created confusion and dissatisfaction in the minds of thousands of Tamil Nadu students who have so far been covered by a fair and transparent admission policy followed by the Tamil Nadu Government. This proposal of the MCI is unlawful and in violation of Articles 19, 25, 26, 29 and 30 of the Constitution. It will affect students from backward classes and would be a set back for them. In 2007, the Tamil Nadu Government scrapped the Entrance Tests and admission is done considering the plus two marks and reservation rules to professional and other courses.

The Supreme Court of India, in its judgment on July 2013 has quashed Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India's National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for UG and PG. Our hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has strongly expressed disapproval of these attempts of introducing common entrance test for Admission and had requested the Prime Minister to withdraw the attempt. Hon. Amma has said that this will affect the poor, socio-economic background students from rural areas as they cannot

compete with urban students. If this scheme is abolished, a large number of socially and economically backward rural students will be benefited.

Hence, I would urge upon the Prime Minister and the Union Government to disapprove the CET proposed by the MCI and continue with the current norms as per the request of our hon. Amma.

[Translation]

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARAULI-DHOLPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to check the rising crimes at the national level in the country. In many States, criminals commit crimes and move from one state to another. Apart from this, there are disputes regarding the boundaries of police stations that this matter does not come under the jurisdiction of this police station. Today there are many types of crimes and various types of criminal organisations have also emerged in the country. Whereas our police system lags far behind them. I would like to request the Government through you that a data centre for all the police stations in the country should be set up in Delhi. So that different types of crimes can be analyzed and studied at one place and measures can be taken to control them. I hope that the Government will consider this matter seriously and work diligently to check crimes in the country.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Manoj Rajoria.

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jallikattu is deeply ingrained in the cultural traditions of Tamil Nadu and is immensely popular. Jallikattu found mention in the 2000-year old ancient Tamil literature Silappadikarm and has great religious significance too. Families donate bulls to temples in fulfillment of vows and are reverently protecting the particular bull breed. Jallikattu conducted during the annual Pongal festival is intertwined with the religious and socio-cultural ethos of Tamil society. Jallikattu is inextricably linked to rural agrarian customs. The Supreme Court ban on Jallikattu has jolted the socio-religious and traditional sentiments of the people. Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has suggested that the Ministry of Environment and Forests could denotify bulls from the list of performing animals within the legal ambit to enable the lifting of the ban on Jallikattu. Hon. Amma has also called for suitable amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 by introducing a new clause specifically exempting Jallikattu along with other exemptions already provided in the Act.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You talk about what you want.

SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA: I urge upon the Union Government to act immediately and pave the way for conducting Jallikattu every year, particularly during the Pongal festival in Tamil Nadu, and also other Indian traditional sports like Sethali and Bailgada. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from the mountainous State of Himachal Pradesh. The Modi Government has allocated approximately Rs. 350 crore for the railway sector in my Parliamentary Constituency. Completing the Una-Talwara railway link, which has been ongoing for 40 years, is crucial. However, another significant project is the Bhanupulee-Bilaspur-Leh railway line which is integral to the security of our country. Announcing mere 165 crore rupees will not suffice for this project. It needs to be expedited and funded with more than a thousand crore rupees from the defense budget so that we can extend the railway line to Leh. It will usher in a lot of convenience for our military personnel to reach there with their tanks and other other logistics. It will also boost tourism in the area. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to ensure that besides the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Defense should also earmark a budget of

one thousand crore rupees for this railway line, so that it can be completed as soon as possible.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is in respect of the foreign vessels that are illegally fishing in Indian waters. This is causing huge loss to the country's exchequer and affecting the livelihood of domestic fishermen. Several vessels of foreign origin are misusing the Letter of Permit scheme of the Indian Government to exploit lucrative Indian fish resources. Under the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, only registered Indian fishing vessels can operate. But the LOP scheme of Department of Fisheries allows Indian fishing firms to buy technologically advanced foreign vessels. Dual registration is illegal as per the guidelines of LOP scheme. Foreign vessels are flouting the law. Ineffective monitoring, control and surveillance of such vessels are causing huge loss. The LOP guidelines require all vessels registered under the scheme to send their positions on voyage reports to the nearest coastguard office regularly. They are also required to submit their reports to the Fisheries Survey of India. However, in both the cases it was found that these reports were not submitted. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to initiate urgent action for the strict and comprehensive rules and mechanism for effective

monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels in Indian waters. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju and Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N.K. Premachandran.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity for speaking in Zero Hour. The hon. Prime Minister has recently laid the foundation stone for the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati. The capital is given its name from ancient Amaravati town which very close by because it has a great historical significance. The third centre of Buddhist learning was founded in Amaravati by Acharya Nagarjuna in the 2nd century B.C. after Taxila and Nalanda. It was also the capital for the Satavahana Empire between 2nd and 3rd century A.D. The Dalai Lama has also conducted a Kalachakra initiation at this very location in 2006.

During the British Raj, this ancient city was excavated about 140 years ago by Colonel Colin Mackenzie, the first Surveyor General of India and more than 70 artifacts depicting Amaravati sculpture were shipped to London in 1880. Several of these priceless artifacts date back to 2nd century B.C.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You tell what you want. Please come to the point.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Sir, I am coming to the point. They are classified into four periods ranging from 2nd century B.C. to the 2nd century A.D. These and other sculptures and scriptures once adorned the great stupa at Amaravati and these artifacts are now displayed in Gallery no. 33A at London Museum.

Since Amaravati has become the capital of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is trying to create a world class museum to showcase the legacy of Amaravati. Hence, I request the Government of India to take up the issue with the Government of U.K. and see that these artifacts are returned to Andhra Pradesh as early as possible. Thank you.

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Coal to the problems faced by 800 families residing in hutments on NLC's land coming under my Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency.

These 800 families belong to contract workers and retired employees of NLC and they are living in hutments near NLC employees' quarters. They have been living there for 15 to 25 years in the Mandharakuppam region of Neyveli-2 Township in Periyar Nagar, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, ITI Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Paattaiyar

Colony and Anna Nagar area. NLC provided essential amenities including electricity connection to 100 huts in Mandharakuppam in 1963. As per the agreement reached with the workers unions in June 2012, 1000 more huts have been provided with electricity connection and other facilities in Thideerkuppam area.

In the recent extremely heavy rains and floods in Tamil Nadu, people are affected very badly and have lost their belongings. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi ThalaiviAmma* has taken extraordinary efforts to mitigate the problems of the flood ravaged people in Tamil Nadu.

NLC too has social responsibility to provide them adequate and immediate support in this grim situation and should not forget the contribution of those workers to NLC. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister of Coal to take urgent action to give appropriate instruction to the officials of NLC to restore electricity connections and provide other essential amenities to the people living in huts in the Mandharakuppam region of Neyveli-2 Township.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to invite your attention because you are one of the most senior Members of this august House. While we speak about the vacancies yet to be filled up under various Government departments, PSUs, banks etc. what is the case, what is the situation in the

Parliament of India? We all are very much thankful to the staff of the Parliament including the reporters, ministerial staff and security personnel. *

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker will take it up.

DR. A. SAMPATH: Sir, this is a very important issue. Only you can solve it and hon. Minister Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy is also here.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You tell the Hon. Speaker whatever you want.

DR. A. SAMPATH: I understand that some of the computers that we use are more than 10 years old. *

My humble request to the Government of India through you is to fill up the vacancies and to ensure promotion of people who are working in the Parliament of India also. ... (*Interruptions*) There is no grievance redressal mechanism also.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri P.K. Biju and Shri Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI R. K. SINGH (ARA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country's first struggle for independence started in the year 1857. One of its greatest warriors, Veer Kunwar Singh, hailed from our region. His fort is in Jagdishpur. It is in a very dilapidated condition. He was a freedom fighter, a general who, in the 1857 uprising, defeated the British in open combat three times. He went to Bhojpur twice and once to Uttar Pradesh for the war. Now, his fort lies in a dilapidated condition. The Ara House, where the British fought against Veer Kunwar Singh's army, is also in a state of disrepair. I would like to request the Government through you to declare the fort as a national heritage and to undertake the restoration of the Ara House, preserving it as a heritage site.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri R.K. Singh.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Do not bring in State subject here.

... (*Interruptions*)

13.56 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re : Alleged lathi charge by Police against the people participating in protest march in West Bengal

***SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali. Sir the State of West Bengal was once the symbol of culture and was well known for its civility. But today there is rampant corruption as well as terrorist activities. All sorts of immoral acts are going on in the state. Women are not safe. They are being raped, tortured, harassed. It is all the more unfortunate because the Chief Minister of West Bengal is herself a woman. She should have been the custodian of the dignity of women of her state. But on the contrary crime graph is rising, corruption is raising its ugly head during her regime. In order to protest against such atrocities, BJP partymen have started a civil disobedience movement. Yesterday our General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, Shri Suresh Pujari and our State President Dilip Ghosh were protesting against the

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Government in Nadia, Krishnanagar when the police resorted to lathi charge. They wanted to present a memorandum to the district officials but were stopped and beaten. They were arrested and put behind bars. In Barasat, Sidhartha Nath Singh was leading a protest march from Rathtala and was trying to reach Kachhari Maidan, when once again there was lathicharge. We feared that there would be loss of lives, people could be injured fatally. My point is that this august House should condemn the barbaric acts in one voice and thwart any attempt to stifle the voice of democracy. This House, must condemn the incident that took place in West Bengal.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Law and order is a State subject. Whatever you have said regarding women will only go on record; others will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): I am grateful, Sir.

It is a question of democratic atmosphere which is being challenged. It is not a question of any State matter. It is a question of

democratic rights of people and every political party and association. It is a Constitutional right. ... (*Interruptions*) In West Bengal, this is being trampled everyday. Unfortunately, no person has the right to raise his voice in West Bengal. ... (*Interruptions*) Such a political injustice is going on in West Bengal. Even our party people are everyday becoming victims. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mohammad Salim.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE 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): Sir, it is not unusual. When certain issues happen across the country, they get raised in Parliament. ... (*Interruptions*)

Some incidents have happened in West Bengal where there has been a *lathi* charge. I said, of course, it is a State subject but what Shri Ahluwalia is raising is an issue of our fundamental right of freedom to speak. ... (*Interruptions*) Our freedom to protest is impinged. I think, Parliament has every right when individual freedom is being curtailed, when the right to protest is being thwarted. Parliament has

a right to discuss because it is a constitutional matter; it is not a matter of the State. ... (*Interruptions*)

14.00 hours

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, all I want to say that Shri Ahluwalia may be aggrieved, as he alleges certain police action took place against the processionists of his Party. He has raised the matter here. But, Sir, please understand there are 29 States in this country and such actions take place all the time. So, if anywhere some agitation takes place is Parliament the proper venue to raise it? Law and order is an entirely State subject. Police action is an entirely State subject. Why should you allow such matters as lathi charge to be raised in this House? ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you should not allow this to be raised in the House.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, I have already responded that law and order being State subject cannot go on record. Whatever the hon. Member has said about women right will go on record. I have already said that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. ... *(Interruptions)* The National Capital Region was formed in 1987 and at that time, it was expected that the major cities/towns within its boundaries would be connected to Delhi through wide highways and high-speedt rains, so that people living in the National Capital Region could travel to Delhi within an hour. ... *(Interruptions)* Despite the lapse of nearly 28 years, Meerut and Hapur of my Parliamentary Constituency, located just 80 and 50 kilometres away respectively, are still several hours away from Delhi due to various obstacles. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, the Road Transport Minister, Mr. Nitin Gadkari, has announced the construction of the Meerut-Delhi Expressway to connect Meerut and Hapur with Delhi. For this initiative, I express my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the people of the region.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made it very clear.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Sir, it is very necessary to run high-speed trains on these routes.... *(Interruptions)* The trial for the

operation of the EMU between Meerut and Delhi has been successfully completed, and the railway line from Delhi to Hapur and further to Moradabad has also been doubled. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Sir, through you, I would humbly like to request the Hon. Railway Minister to kindly start the operation of EMU trains between Delhi and Meerut, as well as DEMU or EMU trains between Delhi and Hapur, at the earliest. I am deeply grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already made it very clear that State subjects cannot be discussed here. Law and order is a State subject.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.03 hours**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS...Contd.**

(ii) Re: Need to ensure protection to the students from Sikkim especially in Institute of Technology and Forward Management, Chandigarh

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Thank you Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak. I just want to draw your attention and that of the Government... (*Interruptions*) Many students from Sikkim study in other parts of the country. I must report that about three days ago in Chandigarh many of our students got beaten up by students from Himachal and Chandigarh. This is also a State matter. However, in the interest of national solution I would request the Government and the Home Ministry to take strict action in seeing that students from Sikkim are given protection especially in institutes like the Institute of Technology and Forward Management. This is an institution which really is very-very poor.

THE 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): Sir, the issue which has been raised by Shri P.D. Rai, as far as students from Northeast India are concerned, they have every right to be and study in any part of the country and we have the highest respect and love for them. Sir, sporadic incidents like this do happen. Possibly, he has mentioned about Chandigarh. I do not know the background in which the situation has happened. He has taken the name of the Himachal Pradesh State. I do not know whether the States would be involved but there are issues where students get involved. They have a rivalry or a fight. It is the duty of the Central Government to find out what has happened and I will definitely like to find out what has actually happened in Chandigarh.

I have the highest respect for Chandigarh because Chandigarh is the place where I started my politics. That University is one of the finest universities in the country but if certain incident has happened, we will find it out. We have to take care of all those students of Sikkim and even of all the other north-eastern States who are studying in Delhi or Pune or Karnataka. They are a part of us.

So, I can assure you from the Government that all these colleges and universities must take care of all these students and see that any such incident is redressed. So, Mr. Rai, I assure you that we will definitely look into it.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

***SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I wish to bring to the notice of Hon. Union Minister of Railways, through you some important issues pertaining to my constituency. Sixty years ago, the Railway line between Thanjavur and Pattukkottai was announced. After survey, the sanction for estimation, which is pending should be expedited. Similarly, the sanction for estimation for laying of railway line between Mannargudi and Pattukottai is also pending. I urge the need for expediting the same. I also urge that the work relating to laying of railway line between Karaikkudi and Tiruvarur should also be expedited. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I come from the Pali region of Rajasthan. The tourism development plan for the districts of Pali, Jalore, and Sirohi in the Godwad Circuit of Western Rajasthan was approved by the Government of India. Fund was allocated for this project. A total of Rs.128 lakh has so far been allocated for this purpose. This project will not only benefit my Lok

Sabha constituency but also contribute to the preservation of numerous archaeological sites and heritage in the internationally renowned areas of Ranakpur, Narwaria, and Jawai Bandh in which Nadol, Ghanera, and Neemuch are also included. Therefore, through this House, I humbly request the hon. Minister of Tourism, the Government of India to kindly expedite the release of pending funds for the Godwad Circuit Development Plan aimed at promoting tourism in Western Rajasthan. This proposal has already been forwarded to the Central Government by the Rajasthan State Government.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Government of India's Instrumentation Limited in my parliamentary constituency of Kota has completely ceased to function. Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, within Kota, Instrumentation Limited is India's most crucial governmental institution, but due to being in consistent loss in recent years and lack of financial support during Congress' rule for a decade, retired and existing employees are currently not getting their salaries leading the Instrumentation Limited on the cusp of closure.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to request the Central Government to make a special revival package plan and start that important Instrumentation Ltd. so that the employees can also get salary and the retired employees whose salary and gratuity are still

lying outstanding may also get money. Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to provide them with a special package.

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding implementation of reservation in recruitment of Scientists, Engineers and academic staff in Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram. It was originally a State institute but was converted into a national institute. In the beginning of this Session, we had a good discussion regarding constitutional rights as also to commemorate 125th birthday of the father of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. This Institute is violating the constitutional right of reservation. Articles 16, 335, 338, 340, 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India provide reservation in this Institution. But it is not ready to implement reservation policy in categories A, B, and C.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide reservation in this Institute.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Joice George and Shri Jose K. Mani are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.K. Biju.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the State of Jharkhand which I hail from, gives 40 to 50 percent of mines and minerals to this country. Jharkhand generates approximately 40 percent of the revenue for the Indian Railways, and based on this, I can say that the economy of this country is more or less dependent on a single state. However, the economic conditions there are so worse that 70 percent of the population is living below the poverty line, 70 percent of women being anemic and 70 percent of children are suffering from malnutrition. The Central Government has formulated a plan to establish All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in all the states. However, consistently over the years, this issue has been neglected in the UPA Government and our Government has also been requested by the Jharkhand Government for the past two years to establish an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Deoghar. This will benefit Bihar, Bengal, and Jharkhand.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government through you to ensure that there is no discrimination against Jharkhand this time, and announce the establishment of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences and start work on it in 2016. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. The

Government of Odisha has sent a proposal to the Central Government for setting up a Science Park Sub-regional Science Centre near Pathani Samanta Interpretation Centre, Khandpara.

Pathani Samanta was a very renowned person in the 19th century. The museum interpretation centre in the name of Pathani Samanta at Khandpara is an objective to bring into limelight the life, work and contribution of Samanta Chandrasekhar. Khandapara is the birth place of Samanta Chandrasekhar. He was born in 1834 and passed away in 1904. He is popularly known as Pathani Samanta. He enriched Indian astronomy founded by Arya Bhatta, Brahm Gupta and Bhaskara. He designed his own instruments out of wood and bamboo in very simple form using pure trigonometry. Using this he was able to measure the height of trees, hills and clouds. He determined the angle between the stars and planets, calculated timing of eclipse and studied motion of planets in the Zodiac. Using available astronomical information he wrote *Siddhanta Darpan*, a mathematical treatise having 2500 *slokas* in Sanskrit which is still considered a master piece by the astronomers. The Pathani Samanta planetarium is established in Bhubneswar. We have put up a museum there.

My request before the Government is, the Government of Odisha has already written letters to the Central Government, to establish a Science Park Sub Regional Science Centre near Pathani Samanta

Interpretation Centre, Khandpara with special emphasis on Physics, astro-physics and astronomy.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour. I will speak very briefly. I would like to seek a favour from you, specifically for women. The women from Haryana who have been married in Rajasthan are facing difficulties in obtaining their caste certificates, neither in Rajasthan nor in Haryana. Therefore, I would like to request you to ensure that their caste certificate is issued at a convenient location enabling them to have access to job opportunities and various privileges.

Through you, I wish to convey this message to the government.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the pitiable

condition of the farmers in the rural areas of the capital, Delhi, who are struggling with water issues for irrigation. The scarcity of adequate water for irrigation in rural areas is causing huge resentment among farmers. This situation particularly affects farmers reliant on monsoon-dependent agriculture, as those with larger landholdings are unable to properly cultivate due to insufficient water supply for irrigation. Consequently, crop production is also being adversely affected, resulting in substantial losses for primarily large landholding farmers. The Delhi Government is not paying attention to the real issues faced by the farmers and due to the restrictions imposed on tube-well and boring mining activities, it is not possible to address the water crisis for the farmers. It may be accepted that problems like disasters may arise from the installation of boring pumps for groundwater, but at the same time, it becomes the responsibility of the Delhi Government to address the issue after making arrangements for water harvesting compulsory through MLA and MP funds. If a farmer having landholdings of one acre or more than it wants to install a tube well, administrative officials go there and extort money, and collectively exploit him. As a result, they are unable to grow their crops and some vegetables in their own land.

Hence, I would like to request the Central Government through you to instruct the Delhi Government to grant permission for the

installation of tube wells to the individuals having one acre of land or more than it, so as to curb corruption and provide farmers with an opportunity to make their land cultivable. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a matter of urgen public importance. Under my parliamentary constituency, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then Railway Minister Nitish Kumar had initiated the laying of railway lines from Daniawan to Bihar Sharif via Barbiagha to Sheikhpura. However, so far, it has been made operational till Bihar Sharif. The remaining railway line from Bihar Sharif to Sheikhpura is still incomplete till date.

Sir, I would like to inquire from the Hon. Minister when we can expect trains to run on this railway line?

14.15 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS...Contd

(iii) Re: Need to expedite the construction work of Ghorghat Bridge connecting Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in Bhagalpur under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (MUNGER): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the Zero Hour today. I was supposed to speak in the Zero Hour yesterday, but due to poor health, I was unable to speak yesterday.

Sir, Hon. Prime Minister had stated that every Member of Parliament should adopt one village each. It has been more than a year now. When I visit my constituency, people ask me why I haven't initiated any development project yet. I would like to request our Prime Minister to initiate this work as soon as possible. In my parliamentary constituency, there is a Ghorghat bridge in the Munger Assembly constituency which is the main route to Baba Ki Nagari, Deoghar. It is the bridge from which people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh pass through. It has been lying broken for fifteen years. We desire that it should be repaired and a bridge be constructed on one side.

[English]

THE 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):

Sir, on the issue raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Veena Devi, Sansad Adarsh Gram is basically to adopt a village by Members of Parliament and use the support of the District Administration, the State Government and their own resources to adopt it as an ideal and model village. The Prime Minister's appeal to the hon. Members is that Members of Parliament should primarily adopt these villages and make them a place where they can serve those people and make them a model to be replicated everywhere. The Prime Minister will not make it happen. It is the whole system that has to work together. This is a great and noble idea which has to be done and all the MPs are making efforts on this part.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Sir, in my State of Telangana, irrigated land is one crore acres. Out of these one crore acres of land, 42 lakh acres is under the cultivation of cotton. In spite of the drought condition, the farming community in the State of

Telangana had raised the crop of cotton in these 42 lakh acres. This is the harvest time and the Minimum Support Price of cotton is only Rs. 4150.

I urge upon the Government to raise it to Rs. 5000. The hon. Prime Minister, during his election meetings, said that the Swaminathan Committee Report will be implemented but unfortunately, the Government has not taken any steps to increase the Minimum Support Price of cotton. Thus, I urge upon the Government to increase the MSP of cotton to Rs. 5000.

[Translation]

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance. Indian Railways operates passenger and freight trains for the convenience of the country's citizens. Several years ago, two railway surveys were conducted in my parliamentary constituency of Hamirpur, which are of great significance. Therefore, the railway had conducted a survey for it. There was a survey regarding connecting Hamirpur Road with the Urai railway line, passing through Durga Temple, Kurara, and Kadaura. The second survey pertained to a railway line from Mahoba to Charkhari, Rath Gohand, and Urai extending up to Bhind.

Sir, through you, I humbly request the Government of India to ensure that the findings of this survey are definitely incorporated into the budget for the upcoming financial year 2016-17.

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Sir, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the deplorable condition of National Highway 75 within my parliamentary constituency of Palamu. This road extends from Padwa Mod, passing through Mudhisamar and Garhwa, up to the border of Uttar Pradesh. The construction for this road began in the year 2010. This was supposed to be completed by the year 2012, but even today, only one-fourth of this National Highway has been completed. The condition of this road is so much deplorable that it is marked by numerous potholes and clouds of dust blowing up around it causing a number of diseases to millions of people. I, through you, would like to request that the construction of this road be expedited. ... *(Interruptions)*

14.22 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS...Contd.

(iv) Re : Need to construct a Panchnad Project in Bundelkhand region to solve the problem of drought in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR DOHRE (ETAWAH): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. This is my maiden speech in the House. I am elected from the Etawah parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Just a while ago, there was a discussion on drought in the House and the Minister elaborated the drought situation to the entire House. Today, I would like, through you, to speak about the issue of drought. The Hon. Minister is present in the House. My area falls within that specific region as well. The region that comprises Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand area often faces the issue of drought. The Hon. Minister has visited our region because in our area, the Yamuna, Chambal, Kwari, Sind, and Pahuj rivers converge at one place, known as Panchnad. In that region, there is also an issue of drought. I would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister that demands for the Panchnad Project have continued to be raised persistently for quite a long time in that area.

I would like to say that the confluence of five rivers is called a "Panchnad" region. There is also a very large fair held there. Establishing the Panchnad Project there would help resolve the drought issue in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and it would also

alleviate the electricity crisis. I am deeply grateful for being given the opportunity to speak in the House today. Thank you very much.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Ashok Kumar Dohre.

THE 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): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Ashok Kumar Dohre was the Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh. Because of your presence in the Chair, the hon. Member got to speak for the first time. Being a former Cabinet Minister in a State is also something very appreciable. Your effort will be appreciated by the House always for making Shri Ashok Kumar Dohre to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you. I want to

respond to the Hon. Member. *[Translation]* They have raised the issue of drought in Bundelkhand and mentioned Panchanada as a solution, where five rivers converge. As they are speaking for the first time, I will present them with this gift for the first time that we will include Panchnada in the PMKSY. I am delivering this assurance within the Parliament itself. Very soon, we will get a report prepared on this matter by the CWC and apprise the Hon. Member of Parliament and the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call everyone. Do not worry.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR (PURNIYA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. There is a Seemanchal Express train running from Anand Vihar to Jogbani in which passengers have to face a lot of difficulties due to the absence of a pantry car. The train journey from Anand Vihar to Jogbani takes approximately 25 to 30 hours. There is no cleanliness in the train at all. An AC First Class compartment should be added to it.

Sir, through the House, we demand from the Hon. Railway Minister that a pantry car should be added to the Seemanchal Express

running from Anand Vihar to Jogbani, and arrangements for its cleanliness should be ensured. Since it is the only train which originates from Seemanchal and arrives at Anand Vihar.

Sir, it is requested through you that initiative should be taken in this regard.

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity. In Assam, 55 percent of tea production takes place. There are approximately 9 lakh tea labourers here. These tea labourers do not receive wages raised after independence till today. The Hon. Labour Minister is present in the House. I would request the Labour Minister to urge the Assam Government and other concerned authorities to take necessary action to raise their wages. Tea garden labourers receive only 115 rupees. Hon. Minister, kindly arrange for them to be provided with raised wages on a daily basis.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa with regard to the 'Zero Hour' mention made by him today.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I wish to inform the Government that my Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency, Bulandshahr, is only 75 kilometers away from Delhi and is part of the Delhi NCR. But there is no rail facility to travel. Last year, a survey was conducted, which extends from Dadri to Narola via Bulandshahr. I would like to request through you that Hon. Railway Minister may order and ensure the completion of the said railway line in the upcoming budget session.

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Bogapani Railway Station in my Dibrugarh Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency has been closed for a long time. I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to expedite the opening of the railway station.

SHRI MUKESH RAJUT (FARUKHABAD): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, about 400 acres of land adjacent to our Farukhabad Parliamentary Constituency are lying unused. Earlier, Dhak and Vilayati Babul trees used to grow there on their own t, which people would cut down after six months and utilize as fuel. I would like to request the Environment Minister to establish a central wildlife sanctuary in about 2000 acres of land lying unutilized there There are no wildlife sanctuaries in the surrounding 14-15 districts. Therefore, a wildlife sanctuary can be established there.

SHRI RATNA LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Deputy Speaker Sir, just last week, a delegation from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Forum met with the Hon. Prime Minister. The Hon. Prime Minister has also assured to take all the issues related to Dalits into consideration sympathetically. The expanding scope of the private sector is progressively narrowing employment opportunities for Dalits on daily basis. Even in class-four services, one-third of the jobs are being filled through outsourcing and contracts. The 85th Constitutional Amendment related to reservations is being challenged everyday in the court resulting in a series of demotions for Dalit employees instead of promotions. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, all these things need to be checked. I would like to request through you to the Government to pass a Constitutional Amendment Bill in the parliament to safeguard the reservation for Dalits. All the backlog vacancies need to be filled in a mission mode. I would like to urge that all the issues related to reservations for Dalits be addressed by passing a law and incorporating them into the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, so that the problems faced by the Dalit community can be solved.

14.28 hours**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS...Contd.****(v) Re: Need to repair Ganga Ghats in Dumdum Parliamentary constituency, West Bengal**

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving opportunity to every Member to raise questions pertaining to his respective parliamentary constituency. You have set this new precedent. For this initiative, your name will be written in golden letters. Mrs. Uma Bharti ji, today I raise a question directed towards you. The Ganges River flows amid my parliamentary constituency. There are four municipalities along the Ganges namely Bada Nagar, Kamarhatti, Panihatti and Khardaha. During the time of the Ganga River Basin Authority, restoration work was carried out on all the ghats of the Ganga in all the three municipalities namely Kanharhatti, Panihatti, and Khardaha with the help of the Central Government. I have been writing about them for the past one and a half years. This matter was previously under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment. A new ministry has just been formed. The NGRBA was changed into 'Namami Gange', but Bada Nagar, with which Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Vivekananda, Rabindranath and Prashant Mahanandi are associated. There are 13-14 ghats which are required to be repaired.

THE 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): Sir, the Hon. Minister wanted to respond to the issue raised by Prof. Sougata Ray.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI): Sir, just to honour the elder Member of Parliament, respected Saugata *dada*, I want to inform *dada* that we have taken up Navadwip, Kolkata with utmost priority. We have taken over the entire stretch of Bengal. I am confident that by April, you will be able to see the tangible work at all these places. I assure you.

[English]

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI (BELAGAVI): Sir, my constituency, Belagavi is one of the educational hubs. Everyday students are met with accidents because of lack of railway over-bridge. Hence, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to direct the concerned authorities to take up construction of railway bridges in my constituency as early as possible.

I would also like to request the Civil Aviation Minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju to develop the airport.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to speak on a matter of urgent public importance pertaining to my constituency. First and foremost, I extend my congratulations and gratitude to you for granting me permission. In my Maharajganj Lok Sabha constituency, there are several firms related to agriculture. In the previous session, I had also urged for the establishment of a National Agricultural University in Mahrajganj. I would again like to request the Government through you that in Jalalpur in Maharajganj Lok Sabha Constituency...

(Interruptions)

[English]

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, regarding education loan, I would like to state that this scheme has been formulated for the purpose of helping the poor people to pursue their higher studies. Presently, the nationalized banks are not giving education loan on one pretext or another. Everything is being denied. The other issue is about recovery of the loan. State Bank of Travancore has entrusted the entire task to recovery loan with Reliance, a private company. They are issuing notices from Mumbai. Poor persons are compelled to respond

to the notices issued from Mumbai and they are compelled to be present in Mumbai for redressal of their grievances. This is a very serious issue. Hence, I urge upon the Government to take this issue seriously and do something for helping the poor people.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri B.K. Biju is allowed to be associated with the issue raised by Adv. Joice George.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, it is a matter of surprise for me to know that India accounts for 6,96,000 neonatal deaths per year. 'Neonatal death' is defined as a death during the first 28 days of life. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), two-thirds of these deaths can be prevented by adopting proven and cost effective measures. There is a need for providing good quality care around the time of birth of a child. Particularly in the first days after birth which would go a long way in saving or preventing complications and infections in newborns.

I would like to strongly urge the Ministry of Health to make renewed efforts by adopting the basic efforts and by coordinating with the global health partners such as WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, UNAIDS.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR): Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways to intervene in the matter of construction of level-crossing at Pealy Railway Station on Sealdah-

Canning line. It is an old railway station with good Ticket Selling Counter also. Due to absence of level crossing, vehicles from one side of the platform cannot move to the other side. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to do the needful.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI): Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Bhiwandi Lok Sabha constituency, the 15 kilometer gap between Titwala and Kharouli on the Central Railway causes significant inconvenience to the residents of 25 to 30 villages. Through you, I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to consider establishing a station at Gurauli between these two locations.

SHRI CHOTELAL (RABERTSGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, toll plazas have been set up in order to charge toll tax at two or three locations in our Sonbhadra district, causing inconvenience to the public. The farmers of Sonbhadra face significant challenges in transporting paddy from one place to another using tractors. I would like to request the Uttar Pradesh Government through you that toll tax should not be levied on farmers in that district. Their toll tax should be exempted.

DR. BANSILAL MAHTO (KORBA) Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, just as there are AIIMS in many states, similarly, Ayush hospital should be set up in every State, so that all types of medical treatments

may be available. The Panchakarma, a significant medical procedure, is a method through which a person's body is rejuvenated. There should be a 30-bed hospital in every district to accommodate this practice.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Banshilal Mahato.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Adhiyamankottai to Hosur Road is an important State Highway No. 17 in Tamil Nadu. The stretch from 0/0-4/450 and 16/0-103/4 is maintained by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The remaining part from 4/450-16/0 on NH 207 stretch is being maintained by the National Highways Authority of India. This road is an important inter-State connectivity road. This road starts in Karnataka State border at Malur adjacent to Hosur union, which runs through Hosur, Rayakottai and Palakkod towns and ends at Adhiyamankottai near Dharmapuri. This road lies both in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri Districts of Tamil Nadu. This road is the shortest route to connect Hosur with Dharmapuri. The distance between Hosur to Dharmapuri via Krishnagiri through NH 44 is 96 kms. and through

Hosur-Dharmapuri road (SH 17) is 79 kms and hence there is a saving of 17 kms. of vehicle running cost.

So, I urge upon the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways to convert the stretch from 0/0-4/450 and 16/0-103/4 as National Highways.

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Zaheerabad, the absence of a foot-over bridge at one of the railway stations has resulted in numerous accidents. A foot-over bridge and a ROB should be constructed there. Additionally, the railway line in Bidar has been lying pending for a long time and action should be taken in this regard as well.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Deputy Speaker Sir, the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides an honorarium of Rs. 2000/- for teacher motivators. The payment of allowances has not been made in Bihar for the past two years. The Central Government should increase their minimum wage at least by Rs. 10000 and ensure prompt payment of arrears.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Article 159 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor assumes office by taking oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. The Governor more than any functionary in the State is duty bound to preserve the Constitution. Under Article 163 of the Constitution, the Governor is required to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister in the exercise of his functions. Under Article 174 of the Constitution, the Governor is empowered to summon the State Legislature. However, this power is to be exercised in accordance with Article 163 of the Constitution which implies that the Legislature can be summoned only on the advice of the Council of Ministers. The Governor appears to have*the provisions of Article 175 (2) of the Constitution. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that cannot go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

SHRI P. KUMAR: Sir, I mentioned it only in a general way. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything about the Governor's action cannot go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... *

[*English*]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, he has not mentioned any State. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KUMAR: Sir, this provision is intended for sending special messages. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE 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): Sir, this cannot go on record. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told that anything about the Governor cannot go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KUMAR: It is not intended for the House to function unilaterally, not it is intended to tamper with the agenda for the discussion of the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, this is the matter of the Constitution and if anyone wants to raise an issue about the Governor, under the rules and the Constitution, it should be under a substantive motion. No substantive motion has been received by the House. Nonetheless, even the Congress Members have been protesting about it on the floor of the House shouting and screaming. They have not raised this issue on the floor of the House from their chairs. The Government is always prepared to take up any motion for discussion concerning anything under the Constitution, but the process should be right. Even my friends from the Congress Party, who walked out, wanted to raise the issue; there was no quorum; there was no decorum in the House. As such, such things can only be – which are serious matters – under a substantive motion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anything said about the Governor cannot go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KUMAR: Sir, it is too important to confine it to just Arunachal Pradesh.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Regarding the Governor whatever is said, it cannot go on record, I told.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KUMAR: Sir, the act of the Arunachal Pradesh ...
(*Interruptions*)... * The President of India should ... (*Interruptions*)...

*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Regarding the Governor thing, it cannot go on record, I told.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray, Dr. K. Gopal, Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu, Dr. Sidhant Mohapatra, Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Shri P.R. Senthilnathan, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shrimati R. Vanaroja, Shri K. Ashok Kumar, Shri P. Nagarajan, Shri R.K. Bharathi Mohan, Dr. K. Kamaraj, Shri V. Elumalai, Shri Dushyant Chautala and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Kumar.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

14.42 hours

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

15.32 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Two Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

MOTION RE: 17TH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Private Members' Business – Item No. 17, 'Motion for adoption of 17th Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th December, 2015.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th December, 2015.”

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hours**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS-Introduced**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have 102 Bills for introduction. I would therefore request the Members not to read the complete title of the Bill; instead, Members should stand and say, 'I seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill and mention the serial number'. That is enough.

Now, Item No. 18, Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo –No, he is not available.

Item No. 19, Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo – No, he is not available.

Item No. 20, Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo – No, he is not available.

Item No. 21, Shri Chandrakant Khaire –Not present.

Item No. 22, Shri Prem Das Rai – Not present.

Item No. 23, Shri Yogi Adityanath –Not present.

Item No. 24, Shri Yogi Adityanath – Not present.

15.33 ½ hours**(i)MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN (WELFARE) BILL,
2015***

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 25, Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain measures to be undertaken by the Union and the State Governments for the welfare of mentally retarded children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain measures to be undertaken by the Union and the State Governments for the welfare of mentally retarded children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The leave is granted. Now, the Member may introduce the Bill.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Sir, I also introduce the Bill.

15.34 hours

(ii) THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Insertion of new articles 16A and 16AA)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 26 – Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, I propose that permission be granted to enact and amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Member may introduce the Bill.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Sir, may I also introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, item No. 27 – Shri A.T. Nana Patil. He is not present.

(iii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Substitution of new Article for Article 331)

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hours

**(iv) ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of Section 26)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

15.35 ¼ hours

**(v)ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANISATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015
*(Amendment of Section 31)***

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 ½ hours**(vi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Substitution of new Article for Article 130)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hours**(vii) INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Substitution of new Section for Section 124A)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 ½ hours

(viii) ASYLUM BILL, 2015*

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system to protect refugees and asylum-seekers by means of an appropriate legal framework to determine claims for asylum and to provide for the rights and obligations flowing from such status and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an effective system to protect refugees and asylum-seekers by means of an appropriate legal framework

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

to determine claims for asylum and to provide for the rights and obligations flowing from such status and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hours

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BILL-Negatived

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL. 2015*

(Substitution of new Section for Section 377)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

Shri Nishikant Dubey. Please do not make a long speech. Just say to the point what you want to say.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I stand to oppose it. I am on my legs to oppose it not on the basis of any religion, Vedas, or Puranas, but rather on the basis of the Supreme Court judgment.

Sir, it is written in that judgment of the Supreme Court –

[English]

“The family law in England has undergone a drastic change, recognized new social relationship between man and woman. In our country, however, even today a marriage is an arranged affair. We do not say that there are no exceptions to this practice or that there is no tendency, however, imperceptible, for young persons to choose their own spouses, but even in such cases the consent of their parents is one of the desiderata which is sought for. Whether it is obtained in any given set of circumstances is another matter. In such arranged marriages in this country the question of two persons being engaged for any appreciable

time to enable each other to meet and be in a position to exercise undue influence on one another very rarely arises.”

In addition, they have written -

“No doubt an objective and rational deduction of a principle if it emerges from a decision of a foreign country rendered on a *parimateria* legislative provision and which can be applicable to the conditions prevailing in this country will assist the court in arriving at a proper conclusion. While we should seek light from whatever source we can get we should, however, guard against being blinded by it. In view of the above, we hold that Section 377 IPC does not suffer from the vice of unconstitutionality and the declaration made by the Division Bench of the High Court is legally unsustainable.”

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that the hon. Member is actually quoting in a very partial manner from the Supreme Court Judgement. In fact, I have the relevant portion. The Supreme Court rather than upholding the Section actually said that the onus is on the competent legislature of Parliament and I quote:

“To consider the desirability and propriety of deleting Section 377 IPC from the statute book or amend the same.
”

What I am doing is, following the direction of the Supreme Court, I am proposing an amendment of the same. I am not deleting it. Therefore, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We want Division.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be cleared -

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

Now, the Secretary-General to inform the House about the procedure regarding operating the automatic vote recording machine.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording System: -

1. Before a division starts, every hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only;

2. When the hon. Deputy-Speaker says: “now division”, the Secretary-General will activate the voting button where upon "red bulbs above Display Boards" on both sides of the hon. Speaker's Chair will glow and a gong sound will be heard. This means the Voting System has been activated simultaneously.

3. For voting, hon. Members may kindly press the following two buttons simultaneously only after the sound of the gong and I repeat only after the sound of the gong. One "red" button in front of the hon. Member on the head of the phone plate and any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of desk of seats:

For Ayes - Green colour

For Noes - Red colour

For Abstain - Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till another gong is heard and the red bulbs above the plasma display switch off.

5. The hon. Members may please note that their votes will not be registered if the buttons are kept pressed before the first gong and if both buttons are not kept simultaneously pressed till the second gong.

6. Hon. Members can actually “see” their vote on Display Boards installed on either side of the hon. Speaker’s Chair.

7. In case, vote is not registered, hon. Members may call for the voting through slips. **HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The Lok Sabha divided.

DIVISION**AYES****15.44 Hrs.**

Babu, Dr. Ravindra

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Chautala, Shri Dushyant

Dastidar, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh

Dev, Kumari Sushmita

Ering, Shri Ninong

Ghosh, Shrimati Arpita

Hansdak, Shri Vijay Kumar

Jena, Shri Rabindra Kumar

Khan, Shri Md. Badaruddoza

Khan, Shri Saumitra

Kumar, Shri Kaushalendra

Kumar, Shri Santosh

Kumar, Shri Shailesh

Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari

Mohapatra, Dr. Sidhant

Pandey, Dr. Mahendra Nath

Patasani, Shri Prasanna Kumar

*Ranjan, Shri Rajesh

Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet

*Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender

Satav, Shri Rajeev

Satpathy, Shri Tathagata

Shetty, Shri Raju

*Sinha, Shrimati Renuka

Tharoor, Dr. Shashi

Tirkey, Shri Dasrath

NOES

Ahlawat, Shrimati Santosh

Bala, Shrimati Anju

Barne, Shri Shrirang Appa

Bhabhor, Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai

Bhagat, Shri Sudarshan

Birla, Shri Om

Bohra, Shri Ramcharan

Chandel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Chaudhary, Shri C. R.

Chaudhary, Shri P.P.

Choudhary, Col. Sonaram

Deka, Shri Ramen

Dohre, Shri Ashok Kumar

Dubey, Shri Nishikant

Dwivedi, Shri Harishchandra alias Harish

Gaikwad, Dr. Sunil Baliram

Girri, Shri Maheish

Gowda, Shri D.V. Sadananda

Gurjar, Shri Krishanpal

*Jaiswal, Dr. Sanjay

Jardosh, Shrimati Darshana Vikram

Jyoti, Sadhvi Niranjana

Kaswan, Shri Rahul

Kaushik, Shri Ramesh Chander

Kishore, Shri Jugal

Koli, Shri Bahadur Singh

Kumar, Shri Dharmendra

Kushawaha, Shri Ravinder

*Lakhanpal, Shri Raghav

Mahato, Dr. Banshilal

Meena, Shri Harish

Meghwal, Shri Arjun Ram

Mishra, Shri Daddan

Munde, Dr. Pritam Gopinath

Nagar, Shri Rodmal

Narasimham, Shri Thota

Nishank, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Pal, Shri Jagdambika

Pandey, Shri Hari Om

Patel, Shri Devji M.

Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh

Pathak, Shrimati Riti

*Patil, Shri A.T. Nana

Patil, Shri C. R.

Rajoria, Dr. Manoj

Rajput, Shri Mukesh

Rathod, Shri D.S.

Rathore, Col. Rajyavardhan

Rathore, Shri Hariom Singh

Raut, Shri Vinayak Bhaurao

Saini, Shri Rajkumar

Sampla, Shri Vijay

Sarswati, Shri Sumedhanand

Sharma, Shri Ram Swaroop

Shetty, Shri Gopal

Shewale, Shri Rahul

Shinde, Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Sigriwal, Shri Janardan Singh

Singh, Shri Bhola

Singh, Shri Dushyant

Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan

Singh, Shri Nagendra

Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Shri Rajveer

Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar

Singh, Shri Uday Pratap

Singh, Shri Virendra

Sinha, Shri Manoj

Solanki, Dr. Kirit P.

Sonkar, Shri Vinod Kumar

Tasa, Shri Kamakhya Prasad

Tripathi, Shri Sharad

Usendi, Shri Vikram

Yadav, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan

*Yadav, Shri Laxmi Narayan

Yadav, Shri Om Prakash

ABSTAIN

Raj, Dr. Udit

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes --24

Noes -- 071

Abstain -- 001

The motion was negatived.

*The following Members also recorded their votes through slips.

Ayes : 024 + S/Shri Rajesh Ranjan, A.P. Jithender Reddy, Shrimati Renuka Sinha = 027

Noes : 071 + Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, S/Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, A.T. Nana Patil, Laxmi Narayan Yadav = 075

Abstain : 001

15.45 hours

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS-Introduced...Contd.

**(ix) CLINICAL ESTABLISHMENTS
(REGISTRATION AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT
BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation), Act, 2010.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45 ½ hours**(x) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Insertion of new articles 77A, etc.).

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hours**(xi) TRANSGENDER PERSONS (WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare of transgender persons and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for welfare of transgender persons and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46 ¼ hours

**(xii) THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER
TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF
FOREST RIGHTS) AMENDMENT BILL, 2015**

(Amendment of Section 2)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (HATKANANGALE): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJU SHETTY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Singh --- Absent.

15.46 ½ hours

**(xiii) DESTITUTE AND NEGLECTED WOMEN (WELFARE)
BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for maintenance and welfare measures to be undertaken by the State for the destitute, neglected, old, infirm or physically challenged widow, divorcee or

unmarried women through establishment of an Authority and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for maintenance and welfare measures to be undertaken by the State for the destitute, neglected, old, infirm or physically challenged widow, divorcee or unmarried women through establishment of an Authority and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 hours

(xiv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Insertion of new article 300B)

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 ¼ hours**(xv) BUREAU OF ACCOUNTABILITY BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Bureau of Accountability to suggest measures for rooting out corruption; making the administration efficient and for matters connected therewith.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Bureau of Accountability to suggest measures for rooting out corruption; making the administration efficient and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 ½ hours

(xvi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Substitution of new article for article 21A)

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hours**(xvii) SAVITA AMBEDKAR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR
WOMEN BILL, 2015***

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a University in the National Capital Territory of Delhi to provide for avenues of higher education and research facilities to the women in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a University in the National Capital Territory of Delhi to provide for avenues of higher education and research facilities to the women in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

15.48 ½ hours

**(xviii) FREE EDUCATIONAL AND HOSTEL FACILITIES TO
STUDENTS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES,
SCHEDULED TRIBES AND ECONOMICALLY WEAKER
CLASS BILL, 2015***

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free educational and hostel facilities upto post graduation level for the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Economically Weaker Class and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free educational and hostel facilities upto post graduation level for the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Economically Weaker Class and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

15.49 hours

(xix) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of articles 124 and 216)

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I introduce the Bill.

15.49 ¼ hours

**(xx)SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PERMANENT BENCH AT AURANGABAD) BILL, 2015***

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court of India at Aurangabad.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court of India at Aurangabad.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce** the Bill.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.49 ½ hours

**(xxi) ANGANWADI WORKERS (REGULARIZATION
OF SERVICE AND OTHER BENEFITS) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization of services of anganwadi workers, conferring the status of permanent employee of the Government on them and for matters connected therewith.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regularization of services of anganwadi workers, conferring the status of permanent employee of the Government on them and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.50 hours

**(xxii) REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015
(Amendment of Section 30)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1951.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.50 ½ hours

**(xxiii) RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND
COMPULSORY EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2015***

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir,
I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend Right of
Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend
Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act,
2009.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hours

**(xxiv) PERSONS BELONGING TO ECONOMICALLY
WEAKER SECTION (RESERVATION OF VACANCIES
IN POSTS AND SERVICES) BILL, 2015**

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies in posts and services in establishments under the Central Government in favour of persons belonging to the economically weaker section and for matters connected therewith.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies in posts and services in establishments under the Central Government in favour of persons belonging to the economically weaker section and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.51 ¼ hours**(xxv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of articles 338 and 340)

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.51 ½ hours**(xxvi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of article 16)

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.52 hours

**(xxvii) NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD
CLASSES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 1, etc.)

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.”

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.52 ¼ hours

(xxviii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Insertion of new article 123A).

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.52 ½ hours

**(xxix) ARTISANS (WELFARE AND PROMOTION) BILL,
2015***

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Board for the Welfare and promotion of cultural and traditional handicraft in the country and further to provide institutional and financial assistance to the artisans living in rural areas and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Board for the Welfare and promotion of cultural and traditional handicraft in the country and further to provide institutional and financial assistance to the artisans living in rural areas and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.53 hours

**(xxx) NATIONAL CADET CORPS (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2015**

(Amendment of Section 6)

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MAHESH GIRI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.53 ¼ hours

(xxxii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of articles 341 and 342)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

15.53 ½ hours

(xxxii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015 *

(Substitution of new article for article 130)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

15.54 hours

**(xxxiii) SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SANTHAL
PARGANA REGION OF THE STATE OF JHARKHAND
BILL, 2015***

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the Santhal Pargana region of the State of Jharkhand for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of the persons and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the Santhal Pargana region of the State of Jharkhand for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes of the persons and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce** the Bill.

15.54 ½ hours

**(xxxiv) CONSUMER GOODS (RIGHT TO FREE RETURN)
BILL, 2015***

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for consumers the right to free return of consumer goods within a stipulate time and for all matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for consumers the right to free return of consumer goods within a stipulate time and for all matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pandey – not present.

15.55 hours

**(xxxv) PROTECTION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM
SEEKERS BILL, 2015***

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for, in the interest of upholding the values of international human rights, an appropriate legal framework to process matters relating to forced migration in respect of determination of refugee status, protection from refoulement and treatment during stay.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for, in the interest of upholding the values of international human rights, an appropriate legal framework to process matters relating to forced migration in respect of determination of refugee status, protection from refoulement and treatment during stay.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: I introduce the Bill.

15.55 ½ hours

**(xxxvi) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of the Schedule)

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NINONG ERING: I introduce the Bill.

15.56 hours

**(xxxvii) REGULATION OF COMPUTER TRAINING
CENTRES BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of computer training centres, banning of all the computer training centres functioning without registration from the Government.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of computer training centres, banning of all the computer training centres functioning without registration from the Government.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I introduced the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

15.56 ½ hours**(xxxviii) CONTROL OF RISING PRICES BILL, 2015****[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the deterrent measures for the control of consistently rising prices of essential commodities particularly of food grains, pulses, edible oils, fruits and vegetables and items of daily use which have adversely affected the common man and for prevention of hoarding, profiteering and determination of prices of all consumer goods by the appropriate Government to give the desired relief to the common man and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the deterrent measures for the control of consistently rising prices of essential commodities particularly of food grains, pulses, edible oils, fruits and vegetables and items of daily

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

use which have adversely affected the common man and for prevention of hoarding, profiteering and determination of prices of all consumer goods by the appropriate Government to give the desired relief to the common man and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.57 hours

**(xxxix) NEGLECTED AND SUFFERING WIDOWS
(PROTECTION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of the needy, suffering, abandoned, destitute, old or infirm widows of the society by initiating welfare measures for such widows by the Central and State Government and for the establishment of an Authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of the needy, suffering, abandoned, destitute, old or infirm widows of the society by initiating welfare measures for such widows by the Central and State Government and for the establishment of an Authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.57 ½ hours

**(xl) DISTRESSED AND NEGLECTED WIDOWS AND
DIVORCED WOMEN (MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT AND
WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protective umbrella through maintenance, financial and other requisite support withdrawal from begging, chanting of bhajan as profession and flesh trade, freedom

from exploitation and for the welfare measures to be undertaken by the State for the distressed, neglected, indigent, poverty or infirmity stricken widows and divorced women irrespective of their caste, creed or religion and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protective umbrella through maintenance, financial and other requisite support withdrawal from begging, chanting of bhajan as profession and flesh trade, freedom from exploitation and for the welfare measures to be undertaken by the State for the distressed, neglected, indigent, poverty or infirmity stricken widows and divorced women irrespective of their caste, creed or religion and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. ”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.58 hours**(xli) PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Substitution of new section for section 28)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce the Bill.

15.58 ½ hours**(xlii) RELIGIOUS CONVERSION (PROHIBITION) BILL,
2015***

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious

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conversions by inducement, coercion or undue influence and for matters therewith.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious conversions by inducement, coercion or undue influence and for matters therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: I introduce the Bill.

15.59 hours

**(xliii) SPECIAL DRINKING WATER AND IRRIGATION
DEVELOPMENT FUND (FOR DARK ZONE AREAS)
BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL (JALORE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Special Drinking Water and Irrigation Development Fund for supply of drinking water and developing irrigation facilities in the dark zone areas and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Special Drinking Water and Irrigation Development Fund for supply of drinking water and developing irrigation facilities in the dark zone areas and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: I introduce the Bill.

15.59 ½ hours

**(xliv) HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY (ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT PUNE) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court of Bombay at Pune.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court of Bombay at Pune.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: I introduce the Bill.

16.00 hours

**(xlv) FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL,
2015* (*Amendment of Section 2*)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.0 ¼ hours

**(xlv) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.0 ½ hours

**(xlvii) REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Insertion of new section 61B)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

16.0 ¾ hours**(xlviii) SEX WORKERS (REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL, 2015***

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and social security of sex workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and social security of sex workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: I introduce** the Bill.

16.01 hours

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**(xlix) TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN (SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PROTECTION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the socio-economic protection and welfare of the traditional fishermen in the country by establishing a Welfare Fund for their benefit and for providing adequate life insurance cover against accidents, medical care, financial assistance for fishing nets, boats and other necessities, unemployment allowance during lean periods, free education including vocational education and training to their children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the socio-economic protection and welfare of the traditional fishermen in the country by establishing a Welfare Fund for their benefit and for providing adequate life insurance cover

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

against accidents, medical care, financial assistance for fishing nets, boats and other necessities, unemployment allowance during lean periods, free education including vocational education and training to their children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Item No. 73 - Shri Harish Chandra Meena – not present.

Item No. 74 - Shri C.P. Joshi – not present.

Item No. 75 – Shri Sunil Kumar Singh.

16.0 1 ¼ hours

(I) WIDOWS' WELFARE BILL, 2015*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of widows and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.01 ½ hours

**(li) MEGA PROJECTS (TIMELY COMPLETION) BILL,
2015***

[Translation]

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for timely completion of all mega projects and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for timely completion of all mega projects and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.01 ¾ hours

(lii) JHARKHAND ATOMIC AUTHORITY BILL, 2015*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Atomic Authority for the purposes of setting up an atomic power plant for generating electricity in the State of Jharkhand and for matters connected therewith.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Atomic Authority for the purposes of setting up an atomic power plant for generating electricity in the State of Jharkhand and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

16.02 hours**(liii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015******(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)***

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Deputy Sir, I propose that permission be granted to reintroduce the Bill amending the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Deputy Sir, I move the Bill for consideration.

16.02 ¼ hours**(liv) DISTRESSED VETERAN SPORTS PERSONS
(WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare measures for the distressed veteran sportspersons such as old age pension for subsistence, disability assistance, healthcare facilities and housing facilities to be undertaken by the State and for the Constitution of Distressed Veteran Sportspersons Welfare Fund and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare measures for the distressed veteran sportspersons such as old age pension for subsistence, disability assistance, healthcare facilities and housing facilities to be undertaken by the State and for the Constitution of Distressed Veteran Sportspersons Welfare Fund and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.02 ½ hours

**(Iv) COMPULSORY PHYSICAL FITNESS OF
CHILDREN THROUGH SPORTS IN SCHOOLS AND
DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE
BILL, 2015***

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote sports education and physical fitness for an all-round development of children in the country and to develop international standard sports infrastructure in the country, by making sports a compulsory regular subject in schools and providing equal opportunity and incentives to sportspersons across the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to promote sports education and physical fitness for an all-round development of children in the country and to develop international standard sports infrastructure in the country, by making sports a compulsory regular subject in schools and providing equal opportunity and incentives to sportspersons across the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.02 ¾ hours

**(Ivi) DISTRESSED FARMERS (SPECIAL FACILITIES
PROTECTION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2015***

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the special facilities and protection of distressed farmers who are affected by various natural calamities, and victims of indebtedness, physical infirmities, diseases, old age, exploitation, etc. by giving adequate compensation, extending relief measures, removal of indebtedness, prevention of

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

exploitation by moneylenders and other unscrupulous elements, extending easy and hassle free bank loans, giving remunerative prices for their produce, improving farming practices through scientific means, extending compulsory market intervention in cases of bumper crop, compulsory insurance of crops and livestock, old age allowance, medicare and other welfare measures to ensure that they do not commit suicide and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the special facilities and protection of distressed farmers who are affected by various natural calamities, and victims of indebtedness, physical infirmities, diseases, old age, exploitation, etc. by giving adequate compensation, extending relief measures, removal of indebtedness, prevention of exploitation by moneylenders and other unscrupulous elements, extending easy and hassle free bank loans, giving remunerative prices for their produce, improving farming practices through scientific means, extending compulsory market intervention in cases of bumper crop, compulsory insurance of crops and livestock, old age allowance, medicare and other welfare

measures to ensure that they do not commit suicide and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.03 hours

(lvii) ELECTRONIC WASTE BILL, 2015*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for proper handling and disposal of electronic waste by prescribing norms and fixing duties on manufacturers, recyclers and consumers with regard to disposal of electronic waste and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for proper handling and disposal of electronic waste by prescribing norms and fixing duties on manufacturers, recyclers and consumers with regard to disposal of electronic waste and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce** the Bill.

16.03 ¼ hours

**(lviii) COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 3)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

16.03 ½ hours

**(lix) SOLAR ENERGY (DEVELOPMENT AND
COMPULSORY USE) BILL, 2015***

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for development of solar power generation and mandatory use of solar power by every household, business establishment and Government building, in order to promote use of non-conventional energy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for development of solar power generation and mandatory use of solar power by every household, business establishment and Government building, in order to promote use of non-conventional energy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

16.03 ¾ hours

(lx) INSECTICIDES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of sections 4 and 9)

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: I introduce the Bill.

16.04 hours**(lxi) PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015****(Amendment of section 73, etc.)*

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1968.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: I introduce the Bill.

HON.

Item No. 90 –Shri Jagdambika Pal –

DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

not present

Item No. 91 – Shri Jagdambika Pal –

not present.

Item No. 92 – Shri Om Birla

16.04 ¼ hours**(lxii) WITNESS PROTECTION BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Deputy-Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide compulsory protection to all persons coming forth to provide information as witnesses in a court of law within the territory of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide compulsory protection to all persons coming forth to provide information as witnesses in a court of law within the territory of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI OM BIRLA: Deputy-Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.04 ½ hours**(lxiii) CONSTITUTIONAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of article 84)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.04 ¾ hours**(lxiv) MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 2 etc.)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 hours

(lxv) HINDU SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Substitution of new section for section 15)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 ¼ hours

**(lxvi) CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 358)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 ½ hours**(lxvii) NATIONAL ASYLUM BILL, 2015***

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for citizenship rules of refugees and asylum seekers.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for citizenship rules of refugees and asylum seekers.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: I introduce the Bill.

16.05 ¾ hours**(lxviii) SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
BACKWARD REGION OF BUNDELKHAND BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL
(HAMIRPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the backward region of Bundelkhand for the

purpose of ensuring the welfare of farmers, agricultural labourers, landless labourers, poor women, old aged persons and the unemployed youth and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.”

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the backward region of Bundelkhand for the purpose of ensuring the welfare of farmers, agricultural labourers, landless labourers, poor women, old aged persons and the unemployed youth and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.”

The motion was adopted.

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 hours**(lxix) DROUGHT CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF
FARMERS OF DROUGHT PRONE AREAS BILL, 2015****[Translation]*

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide funds to the States affected with drought for construction and maintenance of water resources for irrigation; interest-free agricultural loans for protection of farmers of the drought prone area; and encouragement to bio-farming and action plan for the creation of market for agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide funds to the States affected with drought for construction and maintenance of water resources for irrigation; interest-free agricultural loans for protection of farmers of the drought prone area; and encouragement to bio-farming and action plan for the creation of market for agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

The motion was adopted.

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 ¼ hours

(lxx) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of articles 84 and 173)

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: I introduce the Bill.

16.06 ½ hours

**(lxxi) MEDICAL CONSULTANCY AND OTHER SERVICES
(RATIONALISATION OF FEES) BILL, 2015***

[Translation]

Dr. MANOJ RAJORIA (KAROLI-DHOLPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to rationalize the consultancy and other medical services fees for making them affordable for the common man in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to rationalize the consultancy and other medical services fees for making them affordable for the common man in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

16.06 ¾ hours**(lxxii) AIRLINES (FARE STRUCTURE) BILL, 2015***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for determining of fare structure of all airlines operating in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for determining of fare structure of all airlines operating in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto..”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 hours**(lxxiii) RAILWAY SECURITY FORCE BILL, 2015***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Railway Security Force to protect property of railways and passengers travelling in trains and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Railway Security Force to protect property of railways and passengers travelling in trains and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.02 ¼ hours**(lxxiv)PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR
UPGRADING OF HOSPITALS) BILL, 2015***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for financial assistance for upgrading of hospitals in all Talukas in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for financial for upgrading o hospitals in all Talukas in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 ½ hours**(lxxv) CLEANING OF RIVERS (PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL, 2015***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for financial assistance to the States for cleaning and dredging of rivers in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for financial assistance to the States for cleaning and dredging of rivers in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

16.07 ¾ hours

(lxxvi) FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of sections 3 and 65)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

16.08 hours**(lxxvii) PAYMENT OF MINIMUM WAGES (FOR
WORKERS AND OTHERS) BILL, 2015***

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide payment of minimum wages to workers and others and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide payment of minimum wages to workers and others and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 ¼ hours**(lxxviii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of article 371)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 ½ hours**(lxxix) PROHIBITION BILL, 2015***

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition and for matters connected therewith.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce the Bill.

16.08 ¾ hours

(lxxx) RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES) BILL, 2015*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of residential schools for children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of residential schools for children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith.”

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce the Bill.

16.09 hours

**(lxxxi) RESERVATION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES IN PRIVATE SECTOR BILL,
2015***

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for the person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in private sector and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for the person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in private sector and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Item No. 113 - Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi – not present.

Item No. 114 - Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi – not present.

Item No. 115 - Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi – not present.

16.09 ¼ hours

**(lxxxii) MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2015***

(Amendment of Schedule I)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I introduce the Bill.

16.09 ½ hours

(lxxxiii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of article 312)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I introduce the Bill.

16.09 ¾ hours

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

**(lxxxiv) PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT AS
MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND THEIR
REHABILITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Amendment of section 31)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I introduce the Bill.

16.10 hours

(lxxxv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015*

(Amendment of article 338)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.10 ¼ hours**(lxxxvi) INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015***

(Omission of section 309)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.10 ½ hours**(lxxxvii) RAINWATER (MANDATORY HARVESTING AND COLLECTION) BILL, 2015***

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory harvesting of rainwater in every residential, commercial establishment and government building in order to make contribution to the conservation of water and recharge of groundwater and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory harvesting of rainwater in every residential, commercial establishment and government building in order to make contribution to the conservation of water and recharge of groundwater and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 18.12.2015.

16.11 hours**COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2014 – Contd.**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 120 - Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Janardan Singh 'Sigriwal' on the 13th March, 2015, namely: -

“That the Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Ninong Ering - Not present

[Translation]

SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SRAVASTI): Sir, I stand to participate in the ongoing discussion regarding the Private Member's "Compulsory Voting Bill " moved by Hon. Member Janardan Singh Sigriwal.

16.12 hours (Shri Raman Dekka *in the Chair*)

Sir, discussion on this Bill has been ongoing since the last session. All our esteemed Members have expressed their opinions on this matter. The majority of Members have expressed their views in favour of the compulsory voting. Last Friday, our senior Member,

Shri Nishikant Dubey, extensively discussed this matter, and he presented his views against compulsory voting. However, he seemed convinced that he is not against compulsory voting, but it is not possible in the Indian context, as he corroborated his views with the factual data. He also highlighted in details the difficulties being faced by all those countries where compulsory voting is enforced. We believe that nothing is impossible. If the thinking is good, intentions are noble, and there is strong determination, then nothing is impossible, and the same principle applies in our Indian context as well. In our country, leprosy was a major issue and had metamorphosed into an epidemic. Has anyone ever imagined that we would eradicate leprosy from our country? Yet, with the Government's strong determination, we have undoubtedly succeeded in eliminating this disease. Similarly, six diseases had taken the form of an epidemic in our country. Our government has raised awareness among the public about these diseases, enabling us to contain them. Similarly, if we talk about polio, we have also eradicated this disease from our country through public awareness campaigns. We believe that nothing is beyond reach. Hon. Member Nishikant Dubey discussed the anomalies cropping up in countries where compulsory voting has been implemented. I believe that those are very small democracies, very small countries; instead of looking towards

them, we should set our ideal in front of the world as we are the world's largest democracy.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, in any democracy, voting is the greatest right, a duty, and a weapon. It is the right to choose one's representative, and it is a crucial responsibility to strengthen the world's largest democracy. The glory of voting lies in the anticipation with which everyone awaits his first opportunity to cast his vote after attaining adulthood. He counts it as one of very few memorable events. In this era of media revolution, sharing selfies after voting has become a trend over the past few years. The essence of voting should be asked of those where there is no provision for such arrangements. Any decision or ruler is imposed upon them. Their opinion or thought gets stuck in a loop and remains confined within.

The primary indicator of a healthy democracy is that as many people as possible exercise their franchise. It is imperative for India, the largest democracy of the world to enhance and maintain its image worldwide. However, over the past several years, people's attitudes have changed. People are actively participating in the voting process. However, despite increasing awareness and resources, the concern of stagnant voter turnout percentages over the past six decades is also a matter of concern. In the general elections to the first Lok Sabha, the percentage of people who voted was much higher than those who

could reach the polling booths and press the button of the EVM machine in the previous Lok Sabha elections in the year 2014. This is a matter of concern. In addition, the indifference of the relatively aware and sensible urban population, especially the apathy of the metropolitan population, is not a favourable sign for any democracy. In such circumstances, demanding compulsory voting becomes imperative, necessitating the value of time.

The compulsory voting system prevalent in many prosperous democracies around the world has a number of merits and some shortcomings also as is the case with any system. Apart from the efforts being made to increase awareness about voting, it is also essential to contemplate making voting mandatory. After the law is enacted, no citizen can be prevented from casting his vote for any reason whatsoever. The responsibility to ensure that everyone casts his votes will lie with both the Government and the Election Commission.

Compulsory voting can inject new life into Indian democracy. The system of Compulsory voting is in place in more than 32 countries worldwide. If this system were implemented in the world's largest democracy, India, its impact would be unparalleled. If compulsory voting became mandatory in the world's largest democracies, even old and powerful democracies like the United States and Britain might

have to follow India's lead. However, India and their issues are quite different from one another. In India, wealthy people do not vote, and in these countries, poor people do not vote. India can take pride in the fact that it has more voters than any other country in the world, and almost every year, there is an election in India where millions of people cast their votes. Every adult in the country should be obligated to vote in the interest of the country. The term obligation does not imply that it should only be used to vote for this or that candidate. If he considers all the candidates ineligible, then he should cast vote for anyone. Use the NOTA option, and abstain, as here we, the Members of Parliament and representatives in the United Nations do. In other words, there is no obligation to cast a vote, but it is mandatory to physically mark attendance at the polling station. It is imperative to convey that you are the owner of this India, you are awake, not asleep, you are not being deceived, you are not saying, "What harm if I become the king?" If you choose not to vote, it will be presumed that you are essentially saying the same thing, and to claim otherwise would be to undermine the principles of democracy, wouldn't it?

If voting becomes mandatory in India, electoral corruption will significantly decrease. Billions of rupees are spent on ferrying voters to polling centers, deluge of alcohol is offered, votes are solicited in the name of caste and religion, and numerous illegal methods are

adopted. People will get rid of all these evils. There will be an increase in awareness among the people. Vote bank politics will also be whittled down. Those who are far from their polling stations can vote through postal ballots, internet, or mobile phones. People who cannot vote due to illness, accident, or any other unavoidable reason will receive legal assistance. On the day when more than 90 percent of Indian citizens start voting, the level of awareness will increase to the extent that people will demand initiatives such as recall of representatives, ensuring tenure limits, and even push for legislation and executive action through public referendums.

However, before making voting mandatory, there are many electoral reforms that we can implement to make our democracy more robust, effective, and meaningful. Whether it is the effect of black money in elections or the adverse impact of muscle power, only strict adherence to the laws that are currently in the Penal Code to prevent these evils can strengthen the roots of democracy. Many average and helpless voters do not leave their homes to vote because they are scared of the possibility of violence before or after the elections, or an increase in animosity and hostility in their vicinity. If this fear is dispelled from the mind once, then voters will be enthusiastic and eager to participate in the voting process. This is my belief. Since the increase in the number of young voters, the percentage of voter

turnout has been consistently rising. This is an auspicious indication for our democracy.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Singapore, and Peru are the major countries in the world where voting is mandatory. Voting is mandatory for every citizen aged 18 to 70 years in these countries. Additionally, Luxembourg, Nauru, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Ecuador and Uruguay, are also included in this list of democratic republics. Among these, only Australia is the sole country that can be referred to as a mature democracy. The rest are all extremely delicate states. They have been governed by authoritarian military regimes since the colonial era up to the present day. Singapore is a unique country, reminiscent of ancient Greek city-states, and cannot be compared to any other. Besides these countries, some others have legally mandated compulsory voting, but no penalties are enforced for non-compliance with this law. Belgium, Greece, Thailand, and Turkey are included in this list. Spain, Venezuela, and Chile have repealed the law after enacting it in their respective countries.

I personally believe that there is no need for excitement on this matter; patience is necessary. It can be implemented at the local level as an experiment. Based on its impact, a concrete decision should be

made, and it would be better to do so after widespread consensus and extensive debate among all constitutional bodies.

Besides, I reaffirm my stance that our country is the largest democracy in the world. Hence, we should move towards mandatory voting through a very effective mechanism by having thorough consultation in this regard and set an example for the world. In this context, I reiterate my point that a debate on the idea of mandatory voting has begun in our country, and work in this direction should commence. Mandatory voting would be a significant cornerstone for democracy. With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to present my views on this important issue in the House. As far as mandatory voting is concerned, India is a country filled with diversity and the level of education varies significantly. Both the Caste and money are taken into consideration. In such a scenario, it would be appropriate to find a middle path for the people. Voting cannot be made mandatory, but those who do not vote could have a mark on their certificates, annual appraisals, or other incentives. However, making voting compulsory is not feasible. India is the largest democratic country in the world. *[English]* India is one of the largest democracies in the world. We cannot force upon the people this policy. Of course, we can pursue it. But first, they need to

be educated. *[Translation]* Education is necessary. By receiving education, people will understand their responsibility that voting is essential for them, rather than being compelled to vote through external influence. Mandatory voting does not necessarily ensure an improvement in our system. Because when elections take place, the state of mind of the voter is different. The mindset of the voter is different before and after the election. When there are no elections, in their view, basic amenities like electricity, water, employment, or healthcare, should be provided, as they believe they are essential. Voters are concerned about these very facilities. During election time, people often vote based on ideology, caste, or even through monetary influence. In some cases, votes are bought, and there is also coercion involved in securing votes. People develop two types of attitudes - the attitude before casting their vote and the attitude after casting their vote. If voting is made mandatory during this mindset, then it would not be a true reflection of the will of the people in the Parliament. I do not support making voting mandatory; instead, some parameters should be established.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Mandatory voting is impractical in this country.

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ: Even the smaller countries are facing problems in this case and they want to revert their decisions. They are looking back. *[Translation]* As it has not been implemented even in America, despite they are well educated individuals. It has been put in place in England and France but not in European countries. This much may not seem feasible in India, but individuals with vested interests will take advantage of it. However, in a democratic setup, this would not yield any benefit. To promote the values for good governance, I don't believe that good governance can be achieved through this. Democracy is persuasive through tenets. Persuasion and consensus are the basic elements for exercising the franchise. When a franchise exercises its consensus, they do so out of their own conscience, then their conscience will come to an end. They will be forced upon to cast vote. That is not possible. Of course, even if it is made, in some places, it has also been done in local bodies. I am getting the feedbacks. The feedbacks are not good. Of course, this may be possible in Local bodies. At the lower level and at the village level, it may be possible. Of course, I cannot say it also, however, at the national level or larger scale, it does not seem feasible at the level of the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly. Therefore, consensus should be left.

It is imperative that the Election Commission, as well as all of us, take some action regarding this matter. The middle class tends to

engage primarily in criticism. They will reject everyone and criticize everything, claiming that this is wrong, that is wrong, the executives are wrong, and the politicians are wrong. Politicians are portrayed so negatively, from Indian cinema to the middle class discussions and debates over tea or in their homes. However, they should be asked if they cannot spare even an hour to go and vote during the elections. Therefore, the middle-class people are just for criticism. It certainly provides an opportunity for them to cast aspersions on us. This is predominantly a middle-class phenomenon. I have observed that the poor and those living in clusters and slums, who, if they do not work, cannot light their stoves or arrange for food in the evening, still come to vote. However, those who live in large mansions, the upper class, and the upper middle class—are they only there to highlight the demerits of democracy? Some restrictions must certainly be imposed on them. We must hammer on them that they, in fact, failed to discharge their basic citizenship duty. In areas with highly educated colonies and posh colonies, voter turnout is very low. They also have another logic that what's the benefit of voting, everyone is corrupt and dishonest. That implies they should then leave the country. If they are a part of this country and benefiting from democracy, I have seen that the voter percentage is down more in South Delhi as compared to other places. *[English]* They criticize the same Government, even

though they are getting all benefits from the Government. They are using the roads of the Government, basic facilities and governance provided by the Government. To that Government, they say: “I do not want to take part in the Government”. [Translation] The person who does not vote, in a way, does not become a part of the Government. If we discuss this here and ask a minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan is present, if we ask him, and if it is a policy matter, Dr. Harsh Vardhan will say that he will discuss it with the Government. The Prime Minister will also say that he will discuss it with the government. Ultimately, where do we find the Government, it is found in the people and the voters. When they don't become the part of the government nor bother to vote. What more *locus standi* they have to criticize? So, they must be told.

Through this discussion, we get the opportunity to convey a message to those who are very passive and to those who are coming forward in front in criticizing. So far as the criticism and its aberrations are concerned, there are the aberrations of democracy all across the world. We also have aberrations here. I am not saying that aberrations are not there. Aberrations are all over in the world. There is too much negativity towards politics. Ask them if they would like to return to the feudal stage. Would they tolerate a monarchy? Then they will realize how much oppression existed at that time when there was the rule of landlords, kings, or feudalism, or whatever governance

systems existed in the past, and what was the condition of the common people.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, for discussion of this Bill, eight hours was allotted. Now, those eight hours have been complete. As there are six more Members to take part in the discussion on the Bill, the House has to extend the time for further discussion on the Bill. If the House agrees, time for discussion of the Bill may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time is extended by one hour for discussion for this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I have an objection. Already eight hours have elapsed. There is another important Bill that is Transgender Bill is pending. In the last session also, it was pending and in this session also, it is pending.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House has extended for discussion for only one hour. Please continue Udit Raj Ji.

DR. UDIT RAJ: Mr. Premachandran, I think you will get an opportunity to have the discussion on that thing. We will not take long

time. *[Translation]* I would like to say that some measures should definitely be taken by the government. The Election Commission should formulate certain parameters and norms. Something needs to be done at the Government level. It should also be included in the school curriculum as to *[English]* why voting is necessary? Those who are critic of the Government or critic of the whole political system and of course, in one voice, they dismiss everyone. They must be reminded of their duty or their conscience. Something must be done. The voting percentage should increase.

A large number of voters must be brought up in the net of franchise or in casting the vote. That is necessary. I am not in favour of compulsory voting. But definitely, there must be some reformative measures. At the end, I say that so much of negativism about the democracy, so much of negativism about electoral politics has to be curbed. This is a very dangerous trend to the country. Even the younger generation thinks that the politics is not for the good people. The emergence of this sort of sentiments and emotions is not a healthy sign for the country. Therefore, through curricula and debates, these things should be taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODERMA): Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me with the opportunity to participate in today's crucial discussion on the importance of voting.

Sir, democracy is inherent to the nature of this country, and there is no alternative to democracy. It can be said that the issue being discussed today is such a revolutionary step that might be challenging even to imagine. I believe that if there had been discussions about democracy among the people of this country five hundred years ago, people would have said that they were talking nonsense, engaging in foolish talk. Because imagining democracy two hundred or five hundred years ago was not even possible. An honour to democratic sentiments was quite perceptible in the monarchy, but five hundred years ago it would have perhaps been beyond imagination to think that governance would be based on democracy and the interests and opinions of all people would be taken care of. Today, we can assert that not only India but also any country in the world has the audacity to present an alternative to democracy. It seems to be terrifying even to discuss that there might be alternatives to democracy. In other words, democracy implies nothing but every individual should be taken care of. We say that everyone should have the right to education. No matter where a person is born, whether amidst

mountains, remote forests, or in the slums of a city, until everyone is granted the right to education, perhaps we will struggle to fully respect governance and the spirit of the constitution. It is the responsibility of any governance system to educate every individual, and I am proud that during the tenure of the Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan* was launched. It was said that wherever there are 30 or 50 children in a village, schools should be opened there too. After all, what is the feeling behind this? If we can advocate for educating every child, then we can also say that no person should ever die of hunger, whether due to a famine or a catastrophic natural disaster; every individual should have access to food. In any administration, if someone dies of hunger, it is considered that the governance has failed. Every individual has the right to food, the right to education, and the right to live with dignity. The Constitution states that regardless of one's status, knowledge, or background, even if someone is homeless, shelterless, or orphaned, they cannot be deprived of their right to life. They have the full right to live. Every individual has the right to live, regardless of their wealth, land ownership, or housing situation. The right to live is inherent to every person born into this world. Parents give birth, parents definitely have the right to give birth, but if any parent says that I will not let the person I have given birth to live, then Section 302 will be imposed on him. Everyone has

the right to live, the right to food, and the right to education. If someone has the right to vote but is unable to exercise it, who will take responsibility for ensuring this right is fulfilled. This issue has naturally become a matter of concern in this largest temple of democracy and in the largest panchayat. Therefore, I express my gratitude to Shri Janardan Sigrivāl for raising such an important issue in the House.

Chairperson Sir, today Governments are formed, but what kind of majority Government is there? If 52 percent or 45 percent votes are cast and out them securing as meagre as 24 percent and 32 percent of votes, we form the Government claiming it to be a majority Government, it's paradoxical. Should this be considered as a majority opinion or should the public's voice be considered as the majority opinion? In a democracy, we consider the winning representative as having received a majority mandate. However, in a democracy, we do not consider the majority of voters bringing victory as a majority. Isn't it a question that if there's a voter turnout of only fifty to sixty percent, and a party or individual wins the election by securing only 30-32 percent of the votes, then the legitimacy of that victory is questionable. We say that it has come to power through a majority vote. In many countries of the world, there are provisions where it is

stipulated that a candidate who secures more than 51 percent of the votes will be declared to be victorious.

We are somehow allowing system to function within a democracy. In some way, we are undermining democracy. I believe that when we say this is not practical, there is a difference between practicality and revolutionism. By slightly carrying the prevailing tradition forward, today in my Jharkhand, Panchayat elections were conducted and thereafter Lok Sabha elections and Legislative elections were also held and the percentage of voter turnout is gradually increasing as compared to all the previous elections. However, in the Naxal-affected areas where people boycott voting, claiming that voting is futile, there are instances like Lavalong block in our Jharkhand's Chatra district, where Naxals propagate against participation in the electoral process. Sometimes people participating in voting have been penalized. They themselves did not allow any candidate from opposition to file nomination papers and filed nomination paper alone and ran unopposed in all positions. For the third time, this time there was an 80 percent voter turnout. We can gauge the desire of the public to vote and their curiosity about it from this turnout. I often contemplate why should we discuss impractical issues. However, just as the transition from monarchy to democracy was revolution in itself, revolutionary changes occurred in society, the

constitution was formed, a written constitution came to existence, and written matters beyond traditions began to influence our lives. Similarly, if we prepare the people of this country, mandatory voting could be a very significant revolutionary step. Perhaps, within the world, and I would like to say that India has often provided guidance to the world, and shown the way many times. While respecting such democratic sentiments, can't we make a revolutionary decision of this kind. If such a decision is made tomorrow, some of our friends argue that it is not practical.

Today, I would like to say one thing that no one pays any attention to the poor who live in slums and forests throughout the year. However, when elections come round the corner, those who aspire to become MLAs, MPs, ministers, prime ministers, or (*Mukhiya*) Panchyat head visit their doors and plead, urging them to exercise their right to vote. They touch the feet of those old women or an elderly person whose face they do not feel it necessary to see. They earnestly request and appeal that Mother, you must vote, even if it's just once in five years. Sir, at least someone goes and urges our mother and brother living in the hut that his destiny is about to be changed with their votes. I would like to submit that it might not be necessary for a candidate to visit every voter's home personally. They could go somewhere, their worker could go somewhere, their follower could

go somewhere, and by raising awareness of every voter's rights, by enhancing their sentiment, and by making efforts to encourage them to vote. Perhaps, whether voting becomes mandatory for voters or not, how significant it would be, I cannot say, but I cannot estimate its impact on their minds today. However, I can certainly estimate that when campaigners visit each voter's home, they may not think about winning the legislative assembly elections. They might assume, we've managed a hundred booths, so victory is assured. Perhaps if one hundred percent of the population votes, the activities such as booth capturing and the securing vote banks will diminish, and there will be serious repercussions on all such democratic processes that are being tainted. And this should be enforced. Who will do this?

It is said umpteen times that people living in backward areas or in the jungles do not vote. But I feel that they often end up going to vote. Sometimes people say that they will boycott voting. In response, we ask them if they boycott voting, why would they come to us? Why would we address their issues? When you don't vote, we won't come to you for anything. When people from political parties talk like this, others often respond by saying they will go out and vote. It is more surprising to me when educated individuals, including retired IAS officers, retired military personnel, lawyers, professors, doctors, engineers, and others, seem to need more persuasion to vote as

compared to illiterate individuals. The voting percentage in these people's colonies remains very low. When the common people's voting percentage reaches 70-75 percent, those who consider themselves educated, knowledgeable, and intelligent, with some even calling themselves scholars, often have a voting percentage as meagre as 18 percent, 20 percent, or 22 percent. After all, who will make them aware of their responsibility? They will enjoy all the comforts and conveniences even after retiring from their jobs, even prominent businessmen refrain from voting. They have access to all the facilities provided by society, including security, dignity, and respect, but they do not consider it necessary to exercise their franchise. People argue that wrong individuals are elected in a democracy. How can we ensure the entry of good people, and what criteria will be used to determine the entry of good people? If very few people capture the vote to capture the democracy.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Banshilal Mahato.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY: Sir, this was a discussion on a very important topic, so I endeavored to present my views before you. I would like to present a few points for your consideration. Today, in this country, equations are being formed for elections, but there is no harmony in the electoral process. We win elections by forming strategic equations. Recent elections bear testimony to the fact that we

often devise plans to win elections by dividing society into segments, deciding that this is how we will achieve victory. However, in doing so, truth and integrity are defeated. I would like to make a plea to you that in this debate, somewhere or the other, this sentiment should emerge before this parliament. There is a large section of poor people in this country, there is also a large section of rich people in this country, and there is a weak intention to protect democratic sentiments in this country, less need for others, but somewhere or the other, we can fulfill a very big social responsibility, national responsibility, and by advancing this system, we can realize the very big dreams of each and every person of this country, each and every Indian, and open the path to serve them. We can enhance the ethics of politics and expand the scope of political engagement. I believe this matter certainly deserves consideration. Thank you very much.

DR. BANSILAL MAHATO (KORBA): Sir, the subject on which I am speaking today.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Under what rule?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, it is under Rule 362 coupled with Rule 376. Rule 362(1) says:

“At any time after a motion has been made, any member may move: ‘That the question be now put’, and unless it appears to the Speaker that the motion is an abuse of these rules or an infringement of the right of reasonable debate, the Speaker shall then put the motion ‘That the question be now put’. ”

Sir, my point is that eight hours have elapsed since debate on this Bill was started. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, many Hon. Members want to speak on this.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): Many people want to speak on this.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am on a point of order. Let me submit. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Members want to speak on this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am on a point of order. ... *(Interruptions)* Let the Chair rule. ... *(Interruptions)* Why should you interrupt? Sir, let me complete. ... *(Interruptions)* Chairman, Sir, I am seeking a ruling from you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have taken the sense of the House, and Members want to speak on this Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have taken the sense of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am not making any dispute. I am only seeking a ruling. Suppose, the debate is protracted and suppose a healthy debate is going on, but every Member has a right to seek for this motion to be put to vote. Hence, I am saying under Rule 362. ... *(Interruptions)* Let me submit. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, I have taken the sense of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I want to say something on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Mr. Meghwal, let me submit. ... *(Interruptions)* My reasonable apprehension is that this debate is being protracted so as to sabotage the Transgender Bill. I reasonably had that apprehension last week also. It is because two hours was allotted for the discussion on this Bill on Compulsory Voting. Today also, I had discussions with the Government and informally an assurance was given that this Bill will be taken up for consideration.

It is the democratic right of a private Member to move that Bill before this House. My democratic right to move the Bill before the House is being unduly delayed so as to sabotage this Bill. So, under Rule 362, I demand that this motion be put to vote.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Chairperson, we are not making any delay. Mr. Premchandran has presented his views. This is the time for Private Members' business. How can we prevent Members from speaking if they wish to do so? When the time allotted for this Bill gets over, their turn will also come. We are not opposing their Bill. However, if Members wish to speak on compulsory voting, we cannot prevent them from doing so. They are also entitled to it. You can see the sense of the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Why are you fixing time for it? ... (*Interruptions*) My question is this. Why are you fixing time of two hours for it? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yes, hon. Member, please continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I want a ruling from the Chair. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have taken the sense of the House. The Members wants to speak, and that is why Members will speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, this House runs according to rules and procedures. ... (*Interruptions*) This is totally unfair. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO: Hon. Chairperson Sir, Today, I am delivering my speech on an important issue. The Bill introduced by Mr. Sigriwal is in the best interest of the nation, and I stand here to speak in favour of it. For many years, our country also endured slavery, and for many years, there was the rule of kings and emperors. Earlier, the queen used to give birth to the king. but in today's era of democracy, the ballot papers give birth to the ruler and the

representative. In our democracy, those who fought for freedom and faced the gallows during that time wished for the re-establishment and flourishing of a strong democratic system in this country. Fortunately, the democracy of 2014 is very good, and in this temple of democracy, I would like to express my views.

Sir, in reality the provision for compulsory voting should be put in place. It is unfortunate that elections used to be held based on muscle power and money power. Even today, this is happening in some parts of the country. We want a ban should be imposed on this. If there is compulsory voting, then there will be no place for money power and muscle power. Similarly, some governments were formed in the North-Eastern region with as meagre as 20 percent voting. This is unfortunate for this country. We want that as far as voting above 50 percent is concerned for an individual, it is different. With the compulsory voting put in place good people will definitely elected to power good. It has been observed that the same people who enjoy all the benefits from the government do not vote. The impoverished certainly participate in voting. Therefore, I am in favor of the fact that there should be compulsory voting. The country will move forward through this and democracy will become stronger. India is the world's largest democratic country, so there should be a clear-cut voting process here. Everyone should exercise his franchise and at the same

time money power and muscle power should be stopped by any means. Bullets should not be used and our voting should be recorded on the basis of ballot paper or in the E.V.M. machine.

Furthermore, I would like to submit that a large number of independent candidates contest in the elections. Even though the percentage of voting may go up, 51 percent of the votes is not secured in favor of any one person and it gets reduced. Therefore, there should be a limitation on that also. The percentage of many political parties decreases, hence their registration should also be cancelled. Finally, I conclude my speech by supporting compulsory voting. Thank you.

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (JORHAT): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I have stood up to support the Bill introduced by Mr. Janardan Sigriwal.

The percentage of votes in the area where we come from is very low. Yet we are the largest democracy, this fact is being acknowledged worldwide. I noticed that many people have said that the voting percentage in the North Eastern States is very low. The reason for this is that there is pressure from extremists and there are many other factors involved. Prominent figures have spoken, Mr. Ravindra has spoken, Mr. Udit has also spoken. The high-class voters, the aristocratic voters who are eligible to vote, but they never cast their

votes. When I won the election, I was asked which vote helped me win, so I said I won with the support of the working-class vote. I won with the votes of the "lagan" team, which comprised the same team that won the cricket match, consisting of poor and hardworking individuals. However, after we won and observed, it became evident that those who did not participate were the ones approaching us more frequently. They are approaching us with requests for contracts, transfers, and postings, and these individuals are predominantly retired IAS officers, DCs, SPs, and similar officials. The poor people who went to vote have no importance after that. As I felt and as some Hon. Members have stated that compulsory voting is not possible. This will involve the same mechanism, like officers going to every booth, polling officers, polling agents, presiding officers; such a system is already in place. If the system goes to all the booths across the country, and if the Election Commission depute them there, then I think there is no need to add anything new to it. It needs to be added to ensure that people must go there and I have observed that everything remains closed during election day and hence the question of going to work for wages does not arise and the wage earner people are usually the first to reach the booth centres. People who do not require money do not show up there.

Compulsory voting holds great significance for us. If we talk about largest democracy, then there should also be largest participation of people in it. If there is not the largest participation, if there is not 100 percent participation, then how can we call it 100 percent democracy. There is 30-60 percent voting, in which we come out victorious, where we get 36-37 percent votes. In such a situation, I think the largest country like India has no problem in making voting compulsory. We talk maximum time about India, but in this case more oftenly we quote America, France and Japan as examples, but it is applicable in some of them, but not in some others. Our Members here are also talking about France, America and Japan, if it is not happening there then how can it happen herein. Even in the context of farming and agriculture sector, they are talking about Japan, France and China. They are also speaking when it comes to democracy, but I say why should we follow Them. There is no need for others to follow the democracy implemented in India.

I also saw in the Bill, some people have said, Mr. Nishikant had also said at that time, my point is that if it is not successful in some country, in other countries of the world, can it be successful here? I saw when Hon. Narendra Modi once said in an interview that 24 into 7 power would be supplied, people used to laugh, but now in Gujarat, it's 100 percent, 24 into 7 electricity is being provided. I feel that when

democracy is to be successful then participation should also be 100 percent. When I was young, during the agitation in Assam in 1983, there was a government formed, it was a Congress government, at that time, Mr. Speaker, you know, you were also there, it was seen there that the police had voted, it was such that 2-3 people had voted, and the government was formed by 10 people casting votes. That Government lasted for three years, after which when there was agitation and the agreement was inked and consequently it was dissolved. I believe Mr. Ravindra made a valid point in his statement. As he mentioned, when we select candidates, many individuals usually do not visit anyone's home. However, during the election period, at the very least, they visit these people's homes, discuss their problems, and express what is needed to represent them. I believe the number of posters we print does not correspond to the number of votes we receive. The number of votes received does not correspond to the amount of wall writing done, so how it is a good democracy. Democracy should be successful, and the Government must take it seriously.

A number of ministers are present here, including 3-4 ministers I can see, such as Mr. Harsh Vardhan, Mr. Joel, and Mr. Thawarchand. They should impress upon the Government that although this might be a Private Member's Bill, the Government should take it seriously.

The Law Minister is also present here, but whether the Law Minister listens to us or not, I do not know. However, the Law Minister should also listen to us.

17.00 hours

Sir, please make voting compulsory. It is quite a different matter if you wish to provide facilities to the rich. However, if a poor man can stand in line exercise his franchise, then even a wealthy man should also stand in that line. Whether they are IAS officers or IPS officers, they should stand in line at least on the day of voting.

Sir, the voting centers in the state from which our Home Minister comes are located very far away. Right now, here, our party's in-charge of Manipur, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, is seated. They have also stated this. What could be the reason for the extremism prevailing in Manipur today? The youth over there are feeling disillusioned today because they have not yet been integrated with democracy. They are only being utilized for poster campaigns and processions, but their participation in the democratic system is not as much as it should have been. In this context of participation, we should refrain from taking the example of any other country. The population in our Uttar Pradesh may perhaps exceed that of Japan today. It appears to me that the population of many countries is less than the population of some of our states. If a state here couldn't implement something, it doesn't

mean that we cannot implement it across India. We have such a large Election Commission here. We are operating such a vast system. If we are providing money to 100 people for ensuring the votes of mere two people are cast in the election, then there should be no problem even if 100 percent of the voting occurs. Provisions should also be made for those who will not go to vote. Mr. Sigriwal's provisions in this Bill are not sufficient. However, it should be reviewed and amended in such a way that may restrict the availability of certain facilities like employment, electricity and banking for such individuals.

Sir, Mr. Hukmdev Narayan Yadav is seated here. They talk about agriculture and farmers' issues. We believe they are speaking, but who are the individuals to approve it, they are those who are observing this? We have observed that individuals who do not participate in the electoral system are the ones who often obstruct the democratic system the most. In every issue here, some constitutional provisions are invoked, some agreements are reached, but the common man is not receiving the facilities that should reach them, simply because they have no awareness of how to access them. They are not familiar with this system. Actually, the person who is making these rules does not know what the villagers need. Therefore, the maximum extremist organizations are in the Northeast wherefrom we come. The race-to-

race extremism in the North-East has occurred because those people have been kept far away from the democratic system. Those individuals live very far apart. They are not even going to cast their votes. We observe that people in the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir boycott voting, etc. most of the times. By boycotting the vote, those individuals wish to convey that if you do not perform the work for us, then we will boycott it. This means that they are not going to participate in the democratic system. The Government should consider the Bill brought by Mr. Sigriwal to bring them into this system. Provisions should be made in this Bill to impose penalties on those individuals who do not cast their votes. There are no problems in monitoring it as the National Register of Citizenship is being reviewed in our state. It is redolent of one thing that if the National Register of Citizenship is reaching every household, then this system should be part of the rest of the electoral system. In the National Register of Citizenship, we are monitoring to determine who is Bangladeshi and who is not. If this system is applied to the electoral system, it will also function effectively. Our politicians should give up their intention to govern the majority while being in the minority. You are witnessing the suffering that we are enduring. People believe that politicians engage in brokerage and misconduct. This is what people have in their mind.

Now, maximum Members of the Congress are harping on the issues of the tribal people. However, the situation in tribal areas is such that these people distribute blankets on the day of the election. They do not attend their any other work. In my tea garden area, the majority of people are tempted by the Congress party. They talk about democracy, but engage in undemocratic activities.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to earnestly request that the Bill introduced by Mr. Sigriwal has been supported by everyone. The Government initially fails to understand this private Bill, but later adopts it. The provision for reviewing it in the Constitution incorporated accordingly. Requesting to manage the arrangement for the 100% participation of the people, I would like to say that I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My Hindi is not very good because the Hindi spoken in the Northeast is quite poor, and we are a bit cut off from the mainstream. ... (*Interruptions*) Chairperson Sir is very senior indeed. He is a very senior person. He is also the National Secretary for the entire India. He can speak, but sometimes a bit of Assamese creeps into our Hindi, so there is a little problem.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Arjun Meghwal for including my name in the list of speakers to speak on this Bill. I express my gratitude to Mr. Sigriwal for introducing such

a serious Bill. Among all the Bills pending, this Bill holds greater significance. Hundred percent participation is hundred percent successful democracy. I conclude my speech with these words.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU): Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak, for that I thank you. Today, there is a discussion here on the Compulsory Voting Bill introduced by our colleague Mr. Sigriwal and I stand here to speak in support of it.

17.06 hours (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

I would like to say regarding this Bill that the discussion taking place in this house today is of great importance. This is necessary and should indeed be implemented. It is crucial for voting to be mandatory. This is very important for the country and society. It is also imperative for us to make provision that everyone may be able to cast his vote. Many times, it becomes necessary to take steps that are in the interest of the nation and society. Many times, even for good deeds, people of society do not come forward, do not step forward, but if some laws are made in such a way that they become necessary, then gradually, they get habituated. Until this habit is not ingrained in this democracy, we need to enact such laws.

I would like to say that it is the common man and the poor who predominantly cast their votes, whether they are landlords, farmers, laborers, or anyone engaged in small jobs, who may even take a day off from their private work, but they will definitely go to vote. People who are affluent, industrialists, and those who reside in air-conditioned environments, people who live in big houses, and those who cannot tolerate the heat, they do not go out to vote. The country suffers significant losses as a result thereof. Their opinion remains undisclosed, it does not come forward. My prayer is that by passing this Bill, it should be made compulsory that every individual in the country exercises their right to vote, expresses their opinion, and he should be provided with an to voice his opinion.

I hail from the state of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to express gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, whether it be during the previous assembly elections or the parliamentary elections. They have chosen their popular government in Jammu and Kashmir and also in the country with massive turnout. In addition, I would like to say that this percentage could have been even higher. You are all aware that there is a constant presence of militancy there, and there are always threats from terrorists to deter people from going out to vote. I would like to request you to ensure that after the passage of this Bill, such arrangements should be made that people can vote even

from their homes. A system should be established wherein either terrorists cannot prevent people from coming out to vote, or arrangements are made for them to cast their votes from home.

I would also like to say that the country's largest temple, where everyone receives justice, is where we are discussing compulsory voting. However, it saddens me greatly to say that in Jammu and Kashmir, there are still people who have been living there for 65 years without the right to vote. While we are discussing whether voting should be made mandatory, on the other hand, they are fighting for the right to vote. I am talking about the refugees from West Pakistan. They are not refugees from West Pakistan, but they are referred to as refugees from West Pakistan. Because when the partition of the country occurred and the part went to Pakistan, they came from there. Even today, they are not entitled to vote in the legislative assembly. Is it possible in a democracy? I don't think it's possible, but it is indeed happening. In Jammu and Kashmir, people can vote in parliamentary elections but do not have the right to vote in the Legislative Assembly. They cannot vote in the Panchayat elections, nor can they elect their own village head. Those who cannot participate in the Panchayat elections, those who cannot participate in the Legislative Assembly elections, let me tell you how many difficulties they have to face. Even after several generations have passed, their children are

still compelled to run from pillar to post. I will pray for it in the assembly, we are discussing the necessity of the right to vote. Today, there are people in the country who do not have the right to vote. We should also consider granting them the right to vote.

Chairperson Sir, through you, I wish to inform the House that the people who reside on the border, who stand on the India-Pakistan border, they live there, and they die there. They face bullets and shells fired by Pakistan. Their livestock are killed in cross-border firing, causing them financial loss, their children cannot receive proper education; their crops are destroyed. Yet, they do not abandon the border, otherwise, they could settle in another part of India, leaving the India-Pakistan border. However, saying Bharat Mata ki Jai, they remain stranded at the borders. Therefore, I earnestly request from my seat that, showing compassion towards them, they should be granted the right to vote. This is something we must strive for diligently.

If you happen to get an opportunity to listen to those who live on the India-Pakistan border, then you will come to know that their rights have been usurped and that need to be restored so that they may have access to employment and they may educate their children, cultivate crops, and feel proud of being citizens of the country. Many of our committees have visited there and will continue to do so. I support the Bill brought in by our colleague, Mr. Janardan Singh

Sigriwal, in the House. It is essential for everyone to cast their vote and express their opinion. In this vast democracy, their contribution should be there in the formation of the Government. They should express their opinions through voting. I would like to support the Bill with a few words of gratitude towards you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the compulsory voting. In our country, democracy holds great significance. Our citizens are given the opportunity to choose their Government through voting, to elect representatives, and to choose good representatives. To increase voter turnout, the Election Commission runs numerous campaigns to raise awareness among voters. However, despite these efforts, the voter turnout percentage does not increase significantly. In our democracy, elections are held for positions ranging from the Prime Minister to the District Panchayat, Legislative Assembly, and Parliament. We observe that in smaller elections, the voter turnout is higher as compared to larger elections. What could be the issue behind this decrease in percentage during major elections? Alongwith the awareness campaigns, the Election Commission should also consider why voters cast more votes

in small elections and the percentage is better, but if there is a Lok Sabha election, the voter turnout decreases. They should contemplate and reflect upon this.

I, through you, would like to bring into the notice of the House and put forward some suggestions and at the same time I would like to thank the hon. Member who brought in this Bill as it is very crucial for us. The type of Government we want for our country depends on voting being made compulsory. The Lok Sabha elections just took place. The voter turnout remained high and consequently the country got a promising and development oriented government. Respected Shri Modi has become the Prime Minister. Under his leadership, the election took place. This is an example of a higher voter turnout. This is expected in every election. If we desire good representatives, good governance, and the development of the nation, then voting is imperative. If we want to develop our country like those major nations, it is essential to prioritize this matter significantly.

I would like to present some suggestions before you. It is observed during elections that the Election Commission runs several campaigns to raise awareness among the people. It has also been observed that certain strongmen having money and muscle powers rule the roost in elections. This enables such men to get elected that are detrimental to democracy. To prevent powerful and wealthy

individuals from dominating, it is essential to have competent representatives. An awareness campaign should also be launched for this purpose.

I come from a rural area. I have observed that voter turnout is higher in local elections. The polling booths established by the Election Commission are numerous and closer together for Local elections, but the distance between booths is greater for Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly elections. Due to varying weather conditions, sometimes it's scorching hot, sometimes it is cold, and many people in the village are unable to vote. Our mothers and sisters cannot leave home because the polling booth is far away. The Election Commission should also ensure that polling booths are located conveniently close to people's homes. It's not like someone will walk a kilometer. Moreover, there are some individuals who do not wish to leave their homes. For instance, our soldiers stationed at the border, who have the desire to vote, cast their votes through postal ballots from there. Similarly, for those who do not want to go to the polling booth or stand in line, a rule should be established where they can either cast their votes or an online voting system should be implemented so that they can vote from the comfort of their homes.

Every individual, regardless of their stature, should understand the importance of voting. The right to vote should be as equally

significant for the common person as it is for the prominent one. People obtain their passports, get their driver's licenses, and apply for ration cards. During this process, also inquire from them whether you have voted or not. A system should be established in such a way that people feel voting is mandatory. For those who do not vote, there should be something that makes them feel the consequences of not voting.

You have given me the opportunity to speak, thank you very much.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Chairperson Sir, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Compulsory Voting Bill, 2014. First and foremost, I oppose this Bill. This is a controversial issue because it is a Bill that will alter our Parliamentary practices and traditions. In a Parliamentary democracy, every voter has the freedom to participate in the voting process through the law. Their participation is being changed into compulsion. It may surprise some, but I believe that by introducing such a Bill, Shri Janardan Sigriwal, who hails from our Bihar, has sparked a nationwide discussion. This Bill has been brought by the RSS. History has the testimony to the fact that they have never had faith in this Parliamentary tradition; rather they have always been trying to alter it according to their own preferences. The

constitution recognizes voting as an inherent right of every adult citizen. This does not mean that the term right should be given a negative connotation. It is the freedom of every individual whether to exercise their rights or not, they cannot be bound by any law to do so.

Actually, this controversial Bill originated from Gujarat. The Gujarat Government has enacted a law mandating compulsory voting, which is applicable in local body elections. This initiative has been envisioned by the Hon. Prime Minister. When the Hon. Prime Minister was serving as the Chief Minister, preparations for it were made in 2009, but at that time, they were not successful in giving it legal form. Today, the Government aims to give it legal recognition. The Election Commission is also against this law. The commission has expressed concern that if someone moves court against this law, elections could even be cancelled. The psephologists believe that laws of this nature can be very shameful in a democracy. There is no provision in the constitution mandating compulsory voting for citizens. These individuals discuss the affairs of other countries. Is the constitution of those countries similar to that of India? India is the largest democracy in the world. I would like to say a few things on two or three points, the reason why voting is higher in Panchayat elections even today is because local people contest the elections there, and there is local publicity. Efforts are made to also bring those

who reside outside the village. During Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly elections, the voter turnout decreases. It is the responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct public campaigns and raise awareness among people to encourage them to vote. Some colleagues have spoken about the booth. Certainly, those who are poor, helpless, and Dalits often lack schools or Government buildings nearby. They have to travel long distances to vote, and in Panchayat elections, every State Government has arrangements for voting even in areas with a population of 500. However, this is not followed in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. My request is to launch an awareness campaign on how to achieve the highest voter turnout possible. Efforts should be made in this direction; otherwise what would be the meaning of democracy? What is mandatory? We are born into a democracy. If we do not vote, we will be deemed delinquent. Introducing such a Bill is unfortunate. I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (MANGALDAI): Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to participate in this important discussion. This is a very important Bill. We are the citizens of the largest democracy and all the citizens should participate in the elections so that it reflects the mindset of the electorate.

One of our hon. friends said that it is impractical. But it is not impractical. The electorates of India are very intelligent. They had taken a right position after Emergency. They took right position after the Bofors scandal. They took right position after the successive failures of the two UPA led Governments at the Centre. The electorate is intelligent. But they do not like to come to vote. So, it needs awareness and it needs a law that they should come and vote. We always talk of rights that we must get free education, we must have facilities of health, but when it comes to voting, they are not exercising their voting rights. The electorate should exercise this right of voting because it reflects their mind, their thinking and also ensures their participation in the democratic process.

Sir, we have inherited the concept of democracy from times immemorial. Basoya in Andhra Pradesh, centuries ago, practised democracy. In our State, a philosopher started democracy. He was not only a philosopher but also an artist and he was an institution by himself. He started the process of democracy in our State. So, people should be educated in order that they cast their vote so that their thinking is reflected and also it offers them an opportunity to judge the performance of a Government. If a Government does not perform well, they have the right to reject that Government after five years. Our electorate have demonstrated this after Independence.

Sir, as we come from a North-Eastern State, namely, Assam, people are not coming to vote. There are so many difficulties. One of such difficulties is that many of our booths are located in the booths and people have to walk miles after miles to come and cast their votes. So, they are not coming to vote. Proper facilities should be provided for voting and people should also be properly educated so that they can come and vote. It requires political will to pass this Bill. I would like to request our hon. Law Minister to pass this Bill with some modifications that people should come forward for voting and they should participate in the democratic process. Democracy survives only when people cast their votes.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR):

Chairperson Sir, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in favour of compulsory voting. When this country was under slavery, the kings used to rule over it. When we gained independence on August 15, 1947, the democratic system was established. Through the democratic process, when our republican system was established, we were granted the right to vote. When the decision was made to conduct elections for the Panchayat in the villages, the people in the village supported it by raising their hands.

We gradually progressed in the process of improving the electoral system. Today, we have an opportunity to reflect on the Constitution of India, which has been safeguarded through various democratic processes, ranging from Village Panchayats, District Councils, and State Assemblies to the Lok Sabha, where the people's representatives formulate laws. However, even today, it is necessary for us to raise awareness among the public to vote. Even today, a handful of people want to rule this country, who have continuously ruled this country for 60 years. They were the ones who first imposed an Emergency on this country on June 25, 1975, to assassinate democracy and worked to undermine the rights of both the elected representatives and the public. However, India is a country with a very extensive constitution. The individuals who framed the constitution of this country are no longer among us today; they sacrificed during the struggle for independence. However, for the sake of the nation, they perpetually worked to preserve democracy. At that time, when such an opportunity arose, I was a young boy, and I witnessed the awareness among the public. At that time, the public took to the streets to save democracy, and the Government that had ended democracy was removed by the people. The youth and common citizens of this country participated in the 2014 elections under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi to uphold democracy by taking to the streets.

However, there are still numerous flaws and difficulties in the voting process today. This is the reason why the Election Commission has made various changes from time to time. Even today, there is a need to curb corruption, casteism, nepotism, and religious biases in the voting process. We should all strive together to ensure fair and free voting, with compulsory participation. Encourage the marginalized communities to vote....

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the allotted time for deliberating this Bill is coming to an end, and there are quite a few members who wish to speak. One hour has elapsed; therefore an additional hour is extended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, indeed. Let's extend the time.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I have a strong objection to this. I would like to raise the objection under Rule 362. This discussion is slated for two hours. Now while discussing the Compulsory Voting Bill, nine hours have lapsed. What is the message going to the country? It is just to sabotage the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, this discussion is being prolonged. This is the black day in the history of Indian Parliament. Regarding the Private Members' Resolutions and Bills, this is totally unfair. For the transgender community in the country, a Bill has been unanimously passed by the

Rajya Sabha but this House is not able to take up the Bill for discussion. It means it is quite unfair and my right is being curtailed.
... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am seeking protection from the Chair because for a Bill for which two hours are allotted, nine hours of discussion have been completed and again it is being protracted. Rule 362 is specific. I have the right to ask that the motion may be put to the vote of the House. I want a ruling on this matter because the message going to the country is not good. If we are not ready to take up the Bill regarding the rights of transgender, a bad message will be going to the country. I have strong objection.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time has been extended with the consent of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, Hon. Member has coated 362, 363 says - Rule 363 says:

[*English*]

“Whenever the debate on any motion in connection with a Bill or any motion becomes unduly protracted, the Speaker may, after taking the sense of the House, fix a time limit for

the conclusion of discussion on any stage or all stages of the Bill.”

[Translation]

The Sense of the House has been taken, and if all Hon. Members wish to extend the time, then it applies to 363. There cannot be any time limitation for this reason. Ultimately, this is a matter of the House's sense.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Hon. Chairperson Sir, "Sense of the House" has been written earlier as well. Members wish to speak. This is the time for private member business. How can we compel someone not to speak? How would you not protect their right when Hon. Members wish to speak? You will have to protect their rights also.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Devendra, please continue with your speech.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR): Hon. Chairperson, the people seated before us aspire to live in a Monarchy. They are unaware that after August 15, 1947, when the democratic system was established, no king was born from the queen's womb.... *(Interruptions)* If a king is born now, he is born from the ballot box.

The people are sovereign. The decision made by the people must be accepted. ... *(Interruptions)* There have been continuous disruptions throughout the entire session.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, there is no quorum in the House. This is totally unfair. As a mark of protest, I demand quorum in the House. Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The quorum bell is now ringing. At this time, nothing will be entered into the record.

... *(Interruptions)**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the house does not have the required quorum. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 AM on Monday, 21 December, 2015.

17.42 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
21st December, 2015/Agrahayana 30, 1937 (Saka)*

*Not recorded.

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