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Thursday, December 4, 2014

Agrahayana 13, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)



Third Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 4, 2014/Agrahayana 13, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of Shri Udaisinghrao Gaikwad, who as Member of the Seventh to the Eleventh Lok Sabha from the Kolhapur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. Renowned parliamentarian Shri Gaikwad was a member of the petition committee. Earlier, Shri Gaikwad was also a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967 and 1972 to 1980. Shri Gaikwad was an erudite scholar and also authored books named Trophies and Memoirs in Legislature.

He travelled extensively. He was also a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Cuba, Dubai, Egypt, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Spain and the United Kingdom. Shri Udayasinghrao Gaikwad passed away on the 2nd of December, 2014, at the age of 84 years at Kolhapur.

We deeply mourn the demise of Shri Udayasinghrao Gaikwad and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

Now the House may please stand for a while in respect of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

HON. SPEAKER: Suresh Prabhu Ji will provide some information to the House. Today there has been a railway accident; they were going there today. He said he would first inform the house.

11.03 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Railway accident at unmanned level crossing on North
Eastern Railway***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Madam, I am pained to apprise this august House regarding an unfortunate incident which has occurred today at an Unmanned Level Crossing wherein one road vehicle carrying 22 school children dashed against train No. 55135 (going from Azamgarh to Varanasi city) at 08.15 hours today on Unmanned Level Crossing No. 6 C at Km No. 10/5-6 between Khurahat and Mau Junction Railway Stations on Mau-Shahganj section of Banaras Division of North East Railway. Seventeen passengers of the road vehicle have been admitted to two local hospitals in Mau (of which 13 are admitted in the local district at Mau and 4 in a local private nursing home) while 5 passengers are reported to have unfortunately expired.

* Placed in Library, See No. LT 943A/16/14.

The senior Railway officials of the North East Railway have been directed immediately to proceed to the site and are supervising rescue and relief operation.

As per the preliminary information received, the incident occurred due to the negligent driving by the driver of the road vehicle. The driver did not stop the vehicle at the Stop Board short of level crossing to check for approaching train as prescribed in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988. As per information from the site, visibility was poor due to foggy conditions.

On humanitarian grounds, an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 2 lakh each to the next of the kin of deceased, Rs. 1 lakh to the grievously injured and Rs. 20,000 to persons who sustained simple injury have been announced.

On behalf of Railways and myself, I express deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families.

Madam, I would like to also add that as on 01.04.2014, there are 11,563 unmanned crossings in India. This is very sad that

these accidents take place in this manner. While it should be an effort, and all of us join in that effort, to make sure that we have a manned crossing or a crossing in which such accidents do not take place; but while we do that, we are trying to find out a way of preventing such accidents by taking such steps. I am really working on that. I am very sorry to say this, Madam.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I would request the Hon. Railway Minister to consider this. Regarding the unmanned level crossings, at least, you can have a provision of underpasses. If you are not able to get the manned road, you give some kind of an underpass or a subway. That is better. Otherwise, there would not be any end to such accidents.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, yesterday we raised this issue in the House that the Hon. Prime Minister has come, and the Minister had given a statement seeking an apology.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, you raise the same points every day... (*Interruptions*) As always, statements are given by the Foreign Minister. You know it better than me. Saugatarai Ji, your notice is under my consideration.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The Privilege Motion is with me. It is under my consideration.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 161, Shri Dushyant Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

11.07 hrs

At this stage, Shri Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Dr. A. Sampath and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

* Not recorded.

11.08 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 161, Shri Dushyant Singh.

(Q. 161)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Over the last two fiscal years, as many as 20 road projects valued at Rs. 27,000 crores have failed to receive bids. The length of roads built for this year and the previous year has fallen extremely short of their targets. As on June this year, there were 260 projects involving Rs. 60,000 crore which were supposed to be taken up under the PPP model; they have been stalled. Private players are shying away from PPPs due to high interest rates from the banks and the fact is that the projects are getting shelved. At the same time, the Ministry is talking about constructing 30 kilometres of roads a day by 2016, a large improvement from the current pace of 3 kilometres a day. The Minister has gone to say that he intends to move a model of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) and to securitize the future toll revenues to pay for the cost of

construction. Madam, there is a dichotomy between what the figures are showing and what the Minister has stated. His Ministry people have mentioned that they cannot keep the projects under EPC given the financial restraints. In yesterday's List he has mentioned that the rebuilding of projects will be done through additional requirements from the Union Budget. When the Ministry does not have enough money to construct 8500 roads, which is targeted by March end, how do they intend to make the roads? They are not saying this fact, which is clear. You should tell us as to how you will construct the roads through EPC Model. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Madam, when we are shifting the project from PPP to EPC, a huge amount is required from the Central Government. Earlier there were so many procedures to shift a project from PPP to EPC. ... (*Interruptions*) After that we have made it easy. It is true that many PPP projects were not receiving bids. However, an increasing number of projects are being awarded under EPC Model.... (*Interruptions*) There are enough resources available with NHAI. They are planning to construct 30,500 kilometres of road under EPC Model in next two years. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam, I am saddened by the fact that the Hon. Minister does not know about his subject. His bureaucrats have given him papers on that. ... (*Interruptions*)

I want to know whether the statement in the Press reflects the view of the Government of making 30 kilometres of roads. If they are making these roads then what are the key policy changes of the Government?... (*Interruptions*) I would like to know whether they will help people in future to be a part of this road construction under PPP Model and to fulfil the promise to make 30 kilometres of road per day in future.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: We have taken several corrective measures. Actions have been taken to speed up the projects. Under the initiatives taken by the NHAI, the Reserve Bank of India has directed the financial institutions to consider loans regarding highway projects.... (*Interruptions*) The loans to highway projects are classified as secured by the Reserve Bank of India. If the project is delayed due to the financial problem, re-scheduling of premium is also available. ... (*Interruptions*) So, 30 per cent of their total collection can be scrutinized for the investment of the road projects. In that way, we have considered

so many corrective measures and planned to construct 30 kilometres of road per day. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa – not present.

Shri C. Suresh Angadi.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI: Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. There is a pending proposal with the Central Government to construct 336 kilometres road from Belgaum, Bagalkot and Raichur upto Mahboobnagar, border of Andhra Pradesh. This file is pending with the Central Government from 2009.

I would like to know whether the Ministry is going to take up this upgradation of road from Belgaum to Mahboobnagar and also as to when it will be completed.

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: We are giving more importance to border road projects. We are trying to complete this work within the scheduled period. I will definitely consider the request of our Hon. Member and let him know the details thereof.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. A. Sampath.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, if you do not want to ask the question and decided to come to the Well then, why are you giving your name to ask the question? This is not a proper thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Tathagata Satpathy.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, we have been hearing the replies from the Hon. Minister. Nothing seems to be very clear. I want to ask a very short question.

Madam, you would remember, during the 15th Lok Sabha, the Government had introduced a scheme for development of port connectivity to minor and medium ports through the national highway network. The Government of India, till now, has not furnished any information on the modalities of the implementation of the scheme. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the status of road connectivity scheme for non-major ports in the State of Odisha. ... (*Interruptions*)

According to the Note given by the Government on 2nd November, 2010 to the Government of Odisha, the National Highways Authority of India bears 50 per cent of the cost to non-major ports in the State. When can we expect these funds to be released to the Government of Odisha? ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you had said that 50 per cent would be borne by you. Are you, Sir, going to give that 50 per cent? When would you give it?

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Connecting the ports with the National Highways was brought by the then Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ... (*Interruptions*) The connectivity of the major ports is being studied. ... (*Interruptions*) Depending upon the feasibility, this will be awarded. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: The Government had said that there would be connectivity to non major ports. This was announced by the Government on 2nd November, 2010. ... (*Interruptions*) It was a project that was launched by the previous NDA Government ... (*Interruptions*) not your NDA Government and it was the original NDA Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, non-major ports are also taken into consideration depending upon the feasibility study. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Ratna De.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you do not want to ask the question, I will not entertain you in future.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: Hon. Speaker, two years ago, the work of expansion and widening was done on the Thane-Nashik National Highway No. 3 through the government and private participation. The same contract included making subways for vehicles and pedestrians and stoppages for buses and trucks at Padgha Naka, Titwala Naka and Wasid Naka. But no such work has been initiated there so far, due to which accidents there have become commonplace.

Therefore, I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether any action has been taken against the guilty officers and the private contractor of the authority. By when is the above-mentioned work likely to be completed, and what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that such repetitions do not take place in the future?

[English]

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Madam, the Ministry has decided to take up CUPs and PUPs at all major national highways to prevent accidents. ... (*Interruptions*)

(Q.162)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Madam Speaker, after India got independence, the democratic system was accepted, and in this system of democracy, under the leadership of Param Pujmya Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Constitution Committee was formed, through which the Indian people got a general right to vote, which is a privilege. But unfortunately this voting process is not improving today; it needs to be made flawless.

My question is that the Central Government has presented a very big report in the Supreme Court. It is obvious from this that the Central Government also wants to improve it. But in today's election system, instead of social and good work, money power has a greater say. Has the Central Government and the Election Commission suggested any measures to control this? What steps has the Central Government taken to implement those suggestions?

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, 'electoral reforms' is one of the major issues that is being

debated across the country, nowadays. Of course, several steps had been taken earlier. Several Committees and Commissions had given certain suggestions. In January, 2013, all those suggestions, which were given, have been referred to the Law Commission to give a detailed Report. After receiving the Law Commission's Report, we will discuss the matter, in detail.

But one thing is certain that today, the people across the country want to see free and fair elections. It is the intention of the people of this country that money and muscle power in elections have to be reduced.

There are several issues, which are before the Government under its due consideration. But as soon as we get the Report from the Law Commission, we will certainly look into it. We will have discussions with all the stakeholders, political parties and others across the country; and go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Madam Speaker, several levels of elections are held in India, such as District Council, Legislative Assembly, Lok Sabha, and Municipal Council or Municipality. Different listings are prepared in each

election. I want to know from the Minister through you whether the same voter list will be implemented in all the democratic elections in the future or not.

Secondly, all elections are held now through EVMs. Many questions are being raised on it. I would like to know that to build credibility for the verification of EVMs, is there a provision for the slip that should come along with the information about the button that is pressed on the EVM? Is the Central Government making any provision through the Law Commission to do so?

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, as far as the local bodies elections are concerned, they come under the jurisdiction of the State Election Commission.

The Election Commission of India will conduct elections for the Members of Parliament and the State Legislatures. There is a thinking before the Government that elections for the Members of Parliament and State Legislatures should be held simultaneously. It is under active consideration of the Government. But only after receiving the Report from the Law

Commission, it has to be distributed across the people; and then we will move forward.

As far as Electronic Voting Machines are concerned, we are at it; and we want to see that each and every area is taken into consideration so that we should go ahead.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Election Commission has conducted a number of laudable electoral reforms to strengthen democracy and enhance changes of elections on the recommendations made, from time to time, by the following Committees setup by the Government: -

1. Tarkunde Committee, in 1975
2. Goswami Committee in 1990
3. Indrajit Gupta Committee in 1998
4. Election Commission's Recommendations,
1998

But a lot of recommendations, to cleanse the electoral process and check malpractices in elections, are yet to be carried out.

Madam, many parties make tall promises at the time of elections in their manifestos. But they forget them once they get elected. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how he is going to ensure that the election promises made by the different parties, when they come to power, are adhered to by them.

Also, is there any proposal under consideration of the Government on State funding of elections with a view to check generation and flow of black money in the elections? If so, the details thereof. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, Electoral Reforms Vision Statement has already been prepared.... (*Interruptions*) This was referred to the Law Commission to look into the matter. Various issues, including what he said and also the issue of State funding, need to be taken into consideration. Only after the Law Commission's Report, we can discuss the matter in detail.... (*Interruptions*)

About 17 issues have been referred to the Electoral Reforms Commission. I can place them before the House. ... (*Interruptions*) Eligibility of the candidates, what should be

done as far as the criminal antecedents of the candidates are concerned, disclosure of the criminal antecedents, negative voting, increasing official limits on campaign expenditure, disclosure of assets and liabilities, curbing the cost of the election expenditure, State funding of elections, changes in preparation of electoral rolls, ... (*Interruptions*) curbing of Government sponsored advertisement, restriction of opinion polls, prevention of campaign during 48 hours before elections, avoiding victimization of officers posted for election duties, punishment for electoral offences and adjudication of election disputes, communalization of politics—all these issues have been referred to the Law Commission.

Certainly, this Government is very much eager to see that certain reforms are brought. Along with that, we are also thinking on the lines of giving voting rights to NRIs and mandatory voting.... (*Interruptions*) All these issues are before us. Certainly, a radical change needs to be brought in the electoral system and this Government is committed to do it.... (*Interruptions*) Only after getting the Report from the Law Commission, we can go ahead.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a supplementary.

So many Committees have been formed and electoral reforms have also been done from time to time....
(*Interruptions*) In the recent elections in Jammu and Kashmir there was 71 per cent voting because of the best arrangement done by the Central Government. I congratulate the Government and the Election Commission for that.... (*Interruptions*)

But what is happening recently is that in many elections the people will have their voter ID cards but their names will be missing. The voters' list is not properly maintained....
(*Interruptions*) For example, in February, 2013, there was a local body election. People, who had voted in that local body election in February, 2013, could not vote in the elections held in April, 2013 because their names were deleted. So many things are happening as far as the electoral list is concerned....
(*Interruptions*) What would the Government like to do it to see that electoral roll is properly maintained without victimizing somebody to repeal or add their names? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, several complaints have come as far as this matter is concerned. We have received several complaints across the country.... *(Interruptions)* All these matters have been referred to the Election Commission and we want to see that none of the voters is restrained from voting. So, this is the intention of the Government. We are at it. The Election Commission has taken serious note of it.... *(Interruptions)* We are going one step ahead with regard to this matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Karunakaran.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What happened?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Q. No.163—Not Present.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan. She is not asking her Question.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not proper. Hon. Members want to ask some question and others creating a pandemonium in the House is not a good thing. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Q. No.163.

(Q.163)

[Translation]

COLONEL SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.... *(Interruptions)* I want to inform you that under PMGSY a lot of work has been done concerning the roads.... *(Interruptions)* According to the criteria, work is first done where there is a population of one thousand people, a population of five hundred or a population of two hundred and fifty people.... *(Interruptions)* But I want to tell you that in the desert area there are hamlets inside my parliamentary constituency Barmer, Jaisalmer.... *(Interruptions)* Their population is very small.... *(Interruptions)* Somewhere there is a population of 25 people, somewhere it is 50 and somewhere it is a population of 100 people. Almost 90 per cent of people there live in rural areas. There are about 50 such places where one has to walk 15-20 km.... *(Interruptions)* There was a proposal under which hamlets were to be clubbed.... *(Interruptions)* The hamlets of 25 and 50 populations were proposed to be clustered so that the criteria of population could be met.

My question to the Minister is whether they will tell the Government of Rajasthan that after conducting a survey there, the iron kind of structures should be made a cluster so that their population rises to two hundred fifty to three hundred. I further want to ask the Minister whether funds will be allocated from here to get the road work done there or not

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDRA SINGH: Speaker Madam, as per the policy we have laid down, we will be able to provide this facility in the plain areas where the population is five hundred or more.... (*Interruptions*) Along with this, the states of special category, including the North-Eastern States like Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand, which are the areas where we have reduced the number from 500 to 250 (*Interruptions*) Similarly, there are left-wing extremism areas where it has been decided to cover areas with a population of less than a hundred as well. So far as hamlets are concerned, if there are five or seven houses and the population is not much, we cannot apply the same rule there.... (*Interruptions*) But as the Hon. Member has talked about a cluster of hamlets, if put together they constitute a population of five hundred, then we can definitely take the road there.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Under PMGSY Scheme, selection of village roads is done on the basis of 2001 Census. Since 2011 Census has been completed, I want to know whether the Government has any proposal to change the guidelines for selection of village roads as per 2011 Census to cover more villages. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: The criterion to select a particular village is the same and that is based on the 2001 Census. The scheme was launched in 2000-2001 and it became effective after 2003-04. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.K. Raghavan – Not present.

Shrimati Hemamalini.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Thank you, Madam. I would like to know the present status of Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I am very much pained with the pathetic condition of roads in my constituency. Crores of devotees from all over the world come there. They do the *Braj Parikarma* bare feet. Villagers of my constituency are also

suffering due to miserable conditions of these roads there. ...
(*Interruptions*)

Mathura being one of the most religious destinations, I request the Government to take up this issue immediately. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, this Question relates to rural roads, and it is not connected with Mathura. ... (*Interruptions*) Mathura being a town, it is the domain of the State Government and the State Government can take action in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Madam, roads are an important component for social and economic development in rural areas because they provide facilities like education, health, and marketing.... (*Interruptions*) To realise this concept, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was started on 25th December, 2000, by former Hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Since then, a lot of work has been done in this area, but in the last ten years, there has been a hindrances in the pace at which work should have been accomplished.... (*Interruptions*)

Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister by when 100 per cent of villages of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe areas and hilly areas of the country will get connected through this Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDRA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, when we started this action plan to provide this facility in rural areas, initially out of the contribution that we provided in the year 2012, the State Governments did not use Rs. 8,885 crore....
(*Interruptions*) After that, by continuously engaging with the State Governments, we brought down this surplus money in the year 2013 to Rs. 4,000 crore.... (*Interruptions*) Its work has picked up pace in the year 2014.... (*Interruptions*) According to that, now only Rs. 804 crore is left with different Governments.... (*Interruptions*) As far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned in rural areas having a population of 500 or more, and if that village is not located on the hill or mountain, we have given a fund to build the road there.... (*Interruptions*) We have connected 84% of villages by roads.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim, do you want to ask a Question or not?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: I want to ask a Question, but what about the House? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You can ask your Question, and the Hon. Minister will answer to it.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you want, then you can ask your Question.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Madam, if you see 'Part (b),' where is the answer to it? ... (*Interruptions*) The question was what are the various proposals received by the government?... (*Interruptions*) The government says that it is on the table of the House, but only that has been given in the proposal that they have cleared.... (*Interruptions*) There are no details of the

remaining proposals that the Government has received....
(*Interruptions*) We should know that... (*Interruptions*) Why is
the Government ignoring it? Part B is not complete....
(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you have the details for
it?

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDRA SINGH: Madam Speaker,
we had made a provision of Rs. 22,000 crore in the year 2014-
2015.... (*Interruptions*) As I said, so far in the year 2014-2015,
we have received Rs. 14,391 crores, and as soon as it comes to
us from the State Governments, we release the money
accordingly.... (*Interruptions*) There is no shortage of money...
(*Interruptions*) Still, Rs. 800 crore is lying with various State
Government unspent.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, if the detailed Report is there, then you can give it to the Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: What reports have you received from different States, and what demands have come, if any, you can share it with the Hon. member.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Yes, Madam. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (DARBHANGA): Madam Speaker, it was said that you should see in the answer to the very first question what substantial progress has been made in this....
(*Interruptions*) In the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, in my Darbhanga parliamentary constituency and in the district that partly includes Madhubani and Samastipur, a proposal for 442 roads was sent, in which 142 roads were covered.... (*Interruptions*) In the year

2012, 207 road tenders were made by the State Government. When we objected to it, it was cancelled because it was all messed up. ... (*Interruptions*) When the second time again they were tendered, the same objections arose.... (*Interruptions*) A plan was formulated during the time of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji to add it to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the benefit of the people here... (*Interruptions*) I want to know from the Minister why those 207 schemes, which should have been prepared in the year 2012 and should have been completed by the year 2013, are still lying in limbo?... (*Interruptions*) The company that made the mistake – was it blacklisted? Was there an FIR against it? Have their bank guarantees been seized?... (*Interruptions*) The Central Government should answer this because 45 lakh common people there are travelling there for this reason.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDRA SINGH: Madam Speaker, work has been done on 51 per cent of roads in Bihar, and I believe that the speed with which progress has been made in Bihar is lacking the required pace.... (*Interruptions*) As far as blacklisting and allotment of work are concerned, it is the work of the Provincial Government.... (*Interruptions*) We call them

and give them according to the criteria laid down....
(*Interruptions*) Irregular tenders have also been cancelled....
(*Interruptions*) The state itself has to take legal action against them, and they have been asked to do so.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you want more discussion on this subject, you can give a notice for half-an-hour discussion or something like that and I will allow it, as many members want to ask some questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 164)

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Our Power Minister is a very dynamic Minister. He is utilizing his total powers to develop the power sector.

India has become the world's third largest producer of electricity in the year 2013 with 4.8 per cent global share in electricity generation surpassing Japan and Russia. However, it could not produce electricity to the extent of its installed capacity resulting in acute shortage of electricity throughout the country. The *per capita* electricity consumption is also lower as compared to many other countries.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the steps that are proposed to be taken to utilize the full installed capacity and to add more capacity.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, the Hon. Member has asked a very important question.... (*Interruptions*) In fact, the irony of the country today is that, on one hand, the capacity installed after investing lakhs of crores of rupees is idle for want of fuel.... (*Interruptions*) There is neither gas nor coal, and the kind of

policies that have been going on for many years, gas plants were set up, but gas was not produced in sufficient quantity.... (*Interruptions*) Power plants were installed, but no coal was mined.... (*Interruptions*) This government has taken many steps to overcome this ironical situation.... (*Interruptions*) On one hand, the price of gas, which the previous government could not fix for many months, has been fixed by this government.... (*Interruptions*) This will increase the production of gas.... (*Interruptions*) It is our endeavour to bring gas from abroad and run as many gas plants as possible.... (*Interruptions*)

On the other hand, due to irregularities in the allocation of coal, the coal mines that were closed for many years and were not producing coal have been declared illegal by the Supreme Court.... (*Interruptions*) After that we will put it to use by auctioning it through e-auction in a transparent, very honest manner.... (*Interruptions*) We are also doubling the production of Coal India so that more and more coal is produced from these coal mines.... (*Interruptions*) The rest of the undertakings, like NTPC, should also extract coal stock in the country by producing coal; these plants should get coal, and power generation will increase.... (*Interruptions*) The public has been

suffering for many years, even after 67 years of independence....
(*Interruptions*) In Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Bihar,
electricity is available scarcely.... (*Interruptions*) We have come
to the service of the public with a motto of electricity 24 hours a
day, 7 days a week, in all these areas.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam Speaker, many States
including Maharashtra have been facing power shortage due to
tariff disputes.... (*Interruptions*) There should be a uniform
policy which is acceptable to all to fix tariff for procuring power
from private companies.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to know
from the Hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken or
proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this direction?
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The Hon. Members want to raise the
question that the old plants that are installed provide electricity
to many States on a fixed tariff. Due to the increase in the price
of foreign coal and the decrease in the price of the Indian rupee,
they are facing difficulties.... (*Interruptions*) This controversy

has been going on for several months.... (*Interruptions*) This dispute is sub judice in the Supreme Court and Apptel.... (*Interruptions*) In the previous order, Apptel stated that 5 States are affected by this, and the two companies that have gone to Apptel should come together and present themselves to Apptel in a flexible manner with some agreement; only then can a solution be found for these plants.... (*Interruptions*)

As far as the future is concerned, there is a need to relook at the old guidelines.... (*Interruptions*) There are some flaws, some impracticalities, so it has been decided to set up a special committee, which will look at the entire beading documents and the method of beading from a new perspective and make a project that will never face any difficulty in the future.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Private Sector investment in power sector and participation of private players under BOT and DBFOT route in power sector is definitely not in line with the nation's power requirement. I think this is because of unfriendly bidding process and formalities.

Therefore, I would like to ask Hon. Minister whether any delegation from Power Producers' Association have approached the Government to modify the bidding process. What was the Government's response to their delegation's request?

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised issues regarding UMPP; some bidding guidelines were changed in the year 2013-2014. Earlier, the bidding guidelines, in which 4 UMP Peas were allotted, according to the guidelines, had 6 tariffs in which, if the cost of fuel increased, people faced difficulty.... (*Interruptions*) In the year 2013-14, new guidelines were formed; fuel was allowed, but at the same time, 3 conditions were introduced.... (*Interruptions*)

1. Plants will be transferred back to the government after 30 years. Maybe either of the two parties gets an extension for 15 years, but it is not guaranteed.... (*Interruptions*)

2. At the same time, an independent engineer was conceived, who seemed very inclusive to the private producers and whose powers seemed very high.... (*Interruptions*)

3. The third technical standards that are there do not seem suitable for private manufacturers... (*Interruptions*)

The Association of Power Producers and other companies have requested the Government to realise the same.... (*Interruptions*) At the same time, many companies that had done RFP for UMPP have withdrawn their bids.... (*Interruptions*) Keeping this situation in mind, an expert group – through this, the entire guidelines, the DBFOT, which are the new guidelines on which UMPP bidding was happening – the entire scenario should be seen in a new perspective; a committee has been set up for that. A final decision will be taken after the review of the committee.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Madam Speaker, the Minister has mentioned two things in his reply –

Escalation of fixed and fuel charges has been linked to predefined parameters, and fuel cost has been allowed as a pass-through subject. The second mention is that the body of the Association of Power Producers has inserted two objects over DBFOT... (*Interruptions*) My question to the Minister is that just like the petrol and diesel prices, which are revised every 15

days, similarly gas prices are always revised in the country and the world... (*Interruptions*) They have set the revision deadline to six months. But gas prices are always fluctuating. Similarly, now imported coal is seemingly cheaper than Indian coal.... (*Interruptions*) How will they pass this on to the consumer, or what kind of clarity is there in their bidding document? the Minister should explain this.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the question raised by the Hon. Member is, first of all, gas prices are fixed in India, which currently stands at 5.61 dollars... (*Interruptions*) International gas prices have definitely come down since July, but that is a dynamic process; the gas will be less and more less.... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, imported coal has become cheaper, but it is still costlier than the prices offered by Indian Coal India Limited. In the new documents that have been made in DBFOT, when the prices will increase or decrease, there is a provision of fuel adjustment for both sides.... (*Interruptions*) Whenever the prices decrease, its benefit will be passed through to the consumer; there is a provision for it in this document. The objection raised by him is not in this provision.... (*Interruptions*) The objections raised by the APP or by the private players, the

land and the transfer of infrastructure is a matter of thirty years. It is on the technical standard and on the independent engineer. As far as consumer benefit is concerned, it will be positively passed on.

(Q. 165)

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: If we look at the Union Budget 2014-15, it is the textile industry which got almost everything what they wanted to have including Rs. 425 crore additional allocation, then what was there in the revised allocation of 2013-14 budget.... (*Interruptions*) If I take the case of Odisha, out of 30 districts in Odisha, 24 districts are related to textile and cotton production. ... (*Interruptions*) Almost 1,03,000 hectare of land is being used in production of cotton. More than 3 lakh bales are produced every year in Odisha. In 1970s and 1980s, the then Prime Minister of India Shrimati Indira Gandhi not only appreciated Odisha's cotton but also used to get sari for her own use.... (*Interruptions*) In 2014, our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar on 11th of February, very well appreciated Odisha's workforce in textile industry for having serious importance and expertise. ... (*Interruptions*) In the light of above, may I ask the Hon. Minister if he will set up textile

cluster in the State of Odisha on the line of 6 clusters that have been announced in the last Union Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam Speaker, this question is related to technical textiles, but what the Hon. Member has said, we understand his sentiments. In our view Odisha is an important place for a textile cluster. It is also in our interest, and we want to go beyond that to set up a textile park there. We would like to ask the Hon. Member to look for the entrepreneurs. We have just published the advertisement. We will try to provide full cooperation required to set up both textile parks and textile clusters.

[English]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR JENA: Madam, whatever land is needed from our area, we will ask the State Government to provide it. Coming to my second supplementary question, in the Expert Committee Report for Vision 2014-15, the Expert Committee has prepared a roadmap to achieve 300 billion of export by 2024-25 and have entailed an employment of almost 35 million people. This is going to be the highest employment

generating sector. In that Expert Committee Report, a ten point agenda has been specified by the Expert Committee. In Point No. 9 it has been specifically said that the Union Government need to have a partnership with the State Government for promotion and growth of this industry. So, my specific question to the Hon. Minister, through you is this. Has any effort been taken to partner with various State Governments including that of Odisha? If so, what are the details and if not, when is the partnership going to happen and what is the time-frame?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: We agree with the spirit of the Hon. Member, and we know this bench that after agriculture, the possibilities in the textile sector are maximum. The interest of the Hon. Prime Minister is in this sector. They want to take the textile sector far ahead. HL ... (*Interruptions*) It has a lot of scope. Whatever maximum effort is required in the context of Orissa, we will pay attention to it and get the work done. I would also like to say through you that we will make every effort to achieve and implement whatever is suggested by the Hon. Member in this context.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Madam, through you, I want to ask the Minister that jute is available in excess in Assam. It is cultivated tremendously. In my area, Mankachar and Dhubri, jute production is huge, but earlier there were industries. Now the farmers are committing suicide because they do not get that rate. Will the Government of India take note of this matter? I want to ask the Minister whether any industry will be set up there so that its cultivation can be increased and these farmers will get the benefit of it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam, our interest is very high in the North-East sector. We are going to Assam separately on the 20th. The subject on which the question was raised by the Hon. Member here today, that of technical textiles, is a big task in which we are spending 425 crores of rupees. We have fixed this for the North-East in the coming times. Under this, we will do a lot of work in this field, and we have taken steps in this direction.

[English]

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Madam, this is regarding the textiles of Odisha. During the last meeting, Hon. Prime

Minister, while addressing a meeting at Sambalpur, highly praised the Sambalpur Tie and Dye. Now the real weavers who are looking after the heritage, that heritage is going to die because of the entry of power looms in the Sambalpur textiles and handlooms. They have encroached the market and now the weavers are going to different States for labour. They are not getting the proper price. I would urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter so that the power loom sector should not enter into the handloom sector. The strict legal action should be taken in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam, we are paying attention to what they are saying. It is absolutely true that the department does not get as much honorarium as it should. Together we are planning on how to maintain the current number of vendors. This is a matter of our interest. HL ... *(Interruptions)* We will make every effort in this regard. I would urge the Hon. Member to provide us with whatever his suggestions are in this regard.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos.166 to 180

Unstarred Question Nos.1841 to 2070

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

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

12.00 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):

Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following letters (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 Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller

and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 944/16/14)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Carpet export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 945/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 946/16/14)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Associations, Ghaziabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 947/16/14)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014,
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 948/16/14)

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 949/16/14)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Association, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 950/16/14)

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Industry Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Industry Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 951/16/14)

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 952/16/14)

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2013-2014, and Accounts Reviewed Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 953/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

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 Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 954/16/14)

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the NTPC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 955/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2770(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28th October, 2014 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 2155(E) dated 21st September, 2011 under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 956/16/14)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:

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(i) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories (except Delhi) (Multi Year Distribution Tariff) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. JERC-18/2014 in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014.

(ii) The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and Union Territories (Procurement of Renewable Energy) First Amendment Regulations, 2014

published in Notification No. JERC-14/2010 in Gazette of India dated 22nd April, 2014.

(iii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. L-1/144/2013/CERC in Gazette of India dated 12th March, 2014.

(iv) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power System Development Fund) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. L-1/148/2014/CERC in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2014.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 957/16/14)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 958/16/14)

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa and Union Territories), Gurgaon, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (for the State of Goa and Union Territories), Gurgaon, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 959/16/14)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 960/16/14)

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 961/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): 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: -

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 962/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 963/16/14)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2013-2014.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 964/16/14)

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 965/16/14)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956: -

(i) S.O. 1545(E) to S.O. 1548(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches, mentioned therein, of National Highway No. 44 in the State of Tripura.

(ii) S.O. 467(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National

Highway No. 37 (Dibrugarh Bypass Section) in the State of Assam.

(iii) S.O. 487(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th February, 2014, authorising the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition), District Sonitpur, Assam, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 37 & 52 in the State of Assam.

(iv) S.O. 488(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th February, 2014, authorising the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Golaghat, Assam, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 37 & 52 in the State of Assam.

(v) S.O. 1147(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th April, 2014, authorising the Officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 44 (Agartala-Sabroom Section) in the State of Tripura.

(vi) S.O. 2371(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 (Demow to Dibrugarh Section) in the State of Assam.

(vii) S.O. 2372(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, authorising the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Golaghat, Assam, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 37 & 52 in the State of Assam.

(viii) S.O. 2373(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 (Numaligarh to Da-Dhara Section) in the State of Assam.

(ix) S.O. 489(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th February, 2014, authorising the Officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for

building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 in the State of Assam.

(x) S.O. 1530(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1147(E) dated 24th April, 2014.

(xi) S.O. 668(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37A (Kaliabhomora bridge-Dolabari Section) in the State of Assam.

(xii) S.O. 669(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37A (Kaliabor Tiniali-Kaliabhomora bridge Section) in the State of Assam.

(xiii) S.O. 803(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45C (Vikravandi-Kumbakonam-Thanjavur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xiv) S.O. 860(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of Chennai bypass (Phase-I) connecting National Highway Nos. 45 & 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xv) S.O. 1065(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th April, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 226 (Thanjavur-Manamadurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xvi) S.O. 1070(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th April, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 226 (Thanjavur-Manamadurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 966/16/14)

12.03 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

‘I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 14th August, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit: -

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that a Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted for the purposes set out in the Motion adopted by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st August, 2014 and communicated to this House, and resolves that this House do join in the said Joint Committee and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, five Members from among the

Members of the House to serve on the said Joint Committee.”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that as a result of the election process initiated pursuant to the above Motion, the following four Members of Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee: -

- (i) Shri Dilipbhai Pandya
- (ii) Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy
- (iii) Shri K.C. Tyagi
- (iv) Shri C.P. Narayanan

3. I am also to inform that in order to fill up the remaining one vacancy in the Committee, the election process is being initiated during the current Session of Rajya Sabha itself.’

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran to present the Report of Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitzings of the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. (Shrimati) Ratna De to present the report

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

[*Translation*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, we are ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, wait a minute.

The point is that the notice of adjustment motion that you have given is regarding excise duty on petrol and diesel effected through notification by the Government of India. It does not happen this way. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are an Hon. Member. You are also the leader of the largest opposition party. The issue of the adjudication motion that you gave and the notice of suspension of Question Hour that has come to me are completely different.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please understand my point also. 400 members want one thing, and your group wants something else. On the notice that you gave, you said that if we have to speak

something on this subject, then it would be okay, but it is not so. What happened yesterday has been apologised for. After everything happened yesterday...

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not speaking to you, nor is it your notice.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow this. I am asking Mr. Kharge. Do you have to say anything on the subject of the notice that you have given? Then I allow you to speak.

When you all go to your place, only then will your leader be able to speak. I can't let everyone speak here.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: You please go to your seats. Then I will ask Mr. Kharge something.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: All of them have given notices. Shri Gaurav Gogoi has given notice about the Church. Yesterday a complete discussion took place on this subject, and the Hon. Home Affairs Minister had also replied to it. Am I allowed to raise that issue here? Sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Go to your respective seats first. This is not the method.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We had asked the Prime Minister for clarification.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This does not happen if you raise whatever you want without talking about the notice given by you. You too are a responsible Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Go to your respective seats first.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Go to your respective seats first.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

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

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: How will I listen if you speak as well?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: First you all go to your respective seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Your member is just, your member, I said so.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Go to your respective seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you speaking? Go to your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you go to your seat, they will get a chance to speak. It doesn't happen like that.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you go to your seat, Kharge Ji will speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: First, please go back to your seats. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. First, you will have to go back to your seats. All of you have to go back to your seats. Please go back.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You all go to your seats. I will understand, Kharge ji.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: First, everyone go to their seat; I will understand Kharge Ji's point.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: First everyone go to their seats; what Kharge ji is saying, I will understand.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: First, please go back to your seats. I am sorry.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The House was not in order. You didn't give a chance at Question Hour....
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There was no notice.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The House was not in order.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You were also not speaking by your order. You were not speaking on the notice that you gave.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Your mic is also not on. Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, perhaps your people don't want to let you speak. What shall I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your own people don't want to let you speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, please tell them to help you. Please go to your seats, everyone. I am allowing you. You go to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Dharmendra ji, I know where your seat is. This is the leader's seat. Go to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Help Kharge ji. Will you help Kharge Ji? Help your leader.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Whatever happens later? Respect your leader first.

... (Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri P. Karunakaran and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit silently.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The voice will not come from here.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What happened?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, please speak. No one will make a sound. Everyone will remain silent.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, would you like to speak?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Let Kharge Ji speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You too have been chasing a woman since yesterday; that is why women are getting angry. Please leave.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let them speak. What is going on? Why don't you go?

... (*Interruptions*)

12.08 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri P. Karunakaran and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker Madam, we are as much saddened as you are.... (*Interruptions*) You are not doing anything right this way.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Silence, please.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The voice is coming from here. That is not good.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: They want to suppress us with their proven majority.... (*Interruptions*) They are provoking. Since you have got the majority, do you want to suppress us? We have seen many such days... (*Interruptions*) So we feel sad that the entire opposition was requesting you to get a statement from the Prime Minister. Because one of his ministers made such a statement.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please let them speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This means no one wants to talk or even listen.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, we only wanted that the leaders are the leaders of this House while in the House, and the Prime Minister of the country is everyone's Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister has the authority to control his ministers or give them instructions, no one else can do so. That is why the whole House wanted to... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: They are talking about the opposition; they should talk about themselves.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The whole country wants this... (*Interruptions*) The whole country expects to condemn such a statement.... (*Interruptions*) That is why we wanted the Prime Minister.... (*Interruptions*) But the entire opposition was requesting you and waiting for their statement.... (*Interruptions*) We wanted that at least you would come as our defence.... This is not the first time such an incident has taken place.... (*Interruptions*) If 10 people came to the House, the House was adjourned... (*Interruptions*) and if 20 came, the House was still adjourned... (*Interruptions*) And you were, and are, the eyewitness of all that.... (*Interruptions*) Despite this, today there

were 80-90 people from all parties requesting you...
(*Interruptions*) But I felt that even today you did not give me
permission.... (*Interruptions*) Perhaps, I cannot say that...
(*Interruptions*) You must have given it under their pressure.
(*Interruptions*) I cannot say that you have come under their
pressure. (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, you also say yours in little words
and do not excite anyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Otherwise, there will be no record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

HON. Speaker: If there is anything wrong, I will see.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you even speak to the Chair? The
Chair did not say anything to you, so nobody speaks to the
Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I said that you did it under pressure... *(Interruptions)* I did not say that... *(Interruptions)* I am telling this clearly.... *(Interruptions)* But such an environment was created here,... *(Interruptions)* Even after an hour here, whatever we are feeling... *(Interruptions)* despite our best efforts... *(Interruptions)* you did not bless me.... *(Interruptions)* I was not asked to speak.... *(Interruptions)* I felt very bad about it.... *(Interruptions)* It is not right; if it happens, how will the democracy operate? ... *(Interruptions)* You know, before you also, papers were thrown in this House, papers were torn.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: That is not to be discussed.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We came before you and put all our views peacefully.... *(Interruptions)*

But despite this, we did not get a chance. Why is the Prime Minister not giving a statement? What's the reason? That is why I want that if you want to run the House in your own way because you are the majority party, then it is a big threat to democracy.... *(Interruptions)* Madam, you should control this....

(Interruptions) You are a custodian; you should provide equal support to every member of the House.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Well, sit down now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: As such, we condemn the attitude and behaviour of the Government.... *(Interruptions)* This habit of theirs is not good.... *(Interruptions)* In this House, the Prime Minister has always been coming and giving such statements.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Well, sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This is what I want to say. That's why I want a response.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, I want to say something.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Sudeep ji, you have no notice. I won't allow this.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow anyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji has said something for the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You sit down; you have no notice. Please listen to me. Now, I want to say something.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ...*

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: There is no notice from anyone, so all of you sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Listen to me first. Something has been said about the Chair. You will have to sit and hear me.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Sit in peace. Please sit down.

Karunakaran Ji, you sit down. When your name was called to ask questions, you did not speak. Now you sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Kharge Ji raised some issue in the House. First of all, the House has some rules laid for the Chair which I must follow. Hon. Kharge Ji, whenever you have given notice in any context, I have allowed it. When you asked for an apology, even that was granted. Our Minister said. He apologised for who said it. After that we conducted the

proceedings of the House. I'm thankful for that. This had happened. Today, your notice is only about Central Excise.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Listen to me.

We brought statements on everything here yesterday. You talked about Chhattisgarh, the minister replied. It's correct that the matter of discussion was raised from your side, but the Minister also replied. Since you are now speaking on behalf of all the opposition, nothing has been allowed to go unnoticed here. The way you said it, there is no pressure on the Chair. You must have experienced that everything was answered by the Cabinet.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Listen to me for one minute.

After coming from abroad, this is the practice to date, and I have also noticed that the External Affairs Minister gives details of that whole thing, the statement here in the House. Prime Minister should speak about what you are saying, once the Minister spoke out, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister himself

said in a way that this is not appropriate, then the matter would have ended there after the Minister himself apologised.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't speak; otherwise I will have to repeat the same thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Without giving notice if you want to speak on something, I can't allow it in the Question Hour. So whatever you want to speak, speak now. If you had raised the notice of your adjournment in Question Hour, I would have heard it, but I did not allow your adjournment notice.

Kharge Ji, you also know. It wasn't very urgent. When it was urgent, I immediately took notice and asked the Minister to apologise. So, it would be better if you didn't comment in this way.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After coming to the Well, I am not in a position to do anything. When 400 Members want to ask questions and want answers from the Minister, I cannot

disregard them. I have to handle them too and also give importance to you as well. I am trying for that.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I think it's good if such things don't happen now. Now I am starting the zero hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What do you want to say? Write down the topic. Till then, I will start with those who have written and have the legal rights. Write down what you want to say.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, yesterday this issue was raised. The Hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji made a statement... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You want to raise an issue then speak.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: He mentioned my Party's name categorically Trinamool Congress and also Shri

Tapas Paul by name on this subject. It is my privilege to be allowed to speak and to explain what the Hon. Minister said and what is our standpoint... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Your subject is taken care of. Don't raise it again. I have given an explanation for that.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: If you do not give me time then I have to tell in one word what Shri Kharge ji has said. We fully agree with him and support him. We stand by the statement made by Shri Kharge ji and we are walking out... (*Interruptions*) You are not allowing us to speak... (*Interruptions*) This is not fair... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am allowing. I am allowing you.

Shrimati Ratna De

Shri Jitendra Chaudhury - Not present

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: First on the list is Ratna Dey. I am asking him if he wants to raise his question. Shrimati Ratna De, would you like to speak on your subject – the need to open Kendriya Vidyalaya?

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Madam, Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. My parliamentary constituency Hoogly... (*Interruptions*)

12.22 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other Hon. Members left the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam, Speaker, in my absence, I was

in the other House, it is functioning or not functioning I had to be there and I went there. I am told that my name is taken out of context. I have not said any word against Mamata ji.

HON. SPEAKER: He wanted to give some explanations about what you said yesterday. It is all right.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not giving any explanation. I hold Mamata ji in high esteem. What I said was that she had the culture to condemn that. But Beni Prasad Verma ji did not apologise. That was the context in which I mentioned it. I do not think anybody should have objection to that. Every day they want to say something and curse the Government. Mere curses will not do anything to this Government. It is the wish of the people that prevail. They should understand that.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chhotelal Ji.

SHRI CHOTELAL (RABERTSGANJ): Thank you for allowing me to speak on the important subject in Zero Hour. Madam, drinking water has been contaminated in my parliamentary constituency Robertsganj, Sonbhadra, in villages like Gram Khairahi, Baraidar, Dadihara Block Mairkul,

Renukot, District Sonbhadra, etc. There is fluoride in it. There are big dams and many big companies, whose dirty water falls into the dam, due to which the water there has become poisonous. The district magistrate and the state government are well aware of this, but no effective steps are being taken. People there are suffering from many types of diseases like disability, fluraria, etc., due to drinking contaminated water. The news has been published in India News and other daily newspapers. I have already visited the village and apprised all the officials. I demand through the House that after examining all the handpipes of my parliamentary constituency Robertsganj-Sonbhadra, proper arrangements should be made to provide people with clean drinking water; we will thank you for your kindness.

[English]

***SHRI P R SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Thank you, Hon'ble Madam Speaker. Tamil Nadu Government under the able guidance of Hon'ble *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has taken several precautionary measures to control and contain bird flu in Tamil Nadu. Namakkal is the largest producer of eggs. In my Namakkal parliamentary constituency 3 crore eggs are produced every day. Out of which, 1 crore eggs are sent to different states of the country and also exported to foreign countries. Tamil Nadu Government under able guidance of Hon'ble *Puratchithalaivi* Amma held a meeting last week under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister and in the presence of District Collector to explain the poultry farmers the measures to be taken to contain and control bird flu. I also attended that meeting. Tamil Nadu Government functioning under the guidance of Hon'ble *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has announced that there is no bird flu in the State of Tamil Nadu. As per the statements of Tamil Nadu Poultry Farmers Association, the prices of eggs have not come down and eggs are being exported to foreign countries. Hon'ble Madam Speaker. What I want

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

from the Government at the Union is that, as mentioned by me in this august House, the long pending demand of poultry farmers to divide all States as different zones should be fulfilled and Tamil Nadu should be announced as a separate zone with Namakkal as its headquarters. I also urge the Union Government to announce Namakkal district as egg export zone.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to put forward an issue regarding my constituency, Srikakulam.

In the Mandal of Santhabommali, there is a huge swamp area. Every year, due to rains, a lot of water gets collected there. There is a natural flow of water and all this water has to go to the sea. But there is a canal called Gareebula Canal. There is a bridge on the canal which obstructs the natural flow of water. So, the bridge gets submerged when there is heavy rain and for a month, communications to hundreds of villages get obstructed.

I want the Government to take up this issue and build a higher bridge of a much higher height so that there is a natural

flow of water from the swamp area to the sea and none of the villages get submerged in this area.

I propose that between the villages of Mollapeta and Palavanipeta, a bridge of a higher height must be built on the Gareebula Canal.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Hon. Speaker, it is necessary to set up an expanded centre of Kashi Hindu University in my parliamentary constituency, Sasaram, Bihar.

Madam, by establishing an expanded centre in Sasaram, the attached backward districts of Jharkhand, including the states of Rohtas, Kaimur, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Jehanabad, Gaya, and Bihar, Palamu, Chatra, etc., and other border states of Bihar will also benefit educationally.

Madam Speaker, it is noteworthy that the extended centre of Aligarh Muslim University has opened in Kishanganj in Bihar Governorate. Therefore, I have a special request that through this House, please direct the concerned Ministry to establish the extended centre of Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi, in Sasaram, Bihar, so that quality higher education can be provided

in the educationally and socially backward districts of Bihar state. Can be available.

[English]

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

Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I wish to raise an important issue. The rail route between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi, for a stretch of 30 kms, functioned profitably from 1926 to 1991. During that period since road facilities were not upgraded, the rail connectivity remained as the lifeline of this people. In 1991 the metre gauge operations were stopped and remain so till date. Between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi this rail route had railways stations at the following places: (i) Mayiladuthurai Town (3.82 kms); (ii) Mannampanthai (8.35 kms); (iii) Sembanaarkovil (12.35 kms); (iv) Aakoor (18 kms); (v) Thirukkadaiyur (21.89 kms); Thillaiyadi (25.33 kms); Poraiyaar (28.13 kms); and Tharangambadi (29.35 kms). Important schools, Arts colleges like AVCC and TBML, AVCC Engg. College, Teacher Training Institute, and other professional institutions are functioning in this area. Poor people and people

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

below poverty line, students do not find a transport system in this area which can suit their needs. Tharangambadi is an area full of fishermen and fishing activities. Fishermen do not have proper transport facility for exporting to other countries. Moreover they do not have adequate storage facilities. Livelihood of fishermen is affected. Hindu pilgrim centres like Thirukkadaiyur (DharumapuramAatheenam), Thirunallaru (Saturn) and Nagoor Mosque, Vailankanni temple, Tharangambadi Holy Church, Danish Fort are some of the tourist attractions. If this route is extended by 9 km and connected with Karaikkal, you can get a big rail network in southern Tamil Nadu. Around 30 km long land between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi is already with the Railway Department. Only 9 kilo meter stretch of land between Tharangambadi and Karaikkal has to be acquired. This project can be completed at a cost of Rs.100 Crore. Only when this rail route is extended and connected, people of Tharangambadi can have rail connectivity to go to Chennai for medical treatment and technological benefits. Thank you. Tamil Nadu Government under the able guidance of *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has included Tharangambadi in the list of small ports and development

activities are being undertaken. I therefore, urge that already existing metre- gauge railway line should be converted as broad-gauge and rail services should be made functional between Mayiladuthurai and Tharangambadi very soon. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: You have mentioned your point about gauge conversion. It has come in the records.

SHRI JITENDRA CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Madam Speaker, thank you. I would like to raise one very important issue. There are some Kok-Borok speaking communities who are inhabited in Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and some other States of the North-Eastern region.

These Kok-Borok speaking people are enjoying the Scheduled Tribe status in the State of Tripura, but in Mizoram and Assam, where these communities are living in some districts, only a section of these communities are enjoying the facilities meant for Scheduled Tribes and the rest of them are not given the benefits of Scheduled Tribes due to lack of elaboration. They are being deprived of all kinds of facilities that are extended to the Scheduled Tribes.

So, the Ministry concerned in the Government of India may take the initiative and rectify the Scheduled Tribe list in Assam and Mizoram so that this population, which is about 20,000 in number altogether, may also enjoy the benefits extended to the Scheduled Tribes. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to present an extremely important question before this House. The cash crop of this country is sugarcane. 80 per cent of the country's farmers live in villages, be it Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar or any other state. The cash crop in any state of the country, if any, is sugarcane. In the payment made for sugarcane for the previous crushing season of 2013-2014, Rs. 8500 crore is still left. Out of which, Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for an unpaid amount of Rs. 5304 crore. Recently, Union Minister, respected Paswan Ji, held a meeting with State Governments and industrialists. They directed payment of the sugarcane price within 15 days. Even the High Court has said regarding the sugarcane price that the farmer lends his sugarcane; hence, it is

the responsibility of the government and the sugar mills to pay their sugarcane price. Since the farmer does not have any cash crop, the daughter of the farmer gets married after payment of sugarcane slips. If the farmer goes to medical college for the treatment of his old father, he goes after pledging those slips or paying that money, even for his son's fee or Talim; the farmer has to rely on income from sugarcane. But today I have to say that the condition of the farmer in the country is deteriorating the most because his last crushing session could not be paid for sugarcane. The sugar mills in this crushing session are not ready to run the mills. Uttar Pradesh has 133 sugar mills. The crushing session used to start from October 15, and as of today only 80 sugar mills are running. Now, either the farmers will have to burn the sugarcane in the fields, or the farmers will be forced to let a single crop stand in the fields. This is an odd situation. I want the Government to respond on this. While last time the price of sugarcane per quintal was 280 rupees, this time it was reduced to 260 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh. However, the farmers are not getting paid. On this, the High Court ordered ten per cent interest to be given if sugar mills do not run after 15 days even. They got a cash loan of Rs.1668 crore for payment of

the sugarcane price. That money was received for payment of the sugarcane price of the farmers, but they spent it on other items, and despite that, no action was taken against those sugar mills. Earlier, the RC was issued; if the sugarcane of the farmers was not paid, then as an obligation, the sugar of its stock was seized by issuing RC against those mill owners. Payment was made by selling it. If the sugar mill owners did not have the right intentions, actions would be taken to the extent of sending them to jail. Today, the Central Government has given an interest-free loan of Rs. 4400 crores. 40 per cent has been given to increase their imports. Permission was also given to make ethanol in petrol. The Central Government has also given the convenience that the sugar mills of the state can pay the sugarcane farmers. This is not about politics. This issue concerns the farmers of the entire nation. The issue concerns all the States and we are elected by the farmers. Madam Speaker, you are also like a mother. Ask those children whose fees are not being paid. Please direct the mill owners to make the sugarcane payment. Our Union Minister may say that he has held two meetings, yet the State is not making the payment, and action is not being taken against the mill owners. Some Government mills have made the

payment in Uttar Pradesh. Private sector payments are still pending. Their association is the Indian Sugar Mills Association. They have warned that they will not run the mills. The farmer once lent his sugarcane; if we go to the market, then nothing is available from the market without giving cash. They should be paid at the earliest. You gave me time to speak; I thank you for that.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Shri Rajendra Agrawal, Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra, Shrimati Rama Devi, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Pralhad Joshi, Shri P P Chaudhary, Shri Devajhi M Patel, Shri Nana Patole, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAI (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Madam Speaker, the Nishchintpur-Kalighat Bridge in North Andaman is broken, and I have been demanding for a long time, but the bridge has not been built. Students come and go in dungarees. Early this morning at 8:30, the boat capsised. But it is full in the sea. A bridge should be built immediately. This is the condition of the Andaman Nicobar bipartisan group.

The assembly is not ours. Our Government is at the centre. The issue on which I stand to talk is that there is only one municipal council in Port Blair. In that 1361 DRM workers work from 8 years to 17 years. They do not get CL, bonus, gratuity, etc. As they work, the city of Port Blair remains clean. I had raised the demand to make those workers permanent in the 15th Lok Sabha, but it did not materialise. I am again demanding the same in this Parliament, and I have specially written letters to make them permanent. There have been strikes twice. Strikes took place on 20th February and 17th November 2014. Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary of the administration called a meeting on April 17 and assured that the labourers will be made permanent and their salaries will increase by 25 per cent. It has been eight months, but no action has been taken so far. The Municipal Council had passed a regulation on September 17 to make them permanent. The government has to pay only Rs. thirty crores. I would urge the government through you to make the municipal employees permanent, as has been done by the Andaman administration. 325 people have been regularised in the Home Guard. 495 people in the electricity department, supply, part-time Chaudhary, AGBS, education department, etc., have been

regularised by creating supernumerary posts for DRM employees. I would demand that an order be given to the administration that 1361 municipal council DRM workers should be permitted by creating a supernumerary post.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on an important subject in Zero Hour. I want to speak on the subject of preparing food for a midday meal. This scheme belongs to the Government of India and is implemented by the state Government. The food prepared in the schools is made by burning wood. Due to this, pollution and cutting of trees take place. I suggest to the Government of India through you that LPG cylinders should be provided for the Mid-Day Meal. The deposits of stoves and cylinders should be given to the Government of India, and the Government of India should direct the oil companies to provide exemption from it. Free cylinders should be given to schools for making food in the schools everywhere. I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri Devji M Patel and Shri Nana Patole associate themselves with the subject of Dr. Kirit P Solanki.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR (PURNIA): Hon. Speaker, approval has been given to open a Central University in Motihari and Gaya district of Bihar by the Government, which is welcome. There is no central-level educational institution in Purnia in the Seemanchal region of Bihar. This area is very backward in the field of education. The Seemanchal region consists of two divisions and several districts. The Purnia region lies in the middle of it. This region is economically and socially backward. Meritorious students of the poor families here are unable to go out and get an education due to their plight.

Therefore, I request the Government through the House to take this matter into its notice and open a central university in Purnia of the Seemanchal region on a priority basis.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajendra Agrawal ji, is your matter related to the State?

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Madam, it is happening in the state, but it is not a matter of state. I am most

grateful to you, Sir. You and the House must have heard about Kamela, in which animals are slaughtered. It is unfortunate that Meerut has a place where vehicles stolen from other states are cut, and that place is famous by the name of Kamela of vehicles. In Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, and West Uttar Pradesh, stolen vehicles are bought there and cut. A crime is committed using these stolen vehicles. After committing the crime, they are cut, and in this manner, all proof is removed. The situation is that it is developing as an organised crime. The whole city knows; the people around know where parts of such severed vehicles can be found. A grey market is located there, but the administration refuses to see those things by taking bribes in exchange. This business is going on like this. The situation is that if someone reports theft, then he is given enough time that the vehicle reaches this complex and is disconnected.

My request through you is that the Government should intervene; otherwise, it can become a very big problem by developing into organised crime. It is very important to control it. You gave me an opportunity; I express my gratitude to you sincerely.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD):

Madam, I would like to place my concern before the House through you on the value of the paddy where farmers have produced very well in many states of the country, including Madhya Pradesh, this year.

Madam, farmers have produced a good crop of paddy this year by working hard day and night. Unfortunately, due to an anomaly in the import-export policy of the previous government, the paddy-growing farmers this year are not getting the price that they should have got. The farmers are being paid Rs. 1200 to 1400-1500 per quintal, which is very little as per their cost. The farmer has to spend money on fertilisers, medicines, water, wages, diesel, electricity, etc., and as such, the cost per acre comes to at least Rs. 3,000 per quinta for the farmer. Now if the farmer sells his produce at Rs. 1200 or Rs. 1400, then his cost will also not come down, and the farmer will go into loss.

I request the Government of India to reconsider this matter again. Along with my Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, and Raisen parliamentary constituencies, many parts of Madhya Pradesh

constitute Chhattisgarh, which is considered a paddy bowl. The paddy-producing farmers are totally dependent on it. I request that the support price of paddy should be fixed at least at 3800 to 4000 rupees per quintal. So that the paddy produced by the farmer on 20-22 quintal acres can get a proper price for his produce.

I would like to make one more request: that the support price of cereal products which is applicable in this country, the produce should be sold in the local markets at a price above that. This should be an obligation on the part of the trader and administration. Because if the support price is three thousand rupees, the goods are being sold for two thousand rupees as of today. That is not fair. Farmers are not getting the benefit of it.

Madam, through you, I would request that the support price be followed and our paddy farmers get a reasonable price for their produce. Thank you very much.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Madam Speaker, I want to associate with them.

HON. SPEAKER: Ok, if you write the name and send it, it will be done.

Dr. Virendra Kumar, Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu and Shri Sushil Kumar Singh are granted permission to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Uday Pratap Singh Ji.

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SEEKAR): Hon. Speaker, there is only one National Highway number 8 connecting Rajasthan-Gujarat to Delhi through Mumbai and Kandla. There is no train for Delhi, so I have to come to Sikar via road to Delhi. There is a journey of two hundred fifty kilometres, and from Kotputli to Delhi it is just 130 kilometres. It takes me six hours to reach Delhi. There was an ambulance behind me this time. It took seven hours for that ambulance to reach Delhi from Kotputli. As a result of this, the patient in that ambulance died on the way. I would like to request that for all the service roads or where culverts are being built, trucks carrying stones from Rajasthan come to Delhi and Haryana. Every day a truck overturns and the road gets jammed. I and others have raised this issue earlier also.

I request the Hon. Road Transport Minister that this road should be repaired immediately, because the only way to come from Jaipur, Mumbai and Kandla to Delhi is National Highway

No. 8. This national highway should be repaired immediately, and culverts should be constructed soon.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat, Shri C.R. Chaudhary and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati.

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Madam, this is a request for introducing a direct train between Guntur, the new Capital of Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi. Guntur is the third largest populous city in Andhra Pradesh and it is no exaggeration when I say that this region is identified as a major industrial region in India along the corridor up to Visakhapatnam. It has been identified to establish the new capital to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

From rich cultural heritage in the form of ancient temples such as Amaravathi, Mangalagiri, Vykuntapuram and Ponnur to tourist destinations such as Kotappa Konda, Amaravathi Museum, Nagarjuna Sagar, Vundavalli Caves, Kondaveedu Fort, Suryalanka beach to India's one of the largest universities -

Acharya Nagarjuna University - Guntur has carved its niche in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Being one of the leading producers of paddy, cotton and chillies, Guntur is a centre for business and commerce, agriculture and industry. The city also hosts one of the largest Asian markets for red chillies. The Tobacco Board is also headquartered in Guntur.

In spite of having these many positive aspects and advantages, unfortunately, Guntur does not have a direct train from the Capital of the country. It is the policy of the Railways to run one direct superfast train between the State Capital and the country's capital. The people and public representatives have been demanding since many years for a direct train between Guntur and New Delhi, but nothing has been done so far. We assure you that it will meet all the commercial parameters of Railways as Guntur has immense tourist, passenger and commercial potential; in fact, it crosses those parameters by leaps and bounds.

In view of the above, I would request you to kindly consider favourably for an exclusive superfast Train between Guntur and New Delhi.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary – not present.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI): Madam, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Defence Minister towards the problems being faced by the residents of Kandivali and Malad in Mumbai. There is a residential area behind the erstwhile Defence Depot in the aforesaid area. Now-a-days, the aforesaid Depot is not in use. However, there are residential quarters of Defence personnel. The Defence authorities have brought stay orders from the Supreme Court for not constructing high rise buildings. But already there are some high rise buildings with 20 to 28 storeys in existence and the Municipal Corporation of Mumbai has given NoC for that.

Madam Speaker, so many old multi-storeyed buildings are also there which about 30-35 years old are and which need re-development. But because of the stay order of the Supreme Court, it cannot be done.

Any unfortunate incident may happen. The Government has to take steps before any unfortunate incident happens.

This issue was discussed under the Calling Attention. No response has come from the Defence Minister. I would request the Government, through you, Madam, to look into this issue very urgently, which is very important for the residents of Kandivali and Malad.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Madam, you and your chair represent the Sovereign House. The questions that you have given permission to raise are the voice of the Sovereign House. For the last many years, on the orders of the Chair, I have been raising the question which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Bihar Kesari once raised by establishing the Barauni Refinery. It is a tradition, and it should be.

Madam, when the refinery is born, the petrochemical factory is also born from its womb. Barauni Refinery is now celebrating its golden period in fifty years, but not a single shoot was propagated from its womb, nor did plants come out. Unfortunately, due to the political games played with Bihar and

Barauni, Bihar has fallen prey to backwardness, and the people of Barauni feel cheated.

Madam, a fertiliser plant came into existence and was then closed. But no steps to date seem to have been taken to restart the same plant. Recently, in the same Sovereign House of the Lok Sabha, the then Minister and the Minister of the present Government had also made a positive announcement. But even after their announcement, no seedlings, no plants are visible.

Madam, through you, I want to tell the Government that in the year 1984-85, the then Government had got it examined through M/s Engineers India of Petro Chemical Factory of Barauni Refinery as to how many units of Petro Chemical Factory could be set up from the Barauni refinery. Ms Engineers India said eight aromatic factories could be opened. But the farmers there are still in a state of chaos. Fertiliser is expensive.

HON. SPEAKER: You have put your topic in place. Now conclude your speech.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam, through your Sovereign House, we want to urge the present Government to remove the backwardness of Bihar by removing the situation of confusion

and irony that has been meted out to us and the petrochemical of Barauni Refinery. Take the strictest action possible to give birth to the factory and implement it. Let me draw the attention of the House toward this

HON. SOEAKER: Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shrimati Rama Devi and Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Bhola Singh.

[English]

***SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):** Madam Speaker, a very shocking and shameful incident took place in the Bilaspur district of Chattisgarh.

Madam, please think a while, as to what value we have for the life and well-being of the women in our country.

A private hospital, subjected 82 women, most of when were below 32 years of age to a sterilization operation. The operation was carried out within 5 hours.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

15 women died, and the health of the remaining women has been seriously affected. Has sterilization become a business venture in our country?

In fact, when the Government is conducting such a camp, why were the women taken to a private hospital instead of a government hospital? Please think whether the whole exercise was done with some vested economic interest.

It would be proper, if an enquiry is done to find out whether the private hospital wanted to pocket a share of the incentive amount which the women undergoing sterilization were expected to get.

HON. SPEAKER: There is a judicial inquiry going on.

SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER: I am submitting the actual points. All over India, there is a practice of subjecting only women to sterilization. Chattisgarh is only one example. Everywhere, all over India it happens. Therefore, the action should not be limited to a mere suspension. Such negligence is criminal and hence punishable. The women did not die, it was a murder.

HON. SPEAKER: About that, inquiry is going on. You come to your subject.

***SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER:** I am coming to that point. Madam, please give me two minutes. In various states, including our state Kerala also, women are subjected to sterilisation.

In earlier times, men too would undergo sterilisation. Now, the mind-set has changed. So the poor women are made scape goats.

So, regarding the women, we should ensure that sterilisation is done in healthy environment, without harming or affecting their health.

Without ensuring these, no sterilisation camp should be held. The Health Minister should take a decision that sterilisation should be performed only in government hospital, where the poor women can avail this facility.

Madam, can we take adequate steps? So that such tragic incidents do not occur in the future. Madam, this is the question I want to ask the Government, through you.

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri P.K. Biju and Adv. Joice George are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): The issue that I would like to invite the attention of the Government of India, through you, Madam Speaker, is also related to health. I was on the queue. I am the next speaker to Shrimati Shreemathi Teacher who was previously a Health Minister in the State of Kerala.

What we now experience in this nation is some kind of fanaticism in the health sector. I may be permitted to use such a word. Why I say so is, now-a-days we are experiencing a very severe shortage of anti-rabies serum. Anti-rabies vaccine can be administered if the dog bit is only skin deep. But if the bite is of very grievous nature, then quite naturally the doctor should give at the earliest the anti-rabies serum. If the bite is on the head or on the neck or on the abdomen, quite naturally, people will be running to get the anti-rabies serum at whatever cost that they can fetch. In many States, including Kerala, we are in short supply of anti-rabies serum.

Madam Speaker, anyway I am quite sure--and you will also agree with me in this matter--that our nation is one where the largest number of people are dying because of dog bite. There are people who are there to save the lives of the street dogs but there are no people to save the lives of the poor people. The anti-rabies serum is very expensive. So, I would like to invite the attention of the Chair and also the Government of India to a Report submitted in August, 2013 by the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare.

13.00 hrs.

This is a very serious report. If you permit, this House should discuss it later. The Report is 'Alleged Irregularities in the Conduct of Studies using Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine in India'. It is being used by certain agencies.

Hon. Speaker, in the experiments that had been conducted on human beings since 2005 upto 2012, a total of 2,644 people had died and most of them were women and girls. The experiments are conducted on women and girls. They are bitten like guinea pigs.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please raise your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH: It is a serious matter. It does not have any political colour or any communal colour. This is regarding the health of our own people. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please come to the point. In 'Zero Hour' only one or two minutes are available for each Member. Nobody is objecting to what you are saying.

DR. A. SAMPATH: Madam, just give me one minute. I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this matter in this House today. I am a bit lucky that I got selected in the slot also.

My request is that on the one side the experiments being conducted upon people should be thoroughly scrutinized. It is only after the thorough securitization by the concerned authorities should that happen. Then, on the other side, lifesaving drugs like Anti-Rabies Serum should be provided free of cost through the Community Health Centres in all the States and the Union Territories throughout the nation. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri M.B. Rajesh, P.K. Biju and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH (SAMBHAL): Madam, my subject is very important. The Delhi-Saharanpur state route connects the capital of the country. It's in a very bad condition. ACW was given its contract. The time for the contract of that company has also ended, but to date neither it has repaired that road nor has it done any work on it. Our Hon. Minister is working on roads in a very innovative manner. He has saved thousands of crores of rupees.

I request the Government of India through you to eliminate the PPP model and declare it a national highway. When the NDA Government was in power, even at that time a note was prepared in the ministry, which was approved, but no work was done on it. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): Madam, I would like to raise a matter of national importance in the House. About 10 years ago, Pakistan had an agreement with China for the

Gilgit and Baltistan region. At that time the issue was raised that it is the land of Pakistan; then India countered it, and ultimately China said that we will not get into the terrorist dispute between India and Pakistan, but unfortunately yesterday China's official news agency Xinhua has shown Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as Pakistan. They have not only shown this but also the Khunjerab Pass on the China side of the Pakistan border. In our map, we show the area of Pak-occupied Kashmir as the Line of Control; there they are showing that area of Pak-occupied Kashmir as the international border instead of the Line of Control. Not only is this very unfortunate, but it is also a huge blow to our identity, existence and the demands of our country.

My demand through you is that the Central Government should immediately take notice of this and call the ambassador of China and tell them that the map which they released yesterday should be withdrawn. Withdraw it and release the original map of the Line of Control, which is recognised worldwide and recognised by the United Nations, and in future do not commit any such audacity which may attack our identity and nationality.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi and Kumari Shobha Karandlaje Shri are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Madam, the Chinese President had gone to Gujarat. He must have eaten Dhokla there.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Madam, through you, I would like to bring a very important matter to the notice of the Government. This demand concerns starting a new train from Anandpur Sahib to Amritsar. A new Marinda railway line has been constructed from Chandigarh to Ludhiana. The railway line of Anandpur Sahib is connected to New Marinda. You know that the 350th anniversary of Anandpur Sahib is being celebrated, and people from all over the country, saints and great men, come there in thousands. The people of your area also go there. Traffic gets

blocked on the road. There should be an arrangement of trains. You know the importance of Anandpur Sahib in this country. Today, one country, one culture, one country, one settlement, one country, and many religions – whatever has been possible is because of the sacrifice of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib. I had also asked you that the day Guru Teg Bahadur Saheb was sacrificed should be celebrated as Freedom of Worship Day in the entire country. This day should be declared as a holiday, and everyone should celebrate. There should be a memorial here so that the messages of Generations Guru Teg Bahadur Saheb – Bhai Kahun Ko Deet Nahan, Nahan Bhai Maanat Aan – are widely spread.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't put both the things together.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: It is because of Sh. Guru Teg Bahadur Saheb that religion has survived in this country; the worship of religion exists due to his sacrifice.... (*Interruptions*) They have said, Tilak Janju Rakha Prabha Taka.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your point is not being recorded.

.... (*Interruptions*)*

SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA (DHAURHARA): Hon. Speaker, procurement is not being done at procurement centres of paddy in my parliamentary constituency. Paddy is being misappropriated by rice millers and arhtiyas from these purchasing centres at a huge price, due to which farmers are not getting the right price for their paddy. The paddy brought by the farmers is being returned to the purchase centres as bad and wet by the artisans, due to which the farmers are facing a lot of losses. Rice mills and arhtiyas are paid by cheque in the name of different people by mutual consent at some paddy purchase centres.

Therefore, I sincerely request you to get the holders and purchasing centres of the paid cheques checked in view of the financially pathetic condition of the farmers.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Madam Speaker, through you, I seek permission to put before the House a matter of

* Not recorded.

abolishing the subsidy of BPL for pensioners and increasing the pension amount.

The Government of India, with the help of State Governments is running the scheme of Old Age Social Security Pension for Disabled Persons, Handicapped and Widows, in which it has been made mandatory for the beneficiaries to have their names in BPL. I think a very large number of pensioners are being underprivileged across the country due to this. Therefore, the compulsory requirement of BPL should be abolished.

Secondly, the pension amount that is being given to the pensioners in the era of inflation today is very small. That amount also needs to be increased. Thirdly, the distribution of pension amounts through post offices is happening; the post offices do not have so much manpower, and there is not so much technical facility either. Because of this, pensions are not being paid to the pensioners for three or four months. Appropriate action needs to be taken on this. I request the Government of India through you to increase the number of pensioners and also to eliminate the requirement of BPL.

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI (MATHURA): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me time to speak. My topic is about the Gokul Barrage. It is a sage-dominated and agrarian country, but the farmers have been facing atrocities for long. Another problem with a lot of their problems is Gokul Barrage C of Mathura. 16 years ago, the government had taken land from farmers and said that they would get compensation. But due to lack of adequate compensation in 16 years, farmers are very upset, and they have been agitating in Mathura for the last month. I also went to the agitation; they are very upset. I request the Central Government and the State Government to be kind to them and pay the compensation they deserve.

SHRI PRAKASH B. HUKKERI (CHIKKODI): Madam, a tiger ran away from a forest in the Chikkamagalur District of Karnataka and ate a woman and three creatures. After this, the forest officer and the villagers there caught Tiger and handed him over to the forest officer. Later, the forest officer left that tiger in the forest of Khanapur in Belgaum District. This is a very strange thing. There are 10-12 villages in Khanapur Taluka of Bhingarh Forest, such as Talwade, Gawli, Devgaon, and Pali, and many such villages. The people there are so worried that

they are not sending the children to school. They are sitting at home, not knowing when the tiger will come out. Along with the MLA we have requested the Minister but no action has been taken on it so far. So I am requesting you. That tiger should be removed from there soon, as it is not a big forest but a small forest. You know all the areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra, so I request you to remove that tiger immediately and leave it in the big forest. I have been elected six times from the Karnataka Assembly. If you raise an issue in zero hour, which is an important issue, the minister replies to it. Why don't you reply here? It gets laid here.

HON. SPEAKER: The answer is found in 377.

SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR (GHOSI): I would like to know from the Minister of untouchable and different castes were enumerated in the Census of 1931; the caste inscribed in serial number 7 listed in that list was excluded from the first list of Scheduled Castes issued in 1936, while the untouchable castes located in that list are Aheria at number one, Badak at two, Bahria at three, Banwar at five, Bedia at six and Bharathi at seven. It is not yet known why they were removed.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Madam, you have given me an opportunity to raise an important issue in your area. I want to tell you that my Lok Sabha constituency, Bulandshahr, is just 75 kilometres away from Delhi, and Delhi is also a part of NCR, but the closer Bulandshahr is to Delhi, the more Bulandshahr is lagging behind in education and development. Thousands of students in Bulandshahr still remain deprived of getting education in good schools and universities. They cannot get education; they remain uneducated.

I request that the universities which are being set up by the Central Government may allow the setting up of a university for Bulandshahr also; it will also benefit the adjoining districts. With this, the load on the universities in Delhi and NCR and Chaudhari Charan Singh University in Morath will also reduce.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Speaker Madam, I would like to draw your attention to an important subject. Many channels in the country, like Pulse Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Pulse Haryana, Jia News, 4 Real News, Azad News, GNN, etc., have been closed. When the channel opens, it gets an amount of Rs 3 crore, but no one was told

before closing the channels which I have named. - At present, there are three channels like Shree News where a hundred people have been laid off; Bhaskar News has not received salary for three months, and the status of the Sahara channel is almost the same. I think that's about 4 thousand T such workers, whom I consider as intellectual workers; among them, some are reporting in the district as journalists, and some are doing videography. The lives of such people are now totally distressed, but there is no law anywhere for this. There are two total entities that work -- the News Broadcasters Association and the Broadcasters Editor Association, which is of the editors, but they never interfere with it.

I want to request through you that they tell the news of the world. These nine channels have been closed, but the government has no law yet. The Generalist's Forums did not interfere in it. All these families are in a state of devastation. They do not have any trade union, so they have no position to fight either.

I urge you that the government should intervene in this. The money invested in this is either the money of a chit fund or of

some persons who are the subject of investigation, so I think it should be taken seriously. Chit fund companies open channels, destroy so many families and do not give any notice or information before closing the channel.

I would like to request that these families be protected. Thank you very much.

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Madam, today, I am raising an important issue on salt. It is very sad that every Indian is deprived today of the simplest basic need, that is salt. It is an ingredient which we need every day in our daily food.

For centuries, the general population has used the rock and crystal sea salt for their healthy food. Today, we are getting only Iodized salt. The salt which is available for consumption is Iodized salt. The logic used by the promoters of Iodine in our diet is that some areas in India fall under the Goitre Belt.

Madam, Goitre is a problem which may be caused in some people due to deficiency of thyroid hormones. Majority of the population do not have hypo-thyroidism. Providing

compulsorily Iodine in the chemical form in our daily food creates imbalance in our human body. The endocrine system of the entire population is being mercilessly destroyed by making every individual to consume Iodine. It is not understood why Iodine is given for every individual when it is not required. It should be added in the diet of only those persons who are sick and who need iodine.

Each day, our body has to work extra to deal with this chemical to flush it out of the body. The entire body and the kidneys are put to task. The side effect of excess iodine on the psychological and physical health of the general population is being deliberately ignored.

Why the consumer is not being given the choice to use non-iodized salt? Through you Madam, I am urging the Union Government to remove ban on non-iodized salt and give the Iodized salt who are in need of it.

This is an important issue for the Indian population.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia and Shrimati Kirron Kher are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Kumari Shoba Karandlaje.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI): Tamil is known as one of the oldest surviving language. “Tholgappium” and Sangam are the oldest literature which belongs to Tamil. Tamil is the first Indian language which was declared as classical language by the Government of India in 2004 during the period of our beloved Amma as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The UNESCO memory of the World register in 1997 and 2005 were written in Tamil. One of the official Russian buildings Kremlin Palace displayed its name in Tamil. It is not only in Tamil Nadu but also in Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the respective Governments have recognised Tamil as the official language. With such a proud history, as guided by our beloved Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, we the people of Tamil Nadu, and on behalf of the Tamil speaking people in Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, would request the Central Government to take action to enable the use of Tamil language in High Courts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Speaker, I come from the Bundelkhand region. In view of the

adverse conditions here, the Central Government had given a special package. But due to the lack of functional agency and responsibility of a particular person, a scam worth crore of rupees has taken place. Four districts, which come in Uttar Pradesh, have been defrauded of more than Rs 4000 crore.

I request through you that the government should get a CBI inquiry into it and punish the corrupt. They should recover the money of the people that they have wasted.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma is granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the most important subject. In our country, there are a large number of sisters from villages to metros who fall prey to the unfortunate irony of destiny and are forced to live a life of widowhood in untimely times. Conditions in the village are very difficult for them. Poor parents in the village do not want to take responsibility after marrying their daughter. On the other hand, the in-laws completely turn away from the responsibility of their

daughter-in-law after the death of their son. They are hurt emotionally by various words. According to experts in the country, around 12 per cent, i.e., 14 to 15 crore women, are being forced to live a life of widowhood. In this direction, BPL has been made mandatory in pensions by the state governments. Some NGOs are working in this direction, but the work done by them is very inadequate.

I request the Government to immediately ensure comprehensive arrangements for rehabilitation, pension and social security for the protection, welfare and subsistence of such widows and abandoned women in the society. Just as hostel facilities are provided for working and employed women, similarly arrangements should be made to provide residential houses for widowed women along with employment-oriented education and training so that they can live a respectable and self-reliant life in the society. Thank you.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Badruddin Ajmalji, what is your subject? I do not understand what it is.

[Translation]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Madam, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. The borderland boundary issue is a very hot issue in Assam. As the Hon. Member has said, it is from China. I say that it is also from Bangladesh. The previous ministry had given a lot of land in Assam to Bangladesh. We had a lot of hope when Modi ji came. He had said very strictly before the elections that we will not give even a single piece of land. But on the 29th and 30th, when Modi ji went there and announced that we will give...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: First understand.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I think it would be better to first understand it and then raise the issue.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BADRUDDINA AJMAL: Our party opposes it. We are not ready to lose an inch of our land.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ajmal Badruddin, Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal, Shri Radheshyam Biswas are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Badruddin Ajmal.

DR. BOORA NARASAIYA GOUD (BHONGIR): Hon. Speaker, the issue I am raising is the problem of the entire House. The Hon. Prime Minister has declared the Sansad Adarsh Grameen Yojana. We welcome that. Young and first-time members have selected their villages. The problem with this is that the guidelines we have received from the internet include human development, social infrastructure, and skill development.

[English]

That is the theory part of it. The problem is that we have two types of MPs. One of them is of celebrity MPs and of those who are in power and the other is of regular MPs. Whenever a celebrity MP is involved in a project, it attracts a lot of attention. That is fine. The companies also try and come forward with their CSR funds and invest some money. Because they are celebrities, they are able to manage it.

We want that this Model Village programme announced by Modiji should really become a model programme and should not be confined to statements. I, therefore, request the Government that a Nodal Officer be appointed for this programme so that he

can coordinate with all the Departments which can help make this programme really successful. I hope the Government of India will take note of this suggestion.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2:30 p.m.

13.26 hrs

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

14.33 hrs

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

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Harish Chandra Meena.

(i)Need to check prevalence of Silicosis and Tuberculosis Among labourers engaged in quarrying of stone in Rajasthan and take immediate measure for treatment of Afflicted persons

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the miserable working condition of labourers engaged in different stone mining Industries of the country, particularly in Rajasthan. It has been found that no safety/precautionary measures are taken in most of the mining centres. The recent report by the National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) conducted at Karauli District of Rajasthan stated that 23.2% of mine labourers are suffering from respiratory problems and out of them 78% are found affected with serious disease like Silicosis and others from Tuberculosis (TB). Silicosis is a dangerous disease, which causes loss in weight and leads to death, if not properly treated on time. The same situation prevails in other districts of Rajasthan. It is well known that mining is main source of livelihood in many districts of Rajasthan and a large numbers of families are dependent on it. There are more than 30 lakh people engaged in mining industries in Rajasthan. There is a constant increase in the

number of people affected with these diseases. Condition of workers' family is miserable; women and small children are forced to work in the same condition in mining industry for the survival of their family. Some villages are left with only widows and small children only. Although Government aid is provided to patients affected with Silicosis, but as per Government regulation this should be certified by Pneumoconiosis Board of medical college. Due to delay on the part of Board, many patients lose their life without proper treatment.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to intervene immediately in the matter to provide early treatment to the affected persons & also provide financial assistance to their families and conduct a comprehensive study involving all persons engaged in stone mining to determine prevalence of silicosis in the area. There is also a need to train local doctors in diagnosis of silicosis as a large numbers of cases are wrongly diagnosed as cases of Tuberculosis. The mine owners and labourers also need to be educated and made aware of health hazards of stone dust and preventive measures required to be taken at the earliest.

(ii) Need to fix the responsibility for misappropriation of funds allocated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Assam

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (NOWGONG): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is directly related with the poorest of the poor. Corruption in such a scheme means taking away food from the mouth of the poorest of the country. Due to negligence of the Government, a scam of Rs. 4060 crores was detected in Assam alone from 2007 to 2012 as disclosed by CAG. The Gram Rozgar Sevaks appointed on an ad hoc basis are made scapegoat in the entire process of corruption. Hundreds of cases have been filed in the matter but nothing has been done either to nab the culprits or to stop the misuse of public money. Feeling guilty, one Gram Rozgar Sevak took the extreme path of committing suicide. I, therefore, urge the Union Government to take suitable action on the issue.

(iii) Need to run Jodhpur-Delhi Express (Train No. 22481) on daily basis and extend it upto Haridwar in Uttarakhand

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGPUR): Hon. Vice-President, to connect the Marwar and Shekhawati regions of Rajasthan with Delhi and other parts of the country, Jodhpur-Delhi mail train no. 22481 runs via Merta Road, Didwana, Ratangarh, Churu and Rewari. It is a very important train for my Lok Sabha constituency. This region has given brave soldiers to protect India's big business houses and the country. Hundreds of soldiers and traders are spread across every corner of India in every village. This mail train is the only proper means for these people to come to their destination.

The said Jodhpur-Delhi Mail used to run all seven days a week before the gauge conversion. This was considered a very profitable vehicle from the revenue point of view. After the gauge conversion, this train is run only for two days a week.

Therefore, through the House, I request the government run this train seven days a week. The said train remains stationed in Delhi during the day, so it should be extended to Haridwar.

There will be a direct connection to Haridwar for the people of this area.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri A.T. Nana Patil - Not present.

(iv) Need to control import of rubber in the country

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): The price of local natural rubber fell below Rs. 130 a kg. for the first time since 2009. There is panic in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala's growing areas as the price is likely to fall further. In most small and medium-sized plantations, tapping is not taking place, as wages and other expenses are much higher than returns, according to growers. The persistent fall in the price of natural rubber has caused concern among rubber farmers. The local market is facing a slump in demand. Imports are much higher in the current financial year. This is for the first time, the import has crossed 100,000 tonnes in four months.

In view of the above, I appeal to the Government, through this august House, to take immediate steps to control import of rubber and if immediate steps are not taken to curtail the unrestricted inflow of imports, the Natural Rubber plantations which support over a million growers and half a million workers directly will face serious financial crisis.

**(v) Need to take suitable steps to rejuvenate Mithi River in
Mumbai, Maharashtra**

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): The Mithi River is an essential part of Mumbai as it covers over 16% of the city's area. Once a vibrant reminder of Mumbai's natural beauty, this river has been reduced to a sewer. Pollutants, encroachments of riverbank, dumping of harmful chemicals and construction debris led to the river's flooding in July, 2005 and it caused havoc in the city. The degradation of the Mithi River is also affecting the mangrove forests of Mumbai. While both the local and State Government authorities have taken up works to rejuvenate Mithi, the same has been painfully delayed and there is a lack of coordination among all the concerned authorities. I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate cognizance of this issue and ensure that corrective steps are taken to arrest pollution of Mithi River.

(vi) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to victims of Endosulfan in Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA): There are over 6,200 victims of endosulfan use in the three coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka.

The Karnataka high court has directed the state government to pay interim relief to the 6,140 victims of endosulfan use in the three coastal districts of Karnataka. The court has also directed the state government to pay the interim relief to the victims, whose deformity is assessed to be 25%-60% and Rs 3,000 per month to those where deformity is more than 60% per month from March 1 onwards. However, the State Government has released only Rs. 20 crore as compensation to 6,200 endosulfan victims in the state. It is a very meagre amount and does not meet any requirement of the victims. It needs at least Rs. 500-600 crores to deal with the endosulfan victims.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to consider the plight of Endosulfan victims in the state on humanitarian ground and come forward to extend financial assistance to the endosulfan victims of Dakshina Kannada Uttara Kannada and Udupi district.

**(vii) Need to convert Indara - Dohrighat railway line in
Uttar Pradesh into broad gauge line**

[Translation]

SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR (GHOSI): Deputy-Speaker, demand to build a long rail line from Indara to Dohrighat, which comes under my Lok Sabha constituency....

(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As regards Matters under Rule 377, only the approved text would go on record. This is not 'zero hour'. Nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

* Not recorded.

(viii) Need to increase the share of grants to State Governments for education in accordance with the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the 13th Finance Commission Award. In order to satisfy the requirement of the Right to Education Act to provide quality education to the children between the age group of 6 to 14 years, for the awards between 2010-11 and 2014-15, the Central Government has decided to take 65 per cent of the grants provided by the Finance Commission, and the remaining 35 per cent of funds were allocated to State Governments with the condition that the State Government shall invest 8 per cent additional expenditure now. The share of funds allocation 65:35 is quite contradictory of the intention of the 13th Finance Commission.

Sir, it is my humble request that the 13th Finance Commission award be considered as a 100 per cent State share and the condition of 8 per cent additional expenditure now a burden on the State is to be cancelled.

**(ix) Need to enhance the amount of rent for agricultural land
used for laying crude oil pipelines in Sanchoe in Jalore
Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVAJI M PATEL (JALORE): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Rs. 15 thousand rent is paid by Cairn India at Sanchaur in my parliamentary constituency on one bigha of land annually, which is very little for the farmers there. In Barmer district also, every bigha is rented for Rs. 15 thousand. In Barmer district, farmers take only one crop in a year, while in Sanchoe farmers produce two crops, Rabi and Kharif. Therefore, the farmers here are suffering huge losses due to the passing of the crude oil pipeline from their fields. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the rent of farmers' fields from 30 thousand to 50 thousand rupees in Sanchoe.

The land was rented by Cairn Banerjee in the year 2003. The work of laying the pipeline continued for more than a year. Crops were not allowed to be sown in and around the fields from where the pipeline was laid, due to which farmers were deprived of Kharif and Rabi crops. These fields were not levelled by the

company, due to which it took many years for the farmer to make their land fertile. The land on the roadside has been taken on lease by the company, due to which, at many places, the farmers face inconvenience in going to their fields, as the company does not provide access to the fields inside. For many years, farmers have not been able to go to their own fields easily.

Therefore, I request the government pay full compensation to the farmers for the losses suffered by them, and the rent of the fields should be increased at the earliest.

**(x) Need to impress upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh
to restore old pension scheme for retiring teachers and
employees**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): The pension scheme for employees and teachers in Uttar Pradesh has been stopped, which has been brought to my notice by the teachers union, due to which there is a lot of dissatisfaction among the employees and teachers in Uttar Pradesh. The old pension scheme contained the facilities for gratuity, family pension, appointment of deceased dependant, etc. The new pension scheme is completely disadvantageous. There is no guarantee of the fixation of an assured pension or gratuity in it. Other service retirement benefits are also not there in this scheme. Due to this, the benefit of deceased dependant appointment will also be affected. The new pension scheme is harmful for the employees and teachers and is not beneficial for the government as well. The old pension scheme is still applicable in many states of the country, like Bengal, Kerala, Tripura, etc. The implementation of the new pension scheme in

some states and the old pension scheme in some states is a sign of inequality.

Therefore, through the House, I request the government to direct the Uttar Pradesh government to implement the old pension scheme in public interest so that the dissatisfaction among the employees and teachers of Uttar Pradesh can end.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sashi Tharoor – Not present.

(xi) Need to undertake repair of National Highway No. 532 between Cuddalore and Salem in Tamil Nadu and upgrade it into a four-lane road

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): Sir, the National Highway No. 532 between Cuddalore and Salem is an important road in my parliamentary constituency, Cuddalore. This NH 532 connects Cuddalore, Vadalur, Virudhachalam, Veppur, Sirupakkam and V.Koot road spread over a distance of 110 kilometres. In many places, this National Highway is in a dilapidated condition due to recent excessive rains. It gives a bumpy ride through the stretch causing inconvenience to thousands of commuters. All types of vehicles including trucks and trailers ply on this Highway. Due to the bad condition of this National Highway, many accidents do occur. Government officials, when approached, say that they have submitted a project estimate for Rs. 96 lakh to rectify and repair this whole road stretch of 110 kilometres. The officials claim that they would be able to rectify only when they receive funds from the Departments concerned.

This National Highway assumes importance as it provides main road connectivity to Cuddalore connecting several towns. Cuddalore Port, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, several multi-speciality hospitals, colleges, Government offices and other vital institutions are connected with this National Highway.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government that this prominent National Highway No. 532, being utilized by so many commuters on a regular basis, should be made suitable for travel and be upgraded into a four-lane road during the current year itself with adequate allocation of funds.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar – not present. Prof. Saugata Roy – not present.

**(xii) Need to address the problem of drinking water in
Balasore Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha**

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Madam, due to the presence of mineral deposits and long coast line, major water quality problems are encountered in ground water sources in Odisha in general and Balasore in particular. Iron is found in all districts in different degrees. Chloride (salinity) is found in the coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Puri and Ganjam.

Balasore, Basta and Baliapal blocks fall under low lying and flood prone areas having 90,576 hectares of land which constitutes 24 per cent of geographical land of Balasore District. Basta, Bahanaga, Baliapal, Bhograi, Remuna and Soro C and D blocks under Balasore District are having saline soil group and 75,489 hectares of land constitute 20 per cent of geographical land of the District.

Balasore is one of the most natural disaster-prone districts of Odisha. Flood, cyclone and drought regularly devastate the

source of drinking water in the district. There are 93 Gram Panchayats out of a total of 289 panchayats of Balasore District which are flood prone and 76 villages are Tsunami prone.

Only 38.74 per cent of the total habitations are provided drinking water through rural water supply covering only 13.43 per cent of the total population of the district of Balasore.

Hence, I request the Government of India to kindly consider providing safe drinking water through Mega Piped Water Supply Project and also set up a water treatment plant at source.

(xiii) Need to set up a new High Court for Andhra Pradesh

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Telangana State has been carved out by the Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014. Section 30 of the Act states:

“The High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad shall be the common High Court for the State of Telangana and the State of Andhra Pradesh till a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh is constituted under article 214 of the Constitution.”

Section 31 of the Act specifies that there shall be a separate High Court for the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps for establishing a new High Court for Andhra Pradesh.

(xiv) Need to check the menace of Nilgai (vanroj) causing damage to crops in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATELLA (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Madam, the number of Gharroz (VanRoz) has become excessive in Uttar Pradesh. Their children are born twice a year. Now, by making these herds, they are eating the agricultural produce in the fields itself. At some places they even become aggressive towards farmers. Due to compulsion, the farmer is stopping cultivation of pulses and vegetables, etc., as a result of which the production of pulses and vegetables is decreasing and their prices are increasing. The administration gets permission to kill them after investigation by showing a letter of land. The question is, if the bruising herd is ruining the crop, will the herd wait till the permission arrives? What will they do to kill when the crop is ruined? It is also not guaranteed that anyone who gets permission has a gun.

Therefore, through the House, I request the government to sterilise the female wild roses in the Maudani area to stop their increase in numbers and to create sanctuaries to preserve their

species so that the crops can also be protected and the survival of the wild rose species can be ensured. May you also be saved.

(xv) Need to declare the calamity caused by floods in Assam as National Calamity and provide more funds for rehabilitation of people affected by the fury of floods in the State

[English]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Assam suffers from huge losses in terms of lives, property, cropped land, dwelling units and infrastructure every year. As per the official report of Assam Government during 2014, Assam has witnessed havoc of floods three times including cloudburst that caused the deaths of at least 67 people and over 42 lakh people of more than 4,000 villages in 23 districts of the State, including my constituency Dhubri and Goalpara were badly affected while about four lakh hectares of cropped area were damaged. The report also said that at least 84 roads, 86 RCC bridges, 113 SPT bridges and 126 culverts were also damaged by the flood.

The Central Government had announced a package of Rs. 674 crore for the State. My question is whether the Government has any information about the amount reaching the affected people. As per my information, they have not received any

amount so far. The problem is that every time the flood causes disaster, the Government announces amount for the affected people but unfortunately they have often been deprived of such assistance. Therefore, I would request the Government to put in place a mechanism to make sure that the amount reaches the deserving people and also make the State Government accountable for that. However, I appreciate the Central Government for announcing Rs. 674 crore for the State, but I request for a grant of at least Rs. 1,500 crore because the flood and cloudburst made irreparable losses and Rs. 674 crore is not enough for rehabilitation of flood affected people of Assam. I would also request the Government to kindly think seriously about declaring flood of Assam as a National Calamity as it causes loss of lives and property every year pushing the State towards backwardness and poverty. I also request to grant an appropriate amount for controlling Brahmaputra in order to utilize its water in a better way.

15.00 hrs.**(xvi) Need to interlink Par-Tapti-Narmada,
Damanganga-Pinjar and Nar-Par-Girna Rivers**

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Madam Speaker, Jalgaon district is my parliamentary constituency. Here the per capita water availability in the Tapti River and Girna River is much less than the standard water availability. This area, for the most part, is inhabited by the tribals. Difficulties like crop deficiency and drinking water problems are faced, due to which many farmers have resorted to suicide. Earlier, some areas of the district used to cultivate cash-giving crops like guava, grains and grapes in good quantities. But due to day-by-day less rainfall and falling groundwater levels, this is no longer possible, hence rivers like Nar, Par, Auranga, and Ambika flowing along the border of Gujarat state in the western parts of the region which are part of Narmada. Join the river and lose water in the Arabian Sea; that water can be used by connecting these three rivers, Narmada, Tapti and Par, in the following three projects.

According to the first project, the interlinking of the Par, Tapi and Narmada rivers can benefit the Kachchh region of Gujarat. According to the second scheme, if these two rivers, Damanganga and Pinjar, are connected, then drinking water can be supplied to the city of Mumbai. In the Third Plan, the Nar, Par and Girna rivers should be interlinked, thereby increasing the water in the Cachar of Girna. An agreement has been reached between Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Union governments on the use of these rivers at the primary level. A pre-feasibility exercise on the confluence of Nar, Par and Girna for the third scheme has been completed by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), Hyderabad, through a topographic site survey, which has been approved by the Government of Maharashtra subject to certain conditions. It has also been accepted subject to approval.

These days communication has also started between the three States and the Union Territory to complete the above schemes. Under these schemes, please give appropriate orders to immediately start the site survey of Nar, Par and Girna, the third scheme, by the National Water Development Agency,

Hyderabad, so that the work on the projects can start immediately and people can get its benefits.

15.02 hrs.

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

1st Report

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (KAISERGANJ):

Sir, I ask permission to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

15.03 hrs

REPEALING AND AMENDING (SECOND) BILL, 2014

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No.9 on Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014.

Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Madam, I request the House to take up for consideration the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, just wait for a minute. Hon. Members, before we take up consideration of the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014, we have to allot time for its discussion. If the House agrees, we may allot one hour. If necessary, we can extend the time afterwards.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, depending on the number of Members, one hour or more may be allotted.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I do not think it will require much time.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, depending on the number of Members, you can either reduce or increase the time. I have no problem.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As it is, only two Members have given their names.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I think Members from the other parties have given the names.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to repeal certain obsolete Acts which have become redundant. It also proposes to amend two Acts to correct a formal defect or patent error detected in the Act.

Regarding amending the Bill, I would say that it is one of the periodical measures. By doing these enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become obsolete or retention whereof in the Statute Book itself will create some confusions. So, it has become necessary to do this. All those Acts are to be repealed and removed from the Statute Book.

The second object to be achieved through such a Bill is to correct formal defects or patent errors that are detected in such enactments. Of course, the last such Repealing and Amending Bill was taken up in 2001 in which the Acts from the year 1985 to 1998 were included and 10 such Acts were enacted so far. The total number of the Acts so far repealed is 1291. Section 6 A of the General Clauses Act lays down the principle object why repealing and other things need to be done and what are the effects thereof.

Of course, we are going to repeal these Acts which have been today listed out in this Bill, which are good as dead laws. They are not in force; they are not being used. The co-existence of these dead laws will certainly create some confusion even in understanding laws also. So, the Law Commission has given four reports and the Administrative Reforms Commission has given one report. The Law Commission in its 96th report has suggested to repeal about 22 Acts and recommended to repeal about 9 Acts. Already, nine Acts have been repealed. As per its 148th Report, out of the five Central Acts, the pre-Independence period Acts, four have been repealed and one is under consultation with the States. Especially in its 248th Report, 72 Acts have been identified to be repealed and amended. In its 249th Report about 113 Acts have been identified; in its 250th Report about 74 Acts have been identified; and in its 251th Report about 30 Acts have been identified.

Now, the Administrative Reforms Commission also has identified in 1998 about 1328 Acts out of which 415 Acts have been already repealed and for the rest, actions are being taken. All these recommendations made by the Administrative Reforms Commission, the Law Commissions are under

consultation with Central Government Departments of the States.

Today, in the Repealing and Amending Bill we have identified nearly 90 Acts out of which, in two Acts certain small corrections are needed to be done. One is the Railways (Amendment) Act, 2008 and the other is the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008. Small corrections are there. They have been identified. Rest of the things are not in use at all. They are as good as not in force. We are fully aware of the fact that nowadays keeping so many laws in the Statute Book itself creates confusion. So it is the intention of the Government to periodically review, refine and scrap all these outdated laws.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments, be taken into consideration."

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am most obliged to you for affording me this opportunity to address this august House on such a matter of crucial importance as the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014.

The Government has introduced a Bill in which a host of statutes, I think as many as 90 statutes are proposed to be repealed and two of them are by way of errors that have crept into the Acts by inadvertence as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

15.10 hrs

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

It has also been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Bill is one of those periodical measures by which enactments which have ceased to be operative or have become obsolete or are unnecessary are repealed and by which the formal defects detected in the enactments are corrected.

Sir, it is learnt that the Law Commission has recommended in its Interim Report of September, 2014 that as many as 253 laws have to be repealed as obsolete and that 34 of the repealed laws do find themselves in the Government Website. The Law

Commission headed by its Chairman, Chief Justice A.P. Shaw, retired, has urged further to repeal all Appropriation Acts which are more than a decade old and they numbered as many as 700. We are in agreement with the Government and with the recommendations of the Law Commission that obsolete laws are like dead wood and such laws have to be kept in a state of good repair, pruning has to be done of what is totally unnecessary and obsolete. They are occupying the pages of the law books without any purpose and confound the public like will-o'-the-wisp.

From a cursory perusal it is obvious that the various provisions of the Amending Acts which are sought to be repealed have already been incorporated in to the main Acts. They have become either substantive or procedural laws of the country. Therefore, these Amending Acts are spent force and they no longer require to be placed on the Statute Book. In the Acts, these provisions have already been incorporated and amendments are indicated by way of foot-notes in the main Acts. Therefore, the retention of these Amending Acts is redundant and superfluous. They serve no useful purpose.

Sir, it is my submission that law must be in such state of trimness as to command obedience from all those who come within its purview, however high or mighty he may be. The country that has laws which are not obeyed is not served by Rule of Law. The primary duty of the legislature is to enact laws when such a thing is called for and to repeal them when it is no longer in use. Therefore, we are in agreement with the Government that these useless sets of Acts have to be repealed as they serve no useful purpose. At the same time the Legislature is obligated to the people to codify certain laws also. For instance under Article 141 of the Constitution states that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be the law of the land. There is a plethora of decisions of the Supreme Court which need to be codified. As a matter of record, our criminal statutes, primarily the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act, which govern the criminal procedures and substantive criminal laws are geriatric and also need to be trimmed and new amendments have to be brought in.

So I support the initiative of the Government that comes at this late hour and the move of the Government. Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Chairman, Sir, this is an important initiative taken by the Government. I want that everybody should participate in this debate. I have seen that a lot of parties like Shiv Sena, TDP, LJP, Akali Dal and others, which are part of this Government, are there. Besides that BJD, TRS, YSRCP, AIADMK and even AIUDF and then Mulayamji is also here. After hearing all the speakers from all these parties, if it is needed, I have no problem to take voting tomorrow. I have no problem, if the Congress and other parties want to have some say.

But the only thing is that I would request the Chair to complete the discussion and then take up voting on the Bill tomorrow. Meanwhile, we can take up the Discussion under Rule 193 on Hudhud cyclone and natural calamities after the discussion on this Bill is completed. If the Hon. Members of the Congress Party come back now and want to join the debate, that way also I have no problem.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 actually enlists 90 Acts for repeal and two Acts for amendment. The Acts for repeal are only amendment Acts that range over a span of 14 years from 1999 to 2013. These are being repealed as necessary changes which have been duly incorporated in the principal Act.

The amendment Act is only to the Railways (Amendment) Act of 2008 and the Indian Maritime University Act of 2008. These include only small defects which are really not substantive in nature.

The Bill basically seems to perform housekeeping activity to make the arena of the Indian legislation free of clutter. The Government has taken over the reigns from an era that was plagued by policy paralysis and does not wish to be impeded by obsolete legislations that will remain floating to the confusion of legislators and advocates like me.

It would be a real mark of creativity and show of mere obstructionism if there is any opposition to this particular Bill. It seems *swachhata* is a virtue. That can only be carried out by the

present Government whether of the past deeds or the present. As it turns out, the last such repealing and amending Bill of multiple Acts was introduced in passed in 1999. Friends from the Opposition, a lot of them are missing right now, have been speaking of U turns then and now. The only time that this holds water is in the case way back in 1999 then and now in 2014 we have to turn around to clean up what has been left behind by the lethargy of the previous Government.

In 1998, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government had set up a Committee on Review of Administrative Laws which recommended the repeal of 1,382 obsolete Acts. However, only 415 of these have been repealed so far. In the Law Commission of India's Report in 1998, it had recommended the repeal of 253 laws but again sufficient progress was not made on this. Recognizing the need to jumpstart this process, which lay idle in the past 10 years, the Hon. Prime Minister set up a new Committee in August 2014 to clear redundant laws that could come in the way of good governance.

In September 2014, the Law Commission of India, in the Report on 'Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal', has

reiterated the need for repealing unwanted laws in the legislative domain and referring to the backlog as ‘dead wood’ in the Report.

One particular observation in the Report that I would like to emphasize here is the inclusion of a repealing provision in Acts that are of a recurrent nature, and for example, a repeal clause in Appropriation Acts. This is a practice that is followed not only in the UK but also other countries like New Zealand and Australia. If we adopt a similar practice, it will leave us, the legislators, with a reduced burden of sifting through the statute books in a clearing exercise such as this. Moreover, it should be noted here that the demand for clearing obsolete laws is not only government bodies but has also come from civil society organizations as well as the Law Commission.

In line with the past practice and recommendations of the Law Commission, I laud the efforts of this Government in taking the exercise forward and taking this much needed step for simplification and clearing the statute books.

In this very spirit of *swachhata* Mission led by our Prime Minister, I support this Bill.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Sir, I thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Repealing and Amendment (Second) Bill, 2014.

This Bill itself is a welcome step taken by the Government of India and the Hon. Law Minister because the effort and intention are to clean up and expedite the judicial process. I was listening to the issue of time allocation for this particular Bill. There was a suggestion for allocation of one hour time but then a view came if we can increase or decrease the time that is being allocated to the Bill.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, let me point out a very important fact. How much importance we give to the Bill is a separate issue by itself. But the fact remains that there are about 31.3 million cases that are pending in different courts of our country as of today, including about 64,000 cases that are pending in the Supreme Court of our country and in certain High Courts like Allahabad High Court which has got almost about 10,45,000 pending cases. Hence, this very effort to repeal all those Acts is

definitely a welcome step so that the judicial process is expedited.

Added to this, all the Acts contained in this particular Bill are Amendment Acts and hence they find a place in the original Act, and they do not need to exist separately.

Having said that, let me come to the Law Commission Report to which some of our esteemed Members have referred to it. In its 248th Report, the Law Commission of India under the heading 'Obsolete laws warranting immediate repeal', has suggested immediate repeal of 253 laws and their principal laws. Some of these principal laws dates back to 1850, 1860 and have virtually lost its significance and relevance in today's context. Hence, I would urge upon the Hon. Law Minister, through you, Sir, that why we should not take immediate steps to clean up those processes to repeal those 253 laws which have been recommended by the Law Commission.

Having said that, I have got one or two observations to make. The Law Commission in its Report also further said that there are 34 Bills which have been repealed already but unfortunately they find a place in the Government's website

under the heading, 'Central Acts chronology'. It is not clear even after the Law Commission's recommendation and report, why this has not been done. And, contrary to this, there are five laws which have been passed in 2008. I will just name one or two out of them. One was National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra) Act, 2008, and the second was National Waterway (Kakinada-Puducherry) Act, 2008. They had been passed in 2008 but do not form a part and parcel of the Central Government's website which should have been done. My submission here is that by doing so, are we not giving a misleading picture to the people of our country? They depend on the Government's report, Government's website and Government's authenticity. Are we not giving a scenario by which people get misguided, and follow a wrong course?

Having said that, in a sense I rise to support this Bill in its entirety, and also I take this opportunity to urge upon the Hon. Law Minister to look at all those observations and also to take such efforts that are necessary in expediting the judicial process of our country so that we do not have to face this mammoth figure of sitting on 31.3 million pending cases as of today. Thank you so much, Sir.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. On behalf of my party and myself, I rise to support this Bill.

Sir, the Hon. Law Minister has introduced the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014 to repeal around 90 amended Acts in the First Schedule as well as in the Second Schedule. But, this Bill is not in tune with Shri Narendra Modi Ji's agenda which was to do away with the outdated laws. He is of the view that such laws and rules hinder efficient governance. During election speeches as well as in some other meetings, which he addressed, he emphatically said that all the Acts, which are outdated, will be repealed. I would have been happy had the Law Minister introduced a Bill to repeal the Principal Acts, which are redundant.

I was practising as an advocate before I got elected in 2004 in the 14th Lok Sabha. The Hon. Law Minister is also an advocate. Many other good friends from the same background are also present here. I would like to say that even magistrates at lower level have quoted such laws, which are outdated and have not been repealed. It is because of such laws that the judiciary in

this country is unable to address the issues in the modern society. Thanks to the electronic revolution in this country that at least the practising advocates and the judicial officers are able to connect the latest judgements so on and so forth. The Law Commission in its various reports and not the latest one has suggested for repealing the Principal Acts, which are outdated and not necessary to the society at all.

I have just heard that the Hon. Prime Minister has constituted a committee to repeal such Acts which are not useful to the society at large. I hope that the Government, more particularly the Law Minister will take initiative as early as possible to see that, at least in a phased manner, we repeal the Principal Acts, which are not useful to the society at large.

I once again support the Bill *in toto*.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):

I wholeheartedly thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. It once again proves that the Hon. Prime Minister does what he says. Our party welcomes this Bill.

In fact, instead of making it once in 10 years, as other countries like Australia does, it could be done annually.

According to me, the precautionary measures that have been provided in the Bill are inadequate. As many as 100 laws are being repealed now and 40 laws are pending with the Parliamentary Standing Committee. If all of a sudden so many Bills are repealed overnight, the people would be at a loss as several cases are pending in various courts. The people would not be able to decide in which direction they go. Either the judges or the concerned parties' stakeholders would be at a loss. So, the precautionary measures could be a little broader, at least, in future.

According to me, more than 30 cases have been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. I am also a party to that. They could also be expedited and helped in repealing quickly. Repealing of Colonial Acts, Partition and Pre-Independence

Acts and emergency laws is most welcome. The earlier speaker has mentioned that during Mr. Vajpayee's time as many as 1400 laws were identified but only 400 laws could be repealed. There is a big gap in it. Therefore, whatever the Law Commission recommends or the committee constituted for this purpose recommends, should be done quickly. These laws should also be linked to growth of India either in industry or in social aspects.

It is Prime Minister's vision and dream that 'Make in India' be made more successful, and to make laws more practicable and applicable. Organisations like FICCI and Federation of Indian Industries should also be involved in it, so that the tax systems and other things are also made simple.

While we are very happy in focussing on repealing and amending it, some administrative reforms are also extremely necessary to go parallel with the repealing for the simple reason that whatever growth we expect, like industrial growth, etc., unless administrative reforms are also done simultaneously, this growth cannot be achieved.

The laws should be made investment-friendly. Why we say this is that we are more happy in repealing it, but the existing

laws should also be modernised and updated. This is our request to the Government, and unless that is done, the vision or dream of the Government cannot be achieved.

The World Bank has been repeatedly telling India that the legal remedies in other countries is faster, but when it comes to India it takes as many as 1,400 to 2,000 days to get legal remedy. Therefore, the investors are extremely scared to invest in India. So, I would request the Government to consider this aspect also. Repealing it annually, and updating and modernising the laws could also be done simultaneously. Therefore, my repeated points are simplification, modernisation and updation to be done simultaneously.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that a lot of cases are pending. As my earlier speaker was mentioning, as many as 32 million cases are there. In fact, he forgot to mention that 32 million cases are pending for more than 5 years out of which 10 per cent to 20 per cent are pending for more than 10 years. It means that the number of Judges that are sanctioned are much much less, and the vacancies are also very high in India. Therefore, unless these things are seen in a

comprehensive manner, I do not think that our legal system will be very effective.

With these few ideas, I once again thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. Thank you very much.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Thank you very much, Sir, for affording me an opportunity to participate in the debate for Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014.

I extend my thanks to the Hon. Law Minister for bringing this Bill because the law, which is obsolete and has lost its significance should be repealed, and the Law Commission has also recommended that such type of law should be repealed. This is a periodic measure, and if we see between year 1950 to 2001, then we will find that this measure was first taken only in 2001. Now, after passage of such a long time from 2001 till now, this Bill for repeal has been brought before this august House. This should have been done much earlier. But this move is in consonance with the agenda of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to do away with archaic laws, which have lost its significance. Now, we do not want to keep the statute books unnecessarily heavy.

I would also like to suggest to the Hon. Law Minister that even the pre-World War second-era laws exist, and I would like to suggest that with respect to some of the laws we could not take up the exercise from 1950 till now. It relates to the Criminal

Law (Amendment) Act of 1938. Basically, that law punishes Indians who dissuaded persons from joining war. It was enacted to punish persons who made public speeches to dissuade people from enlisting in the defence forces and from taking part in any war in which the British Empire was engaged. By this law, the British Empire even punished acts prejudicial to the recruitment of persons to serve in the armed forces of the Union. This Act was meant to serve the need of the British Empire and is now redundant. Not only this law, but also there are such types of many laws which have become deadwood. Now, there is no reason to keep our Statute Books unnecessarily heavy. I would request the Hon. Law Minister to repeal all such laws.

In my opinion, whenever we bring any law, we do keep in mind the legislative competence of the Parliament and the legislative competence of the State Legislatures, which is provided in the Constitution of India under Article 246. So far as Article 246 (1) is concerned, it speaks about List I of the Seventh Schedule, which is termed as 'Union List'. The Parliament is competent to legislate with respect to that. Article 246 (2) relates to List III of the Seventh Schedule, that is, the 'Concurrent List' where both the Parliament and State

Legislatures are competent to legislate with respect to it. Article 246 (3) relates to List II, which is the 'State List', where the State Legislature concerned is competent to legislate.

While bringing any amendment or any Bill before this august House, I would request the Hon. Law Minister to at least specify as to under which provision of the Constitution and under which Entry, the Bill amendment is, whether it is under the 'Union List' or under the 'Concurrent List', or any other residuary powers, as it will help the hon'ble Members of this august House to discuss the issue threadbare. Secondly, in the Bill, a provision has been made which states:

“...and this Act shall not affect the validity, invalidity, effect or consequences of anything already done or suffered, or any right, title, obligation or liability already acquired, accrued or incurred, or any remedy or proceeding in respect thereof, or any release or discharge of or from any debt, penalty, obligation, liability, claim or demand, or any indemnity already granted, or the proof of any past act or thing...”

This relates to the 'Savings' provision, but at the same time, it is not clear when this Act will come into force, whether from the date of passage by this august House, or from the date it is published in the Government Gazette, or at any specified date. It is required to be mentioned in the Bill.

These are my views, which I wanted to place before the Hon. Law Minister. I thank you once again for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate.

This is a very important Bill. The simple thing is that when our Constitution is being amended so many times, there is a need to repeal certain old Acts. When there is a dynamic situation in the country, we are bound to change many laws or Acts to suit the needs of the people, especially when Shri Narendra Modi Ji got a personal mandate to become the Prime Minister. It is absolutely necessary to weed out those Acts which are redundant or repugnant to the welfare of the people. In the past 67 years, we have seen a lot of Governments coming in and going out, and that the gap between the rich and poor kept on increasing making the Supreme Court to repeal so many laws which have become laughable and ridiculous. Instead of repealing the Acts at the instance of the Supreme Court or the High Court, in a parliamentary democracy, it is better that it is done through this august House because the Parliament is supreme. Since the will of the people is reflected in Parliament, it is better that we do this. This is like weeding out files from any office. Whenever there is any office, the old files are always weeded out after testing them for ten years. But in this repeal

and enactment of the Bill, I have seen one Act of 2013 which has not been tested enough. Maybe, it has been tested for one year or two years. So, such hastiness should also be avoided. Any Act should be tested for at least three, four years before it is repealed so that the purpose of the Act is served. But, we really welcome these Acts which are being repealed now.

The Telugu Desam Party headed by our dynamic leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu also require a lot of changes in the existing laws. But changing existing laws or old laws does not help as long as we do not change our attitude. Our attitude should also change. The Act should commensurate with the attitude of the people. At the moment, people want a change, a big change because they have voted for Shri Narendra Modiji personally like the President of India and not to any party. Therefore, I would suggest that if there is any Act which can be brought out repealing the old Act, which did not help the country much either in the economy or in the social sector or in any sector, let us not burden the legal system. Let us not make the Acts as a means to Heaven for the lawyers. Let us make Acts as simple as it should be understood by a common man so that people have a lot of respect in the Legislature and also in the

legal system. High Courts and the Supreme Court being the Heavens for the litigations and lawyers, it is high time we attempted to repeal those Acts which are archaic which are not useful. Therefore, this Act is highly welcome. From the Telugu Desam Party, we fully support this. We expect that more changes would be brought in by the BJP led Government. We expect more dynamic laws to suit to the people's aspirations.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, I just now heard the Member of the Telugu Desam Party. Earlier I heard the Members of other Parties also including TRS and others saying that there are many obsolete and redundant laws. The Law Minister who has taken over recently is studying every Act. To the extent possible, as many Acts as possible which are redundant, which are obsolete, are all going to be annulled. That effort is going on. The Prime Minister gave us a three 'S' Mantra. He said: Skill, Scale and Speed. Why I have intervened is for one reason. Some people were asking me outside also and some of our friends from the Opposition are saying as to why the Government is in a rush. We are not in a rush. People's expectations are very high. So, we have to work with alacrity and speed. That is why, we are bringing this legislation. Members can participate for as much time as they want. They can give their suggestions. If necessary, we can sit up to late in the night also or even tomorrow morning also. We have no problem. The Government is very clear. We want to discuss, debate and decide and not disturb. This is the approach of the Government.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, you have allowed me to express my views on the Repeal and Second Amendment Bill, 2014.

Chairperson, Sir, I stand in support of the bill brought by our government. There are so many such laws, which are only in the law books; they have no justification in practice. These laws are a burden on the people, and I stand to speak in support of the Bill brought by our government to repeal such laws.

I remember that during the 2014 elections, our party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, had made a manifesto in which this issue was also included: all those laws which are not practical, which are a burden on the people, we will repeal them; we will remove such laws. I would like to thank the government for this effort to simplify the law for the people. There are many laws which were enacted in the British period. Many such laws are found only in books. I have no hesitation in saying that the previous government, which ruled for ten years, made many new laws, but the old laws, which were a burden on the people, did not try to reform. I request the entire House to pass this Bill which our

government has brought in this regard. People are facing a lot of problems due to these laws.

I would like to put two or three things here as examples, which will tell that due to many such laws, people suffer, and they are a burden on the public. Apart from this, due to the existence of many laws, people or the governance also do not work properly. Under a law made in 1878, you have to inform the government by looking at the note lying on the road. If they don't, they can be jailed. Similarly, according to the law of 1934, kite making, selling and flying are prohibited. First you need to get a permit. I come from Gujarat. Kite flying is celebrated there as a big festival. These people are quite fond of flying kites, and they enjoy it. Now think whether such laws are a burden for the public or not.

Similarly, there is another law regarding the period of stay for foreign nationals. This law was enacted in 1938. According to this, if a foreigner stays here for more than 180 days, he will have to report to the government about his activities. This law was also enacted during the Second World War during the

British Rule. At that time, the purpose of this law was to curb the revolutionaries of India.

The Government has bought this bill to remove such obsolete laws. I support this Bill. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi, during the last Lok Sabha elections, had promised people that if our government comes to power, then these obsolete laws will be removed. That's why I feel proud of the work being done by them. I am proud that when the NDA Government was formed in 1998 under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he formed the PC Jain Committee, whose job was to identify such laws. That committee had proposed to repeal such 415 obsolete laws. Our Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi, under the chairmanship of Shri Ramanuj, formed a committee to identify such laws and was told to identify such obsolete laws. Now the efforts are being made to repeal these laws through this bill, which is commendable work.

I also want to say that the law should be presented in a language which the common man can understand. If seen, the language of almost all the laws is so complex that the common man does not understand. I request the Law Minister to present

the laws in such a language that people can understand it. The use of regional language is prohibited in many courts. As far as the High Courts are concerned, there is a restriction on regional language. Now you see how a poor person, a common man, can understand the procedure of this law. If it is written in the English language, and sometimes that language is so complicated that it is beyond the understanding of educated people even.

I belong to Gujarat, and the Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government many times before to work in Gujarati in the Gujarat High Court, but to date, work is not done in the Gujarat High Court in the Gujarati language. I request through you to allow work to be done in the regional language in all the courts. I am a doctor by profession, and in this Bill, I do not know whether this issue is involved or not. As far as post-mortems are concerned, there is probably a rule about post-mortems that post-mortems can be conducted during the daytime only and not at night. Sometimes there is an accident at 6-7 p.m., and then the whole family is sitting near the dead body overnight. Perhaps it is said in the law, but officially it is not known. If you go to a public place, the post-mortem is

conducted in the daylight only. My understanding is that the post-mortem colours seen in daylight, such as cyanosis or bluish colour, are not well identified. My estimate is that these laws were formed when there was no light or electricity. Today major surgeries take place at night, so why not post-mortem? I request the Hon. Minister to change the law so that the post-mortem could be conducted at any time of the day. Provisions should be made for the same. It should be taken as a semi-emergency, as people have to sit overnight because of this. When there is an accident in the family, we are well aware of the conditions of the family.

I request that this post-mortem should be brought under the purview of law and should be conducted as an emergency at any time.

You gave me a chance to speak; thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (FEROZEPUR):** I thank you, Chairman Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on “The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014”.

Sir, this is an important bill. I thank the Hon’ble Minister Shri Gowda for bringing this bill in this august House. This is a timely step and all credit must go to Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Modi.

As other Hon’ble Members have pointed out, there are several obsolete and redundant laws that had been framed prior to independence. They have lost their relevance now. They are still present in the statute-books. They have lost their usefulness now.

So, the need of the hour is to repeal these laws that are no longer pertinent. Some other laws need to be amended. I will give some instances of such laws.

Sir, we are living in a mechanized age. The laws regarding accidents are out-of-date. These laws need to be updated. A person who is responsible for killing people in a road-accident is

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

not given a severe sentence as there is no provision for that in the accident laws. This law is outdated and needs to be amended. Errant drivers should not escape with lighter sentences. So, the Road Act needs to be reviewed and amended.

Similarly, Sir, no bystander or onlooker comes forward to help the accident-victims on the road. It is because they are harassed by police officials later on. This is a flaw in the law that needs to be amended.

Sir, I hail from Punjab. Large swathes of land earlier fell under the 'forest area' and were registered as such. However, with the passage of time, forests were cut down and people started living over there. However, they are still registered as forest land. But, now, villages have come up over there and cultivation is done on the land. So, it is high time, this land is granted to the villagers. There are other such cases too. Roads and canals had come up long ago on such 'forest land'. The law needs to be amended keeping in view the present reality.

Similarly Sir, there are places that were initially 'Cantonment Areas'. However, now they have become part of towns and cities. Poor people have their houses there but they

cannot get these houses allotted in their names. This is the case in Ferozepur too. Half the town is still in the Cantonment area. The case was sorted out by Hon'ble Minister Shri Jaitly recently. However, problems remain and these need to be looked into. Such land, where houses of poor citizens are there, should be allotted to them.

Sir, in the end, I thank the Hon'ble Minister Shri Gowda and wholeheartedly support this bill.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RATNA LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to support this, Bill.

Sir, The Prime Minister of India, respected Narendra Modi, may have studied in depth that a report was presented to the World Bank, under which India was among those countries where it can take up to 1400 days to start a business. There are so many hindrances of the law that someone who wanted to start their business had difficulties in doing so. The need of the hour is that to make India a leading nation and to run business fast here, it is essential to have such a law.

37 years ago, a law was enacted in the time of emergency under which the then Prime Minister added a section 329(a) to amend the Constitution to cement her chair so that no one could challenge her power. Thankfully, there was a movement led by Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan Ji.

16.00 hrs.

And Lal Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and Shri Lal Krishna Advani ji led the country at that time, and we got rid of that type of law at that time. What it means today is that a law is from

1861; there is a case of a horse-buggy which used to run in the British era, but today that law is also misused in many places, and the labour is harassed. What is the validity of such a law today? Similarly, in 1957 a Telegraphy Act was enacted, under which when messages were sent in the telegraph, copper wires used to come, and those wires were stolen on a large scale. But today the digital revolution has taken place, and maybe today copper wires are not used that much. Therefore, that law also needed to be changed today.

Today we are seeing that more than four crore cases are pending in various courts of India. Why are the cases going on for so long? In some cases the whole life is spent because new laws are enacted, and at every step some such unwanted laws come in the way that it takes the whole life to get justice. The Judicial Reforms Commission, which has been formed today, needs to pay attention to this side as well. While countries like the US have about 108 judges to give justice to one million people, India has only 12 judges for the same count. So, how will the cases be decided sooner? I believe that revolutionary steps need to be taken in this area so that the people of India get speedy justice.

It is high time that these kinds of unusable and irrelevant laws, which have been going on for hundreds of years and which are working as termites in India's judicial system, be got rid of. Keeping that objective in mind, this bill has been brought, and taking part in it, the Hon. Members have said in their speeches that no one wanted to risk going to hospital with anyone under the old laws at the time of post-mortem. Similarly, we see on the roads that dead bodies are lying in the accidents, but passers-by know that despite the accident due to misuse of laws, they will not be able to provide help. If any person can help them at such times by taking them to a nearby hospital for treatment, then the lives of many people can be saved. But due to old laws and legal hurdles, people do not have the courage to help them in any way, and thus thousands of people in our country die on the streets every year. Today such laws need to be repealed. I am surprised at times that the laws of the British era, laws that were enacted during the Second World War, are still there in our books. Attention was drawn to some laws when the people of India were recruited to help England in the army during the First World War and Second World War; the people of India spoke against that foreign rule. But as soon as those things came to

light, the people of India were arrested, and the British sent them to the black water of Andaman Nicobar. Are those Black laws required in India after 68 years of independence today? Today is the time to infuse new blood inside India by getting rid of those old laws.

Hon. Speaker, a new revolution is coming in India. We want that to promote our business. In this era of globalisation and liberalisation, we want the world to come to invest in our country, and all countries should become partners in strengthening our economic condition. We want new railway projects to come up within our country. We want that if some people or some countries want to help us make our country self-reliant in the field of oil exploration, in the matter of oil, then we will get rid of all such laws which are a hindrance in the way of that help. This is a very good effort in that direction. I fully support this bill. Thank you.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to support the Bill that has been brought by the Law Minister to repeal the rules and laws which have now expired. In a civilised society, rules and laws are made so that the rights of the people can be protected and they can be told about those duties. Over time, gradually, many such laws are made in different contexts, whose utility is lost later, but those laws remain in the hands of the government machinery as a weapon whose misuse makes the people face huge problems from time to time. Today many of our colleagues mentioned various laws whose utility has ended. But they are present today; even their misuse brings difficulty in what should be simple in the normal life of the people. Now there are many cases being talked about. There are discussions everywhere that people are not getting justice on time. There are many laws even behind this that are enacted by various courts, by the Hon. High Court, by the Hon. Supreme Court at such times and in contexts that they are misused by criminals or those who are awaiting justice. In such a situation, by misusing those rules and laws, they keep extending the time limit, and by misusing the law, they survive. In such a situation, the bill brought by the Hon. Law Minister to

abolish all those laws which have outlived their usefulness and are no longer needed is certainly laudable and commendable. We would also like to accept it unanimously.

A lot of our opposing party colleagues, who raise a lot of noise early in the morning, sometimes do not allow the House to function properly; we who have been elected to the House for the first time, with a lot of effort, give their notices with rules and regulations. But we always try to eliminate the rights of people by making noise by not taking those notices into cognisance. It was such a great time when so many laws were being repealed today; this is a very important time. But, especially the Congress and the Trinamool Congress people are not here today. Now who will realise their responsibility? Their voters have elected them to this Lok Sabha with great expectations, with great hopes, but on such an important occasion, when they should have been here and participated in the debate and reviewed these rules and regulations, those people are not present here. They are crying; they come to the well, and people like us, whom the system has given the opportunity to speak in the Lok Sabha here, speak about our area. They also try to stop us here.

Sir, I would also say through you that some law should be made against such people so that their efforts to curb our rights should not happen. I want to say that these are the laws whose usefulness has now ended. When the first N.D.A. government was formed under the leadership of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he had made an effort for this. More than a thousand such laws were discovered through the Jain Committee, which needed to be abolished. Some of the laws were abolished, but later the process slowed down. It has been a very slow process in the last ten years.

This country has given a huge mandate to our Hon. Prime Minister amidst many hopes and expectations. He had expressed a commitment that we would do all the work in the country by which the people of our country would be happy. People of the country get employment, they get education opportunities, they get medical opportunities, their legal rights and duties should be protected, and they are all working continuously to achieve it. In connection with the same work, he immediately took up the work left by Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, and the direct effort behind this bill that has been brought to repeal all such laws

comes from there. All those laws which are useless are actually used to come in the way of our rights.

16.11 hrs.

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you finish.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Sir, I will take only two minutes. Law Minister, I want to talk to you very briefly on three subjects. There are some such laws in the Forest Department, Revenue Department and Railway Department. Like, if we talk about the Revenue Department, there are very few cases in Revenue, but their hearing is done at the Tehsil level by the Tehsildar and SDM. These officers also have a lot of other jobs. As such, the time of the farmers is wasted, money is also wasted, and they are also not heard. I would also request you to abolish that system and establish new revenue courts, in which cases related to agriculture should be heard. You please order the setting up of revenue courts separately and end the old practice. (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you conclude and take your seat.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: Sir, give only one minute. Second, the issue is related to the forest department....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gopal Shetty

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: There is about 60 per cent forest area in the Lok Sabha constituency from which I have been elected.

Give me one minute, Sir. It is a matter of many Lok Sabha constituencies. We need your protection. There is a large area of forest department in my Lok Sabha constituency. Many villages are also settled there.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now I have called another speaker. They are waiting; now you take a little care.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: You sit down for a minute. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't talk amongst yourselves.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: It is very necessary....
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: First let me explain to you. The instructions will come from the House. Now you both will work; you will also give speeches, and you will tell others to sit. You do the same thing and now finish.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Sir, you give me time by looking at a minute clock. There are many villages within our forests. Their development is not happening because the Forest Department people impose restrictions there. Neither are roads being built, nor are hand pumps being installed, nor are solar lights being installed, and neither is the area electrified. I would also like to draw the attention of the Law Minister there, and you also have been the Railway Minister. Many roads and institutions of railways are such, but those roads are not being repaired, and institutions are not being painted. You have to make some laws for this. Thank you very much.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTI (MUMBAI NORTH): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. We are moving towards globalisation today; it is very important to make timely changes in such times. For this, I thank the Law Minister very much that he has brought the law here to replace them at the right time. When people get upset while fighting the case in the court for many days, and when their judgement comes, people say that it is the court of Adam's time. Today, when we are in the era of globalisation, it is very important to change such old laws. There is a law made in the British era that they did not give permission to open new schools in June because the Britishers wanted the people of the country to be illiterate; then they would be able to rule in India for more and more days. For such times, there is a law of 420 that if someone builds a school without taking permission, then the law of 420 will be applicable to him. When I worked as a municipal servant in Mumbai Municipality for 15 years, such cases were filed against many people in the month of June. I had said there that you should not impose Section 420 on people running schools. A law should be imposed on those people who do not make arrangements for schools because the number of people

has increased, and due to a lack of schools, private schools are being opened. This law is still in existence. I want these types of rules to also be changed.

Sir, even today in our country, there is no separate rule for the workers of political parties who agitate. The same criminal laws are imposed on them. An ordinary party worker like me takes part in the movement whenever there is a movement. If the police catch me, I get arrested. Today, there are nine cases against me. Congress people always make the issue during elections that there are nine cases against Gopal Shetty. But all these cases are political. There should also be a law regarding what type of case should be filed against political people. There is a need to bring changes in old laws also. If you catch a political party worker, then free him within six or twelve months. A small fine should be imposed on him, and he should be let off. This type of system should be made. I would like to thank the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, for raising this issue before the elections and saying that all the political party leaders or workers who are elected representatives, such cases against them will be finished soon through fast-track courts. The Supreme Court commented about

this. There might have been a difference in their thinking and understanding, and the Supreme Court said that this cannot happen. The Prime Minister of the country was clear that if the people of the political party do wrong, then they should go to jail, and new people should be given a chance. “Law and Justice” has also been mentioned in our judicial system. According to the law it is right, but justice should also be given. All such rules need to be changed from time to time; otherwise, the educated people in the country will get troubled by such laws of Baba Adam's era. In the coming days, the country should be reminded of the fact that this law was made by Narendra Modi Ji, through which the cases were resolved quickly and people got justice. This type of voice may be heard in the coming 25-50 years. There should be this type of provision. By changing the old laws in the shortest possible time. When we are entering the era of globalisation, the country is moving forward. When we have entered the field to compete with the world, at such a time, there is a need to implement new tax laws by changing the old laws. I congratulate the Law Minister for bringing a proposal to make changes in the old laws

in the House at the right time. I thank my party leader, Meghwal Ji, for giving me the opportunity to speak at the last moment.

SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI (KURUKSHETRA): Hon. Chairperson, today our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Bhai Modi ji, is talking about good governance, for which the whole world is looking to Narendra Bhai Modi for justice, whereas today our Law Minister has brought this Amendment Bill.

Sir, I would like to clarify about the police. Today the condition of the police is no more than that of a helpless person but is even worse. If someone lodges an FIR. After lodging the FIR, even after the police get to know everything in the investigation, if they want to delete something or do not want to write it, then the court blocks it, and their investigation has no meaning left. I want to say that the position of the police should be clearly mentioned in the law. The higher authority should immediately reinvestigate the police investigation. There is a delay in the law due to the system of recalling in the court what the police write. Due to this, the omission of some influential people also proves to be a sad incident for us.

Sir, delay in justice also happens because of investigation after investigation and appearance after appearance in the court. This makes the law look like a joke. Due to this, the situation of

our law becomes like that of a wounded bird, the person getting justice changes from generation to generation, but still he does not get justice, and delayed justice is considered equal to not getting justice.

Sir, the marriage-related law is being misused a lot today. If a clear statement is made regarding this, then that matter stops after the police investigation. According to the Hindu Marriage Act, if a person gets married and if there is any kind of disturbance in his household within seven years of marriage and his marital condition does not go well, then the condition of the woman's side is always considered, while that of the man's side is considered. No, even if the fault of the man's side is minor. This should also be reconsidered.

Sir, similarly, there are many laws of the Forest Department regarding our wild animals, regarding which today many Hon. members have expressed their views under Rule 377. There are many forests adjacent to our Kurukshetra. Today, due to animals there, farmers have been forced to abandon their crops. Like there are pulse crops and vegetable crops; the farmers there have been forced to abandon these crops only because of the animal

protection law because of the wild animals. There should be such provisions in this law also that some boundaries can be made for them, like in a zoo; those animals can be kept in it. Today, there is a definition of wild animals, but due to Nilgai, the crops of the farmers of Northern India are being greatly affected. Today, farmers are being forced to commit suicide because they are unable to sow their crops because of these animals.

Hon. Sir, I want to tell you all that there are many flaws in the laws that exist today. For example, there are many issues related to the construction of roads, construction of tunnels and power lines in forest laws. Recently, Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi came to our Kurukshetra for permission for four-laning of a road and its inauguration. But BFO has not yet granted permission for its four linings. In this way, due to delays in the government machinery and lack of results in the work, those contractors are so busy taking bribes from the people that the more they delay it, the more money will be given to them by those contractors. Therefore, there should not be any delay in the law, and in the laws of the jungle, priority should be given to these works with transparency. Thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. I rise to speak in support of the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014. I appreciate the effort of the Government to revise, amend and drop certain laws which were framed in the colonial times and which have become redundant and lost their pertinence. They are quite obsolete and they need to be done away with. It is high time to have laws in our nation which are in sync with the modern times and need of the nation. There are many such laws in our country which have become obsolete and they are of no use to the nation.

I will quote two examples here. We have the Oudh Taluqdars' Relief Act, 1870 which remains alive in our country even when the State of Oudh and the Taluqdars do not exist anymore. We also have the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 which allows the poachers and animals to go scot-free by paying a small penalty fine of Rs. 50 only. There are many such examples and most of them relate to the weaker sections of the society like the farmers, the labourers, the tribals who live in the forests and the women, which need to be done

away with. It is high time that the Government revised or dropped some of the laws in the larger interest of the nation.

So I appreciate the effort that the Government is making today to amend these laws, to get rid of some of these obsolete laws and to make and create and adopt a list of laws which are more in sync with the modern times. I congratulate the Government and on behalf of my Party, I extend my fullest support. Thank you so much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA KAUSHIK (SONIPAT): Hon. Speaker Madam, first of all, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Regarding the road, I would like to say that whenever a road is built, even after its inauguration, permission from the Forest Department is not obtained even after a year or so, sometimes in the name of pollution or in the name of someone else, and those works keep getting late for two or three years. I thank the Hon. Minister for the bill he has brought. With this, the pending work will start again, and the time that was being wasted will be saved.

If even four trees have to be cut on forest land, then it takes anywhere from 6 months to a year to get permission several times. We have the issue of mining here. Sand mining has been going on for the last ten years, but it is all illegal. The government is neither earning money from this nor does it make any sense. Just because there is a pollution ban, the sand truck which was available for Rs. 10-12 thousand is now being sold for Rs. 35-40 thousand. No part of it is going into the government treasury.

Whenever we are at the intersection, we often see that although the law is in place, we find small children standing at the intersection. Go to any intersection in Delhi or any other place, and they are found begging. We should reform the law regarding this so that it can be strictly implemented. We can also get rid of child kidnapping.

When any file goes, it goes to the Joint Secretary, then to the Additional Secretary, then to the Secretary. Where a file can go straight, it gets stopped at four or five places. It takes a very long time for that file to proceed.

Hundred-year-old police laws remain in place. The same is being implemented till today. This also causes great injustice to the people; whether in the judiciary or anywhere else, people's cases remain pending. There is a lot of need for improvement in this also.

Thirdly, I would like to say regarding dowry. In the dowry case, even if the sister has been married for ten years, even if she has not come home for the last two, seven or ten years, her name is still recorded. In these cases, huge injustice is done to the people. Many times, families get ruined due to this shock.

Brothers living separately, whether living in that city or not, all their names are written in it. We should pay attention to this law and improve it.

The matter of agriculture is most important. Today, we should make such a policy which does not cause injustice to the farmers. Today, paddy is being sold at Rs 2200, Rs 2400 or Rs 2500 per quintal, and farmers are upset due to this. For this, we should make such a policy so that the farmers do not suffer any loss. When farmers run out of paddy, its rates increase. Farmers suffer huge losses from sellers; it is very important to think about them. There should be some law for the price of crops of farmers so that they get the money within 1 month or 15 days. Be it sugarcane crops or other crops, farmers face a lot of difficulties. They also need a lot of money to sow the next crop.

Some law should also be made for fertiliser so that farmers can get fertiliser on time. There is a great need to improve this so that farmers can get electricity on time. Our country is an agriculture-based country. We depend on it. If farmers are ruined, then the country suffers loss; we need to pay special attention to them.

Just as we have united the entire country by connecting roads, in the same way canals should also be connected. At the time when there is a flood in Bihar or other states, there is a drought in Haryana, Punjab and other states. If all the states are connected by canals, then water from one place can come here, just as the states are connected by electricity and roads. We need to reform all the old laws. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: As mentioned by the Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister and agreed to by the House, we will take this Bill for further consideration and passing tomorrow.

Now, Item No. 10 – Discussion under Rule 193 – Shri M. Rajamohan Reddy.

16.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Natural calamities in various parts of the country...Contd.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the natural calamities in various parts of the country, floods in J&K, heavy cyclonic storm 'Hudhud' in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring districts of Odisha and drought in Maharashtra.

In Jammu and Kashmir, particularly, the Kashmir Valley has experienced heavy floods, causing heavy loss of human lives and property. The Hon. Prime Minister immediately visited the affected areas and announced an interim relief of Rs. 1,000 crore. But the State of Jammu and Kashmir has to be compensated suitably to overcome this natural calamity.

On October 12th the Eastern Coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, the Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam and adjoining districts of Odisha and East Godawari district have experienced heavy cyclonic storm, causing heavy

destruction and loss to the human lives, properties as well as standing crops. The standing crops have been completely destroyed. Properties worth crores of rupees have been lost. The whole life has come to a standstill for a few days. There were no fresh water, milk, vegetables, electricity and other things. Immediately, our Hon. Prime Minister, within 48 hours, visited those areas and announced an interim relief of Rs. 1,000 crore.

The Eastern Coastal area, the Bay of Bengal is prone to cyclonic storms. Every year, in one or the other part of the East Coast is being affected by cyclone storms. We had three cyclones and unseasonal rains during last three years namely Nilam, Lehar and Phailin and now Hudhud is causing extensive damage to life and property. Hudhud has caused devastation in three districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Sreekakulam.

As per official reports, as many as 61 persons lost their lives and 35 others were injured. Thousands of houses were either partly or fully damaged causing an estimated loss of several thousand crores of rupees. This is in addition to the Government reports certifying the deaths of 1,425 cattles, 3,352 small

animals and 3.5 million poultry birds. An estimated 3.3 lakh hectares of agricultural crops have been completely damaged, while another 3.09 lakh hectares have been affected with more than 50 per cent loss. Additionally, 71,457 hectares of horticultural crops have been affected. They include crops like coconut, banana, sugarcane cashew, teak. The estimated agricultural loss runs into several thousand crores of rupees according to official reports alone, without considering the unreported distress.

An estimated 3,753 km of R&B roads, 3,176 kms of Panchayat Raj roads and 1,345 kms of Municipal roads have been very badly damaged as per official records. The worst damaged, however, is to the power sector. An estimated one lakh distribution poles were damaged making it very expensive for restoration of power. Besides, drinking water pipelines, extensive damage was caused to medium, minor and major irrigation projects in North Coastal Andhra and Odisha also. Several sona boats, motored fibre boats, wooden boats along with their fishing nets, running into several thousand in number, were missing or damaged.

Our Party President and Leader of Opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy also toured extensively the affected areas immediately after the cyclone for 10 days and consoled the affected people. Also Shri Y S Jaganmohan Reddy along with party MPs met the Hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and the Hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on 8th and 9th of November and requested for liberal help to the State of Andhra Pradesh to overcome the hardship being faced by the people of three districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Some estimates say the total loss would be around Rs.70,000 crore. It appears that the State Government submitted a detailed report on the estimated loss caused to the state in the wake of Hudhud Cyclonic storm requesting the Union Government for a financial assistance of Rs.21,640.63 crore. In addition the damage caused to the Central Government/PSU establishments like the railways, telecom, airport, seaport eastern naval command, ship yard, steel plant is enormous.

Unless and otherwise the Government of India comes forward in a big way and help the State Government, it is very

difficult to overcome and help the people of three districts.

The Undivided Andhra Pradesh once a very progressive State has now been reduced to the category of special Status State. But under the State Re-organisation Act 2014, the Government of India has promised to give Andhra Pradesh a special status but till now we have not accorded that special status. I would request the Central Government to come forward and declare that. Also I would request the Central Government to come forward to help, in a big way, the Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha, and also the drought affected Maharashtra State in order to overcome the natural calamity.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for asking me to take part in this very important discussion. Since I have had the privilege of serving in many disasters, and I used to do this work as a political party worker, and also with the inspiration of my adored, most revered Baba Shri.

Once I was working when an earthquake occurred in Kosam Ghat of Jabalpur; at that time I was an MP, a circumambulator of Narmada, and I was fully dressed. When we worked in the earthquake, after the army, we took over that village. I realised for the first time in my life that when these natural disasters occur, it is not right to call them disasters from day one; it is a natural change. There is a moment of testing the leadership. If the leadership is good and visionary, it will be a blessing; if it fails, it will be a disaster. I was a member of Parliament; it was a village in my area, but I was so helpless. What could I do where the army could not do anything? But I found a way for an immediate life by making a house with whatever material was

left. Sir, I am proud that we were successful in settling that village. I am the son of a farmer. My first concern was, where will their cattle go during the rainy season, where will the chaff be kept, and where will these people live? We arranged Langar in Gurudwara for 15 days. He delivered the langar like clockwork. We fed them langar for 15 days. We all prepared our home together and did not give food on the sixteenth day. Our work strengthened the fact that we did not allow freeloading; that village became independent. The facilities that were to be provided were provided. At that time I realised that at the time of objection, money and position do not matter; people and things do. To do the work, men are needed, help is needed, and things are needed to build the thing. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the country's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji. Whether it is Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, or Andhra, it causes loss there. No one can deny it; dead bodies are not counted. The bureaucracy will collect the data of loss, but the person standing in the society should decide how much I have minimised the loss because no one can count the storm. Leaders or government cannot stop it, but the damage caused by it can be reduced. How will we compensate for the things that are needed? The filter

which came from Sarwar for the Jammu and Kashmir Army and paramilitary forces, we gave it to the common man and the poor man. If they had not been given before time and without asking, thousands of people would have died of water disease. I feel that there is maximum difficulty during the rainy season. In any management, be it disaster management or other things, but I will not go too far on this. The area I come from is a drought-stricken area; disasters are looming in my area. The fourth crop has been destroyed in my area, but look at the law; you are a farmer. I know very well that you understand this RBC and also the revenue law. We have an area here that has been reserved for paddy; everyone knows that when water does not fall, there will be no paddy. When the fourth part of a farmer's livelihood is destroyed, what happens to the farmer? Three of his crops have been destroyed due to hail, frost, and drought. What is the water level in Bundelkhand? Be it Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, you know very well that he had planted gram, wheat, and soybean; all that was destroyed because, in the records, it is a reserved area for paddy; hence, he didn't get compensation.

Given the circumstances that farmers are facing today, I want to pray to all the people sitting in this House that this

government is ours, but we have to decide that when there is famine or drought, whether it is flood, drought or if earthquakes occur, these three are things about which we will have to prioritise. If you are standing, considering a drought, you will have to change your perspective because the water will go down into the ground. The resources deployed there will be completely destroyed. Where will the cattle go? He will either flee or be sold or fall into the hands of butchers. I have seen in the tehsil of Seoni district that when there was no source of water, people did not sell the cattle because they were religious; they abandoned them. He thought, I can't drink water myself; where will the cattle go?' He took his children and went to work as a labourer. Who will do the work of saving that animal? A person who does not have his own food cannot do this; he is going to work in other districts 100 kilometres away to provide two meals a day for his children. He will not be able to save his cattle. He cannot take his old parents; he will take away the education of his studying children. This is a very serious situation. The crisis that will arise in the coming summer due to decreasing water levels below the surface will be so serious that it cannot be resolved very easily. You have only one option. Just

as you saved people's lives by providing filters to the flowing water in Jammu and Kashmir, you will have to adopt the same path in the drought areas. But the cattle will have to be kept in one place; arrangements will have to be made for them also. A person can go a hundred kilometres away and earn his living, but he cannot take the animals with him. So, I think this is a very important thing. Whenever there is a drought, our seeds get destroyed. Our inputs will be lost, our fertiliser will be lost, and our seeds will be destroyed. The Agriculture Minister is sitting here; I would humbly ask him to identify such areas. Whenever you announce compensation under RBC, I think that for that, all the insurance schemes that we have, all of them are for our districts, for our blocks, considering tehsils as units, neither There is no place for Panchayat anywhere, nor have we made Patwari constituency the base. I do not believe that justice can ever be done to the farmers. I have contested elections from three areas bordering Vidarbha, and today, I am on the border of Uttar Pradesh. That's why I request of you, where Bundelkhand came in my destiny, where I am not from, where earlier it was, it was the area adjacent to Vidarbha. I can understand the pain of the people of Vidarbha, and I think they should be heard because

they are the people of the state constantly struggling with that crisis, moving towards suicide. In areas where such conditions are there, I would say that the agriculture Minister should pay attention to them. They should interweave it and give the package. I am not asking for their help for votes in my area. But a farmer whose fourth crop is destroyed cannot survive. Any farmer can feel this; there is no need to tell me. That's why I want the government minister to intervene in this. I am not talking about interference within the state boundaries. But even in the laws, if there is a need to give suggestions, then if people like us honestly put the pain of that farmer in front of you and ask, then not in the form of begging, but in the form of authority, we will pray to them that they should intervene in this. I want the Minister to present his views in this regard. Thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (FEROZEPUR):** I thank you, Deputy Speaker Madam, for giving me the opportunity to speak under Rule 193 on the important issue of ‘Natural Calamities’ that have plagued various regions of the country.

Sir, some time ago, Kashmir valley was hit by floods as a result of incessant rains. Andhra Pradesh and Orissa also bore the brunt of cyclone Hudhud which resulted in floods in many areas. On the other hand, Maharashtra was in the clutches of severe drought.

Sir, the Kashmir valley was badly affected by floods. However, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have also been affected by floods. Ferozepur parliamentary constituency shares a long border with Pakistan. River Sutlej flows through this area. It often wreaks havoc during rainy season.

Sir, some areas of Punjab are often in the grips of drought while others are badly affected by the swirling water of rivers Sutlej and Beas. This is an annual phenomena. The seven

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

districts of Ferozepur, Moga, Faridkot, Muktsar, Fazilka etc. were badly affected by floods this time too. Other districts were affected by severe drought. In the flood affected areas, standing crops were destroyed while in the drought affected areas, the crops dried up. So, it was double whammy for the farmers of Punjab.

Sir, the need of the hour is to bail out the hapless farmer. The farmer is in a pitiable condition. The backbones of the farmers have broken as their standing crops have been destroyed. This is why a large number of farmers have committed suicide.

The farmers are neck-deep in debt. They are weighed down by the massive debt of 35,000 crores as the crops were regularly destroyed over the years due to floods or drought. Hence, the Central Government must waive off the loans of the farmers.

My parliamentary constituency of Ferozepur is often hit by floods. River Beas joins river Sutlej near Hari Ke Pattan. The rivers are in spate in the rainy season. Large areas are inundated. Houses collapse. Standing crops are destroyed. Cattle is washed away. People are marooned on tree-tops and roof-tops. There is

loss of life as well as property. This year, over 30 people were killed and over 120 cattle perished in the fury of floods. Over 14,000 houses of the poor people collapsed. Standing crop in over 1,26,000 hectares was destroyed.

Sir, a survey of the entire loss was also done. It calculated the loss to be worth over 200 crores. The compensation granted to the affected farmers is a pittance. A paltry sum of Rs.3500 per acre is a cruel joke. The standing crop per acre is generally worth Rs.50,000/-. In fact, Basmati rice gives the yield of Rs. 1 lakh per acre. So, the measly amount of Rs.3500/- per acre is like adding insult to injury. The Government has released a sum of only Rs.101 crores till now. The entire compensation amount is yet to be released.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up.

SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA: Sir, a handsome compensation package must be granted to the farmers. In Ferozepur parliamentary constituency, the groves of citrus fruits like 'Kinnu' and 'Malta' have also been destroyed. The Government has not yet compensated their growers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please finish your speech, Now, Shri C.R. Choudhary.

SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA: Sir, a compensation of Rs.1 lakh each must be provided to these affected fruit-growers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAU): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak about natural disasters. I come from a state which is a draft area. When we were elected, it seemed that a drought situation would arise in this country, but by the grace of God, there was good rain after July 20, the result of which was that Jammu-Kashmir, the North-East, and the Vossi River all had flood situations arise. I would like to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for acting with great courage and good management during natural calamities, which has been appreciated by the entire country. This government has shown good management in times of such disasters. It is a matter of good fortune for our government and all of us that such work happened under the good leadership of the Prime Minister.

I would like to submit that during this natural calamity, 1571 human lives were lost, 92,000 cattle were damaged and seven lakh houses were damaged. Despite this, the management that was done, be it in Jammu and Kashmir, the Prime Minister immediately went there and immediately released a package of

Rs 1,000 crore. Similarly, about Rs 400 crore was released to compensate for the damage caused by the Hudhud storm in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, relief was also announced for the landslides that occurred in Maharashtra. Recently, one of our colleagues rightly said that instead of treating a disaster as a disaster, if it is faced with courage, then the disaster can be managed properly. The government managed it efficiently.

Our former speaker, who comes from Odisha, was saying that the Central Government did not provide assistance for the disaster that occurred there. I want to say that there is SDRF; the Central Government also has a share in it, and Rs 400 crore has been given to it, and in that also a relaxation has been given that the money will be given. This has been brilliantly managed.

I want to say something about my parliamentary constituency. I come after getting selected from Nagaur. There too a situation arose that required immediate relief. We have a drought situation here, in which work has to be done for eight-nine months. There is a problem of employment, a water problem and no fodder for the animals. Therefore, its management is quite different from the management of other

kinds of natural calamities. Therefore, we have to look at it in the same way. There are 11.12 districts in Western Rajasthan. There was a shortage of water because the rains were late. When it rained, the sowing that had been done did not get water. The result was that the crop did not ripen, and grain was not produced. Although some fodder was produced, it was much less considering the cattle population there. My parliamentary constituency Nagaur is known as the Brackish Belt; there is no water up to 700 feet. If water below 700 feet is extracted through tube wells, then it is very salty and contains a very high amount of fluoride. It has bad effects on the human body and animals also. Water is not being provided even by tanks because there is no water in the ponds.

I would like to thank Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara ji for bringing the lift canal from Indira Gandhi Canal for Nagaur district. The previous government did not implement this scheme during its five-year tenure, but now it has been started. I request the Central Government that a special package should be given for the lift canal. So that water can be transported. Similarly, water is also required for fodder for animals. A special package for Western Rajasthan should be

given by the Central Government. It should help the State Government so that they are in a position to face the drought situation in the State.

Finally, I will conclude by saying one more thing. Management for natural disasters was very good, but precautions are also needed. Precaution should not be done only on papers; management should not be done only on papers. This should be real management.

[English]

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, I would like to give one clarification.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Hon. Member whom I have called is already standing on his legs, so let him complete his speech. After that, you can say what you want to say.

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Sir, the SDRF is devolved to all States on a constitutional provision. The Hon. Member should know that there is no special patronage given by the Central Government to Odisha. It goes to all the States under the constitutional provisions. I am just giving a clarification.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: That was his view. He has all the liberty to express his view. The Minister is here and he will give all the explanations.

17.00 hrs.**SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR):**

Hon. Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me time to participate on this subject. This topic was discussed on the 2nd of December initiated by our Hon. Member from Odisha. The subject is about Flood in Jammu and Kashmir, cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and drought in Maharashtra. These are the particular cases.

17.01 hrs (Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

In Kashmir, there was a huge devastation. In Pune, there was a huge loss. Andhra is also having a huge loss. But I want to draw your attention to our State. The very severe cyclonic storm Hudhud that made a land fall near Visakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh close to Odisha on 2nd October, 2014, has severely affected the Southern and Central coastal districts of Odisha. However, the Odisha Government under the leadership of our beloved leader Shri Naveen Patnaik ensured adequate pre-preparedness in due time as a result of which human casualty could be restricted to three out of which two were due to unfortunate incident of boat accident during the evacuation

purpose. More than 2.47 lakh people were evacuated to safe shelter from the areas likely to be hit by the cyclone to save their lives. About 16 units of National Disaster Response Force, ten units of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and 1265 fire service personnel were deployed to undertake rescue operation. All other required measures were undertaken to tackle the situation. Even though the death toll could be restricted due to high degree of preparedness by the State Government, yet there is extensive damage to provide houses, public infrastructure. The State Government has submitted a memorandum to the Union Home Ministry demanding an assistance of Rs.777.12 crore for restoration, rehabilitation work in 22 districts affected by very severe cyclonic storm Hudhud. Out of this, the cyclone has caused extensive damage in 15 districts while seven other districts have been partially hit. A Central Team has visited Odisha to take stock of the damage caused by cyclonic storm in our worst hit areas like Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Gajapati.

The memorandum has detailed the assistance sought under different heads: Repair of roads and bridges Rs. 374.31 crore; restoration of power supply Rs.104.35 crore; agriculture input

subsidy Rs.23.77 crore; repair of rural-urban drinking water system Rs.85.65 crore; repair of irrigation works Rs.80.10 crore; repair of community asset owned by panchayats Rs.34.60 crore and repair of primary school building Rs.37.95 crore. In the power sector, Hudhud has damaged Rs.2155.9 kilometre of conductor of 11 KV feeders; 239.95 kilometre conductor of 33 KV feeders; 8 power transformers; 1754 distribution transformers; 1088.75 kilometre conductor LT lines; as many as 587 number of rural pipe water supply system and 168 tube wells have been damaged in the rural areas due to the cyclone and consequent floods. The damage has also occurred to urban pipe water supply works and tube wells in urban areas.

According to the Memorandum, the cyclone has fully damaged 80 pucca houses and 883 kutcha houses, while partially damaging 343 pucca houses and 40,244 kutcha houses, crops in 502 hectares of irrigated land, and 1,072 hectares of non-irrigated land, and twenty hectares of perennial crops. Farmers other than small and marginal farmers have sustained crop loss of more than 50 per cent due to cyclone. About 3.34 million people in Odisha from 9,657 villages under 1,276 Gram Panchayats, and 99 Blocks of 13 Districts were severely injured.

In this House, on 26th November there was an Unstarred Question asking whether the Government had assessed the damages such as loss of human lives, private and government properties caused by Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and other parts of the country. It was clearly mentioned in the answer given by the Minister that in order to support the affected people of these two States the Government of India had released assistance of Rs.515.42 crore. Out of that, Rs.115.42 crore was from SDRF, plus Rs.400 crore from NDRF to Andhra Pradesh, and Rs.178.495 crore from SDRF to Odisha were given for immediate relief operation. Not a single paisa from NDRF has been sanctioned till today to our State.

I would like to state that it would have been better if the Hon. Prime Minister had visited our State. Through you, Sir, I would like to demand that irrespective of the funds the other States are given, our demands should be fulfilled.

Thank you.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this discussion under Rule 193.

I rise to participate with a heavy heart in the debate on the Hudhud cyclone which had hit Andhra Pradesh on the 12th of October 2014 with a wind speed of 260 kms per hour. People thought that Hudhud cyclone will be like any other cyclone, but it was not so. We have seen many cyclones in the past but this cyclone has completely torn through the city of Visakhapatnam. The cyclone has unleashed widespread destruction upon this bustling city of nearly 20 lakh people and brought it to a grinding halt. The cyclone that made its landfall on the port city around noon sent hoardings and tin roofs flying like saucers, shattered windows leaving the streets littered with glass pieces.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, there was no power, no water, no communication, no transport, no milk, and no food for many days. People were shocked and there was panic situation. Trees were uprooted and roads including National Highways were blocked due to which supply of essential commodities and relief

work could not be undertaken. The NDRF team and the State Government officials cleared the roadblocks. Manpower was brought from other States like Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu has strong capabilities, particularly during crisis management. After the cyclone hit, he reached Vizag within 24 hours by road and stayed there for a week. He met the affected people and assured them of all help, like relief and rehabilitation at the earliest. He worked relentlessly right from 7 a.m. to midnight 1 a.m. At the same time, he deputed all the State Ministers, MLAs, MPs, MLCs from all over the State and all officers, in the three affected districts of Visakhapatnam, Viziayanagaram and Srikakulam. I am proud to say that within 48 hours, we restored water connection to Vizag city, within five days, restored power connection to Vizag city. All these have been done in a record time, because of Shri Chandrababu Naidu's willpower, dedication and determination. Otherwise, it would not have been done.

Within 48 hours, Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited Vizag city along with Union Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu. After Independence, he is the first Prime Minister of India to have visited the District Collector's Office and monitored the situation personally.

After assessing the situation, he has responded with a big heart; he has immediately announced a temporary relief of Rs.1000 crore. In this regard, I convey my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister, on behalf of the people of those three districts. But this amount is not sufficient to carry out relief work; the damage caused due to Hudhud cyclone was estimated to be more than Rs.40,000 crore. So, I request the Union Government to provide more funds in order to provide relief and rescue work to the affected people.

The Hudhud cyclone has rendered many poor people, including street vendors, homeless and jobless. Thousands of farmers are on the verge of committing suicide. This State is affected by the cyclone every year. Therefore, I suggest that the insurance and input subsidy should be provided to the farmers immediately. Last year, our State was affected by three

cyclones, but till now, we have not got the input subsidies for the last year. Hon. Agriculture Minister is here; I request him, on behalf of all the agricultural and horticultural farmers, who are in depression, to release input subsidy immediately.

The NDRF Centre should be set up permanently at Visakhapatnam as it has a long sea coast to tackle the situation. The NDMA is presently headless; the Government should appoint its Chairman immediately. An expert in the national disaster management from Andhra Pradesh should be appointed in the NDMA. The amount demanded by the AP Government for carrying out relief and rehabilitation work should be released by the Centre immediately.

Already our friends mentioned about the figures. In our State, nearly for 20 lakh people, we have given food and other essential commodities, for one week and the roads and power sector have been repaired. In the power sector, the damage was about Rs.500 crore. The Defence Minister is here; we have our industries in Visakhapatnam. We have given Rs.2000 crore for Navy, Rs. 500 crore for steel plant; all put together, we have given more than Rs. 30,000 crore. But the major problem is for

the farmers; agricultural farmers are in a depressed state. All the crops like sugarcane, paddy, cashew, mango, etc. got damaged. All these farmers are affected; now it is like a zero-per cent crop in those three districts. Moreover, those districts are most backward like the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. Our State was newly formed with the old name. so, I request the Central Government to declare this Hudhud cyclone as a national calamity. Then only our economic condition will improve. It is because our Government is not in a position to pay the salaries of employees. We have a deficit of Rs.15000 crore. I would request the Central Government to adopt our State. Our State does not have any Capital. There are no educational institutions. There are no industries. There are no income generating avenues. Only the old name of Andhra Pradesh is there. Everything including Hyderabad has been given to Telangana State by the former UPA Government. Now we have become orphan. If the Central Government comes to our rescue, only then we would be safe. Otherwise, our people will become like... *. Therefore, I would request that you do not compare new State with the old State. Our State is a new born State. Kindly

* Not recorded.

look at our State with affection because we are also part of India. With no fault of ours, we are suffering for the last five years. We are jobless, homeless and helpless. Therefore, kindly help us.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government is against terrorism. So, do not advocate this here. You should not mention that. That is not good. You can say whatever you want. You do not say that your people will become like them. That word cannot be taken. Please remove that word.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Deputy Speaker Sir, I praise all the Hon. members because everyone is concerned about the farmers. Today, we are discussing many states suffering from natural disasters. In that, I will present some of my views regarding the issue of drought in Maharashtra. The entire discussion will be answered by the Home Ministry. In the first session of Parliament, we discussed drought for four days. Certainly, when there is discussion, it brings great benefits. Especially in the case of drought, the reports that come from the Meteorological Department come zone-wise or sub-zone-wise. It is not reflected in the government figures as to which tehsil and which area there is drought. When we discussed the drought for four days, from the information given by the Hon. members, it appeared that there was drought in many parts of the country. That discussion was very useful. When it was brought to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister that what the MPs are saying is different from the information available from the Meteorological Department, it seems that there are many tehsils, talukas and districts in the country where

there is drought and no rain. So, the Prime Minister had immediately called a Cabinet meeting and taken a decision and arranged for an amount of Rs 1,000 crore that if there is minus 50 per cent rainfall for 15 days in any area, in any district, in any area, he will be given a 50 per cent subsidy on diesel, and for this, a provision of Rs 100 crore was made in the cabinet meeting. Similarly, under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission, the cabinet had approved Rs 700 crore. If there is a loss of perennial horticulture, it will be given as compensation. Then the subsidy on seeds was increased, and a provision of Rs 100 crore was made to ensure the availability of fodder. The fodder which is imported, like cake, barley husk or sunflower, etc., was exempted from import duty. The result was that the subsidy on diesel started in Bihar. After this, some states declared drought. Then after this some states declared drought. The state government can declare drought. The Government of India cannot declare drought. When a state government declares a drought, but no government had declared a drought when the Government of India made this arrangement, then Bihar has informed us that there was less rainfall in our country, so we

gave a subsidy on diesel, but its details have not been received yet; hence, the amount has not gone there.

Maharashtra informed that they had demanded Rs 12 crore for the availability of fodder, out of which Rs 625 crore has been sent to them from here. Similarly, later Telangana has reported to declare drought but has not given any notification or any memorandum. He has also sent the notification issued by Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka and its complete details. After that, the team has also gone there, assessment has also been done, and that complete report will go to NDRF, and they will be given government assistance. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, our Chandrakant Khaire Ji was saying that this situation had already arrived. This situation had reached a peak in July-September itself. At that time, the government should have made an announcement, but at that time, the government did not make the announcement, and this time, the government has not only made the announcement but has also prepared a very good memorandum. Their memorandum came the night before yesterday, and today the Agriculture Minister himself brought it; yesterday there was a conversation with the Chief Minister, and the team will go there in a day or two. We have

formed the team, but representatives of eight ministries will also go in it, so there may be a delay of a day or two, but that team will definitely go. Chandrakant Khaire ji of Maharashtra is not here right now, but I want to tell him that I have talked to the Relief Commissioner there that in Maharashtra you also have SDRF in the last financial year, through which immediate assistance can be given, under that. Rs 567 crore was given, and Rs 1270 crore was given by NDRF. But the details of the expenditure of Rs 567 crore, which had gone into SDRF, have not been revealed. There is an allocation of Rs 403 crore for this year also, but yesterday when we talked to the Commissioner, he said that we will send the utilisation certificate in a day or two. As soon as the utilisation certificate comes, we will send this Rs 403 crore, but when our team goes and after that when the report comes, then that report will go to NDRF, and definitely full assistance will be given to Maharashtra. If you look, you will know that Maharashtra is the only state which has been given assistance from NDRF both in the year 2012-13 and in the year 2013-14, once Rs 1800 crore and once Rs 1200 crore. Chandrakant Khaire Ji was also talking about livestock there, but you will be surprised to know that in the year 2013-14, Rs

5,000 crore was spent for the Livestock Development Scheme, and hardly Rs 2200 crore was spent; Rs 2800 crore could not be spent. The cooperation of the state government is needed in this.

The answer to our discussion on Hudhud and floods will come from the Home Ministry, but I have data. Recently, it was being discussed about Orissa that Rs 276 crore has been released this year under SDRF in Orissa. There is an allocation of Rs 356 crore, and Rs 276 crore has been released. The expenditure may have been incurred, but such is the condition of the bureaucracy; the situation is the same in our ministry, and there too the situation is that even after the expenditure is incurred, they do not send the utilisation certificate. Now, here it is on paper that the money has not been spent; there it will be on paper that the money has been spent. As the previous speaker said that the money has already been spent, then surely if the Ministry makes an effort and gets its utility certificate, that money will also be spent.

Similarly, if we look at the agricultural development plan of Orissa, in the year 2013-14, Rs 813 crore was released and Rs 768 crore was spent. This is a good achievement. There is an

allocation of Rs 600 crore for this year. Out of this, Rs 390 crore has been released; currently the expenditure is Rs 188 crore. There is a crisis in Hudhud in Orissa, and surely the sooner the report of this expenditure comes, the remaining SDRF money will be spent. I definitely want to tell the government of Maharashtra and the people there... (*Interruptions*) My topic is related to drought, which is in Maharashtra, and if you want to know the figures of other places, then I will tell you that also.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has not concluded his reply. Why are you interrupting now? Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate is not over. He is only intervening now. If you want, I will allow you after the Minister completes his reply. The Minister is on his legs. I cannot allow you now. Please take your seat.

Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Due to the crisis that is going on in Maharashtra today, we all know that additional help will be provided from NDRF. SDRF has.... (*Interruptions*) From us, the states have.... (*Interruptions*) You listen to me.... (*Interruptions*) If you give notice, we are ready for discussion. The objective right now... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that I will give you an opportunity to speak later. It is only an intervention that he is making now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: The Hon. Member is right in saying that there has been a drought there since July-August. The government of that time should have cleared this. The Government of India cannot declare this. We would like to congratulate the Chief Minister there for declaring this. There was half the rainfall compared to last year. Vidarbha has received some good rainfall this year. Marathwada has received half the rainfall compared to last year. The government of that

time should have declared that area drought affected. I received your paper the night before yesterday. We talked to the Chief Minister yesterday; today we are sitting with the Agriculture Minister there. We have spoken to your Relief Commissioner, and our team is leaving tomorrow. To date, no government has formed a team with such promptness, nor has the team gone there.

Uttar Pradesh had made the announcement at the time of elections. Haryana elections were notified and announced a day before, so we sent the team there on the third day. But it is the job of the state government to make announcements; it is not the job of the Government of India to make announcements. You see that the Prime Minister of this country goes to the district headquarters. If any disaster occurs, the Hon. member is saying that the whole world has praised that there was a crisis in Jammu and Kashmir, so today there is such leadership that if any kind of crisis comes to the country, then it will not only have the courage to face that crisis. Rather, this government and leadership have the courage to overcome it.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):

Sir, I express my gratitude to the Minister. I thought that I would not get a chance to present my views in the House. After meeting the Minister, all the MPs of Maharashtra have fulfilled the assurance as given by the Minister, for this I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government, Prime Minister Modi ji and the Minister.

Sir, as my friend Chandrakant Khare ji told me, such is the pitiful situation in our Maharashtra. It is a serious issue. The Minister is aware that out of 43,663 villages in Maharashtra, the currency exchange rate of about 19,059 villages is less than 50 paise. The farmers of Maharashtra are completely trapped in crises like unseasonal rains, snowfall, floods and cyclonic storms. 422 people have died there; people have committed suicide. As the Minister said, this had started in July itself. When Congress was in government in July, we were after them to declare drought there, but that was not done. When the new BJP government came, we went to them and requested this. The Hon. Minister has declared a drought and has made preparations to send a team there. I request the Minister that you should send that team there immediately. The report came to you only

yesterday.... (*Interruptions*) Minister, if that team is going tomorrow, then thank you very much.

Sir, there is a demand of Rs. 4,000 crore for this. We have given you details of the damage caused. I do not want to take up the time of this meeting by speaking about him. There is a report; I present it before you – According to the official figure, 15 districts comprising 11,800 villages are declared as drought affected. There is an acute water scarcity in 1,779 villages and 4,709 smaller habitations. Some of the villages are facing drought for the second consecutive year. This is the second drought. 6,200 villages in Vidarbha are affected by this. You have all these reports.

25% of the dams of India are in Maharashtra. Our biggest dams at Ujani and Zaikwadi are dry. There is no water in them. The animals died there; there is no fodder there. All our electrical equipment broke. If we get relief of Rs 4,000 crore for these, then we will be able to cope with it very well.

Sir, I want to put one last point before you. When this drought comes, we provide immediate relief for the drought, but its impact remains on the farmers for the next two to three years.

After the help received today, the benefits of the schemes of the Government of India, such as the Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, etc., should be given to the disaster-affected farmers there in the coming two years. This service should be continuous so that these farmers can lead their lives well.

Sir, on behalf of the entire people of Maharashtra, my party Shiv Sena and the farmers of drought-affected villages, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Speaker Madam, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very serious issue.

Deputy Speaker Sir, this has ruined the lives of lakhs of people. Many people lost their lives in this. Their people's houses were destroyed; the settlements of the population were destroyed. Be it Hudhud of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kashmir or Assam, the devastation is the same. Many people build their houses in fifty years by adding bits and pieces. When this kind of objection comes from the sky, their entire life gets ruined, and they are unable to build a home even for generations. Only those people with whom it happens can understand it; other people cannot understand it.

I myself went to Kashmir, and I stayed there for five days. I saw the condition of the people there. Hudhud caused widespread damage in Andhra Pradesh. There were three cloudbursts in Assam. 42 lakh people were affected by it, 23 districts were affected, and several lakh hectares of land were damaged and destroyed. Balia rose above the ground, and sand covered it. Now I don't know if this will be ok. How will these

people live? These people do not even have a hut to live in. The Government of India gave a package of Rs. 674 crore. We thank the Government of India; we thank Modi Ji. This money is very little for Assam. When I went to Kashmir, the people there told me that the package had come from Central, but we did not know when we would get it. There is this regret everywhere. I myself am the chairman of the District Monitoring Vigilance Committee, but we just sit and watch the reports. Nothing is written in the report as complete below 98 per cent. 98, 99, and 100 per cent completed, meaning 100 per cent of the money has been consumed and it has been completed. The poor people remain in their place; those who are ruined, they remain in their place; their devastation and destruction remain in their place.

Today is the era of science. Science and technology have progressed a lot. Like in the case of Hudhud, a week ago we saw that warnings were coming on television, and the government was giving warnings, so five lakh people were shifted to other safe places. There was devastation there, but not what happened in Kashmir, not what happened in Assam. This is the work of science and technology. We have disaster management here and many departments of the government. In Assam there is the

Brahmaputra Control Board; there is a department for everything. Looking at those offices, it seems that perhaps no one has opened its lock for five or six years. The money goes, and sadly it is all gone. Here comes the report that one hundred per cent of the money has been utilised. Science and technology should be used before the rains, before the devastation and destruction, before the cloudbursts.

Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this because people from all sides are suffering this. Can't this be told to people in advance? Whatever happened in Assam, whatever happened in Kashmir, is not a disaster. Whatever happened in Kashmir, whatever happened in Assam, is not a disaster. 1.24 crore hectares of land were destroyed. Where will these people go? The Brahmaputra River floods every year. Every year, there is destruction in it. In this, not only is one man's house destroyed, his farming is not destroyed, and the entire year's education of children gets ruined. They get displaced. Don't know from where to where they have to go. Some go and take shelter in the forest land; some build huts on the side of the highway and live there. In this way, their children's education is ruined.

This is a very important topic. I am thankful for the opportunity you gave me to discuss this. I would like to say that our departments should be used and people should know about it in advance. Today, we can know what will come from nature above; I hope that we will take advantage of it.

With this, thank you very much.

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): At the very outset, I would like to thank the hon Deputy-Speaker for calling me to speak on this subject.

Sir, India has been a victim to almost every form of destruction by nature, be it floods, droughts, famines, landslides etc. Lately, we have had the worst floods in Jammu and Kashmir, the cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha as also the worst drought in Maharashtra causing tremendous loss.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that we as a nation are a disaster when it comes to dealing with natural disasters. We do not have any preparedness to deal with these natural calamities. We wake up to these disasters only when they strike, not before or after. This is why, it is not the disaster *per se* which causes more deaths but it is our lack of preparedness and our inability to handle these disasters which increases the casualty rate. Our Environmentalists, our Ecologists have been warning us repeatedly that we are causing damage to the nature. But our planning for developmental activities and construction still does not take cognizance of the damage and the risk that we pose to

our ecosystem. It is high time that protecting our ecology, our ecosystem and our nature became our priority.

We have had the National Disaster Management Act in 2005 in this Parliament which envisaged the creation of the NDMA, an apex body under the chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister, to lay down the guidelines and policies for dealing with these disasters, effective management of these disasters, risk mitigation and the prevention of such calamities across the nation. But we have seen how ineffective it has proved to be in the case of Jammu and Kashmir when people, Government, Armed Forces, everybody was caught unawares. This is when the CAG also in its report mentioned that the NDMA has been ineffective since the time of its inception seven years back. It does not have any information about the progress regarding the disaster management works which are being taken up by the State Governments. Also, several crucial posts in the NDMA are still lying vacant. To add to this, the NDMA has been working without the Core Advisory Committee of Experts which is mandatory. At the top of it, the NDMA is supposed to be supplemented by the SDMAs in every State. In Andhra Pradesh and Odisha the NDMA's role was appreciated because the two

States had their State disaster management rescue forces which were fully capacitated; the States were fully equipped. NDMA is supposed to support the role of the States. So it is a major challenge that if the States do not have the SDMAAs then it is very difficult for the NDMA to operate with efficiency because it is only the State which is going to provide a network from the district headquarters to every village, every nook and corner of the State and the NDMA can provide any form of relief and assistance.

Many of my colleagues in the House have given a suggestion for creating a separate Ministry. However, I do not feel the need for the same. I feel that if we can make certain changes with our political will, if we can strengthen our existing National Disaster Management Authority, we can serve the purpose.

There are certain steps which can go a long way in providing teeth and nails to the NDMA and empowering the NDMA. For example, the NDMA should be empowered to issue directions to the State to comply with its guidelines. Also, the fire and civil defence authorities should be brought under the NDMA. Apart

from this, the NDMA clearance must be made mandatory to carry out construction and developmental activities in the flood and earthquake prone areas. Also, the National Disaster Mitigation Fund should be created in order to strengthen this Agency.

I feel, with these efforts and making this a political priority, we can strengthen our NDMA and we can take care of the disasters across the nation with more efficiency. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Deputy Speaker Sir, the Prime Minister immediately reached the natural calamities that occurred in Jammu-Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. I have been observing the behaviour of the top leadership during natural disasters for the last many years. I do not want to comment, but when the Prime Minister went there, he definitely gave a message to the country. The points have been explained in detail in the discussion.

Overall, if we cannot move forward with a sensitive heart at the time of objections, cannot consider the entire country as one and put all our energy into it, then it is very difficult to get rid of objections. Sensitivity is very important in itself, and the Hon. Prime Minister himself immediately visited these places and gave such a message to the people of the entire country. I congratulate him very much.

Tere paanv mein kaanta lage, mujhe dard ka ahsaas ho,

Teri muskurahat cheen le to dil mera udas ho.

(If there is a thorn in your foot, I will feel the pain. If someone takes away your smile, my heart will be sad.)

If this sentiment is not there, then we will try to relieve someone's suffering. Again, I do not want to comment too much by saying this, but I have seen the scenes of the tragedy of Kedarnath; I myself went there. On what kind of political basis were the decisions taken? The relief work was stopped there. Many times, it seems as if the people of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha or Jammu and Kashmir are only the people of the political leadership of those states. They are all national citizens. It is the duty of every person to help and serve them. It is completely unfair to stop him or create any kind of obstacle in his path. This type of approach happened because perhaps the person lacked national sensitivity or perhaps there was a lack of political thinking. I am saying this with great pain: perhaps vote bank politics was dominating there.

I was watching the debate yesterday also. There is a kind of confidence that the opposition parties have about whether the central government will probably provide help or not. When many of our TMC MPs were asking questions in the question-and-answer session yesterday, it came to my mind that perhaps they are apprehensive because of the past traditions and laws. I

again want to congratulate the Prime Minister that when he says that we will develop the country by taking along its 125 crore citizens, he behaves in the same way. For the same reason, today, whatever measures have been taken to deal with the disaster, quality and speed are visible in them.

There is a time limit, so I just want to make a couple of suggestions. Prevention is better than cure.

Dukh mein sumiran sab karein, sukh mein kare na koye,

Jo sukh mein sumiran kare, to dukh kahe ko hoye.

(Everyone remembers God in sorrow; no one remembers in happiness. If one remembers in happiness, then why should there be sorrow?)

I feel that the more armies sweat during the peace period, the less blood they have to sweat during the war. Just before us, Sadasya also mentioned this. Overall, there seems to be a lack somewhere in our comprehensive thinking. We deviate from the holistic view. There were storms at some places and earthquakes at other places, but floods occur almost regularly in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Why can't we make arrangements there? I think that in our water management, whether it is about

underground water, whether it is about increasing the capacity of our rivers, or whether it is about the construction of ponds, we will make such arrangements, keeping in mind the ecological balance, and then our capacity to deal with these problems will increase.... (*Interruptions*)

You have rung the bell, signalling the limit of my time. I once again express my gratitude for the help, etc., and express my confidence that our preparation will be better in the future. We will be successful in converting any such crisis into an opportunity. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this serious issue. Today, there is discussion here about floods in Jammu and Kashmir, cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and drought in Maharashtra. I would like to tell you that not only Maharashtra but also Haryana, some part of Rajasthan, some part of Punjab and some part of Uttar Pradesh have been affected by drought this time. When the Minister gave his words, he said that in Haryana also we have taken this issue seriously.

Being the youngest MP in this House, I got to hear this discussion for the second time in this session. Last time also we spent six days discussing only drought and floods. Even today, it is probably the fourth day we are discussing this; this issue will have to be raised with great seriousness. If we talk about drought, it is because we cannot deliver water to the farmers' fields. I would appeal to the House to unite and raise this voice. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had stated in the year 2003 that all the rivers of this country would be linked. Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also reiterated that all the rivers will be linked. I appeal; all of you are older than us. Let us start the

effort of interlinking the rivers during this session itself. If rivers are linked, I do not think that farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan will ever see drought conditions. In the year 2003, the direction for the Sutlej-Yamuna link was given by the Supreme Court. The Government of India should start the work of connecting Satluj-Yamuna as soon as possible. Sir, when it comes to drought, the government releases grants very easily. But when the grant reaches the farmers, it takes several months. Many times the situation is such that when the cheque goes to the farmers, then our government has given the cheque of two rupees, three rupees and five rupees to the farmers. When a farmer cultivates an acre of land, does the government value it at Rs 2 or Rs 3? In Haryana's Jhajjar, Rewari and Mewat, the previous UPA government had given cheques of Rs 2 and Rs 5 to many farmers. Now, drought has come again. The government has declared Haryana as drought affected, but the state government has declared only 5 districts as drought affected. I would appeal to the Hon. Agriculture Minister to seek an immediate response from the government and work on getting the farmers of all the 21 districts affected by drought surveyed and providing compensation to them as soon as

possible. I would like to give a suggestion: when money is released from the Central Government, as the MP before me was saying, the entire amount is not released until the completion certificate comes. Can the Central Government create a separate agency? Because flood and drought works are urgent tasks, that agency should be activated soon; this government should do the work of providing money to the farmers as soon as possible.

I would request that a provision be made to create such an agency soon. The way all the MPs appreciated the very good contribution of NDRF, it did very good work in Jammu-Kashmir and Orissa; everyone appreciated it, but prevention is always better than cure. Our metrological department is not well equipped to achieve perfection. I would appeal to the government to give such authority to NDRF under which it can complete the work of prevention. Whatever is to be done tomorrow, do it today to protect the farmers. Nowadays we see such crises happening all over the world; cyclones come to America.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister wants to say something.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Not only some parts of Uttar Pradesh, but 44 districts have been declared drought-hit by the government there; all 21 districts of Haryana have been declared drought-hit. Our team had gone to both the places; the team came and prepared a complete assessment. Some more papers have been sought from Haryana; the report will be sent to NDRF. All the districts of Haryana have been declared drought affected.

DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: The Minister informed that all 21 districts of Haryana have been declared drought affected. I will appeal to the farmer whose field has remained dry for four months; your government is in the state also. This work should be done immediately. Compensation to farmers should be delivered to those 21 districts of Haryana as soon as possible, because even today the Haryana government is sitting on declaring only five districts as drought-affected districts. Even today, the remaining 16 districts are suffering from drought, which the government has not been able to declare. Whatever is the work of Girdawari, whatever is the work of the officers, I will appeal... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: We did not declare this. Our government was there two days before the election notification was issued; there should be no discrimination as to whose government it was. At that time we did not have a government, but they have declared drought in all the districts. The team that went there has surveyed all the districts. It has brought reports from all the districts. You should correct your information; this is my suggestion.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Minister, my only request to you is that you have a government in the state. You should ask that government to declare those 21 districts as drought-affected districts as soon as possible.

Vice President, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this serious issue. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):

Hon. Deputy Speaker Madam, disasters occur. In most cases, they are natural and unpredictable. Various diverse factors, natural and human induced, adverse geo-climatic conditions, topographic features, environmental degradation, etc., are reasons for disasters. We must accept the fact that whenever any disaster occurs, the mother earth which bears all natural and human induced activities on its surface and sub-surface, atmosphere etc., put us in an unenviable position. On innumerable occasions, throughout the world disasters have occurred with unimaginable negative impacts. However, human efforts have been taking place continuously to successfully overcome them. India is no exception.

The Indian sub-continent with its geographical location south of Himalayan ranges and having a long coastal region covering its deccan plateau is prone to many natural disasters. We have faced many calamitous situations throughout our history and in order to meet the disaster situations, we have presently in place a National Disaster Management Authority,

headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities headed by respective Chief Ministers to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to disaster management in India. More and more involvement of State Governments in disaster preparedness is the most important thing. The projects to sensitize the school children in disaster preparedness and disaster management are a welcome step.

Due to proper stewardship and guiding spirit, the impact of many disasters have been contained to the most minimal levels like that one happened during tsunami. The political will at that time to direct and constantly engage the authorities for swift and tireless action prevented damages to the lowest levels. The World Bank has approved the Tsunami Reconstruction Project to repair damaged houses and provide for multi-hazard resistant houses, reclaim agricultural lands, strengthen fisheries infrastructure etc. The rehabilitation action was more than the targeted one.

Overdrawing natural resources has been proved to be one of the major causes of disaster other than the naturally happening one. Hence the thinking of sustainable disaster

management has dawned worldwide and is really going to help us in disaster preparedness and disaster management.

Tamil Nadu, in particular, due to its geographic location with vast coastal line is prone to recurring cyclone threats. Monsoon brings with it the added misery of inundation of crops by heavy and continuous downpour of rains and flooding. Despite preparedness, the havoc caused is more than the expected. But many drought prone districts of Tamil Nadu suffer heavily due to scanty and insufficient rains.

There is a need for constant review of the situations like drought, flood, earth quake, etc., year-round so that the bad effects are contained. The Government of India should be liberal to help the States in dealing with situations of disaster. Therefore, we should strive to achieve our goals on a mission mode. Thank you, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 5th December, 2014 at 11.00 am.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Friday, December 5, 2014/ Agrahayana 14, 1936 (Saka).*

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