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(English Version)

Third Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos.11 to 20)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 11, 2014/Agrahayana 20, 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 Anna Joshi, a Member of the 10th Lok Sabha who represented the Pune Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shri Joshi has been a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly thrice. He also served as the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Shri Joshi also served as Deputy Mayor of Pune Municipal Corporation and Chairman of Maharashtra Khadi Village Industries Corporation. He worked tirelessly to improve the fortunes of the poor and backward classes of the society.

Having travelled abroad, Shri Joshi was a Member of the Indian Parliamentary delegation which visited the United States of America to study Presidential electoral systems and other forms of Government.

Shri Anna Joshi passed away on 10 December, 2014 in Pune at the age of 79 years. We deeply mourn the demise of Shri Anna Joshi and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House will now observe silence for a short while in honour of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, I have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour to raise an important issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received requests from Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, S/Shri Rajesh Ranjan *alias* Papu Yadav ji and K.C. Venugopal for suspension of the Question Hour. I would just make a request to you all. You know better and you all know the Rules. There is no provision in the Rules of Procedure under which a Member may make a demand for suspension of the Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, S/Shri Rajesh Ranjan, E.T. Mohammad Basheer ji and K.C. Venugopal. The matter, though important enough, do not warrant interruption of the Business of the day. The matter can be raised through other opportunities. I have, therefore, disallowed the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you time.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I would request you to allow this matter to be raised as an exceptional case. ... (*Interruptions*) Yes, Rules are not there. Madam, you have got every right to suspend all the Rules and allow. You are the supreme authority. We are under you. This is a very important matter regarding conversion, which is going on. Everybody is giving statements outside the House and also indirectly some encouragement is being given. Therefore, all the Members desire that they want to discuss this matter. Kindly allow us to raise this matter as a special case by suspending the Question Hour. This is a very important matter. Please allow it in the interest of the country, unity of the country and also to safeguard the Constitution and everybody's right. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam, there is no problem for the unity, integrity and safety of the country. The issue, which the hon. Members

want to raise, is an important issue ... (*Interruptions*) Don't do politics. ... (*Interruptions*) I have heard your leader. This is the way you are trying to create trouble. ... (*Interruptions*) I heard your leader. You do not have respect for your leader. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, what I want to submit is that this issue is definitely an important issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Read today's newspaper and editorial. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: This matter has come in the newspapers. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venkaiah Naidu, you are ready to discuss it. Do you want to say something now?

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, I want to say something. ... (*Interruptions*) Such one-sided functioning of the House will not work. ... (*Interruptions*) This should not happen. ... (*Interruptions*) What I am saying is that this is a serious matter. ... (*Interruptions*) The Government has no objection if Hon. Members want to raise this issue

and hold discussion on it. ... (*Interruptions*) But suspending Question Hour, and giving adjournment motion every day is not appropriate. ... (*Interruptions*) This is not right. You all are experienced people. ... (*Interruptions*) have been in the Government for so many years. ... (*Interruptions*) You give notice later, we will discuss after permission. ... (*Interruptions*) What should be done to stop religious conversion, ... (*Interruptions*) We all should discuss this together and bring a law in this regard, the Government has no objection to this. ... (*Interruptions*) To stop religious conversion, our demand from the beginning has been to make a law in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*) This is our principle, our ideology. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, let us all discuss in this direction, ... (*Interruptions*) let us make a good law, and all the States should implement it together. We are also with you all on this. ... (*Interruptions*) [*English*] Madam, both the issues – conversion and re-conversion – are to be discussed. The Government has no problem whatsoever to discuss the issues. If the House wants a Central legislation, it can be done. Even Mahatma Gandhi said: “proselytisation and conversion are bad.” This is what Mahatma Gandhi said. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You give a notice for discussing this issue.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That being the case, we have no problem. Let us discuss it at the appropriate time through an appropriate motion. Let us not disturb the House now. There are other important issues also. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: You give notice. I am also saying that this topic is really serious. Once this is discussed, there is nothing to worry about. But give notice in proper manner. We will allow it.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.08 hrs

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

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: You give notices. I will allow it. Now, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.09 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the Question Hour.

Q. No. 261, Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

(Q. 261)

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam, recently two Unstarred Questions came up in the House in relation to the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. The total extent of wasteland in the country is shown as 4,67,021 Sq. Km. Out of this, 3,49,355 Sq. Km. has been categorized as development worthy for productive use. ... (*Interruptions*) Since February 2009, this Programme has taken a character of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, that is, IWMP. ... (*Interruptions*) A list of data placed at the Table of the House shows a very insignificant progress in the movement of this Programme with barely 5,240 Sq. Km. turned into productive use.

Will the hon. Minister kindly indicate the benchmarks for the completion of this Programme and also the technology and level of foreign expertise associated with it? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, the hon. Member has asked about the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. This programme continued up to the year 2007. After that, three important schemes, namely, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Development Programme and IWDP, were merged into one; and the new programme, which came was the Integrated Watershed Management Programme. This programme took off from the year 2009 onwards ... (*Interruptions*)

The hon. Member has asked for three years release of funds under the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. For that, I have already given the details in annexure-I of the written reply.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Listen to one thing. It is not that what you are announcing, is the announcement for the whole of India. Everyone believes that we are all brothers. The topic you mentioned is important, if the Government is ready for discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is Parliament, everything is discussed here. You give notice. Give notice as per the rules. We have gathered here

for this very purpose, to have a detailed discussion by giving a notice. Be it conversion of religion, or reconversion to any religion, whatever it may be.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please give proper notice to discuss. This is not the way. The Government is ready.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shivajirao Patil, please ask your second Supplementary.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Madam, there is growing concern that new avatar of the Land Acquisition Act may become the major barrier in the acquisition of land in the progress of industrial and infrastructure development. Will the hon. Minister kindly indicate whether the Land Development Programme under the IWMP can be harnessed for industrial and infrastructure development either directly or *via* land swap system?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are not interested in discussion; you are interested in raising slogans only. It shows something.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, Watershed Development Programme is applicable in those areas where there is scanty rainfall. To make sure, whatever is the rainfall, it should be conserved there, the water table should come up. Then, it would increase the agricultural output and also even the agricultural productivity. In the surrounding areas, forestation can also take place. It is good even for ecological balance.

So, in these circumstances, for the land which is used for agricultural purposes, the Watershed Management Programme has been given priority.

The Hon. Member has also asked whether these projects can be taken up for the areas where industries are to come. This does not come under the purview of this scheme. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam, land degradation or deterioration of land, quality of agricultural production and environmental protection have been matters of concern for the land users. The Government of India implemented the Integrated Watershed Management Programme with effect from 26th February, 2009 for the development of rain fed and degraded areas including wasteland. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what major activities are taken up under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme and what area of wasteland that has been introduced is utilised for productive use since implementation of the IWMP, particularly in Maharashtra. ... (*Interruptions*) Rs.10.6 crore was released to Maharashtra. Out of that, only Rs.1.4 crore was utilised. What is the reason for that? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Hon. Speaker, as I have already explained, this scheme was merged and it was called, Integrated Watershed Management Programme. ... (*Interruptions*) As far as Integrated Wasteland Development Programme is concerned, we have fixed a deadline for the releases under this project up to 31st of March, 2014, and as you would be knowing that out of most of the funding, which was sent by the Union Government to different States, a large portion remains unspent. The duration of the project is 4-5

years and ultimately, when it was merged, the fund that we had released from the Central share is Rs.173.39 crore in 2011-12. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him complete first.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Let the House be in order.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: And, in 2012-13, the funds released were Rs.79.58 crore. As I have told you, under the last installment which could be given to a State where the work has already been completed or the Utilization Certificate has also been received by the Ministry, last year we had released Rs.36.39 crore. Now, there is no demand from the States. Whatever demand is there, that is under the new scheme, that is, under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Kharge Ji.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Let the House be in order, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Your proceedings are running within this very setting, while everything else here remains at a standstill. Madam, under Rule 388 and Rule 89, you have full authority.

[English]

“388. Any Member may, with the consent of the Speaker, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a particular motion before the House and if the motion is carried the rule in question shall be suspended for the time being.

389. All matters not specifically provided for in these rules and all questions relating to the detailed working of these rules shall be regulated in such manner as the Speaker may, from time to time, direct.”

Therefore, you have got full power. We are repeatedly pleading that you suspend the Question Hour or you suspend the other matter which is going on and allow us to discuss this because it is a serious matter. That is why, the Government has already agreed. When they have agreed for the discussion, I plead, as a special case, that you

kindly suspend the rule and allow us to take up this discussion. This is one thing. ... (*Interruptions*) She can do it for everything. It is not only Question Hour. [*Translation*]Therefore, I request you that you have full authority to suspend any rule or motion. If we take up something in the interest of the nation. You can allow it for discussion. You have this authority. ... (*Interruptions*) You may use it. Please allow for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*) The Government is also ready, many a times, the Government is not ready, but this time, for the first time, the Government is also ready. ... (*Interruptions*) Please allow discussion on this. ... (*Interruptions*) This is my request, kindly allow us for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh ji, if everyone starts speaking then how will this work?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, this matter is from my neighbouring area. ... (*Interruptions*) This is a serious matter and if you do not take it seriously, there is a risk that there may be a riot? ... (*Interruptions*) There can be a riot over this, so please take it seriously. ... (*Interruptions*) Do not take this lightly. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have listened to you, now please listen to me. Hon. Kharge ji has said that there should be a motion, but this is

question hour. Question Hour is the right of all Hon. Members, because all of you work hard for it in advance and give your names. Question hour and motion both are different. If there is any motion then I can postpone it, as far as I understand my powers. ... *(Interruption)* I have said within my rights only, that discussion can take place, but disorderly conduct cannot be allowed. ... *(Interruptions)* You ask for a discussion on this. You can also pick up after question hour. ... *(Interruptions)* If you want to discuss this topic, there are ways to do that as well. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government is also ready for discussion. But, under which rule should the discussion take place so that you get the answer and everyone can put forward their views on this subject. ... *(Interruptions)* We are ready for that, but if you only want to raise the issue, then I can allow any one of the persons, who has given the motion to raise the issue during Zero Hour. ... *(Interruptions)* But I cannot allow any disorderly conduct.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It is not allowed. Please listen to me. It cannot be discussed again and again.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, I come from a Parliamentary Constituency, which has 60,000 sq. kilometres area. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam Speaker, the way the Hon. Members are standing in the well and you keep listening to them, this is a wrong practice. ... *(Interruptions)* You first ask the Hon. Members to go back to their seats. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am trying to make the House function, all of you also cooperate with me.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Ranjeet Ji, everyone will not speak, I am looking into it.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We are not questioning your ruling, we are not even questioning your decision. But what you said, is under Rule 388. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am not allowing on that.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: But under Rule 389 you have full authority. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I have.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: But you are not exercising that. Kindly allow us discussion immediately after Question Hour. I can at least request you for this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have told you that you can discuss during zero hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We cannot even do this? If there is no place for this in democracy, then where will we discuss? ... (*Interruptions*) Will we discuss on roads? ... (*Interruptions*) We cannot discuss on roads. ... (*Interruptions*) Kindly allow us discussion immediately after Question Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have already said that I will allow an Hon. Member to raise the point during zero hour, but the discussion takes place as per the rules.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We acknowledge your point, but please allow us after the Question Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sonaram Choudhary.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Hon. Madam, my Parliamentary Constituency has 60,000 sq. kilometres land. Out of that about 35,000 to 40,000 sq. kilometres area is a wasteland. For recovery and improvement of the wasteland, there have been Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP). A new scheme has also been started as Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. But, I am sorry to say that in the reply it has been mentioned that Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) could not be implemented because of lack of dedicated institutions and dedicated professional support. The Government itself is accepting it. If you see the figures for 2013 and 2014, no funds have been allocated for it.

Madam, as scanty rains occur in my area, I request the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan to form a team

and allocate funds to implement the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme so that wasteland of that area is recovered.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.25 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has rightly said that the flow of funds has been very nominal. ... *(Interruptions)* As I have explained, the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) has already been merged, and now the new scheme is Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). ... *(Interruptions)* The hon. Member has asked only about the funds available under the old scheme of IWDP. ... *(Interruptions)*

He has also said that there was no arrangement to oversee the work that is going on. ... *(Interruptions)* It was realized that this programme is not taking off. ... *(Interruptions)* So, it was felt that it would be better if all these schemes are merged and a new scheme comes up. ... *(Interruptions)*

The extent of wasteland in our country is 46.70 million hectares, and there has been a reduction in wasteland in the country over a period of time. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the new scheme, the

Rajasthan Government has been sanctioned Rs. 1,448 crore for these projects, which will cover 5.76 million hectares of land in that State.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Pratima Mondal, are you asking a supplementary to the hon. Minister?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Yes, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*) Does the Government have any scheme to bring the homeless people under the IWDP in order to provide shelter to the poor homeless people? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH: Madam, this point is not covered under this scheme. ... (*Interruptions*) But I may add one thing to the Member's query. ... (*Interruptions*) If the area is under watershed cover, then for its produce we can give certain amount of fund for the storage of that produce of the farmer at that place. ... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 262)

DR. K. KAMARAJ: Madam, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that coal linkage is an assurance from the Coal Ministry, Standing Committee on Coal Linkages for fuel supply from the national miner, namely, Coal India Limited (CIL). ... (*Interruptions*)

As regards the answer given to part (c) of the Question, I would like to disagree with the Minister that coal linkages / Letters of Assurance (LoA) were granted to various sectors in anticipation of increase in coal production. ... (*Interruptions*)

Under the previous Government, the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel assured more coal linkages or linkage assurance or fuel supply agreements despite objections from the coal supplier, Coal India Limited. There was no adequate coal supply available in the country to support the coal linkages. I would like to know from the Minister whether the non-genuine players (fly by night operators) were assured with the coal linkage distribution. If so, is there any vested interest in the distribution of coal linkages? Is there any coal linkage scam like coalgate scam and whether non genuine players sold their projects obtained on the basis of coal linkage assurance?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the process of giving coal linkages was a well-established process in which the end use

plants were assessed. The respective administrative ministries, the Ministry of power, the Ministry of Coal, the Ministry of Steel, all of them would sit down together in the linkage committee. They would assess the preparedness of the plants, they would also assess the end use requirements and accordingly, give the linkage. The process was well-established for several years. In the last 2009-10 period, there was a Presidential directive given by the Government of India when Coal India Limited was not giving adequate coal linkages and a lot of plants were suffering from inadequate coal and accordingly, Letters of Assurance were given to plants which were expected to come up in the next few years. As each plant met the required milestones, those Letters of Assurance were converted to linkages and in any case or even after the linkage, the Central Electricity Authority assesses whether the plant has actually come up before the actual fuel/coal supply starts.

As regards the second question relating to sale or unauthorized sale of any projects, the procedures are well established. If a company has a coal linkage and has started production, by and large, assets have been created. It is a power producing company, and if there is a change in shareholding pattern, the Government does not interfere. That is allowed by different laws prevailing in India but recently, a case came

to the attention of the Government in which a coal assurance was given in June and the company shareholding was changed soon thereafter before setting up the plant in which case the company has been denied permission to transfer the coal linkage.

DR.K. KAMARAJ: Madam, in the answer to the question (d), the Public Sector Banks granted credit to the power producers which are in excess of Rs. 51,000 crore. Due to non-availability of coal to the power producers, loans granted to them could become sticky assets.

Will the supply of coal be met by the imported coal? Who will bear the cost of imported coal? Will Coal India Limited bear the cost of imported coal or the power producers or the financial institutions or the distributors of power, namely the State Electricity Boards or is the consumer going to bear the cost? If it is State Electricity Boards or the consumer, how this Government is going to support the State Electricity Boards or the consumers and protect them from raising cost of electricity?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The Government of India gives assurance of fuel supply and one must also look at the actual supplies. They are, by and large, in line with what has been assured in the last few years. Now, very aggressive production measures have been taken by the new Government and I am happy to report to the House, through you,

that the coal materialization, the percentage of coal supply has significantly increased in the last few months. The production of coal, the supply of coal and the generation of electricity out of the coal has increased much higher than ever before in the last decade.

Having said that there is no additional cost, there is no import by Coal India Limited which is required to be passed on to the State Electricity Board or to the consumers. There are cases where plants have not got adequate coal linkage because of historical reasons which I have said to this hon. House on several occasions. Those plants are required to import the coal themselves or request Coal India Limited to import the coal on a pass through cost plus basis. We have not received any such requests. Therefore, the Coal India Limited has not imported. If any private player has imported, that is a bilateral matter between the States and the private players.

[Translation]

Dr. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, I congratulate the Government for implementing the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana as soon as it came to power. ... (*Interruptions*) There is power deficit in the country. ... (*Interruptions*) I come from Gujarat, because of the Jyoti Gram Yojana, today Gujarat is a power surplus state. ... (*Interruptions*) Often power for us is coal based. ... (*Interruptions*) I

want to ask the Government whether the States will be given power from the nearby coal fields? ... (*Interruptions*) As far as Gujarat is concerned, Gujarat is in the Western area and Gujarat is given coal from the Eastern Coal Linkage. ... (*Interruptions*) If Gujarat is given coal from Western Linkage, Maharashtra then the production of coal will also become cheaper. ... (*Interruptions*) Will the hon. Minister answer whether Gujarat will be given coal from the nearest coal base? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, through you, I congratulate the Hon. Member for raising a very important issue. ... (*Interruptions*) When I was newly appointed as Minister, the first opportunity I got was to go to Gujarat. ... (*Interruptions*) Actually when I went there as a student, the way the electricity problem was solved for the people in Gujarat, ... (*Interruptions*) the way the separation of distribution feeder supplied electricity to every village and 24/7 electricity was honestly provided there, learning from that we have presented this Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana before the country ... (*Interruptions*) All the States have welcomed it. ... (*Interruptions*) Leaders of all other parties and Opposition are also sitting here, their States have also welcomed this scheme whole heartedly. ... (*Interruptions*) As far as this rationalisation of linkages is concerned,

I would like to inform the Hon. Member, through you, that the Government has formulated a new policy, ... (*Interruptions*) wherever people have received coal allocation or coal linkage from distant mines, a system has been introduced whereby, through swapping or exchange, the coal from a nearby mine will be supplied to the plants located closer to them. ... (*Interruptions*) Its first experiment was done by swapping one million tonnes through an agreement between NTPC and the Gujarat Government. ... (*Interruptions*) The country and its people have benefited from it. ... (*Interruptions*) because savings in electricity lead to reduction in tariffs for people of the country. ... (*Interruptions*) These one million tonnes will directly benefit the consumers of Gujarat by approximately Rs 300-350 crore. ... (*Interruptions*) Going forward, we will carry out this rationalisation across the country and will save an estimated Rs. 6,000 crore, which will directly benefit the common people by reducing their electricity Bills. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Will other States also benefit from this?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Yes Madam, definitely. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Madam, let me first congratulate the hon. Minister on giving elaborate answers. But at the same time, coal is the source of fuel for the power, likewise the Sun. I would like to ask a specific question regarding this. There is a distribution of coal. It is being learnt that while the distribution is done, there are IPPs and there are CPPs. And CPPs are also demanding coal. Of late, a policy was decided. Even more than hundred per cent coal was lifted by the IPPs whereas CPPs were not provided the coal. CPPs are the ones out of which energy is produced. About hundred per cent energy can be utilized by that because the transmission loss is not there while CPPs are producing it. Therefore, I would ask a question, through you, whether the Government is thinking seriously to provide sufficient coal to the CPPs who are demanding coal from the Government. How many applications of the CPPs are pending with this Government for the provision of the coal?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, there are two users of coal. The IPPs are the ones whose tariff is regulated through the regulatory commissions or they are required to bid in a process to supply electricity. The CPPs are producers who are producing end products like steel, cement, aluminium, copper and various other

products which while being very important for the economy there is no price control. They are market-determined products. The end product is sold in the market which goes up and down, and they are able to recover the increased cost through market forces.

The priority of the Government obviously has to be that power is supplied in adequate measure at affordable rates to the entire country and the people. Therefore, the larger focus has been to ensure adequate supply to IPPs. We recognize that CPPs also need coal. Several CPPs already have linkages but because of the monopolistic situation and the inadequate production of coal in the last few years, we have not been able to give new CPPs linkages.

I am very happy to report to the House through you, Madam, that I have introduced yesterday the new Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill by which we will auction these coal mines to all actual users. And we are making special provisions for the CPPs and other users for steel, cement and aluminium to apply and to bid in the auction and through a transparent and honest manner get adequate supply of coal for their production.

(Q.263)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Madam, the Hon. Minister has given a very good answer to the question I asked him regarding free legal aid, but I would like to remember Justice V.R. Krishnan Iyer, the pioneer of free legal aid. He passed away last week. In the year 1973, he drafted India's first comprehensive free legal report. Hon. Shri Owaisi ji and Hon. Shri Panda ji had asked a question to the Home Affairs Ministry on 2 December. In which they had mentioned that there are maximum number of under trial convicts in this country. This question is also connected to that, because it benefits in a significant important manner within the Law Ministry. This shows that those under trials are very poor, and face numerous difficulties in accessing basic facilities. When I studied this matter, I came across a report in Times of India, which mentioned that a free legal aid clinic has been established at the Trichy Central Prison, Tamil Nadu. Through this clinic, complete legal assistance is provided to the under trials.

I want to ask question to the Hon. Minister on two issues that as per the answer given by him, it is mentioned that the Government has neither set up nor proposes to set up not proposes to set up an institute

for paralegal services. And the way the funds have been allocated for this, their utilization is not happening as it ideally should. Though the expenditure is being shown, the intended outcomes are not being achieved.

Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, whether, just as there is a free legal aid clinic in Trichy Central Prison, can we provide similar assistance across the country for poor undertrial prisoners?

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, the process of legal aid will be financed by the Union Government. Seventy-five per cent of the funding will be given by the Union Government and the State is to take care of the procedural aspects of this. The State will tie up with various organizations, like the hon. Member said, with regard to the paralegal services and we will provide them sufficient funding and the State, with the direction of the High Court, will take up the issue. As the hon. Member rightly said, the Tamil Nadu State Government has taken a new initiative and thereby it has given a good service to the people of the State. It differs from State to State. Each State has got its own style of functioning, but broad guidelines have been given by the Centre and the Supreme Court. The NALSA has

given draft guidelines and each State Government will make use of the service. They will have their own procedures to have this. These are the things.

Tamil Nadu is one of the prime runners in this direction. Even in Gujarat, there is *Naari Adalat*. It has been such a beautiful concept to settle the disputes related to women. Nowadays we see that there are so many complaints of harassment of women, especially at workplace. There is Nari Adalat in Gujarat. So, these types of new initiatives should be taken because this is a very wide subject. We are providing free legal aid service for undertrials also. That is a prime concept. We want to further strengthen this institution. So, any suggestion from any corner will be taken positively. We can only request various States to take initiative in this direction.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN: Hon. Madam, the Hon. Law Minister has just spoken about Naari Adalat. I want to ask this question itself that in 1986 we practiced Mahila Samkya and in that way we did a unique experiment of Nari Adalat to support women. That unique experiment took place in Baroda in 1995 and atrocities against women in Vagodia Panchayat reduced by 50 per cent. This unique programme took place in Gujarat. I would like to thank the

Gujarat Government that since 2013 the Hon. C.M. has started 35 Nari Adalats and she has started a very good and unique programme in Gujarat. I want to ask that the way the Hon. Minister said about Nari Adalats that it is a very good programme and should be continued, but the way women go there due to these small harassments and exploitations, it becomes a family matter, the husband beats them, they cannot even go to the police station. There is a family issue, there are elderly mothers, and their children take away their land. I want to ask, whether we can conduct such Nari Adalats across the country on a weekly basis or twice a month or not.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I really appreciate the concerns of hon. Member Shrimati Poonam Mahajan. Of course, this concept of Nari Adalat was taken up in Gujarat. As you all know, the State of Gujarat has taken so many initiatives in various directions. Similarly, the concept of Nari Adalat which has been taken up by Gujarat is modelled on Lok Adalat. Nari Adalats are block level autonomous Tribunals operated by women for redressing the grievances of women. Mahila Samakhyas in each district in Gujarat have initiated this. Actually this Mahila Samakhya comes under the Education Department of Ministry of Human Resource Development

but subsequently this concept of Nari Adalat was taken up by Mahila Samakhya. They formed resource persons from each cluster and five Members from each block. Finally they formed a Nari Adalat. Altogether, this Nari Adalat has worked well in Gujarat. We are working on that direction. As Ministry of Law and Justice, we can only request the State Governments to follow this concept, but it is left to the State Governments to adopt this. This is a very good suggestion given by the hon. Member. I will certainly write to all the States Governments to take up this concept in their States also so that the women may be given top priority in resolving their issues.

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I will just make a point on what is the other side of the story. A 20-year old tribal woman was allegedly gang-raped by a group of youth as a result of some verdict given by the so-called Salishi Sabha in a village in West Bengal. This is the fact of life. So, my specific question is whether the Government is aware of prevalence of such unconstitutional bodies in our country who take law into their own hands and pronounce judgements as per their own will, be it Khap Panchayat, Praja Court or any other body. My question to the Minister, through you Madam, is this. Is the Government aware of this

and if so, what is the Government doing to get out of the menace 67 years after the Independence of our country?

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: There are some customary laws across the country in various States, especially in the North-Eastern States, and in States like Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, etc. There are some customary laws, which are protected by law. There are some customary laws which are against the rule of justice and which are against the provisions of the Constitutions. Under Schedule 5 and 6 of the Constitution, they certainly respect the customary laws in various parts of the country. But the issue that was raised by my friend is a very serious issue. Law and order is a State subject; the States have to take action against them. Certain things which are beyond the limits of the customary laws need to be taken care of. We are also concerned about all these things.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to tell the Hon. Members that the next question actually concerns all of us. I request all of you Hon. Members to go to your seats. I will give Hon. Mallikarjun ji an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. After that we will discuss, in whatever way you want. I am requesting all of you to go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I would like to tell all the Hon. Members once again that this question is related to "River Ganga ". This is a question that lies in everyone's heart. Hon. Kharge Ji, I will give you the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. You please be patient for five-ten minutes. Please go back to your seats. This is also an important question. I will allow you during 'Zero Hour'. I will allow you, but not now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, all questions are important. We will discuss for five minutes. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Five minutes is not a matter for discussion. The question is important right now.

Q. No. 264 - Shri Nana Patole

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you want to shout, it is your choice.

... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 264)

[Translation]

SHRI NANA PATOLE: Madam Speaker, we are residents of the country where the Ganga flows. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Supreme Court has criticized the Union Government for ignoring the protection of the environmentally sensitive area of Gangotri even after the Union Government had passed an order for cleaning the Ganga in the year 2003. The then Union Government has deliberately ignored this work by not following the cleaning order for ten years. I thank our **dear** Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for creating the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Government has taken steps to make Mother Ganga pollution free. For this, I once again thank the Government.

Hon. Speaker, my question to the Hon. Minister is that what measures and what kind of operational approach has the National Ganga River Basin Authority adopted for the conservation of Ganga and effective pollution control? What operational framework has this authority established to sustainable solutions from the perspective of water quality and environmental protection?

SUSHRI UMA BHARTI: Hon. Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member has said, after the formation of the Government the matter

has been heard four times by the Hon. Supreme Court and we have presented our side. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, today, through you, I am mentioning the new action plan before the Hon. House. ... (*Interruptions*) Before this, Ganga Action Plan-1, Ganga Action Plan-2, then Ganga River Basin Authority, then Mission Ganga, then Mission Ganga coming under the Ministry of Water Resources, then Ganga River Basin Authority coming under Water Resources, and then the Hon. Water Resources Minister was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of Ganga River Basin Authority and he got the authority to call its meeting on 29th September. ... (*Interruptions*) After this our empowered Steering Committee was formed. After that, a meeting of Ganga River Basin Authority was held on 27th October. ... (*Interruptions*) We presented an action plan there, in which representatives of the State Governments also participated. ... (*Interruptions*) They endorsed our action plan and the Hon. Minister of Finance provided us a fund of Rs. 2,037 crore in the name of "Namami Gange Fund". ... (*Interruptions*) The action plan we had prepared on this matter, is still under consideration of various Ministries. ... (*Interruptions*) While finalising that action plan, we have made three groups in it, one is the liveliness and sustainability of Ganga, the second is the purity of

Ganga and the third group is the flow of Ganga (*Interruptions*)
Keeping that in mind, we have formulated seven goals and for those seven goals we have created 21 implementation points. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Today's questions were such that they spoke about legal aid for the poor and, about the Ganga . If we don't want to do this, and just want to create a ruckus then I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.05 p.m.

11.57 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Five Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 265 to 280

Unstarred Question Nos. 2991 to 3220

* 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.

12.07 hrs

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Seven Minutes Past Twelve of the
Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Congratulations to visually impaired Indian Cricket Team for
winning the Blind Cricket World Cup, 2014 defeating Pakistan
in finals on 8th December, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our blind cricket team, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the entire House, for winning the title of Blind Cricket World Cup 2014 by defeating Pakistan in the final held at Cape Town, South Africa on 8 December, 2014.

Their remarkable achievement is a matter of immense national pride. We convey our best wishes to the blind cricket team for their future endeavours.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam, the Nobel Prize winner should also be congratulated. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.07 ¾ hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda – not present.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, 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 National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1165/16/14]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Rural Management Anand, Anand, 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 Institute of Rural Management Anand, Anand, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1166/16/14]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles 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 Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1167/16/14]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel 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 Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1168/16/14]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, 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 Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1169/16/14]

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

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1170/16/14]

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

(ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1171/16/14]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1172/16/14]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948:-

(i) The Central Silk Board Employees Pension Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 174 in Gazette of India dated 16th August, 2014.

(ii) The Central Silk Board Contributory Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 175 in Gazette of India dated 16th August, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1173/16/14]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, 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 Man-Made Textiles Research Association, Surat, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1174/16/14]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' 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 Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1175/16/14]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER,
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND
MINISTER OF STATE OF 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):-

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1176/16/14]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the SJVN Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1177/16/14]

(2) 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 NHPC Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the NHPC Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1178/16/14]

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

(ii) Annual Report of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1179/16/14]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1180/16/14]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the SJVN Limited, Shimla, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the SJVN Limited, Shimla, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1181/16/14]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the THDC India Limited, Rishikesh, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the THDC India Limited, Rishikesh, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1182/16/14]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1183/16/14]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NHDC Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the NHDC Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1184/16/14]

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

(i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Appointment of Consultants) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. L-7/1/0S44(59)-CERC in Gazette of India dated 7th October, 2014.

(ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-Term Access and Medium-term Open Access in Inter-State Transmission and related matters) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. L-1/(93)/2009-CERC in Gazette of India dated 21st August, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1185/16/14]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the WAPCOS Limited, New Delhi for the year 2013-2014.
- (2) Annual Report of the WAPCOS 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 1186/16/14]

[English]

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:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-

2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1187/16/14]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers 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 1188/16/14]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1189/16/14]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 594(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 20th August, 2014, delegating powers to the respective State Governments/Union Territories for registration, survey and certification of Indian fishing boats under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1190/16/14]

(3) A copy of the Central Road Fund (State Roads) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.531(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th July, 2014 under Section 13 of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1191/16/14]

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

- (i) S.O. 1225(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th May, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 07 (Rewa-Hanumana Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (ii) S.O. 1380(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Jalandhar-Barnala Section) in the State of Punjab.
- (iii) S.O. 1610(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 43(E) dated 7th January, 2014.
- (iv) S.O. 1612(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th June, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 111 (Bilaspur-Ambikapur Section) in the State of Chhattishgarh.

- (v) S.O. 1647(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1961(E) dated 24th August, 2011.
- (vi) S.O. 1835(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1988(E) dated 27th August, 2011.
- (vii) S.O. 1879(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st July, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 13 (Chitradurga to Shimoga Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (viii) S.O. 2059(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 457(E) dated 18th February, 2014.
- (ix) S.O. 2117(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd August, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 27 (Allahabad to Uttar Pradesh/Madhya Pradesh Border Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (x) S.O. 2178(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th August, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 216 (New National Highway No. 153) (Raigarh-Sarangarh-Saraipali Section) in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xi) S.O. 2217(E) to S.O. 2219(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 75E (Rewa-Sidhi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 2290(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th September, 2014, authorising the Tahasildar, Pallahara, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 149 in the State of Odisha.
- (xiii) S.O. 2325(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1346(E) dated 20th May, 2014.

- (xiv) S.O. 2322(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 89 (Ajmer-Nagaur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xv) S.O. 2332(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 43 (Dhamtari-Jagdalpur Section) in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xvi) S.O. 2335(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 2825(E) dated 23rd November, 2010.
- (xvii) S.O. 2323(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 12A (Jabalpur-Madla-Chilpi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xviii) S.O. 2330(E) and S.O. 2331(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition

of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 222 (Kalyan-Andhra Pradesh Border Section) in the State of Maharashtra.

- (xix) S.O. 2321(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 12 (Jabalpur-Bhopal Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 2329(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 65 (Nagaur-Jodhpur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xxi) S.O. 2324(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 3084(E) dated 9th October, 2013.
- (xxii) S.O. 2491(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of

National Highway No. 65 (Jodhpur-Pali Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

- (xxiii) S.O. 2400(E) and S.O. 2401(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 214 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 2581(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st October, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 3316(E) dated 31st October, 2013.
- (xxv) S.O. 2492(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th September, 2014, entrusting Highway No. 89 in the State of Rajasthan to National Highway Authority of India.
- (xxvi) S.O. 2580(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st October, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 111 in the State of Chhattisgarh.

- (xxvii) S.O. 2375(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 216 (New NH No. 153) (Raigarh, Sarangarh, Saraipali Section) in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xxviii) S.O. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202 (New NH No. 163) (Yadgiri-Warangal Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxix) S.O. 498(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 205 (Tirupati-Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu Border Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxx) S.O. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of

National Highway No. 202 (New NH No. 163) (Hyderabad-Yadgiri Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (xxxix) S.O. 807(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 18 (Kadapa-Kurnool Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxix) S.O. 1138(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th April, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 9 (Vijayawada-Machilipatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxix) S.O. 1136(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th April, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada Bypass Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxix) S.O. 1891(E) to S.O. 1893(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th July, 2014, making certain amendments

in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

- (xxxv) S.O. 2060(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1035(E) dated 7th May, 2010.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 2061(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 485(E) dated 26th February, 2010.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 2062(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 2063(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 293(E) dated 31st January, 2013.
- (xxxix) S.O. 2064(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (xl) S.O. 2065(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the

Notification No. S.O. 2572(E) dated 14th November, 2011.

- (xli) S.O. 2066(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (xlii) S.O. 2067(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2014, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 873(E) dated 4th March, 2014.
- (xliii) S.O. 2204(E) and S.O. 2205(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (xliv) S.O. 2206(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (xlv) S.O. 2207(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.

- (xlvi) S.O. 2208(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (xlvii) S.O. 2232(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.
- (xlvihi) S.O. 2233(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (xlix) S.O. 2234(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, omitting New National Highway No. 147A and entries relating thereto as new National Highways.
- (l) S.O. 2235(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, entrusting Highway No. 102A in the State of Manipur to National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.
- (li) S.O. 2236(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1230(E) dated 16th May, 2013.

- (lii) S.O. 2237(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (liii) S.O. 1374(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 217 in the State of Odisha.
- (liv) S.O. 1118(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd April, 2014, authorising Tahasildar, Bolangir, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of bypass of National Highway Nos 26 & 57 in the State of Odisha.
- (lv) S.O. 79(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th January, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 86 Ext. (New NH No. 146) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lvi) S.O. 3704(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for

building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Shivpuri-Dewas Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (lvii) S.O. 3755(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 3 (Shivpuri-Dewas Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lviii) S.O. 3674(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Rewa-Katni-Jabalpur Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lix) S.O. 3813(E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th December, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 69 (Betul-Pandhurna Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (lx) S.O. 3504(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th November, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of

National Highway No. 86 Ext. (Bhopal to Sanchi Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

- (lxi) S.O. 1511(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxii) S.O. 1512(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 767(E) dated 4th March, 2014.
- (lxiii) S.O. 1513(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, declaring highway, mentioned therein, as new National Highway.
- (lxiv) S.O. 1514(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (lxv) S.O. 1515(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.
- (lxvi) S.O. 1516(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, rescinding Notification No. S.O. 2794(E) dated 16th September, 2013.

- (lxvii) S.O. 1517(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxviii) S.O. 1518(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxix) S.O. 1519(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.
- (lxx) S.O. 1520(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxxi) S.O. 1521(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.
- (lxxii) S.O. 1522(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.

- (lxxiii) S.O. 1670(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxxiv) S.O. 1671(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxxv) S.O. 1672(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd July, 2014, entrusting Highway Nos. 49 & 210 in the State of Tamil Nadu to National Highways Authority of India.
- (lxxvi) S.O. 1673(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1297(E) dated 24th November, 2004.
- (lxxvii) S.O. 1674(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxxviii) S.O. 1833(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th July, 2014, entrusting Highway Nos. 23 & 200 in the

State of Tamil Nadu to National Highways Authority of India.

- (lxxix) S.O. 1834(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.
- (lxxx) S.O. 2413(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202 (New NH No. 163) (Yadgiri-Warangal Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxxi) S.O. 2317(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Kolkata-Chennai Corridor) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxxii) S.O. 2405(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th September, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 44 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- (lxxxiii) S.O. 330(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th February, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202 (New NH No. 163) (Yadgiri-Warangal Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxxiv) S.O. 808(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 18 (Kadapa-Kurnool Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxxv) S.O. 2119(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 2429(E) dated 2nd August, 2013.
- (lxxxvi) S.O. 2848(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th November, 2014, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 18 (Kadapa-Kurnool Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (lxxxvii) S.O. 2582(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st October, 2014, authorising the officers, mentioned

therein, as the competent authority to acquire land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 67 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(lxxxviii) S.O. 2596(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd August, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 98 (Patna-Mahabalipur-Arwal-Aurangabad-Hariharganj Section) in the State of Bihar.

(lxxxix) S.O. 2621(E) and S.O. 2624(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th August, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 113 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xc) S.O. 1715(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2013 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 71 (Rohtak-Bawal Section) in the State of Haryana.

(xci) S.O. 1725(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2013 regarding acquisition of land for building,

maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 21 (Kiratpur-Bilaspur Section) in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

- (xcii) S.O. 124(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th January, 2014 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 65 (Ambala-Kaithal Section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xciii) S.O. 3289(E) and S.O. 3290(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st October, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 200 in the State of Odisha.
- (xciv) S.O. 3291(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st October, 2013, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 2619(E) dated 30th October, 2012.
- (xcv) S.O. 3295(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st October, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 30A (Fatuha-Harnaut-Barh Section) in the State of Bihar.

- (xcvi) S.O. 2992(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd October, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 201 (Nabarangpur-Kokasara Section) in the State of Odisha.
- (xcvii) S.O. 2618(E) to S.O. 2620(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th August, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 98 (Patna-Mahabalipur-Arwal-Aurangabad-Hariharganj Section) in the State of Bihar.
- (xcviii) S.O. 1933(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 106 (Birpur-Bihpur Section) in the State of Bihar.
- (xcix) S.O. 2595(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd August, 2013, regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 98 (Patna-Mahabalipur-Arwal-Aurangabad- Hariharganj Section) in the State of Bihar.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1192/16/14]

(5) Nine statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (xciii) to (xcix) of (4) above.

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:-

- (i) The National Highways Authority of India (the term of office and other conditions of service of Members Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 604(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st August, 2014.
- (ii) The National Highways Authority of India (the term of office and other conditions of service of Members Second Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 665(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th September, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1193/16/14]

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1194/16/14]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1195/16/14]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, 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 Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1196/16/14]

12.08 hrs

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

- (i) ‘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, four Members of Rajya Sabha were duly elected to the said Committee and their names were communicated to the Lok Sabha through a Message dated 2nd December, 2014 from the Rajya Sabha. As intimated therein the election process to fill up the remaining one vacancy in the Committee having completed during the current Session, Shri Naresh Agrawal, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to be a Member of the Committee.’
- (ii) “In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 2014 agreed without any amendment to the School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 2014.”
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12.09 hrs

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

1st Report

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee (2014-15) on the subject of ‘Presence of Excess Arsenic in Ground Water’ related to the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and GANGA Rejuvenation.

12.10 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

7th to 10th Reports

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2014-15):-

- (1) Seventh Report on 'Duty Drawback Scheme' relating to the Ministry of Finance.
 - (2) Eighth Report on 'Water Pollution in India' relating to the Ministry of Environment and Forest.
 - (3) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixty-fourth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2010-11)'.
 - (4) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighty-seventh Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Tax Administration' relating to the Ministry of Finance.
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12.10 ½ hrs

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

253rd Report

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred Fifty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on ‘The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2013’.

12.11 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Reported incident of conversion in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, we have moved the adjournment motion before the House. I have requested you to take up the incident that happened in Agra,

Uttar Pradesh and the issue of conversion that has been raised, as a discussion. Netaji, Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Ji and other party leaders have requested you, the Government has also accepted this, so, give us the permission to discuss it. Our people will start discussing it. The Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has also accepted that. It is a topic of discussion because many things are being said about it in the country. If you look at all the media, from editorials to all the social media, it is being discussed. That is not good for the country. This will also send out a wrong message that India, which is a secular country, where tolerance and brotherhood are treated very generously, in such a place, a few people are carrying out such incidents and trying to defame the country and sow the seeds of poison in the country. This should be discussed here.

I hope, you will allow that. As we have discussed it you should also tell us about it so, please give us permission for that.

HON. SPEAKER: Will all the Hon. Members speak on that subject? Shri Mulayam Singh ji, I will allow you to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, Agra where this incident took place, ... (*Interruptions*) it is very close to my Constituency. That is the area

next to us. People have all kinds of contacts from there. This House should take this incident very seriously. It should be taken seriously because some people, I know them, I cannot name their party but it has appeared in the newspapers that who is he? A grave situation can arise in the country. The spark is just the beginning. If the same incident gradually happens in other places too, a riot may occur. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you giving a speech right now ?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh ji, don't talk about riots and all.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are asking for a discussion, but you are not discussing it now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to caution them by saying this. ..*

*Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

HON. SPEAKER: Please, it does not work like that.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am in favour of preventing such incidents. ...* All I am saying is, that this or any such incident may lead to a riot. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh ji, please speak while looking at me.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: What I am saying is exactly what is being revealed as the truth. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you are asking for a discussion, then ask for it, if you are discussing it then it is a different matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Did I name any party? ... (*Interruptions*) Why did you stand up like that. ... (*Interruptions*) You should understand how serious this matter is. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Ganesh ji, please sit down. Once the discussion starts, everyone will get a chance to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I want to tell you that it is such a trivial matter, no such incident had even taken place and this has become such a serious question. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to discuss. Some solution will emerge from this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We are not discussing it yet, you should ask for it now.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will ask and put forward the matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Some assurance must come from the ruling party, as it is their Government and their party is ruling in the country. They will have to find a solution that upholds unity, peace, and brotherhood in the country. That is why we are sitting in the House. Are we against brotherhood? No, we want brotherhood, that is why we have raised this question. I, therefore, appeal to everyone that this issue should be discussed and assurance should be obtained from the Government because this incident has been caused

by some supporters of the ruling party itself. ... (*Interruptions*) You are in the Government and it is your own people who are defaming your Government and will continue to defame it. We are speaking in the interest of your Government. ... (*Interruptions*) Do what it takes to protect your Government from further disrepute. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let us not talk much now.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not start the discussion.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Okay, run the Government for four-five years. ... (*Interruptions*) But there will be consequences. I am giving my opinion today. ... (*Interruptions*) It is the responsibility of the Government and also the duty of the Government. If the Government wants, it can stop the unrest and console the victims of the incident. ... (*Interruptions*) If we get any assurance from the Government, we will cooperate with it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no need for everyone to speak on this. You are asking for a discussion. There is no notice, yet I am looking for when to start the discussion. The House should decide together, then I will give everyone a chance to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): The issue raised by Hon. Kharge ji, Hon. Mulayam Singh ji and other Hon. Members demands discussion. There has also been a tradition of discussion in this House. There is no such issue on which there can be discussion outside the House. We are sitting here for this very purpose. You have placed a demand. We are fully prepared that the issue which has been raised by Hon. Kharge ji, Hon. Mulayam Singh ji or Hon. Rajesh ji, the Government has already accepted that it is fully ready for a detailed discussion on it. We agree with you and this should be discussed fully, this is what we believe and agree with. We accept your request. I have only one request that the way rest of the work is going on in the House, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him finish.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: If you want to say that the discussion on MNREGA is not your discussion, it is not your notice, it is not in the interest of the country, it should be postponed and ended

and then discussed, then we are ready for that too. ... (*Interruptions*) We are ready to discuss the business, that is listed in the agenda. The whole country is hearing, that we agree with you on the topic you have raised. But it should come with proper notice. ... (*Interruptions*) You should have enough time for your preparation, we should also have enough time for our preparation, we are ready to take up this discussion. You admit this, if you want to discuss this after MNREGA then should this country be told that you are not ready for a discussion on MNREGA? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you are speaking together. Hon. Shri Jyotiraditya ji, if you have any suggestion, you have any suggestion, there is no need to discuss ... (*Interruptions*) this topic.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy ji has just proposed that we should proceed according to the agenda of the Parliament, historically his proposal is correct. But in this Session and the previous Session, we have seen many such examples on a day-to-day basis where one thing is written in the agenda and on the same day the Government completely changes that agenda and puts other things in it. ... (*Interruptions*) Parliament will function according to your policy, but it cannot operate on the principle of 'heads I win, tails you lose'. It

should not happen that when it suits you, you follow the rules, and when it doesn't, you continue raising your own issues as you please. We once again request you, and the Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to start this discussion simply. Let us discuss MNREGA and other things later. Let us discuss this first.

HON. SPEAKER: Only a suggestion with regard to the time when the discussion should be held has to be given .

SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA): I had raised the issue of religious conversion in the House. At that time the Hon. Prime Minister was present, all the work of the House should be stopped and this should be discussed, the whole country is watching how people got angry when Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Ji spoke about riots in Uttar Pradesh. But according to the Union Government, six hundred and fifty riots have taken place in the country in one year. That is why this voice of goodwill, this message should go to the entire country, the Parliament is saying that this work should not be done, this discussion should happen, it should happen now.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Madam Speaker, this is a very alarming situation. The country is in great danger. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't just keep talking, tell me in one sentence, when you want to discuss.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Whatever work is on today's agenda, it should be dropped and first of all, the alarming situation in the country on the issue of religious conversion should be discussed, this is my suggestion, otherwise this country of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians which is brotherly, will be divided. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): The Government often makes such statements suo moto according to the Constitution, the minorities in our country. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Geete ji, would you like to give some suggestions?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: We will hold a discussion, I am not refusing to hold a discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RAIGAD): Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has clarified the Government's statement at the very beginning that the Government is

ready for discussion on the issue of conversion at any time. There is no obstruction, no hindrance to the discussion from the Government's side. But while discussing whether the matter should be discussed or not, questions were raised here on which the House expressed displeasure. First there was talk of riots, ... (*Interruptions*) secondly it was mentioned, that the country is in danger. In which direction do you want to take this discussion through such statements or in which direction do you want to go? That is why you can discuss it in the way you want, it is your right, you should take notice, discuss it, there should be a lot of discussion on it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you please listen to me.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You will say the same thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Madam Speaker, just now Hon. Kharge ji, Hon. Mulayam Singh ji and all others have met you and have unanimously requested that this matter is very serious. Our very foundation, is under attack, so it is important to discuss this.

Whatever programmes we have, please postpone them and start a discussion on this. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I did not move the adjournment motion because of what happened yesterday? Some channels at night, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not talk about other channels.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I will not say that. ... (*Interruptions*) I will just say that threats were issued last night by two organisations in the name of the community. ... (*Interruptions*) The serious challenge for me was that ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You just say that there should be a discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I want to have a serious discussion on this topic. To save the country... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have understood what you are saying, so please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Basheer ji, your case is different. If the House calms down, I will allow that topic to be raised as well.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have a request for all of you that I do not have any such notice as of now as to under which rule this can be discussed. If you all agree, then I have a suggestion. Hon. Members come here in the morning and give notice of zero hour. Let us take it up now and if at one o'clock all of you leaders sit together and decide that the discussion is to be held at two o'clock immediately after lunch, then I have no objection to that. Discussion can be started at that time. You all please decide a time.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you sit together at one o'clock and decide that this matter needs to be discussed immediately, I have no objection to that. This can be done.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam Speaker, please start discussion on this at two o'clock. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You all sit with me and decide.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam Speaker, please start the discussion at 2 o'clock. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Let us do some justice to those, who have given notice of zero hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sadananda Gowda ji, you still have to lay paper.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sadananda Gowda ji, you have to lay the paper.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.25 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE--Contd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:--

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission of India—

(i) Report No.245—Arrears and Backlog: Creating Additional Judicial (wo)manpower—July, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1160/16/14]

(ii) Report No.246—Amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996—August, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1161/16/14]

(iii) Report No.247—Sections 41 to 48 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925—Proposed Reforms—September, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1162/16/14]

(iv) Report No.248—‘Obsolete Laws: Warranting Immediate Repeal’ (Interim Report)—September, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1163/16/14]

- (2) A copy of the 10th Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on the Pending Law Commission Reports—(December, 2014).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1164/16/14]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Madam, some parts of Maharashtra State faced drought-like conditions due to delayed rains and depleting water levels. There are 22 districts of Maharashtra State which face drought-like conditions. So far, a total rainfall of just about 28 mm has been recorded in all the five districts in Nashik Division which includes Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Ahmednagar, while the average, expected rainfall is 155 mm.

Besides drought, there was unseasonal rainfall and hailstorm in Dhule, Nandurbar and Nashik Districts of Maharashtra hampering the crops in Maharashtra. During the last three consecutive years, there was drought in Maharashtra. The farmers are committing suicide in the State. The Government has waived loan to the farmers last year. In my constituency, Nandurbar, especially the crops of banana, papaya, grapes, cotton and all other crops are the worst-affected. The productivity in Nandurbar, Navapur, Akkalkuwa taluks are expected to be about less than 50 per cent as against the usual production and Sakri, Shirpur, Dhadgaon, Shahada and Taloda are also worst affected. The Government should have to waive off the loan of farmers this year. Further, as Nandurbar is a tribal constituency, the worker: work ratio under MNGREGS must be relaxed. More and

more farmers should be given employment under this scheme in my constituency.

The water level is going low day by day, up to 2 mm as the Report of the Survey of GSDA suggested. Firm steps should be taken for use of water of Narmada River in my constituency as a large number of people are migrating from the rural areas due to drought. The Government provides a help of Rs.15,000 to irrigated crops, Rs.25,000 to horticultural crops and Rs.4500 to rainfed crops per hectare. I urge the Government to increase this amount in case of irrigated crops up to Rs.25,000 to Rs.30,000 in respect of horticultural crops up to Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000, in respect of rain-fed crops up to Rs.10,000. A special package should be given to horticultural crops, loan rephrasing should be done and interest should be waived. Special efforts should be made for ground water recharging for tank-fed villages. Government should take immediate and firm steps in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, the issue I want to raise in Zero Hour, is the matter of NH-80 bypass and it is a very serious issue. This case is pending for the last 12-13 years. Due to this, the situation in Bhagalpur has become such that

now it is facing the problem of traffic congestion from all sides. The bypass has been marked and land has been acquired 11 years ago. Despite this, the tender is issued, it gets cancelled and someone goes to court. As of today, after the tender was done, it went to the court and was sent back to the department.

I request, through you, that the work should be started again by issuing the tender immediately. The acquisition has been done for 11 years, all the solutions have been found. My request is that work should start there so that the people of Bhagalpur can get relief from the problem of traffic congestion. This is a very serious problem. There is such a jam on Vikramshila Setu that the entire city is suffering from the problem. I request that the tender be called immediately and the order be given to get it constructed.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anto Antony, the discussion will take place on this. In spite of that, do you want to raise it?

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Yes, I am raising it now. Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter.

I take this opportunity to invite the attention of this august House that the minority communities in the country are under threat of forcible conversion into Hinduism. ... (*Interruptions*) Most of the national dailies today have reports in this regard. According to recent media reports, the ...* is implementing a programme called “Purkhon ki Ghar Vapsi” to convert Members of minority community to Hinduism.

HON. SPEAKER: Hindi I am sorry. No. Shri Antony, that name will not go on record.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: I quote a statement of ...* the regional head of the RSS, which was published in the *Times of India* on 9th December, 2014. I quote the statement here.

HON. SPEAKER: No. I am sorry. Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anto Antony, please listen to what I am saying. You cannot take anybody’s name. You can say anything. But you cannot take anybody’s name in the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. If you want to raise it, you can. Otherwise, you can take part in the *charcha*.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Madam, the upcoming mass re-conversion event in which some 5,000 Muslims and Christians will be brought back into the Hindi-fold will be headed by Yogi Adityanath on December 25 in Aligarh. ... (*Interruptions*) On 25th December, the Christians celebrate Christmas.

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Shri Neiphiu Rio.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Whatever you are saying, why are you always taking the names? I do not understand it. Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your message has gone on record.

Shri P.K. Biju and Shri M.B. Rajesh are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Anto Antony during the 'Zero Hour' today.

* Not recorded.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NAGALAND): Madam Speaker, at the outset, I thank you for giving me the time and opportunity to bring to the attention of the House on the subject of the Naga political issue and the ongoing peace process.

The Naga political issue is termed as the mother of all insurgencies and the conflict is more than seven decades. A ceasefire was declared between the Government of India and the Naga political groups in 1997. However, even after 17 years of ceasefire and dialogue, a solution to the protracted problem remains elusive till today.

We appreciate the Government of India for appointment of a new Interlocutor and welcome the statement of the National Security Adviser who has expressed the sincerity of the Government of India in the ongoing peace process. The Naga people have been crying out for peace and the peace process has the popular support of the people including the mass-based civil societies, church organization, tribal hohos, NGOs, and political parties. In the previous House of the Nagaland Legislative Assembly, all the 60 MLAs under the banner of the Joint Legislators Forum had unanimously resolved to support the peace process. This itself is a significant achievement that cannot be undermined.

The Naga People's Front has declared in its election manifesto that the State Government will pave way for any solution that is honourable and acceptable to the people. This Commitment has removed all hurdles and obstacles and the ground has been prepared for realization of an honourable solution. It was on the basis of this commitment in the manifesto that the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland was voted to power with the popular mandate of the people for three consecutive terms.

In this connection, we urge upon the Government of India to expedite the peace talks and give an offer of solution to the Naga people so that an honourable solution can be reached and permanent peace can be achieved which will pave way for accelerated development to take place.

In 2003, the then Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has stated in Kohima, the Capital of Nagaland: "India recognises and understands the unique history of the Nagas." This issue must be approached as a national issue. A peaceful, democratic and just solution will not only strengthen the foundations of Indian democracy but it will also bring to an end, the more than seven decades of violent conflict in a crucial region of the country that is of strategic importance in multi-dimensional manner. This issue is of

utmost national importance and the peace process and negotiations must be approached to be resolved in a time bound manner.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHOTELAL (ROBERTSGANJ): Madam Speaker, there is only one Parliamentary Constituency in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, which shares borders with four states - Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. In my own Parliamentary Constituency there are railway stations like Robertsganj, Chopan, Obra, Renukoot etc. Many mail-express trains pass through these stations. But no train stops at this station. Due to which lakhs of people in the surrounding villages and cities have to face problems. Along with Prayagraj Express and Shiv Ganga Express, which go to Allahabad and Varanasi. Shiv Ganga Express should be extended from Varanasi to Singrauli via Robertsganj and all the above mentioned stations, and Prayag Raj Express should be run till Garhwa and Daltenganj via Robertsganj, Chopan, Obra, Renukoot, Shakti Nagar, Wyndhamganj will provide great convenience to the general public there. A local passenger train from Varanasi should be run till Wyndhamganj via all the stations of Sonbhadra. This is a very serious matter. Sonbhadra is a very backward area. Therefore, through the

House, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to please take appropriate action keeping the above points in mind.

[English]

SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK): In my Nashik Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra, there is an airport at Ozhar. The said airport is run by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). At Ozhar airport, runway and terminal building is ready since last year. Only the issue of handover and takeover of terminal building is pending because on HAL land, State Government of Maharashtra has constructed terminal building by funding Rs.85 crore. At the time of construction of terminal building, an MoU was entered between HAL and State Government in which there were no terms for the rent or ownership of the terminal building. After completion of the terminal building, State Government demanded Rs.1 lakh rent per month from HAL for terminal building. HAL is a profit-making company, and it comes under the Ministry of Defence, (Defence Production). State Government is ready to give terminal building on lease for long period on nominal rent.

No Government invests funds to give ownership to any organization. I would like to request the Ministry of Defence, (Defence Production) Department to direct officials of HAL to lease

the terminal building for long period on nominal rent and sort out the issue at the earliest. Kumbh Mela is also being held and the revival of the air service will provide better connectivity to the pilgrims and tourists to come to Nashik. This will surely be a milestone for development of Nashik and North Maharashtra.

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, as you also know, our nation is experiencing severe unemployment problem. Here, quite a number of private agencies have come forward under the guise that they are approved by the Government of India. Certain agencies, firms or companies have put certain advertisements at various places of this nation. They are saying that they will teach the children to get appointment as air hostesses, ground crew and guest relation officer etc. The courses are being conducted as per their whims and fancies. In some of the institutes, they give coaching only for three days in a week and only for one hour per day and they collect lakhs and lakhs of rupees as fees. After all, these poor children are being cheated.

Now-a-days, even in Air India, Dharmadikari Report has not been implemented and those persons who have been working for quite a long time, for 15 years and 18 years as casual labourers are being pushed out of their employment and their jobs are being given to the

private sector. Under the guise of privatisation, these private coaching institutes are flourishing. So, my humble request to the Government of India, through you Madam, is that they should conduct a thorough inquiry regarding the relevancy, sanctity and authority of these private agencies which conduct these courses under the guise that they are approved by the Government of India. Who gave them the authority to say that they appoint people to Air India and other airlines in our country? This is sheer cheating and absolute fraud. These agencies have siphoned off crores of rupees throughout the nation.

Madam Speaker, you are the custodian of our rights and we are the custodians of the fundamental rights of the people. We have a duty towards our children. So this type of activities cannot be allowed to continue like this and we cannot give them a free say in this matter because the future of our children is at stake. Therefore, I would humbly request the Government of India to declare the list of authorised agencies which are accredited to conduct this type of coaching for appointment to airlines.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anandrao Adsul, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri P.K. Biju are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

[Translation]

SMT. SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an important issue during Zero Hour. I would like to ask you for a favour in very few words on a very serious matter.

Madam, it is informed in the subject, that ESIC Model Dispensary-cum-Diagnostic Centre was approved by ESIC, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India in the year 2013 at Jhunjhunu centre of Rajasthan region. For this the building was rented through tender system. Our Government is paying the rent of the building, that we rented seven months ago, but there are no doctors, no medical staff, or Ministerial staff there. Therefore, the people there are deprived of medical benefits.

Madam, I request you to please deploy the officers and staff sanctioned for the dispensary at the earliest so that the people there can avail the ESIC facilities.

[English]

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me time to raise a matter

of urgent public importance relating to setting up of an Industrial Corridor in Koppal.

Madam, Karnataka is blessed with immense deposit of mines and minerals and it has emerged as the manufacturing hub for some of the largest public sector industries of India after Independence. My constituency Koppal is foreseen as the new hub for industrial development. Three major rail lines, namely Gadag to Wadi, Mehboobnagar to Munirabad and Bengaluru to Hubli cross through Koppal. Two major National Highways, NH-63 and NH-13 also pass through Koppal and a private airport MSPL is also available there. Koppal and nearby areas are rich in iron ore, kyanite, bauxite etc. There are almost 45 industrial units of steel, sponge iron and pellets located in Koppal alone like Kalyani Industries, Kirloskar Industries, X-India Industries, MSPL and more than 100 rice mills, cement industries and power production companies are also situated there.

The Government of Karnataka, earlier headed by Shri Yediyurappa, had announced setting up of a Steel Corridor in Koppal, but this has not yet materialized. If the proposed industrial corridor is developed, it would benefit the people of Maharashtra and Karnataka and would also immensely add to the revenue of the Government of

India. So, I request the Government to set up this industrial corridor at Koppal very soon.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Karadi Sanganna Amarappa.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise here today to raise a very important issue which is very close to my heart. It is regarding Rani Gaidinliu. I am sorry to say, many Members who are present today, do not know who Rani Gaidinliu is. Her Centenary is being observed by her supporters but she needs to be remembered by the nation. Her struggle was not for her alone but for the country. Very few people are born on 26th January and she was born on 26th January, 1915 at Nungkao village in Manipur. She was a fearless freedom fighter who joined the agitation at the age of 13 and headed the movement against the British in the Manipur and Naga belts. In 1932, at the age of 16, she was arrested by the British police and was put behind bars and was convicted that she will be imprisoned for life. She could be freed from jail only after India gained Independence in 1947.

An interesting episode happened in 1937, that is, Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Shillong in 1937, and he made it a point that he would

visit Rani Gaidinliu. That 'Rani' name was given by Jawaharlal Nehru to her and she was proclaimed as Rani of North East.

It should be our effort to bring a national hero who has not been popularized at the national level despite her extraordinary range of political struggle. There is a need to rename the Dimapur Airport in her name. A Central university be set up at a suitable place. I would request you, Madam, installation of her portrait in Parliament and statue in Delhi be done at the earliest.

As her birth Centenary is being observed now and it is in all fitness of things to do all such matters to perpetuate the memory of this extraordinary freedom fighter. I would urge upon the Government to confer her Bharat Ratna posthumously. That would be a fitting recognition to the struggle she waged for freedom of this country.

I had the occasion of meeting her and to serve her in 1978 when she visited Cuttack. A number of times, when freedom fighters used to congregate in Delhi, I was just a worker working amongst them and I had the opportunity to be beside her. I think that it is in the fitness of things that this generation and future generation would remember her struggle with all respect. I expect the Government also to put a few words in this matter.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You may also be aware that the Government of India established the "Stree Shakti Puraskar" in the year 2000, which is awarded to individuals. At that time, I myself was the Minister for Women and Child Development.

Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Shivkumar Udasi and Shri Devji M. Patel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Madam, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity. With great respect, I wish to draw your attention to an important matter relating to the sad plight of a school teacher Mr. Jayachandran who hails from my constituency, that is Vadakara in Kerala. Mr. Jayachandran has been languishing in Maldives prison for the last eight months together. He was working in Maldives as a teacher of English in a private school. He is the only hope of his family which consists of his wife, children as also his mother who is aged and who is in coma. Natural justice has been denied to Mr. Jayachandran and he is subjected to great hardship in the jail. He is denied freedom of communication. This is a glaring case of human right violation. I have

already written to the hon. Prime Minister, as also the External Affairs Minister, about the pathetic condition of Mr. Jayachandran.

Through you, Madam, I once again request the Government to immediately intervene and take up the matter with the Republic of Maldives so that Mr. Jayachandran is released and brought back to India. Please, Madam, I seek your indulgence and your support.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Dr. A. Sampath and Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramchandran.

[Translation]

PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN): Madam Speaker, the Postal Department, one of the most important departments of the Union Government established during the British period, is a victim of chaos and indifference today. Many schemes of the Union and State Government are operated in the Postal Department, including Ladli Laxmi, MNREGA, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Old Age Pension, Indira Vikas Patra etc. In the last ten years, cities have expanded and population has increased. But the number of beats of postmen has been reduced. A large number, more than fifty percent of postmen are working as temporary ones. The condition of the postal department's infrastructure is poor. The post offices are old and dilapidated. Not

only this, the computers, CPUs and printers in the Postal Department are also very old. The network also does not work many a times. All of these are in great need of upgradation. As per the policy of the Postal Department, more than 100 sorting offices of Rail Mail Service have been shut down, causing delays in speed post and ordinary mail.

Today, private players in the field of communication and courier services have grown rapidly in the market and the dominance of such companies is also detrimental to the security of the country. Hence, I request that the vacant posts in the Postal Department should be filled immediately and the postal system should be created afresh according to the new circumstances.

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Madam Speaker, I want to bring a very important matter to your notice. Areas like Muzaffar Nagar, Saharanpur, Shamli, Meerut, Baghpat etc. come in western Uttar Pradesh. All the rivers there, have become so polluted that not only are they themselves polluted, they have also polluted the ground water there. Drinking water is not available there. The water there is not even suitable for farming. This issue was raised repeatedly, but the effective action that should have been taken in this regard, has not been taken.

In this regard, I would also like to give the example of the most sacred river 'Ganga', about which a question has also been asked in the House today. Today the condition of the Ganga river is such that 70% of the water goes to Haridwar without treatment. From there, Hindon river, Krishna river and many other rivers join it. Hindon and Krishna are mythological rivers but if we stand on the banks of those rivers, the stink is so bad that it is unbearable to stand there even for two minutes.

Through you, I request the Union Government to instruct the Pollution Control Board to form a team. This team should visit the industries located along the riverbanks, where untreated polluted water is being discharged into the river, and where treatment plants have not been installed. The team should conduct an inspection and, based on the findings, take the necessary actions to immediately stop the contamination of the Ganga. Human life is at risk today.

Madam Speaker, I speak with a very heavy heart. I represent that area. Whenever I visit villages in my Parliamentary Constituency I get complaints that dirty water is being discharged in rivers there, due to which cancer cases are increasing. I seriously urge that water pollution there be controlled immediately.

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (HATKANANGALE): Madam Speaker, due to the drop in the price of milk powder in the international market, the companies and factories manufacturing milk powder in the country's market have stopped purchasing milk. The result of this is that excess milk is being produced in the market. In Maharashtra alone, about thirty lakh litres of extra milk is being produced every day. Due to reduced purchase of milk, milk producing farmers are getting six to seven rupees less per litre. On one hand the cost price is increasing and on the other hand milk producing farmers are not getting fair price for milk. The price of milk received by farmers is falling significantly. Situation like Maharashtra has also arisen in states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan etc. The Union Government should give subsidy to the companies manufacturing milk powder and encourage them to export it abroad so that marginal farmers, and landless farmers can avail the benefit, as their livelihood depends on milk. Therefore, I would request, through you, that the Government should take action in this regard as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil, Shri Shivkumar Udasi and Shri Devji M. Patel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Raju Shetty.

[English]

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Madam Speaker, in my Constituency Karimganj, border fencing was erected inside 150 yards from the border. In 10 spots, Indian habitants comprising of 173 families were left outside the fence towards Bangladesh. Every day at 6 a.m. BSF personnel allow Indian citizens to enter in the Indian side for their day to day work and again lock them by 5 p.m. daily. It creates many problems to the inhabitants. They cannot reach even hospital for acute patients, mothers for delivery or any other urgent needs after 5 p.m. But the Government had a declaration to rehabilitate these citizens inside the original mainland and that 150 yards will become no man's land. Till now, it has not been initiated. A few days ago, at the time of Diwali there was an incident in which three families lost everything including three cows in fire, and the fire brigade team could not reach the village due to inside fencing. In one instance, we can say ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not read. You have to make only points.

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS: All right, Madam.

So, through this august House, I would urge the Government to make necessary arrangements to rehabilitate these families who are living in inhuman conditions immediately.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Md. Badaruddoza Khan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Radheshyam Biswas.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very serious issue of my Parliamentary Constituency. About 50% of the Chitrakoot and Banda districts of my Parliamentary Constituency are severely terrorised by dacoits and the common people there are suffering greatly and living in constant fear. Development work is also being hampered due to fear of dacoits. Even to irrigate the fields, one has to pay money to the dacoits. Where we have been fortunate that in Chitrakoot, Goswami Tulsidas had composed Ramayana at Ramghat. Lord Ram lived there for 12 years but today the same area is getting infamous because of dacoits.

If there is someone who is most notorious dacoit at present he surely lives in Banda in our own Chitrakoot district, similar to how there was Dadua in past. When Dadua was killed then Thokiya appeared. Both of them were the biggest dacoits of the State. Currently, the most terrorized region is under the influence of Balkhadia, the most notorious dacoit who holds the highest reward in

Uttar Pradesh. There are numerous smaller and larger gangs which greatly affect the common life and they even affect the general elections. For the past several years, regional party Governments have been in power, one after the other protecting these dacoits for their political gain. Whichever Government is in power there at present, it has made their relatives MLAs, MPs and District Panchayat Presidents with the help of the dacoits. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Enough, now you have made your demand.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue.

Cashew industry is export-oriented. The setting up of a Cashew Board will help to enhance the production of cashew and its trade. The Cashew Board can help not only in the modernization cashew processing and marketing but also in increasing the production of raw cashew also.

At present, there is lack of adequate support mechanism from the Government to increase the raw cashew production. Like the Coir

Board, the Spices Board and the Rubber Board, the Cashew Board is the need of the hour.

The increase in the production of raw cashew will enable us to reduce the import of raw cashew from foreign countries through which foreign currency can be saved.

The condition of the workers who are engaged in cashew industry is precarious, and 94 per cent of the workers are women, of whom almost all are from the socially and economically backward communities. Scheduled Castes constitutes 35 per cent among these workers. Their wages are very low and there is no guarantee of continuous work. The unhealthy working condition makes their life miserable. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You make it short. You make your demand.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam, I am making a very important point.

The improved production and marketing will help to improve the quality of life of the people and also help them to earn huge income from foreign countries.

For centuries, Kollam is the centre of cashew processing industries in India. Hence, I would urge upon the Government to set up the Cashew Board immediately.

Madam, the previous UPA Government had agreed to set up the Cashew Board under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

13.00 hrs

But the Ministry of Agriculture did not agree. Even the Planning Commission agreed and the Cabinet Sub-Committee also agreed. But the objection was raised by only the Ministry of Agriculture. They wanted to set up a Cashew Board under the Ministry of Agriculture.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude, now.

You want that the Commission should be there and its headquarters should be at Kollam.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Yeah.

Madam, the formation of the Cashew Board is held up in the Ministry. I would, therefore, request the Government to set up a Cashew Board at Kollam at the earliest. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri Sankar Prasad Datta are

permitted to associate themselves on this issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

[Translation]

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important issue of public interest. I come from Pali, Rajasthan and I understand that Pali has the largest number of farmers not only in Rajasthan but in the whole of India and they depend on electricity and wells for irrigation. There most of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class people live in huts, where they do not get any facility of electricity supply. But I believe that the biggest reason for the power shortage there is that in the last five years, whether it is in the state, or in the centre, the policies of the Governments have contributed in increasing the losses of the power companies from 15 thousand rupees to 77 thousand rupees

Secondly, wrong allotment of coal and non-availability of coal is also a reason and the common people are bearing the brunt of it. Farmers, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are suffering losses due to non-availability of electricity. There is abundant potential of solar energy and wind energy in Rajasthan, which should be utilised.

HON. SPEAKER: Please, give your suggestion, You do not have to give such a long speech. You give the suggestion of solar energy.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: Madam, through you, I request the Hon. Energy Minister that the Union Government should establish a Green Energy Corridor in Rajasthan through Power Grid Corporation for the transmission of solar energy and that the settlements with a population of 100 should be included in the rural electrification scheme and adequate arrangements for electricity for irrigation should be made for the farmers.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Hon. Speaker, 80 percent of people in Indian villages take advantage of ayurvedic and naturopathy treatment . In India, it has a market worth approximately around Rs 4205 crore, which will increase by over Rs 7,000 crore by 2020. The quality of Ayurvedic products and its distribution system, in the whole country, are still not up to the mark. Even though, ayurvedic medicines are easily available in grocery shops.

I request that as per and under Clause 16 of Chapter 4A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, it is ensured that the registered pharmacist is authorized for selling pharmaceutical allopathic medicines under Clause-1 of Rule 64, the same system should be

ensured for ayurveda and AYUSH as well and on the other hand the increasing attraction of ayurvedic medicine has increased the market, therefore, there is an acute shortage of these herbs today. Therefore, emphasis should also be laid on the production by cultivating herbs. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and Ajay Tamta are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Dr.Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK - SAWAI MADHOPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue in the House.I request the Hon. Defence Minister that as the battalions are formed from different castes in the Defence Department, like Jat Regiment, Rajaput Regiment, etc. this has been a long standing demand of our Gurjar community that a Gurjar Regiment should also be made in the Indian Army, because this community has an old history. There have been very brave warriors of the Gurjar community even in the British era and people of this caste have contributed significantly to the freedom struggle. The Gurjar community has won the Veer Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Victoria Medal in the Army. There are about 8880 jawans and officers of the Gurjar community in the Rajput regiment and there are about

two thousand in the Jat regiment. Similarly, about 30 thousand Army personnel are still engaged in different positions in other battalions. Due to poverty and lack of education, after passing the tenth, twelfth grades, our children go to the Army, or CRPF, only by working hard day and night in the hostels that are built in the cities. If the Gurjar regiment is created there, then these children will get employment, and they will have maximum participation in the Army.

Madam, similarly in Kashmir, there are Gurjar Bakkarwal, If there is some relaxation in education, then I think that Bakkarwal, who live there, face terrorists day and night. If you give them guns and rifles through the Army, then the entire Kashmir will be safe under the vigil of Gurjars.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):

Madam, through you, I would like to present before the Government a very important demand on behalf of Punjab. It is well known that Punjab has played crucial role in eradicating hunger in the country and has long been recognised as an agrarian State. However, Punjab has significantly lagged behind in industrial development. This is partly due to natural and geographical reasons. The demographic and geographical situation of the state led to the displacement of industries, people and homes, especially after independence when

Punjab became a border State. As a result, industrial hubs like Amritsar, Gurudaspur and Ferozepur etc. suffered huge loss. Later, terrorism also led to the destruction of many industries there. Moreover, Government policies have historically favoured hilly areas with special facilities. Parts of my constituency—Anandpur Sahib—as well as Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur, consists of 30 to 40 per cent hilly terrain. Facilities and support available there differs from facilities available here. I urge the Government to provide special incentives for Punjab to promote industrial development, including the establishment of SEZs. ... (*Interruptions*) There should be SEZ and agro-based industries, and there should be special incentives for that. Given Punjab's vital contribution to the freedom movement and to the country's development post-independence, it is only fitting that Punjab be granted a special economic package. Today, Punjab is economically lagging behind.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): Madam, I have been elected from Darjeeling. Darjeeling tea is known all over the world. It has been six and a half decades, but the condition of tea plantation workers is very bad even today. Recently, a Special Investigation Team of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh went there. Seeing their condition, they have made a demand. I want to place that before you,

that on paper it is shown that the workers there are given 190 rupees per day but actually only 95 rupees are given in their hands and 100 rupees are deducted in the name of fringe benefits. Madam, my point is that Minimum Wages Act should be implemented there. Secondly, there are deaths due to starvation, so the Food Security Act should be implemented there by giving 35 kg of rice to every person. Inside the tea plantation, since it is a private area, there are voters of the panchayat, but they have not been included in the BPL category. They should all come under the BPL categories. Provident fund is collected from there, but it is not deposited. Action should be taken against them so that their provident fund should be deposited and their facility should be given to them. The District Authority should be told to make arrangements for water and electricity in closed tea gardens.

Madam, Old Age Pension and Widow Pension are not given to the workers of the tea plantation, they should get it. The names of all tribals working in the tea gardens of North Bengal should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. They should be eligible for social security benefits. This is my demand to the Government, through you.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Madam, I am raising a very important point pertaining to the Constitution of India and secularism.

The hon. External Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's statement that Bhagavad Gita should be declared as the National Scripture of India is tantamount to undermining the secular basis of the Constitution. The Minister's statement was reported as follows:

“Prime Minister Shri Modi gifted the Bhagavad Gita to US President Barak Obama, which means it has already received the honour of National Scripture. What we require is only a formal announcement now to officially declare the Bhagavad Gita as National Scripture.” ... (*Interruptions*) Why are you getting annoyed? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.09 hrs

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

14.10 hrs

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Madam, you said that there would be discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Item No.12 – Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.10 ½ hrs

**PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED
OCCUPANTS) AMENDMENT BILL, 2014***

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER
OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.
VENKAIAH NAIDU):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 11.12.2014

further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I introduce the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have also received a notice from you at two o'clock and you would know, I had said that all of you should sit down and decide the time. I have no objection to it. I should start the discussion immediately, but nothing has been decided yet. I have definitely received your notice. This will definitely be discussed, but I must say that the discussion cannot start immediately. After talking to everyone, we will fix some time for this and discuss.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam, you stated that the debate will begin at 2:00 P.M. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have not denied for the discussion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, all the parties are ready to discuss. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, everyone is ready to discuss, no one is refusing.

. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, what is the difficulty in starting the discussion? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I had spoken to decide the time.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam, you said that the discussion would start at two o'clock. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I didn't say that. I said that I don't mind. You sit and decide the time.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You say that the Government does not want. ... (*Interruptions*) That is a different matter. ... (*Interruptions*) You had said for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Listen to me for one minute. I had said that first of all you should give a proper notice, I just recieved notice at two o'clock. At one o'clock I had also said that everyone should sit together and decide when you want to have discussion. Then, I will allow you for the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam, you are above all. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, the Chair is paramount. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will do. Give me some time, I'll do it.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Give me sometime.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: You may start the discussion now. ... (*Interruptions*) All parties are ready to discuss. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Not yet.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: The Government has also agreed to have the discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let us discuss.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will let you know that when we will discuss? We have to talk to everyone, we have to talk to others as well.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, everyone is ready.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: They are ready to discuss it. But, we have to decide when to discuss it.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We will do it now, please wait a moment.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, supplementary business is being mentioned. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will give you time to discuss it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam, this is not right. ... (*Interruptions*)

14.12 hrs

(At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Dharmendra Yadav, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let's decide the time, all of you go to your respective seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We will discuss and decide the time for it.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.12 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

... (Interruptions)

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to accord early approval to the Parwan irrigation cum drinking water supply project in Jhalawar district, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): To provide irrigation and drinking water to the farmers of Baran, Jhalawar and Kota districts of Rajasthan, the ambitious Parwan Irrigation and Drinking Water Project is proposed on Parwan River at Village Akawad Kalan, Khanpur, District-Jhalawar (Rajasthan). The said project has been pending in some way since 2006 due to which thousands of farmers in the area are being deprived of the benefit of irrigation facilities. The Detailed Project Report of the project was sent to the Central Water Commission, New Delhi in December, 2006 and the in-principle approval for transfer of 1825 hectares of forest land under the scheme was also granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India but due to the non-release of final approval on the said irrigation project, the construction work has not yet started due to which on the one hand the cost of the project is continuously increasing, while on the other hand thousands of farmers of the area are being deprived of irrigation facilities.

Therefore, I request the Government to remove the obstacles coming in the way of the final approval of Parwan Irrigation and

Drinking Water Project and issue the final approval immediately so that the construction work can commence.

**(ii) Need to convert forest villages into revenue villages in
Nandurbar Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued a circular reminding the states to convert all forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed villages etc into revenue villages under Section 3(1)(h) of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006. It also includes villages inside the sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves. Though FRA has been in force for the past six years, forest officials did not implement the decision as they considered that provisions of the FRA did not supersede provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA), 1980, that requires environment ministry's permission to de-notify any forest land to give it revenue status.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also clarified that FRA envisages recognition and vesting of rights of forest dwellers and other traditional forest dwellers on all forest lands including those in sanctuaries and national parks and hence such villages inside these parks are also, therefore, required to be converted into revenue villages. In Maharashtra, barring 73 villages in Nandurbar, all forest villages have been declared as revenue villages. The development of these villages is very slow and the condition of farmers is very bad.

The decision by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs to convert forest villages into revenue villages in Nandurbar Maharashtra is still pending.

(iii) Need to stop telecast of serial on Maharana Pratap depicting false historical facts

[Translation]

SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND): The serial based on the memorable life of revered Maharana Pratap is being broadcasted on television. The events being telecast in this serial have no connection with the events proven in history. In the telecast serial, the incidents that happened in the life of Rana Pratap are being presented in a distorted manner. Like - Maharana met Akbar and expressed a sense of friendship while according to historical evidence, Maharana Pratap had never met Akbar in his life nor had he ever had a friendship. Due to such misrepresentation of history, the institutions and people who consider Maharana Pratap as their ideal in life are getting deeply hurt.

Therefore, I request the Government to immediately discontinue this serial which is misleading and misrepresents history. It should be immediately stopped, as it fails to stand the test of historical evidence.

(iv) Need to ensure livelihood and social security of persons hailing from Uttarakhand trained in Guerrilla warfare and who rendered their services during Bangladesh war and in various covert operations

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): The word “Guerilla” is derived from the Spanish language. The need and importance of ‘Guerilla War’ in India was understood and felt after the Indo-China War of 1962. Firstly, it was born in ITBP. With this, in 1963, the SSB was formed with the slogan ‘Service-Security-Brotherhood’. The recruitment of guerrillas was started and a 45 - day intensive guerrilla training was given. Through guerrilla force, SSB was successful in liberating Bangladesh. Along with this, SSB achieved expertise in making many secret operations successful in the interest of the country. In the year 2004, it was brought under the Home Ministry and converted into 'Sashastra Seema Bal' but no policy has been formulated for the guerrilla force. At present, the trained guerrillas have declared their fight for their rights by forming an organization.

Guerrilla community lives in large numbers in Uttarakhand and are raising their demands from time to time. At present, these people are sitting on protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

Therefore, I request the Ministry of Home Affairs to extend support to the Guerrillas of the North - Western States, just like the North - Eastern States. The Union Government should immediately conduct a high level inquiry on matters like providing as many jobs as possible to trained guerrillas in SSB and pension to older guerrillas etc. and provide as much help as possible to the guerrillas who worked in the interest of the country during the time of crisis.

(v) Need to undertake electrification of hamlets in Western Rajasthan under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGPUR): People in the western part of Rajasthan live in the hamlets. Their number ranges from 50 to 500. Due to less population, they have not been taken in the category of Revenue Village. Due to original villages being located far away, the lack of employment opportunities and no scope of population expansion, people started settling at distant locations from the main village. These households have been deprived of basic amenities, including access to drinking and, in particular, electricity.

The Rajasthan Government is providing 24 hours of electricity in domestic areas and a minimum of 8 hours for irrigation. In rural areas, domestic electricity is available twenty-four hours, but the hamlets are deprived of this facility. I come from Nagpur Parliamentary Constituency where the people of rural areas are living in small hamlets.

Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, provision has been made for electrification of revenue villages and pre-2004 settlements which had higher population. Under this

scheme, there is also a plan to provide electrification to the hamlets with a population of more than 100, but has not happened so far.

Therefore, I request the Government that under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, hamlets with a population of more than 50, instead of more than 100 population, should be selected for electrification, and the above benefits should be given to the hamlets and should be estimated on the basis of the population of 2011 instead of the population of 2001.

**(vi) Need to construct a dam on river Sharada in Sitapur
Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): There is no dam on the banks of river Sharda falling under my Parliamentary Constituency Sitapur. Whereas on the other end, the dam is on the border of Lakhimpur district. Due to this, hundreds of houses collapse every year due to the devastating floods, as a result thousands of people are displaced and hundreds of acres of cultivable land are submerged in the river due to erosion. This problem is increasing every year, if this problem is not solved in time, then everything that belongs to the local people will be submerged in the river. Sir, the villages of Kashipur and Mallapur are the worst affected by this disaster. Most of the agricultural land of the people there has been submerged in the river due to erosion and both villages were completely cut off many years ago.

I demand from the Government, in view of such a difficult situation, to take the necessary immediate action to build a dam on the border of Sitapur on the Sharda river and to provide all the necessary resources to rehabilitate the people displaced due to river erosion in this area.

**(vii) Need to provide a package for all-round development of
Ambala Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana**

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): The entire Shivalik region of my Lok Sabha Constituency, Ambala which borders about 150 km of Himachal Pradesh is a victim of extreme backwardness. The area has seen neither development nor any employment opportunities. People are victims of poverty. If the Government declares this region as an extremely backward region, similar to Himachal and Kala Amb, it can pave the way for a wave of development and employment. The area can also be developed as an international tourist destination. The scenic areas of Morni's Tal, Pinjore Garden and Morni Hill are especially noteworthy. Just as Hon. Prime Minister has given a package to promote tourism and employment in the hilly areas of North-East, I urge the Government to provide a similar package for the Shivalik region so that its people can also become self-reliant.

**(viii) Need to construct underpasses on National Highway No. 3
in Bhiwandi Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra**

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI): Under my Lok Sabha constituency lies National Highway No. 3, where the stretch from Wadpe Bypass to Nashik has been handed over to Gaiman India under the BOT model. In view of the increasing pressure of traffic, this highway has been expanded to four lanes. However, several critical shortcomings remain unaddressed during its construction such as the absence of underpasses at major junctions and incomplete service roads. There are junctions at Ta Vali, Khadwali, Vashind, Asangaon, and Vashala Kansara but no underpasses, posing serious risks to public safety. Though service roads were part of the plan at several locations, they have not been constructed. As a result, over 220 accidents occurred at these junctions last year alone, leading to 120 deaths and over 100 injuries. Just five days ago, a fatal accident took place at the Asangaon junction. In protest, the deceased's body was placed on the road, blocking traffic for nearly three hours. An action that was supported by leaders across party lines. Such incidents are becoming increasingly common and require urgent intervention.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Government to ensure the immediate construction of underpasses and service roads at all five mentioned locations to prevent further loss of life and ensure public safety.

(ix) Need to start construction of ESI Medical college at Mavelikkara and start the operation of Paramedical institute at Ezhukone in Kerala

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Employees State Insurance Corporation was started in the country immediately after Independence to provide health insurance and treatment facilities to the employees. Since the inception the scheme is working for the benefit of the employees and now more than 35 million employees had joined the scheme. During 2007 UPA Government had decided to strengthen the infrastructure of ESIC to provide more services to the insured persons. As such the ESIC Act was amended and it has entered into the medical education sector. Now under ESIC four medical colleges started functioning. As many as construction of six medical colleges is almost complete and waiting for the courses to be started. ESIC has also started postgraduate medical institutions, dental colleges, paramedical institutions, nursing colleges, etc. in various parts of the country. More than Rs. 10,000 crore has already been invested in the construction and other infrastructure for medical institution. Now the Union Government is thinking in terms of winding up the medical education programmes of the ESIC for

reasons known to them only. Instead of ascertaining the problems, that ESIC is facing to run the medical institutions and to find out solutions, they are planning to stop the scheme itself. I may state that the proposal of the Government to stop the medical education institutions run by ESIC is unilateral and it does not have the concurrence of the trade unions and insured persons. The Medical College sanctioned at Mavelikkara may be taken up immediately and construction should be started. The Paramedical Institute which was functioning at ESIC Hospital, Ezhukone was stopped even without the knowledge of the local MP. This is gross misuse of power by ESIC management. I request the Hon. Minister to take immediate steps to start the paramedical institute at Ezhukone immediately and to start the construction of Medical College in Mavelikkara.

(x) Need to provide adequate railway services and passenger facilities at Kumbakonam railway Station in Tamil Nadu in view of the Mahamaham Festival in 2016

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): To deal with the pilgrim inflow during next Mahamaham festival in 2016 at Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu and to cater to the needs of transportation facilities to ever increasing tourist and pilgrim population to Kumbakonam, the following infrastructure needs to be developed at Kumbakonam by the Ministry of Railways:

- (1) Basic amenities need to be provided at Kumbakonam railway station;
- (2) All the three platforms should be extended suitably to accommodate 24 train coaches;
- (3) Roofing in Platform No. 2 and 3 should cover entire platform area;
- (4) Foot over bridge should be extended to Platform No. 3. Presently Platform No. 1 alone accommodates lengthy trains;
- (5) Rail Yatris Niwas may be opened;

- (6) Doubling work between Thanjavur and Kumbakonam may be completed before Mahamaham Festival;
- (7) Passenger and express trains are to be operated during Mahmaham festival;
- (8) A full-fledged information counter need to be established at Kumbakonam to cater to the train-related enquiries by the pilgrims and travelling public;
- (9) Opening of PRS counter at Papanasam and Aduthurai;
- (10) Construction of new railway line between Kumbakonam—Vridhachalam; and
- (11) Doubling of Thanjavur-Villupuram Section

Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister of railways to allocate necessary funds in this regard.

**(xi) Need to expedite setting up of an AIIMS like Institute t
Thoppur in Virudhunagar Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil
Nadu**

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): AIIMS has become a household name in India and abroad. Tamil Nadu has a population of 72 million people but the State does not have any AIIMS like Insitute.

With the announcement of setting up of AIIMS like Institutes in all States in a phased manner by the Union Government and also announcement in the Union Budget for setting up of new Institutes, Our beloved Leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in Tamil Nadu. took up the matter with Hon'ble Prime Minister vide her letter dated 18.7.2014 indicating Tamil Nadu's readiness to provide adequate land and other facilities for the establishment of AIIMS like institute in the State. Subsequently, a detailed report has been sent to the Ministry of Health, Government of India with all the relevant details like five suggested locations namely Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Chengelpet, Perundurai in Erode and Thoppur in my Virudhunagar constituency in Madurai District. All the required particulars about these five locations with assurance that necessary statutory clearances in respect

of transfer of land, provision of water, electricity and drainage facilities will be obtained was communicated to Union Government. However, no action has been taken by the Union Government till now.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to expedite the visit of Central team to assess the viability of the identified location namely Thoppur in my Virudhunagar constituency in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu for the setting up of the said institute in this financial year itself.

**(xii) Need to set up a Bio-Entrepreneurship Institute at
Radhanagar, Hooghly district, West Bengal and also
promote Radhanagar, the birth place of Raja Ram Mohan
Roy as a tourist place**

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Raja Ram Mohan Roy is regarded as a religious, social and educational reformer and maker of Modern India.

He was born on May 22, 1772 at Radhanagar, Hooghly District of West Bengal now under my Arambagh Parliamentary Constituency. In 1811, Ram Mohan Roy witnessed his brother's widow being burnt alive on her husband's funeral pyre. He was the first Indian who protested against the "SATI" tradition and fought against this.

Nearly 80% of the people in Arambagh depend on agriculture. Keeping in view the vital role of Shri Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the movement of Women Empowerment and freedom, I request the Government to set up a special Bio-Entrepreneurship institute with business opportunity Centre for women.

Keeping in view the tourist potential of the area, the Government should promote Radhanagar as a tourist place.

I hope that Government will take suitable steps in this regard.

(xiii) Need to restore the CST at the rate of 4% till the implementation of Goods and Services Tax in Odisha

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): As a move towards implementation of Goods and Service Tax (GST), it was decided to phase out CST over a period of four years with annual reduction of rate by 1%. It was decided by the Union Government to compensate the State Governments towards CST loss till implementation of GST. Accordingly, the CST rate was reduced from 4% to 3% from 1st April, 2007 and from 3% to 2% from 1st June 2008. Due to uncertainty in implementation of GST, the CST rate continues at 2% till date. The Union Government had been compensating the State Government towards CST loss till 2009-2010. For the year 2010-2011, Odisha has been partially compensated. Against the loss assessment of Rs 664.39 crore, compensation of Rs. 256.17 crore only has been received. But since 2011-12, no compensation has been received by Odisha.

Due to rate reduction in CST, Odisha is losing about Rs. 1300 crore annually. For a State like Odisha having low revenue base, annual loss of Rs. 1300 crore is quite substantial. Till 2012-13, the amount outstanding is Rs 2540 crore which would further go up after

the audited figures for the financial year 2013-14 are made available by the State Accountant General.

I would urge upon the Union Government to fully compensate Odisha for the GST loss or alternatively restore the CST rate 4% till implementation of GST.

(xiv) Need to look into the incident of release of hazardous waste in Waldhuni river in Ulhasnagar in Maharashtra severely affecting scores of people of the area

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the release of hazardous waste in Waldhuni river at Ulhasnagar in my Constituency. The release of poisonous effluents reacted with water and immediately there was rotten smell and people started feeling nausea and breathlessness and vomited. In a matter of an hour more than 1500 people from various localities had to be admitted to the Hospital. Naturally the Hospital was not prepared to handle such matters although this has been a regular complaint lodged by the residents but none including the authorities at MIDC or Pollution Control Board of the State took any cognizance of the matter.

Then started the blame game. The police said that the matter was regarding pollution and hence to be dealt with by the MIDC and local Pollution Control Board authorities. These authorities in return questioned the police regarding law and order measures.

The point worth noting in this case is that although the poisonous fumes and foul stench started somewhere around 3 a.m. and even after

the authorities were informed of the urgency, no one arrived on the scene. The local residents say that almost every night the effluents are released during midnight hours and the stench continues. They say that all the authorities are aware of the fact but no one is taking action.

I would like the Government of India and the Central Pollution Control Board to immediately intervene in the matter for the lapses from any authority and a permanent solution needs to be found to the menace of water pollution.

14.14 hrs

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF COAL
MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 2014**

AND

COAL MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2014

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): I beg to move

“That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 (No.5 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 21 October, 2014.”

... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER,
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):** I beg to
move:

“That the Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure

continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

HON. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

“That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 (No.5 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 21 October, 2014.”

“That the Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri C. N. Jayadevan.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: Madam, I would ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): The people have given the Modi Government such a strong majority. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 o'clock.

... (*Interruptions*)

14.16 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned
till Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.00hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fifteen of the clock

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, I request that if you permit now, the discussion on this important issue can be started today.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, I had said in the beginning itself that the Government is ready to debate on this subject. Along with this, I had also said that notice should have been given as per the rules. We received the notice at two o'clock. I had also said that it would have been better if the Hon. Home Minister was present in the House, he could give a detailed solution to this. Later, Shri Mulayam Singh, whom I respect a lot, also said that if there is a discussion now, what is your objection ? I informed Shri Mulayam Singh ji that we are yet to get information from the Uttar Pradesh Government. If the Hon.

Members still want to have the discussion now then it can be held from three o'clock to five o'clock. I am collecting as much information as possible in this regard. As I am the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I will answer in the House as per the information I have gathered.

After this discussion, Coal Bill and Regular Bill Business should be taken up. If such an understanding exists on both sides, then the proceedings of the House will be conducted smoothly.

HON. SPEAKER: If this understanding has been reached amongst ourselves, then there is nothing better than this. I have received a notice under Rule 193 from Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on this subject. As a special case, I am allowing this discussion without any entry in the List of Business, and the discussion will start now. I am very happy that the House agrees to this discussion, so there is no question of my disagreement.

15.02 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising due to the reported incidents of religious
conversion**

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, first of all we would like to thank you for allowing us to discuss such an important issue so easily. We share the same thought and intention in discussing this topic. Our aim is not to defame the Government. Our aim is not to demean anyone. This is an issue which pertains to 125 crore people of India. We are living our life in the democratic system of India. This democracy is the largest democracy in the world. The Constitution of this democracy is basically written on principled issues, that on the basis of the Constitution, every citizen is given freedom with regard to religion, freedom with regard to thought, freedom with regard to maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. Today we will not only have to give examples in our region, but to keep the flag of democracy high, we have to set an example in the world as to how the world should live its life on the basis of secularism.

Madam Speaker, in my view, our country is like a bouquet. This bouquet does not consist of just one kind of flower, but of many diverse flowers, and it is this very diversity that spreads the unique fragrance of India across the world. This is a distinctive characteristic of my country—one that is not found anywhere else. Today I am proud that I am a Hindu, but my religion does not teach me narrow-mindedness, my religion does not teach us a narrow ideology, my religion introduces a broad outlook to me and to the entire world. My religion does not teach bitterness. I believe that my religion is not merely a religion, if it is anything, it is a philosophical doctrine, a way of thought, a philosophy. We had a slogan, which we still use today in many ways in spiritual discussion. But, somewhere, I feel sad that we might be straying from that path. We say in our discussion - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The whole world is one family, so then there should be no difference between our words and actions. ... (*Interruptions*) Have patience to listen. ... (*Interruptions*) You will also get a chance to speak. ... (*Interruptions*) Don't get excited. ... (*Interruptions*) do follow Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. ... (*Interruptions*) include many ideologies also. ... (*Interruptions*) have the ability to listen. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, today a very sad incident has come to our attention. ... (*Interruptions*) In Agra, two hundred people belonging to 57 families were reportedly converted, coerced into changing their religion, after being lured with promises of ration cards and BPL cards. ... (*Interruptions*) Has the so-called Government of good days stooped to a level where vulnerable citizens are enticed to convert their religion under the pretext of basic entitlements like BPL card and ration card. ... (*Interruptions*) It has been conducted by ...* ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Name of any institution will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotiraditya ji, do not name any institution. This won't even go on record. I am telling this for the future also.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Many Members of various organisations say, “a hint to the wise is enough” that this is the homecoming of the people and there is no ideology of seeking forgiveness in this. It is also being said that this is just the beginning. After Agra, similar actions will take place in Aligarh and many other

*Not recorded.

at many places, not just involving one religion, but conversion will be carried out across other religions as well. ... (*Interruptions*) Every year religion of two thousand people is changed. All this change and thinking, ideology is associated with the faith of some religion or the other. Christmas is approaching so let us discuss this topic today.

Madam Speaker, there is *... on record.... (*Interruptions*) I will say, I will say absolutely that they say that Union Government is under our control and we will keep doing it. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, this is contrary to the Constitution.*... ... of your organisation has said this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The name of any organisation, that is not in the House, will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: They say that we have re-converted nearly three lakh Muslims and Christians in the Braj region and in the future also, Muslims and Christians will be converted back to Hinduism. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, this subject is contrary to the Constitution and the real issues that are before the Government, whether it is the issue

*Not recorded.

of black money, whether it is the issue of infiltrators of Pakistan and China, whether it is the subject of Rail fare hike, on the other hand, the thought process and ideology of diverting attention from all these issues towards polarisation, I think that with this hope and belief, this whole programme is going on. A new polarisation is being expanded, otherwise the Government should reply that why has the Ministry of Home Affairs not given an explanation till date about the Prevention of Communal Targeted Violence Bill? ... (*Interruptions*) Today, the Parliament wants to know the answer, the people of the country want the answer.

Madam, this Constitution has been framed, of the people, by the people and for the people. This Constitution belongs to the people, it has been made by the people and made for the people. This Government has taken the pledge to protect the Constitution, this Government has taken the responsibility of maintaining it.

15.11hrs

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

The issue of polarisation, which is taken under the pretext that this is not the issue of the Centre, this is a comprehensive State issue, when these incidents are happening in many States, for 7 months, this

Government has had an agenda of polarisation in the entire country, you look at the atmosphere of the country.

Whereas on one hand we talk about Swami Vivekananda, many leaders repeatedly take the name of Swami Vivekananda. What did Swami Vivekananda say? Swami Vivekananda had said that my India will definitely emerge as an economic power, but remember that this India will emerge as an economic constellation only when the spiritual power of this India emerges as a constellation. Preserving and maintaining that spiritual power is your duty, it is our duty and the duty of every citizen of this country. ... (*Interruptions*)

In the last seven months, 6 hundred riots took place in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. ... (*Interruptions*) In the last session, a person of a religion, during their religious time, during Ramzan, was caught and fed food. It is shameful. When our nation's pride Sania Mirza was about to become the brand ambassador of a State, people of a party said that she is the daughter of Pakistan. ... (*Interruptions*) What can be a greater shame? ... (*Interruptions*) A Jagran was organized in Trilokpuri, where people of one community live together at same place, so that riots could take place there. There has never been an atmosphere of insecurity in Tajia's time in Delhi. This has happened for the first time in the history of the country that an atmosphere of

insecurity, when Tajia procession was being taken out in Delhi. Churches were burnt in Delhi.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you won't believe what statement a Hon. Minister of the Government made, the words Hon. Minister used, I am a young man but even I cannot use those words in this Parliament. On one hand, Ramzada was used and the word used for the other side, I believe that no amount of condemnation is enough for such language. Do we wish to foster bitterness between communities and religions in this country? Are these the 'acche din' we envisioned? Is this the direction in which we want to take the nation? This country can progress only if we preserve its soul. A healthy body alone will not suffice, if the soul of the nation is eroded, true progress will not be possible.

The Hon. Minister of this Government said that a book of a religion should be made the national scripture. There is only one national scripture in this country and that is our Constitution, which talks about secularism. There cannot be any other national scripture. Sanskrit is inserted by removing the third language in the field of study, why, because...* the education sector of this Government is running on this basis. For the first time, we have seen the Minister of

*Not recorded.

Government... going for*. It has never been seen, in the time of any Government, which is being witnessed today. The Taj Mahal is talked about and it is said that it was part of the ancient Tejomahalaya temple. They are changing history, changing culture, changing the identity of the country. They are changing history, changing the present, but no one is thinking about the future.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I strongly condemn these incidents. It is the responsibility of the Government that if there is any incident against the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Government to preserve the Constitution. Our country is a secular country, a Democratic Republic, a democratic nation. Whether you are in the Government or not, but this country will endure, and the concept of a secular Government will remain, there is no second thought about it. We want the Hon. Prime Minister to clarify on this subject. Even the Hon. Prime Minister was also once told by the leader of your party at a time that the Rajdharma should be performed. There have been so many occasions in seven months, to perform the same rajdharma, the Hon. Prime Minister of the country is the Prime Minister of all the people, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, he is the Prime Minister of every citizen of the country. Isn't it his responsibility to

* Not recorded.

give a statement, to create an environment of peace, to protect the country, he has a responsibility in this House and towards this country and we want clarification and accountability from his side. The whole world is looking at India today. We proudly declare to the world that our country is a secular nation. Secularism is our soul. If that reality is being fragmented today, then the responsibility of preserving this goes to Government and the Hon. Prime Minister.

At the end, Deputy Speaker Sir, I just want to say that, “Mazhab nahi sikhata, aapas mein bair rakhna, hindi hain hum, watan hai, Hindostaan hamara.” (Religion does not teach to hate on each other, we all are the residents of Hind, Hindustan is our country).

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to make some observation. The subject is a very serious one. It also arises due to the reported incident of religious conversion. So, the hon. Members are requested to remain within the subject under discussion. There must not be any ill-feelings on both sides. Whatever the hon. Members want to say, you can say within the limits, and I request you not to go beyond the limits. The whole country is watching what we are discussing now. So, this is my request.

I am making this observation and I am requesting all of you not to go beyond certain limits; whatever you want to say, you can say within the rules and regulations and not beyond.

Shri Sumedhanand Sarswati.

[Translation]

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI (SIKAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I stand here to discuss a topic that was not required, but some of my colleagues have turned a common incident into a sensitive issue, which they consider very sensitive. Just now, my colleague, Hon. Scindia ji was presenting his thoughts. I think he had neither contemplated nor studied the subject, on which he had to say something. Religion will never change. If you read Manu, Manu has given 10 characteristics of religion.

Dhṛtiḥ kṣamā damo'steyaṁ śaucam indriya-nigrahaḥ

Dhīr vidyā satyam akrodho daśakam dharma-lakṣaṇam

(Patience, forgiveness, self-control, non-stealing, purity, control of the senses, wisdom, knowledge, truthfulness, and absence of anger—these ten are the characteristics of Dharma (righteousness)).

These 10 things can be adopted by anyone in the world Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists.

Vedaḥ smṛtiḥ sadācāraḥ svasya ca priyaṁ ātmanaḥ |

Etac caturvidham prāhuḥ sāksād dharmasya lakṣaṇam ||

"The Vedas, Smṛtis (traditional texts), good conduct, and what is pleasing to one's own conscience—these four are said to be the direct characteristics of Dharma (righteousness)."

All these are characteristics of religion. You were saying that our nation is such a nation which has always had faith in religion, there is no doubt about it. Our culture is not just thousand years, two thousand years or five thousand years old. It has been here since the very creation of the universe, our culture is over 1 Billion 96 crore years old. Vedas, Upanishads, Mahabharata and Ramayana have a history, all the people who came in this country have been embraced. I did not want to revisit those moments in history, but our colleagues who are making allegations. I would like to discuss a little bit about the culture that has started the tradition of religious conversion. I would not like to say such a thing. I would like to say with evidence, you can quote my point, discuss this subject with me in the House and outside the House. You can pick up the history of Aurangzeb and see. Take the example of Guru Gobind Singh. Even today, the Gurdaspur fort is a witness to the fact that 11 thousand soldiers of Veer Vanda Vairagi were beheaded, each and every man, so that they accept Islam. That wall of Sirhind is still crying out. You will stand near the Sirhind wall in Punjab, that wall is a testimony to the fact that the two children

were beheaded only because ... (*Interruptions*) please have some patience little patience. ... (*Interruptions*) If I deviate even one line away from history here and there, I would request the Hon. Deputy Speaker to ask me to sit. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to summarize my point. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When your own Member is speaking, please do not make comments. Let him say whatever he wants to say. I will manage the House. You are not in the Chair. Please cooperate.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI: What was the fault of the four children of Guru Gobind Singh ji, out of which two were sacrificed for religion and two were chinned in the wall? In the time of Aurangzeb... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): This is also history, change this as well. ... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mann, if you go on speaking like this, I will take action against you. Please allow him to speak. He has a right to speak. You cannot go on interrupting him like this. Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, I may tell you also, please do not get up and speak like this. Let him speak. Otherwise, when you will be speaking they will create disturbance. I want to run the House peacefully because an important issue is being discussed. Please listen to the hon. Member. I would request you to cooperate. He is making certain points. Let him speak. If there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it. I have a right to go through the record. You cannot create problem here.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):
Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may speak when your turn comes.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let him speak.
... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say that ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request you also, when you are speaking do not create any problem. We are discussing a very serious matter. I made this observation in the beginning itself. The whole country is watching you. We must not give any wrong message to the country. That is my only request to the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI: I would not say any such thing, I was talking about history before you. I was saying that two children were martyred for religion and were buried alive within the walls.

Max Muller and Macaulay were the two people who came in and started preaching Christianity here in the name of education. I am not saying this myself. I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhiji. Gandhiji says - 'Today it is impossible for me to adjust to the style of conversion in India and anywhere else. It has become such a mistake which will probably hamper peace and progress of the world. Why does a Christian want to convert a Hindu into a Christianity? Hindu is a good man or he is a convert then why is he not satisfied with this.' On January 30, 1937, Gandhiji wrote that Hindus were converted to Christianity by offering them incentives all over the country. The entire Purvanchal is witness to this even today. Rajasthan's Jhalawar,

Banswara, Dungarpur, Udaipur and the entire border of Pakistan is being transformed in the name of education through planned camps, greed for money, greed for medicines etc.

I want to request you that Bharatiya Janata Party has always fought for this. What happened in Meenakshippuram, Tamil Nadu, Advani Sir had raised that issue inside this House. There was a thing in it that law should be made to stop religious conversion. But my colleagues opposed it, saying that no such law should be made. Every person is free and can change religion. This proposal came at that time. The BJP Governments passed the Gujarat Freedom of Religion, 2003, the BJP Government, the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion, 2006 passed by the BJP Government, the Rajasthan Freedom Religion Bill, 2006 passed by the BJP Government, the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 1968 passed by the BJP Government. The Bharatiya Janata Party never wants religion to be converted in this country, it is the policy of our party that every citizen of the country should conduct himself freely. Independently, every person should follow his own method of rituals. But I must tell you one thing that the people who are currently making allegations, who started this tradition, should first stop their activities. Where they have

a Government, they should stop such tendencies so that such situations do not arise in the country.

There was no need for the discussion that has been started in the House today, it has been presented in an exaggerated manner. Our Government will never allow this type of situation to arise, but I would like to reiterate that if such an atmosphere is created anywhere in the country, where religious conversions are carried out through temptation and inducement, and if you examine the population statistics of various States, you will understand the implications. Due to lack of time, I shall not place the entire matter before you. The way in which this country has been changed according to the population, they have been converted to Christianity. Even today, poor Hindus are being converted in the name of Jihad and many other things. This is a conspiracy against the country. Whatever the subsidiary organisations of Bharatiya Janata Party, none of its associates indulge in such activities, nor do they do any such work. I am actually a sufferer, for this work Swami Shraddhanand, Pandit Lekh Ram and Rajpal had to sacrifice their lives in this country.

I am a person belonging to Arya Samaj in terms of ideology, who has always been opposed to this. Our Vedic culture, Vedic religion, and Hinduism have always been a symbol of generosity. This is the

only culture here in which Sarvebhavantu Sukhina has been talked about. Rarely would such a thing have been said in any culture. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia was discussing this type of thing, there was no substance in it, this is a meaningless discussion, this discussion should be condemned, this is my request.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity to speak on this sensitive issue. It calls for communal harmony which is the only solution.

On behalf of AIADMK Party, I would like to make it clear that we are for taking all the communities together. We believe in equal respect for all religions. Our Party leader Makkalin Mudhalvar Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has taken several measures to protect and promote religious fervour, combined with social and communal harmony. Let me take this opportunity to bring to the notice of this august House various measures that are being taken up by our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

No religion in Tamil Nadu fails to get the patronage of the State Government as we respect all the religious faith. Our Government helps all the people belonging to all the religions. Thus our State

Government takes all possible measures to maintain communal harmony.

As we strongly believe that religion is an individual choice with constitutional protection, we take care to avoid social tensions arising out of clash of interests. Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Party leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma believes that worship places must bring together all the people, especially the needy. That is why '*Annadanam*' programme in all major temples is being carried out at the instance of our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

All the religious pilgrims are encouraged as part of promoting social harmony. Manas Sarovar and Kedarnath pilgrims get financial assistance from our State Government. On similar lines, Muslims are getting Haj Pilgrim subsidy and Christians get Holy land pilgrimage subsidy.

As we do not believe in discriminating on the basis of religion, we are insisting on reservation to be extended to Dalit Christians.

Our Party strongly believes in unity in diversity and we have made sure that Tamil Nadu is free from communal clashes. With these words, I conclude my submission.

Thank you.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 initiated by Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia. I thank him for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. As has been mentioned earlier, this is a sensitive issue and we should not do or say anything which will raise the communal temperature of the House or the country. We should discuss the whole matter about what happened in Agra dispassionately and calmly.

What happened in Agra? In Agra in slum cluster called Madhunagar, 200 Muslims were converted to Hinduism in a religious function called *Ghar Wapsi*, getting back to home. They were promised ration card and houses. One person, named, ... * a Muslim from that area said that 40 people in saffron came and stood on their head. This was carried out by *Dharmajagran Sammanyay Vibhag*, an off-shoot of RSS and Bajrang Dal. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Name of an individual cannot form part of the record.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I appreciate Swami Sumedhanand ji. He represents the Arya Samaj. Arya Samaj is one Hindu organisation

* Not recorded.

which has done excellent work in spreading education. The DAV schools are there all over Northern India. I support the statement of Sumedhanand ji when he said that the BJP is against conversion. In that case, if he has said that BJP is against conversion, I would like the House to unanimously adopt a resolution saying that conversion is not the philosophy of this country and the whole House stands against religious conversion. I will support Swami Sumedhanand ji if he says that.

Sir, as a citizen of this country, as peoples' representative, I feel somewhat worried about the turn of events in the country. It is known historically that when capitalists failed to give economic relief, they went for religious or racial issues. The best example of this is Adolf Hitler, who on the basis of Aryanism created Fascism which is a mixture of reactionary philosophy and capitalism. That is the danger in the country. When economic relief will not available, then religious divisive issues will be raised. This is something which I am worried about.

Just today, one respected Member of this House, Dr. Swami Sakshiji Maharaj, said in a speech in Maharashtra that both Mahatma Gandhi and Nathuram Godse were patriots. Is this what the BJP accepts? ... (*Interruptions*) It has come in all the news channels and

you can see it. I thought that BJP is for Ram and now, it seems that BJP is for Nathuram. I do not appreciate that.

I am astounded by a statement of a senior Minister. I do not know what the provocation was. She suddenly said that Gita should be the national book or the national scripture. ... (*Interruptions*) I have read Gita. I have memorised it. What does it say? It says that to punish bad people.

paritrāṇāya sādḥūnām vināśāya ca duṣkṛtām

dharma-saṁsthāpanārthāya sambhavāmi yuge yuge

(For the protection of the righteous, for the destruction of the wicked, and for the establishment of dharma, I manifest myself age after age.)

It is a matter of belief. Now, I cannot ask my Muslim friends ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, please address the Chair.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I am a follower of it and I believe that the soul may be eternal. “na hanante hanmaane sharire” even if you kill the body, the soul will not be killed but my soul does not teach me that I have to force Gita on somebody whose religious book, maybe

Quran, Granth Sahib, Tripitak or the Bible. Why should I impose that on anybody?

The whole idea is like this. This is called majoritarianism. The number which is master, do not impose it on others. We are against it.

Sir, I come from Bengal. We had the great sage, Ramakrishna Paramhansa. He said: “*Jato Mat Tato Path*” It means that there are as many ways as there are opinions. His great disciple, Swami Vivekananda went to America. He said that he was a Hindu Sanyasi and that he had come to talk about the teachings of his Guru, Ramakrishna Paramhans. But he never said that Christians get converted into Hinduism. He said that it is a question of people’s belief. I think that Vedanta is a great philosophy as a Hindu Sanyasi.

Now, what is happening in this country? [Translation] In Delhi, a church was vandalized. Two churches were vandalized and destroyed. What is happening? In a place called Trilokpuri, just before the Delhi elections, communal riots take place. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia has mentioned that several hundreds, small and big, of communal riots have taken place. We all know about Muzaffarnagar riots and how they polarized the society in UP. It gave political benefit to a certain political party but do you want these things to happen?

Please believe that we are all citizens of this country. You wanted power and you have got power. Now it is your responsibility to see that everybody in the country can live peacefully according to the Constitution.

I salute the Founding Fathers of the Constitution. We happen to be victims of partition. Jinnah created Pakistan on the basis of two-nation theory. In spite of that the great founding fathers of our nation, Gandhi ji, Nehru ji, Azad ji, Ambedkar ji, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad created a secular Constitution. What did they say? They said: “We the people of India constitute India into sovereign socialist secular democratic Republic.” ... (*Interruptions*) Shri Surinder Singh Ahluwalia, I know as much about the Constitutional history as you do, may be more. Please sit down. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, you address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: At this age and stage of my life, if I have to learn constitutional history from a great scholar like Shri Surinder Singh Ahluwalia that would be a day of shame of my life. ... (*Interruptions*) I can say this honestly.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING): I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Please quote the rule and tell what is your point of order.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: It is under article 118 of the Indian Constitution. I am talking about Indian Constitution. ... (*Interruptions*) In the Constitution which was adopted on 26th November, 1949 in the Central Hall, there was no mention about ‘secularism’. It was added only in 1976. I can prove that. If you are correct, then show me that. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Shri Ahluwalia, you are a great scholar. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ahluwalia, please take your seat now.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: In Bengali as well as in Sanskrit, there is a saying “*alpa vidya bhayankari*”. It means, if you know only a little it is very dangerous. This is what is happening. I am not going into that. ... (*Interruptions*)

The problem today is that, as Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia has mentioned, in the educational field, the Vice-Chancellors are being appointed on political and communal basis. The Vice-Chancellor of the Benaras Hindu University founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, says that he is proud to be a BJP man. Is this how we want our Vice-Chancellors to be? The President of the ICHR, Indian Council for Historical Research, has no other subject except to find out the exact date of Ramayana and Mahabharata. Now, there is a difference between mythology, epics and actual solid history. Maybe he is not aware of that.

I had mentioned in this House earlier that the HRD Minister spends time with ...*, the ideologue of Hindu communalist organization, and supporter of astrology. What will happen to the scientific temper that Nehru ji had advocated? That is why I am worried and I will again, through you, appeal to the Members of the ruling party to give up this divisive attitude. Finally, I will finish in one minute flat. They need not revert to divisive politics for political gains. They have all the power in the world. Let them change the country. If you wish to bring the change, the exchange is to be brought about, but do not create division among the people. Hindu Muslim

* Not recorded.

Sikh Christian all brothers and sisters. I end by quoting Poet Rabindranath Tagore. He said:

"Eso He Arya

Eso Anarya

Hindu, Musalman

Eso Eso Aj

Tumi Ingraj

Eso Eso Christian

Eso Brahman

Suchi Kori Mon

Dharo Hath Sabakor

Eso He Patit

Hao Apanit

Sub Apaman Bhar.... ”

(I call upon everyone—Aryan, non-Aryan, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Englishman, Brahmin, the pure, the impure, even the outcast. I cleanse my heart and extend my hand to all. I embrace those who have been humiliated and cast aside. I share in their pain, and I stand with them.)

Let this great country, with a 5000-year old tradition, not be divided asunder on the basis of religion, caste or community. Let us together march towards the future in a united way as was envisaged in the Constitution.

Lastly, I would say that there may be some bad elements which are close to them. ... (*Interruptions*) I remember what some of these people said after the demolition of the *Babri Masjid*. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are unnecessarily provoking them.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I will finish it now. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Shri Mahtab to speak now.

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

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is where you are going beyond. Nothing will go on record. Only Shri Mahtab's speech will go on

* Not recorded.

record. Shri Roy, I told you nothing will go on record. ...
(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say that a very renowned English Novelist while writing one of the famous novels in English literature, said relating to a situation which had arisen during the French Revolution. He said: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” In the Tale of Two Cities, the first line connotes “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” I would say that today is one of the worst of times that we are witnessing in this House. Yet, I would say that best things should come out from us.

What is Hinduism? Who is a Hindu? As far as I understand with my limited knowledge, a Hindu may be a worshipper of an idol; a Hindu may deride an idol; a Hindu may be going to the temple everyday. A Hindu may not be going to the temple at all. A Hindu may be going to the temple on certain days. A Hindu may be worshipping. A Hindu may not be worshipping. A Hindu may be a believer; a Hindu may not be a believer. Yet the whole community is known as Hindu. Everything is known as Hindu. But things are

* Not recorded.

changing as it has changed and as it has evolved in these thousand years.

Sir, it is mentioned in our scripture, in our holy book” “Satyam ekah viprah bahudha vadanti”. Truth is one and intelligent people express themselves in different ways. It is not confined to Hindu religion alone. It is so encompassing the whole human kind.

There are many religions in this world. There are many religions which evolved from this part of the world which also express themselves in different parts of the world. When China was bereft of any religion, it was craving for something through which they can hold upon the society, to rely upon. That time, Buddhism showed them the way; shown them the path. So also is the case regarding large parts of South East Asia. I was told by one of my history professors, what is Christianity? It is but a distant drum beat of a rebel child of Hinduism. I may believe in that usage; I may not believe in that usage. But people have started interpreting the religious belief in such a way that suits their own conduct that suits their own belief.

I would start by saying here, it was in late 1950s, perhaps in 1958 or 1959, maybe after 1959, a Bill was moved in Odisha Assembly to restrict conversion. A large number of conversions were taking place, specially in the tribal areas of Odisha. It was a concern not only in

Odisha but also in the undivided Madhya Pradesh, undivided Bihar, parts of Bengal and large parts of North-East. But the attempt was first made in 1959, a Bill was moved. That was all part of history. The Bill was passed by the Assembly but before it could get the assent from Rashtrapatiji, the House fell.

Subsequently, when another Government came, after 1967, it was Swatantra Party and Jana Congress Government, a coalition Government, which had ousted the then Congress Government, and had come to power. The first Bill, as far as I remember, was relating to stop religious conversion. That was passed by the House. But a Christian body went against that Act to the Odisha High Court and the Odisha High Court quashed that Act. Subsequently it was in the 1970s when the Congress Government was in power in Odisha, the Government moved the Supreme Court. I am mentioning all this so that we can understand, cutting across party lines, how the anti-conversion idea has moved in this country.

During that period also, a Bill was also moved in Madhya Pradesh Assembly, and both these Bills went to the Supreme Court. And very peculiarly, I would say, if I may use that word, the Supreme Court held up the Bill that was passed by Odisha Assembly, and quashed the Bill that was passed in Madhya Pradesh Assembly. What

did that Bill say? That Bill mentioned article 25 of the Constitution. Article 25 says, right to freedom of religion. While explaining it, free of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. In sub-section 1, subject to public order - I would come to this aspect again and again - morality and health and to the other provisions of this part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience, and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion. This explains everything, everything in the sense that I am free to practise, to profess, and also to propagate.

What did the Supreme Court say? Yes, one is free; my freedom is limited till it touches your nose. I am free to wield my hand, but it should not hit the other person who is before me. My freedom is restricted to that point; if I hit him, I break the law. But when I profess, when I propagate, when I practice, if somebody else is hit, if somebody else is offended, if somebody else feels bad about it, then, public order is disturbed. That is 'public order'? Who is in charge of 'public order'? It is the State machinery, the State Government.

The Constitution provides that it is the State Governments who have to maintain public order. And morality? Who is to maintain morality? It is the society which has to maintain morality. It is the society which is supposed to maintain the health of the society. In that

connection, when the Government of Odisha passed that enactment in 1976, that Act went up to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court upheld it and mentioned specifically that right to propagate can also be done, but it should be bereft of coercion or inducement.

We all know – and Swamiji also mentioned – what happened during the Middle Ages in this country. We are not in the Middle Ages; we are in the 21st Century and our forefathers have left behind a great legacy for us. What Swami Vivekanand said, what Mahatma Gandhi said and what Dayanand Saraswati had done during his lifetime, are not there something which we can learn and practise? There are many Godly and saintly persons even today in the society who propagate brotherhood and friendship among the people.

There was a time when the then Prime Minister of Britain said: ‘These people are asking for Independence. The moment we come out from India, they will fight amongst themselves, India would wither away and it would be destroyed to dust.’ But our forefathers have created a valuable document for us, the Constitution of India and it is the abiding light which will guide us from darkness.

Sir, the issue which we are discussing today, I think the Government of Uttar Pradesh is the right organisation or authority to determine whether public order has been destroyed or has not been

maintained, whether inducement has been done, whether coercion has been made etc. Of course, this House has the right to discuss all matters that are of greater importance for this country. It is not only confined to our country. The whole world also, who have interest in India, will be looking at it. In that respect, I would only say that proselytization has taken place. Here, I remember a person who had moved from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, went to Manoharpur in Keonjar District of Odisha – I am not mentioning his name – had created an incident there in which two children and one Australian were burnt alive. The person was not from Odisha, he was from Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. There were other incidents also that had occurred. There was a time in Odisha, I would say, when foreigners and those who wanted to preach a specific religion were not allowed to enter certain districts of Odisha, particularly the southern districts of Odisha. Now that provision is not there, that has been withdrawn. At that time, when a discussion was taking place in our Assembly – I can mention this out of my memory – unanimously an opinion was created that if we are against proselytization, against conversion and if somebody does not want this to happen especially in the tribal dominated areas where education was very less, where health service was very poor, where economic activities were not carried out during

that time, why not other organisations of Hindu community go into those areas and do the work?

16.00 hrs

At that time, Vanvasi Kalyan Samiti was created. A large number of people went into the tribal belt of Odisha and they have done work. I am also aware as to how Ramakrishna Mission went into Arunachal Pradesh. Today, when someone goes to Arunachal Pradesh, the effect is, when you do *namaskar* or *pranam*, they will say: “Jai Hind”. This is the result; this is the nationalism that Ramakrishna Ashram has instilled in Arunachal Pradesh. But that has not happened in other parts of North East. The Indianisation of our culture, of our philosophy has to be done. It should not be only done by the Government or the party that is in power in the Centre. It has to be done by all the political parties which want to serve this country.

But when conversion is taking place, I remember, some 10 or 15 years ago, a similar discussion was taking place in this House and one hon. Member posed a question, a very silly question but a very pertinent question: How many conversions have taken place in minority dominated areas from this religion to that religion and how many conversions have taken place in Christian dominated countries or Muslim dominated countries other than Pakistan? This is a question

which every Indian should ponder and also think ourselves. Why is it that only Indians have to bear the brunt? Propagation is something which everyone is entitled to. One is entitled to propagate one's religion but one is not entitled to induce a person.

I would conclude by saying, Odisha Act, even today, gives sole responsibility to the district magistrate to maintain public order. Every individual, every citizen is free in this country to propagate his own religion. If I want to convert myself to some other religion, I can do so. No law can restrict it. The Freedom of Religion Act provides that freedom to me. But if I am going to do that, it should not create any nuisance in my society. ... (*Interruptions*) But, with that, I have to seek permission from the district magistrate that on such and such date and at such and such place, I am going to convert myself. If there are a large number of people, I have to seek permission. If I am an individual, I have also to seek permission; and a hearing takes place. I do not know what is happening in other States but here is a provision to maintain tranquility in society, to maintain public order in society. The district authorities have to find out whether he has been induced, whether he is being coerced. It cuts across each religion. So, that is to be maintained. Therefore I would request in this House, taking advantage of participating in this debate or discussion, why not every

State Government adopts that Act of Odisha. It will restrict a large number of ill-will and ill feeling that is prevailing in this country and, at the same time, it will also pinpoint that the State administration, to a great extent, maintain public order.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on an issued raised, I need your ruling.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the issue?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: You know, Sir, while discussing, we cannot give wrong information about the Constitution, at least. The Constitution says: 'Sovereign, democratic, republic.' In 1976, through 42nd Amendment, 'sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic' was added.

My submission is that the previous Member Shri Saugata Roy said that 'secular' word was given to the Constitution by Rajendra Prasad, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Babasaheb Ambedkar. But that information is incorrect. Children are sitting in the gallery. ... (*Interruptions*) Parliament should not give wrong information to the people of this country. I need your ruling on this and correct the record. I have already given a copy of the Constitution of 1949 and the latest Constitution copy. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the information that you have given. We have taken this information.

Now, Shri Arvind Sawant.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Sir, today a very serious matter has come up for discussion in this House.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be very brief because we have to complete this discussion before 5 o'clock. I request all the Members to be very brief.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Sir, how is this possible, how can one talk on such a serious matter in two minutes? The House had to adjourn on this serious matter twice. I do not understand what is the basis of the formation of this country during the partition? If you get into it, you will know that the country was divided, and also on what principles and on what elements Pakistan was formed? If we had taken that element into consideration today, I don't think anyone would just get up today and talk like this. The sad thing is that when the Shah Bano case happened, the previous Government made amendments, did not give justice to the woman, these are the people who did not give justice to Shahbano. Today, they get up and say that we are forcibly converting. Hey brother, who is doing it? I have the statement, you have given less time, so I will tell you. I am proud that my party, with the name our Hindu Hriday Samrat Shiv Sena Chief Balasaheb Thackeray Sir talks about Hindutva and does not talk about

religion. When we talk about religion, he said that what is Hindutva, Hindutva is such a thread, the creation of this country took place over the linguistic regions. Each state has its own language. If we are from Tamil Nadu, we talk in Tamil, if we are from Andhra Pradesh, we talk in Telugu, if we are from Maharashtra, we talk in Marathi, if we are from Gujarat, we talk in Gujarati, but when will we talk about the country? He said that if you pull the thread of Hindutva and intertwine all these provinces in it like a flower, then you will know what Hindutva is. We stood up for that Hindutva, we stood for the unity of the country. Today, in this way, so many elderly people come to the House with such a subject. Why did they sit quietly when our Tribals, our Adivasis were being Christianised? Why do they remain silent when our women are converted to Islam? I have the statement of the Chief Minister of Kerala, I will read that statement for you. ... (*Interruptions*) One minute, I will take the name and read it, what's the big deal about it, as to what the Kerala Chief Minister said. He said that over 2,500 women were converted to Islam in Kerala since 2006. In June 25th Kerala Chief Minister ... * informed the State Legislature that 2,667 young women were converted to Islam in the State since 2006. Was it done out of love or was force used to do it?

* Not recorded.

Our national archer is Tara Sahdev, this girl was trapped and married by a Muslim boy named Raqibul Hasan and was converted to Islam. All these things were published in the newspapers and has reached the court. The Kerala High Court on November 6, 2009 gave a judgment in the Shahan Shah+1 vs Kerala State Government in which it is said that “three to four thousand girls have been married by Muslims in the name of Love Jihad in the state of Kerala.”... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry that there are so many elderly people in this House ... (*Interruptions*) I am talking about the court, I am not speaking of my own opinion. ... (*Interruptions*) Your chief Minister has made a statement.... (*Interruptions*) I have an authentic proof for whatever I am saying. ... (*Interruptions*) You can answer me. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can reply to him when your turn comes. Now, you please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a village named Abode in Tadwan Tehsil in Nashik district of our Maharashtra. There was a school running in that village. The school

principal of that school was a tribal, he converted to Christianity. Now, in that school, they imposed such a ban on the girls that they will not come wearing tilak. She was not allowed to come to the school with the bangles. If they came wearing it they were told they would be removed from school. What was it, wasn't it atrocity, wasn't it a forceful conversion? Hon. Member Dr. Gavit is sitting here. Ask them what is happening in Nandurbar district? Christians come to the entire tehsil and exploit the poor there. They feed them food and they give them money. They say, 'Look, your Government does nothing, the rest of your people do nothing, come, we are helping you.' Now they are given money. They are lured by giving them money and tempting them, and after a few days they are told that who will give it to you, we are the ones giving it to you, now become a Christian. All the people are being converted to Christianity. Where did these people go then? People who are raising their voices today, when our Hindus were converted to Christianity, our tribal women were tortured, Hindu girls were abducted and asked to convert to Islam, why do you remain silent? You never raised questions then. Why were you sitting silent? I condemn it.

Sir, our religion has never taught us that. ... (*Interruptions*) yes, we will talk about Hindutva. ... (*Interruptions*) I talk to you, come with

me now. Our religion did not teach us to hate any other religion, to condemn any other religion. We don't want to blame.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had our Balasaheb Thackeray. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding in one minute. This is very important. When Balasaheb Thackeray fell ill, he was being attended to by Dr. Jalil Parkar, who was a Muslim. We talk of Hindutva but Dr. Jalil Parkar is a Muslim, but we did not interrupt his service by saying this. He was assured. One day a friend was sitting in his house and he was unwell. I asked him what happened, what's the matter? So, he said that Sir, it is time for Namaz. This happened at Matoshree, at his residence. Saheb called the servant and said that he wants to offer Namaaz, go and read the prayers. This is our Hindutva, this is our great heart. We don't behave like this.

Therefore, I strongly condemn the people who have brought this proposal and I strongly condemn such agendas and criticise Hinduism to allure Muslim votes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Please be brief.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the biggest question is why there is a need to have this debate today. In the freedom struggle, Gandhiji had said that after independence there will be no discrimination in the name of religion or caste. ... (*Interruptions*) There will be no discrimination on the basis of rich or poor either. I want to say that no one is talking about who is responsible for this. No one has the courage to speak about who is creating divisions in the name of caste and religion and who is responsible for this. I stand before you to speak because I am a victim of this myself. I used to study in high school. We had a classmate of Scheduled Caste. I ate food at his house. For this, I was expelled from the society. I am the only Member in the House who must have been ostracised from the society. If any Member would have read my biography, he will be definitely aware. At that time Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had a great influence. At that time, the “Break the caste” movement was going on and mass feasts were being organized. Whether it is the food of Scheduled Caste people, or whether it is the food of elite caste people, or whether it is the food of

backward caste people, socialist people used to eat food by mixing all that food. Our whole village was a socialist, called the Lohiawadi. Those people saved us. We were ostracized continuously for a month. At that time my high school exam was held. I got very upset and had to leave the village. He was a very rich man, an Arya Samaji, he kept me in his house. After that I was able to give my exam. At that time, as a punishment, I was told to feed ten quintals of puri, only then would I be included in the society. I said I won't feed quintals of puri and I remained to be outcast. I myself am a victim of this incident. Who were those people who were boycotting me? This is a matter to think about. I would not like to tell the House because there will be uproar turmoil here. I was boycotted by the same people so-called, feudal people and people who call themselves upper caste. The month completed. After that we were welcomed back in the fold of the caste, till then we had the support of a lot of people. I am a victim, you can ask me what all I had to endure for one month.

Sir, today a very good subject is being debated. The people responsible for this are sitting here. If people here make up their minds, discrimination will end. Whether in the name of religion or in the name of caste, we all have taken an oath here in this House that we will not discriminate at any level. We and you, all of us, have come

to the House after taking this oath and we should follow the oath. If the country and the society want to be strengthened, then we will need to end this discrimination. One of our colleagues has rightly said that the country is facing many types of threats. There is a threat on the border, who will not fight there, who will not be with the country? If the whole country stays together, there will be no discrimination in the name of eating and drinking. That is why we socialists used to have community feasts. Sakshi Maharaj is sitting here. They would know that our socialist people used to eat after mixing food from all the people belonging to all the castes, whether they belonged to the upper caste, lower caste or backward caste. At that time we had started the movement "Break the Caste". Today, very good and important subject is being debated. I told you at the very beginning itself that I am a victim. I was boycotted from society and how I was reunited after boycotting is a long story. We want to tell you that whatever is happening here today regarding Agra, Agra is our neighbouring district. Now some villages are no more there. Some villages of Agra district used to fall in my area. We have also studied there, but this is about our own area. There is no impact of this in our area or in the villages around us at all. I don't know why it had an impact here in Delhi? Just by reading one newspaper? Can anyone tell me if this has

any impact on Agra district? It has no impact on Agra. It has no impact on our neighboring district Etawah, but what impact has it had on this House that such a serious debate is taking place on it? By debating, I think, then this would be done in a way that would actually lead to discrimination.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has no impact there. We are residents of that place. Our friends also live there. There is no impact at all. Why did it have an impact here and why did it start a debate here after reading a newspaper? Will we run this house on the basis of newspapers? This is so unnecessary debate that it will not yield any meaningful result. We are residents of that place, the incident happened there, Sakshi Maharaj ji in the Parliament is also from there, we all are from there. There is no discrimination of any kind. Then I do not understand what the debate is about.

Sir, we do doubt that this debate may not have any reverse effect? It may also have the opposite effect. If people listen, they will say that there is discrimination there. Where is the discrimination now? Now marriages are being done by breaking the caste barriers, marriage is being done by breaking the religion barriers. We also have two people here who broke the caste system and married. My son is married by

breaking the caste barrier. I also broke the caste barrier and got married. When my first wife (Akhilesh's mother) died, so when I got married for the second time, I broke the caste system barrier. I want to say that we are the victims. First, we were ostracized from this clan, from the community, from the society.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we would like to tell all the Hon. Members of this House that if we want to strengthen our society and our country, then we should not discriminate on the basis of caste, religion, wealth and poverty, black and white. Today discrimination is done in the name of black and white. I am saying that people of black complexion are such learned people from whom you have learnt. I have been associated with them. Discrimination is being done in the name of black, in the name of white, in the name of poverty, in the name of wealth, in the name of religion, in the name of caste. There is discrimination in the name of man and woman. No matter how good a woman is, she is still suppressed. We are all sitting here. Everyone is suppressing their wives to some extent. Are they free? Are we all sitting here giving freedom to our wives? You yourself roam around and doubt your wife. This is the real practical thing. All this has to be seen, it has to be done. We are responsible people. Here we are talking about the society as to how much degradation has taken place in it. It

is a fact. If the woman is late in returning home or reaching somewhere, or is late at night, then she is asked for an explanation and if the man returns till twelve-one o'clock, even then he is not asked for any explanation. If this isn't discrimination, then what is it? In eliminating all these discriminations in society, people like us, who are sitting here, have a great responsibility. This work should be done. If you live in a village, in a neighborhood, and your area is large, covering Five-Five, Six-Six, Seven-Seven, or Eight-eight legislative assemblies then based on this we should organize conferences somewhere. We have organised many such conferences. When Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia announced the Caste Abolition Movement, we organized many conferences. At that time, food was brought from everyone's house.

We used to have collective feast, at that time. The result was that the collective feast had a very significant impact on society. We don't want to engage in a lengthy debate. If we, along with all of us sitting here, take action, surely something will come of it. Today, there isn't just one type of discrimination in society, which is the subject of discussion today. There is discrimination in the name of black and white. Discrimination is happening based on whether the girl is dark-skinned, fair-skinned, tall or short. Discrimination is practiced in

marriages. If the girl is dark-skinned, the boy refuses to marry her. Discrimination based on intelligence is accepted, but you shouldn't discriminate based on colour. Many forms of discrimination exist, let's make a resolution here to address all these forms of discrimination and pass a proposal. A proposal should be adopted that we will not discriminate at any level, and such a proposal should be passed. We will tell our colleagues that we should come together and pass one such proposal. This will send a message to the nation that we have passed a proposal here, that on any level there won't be any discrimination.

That is my brief suggestion to you, thank you.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Thank you very much, Sir. You have given me an opportunity to speak on this controversial subject.

Sir, I have been in this House since 1991. I saw many events – what happened in Odisha; what happened in Madhya Pradesh; what happened in Gujarat. I do not want to give any citations just to convince this House.

The agenda of the Prime Minister is to see that various countries should come and invest for the development of this nation. It is not a development for one, it is not for one party, it is for the development of the nation.

My friend, Shri B.S. Yediyurappa is sitting here. We have given reservation – political reservation, economic reservation and job oriented reservation – to Muslim minorities. It is going on without disturbing the decision which I took in 1995. Till today there is no question on it. No political party in Karnataka tried to disturb the decision that I had taken in 1995.

Sir, I watched the proceedings today. I sincerely appeal to all the Members that the agenda of this Government is to bring the country

forward in all aspects. If the Prime Minister wants to see the country developed from all aspects, then the division of society, to polarize it by any means is not going to help achieve what the Prime Minister is dreaming of. This is my sincere appeal to all my hon. colleagues.

I have never spoken anything on this aspect. I was sitting only on the back benches though the seat in the front row was allotted to me by the respected Speaker. My colleagues and senior leaders know it that we have not allowed any such things to happen in this country during 11 months. Let them find even a small incident anywhere in the country during that period. I do not want to use this opportunity to reveal the decisions I had taken with the support of my colleagues.

The Congress was supporting at that time, and we have taken several decisions. Next, I had gone to participate in the Presidential Address, and by that time some new development had taken place, namely, relationship between Mr. Lalu and Mr. Mulayam family. He is sitting here, and I am congratulating and saying that you should move forward to bring all these secular forces together.

With these words, I congratulate all the Members. The Chair has permitted me to speak now out-of-turn, and I am grateful for that. I am also grateful to the colleagues and senior Members of this House

for allowing me this opportunity to speak after my senior leader spoke. Thank you very much, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request other Members also that in the same way take 2-3 minutes to speak because we have to conclude by 5 o'clock and the Minister has to reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri B. Vinod Kumar. You can take a maximum of 3 minutes to speak on this issue.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have already decided in the House that we will have a discussion on this issue for two hours, that is, from 3 o'clock to 5 o'clock. We have decided on this issue, and the decision has been taken. Therefore, within the time available, try to restrict your speech. Come to the point straightaway, and highlight whatever points that you want to make. Hence, I am requesting all of you to cooperate.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have decided two hours for this discussion, and the Minister, at that time, had said that he wants to reply and immediately take up some Bills also. Therefore, please

cooperate and try to highlight the points that you want to mention. Senior Members also spoke only for 2-3 minutes each. Hence, please try to cooperate.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. Please be very brief.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity.

On such a sensitive issue with so much tension on both sides of the House, I actually stand very comforted because on the central idea of forced or lured conversion or conversions under undue influence, I think that both sides of the House agree that they are undesirable for our country. Actually, I feel that we, as a country, are a little bit strengthened after this discussion.

I think that our discussion should only focus on what is it that we call lured conversion. Is it a ration card or is it a job in the Middle-East or is it an admission to a convent school or hostel? I think that this is the only thing under discussion. I am extremely happy that every Member, as also our Party, agrees that we do not believe in forced or lured conversions. Thank you, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, every Hon. Member can speak like this.

Now, the next speaker is Shri Mohammad Salim. Similarly, you also try to be very brief.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): No, it cannot be like that. You believe in diversity. All of us are not the same. Thank you.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Hon. Deputy Speaker, after extensive discussion this debate is taking place. This is a very serious matter.

The incident took place in Agra. In the entire world, Agra is known for its symbol of love Taj Mahal. Now, an atmosphere is being created there. ... (*Interruptions*) this isn't too big. ... (*Interruptions*) the question is associated with our Constitution and consitutional proprieties. A discussion is taking place here. Everyone is expressing their views, which gives us an idea of the direction we are heading in.

On one hand, the Hon. Prime Minister says that contentious issues should be set aside for ten years—as he announced from the Red Fort—for the sake of development, to move forward with everyone and for everyone. Despite this, a young Siddi boy is murdered in Pune, and one after another such incidents follow—give them any name—I won't go into details due to lack of time, now next destination is Agra. This forceful conversion, the lured conversion, whether it is due to greed or fear, is not permissible according to our

Constitution, democratic tradition, social outlook, and political perspective. But there is a new dilemma for our ruling party in this country. On one hand, we are talking about smart cities, and on the other hand, we are discussing burning slums. We have a double standard; this should not be the case. Hon. Mulayam ji said that there have been inter-caste marriages in our family, there is no discrimination. Just now, BJP MPs were saying 'Tale of Two Cities'. In every city, every area, there are two types of systems being followed in our country as well. You in your high palaces, there is no trouble up there, but the conversion rate is rising among the ragpickers, who have no social security, no ration card, no Aadhar card, no name in the voter list. If they speak Bengali and they come from villages in Bengal or Bihar and are in Mumbai, or any other city, they will be called Bangladeshis, and an atmosphere of fear will be created. After that, it will be said that in the name of religion, we are giving out tablets. If you eat it, it turns out to be antibiotic. This is completely wrong in our secular country, and in assembly opposition should cast a vote in conflict against it. I am not saying, that our friends who are sitting here, are doing all this. But there are different kinds of people in the country. It is the responsibility of the Government, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Home

Affairs, and the highest leadership of the ruling party to keep those...* in control. This is good for the country, good for the Government, and also fine for the agenda the Government is pursuing. I am not poking into religious matter. Much has been said about it already. Its social, economic, cultural, political, and Governmental aspects are there. I won't say much, but it's a strange matter.

What the BJP's member Maharaj ji just said, I don't call him, Swami Ji, because we Bengalis are very sensitive about this matter. Wearing a saffron turban doesn't make people Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekanand is called Swami Ji. ... (*Interruptions*) Listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*) Please be patient. ... (*Interruptions*) I am talking about my culture. ... (*Interruptions*) What is your objection to it. ... (*Interruptions*) Don't people become Swami Ji? I'm saying, I believe, you should too. ... (*Interruptions*) I don't call everyone Netaji, I call Subhash Chandra Bose Netaji. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, they don't understand, that's why they are speaking. If they behave like this here, what will they do outside? ... (*Interruptions*) I am saying that I come from Bengal. Will we take our stand on this or not?... (*Interruptions*) We don't call everyone Gandhi Ji, we only call Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhi Ji. ... (*Interruptions*) What's wrong with that? We don't call

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

everyone Swami Ji, we only use it for Vivekananda. This is our understanding. ... (*Interruptions*) That's the difference. Don't impose your understanding on others. ... (*Interruptions*) We have fought a lot and brought up this discussion. Discussion has to be heard. Keep your ears open to listen. ... (*Interruptions*) If the great Members of BJP say that this is a common occurrence. ... (*Interruptions*) The debate is going on. ... (*Interruptions*) Then the matter of Meenakshipuram came up (*Interruptions*) We did not bring it up." ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: You silence them.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First you address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: You silence them.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know how to handle. Please do not provoke.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: This thought, this mindset that what they say is right while others are wrong. ... (*Interruptions*) Please listen at least. ... (*Interruptions*) Don't know how to debate, yet they have reached the Parliament.

The Member has said that it is an ordinary matter. That is right. What happened in Agra is an ordinary matter. Then, he referred to Meenakshipuram. He said that Advaniji took the matter in this House. When the conversion happened in Meenakshipuram, Advani Ji could discuss it in Parliament, at that time it wasn't considered a common issue. When it happens in Agra, and we decide to talk about it then it has become a common issue? This is the double standard. That was wrong, and this is wrong too, say it like that. Another thing is, keep your ears open to listen. When God made you, He gave you one mouth and two ears, so use both. This country belongs to Guru Nanak, Kabir, Bulleh Shah, Baba Farid, Lalon, Sri Krishna Chaitanya, and Vivekananda. We are talking about historical figures in the context of religion.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is the problem. You address the Chair. You are getting diverted.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: There is saying by Kabir, "Naahi Hindu, Musalman bhi nahi, paanch tatvon ka putla, daivi khele

maahi.” (Neither Hindu, nor Muslim, this body is made up of five elements is played by the Divine.) This was said by Sant Kabir in this country five hundred years ago. Today, what are we doing? Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar also said that changing one’s religion alters the mode of worship, but it doesn’t change one’s social, economic, and cultural status. That’s why thousands of Dalits were converted into the Buddhist faith. If we do not change the social, political and Government situation, it is a challenge for us, we change the way of worship by luring and showing fear, in the name of, purification. It is a good thing. Purify! If you want to purify, do it in Delhi, do it in this country. There are adulterations in medicines, in milk, in sweets, in oil, in ghee. After all, perform a purification ritual. If you, in the name of religion, lure some poor Muslims by offering them incentives and ask them to convert, claiming that it will purify them, then also purify a little in adulteration. In this country, the Government should have the power to Purify the system, purify the *Tantra*. ... (*Interruptions*) Purify the system, this is not just the case of Agra, it will go from here to Bengal, it will go to Northeast India, so it is necessary to stop it. The Government schemes, Aadhaar card, ration card, these are all rights of the citizens. How can workers of Bajrang Dal say, “Come join us, hold our flag, and we will give you

these benefits”? This is the politicisation of governance. You should think that all of these are the rights of the citizens. Cleanliness won't happen just by using a broom. Purify your mind, purify your understanding, purify your thoughts, purify your perspective purify your vision. ... (*Interruptions*) After that, work on improving it, only then will there be purification.

[English]

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE): Thank you Deputy Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Our party is of the view that nothing should be done by coercion or by pressure or by force taking the advantage of somebody's backwardness or poverty.

First of all, we should all think that we are all Indians then, we belong to some caste or religion. Nobody should try to harm the integrity and unity of this country. That is our party's view.

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY): Sir, I would like to speak in Telugu.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to bring it your notice that there is no translator available at the moment. I will call you when the translator is available.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the previous session, there was a discussion on the increasing communalism in the country, in which everyone expressed their views. However, just a short while later, we find ourselves compelled to once again engage in a debate about the current state of affairs in the country, an attempt which seems to be aimed at disrupting the nation's harmony.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, our country's Constitution does not permit forced or coerced religious conversion by using pressure or inducement. It is our country's tradition to believe in religious harmony and coexistence. We consider ourselves followers of Gandhi Ji... (*Interruptions*) Today, we all consider ourselves followers of Gandhi Ji, and he taught us to embrace religious harmony because India is the only country in the world where people of all religions live together. Here, different languages are spoken, and there are different cultures and traditions. All of these together have made India. But our Ganga -Jamuna etiquettes, today, there is an attempt being made to harm it. Our fundamental framework is under attack today, and it's not happening without reason; it's part of a well-thought-out conspiracy. All the intellectual classes of the country, newspapers,

media, and others have criticized this. The whole world is watching us to see which direction we are heading in. We should not forget the struggle for our independence. We were able to win the struggle for independence only when we all came together, because the British Empire understood this fact very well. It always divided Hindus and Muslims. Divide and rule, they ruled here for centuries by applying the same formula. Are we going in the same direction again today? This is a very important question. Today people are watching this and feeling it. We want to conduct our politics at the cost of the unity and integrity of the country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should not forget that the nation is above personal interests, and we should keep in mind that the country should not suffer any harm at any cost. It seems that today, in our country, Taliban-like orders are being imposed. Today, in our country, orders are being issued. Which religion to adopt, which language to speak, which attire to wear, how girls should dress - today, such orders are being issued in our country. This is a matter of great concern for us. Under the Indian Constitution, pressuring or inducing someone into religious conversion by force or allurements is illegal. What happened in Agra was extensively covered in all newspapers, I don't want to delve into its details. Those who underwent religious

conversion stated after the incident that they were enticed with promises of BPL cards and ration cards. They even said that they have felt cheated.

We celebrated Human Rights Day worldwide just a day ago, and today, human rights are being violated in our country. This calls for concern. Dividing society on religious grounds and attempting to do so is absolutely wrong. Responsible individuals from the BJP are openly using objectionable language, and no action is being taken against such people. It's not clear where the Hon. Prime Minister is falling weak? People are not paying attention his speech from the Red Fort on August 15 either. I want to repeat what Venkaiah Naidu said in the Rajya Sabha that there should be no forced conversion, nor should any inducement be given. The Government, while addressing the issue of religious conversion, stated that it is not appropriate to raise questions against and put the Union Government on the spot for it. In this entire matter, the way that the statements were made by the RSS spokesperson, the Bajrang Dal, and the Vishva Hindu Parishad, if you say so, I would like to know from the Government, and this House would also like to know, whether they have any affiliation with the BJP or not?

I just want to say that we are going through difficult times. We should not take these things lightly. This is a fire that will burn us all to ashes. We should not forget that it takes only one matchstick to start a fire, but it takes years to extinguish it. That is not the way it should be. We have paid the price for this before, when the country was partitioned in 1947. We must not allow this to happen again. We must strive to maintain the atmosphere of ‘Sarva Dharma Sambhav’ in the country, and preserve the Ganga -Yamuna culture at all costs. At the end, I would like to recite an Urdu couplet.

“wo daur bhi dekha hai tareekh ki nazaron ne,

Lamhon ne khata ki thi, sadiyon ne saza paaye.

(History has witnessed such times when mistakes were made in moments, but centuries paid the price.)

We must not reach a situation where we become so blinded by political interest that we disregard the future of the country. That will not be fair.

With these words, I would like to conclude by urging the Government to change its attitude. All such organisations that are

attempting to disrupt the harmony in the country should be dealt with strictness. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Venugopal, I have received your request. The name of the Chief Minister will be removed from the record.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, it should be expunged.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The name of the Chief Minister will be removed. The whole text cannot be removed.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, he has misquoted the Chief Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can reply when your turn comes.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, he has misquoted the Chief Minister and it should be expunged.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It has to be verified. I will verify it. The name of the Chief Minister will not go on record and with regard to the other things I will verify it.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if there is a reference to a Chief Minister, who is not here, that name should not go on record.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The name has been removed from the record. They are objecting to some text also which I will verify.

Shri Murli Mohan.

***SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDY):** There are Senior Members in this House who have experience of 20 to 30 years. This is a sacred place and I feel that we should not waste time on discussing such a small and sensitive issue. I would like to quote one example here. My name is Murli Mohan. My son addresses as 'Babu'. My younger brother addresses me as 'Annayya', my elder sister addresses me as 'Thammudu'. My brother-in-law addresses me as 'Baavagaru' and my nephew addresses me as 'Maavayya'. My wife addresses me as 'Emandi' and my grand daughter addresses me as 'Thaathayya'. Let them address me by any name, I am only one. Similarly, if we say Allah, Jesus, Rama or Gautama Buddha, God is only one. He does not have any religion, caste, groups or discrimination. We should remember this and work towards progress of our holy country. I heartily feel that these are small issues on which we should not fight.

* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN [MADHEPURA]: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, if we were to speak in the true sense, why is there a debate when forced conversions occur in the country? Who is responsible for that? These matters that came up and were raised, who is responsible for bringing caste, religion, and community into this country, apart from politicians? This is a huge topic, but I won't delve into it. I would like to say to my BJP friends that on one hand, Pakistan's daughter Malala Yousafzai and our own Kailash Satyarthi, who received the Nobel Prize, promote peace and deliver a message of peace while challenging extremism, despite living in countries like Pakistan. Does no daughter or youth of Hindustan have the strength to challenge extremism here? Isn't this a very big question? The saint has said "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah". What does our spirituality say? "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and the concept of a global society are central to our beliefs.

Saṁ gacchadhvaṁ saṁ vadadhvaṁ

saṁ vo manāṁsi jānatām

devā bhāgyaṁ yathā pūrve

sañjānānam upāsate

Samani vyakurti samana hridayani vah.

Samanam astu vo mano yatha vah susahasati.'

Our spirituality gives us the strength to walk together, live together, and stay together. Our spirituality doesn't just say this, it says-

Akhand-Mandalakaram Vyapatam Yen Characharam,

Tatpadam darshitam yen tasmai shri guruve namah,

Ajnana-Timirandhasya Gyananjana-Shalakaya,

Chakshurunmeelitam yen tasmai Shri Guruve Namah.

The Aryan civilization that you have spoken of, I want to ask those Hindus whether two hundred years ago, Muslims or Christians of this country banned the spitting of poor Dalits living in Rajasthan and Mumbai, they were not Muslims, but wealthy Hindu landlords of Hindustan. When the dalits were required to have brooms with them even for a walk, when the poor and Dalits did not have the freedom to walk in Hindustan, and they did not have the freedom to ride horses.

17.00 hrs

Even today, in places like Rajasthan, Odisha, and many other places, the poor and Dalits do not have the freedom to enter temples. ... (*Interruptions*) wherein in India, P. L. Punia, Chairman, is not allowed to enter temples, where priests step aside by putting a lock, where in front of kings, maharajas, and landlords, the permission to sit on a

horse and wear a turban in their wedding is not granted, talking about Hindutva in such a country doesn't make any sense. ... (*Interruptions*) who become custodians of Hinduism, two thousand Dalits in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have only recently adopted Buddhism due to oppression from pretense and rituals, tired of being oppressed by our own people. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to say, was the acceptance of Buddhism by nine lakh Dalits in one day were due to the harassment of Christians and Muslims? Due to the oppression, pomp, and ritualism of these materialistic and powerful kings and princes, they accepted Buddhism. ... (*Interruptions*) I respect that you have come to run the country, but why is there a difference between your words and actions? ... (*Interruptions*)

You can see from the beginning - love jihad, love kiss, what all happened. ... (*Interruptions*) You say that in this country, there have been 650 to 700 riots. You honour the rioters and make them Ministers, you make a Minister out of someone who chants slogans to drive out minorities to Pakistan, you honour them. You say nothing has happened? Yesterday three TV channels - India TV, Aaj Tak, and IBN -have showed. Is there Hindu greater than Krishna, or a person greater than Yadav who can die for Hindu culture? I say it with pride, what has been said, that throne is mine, the way you went, we will

make rivers of blood flow, if you don't come back. We will kill them one by one, you have to come back to Hindustan. This has been said on T.V. Then I took notes. There was no point of me giving notice. I did not see who said what? Hon. Venkaiah Naidu ji. I respect you, I don't want to insult any party, but how will the country survive. ... *(Interruptions)* One minute, I will finish my speech.

Nehru Ji and Gandhi Ji had said that until the country is stained with bloodshed in the name of caste and religion, until the dignity of the poor is not respected, until Naxalism is fueled by hunger, the progress of Hindustan cannot be possible. Till you stain the country with bloodshed in the name of caste and religion, the dignity of Hindustan cannot be achieved.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL [MEERUT]: Hon. Deputy Speaker, the incident on the pretext of which this discussion is taking place in this House is not really that big. If the Constitution grants freedom to follow the ritual of worship, to propagate in that respect and if voluntarily a person performs another ritual or goes to another religion, then this phenomenon should be seen as natural, there was no need to create such a huge uproar with regard to it. Nevertheless, the discussion that has taken place here due to this incident is very

important. I believe that in a discussion lasting one or two hours, it may not emerge what the real problem of this country is. Great words are being spoken here, they should be spoken, but the harsh reality is that while saying these things, the country got divided. While saying and hearing these things, people of a particular religion in Kashmir were completely forced to leave their homes. These are two facts that we should keep in mind and consider this problem with a bit more seriousness. Many of our Hon. Members have just expressed their views. I want to say one thing that history is out there. You cannot ignore history. You cannot disregard history; you cannot blame history. We cannot solve the problem without understanding the history. ... (*Interruptions*) please listen. When the Islamic invasions took place on the western borders, please forgive me, but for a serious debate, there should be some patience to listen properly. ... (*Interruptions*) The invasions that took place were, in many ways, the first experience for Hindustan. Whoever came to Hindustan, people who were humiliated by the world came here, and we embraced them wholeheartedly. If I mention the Parsi community, I salute their contributions, and the entire nation salutes them. Today, efforts are being made by the Union Government to ensure that their numbers increase and do not decrease. We embraced them wholeheartedly. It

was quite new for us when people of this kind came and started demolishing religious places based on their beliefs and practices. Force was used to convert people's religions. For us, this was completely new, and I don't want to delve into any one incident. Ever since the first invasion in the eighth century, keep looking at all the incidents thereafter; history doesn't leave us. You go to Banaras, you go to Kashi, I go to Kashi, and it pains me when I see that at some point, a fanatical ruler demolished the temple of Baba Vishwanath and built a mosque there. Why was it made? What was the need for it? I am worried.

Here you go near Qutub Minar, there also you would find a historical inscription saying that the mosque which was built by demolishing 24 Jain temples, and it is written on it: "Quwwatul-Islam". What was the need for this? I humbly want to say that history of this kind will not leave you behind. This history is in folklore, in folk tales, and in folk music. This history is everywhere. We have neglected this history. Due to not addressing it properly, the consequence was that the country got divided on one side, and incidents like Kashmir happened on the other side. We need to address this issue properly. As long as we do not address this issue, as long as

we do not recognize it and find a solution, the problem will remain unresolved.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, where you are sitting, it is written in front: Dharmachakra Pravartanaya, which religious wheel is this? What religion is this? This religion is for the welfare of all beings. Many of my friends have mentioned it. This is the religion: Motherland is divinity, and I am her son. This is the religion: The essence of the whole world is one. This religion is to wish happiness for all, and based on this belief, the contemplation promote in this country leads to secularism, regardless of religion. The entire assembly should ponder seriously on this matter: Do you wish to end this topic? Do you want to end this ideology? It is a matter of pride for us, but do we want to get entangled in such controversies due to the politics of small vote banks, and would we start disrespecting the fundamental spirit of this country? ... (*Interruptions*) The essence of this is that my opinion may be good, and your opinion may also be right. This is its fundamental essence. We have always said this. Just now my friend was referring to Malala. Who was Malala fighting against? Malala had fought against the Taliban. I want to ask, will we follow the Taliban or follow Malala? ... (*Interruptions*) Will we follow those people within our country who try to bring everyone together or

will we follow those who talk about communalism? ... (*Interruptions*) Our Hon. Prime Minister has never, at any time, spoken to less than 125 crore people. I want to say that who was that Prime Minister after all, what was his dedication, what was his wisdom, that he said that the first right on the country's resources belongs to Muslims. What happens in Uttar Pradesh, this happens in Uttar Pradesh. I respect Hon. Mulayam Singh a lot, he is down to earth, tirelessly hardworking leader, but today his language had changed. Today morning when he demanded a discussion, his language was different. But today, his language seemed to have changed. I appreciate his changed language. But what is happening in Uttar Pradesh is still the same, dividing people based on religion, discriminating on the basis of worship method.

What I have to say is that when the election campaign was going on, media people used to ask Narendra Bhai, who is our Prime Minister today, what will happen to everyone's security, he said that there will be everyone's security. What would happen to the security of the minorities, he said that if there's even one person in the country who is unhappy, distressed, or under attack, we will ensure their security. That's the spirit, that's how it should be. The divisions we have created between Hindus - Muslims, that is causing problems.

Sir, your insistence is being acknowledged; however, I intended to say more, but I will like to conclude my talk with a couplet. This is a line from a great ghazal by Gulam Ali Sahab: “Suraj mein lage dhabba, kudrat ke karishmein hain, but humko kahein kaafir, allah ki marzi hai”. Grant these people, these pupils, wisdom, that is my only prayer.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Have you not got the octroi abolished, why are you saying Muslims, Muslims saying, you are actually getting the work done for the businessmen.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Deputy Speaker, the beauty of this country lies in its unity in diversity. We are one nation, with many religions and languages, yet bound by common values and principles. The messages preached by the sages, the rishi- munis, the fakirs and the prophets in this country, our forefathers followed them and took this country forward. I want to say that if we want to take this country forward, if we want to develop this country, if we want to maintain harmony in this country, then slogans have been echoed here by many friends, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, sit together as brothers. We need to implement it practically, and I agree with Swamiji's words, whether Hon. Salim ji agrees or not, but I consider him as Swamiji. What Swamiji said is

that we should learn from his sacrifice. The history of this country includes instances where, with great courage, any forced religious conversion was stopped, sacrifices were made, and lives were laid to prevent it. This includes the sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.

The history of this country also includes instances where those who intended to do something forcefully were challenged. There were mentions of the walls of Sirhind, discussions about the fields of Chamkaur where Guru Govind Singh Ji's sons were martyred. The province was Sirhind, the head of enemy who did forceful conversions was brought down by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, in Chaparcheri and after bringing down he tied it to pair of bulls, dragged 20 kilometers and brought it to the walls of Fatehgarh. We have to learn from our history. When we talk about such religious conversions, I want to express in the House that I am saddened by it, and I also feel proud that Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, who saved the beauty of this country by protecting different religions, sacrificed for this nation. His sacrifice day is not celebrated, there is no holiday on that day. Next to House, on the other side of the road, his death anniversary took place, while the House proceedings continued here. Today such things are happening in the country, if the sacrifice of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib was celebrated wholeheartedly in the country and lectures were held

in schools and colleges, what was the message of Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib when his head was being taken down in Chandni Chowk? He had said – “Bhay kahu ko det nahi , na bhay maant aan”. Live and let live. If we discuss such matters in this country, it will progress. I take great pride in the fact that Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib, who came from Anandpur Sahib, where a Constituency has been created, I have been elected from that seat. I want to say one thing that many things have been cited from the time of Vajpayee ji, what my friend Jyotiraditya Scindia has said is a healthy thing, everyone praises it, even the opponents do, Vajpayee Saheb has praised what he said about making it a Rajdharma. But I want to say that it would have been good if they had also mentioned what their leader had said. This is also a part of history that Bhai Taro Singh was punished by the Mughals and they ordered to cut his hair. Bhai Taru Singh said, do not cut my hair; remove my head instead. In year 1983, when his hair was being cut and his beard was being trimmed, leaders were saying that when a big tree falls, the earth shakes. Today, when they initiated this discussion, I was surprised when they were saying that conversion should not be forced. It’s a good thing that it shouldn’t happen; everyone has said that it shouldn't happen.

I want to say in this full House that the most forced religious conversions were carried out by the Government of that time during the days of the Emergency. When the preamble of our country's constitution was changed, it happened then. Because of that, all this chaos is erupting. We have to think about that. They mentioned one more thing here. I believe they will retract their statement, and they should. They hastily said in the House that the Constitution is the only scripture. Look, I am also a Member of Parliament, and everyone here is a Member of Parliament. We consider our Constitution sacred when it comes to the country's laws and beliefs. But understand one thing, there is no one here who does not follow their own religion or does not respect their religious scriptures. For me, our Constitution is also supreme, but for me, Shri Guru Granth Sahib is supreme. For some, the Gita is supreme, for others, the Quran Sharif is supreme, and for others, the Bible is supreme. They said that the Constitution alone is the scripture and there is no other scripture. This word should be removed. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Sir, I didn't say that. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: I have heard, and if you didn't say it, then good. In the end, I want to say that we have to learn

from our history to take this country forward. We must follow the teachings of our sages, gurus, and saints. What our gurus have said is that - "Manas ki jaat, sabbe ek hi pehchaan ho")

This needs to be followed. Thank you all very much.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you.

This country is having a glorious tradition of communal harmony, which is really founded by Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi once said: “Even if I am killed, I will not give up repeating Ram and Rahim, which means to me the same God. With these names on my lips, I will die cheerfully.” Those were the words of Mahatma Gandhi. We are proud enough to have born in the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi.

As far as this Government is concerned, my only complaint is this. This Government is not discouraging communal hatred. On the other hand, they are encouraging communal hatred for achieving their political ends. Every day they are creating controversies and are adding fuel to the fire. Two or three days back, a junior Minister made such a statement. Yesterday it was the turn of a senior Minister, who made a statement on Bhagwat Gita. Today it is conversion row. Another row is coming, which is linked to Taj Mahal. The BJP leaders of U.P have made a statement that Taj Mahal was built in the place of a temple. Your cultural nationalism debate is also going on. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when we had come to an agreement on the timing, that has to be adhered to. ... (*Interruptions*) We had come to an agreement on the timing and it has to be adhered to. Unfortunately, many of the people are discussing about other issues. What is the topic today what are we discussing? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basheer, you come to the topic about conversion. Do not take long time because already we were expected to complete the speeches at 5 of the clock. We are taking another 20 minutes. At least, at 5.30 p.m., the hon. Minister should be able to reply. So, please come to the topic about conversion.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER: Yes, Sir, please allow me just a minute because I have just started speaking.

There is a new controversy about the Taj Mahal; introducing Sanskrit in place of German in the CBSC Schools, Love Jihad, was the trump card for the UPA in the Uttar Pradesh elections. So, these kinds of controversies are cropping up now. We have to put an end to these controversies.

Sir, my friends were saying about conversion to Islam and something like that. I would like to tell you that as far as the Islamic ideology is concerned, compulsion for conversion or giving some

offer for conversion is anti-Islam. Islam does not permit this kind of conversion. I would abundantly like to make it very clear. We will have to think loudly. People may have their own faith and ideology. As far as India is concerned, it is a multi-religious, multi-cultural nation. As far as we are concerned, we are duty-bound to keep it up. Conversion may take place from one religion to another religion but if you make a programme of action for conversion that is a kind of criminal offence. That is what is happening in the country now. I wish to say that we, the people of India, who are having a commitment to this value, should work together to put an end to this kind of an agenda.

With these words, I hope that wisdom will prevail upon everybody and maintain communal harmony in this country. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR [NALANDA]: Sir, you have given me the chance to speak, for that I am thankful to you. We are citizens of the largest democracy in the world. This country has a constitutional system. Our Constitution is inclusive of all castes and religions, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or Christian. We, all people, are seated today in the largest panchayat of this democracy. It becomes our responsibility that the incident that occurred in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, where approximately 200 people from 57 families were coerced into converting their religion, surely, it becomes the responsibility of all of us to ensure that if such incidents have occurred due to greed and temptation, promising to make their BPL cards, ration cards, it is unfortunate. I would request the Hon. Minister to gather information about this matter and undertake the task of informing both the House and the nation.

Sir, it's unfortunate that people are clashing with each other in the name of caste and religion. This is regrettable. This assembly is for discussion, but no message should go out from this assembly suggesting that our country is falling apart. We urge everyone, whether they are from here or there, to have faith in the unity of this country. This country belongs to us. This is the country of all people.

it becomes the responsibility of all of us to ensure that this country remains intact.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN [SANGRUR]: Sir, our country is like a garland. It consists beads of different colors. It should have actually been that politics should learn from religion, but what is actually happening is that politics has started teaching religion. I won't speak against any party, and I won't indulge in accusations and counter-accusations. However, I would say that what do the youth of our country want today? Millions of youths are unemployed. They want higher education and after education they want employment here. The public is yearning for electricity and water, people are dying without proper medical treatment, women are facing atrocities, and here we political figures are discussing matters of religion. On one hand, our rockets are heading towards Mars, and on the other hand, we are discussing issues like providing ration cards, asking people to convert to a certain religion, and claiming that they are returning to their homes. First, let's build homes for the poor. Where will you make them return to? They don't even have a home, they don't have bread, rice to eat, they are yearning for everything.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that our Gurus, our patriots sacrificed for humanity, not for any personal gain or religion. Our Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji talks about the well - being of everyone in every village, every day.

“Nanak naam chadhdi kalan, tere bhade sarbat da bhala”

It is about good of the whole world. We say that people never remember those who open accounts in banks, but they never forget those who open accounts in their hearts. Our martyrs, our Gurus have opened accounts in the hearts. People bring a calendar with a photo of Lord Ram every Diwali, a calendar with a photo of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and a calendar with a photo of Hanuman Ji. They don't bring it because there is a law that mandates bringing these calendars. We bring the calendars with photos of our Gurus, patriots, and martyrs on the New Year because they have opened accounts in our hearts. At the end I will say-

“Allah walon, Ram walon, apne mazhab ko siyasat se bacha lo,
Ek hi rehne do shaheedon ka tiranga jhanda, har roz naye jhande
mein dande phansane walon”

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI [HYDERABAD]: Sir, I thank you. Our Vajeerey Parliyamani will provide the answer to this debate. I want to inquire, through them, whether it is not true that our Hon. Prime Minister said, when asked about his religion, India First. When the Hon. Prime Minister was asked which book he follows, he said,

The Mirror of Hindustan, the Constitution. Now I want to ask our Government's treasury benches whether it is wrong to say that those who are talking about religious conversion today will not consider the Muslims of India, the Christians of India as first-class citizens until we change our religion? Is this right or wrong?

Those who are talking about reconversion today, I want to respectfully ask the Government that there are two Muslim Ministers in your cabinet. If someone goes to them and says, brother! You are a Muslim, you both leave your religion and come back home, how would you feel?

The third thing I would like to ask the Government is that our Ministers are saying, the debate that happened here, that what is Article 341 in India's Constitution? Isn't it above religion? Why don't you amend it? Our Ministers in Parliament respond that laws should be made. I would like to tell Hon. Venkaiah Naidu ji that, with all due respect, you are capable; you are very knowledgeable. I would request you to see the debates of the Constituent Assembly of India, especially what Shri T.T. Krishnamachari and Shri K.M. Munshi had said when the debate on Article 25 was going on, that you cannot make such a law that no one can change his religion. One more important thing is, are all these organisations, which are engaging in such activities, not

related to the BJP? Their umbilical cord is connected to the BJP. They should deny that there is any connection and take action against them. The Hon. Prime Minister says one thing, the Hon. Foreign Minister says another. You want to bring FDI into India. Will FDI come with such things happening? Will such talks of terrorism and inciting riots lead to growth in India, will India become stronger? It depends on the Government and what the Government wants. The Government says they will bring in a law. I want to ask Hon. Venkaiah ji, what amendments will he make to the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956? What amendments will be made to Sections 7, 8, 9, and 11 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956? What will be repealed from Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955? Will you remove Section 26 of the Hindu Succession Act? It can't be like this.

In the end, I'm sorry to say that one of the prominent figures of our Uttar Pradesh claims in his speech that there is nothing in Uttar Pradesh, nothing is happening in Uttar Pradesh. What is not happening? This is happening in Uttar Pradesh. If you and the BJP weren't aligned, would you not take action against the RSS and Bajrang Dal there? No action was taken even after two days. 200 people are trying. ... (*Interruptions*) So much chaos is happening in Aligarh. And you should stop beating around the bush. That's why we

demand from the Government that if your religion is India First, your holy book is the Constitution, then stop your people. The people from these Bajrang Dal and RSS are your people. We are not afraid, we will follow our religion. As proud as I am to be Indian, I am equally proud to be a Muslim. Neither Christians will fear, nor Muslims will fear, no matter how hard you try, we are not the ones who will change their religion. If we want to save the country, if we want to strengthen the country, then stop your ...^{*}, your...^{*} stop it, stop your own supporters, only then will this country be saved.

^{*} Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to take part in this discussion. I would like to highlight two or three things regarding conversion. We are all eagerly hearing the debate during the last 2 ½ hours.

17.31 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

My main point is, the BJP and the NDA are playing a dual role in Indian politics. The hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi is traveling throughout the world and speaking – so far he has addressed six Parliaments in the world – about our country, our Constitution, fraternity and friendship. He is speaking about ‘Make in India’, he is speaking about digital India etc. On the one hand the hon. Prime Minister is making all these diplomatic observations and statements throughout the globe and on the other hand, what the BJP, NDA and those parties being supported by the *Sangh Parivar* are propagating in the country, that is the contradiction which is taking place in this country.

I would like to highlight one thing here. If you examine the controversial statements made so far within the six months tenure of

this Government in power, we can clearly see the divisive politics is the strategy which is being played out by the BJP Government at the Centre. Not only the junior Ministers and the *Bajrang Dal* leaders, even if we go through the statements of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, she is also competing with other Ministers so that they are all in the same line so as to have saffronisation of Indian politics which is being played out now.

You may be aware that the World Hindu Summit took place in Delhi very recently. At the inaugural speech one of the eminent leaders of the *Sangh Parivar* stated that after so many centuries, after 600 or 700 years, a Hindu rule has come to this country? What is the message which is being given to the world? When we talk about investment in the country, technological upgradation in the country, technology unifies the whole world and the people irrespective of religion or caste. So, in such a situation, the divisive politics and the communal politics will definitely affect the tenets and the basic structure of the Constitution of India.

Madam, conversion, in any form – whether it is conversion or re-conversion – is nothing but exploitation of the social backwardness of the people and it is really a crime. Definitely it has to be stopped. If it

is done with undue influence, coercion and force, definitely it is a crime. Therefore, stringent action has to be taken.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

***SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR):** At this juncture, when we are seriously discussing, the issue of religious conversion; I would request this august House to remember Shri Narayana Guru, who said, what even be one's religion; the important thing is to become a better human being. Last year, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was then the Chief Minister of Gujarat, visited Kerala. He also visited Varkkala, which is the ashram of Shri Narayana Guru.

This year, many Congress leaders too visited Varkkala. Day before yesterday, when Rahul Gandhi came to Thiruvananthapuram, he also quoted Shri Narayana Guru's words.

Shri Narayana Guru said, "One caste, one religion, one god, for man". That is his message. He constructed a temple, and I don't want to go to it's history now. But on the walls of the temple, he wrote,

“With no caste discrimination,

Nor religious hatred;

This is an ideal place

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

Where all live in harmony!!

By quoting Shri Narayana Guru, I want to make a request to all the Members present in the House and all citizens of India, who belongs to various religious faiths, “The problem is not which religion. or God, you believe in. The problem is to think that the existence of other religions is going to hamper the growth of your own faith; and to engage in hate propaganda. As a Member of the communist party, I oppose, all attempts to mix religion with politics with the aim of grabbing power.

We, see religion and faith as a support system, on which those who are struggling in life can unload their burden.

To those who are bowed down by the burden of life, and cannot walk erect; religion becomes a crutch to lean on.

That religion and faith in God, should not be mixed with politics.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: Attempts to use religion for a hidden agenda, and play politics, is leading to such incidents. I express my strong protest against all such attempts and would like to add that religious conversion will never lead to the growth of any religion. With these words I conclude.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Madam Speaker, today we are discussing a very serious matter. In my opinion, there are many new Hon. Members in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, but in front of us, on the front bench, there are many senior Members who have been here for twenty, thirty, forty years. Hon. Speaker is also quite senior in this Lok Sabha and politics.

Hon. Speaker, yesterday I was watching the speeches of Malala and Kailash Satyarthi ji on TV when they were receiving the Nobel Prize. On the other hand, there was news that we were discussing religious conversions. Some strange statements, from people who could be called as custodians or high priests of a religion, were saying it. I was feeling a great sense of shame about how far our politics and our political boundaries have reached. What kind of virtues are we talking about while sitting in this House? During the elections, many grand promises were made, many virtues were spoken of, there were talks about the poor, electricity, the oppressed, and roads. But today, the way the ruling party has taken a u-turn, please don't say that I am doing politics. Certainly, whether it's the ruling party or the opposition, we are not giving a very good message to the future political leaders. Will we do the same tomorrow, that when we are not

in the ruling party, we will push such issues forward, but when we are in the ruling party, our election speeches will be different, and once in power, our actions will be different? It is a strange irony that I have seen two faces of power. One face that, when abroad, talks about making small people big, showing them dreams. While the second face, at the grassroots level where workers talk about the poor, your second face sometimes involves converting people, sometimes talking about love jihad, sometimes interfering in someone's religion.

Now, Swami ji was talking about Guru Tegh Bahadur ji. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was their son. Guru Gobind Singh Ji had four sons, two of whom were martyred in battle, and two were buried inside the wall, do you all know why they were buried? For defending the Hindu nation, which our Akali Dal Members did not mention. ... *(Interruptions)* You had mentioned Aurangzeb, Aurangzeb was not a Muslim, Aurangzeb was unjust. You are much senior to me, but perhaps I have more understanding than you. ... *(Interruptions)* Aurangzeb was unjust. Guru Gobind Singh Ji was asked if he was against Muslims? He said no. So, whoever forcefully tries to convert someone's religion, I am fighting against that injustice.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji denounced the sacred thread because there is a lot of propaganda (hypocrisy) in Hinduism today. On the other hand,

the same sacred thread was upheld and protected by Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and their sons. How are you Hindu? ... (*Interruptions*) You forgot about those people. If they hadn't been there, today the whole of India would have been Muslim. ... (*Interruptions*) I am not against Muslims or Hindus, but how are you ungrateful, ... (*Interruptions*) forgetting that person, what protection will they provide to this Indian nation, who forget those who protect them? ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I will conclude my point by saying one thing. Guru Gobind Singh Ji had said that those who commit injustice, their roots will be uprooted from Hindustan, and in the form of Banda Bahadur, within three years, the Mughals were destroyed here and they left Hindustan. The way you are fostering politics, I believe that in India, 65 percent are young people, and they will not be misled by politics based on religion like this. We caution you that if your politics and your bias remain the same, then very soon your roots will be uprooted. As a citizen of India, I would like to say this to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, you have already spoken.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I will conclude my point by reading this. "Mulla kaho, niyao sada, mere man ka bhram n jaye, sab mein ek khuda kahat ho, to kyon murgi maarat". Whether it was God,

a Mullah, Allah, Khuda, or Ram who said it, it was said that if you kill even a chicken, there is God in it. You are talking about killing people.

... (*Interruptions*) Those who are talking about Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, he gave his head but not his body, he gave his head but did not give his religion to those who forcefully tried to change the religion of Hindustan. If you do not belong to Ram, then how will you become of Rahim, not of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, then you are that figure who is neither of Ram nor of Rahim, but only of politics. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do not talk to each other.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

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

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Speaker, today at two o'clock, some people proposed to discuss the issue of religious conversion and religious change in the country, expressing their protest in the Assembly regarding the same. You allowed them to do so. Today, due to the absence of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, I have to respond to this.

* Not recorded.

Friends, I am grateful to all the dignitaries. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Shri Sumedhanand Sarswati, Shri P. Kumar, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Kunda Vishweshwar Reddy, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Shri Mohammad Salim, Shri Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy, Shri Tariq Anwar, Shri M. Murli Mohan, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra, Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, Shri N.K. Premachandran, Shri C.N. Jayadevan, Shri Rajendra Agrawal, and Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan have participated in this discussion. We don't know when and where our friend Pappu ji makes appearances, sometimes here, sometimes there. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Madam, I must tell you that this is an important issue. This is an issue which is agitating the entire country. Some people are seeing it from the narrow angle. Personally, right from my student days I am looking at it from a different angle.

This conversion or re-conversion is a national challenge. This is a very serious issue. It cannot be used for the sake of politics and it also cannot be used just to criticise this Government or that Government, accuse this Government or that Government. It is not

happening today. It has not happened yesterday. It is not happening only in Shri Mulayam ji's State or in some other State. In different parts of the country at different times, there were certain incidents. So, the entire country has to seriously introspect, look into this issue and come out with some sort of meaningful solutions.

Madam, when a notice for this debate was given, I thought it was a good opportunity where many people would introspect and give valuable, meaningful and constructive suggestions. I must tell you, hon. Speaker, that I am partly disappointed but, at the same time, elated by hearing the speeches of Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, even Shri Devegowda, ji, Shri Mulayam Singh ji, and Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

[Translation]

I am not naming everyone. Some people have provided creative suggestions based on their experiences, and tried to analyse it. Shri Pappu Yadav, too, departing from his usual demeanour, has highlighted some weaknesses in the Hindu society to a certain extent. About that, the Hindu society is not of one party, everyone should know that too. Everyone in society should discuss about that. They are saying that they don't allow wearing shoes, don't allow going to the temple, so some people have changed their religion, they are

saying so. Even after changing their religion, their situation remains the same there, so some people are saying they should be given reservation. We should think seriously about that.*[English]* The entire country should think on these lines. ... (*Interruptions*) Some religions say that they do not believe in caste system and they do not believe in discrimination. That is their stand. I am not quarrelling with them. I hope that they live up to that stand and then uphold that sort of a thing, that there is no practice of untouchability.

Secondly, about the issues raised, some people have tried to utilize this opportunity just to accuse our Government as if the Government has done all these things and we are responsible for vitiating the entire atmosphere in the country. We have just come to power, hon. Speaker, only six months back. Some people started saying that the entire atmosphere and the mindset of the people have recently changed, and some people started giving curse. ... *[Translation]* (*Interruptions*) You exercise some patience, wait a little, speak when you get the chance. We have just come into power. Our Hon. Prime Minister is being praised all over the world. ... (*Interruptions*) Election after election, he is winning. I don't want to delve into politics, but since you mentioned it, I'll share my thoughts. It's not like hearing speeches here, will change anyone's mind. ...

(Interruptions) The tides of change are underway in the country. You may have noticed that for the first time in the history of India, people from different groups and religions gathered in significant numbers at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar to listen to the Hon. Prime Minister's speech. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not palatable to you. What can I do? ... *(Interruptions)* See the result. ... *(Interruptions)* My friend Suresh will be on leave after the 23rd of December. Counting will take place later, followed by the results. After the results, we will meet again in the House for the Budget session. ... *(Interruptions)* What will happen in Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir is not the issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

So, my point is this. The Hon. Prime Minister has rightly said, as has been mentioned by some of our Hon. Members, about the agenda on which we fought the election. Our agenda were development and good governance. This was the agenda on which the people gave us mandate. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): But there is no development.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is no development for the Congress party. What can I do? In spite of your best efforts, you are

dwindling. You have dwindled also. It is really unfortunate for the country. I do not want the Congress party, which is supposed to be the senior-most party, to dwindle further.... (*Interruptions*) We will see after five years. ... (*Interruptions*)

Have patience, please, baba! We have been in the Opposition for 50 years. We have patience. You must have patience. Accept the reality. You have been rejected; we have been elected and selected. Try to understand this. This is the message of the people. Please have some patience. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, my friend Prof. Saugata Royji, whom I respect a lot, was particularly mentioning, time and again, about one Minister going to astrologer. What is the problem? I am not able to understand it. I have a cutting with me, I will send it to him. I do not want to mention the name of the Minister because he is a friend of mine and I respect him also. 'Vaastu-follower Minister's Office purified by priest' is the heading in the *Sunday-guardian*. Then, there is a paper cutting showing 'The Minister sent people to Tirupati to get his office room purified and furniture reset according to befitting Vaastu position'... (*Interruptions*)

What is the subject, I know better than you. You need not teach me. When you were in school, I was in high school. Please try to understand... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Every now and then, you are interrupting. Please do not do that.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, there is nothing wrong. Some people believe Vaastu; some people believe in astrology; some people believe in something else; some people believe in *Rahu Kalam*. I believe in every *Kalam*... (*Interruptions*)

I do not follow *Rahu Kalam*. My grandfather told me: “As long as you are alive, every *Kalam* is good for you. The moment you are not there, it is good for others.’... (*Interruptions*) So, I am not on that. There are many paper cuttings with me. I can place them on the Table of the House also.

Secondly, my friend Shri Basheerji, whom I respect and who has worked with me in the Standing Committee also for a long, and some other hon. Members were trying to again pinpoint as if the Government is going back and taking the country to age-old, Sanskrit and all. Madam, a Conference was held from 13th to 15th September,

2013, wherein it was resolved that all the secondary schools in the country should introduce Sanskrit as a compulsory subject up to Class X. This 3-day Conference was inaugurated by the then HRD Minister -- I do not want to mention his name -- in the presence of the then Minister of State, Shri Jitin Prasada and a very senior Congress leader, a very senior and respectable Member of Parliament whom everybody respects - Dr. Karan Singh. We were also present on the closing ceremony of the function. In a letter dated 7th January, the HRD Minister asked the Vice-Chancellors of the Central Universities to explore the possibilities of opening Sanskrit Department and to furnish action taken in this regard. One is, in school, make it mandatory. The other is, asking Vice-Chancellors to explore the possibilities of having Sanskrit. It was said by them to first make it compulsory to students and then explore the possibilities of doing it in universities. ... (*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Hon. Minister.

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

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Is this a running commentary? ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: That doesn't happen.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Please have some patience. You have to be patient for five years. Each year, 365 days; each day, 24 hours; every hour, 60 minutes; and every minute, 60 seconds, you have to have this patience. There is no way... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, some Members said that the non-vegetarian meals are stopped. Non-vegetarian meals were stopped during the earlier regime. In this connection also, I can give the cuttings of the papers. My only request is, please do not spread misinformation, disinformation. You argue with us. Yes, some of us respect Sanskrit and some of you respect more German. It is okay. Your affection is there; my affection is here. What is wrong in that? Sanskrit is a great language; it is an ancient language. So, that being the case, there is nothing wrong... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: It is not the imposition of the Sanskrit language. ... (*Interruptions*) You are compromising. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is no question of compromising anything. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way, please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Have patience, please. You introduced it. You are always having self-goals. Please sit down. I do not want to go further.

HON. SPEAKER: Please, Shri Suresh ji, what happened to you today, why are you so worried, okay, listen.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Truth is sometimes unpalatable. What can I do, Shri Suresh ji? I cannot change the truth. There is another propaganda. After this Government came, communal tension temperatures have risen across the country. This is the propaganda which you are doing. On this propaganda, you see this, 'Communal violence down'. This is the data. I can give you all these details also. This is not my figure. This is the figure collected from different States by the Home Ministry. So, you can get that.

This is also another thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you sitting in the commentator's box?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It's Times of India, not Khaleej Times, it's India's Times.

Then, my friend, Kharge Ji, who is not here, has quoted the earlier charge that incidents of communal violence have increased

after the NDA took over and all that. They are not increasing. You may be disappointed. You may be increasing the number but they are not increasing on the field because they know that there is a Government which means business.

Then, I am coming to the present issue which is another issue. Just now I have spoken to the Collector, Agra. They call him DM. The Collector, Agra told me that there is total peace. There is no problem with regard to public order. Even Mulayam Singh Ji said it. He is a senior man. He is former Chief Minister of the State. Irrespective of Parties and all, we respect his experience. Though he himself is not happy with the general law and order situation there and all that, he has been giving suggestions. That is how the statesman should be. The statesman should really advise and guide people. That is what he is doing. I am happy about it. So, I spoke to him.

Then, I just had a discussion with the officials of the Home Ministry. The Home Ministry officials told me that they are in touch with the State Government. After this incident took place, an FIR was lodged and it is registered. The inquiry is on. As if Heavens are falling on earth, you try to say, no, you should be held responsible and all that. How can I be held responsible? Law and order is a State subject. Action or no action is to be decided by the State Government. I am

not here to criticize the State Government also. It happened in Uttar Pradesh. It may happen in some other State also. ... (*Interruptions*)

Fortunately, different States of the country are ruled by different Parties. At the Centre, we are in power. In some States, you are in power. You were in power till yesterday. You are not in power today. You may not be in power in other States also. That is a different matter. So, keeping that in mind, what I suggest is that on UP, you proved to be wrong; on increase of communal violence, you proved to be wrong; on Sanskrit, you proved to be wrong; on non-vegetarian, you proved to be wrong; and on going to astrologer, you proved to be wrong.... (*Interruptions*)

Now, let us come to another basic issue. We respect the freedom of faith. It won't work like this. I won't escape, I'll keep talking until 12 of midnight. You don't worry, sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Had gone to Badaun, were unmasked. After the CBI report came out, those who went to Badaun to speak were exposed. They should apologize. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We respect the freedom of faith as a fundamental right of every citizen. This is not a courtesy by this Government or that Government. It is enshrined in the Indian Constitution. So, everybody has to respect that. Then, I have respect for other religions. In my own village I go to Dargah sometimes. The Dargah's name is Mastan Vali Dargah. My father-in-law's name is Mastan Ayya Naidu.... (*Interruptions*) Yes, that is the Indian culture.

18.00 hrs

I am not going to Dargah for the sake of votes. I am not revealing the secret because I want to have some support from any community. We believe that going to that Dargah will do good. That is the confidence. Who's with you? The Muslim League is with you, the Majlis is with you and you are lecturing us. ... (*Interruptions*)

However, freedom of faith cannot be allowed to become a licence for sustained foreign funded campaign for proselytisation, which has gained momentum in various States in the country in recent years. Tribals, Scheduled Castes and the poor belonging to other communities or classes seem to be the target of this proselytisation.

HON. SPEAKER: It is 6 o'clock. With the consent of the House we extend the time until the completion of the business.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I want to quote what Mahatma Gandhi ji said. He said, “I disbelieve in the conversion of one person by another. My effort should never be to undermine another's faith. This implies belief in the truth of all religions and, therefore, respect for them. It implies true humility”. It is mentioned in *Young India* magazine on April 23, 1931.

He further said, it is Mahatma Gandhi and not me, “If I had the power and could legislate, I should stop all proselytizing. In Hindu households the advent of a missionary has meant the disruption of the family coming in the wake of change of dress, manners, language, food and drink.” It is mentioned in *Harijan* magazine dated November 5, 1935.

What is proselytisation? It is conversion. This is what Mahatma Gandhi said. You never bothered what Mahatma Gandhi said. You never followed Mahatma Gandhi. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening? Alright, everyone can take the name of Mahatma Gandhi.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: By spreading such misinformation, you all went from here to there and sent us from there to here. ... (*Interruptions*) If you continue such wrong propaganda, then this situation will persist for another one or two decades, and you will have to continue sitting like this. I want to tell you this. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

The entire country is watching how I patiently heard you and how you are hearing me. Though there may not be visitors in the Gallery, the entire country is watching all of us. They will be the best judges. They have given their judgement six months back. They will give judgement as and when the time comes.

Mahatma Gandhi further said, “The deadliest poison that ever sapped the fountain of truth is conversion.” He used such a strong word. After Independence he gave two pieces of advice to my Congress friends, the original Congress friends. His first advice was, ‘Disband the Congress Party’. But they did not bother. The second

advice he gave was, 'Back to Villages'. They have moved to towns and even ignored the Mahatma Gandhi's advice. That is why today urbanisation has become a reality and I have to take care of the Urban Development Ministry. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He is not advising you. Do not get up every now and then.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not giving any *paap parihar patra*. I am not giving any certificate to anybody, how can I give certificate to Congress Party? Can anybody give a certificate? If people have rejected it, then how can I give you certificate? ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, they have criticized RSS. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Not everyone will speak at once.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam Speaker, those people talked about my party, my Government, and the organization we highly respect. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What did these people say about such an organization? What did they say about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh? What does it have to do with it? ... (*Interruptions*) We don't understand how the ongoing debate in the House is related to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. When I will speak, they will object. ... (*Interruptions*) When I mention the name of the Congress party, they object. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

RSS is a great organisation in the country. RSS means 'Ready for Selfless Service'. That is RSS. I feel proud that I have the RSS background. It is because of RSS background, discipline, character, calibre, capacity that I have come to this level. We feel proud. ... (*Interruptions*) Many of us have this background. ... (*Interruptions*) Their background is also known. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, Swamy Vivekananda on 28 November 1893 is reported to have said that: "I have often been asked ... (*Interruptions*) What is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What kind of behavior is this? What's happened?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We have to hear the reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh, please go to your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, we are definitely proud of RSS. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your own Minister is speaking. Please sit down.
Let him speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, Swami Vivekananda ...
(*Interruptions*)

18.07 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: When the notice was given, I informed you that this was going to happen. Those who give notices will create a ruckus, criticize, talk out, and walk out. This is their method. ... (*Interruptions*) They do not follow democratic principles; they do not have respect towards their political opponents; they do not give ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Your ideology is different, our ideology is different. ... (*Interruptions*)

18.08 hrs

At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam Speaker, I would not have gone one line or one word this way or that way, but if they accuse and abuse the mother organization, from where we have taken inspiration, then I cannot be a silent spectator for all the abuses that are made.

Shri Dinanath Batra is one of the great educationists. You may differ with him and you can criticise him, but how do you abuse and condemn him? This is another point. So, we have to put the record straight. This Parliament is there for ever. The Parliament records are there for future generations also. So, I am not only talking for the Members of Parliament here, but I am talking for the people of the country because we have been elected for that purpose.

Madam, Swamy Vivekananda said on 28 November 1893 that: “I have often been asked in this country, USA, if I am going to try to convert the people here in America. I take this for an insult. If somebody says that I have come to America to convert people, then I take this for an insult. I do not believe in this idea of conversion. Today, we have a sinful man; tomorrow according to your idea he is converted and by and by attains unto holiness. Whence comes this change?”

As for Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, it is a very important debate and you should go in the history of the Parliament. Dr. Gopal, who wrote biography of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan said that: “Dr. Radhakrishnan was particularly critical of the missionaries in India and did not hesitate to describe the Anglican people as linked up with British imperialism”. These are not my words, but that of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. He further said that: “...intelligent understanding of the deeper unity of principles among all religions is the need of the hour.”

What Quran says; what Bible says; what Bhagvat Gita says; and what Guru Granth Saheb says is that we must try to understand the deeper meaning; then do soul-searching; and then try to live up to the expectations of that religion that we are professing. Madam, according to me, ‘religion’ is a personal matter. I am coming to that.

Shri Purushottam Das Tandon, many of these people may not remember his name, said:

“We Congressmen deem it very improper to convert from one to another religion or to take part in such activities and we are not in favour of this.”

This is what Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar said in the Constituent Assembly:

“It is unfortunate that religion is being utilized not for the purpose of saving one’s soul but for disintegrating society. Recently after the announcement by the Cabinet Mission and later on by the British Government, a number of conversions have taken place. This is dangerous. What has religion to do with a secular State?”

The Iron Man of India, who is the unifier of India, and my favourite leader and the favourite leader of many in this country, Sardar Patel Ji said:

“This is not a matter free from difficulties. It is well known in this country that there are mass conversions, conversions by force, conversions by coercion and undue influence, and we cannot disguise the fact that children also have been converted, that children with parents have been converted...”

Another senior Member, Shri R.V. Dhulekar said:

“In the present environment, all sorts of efforts are being made to increase the population of a particular section in this country. I think that this clause prohibiting conversion should be retained. I submit that we cannot now tolerate things of this nature. We are being attacked, and we do not want that India’s population, the numerical strength of the Hindus and others communities should gradually diminish and after ten years the other people may again say that we constitute a separate nation. These separatist tendencies should be crushed.”

Madam, coming back to the main issue, when you yourself have told me that this was the notice that you had received, I had no hesitation in accepting it because this is a matter that should be discussed and debated.

We have a legislation, which was moved earlier -- Shri Tathagata Satpathy can correct me -- but it was approved during Shri R.N. Singh Deo’s period, after the Niyogi Committee made some recommendations. Then, in Madhya Pradesh, a law was brought in during the Congress regime. In Himachal Pradesh, a law was brought in during the Congress regime. In Arunachal Pradesh, a law was

brought in. They were brought not because of Shri Narendra Modi, not because of BJP and not because of RSS. It is because they have realized that fraudulent conversions were taking place and those conversions were creating social tensions.[*Translation*] There is communal tension happening. You worship your God, and I'll worship mine. What's the problem with that? No one should have any problem with that. In this country, which we call Hindu, everyone doesn't belong to the same religion. In this, there are Arya Samajis, Vedic followers, Shaivites, Jains, devotees of Sai Baba, as well as some who worship idols, some who worship without idols, and there are people who follow the Sikh religion. If you are Muslim, then what's the problem for me? If you are Christian, then what's the problem for me? We are all one. "Different languages, different attires, yet one country, unity in diversity, India's uniqueness." That's the sentiment of this country.

[*English*]

Friends, I am coming to another point. Some people have the problem of having some allergy to the word 'Hindu'. I would like to take the House into confidence and say that this word 'Hindu' was not given by Shri Narendra Modi, Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or Shri Advani, and not even by the RSS. When you say

‘RSS’, it is not a ‘Hindu’ name; it is ‘Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh’. There is a newspaper in this country which is known for its views and its name is *The Hindu*. There is a newspaper in Delhi which is called *The Hindustan Times*. That name was not given by me. *[Translation]* Hindustan is a Hindi newspaper. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is a company, Hindustan Machine Tools, HMT Watches Company, Hindustan Shipyard Limited is in Visakhapatnam. Where did all these names come from, we didn’t give these names, these names were not given for political reasons, these names have been existing from the beginning. This is Hindustan, that is Pakistan, that’s what those people have said.

Madam, you may also remember what do we say when we unfurl the tricolour flag on 15 August and 26 January? We say – “Victory to India”, does this mean the victory of Hindus and not of other people, is it so? No, it does not. Victory to Hindustan.*[English]* What is ‘Hindustan’? “Hindustan” means “all people irrespective of caste, creed, sex or religion.” India is one. We are all one people, one country. That is the point. We are a Party that believes in such a philosophy. We believe in such a philosophy. Then, how can we be accused? Who are the people who are responsible for the partition of the country? Whose Party is responsible for that? That Party joins the

Government and teaches and preaches to my Government. Then, my friend from Hyderabad was giving me a lecture. What his brother has said, I cannot quote because he is a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

What has he said about Hindu Gods? I do not want to repeat it because we should not use this forum to rouse passions outside and create tensions which are not there. What is required is not tension – what is required is attention towards the development. That is the agenda of this Government. So, keeping that in mind, what I appeal to all parties in the country is to seriously introspect on this. Let there be anti-conversion laws in all the States. Let there be anti-conversion law at the Centre also. Let us all seriously work towards the progress. We preserve our culture. You feel proud. If you feel proud that you want to be a Hindu, no problem or a Muslim, no problem or a Christian, no problem. *[Translation]* Religions may be different, but the essence of everyone's culture and way of life is the same. Worship practices may differ, religion is a way of worship. Culture is a way of life. Since ancient times, from the Vedic era, from the period of virtue, from the old times, what our ancestors have given us, what we have inherited, that is Indian heritage. Some people call it Hinduism. If you don't want to say Hinduism, then call it Indianness, say Indianess in

English, we have no objection. But making fun of other people is not right. They say saffronization is happening, where is saffronisation happening? Is saffron a wrong word in this country? They say Sanskritization is happening, it's happening here, it's happening there, they are bringing such an agenda. *[English]* We are very clear of what we have promised to the people. We will be working hard only to fulfil that agenda and our leader, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay said Antyodaya – upliftment of the poorest of the poor *[Translation]* serving the poor is service to Narayana, Swami Vivekananda said it, Pandit Deendayal Ji said it, Narendra Bhai Modi ji is also saying the same thing. Therefore, friends, there should be no wrong feelings in the minds of other people. I have the same objection to the Members in the opposition. Madam, you also know the rules. If you are not a Minister, there was no need to accept the debate. *[English]* The Minister has to be there. But still I have agreed to accommodate them because they are thinking that something is going to happen. They may raise such issues any number of times, there would not be any increase in tension outside. There will be only focus on development. That much I can assure them. If there are specific complaints or if something is happening in Uttar Pradesh, the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police, the State Government will have to take the

action. If something is happening in some other State that State Government has to take action. If you want an advisory from the Union Government, the Centre is ready to help the States in maintaining law and order and in maintaining communal harmony. Within six months of coming to power, you want to tear us, no, it is not acceptable. You want to use this forum of Parliament to defame my Government, to defame my Prime Minister and you give slogans against my Prime Minister that is not acceptable. People's mandate is for BJP for this period.

Madam, I am sorry, I have to speak this because as I told you that each person brought different things into picture in their own way. My Minister who is one of the able Ministers, Smriti Irani has been performing her responsibilities in a nice and effective manner. People who heard in this House, they are all very much impressed by her. You are trying to brand her. What is wrong if she goes to an astrologer? You do not go. Who asked you to go to astrologer? This Government has not issued circular to all that everybody should go to an astrologer. I will not go. My point is very simple. Why do you insult others' belief? As long as the belief not come in the way of public order, as long as the belief not come in the way of the progress of the country, you should allow that much freedom to the people.

You are saying that dictatorship will not be tolerated. Last time I said it, and I'm saying it again now, what is their number? I think four-fifth of the Parliament is sitting here. You, one-fifth people are accusing us. You want to speak, you want to disturb, you do not want anybody else to say anything, only your things should go on record and you go on using the same gramophone record everytime, it is not acceptable. There is a saying Madam. I don't know if you've had such an experience or not, but in childhood, we used to listen to gramophone records. When an HMV gramophone record got stuck after a few days, it would keep repeating the same song at the same spot – “Oh, Chanda Mama... Oh, Chanda Mama... Oh, Chanda Mama...” What way is this ? ... (*Interruptions*) I am not joking Madam. This is what people talk about in villages. You can talk to anybody about HMV Gramophone record. That gramophone record has gone now and other records have come. If they want to raise the issue, they must have the patience to hear the response, they must have the patience to hear the criticism from the other side also Wrong-way traffic won't be tolerated. They should understand this. I only hope that in future whenever they give notice, we are ready to discuss and debate on each and every issue. My Prime Minister told me that let us discuss any issue, every issue, any time provided the Chair admits.

Lastly, I want to submit to the entire House that I have been seeing from the day one, every day, there is Adjournment Motion; every day, there is notice for suspension of Question Hour. If it is their policy not to have Question Hour, try to convince others. The Ministers will not have any work because when there are no questions, there will not be any answer also. But if they put the question and then do not allow it and then say [*Translation*] No, no, you've also been in opposition, you've done something, so why keep doing the same thing from the beginning? Wait for five years, let some scams and scandals happen. Nothing like that has happened, there was no 2G scam, no CWG scam, no coal scam, no Adarsh scam. If something happens, then you can protest, then I can understand. Why do you disturb unnecessarily and get agitated without any reason? My request to the opposition is simply this: [*English*] Please have patience. The country is watching all of us. The other day one youngster from the BJD, maybe Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu – I do not remember his name – spoke on IITs and education. I was really thrilled. The next day I saw another boy from Telugu Desam Shri Ram Mohan speaking in English. I was thrilled. I found a Member from TRS Madam Kavitha, first-timer to the Parliament. She was explaining her point of view. I

always feel proud because they are outsiders and they are the future of the country, whatever party they may belong to.

The other day, you have complimented Madam Poonam Mahajan. she is our friend's Pramod Ji's daughter. Pramod has worked as a Parliamentary Affairs Minister, We have all worked together for years. I cherish his memories because both of us were General Secretaries in the Party and also have taken many decisions and always used to be helpful to the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister in those days. His daughter has lived up to the expectations. There are a lot of other examples from different parties. The way they are speaking, the way they are articulating and the way they are projecting different issues, we should all feel proud. We must allow such debates. The country is watching the Parliament. Moreover, they have a greater responsibility comparatively. They say that we are a new Party and we were not born before Independence. They only brought Independence. They are saying that. That being the case, they are expected to behave in a more matured manner. This is only my advice to the Congress Party friends. Let them have some patience and wait for five years. I can assure you and the House that the Government will do whatever is required to maintain communal harmony in the country, maintain social tranquillity in the country.

The Centre is ready to extend any help to any State. I have consulted my Home Ministry officials also. I have consulted my colleague Home Minister also. If there was a proper notice before hand, he would have been here. He would have been more effective in responding to this. But this responsibility is given to me because our friends said that it should be discussed today itself. So, I had to take that responsibility. I think, I have tried to convey the thinking of the Government and also the expectations of the people to the extent possible.

18.23 hrs

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF COAL
MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 2014**

AND

COAL MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2014---Contd.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, if the House agrees, we will take the legislative business relating to the Coal Mines Bill. Should we start it because the person who is supposed to speak Shri C.N. Jayadevan, he is not present?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): The others will speak. We may continue this.

HON. SPEAKER: So, then Shri Varun Gandhi to speak.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): Madam, before I start speaking about the promulgation of the said Ordinance which has now become a Bill, it is important to understand why coal reforms are so significant and so intrinsic to our nation's economic growth index moving forward.

Coal shortfall in India is beginning to have macro economic implications with nearly 37 power plants almost out of coal and practically shutting down, exhausting their coal supply. There is a large scale power rationing both for industries and for consumers all across the country. I was reading an article yesterday which said that the smaller States, States like Telangana are cutting supplies for almost two days a week particularly for small scale industries. Particularly for small-scale industries, they are almost facing an economic debt spiral. According to the International Energy Agency, coal's share of India's total energy supply is about 43 per cent, which will rise to about 46 per cent in 2020, while comprising 68 per cent of electricity production fuel. When we talk about renewables, which is wind and solar, together they are just eight per cent of India's electricity in 2020.

According to the Working Group of Coal and Lignite for the 12th Five Year Plan, the coal demand in India is expected to grow at a

compound annual growth rate of approximately seven per cent, and reach almost a thousand metric tonnes annually under realistic demand. It shows that the demand for coal is only increasing year on year and the demand is getting more and more urgent.

Madam, India's urbanisation lacks steel. While in China we have almost 52 per cent urbanisation, in India we stand at approximately 32 per cent. We are looking at 15 million people swelling into cities every year. Madam, cities are built on the back of coal through cement, power, electricity and steel. Without coal it is simply not possible.

Indian steel makers used 40 million tonnes of Metallurgical Coal, which is high quality coal used for steel and iron making, and the amount will swell up to 110 million tonnes by 2025. It shows that not only are declining supplies going to turn critical, but when we look at things like massive coal-fired Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) we look at the expansion reaching up to 4,000 MW.

But what do we have, Madam? We do not have cheap, reliable base load power at the moment. We have brownouts, which are intentional or unintentional load shedding to keep the grid going. And this is reducing our GDP, Madam, by 65 Billion dollars a year. The UMPPs now need higher quality coal imports to achieve full loads.

Madam, coal supply is our biggest economic constraint to faster growth. We have the fifth highest reserves in the world but nearly 88 per cent of non-coking coal reserves mostly characterised by high ash content and a low sulphur content, which in layman's terms means you need much more to burn than if you had good quality coal. The growth in coal mining has stagnated from a focus on cheap opencast mining. Nearly 60 per cent of India's coal mines are underground, but they account for just 10 per cent of total production. There are institutional legacies and technical problems which have limited the use of mechanised long wall technology for improving productivity.

The size of India's coal reserves remain largely unknown because they remain under forests and under fields, which means we do not exactly know how much we have until we cut all these down which again leaves us with woeful choices.

Coal India remains the Sword of Damocles for the Indian economy. Whereas it is the world's largest producer with 465 million tonnes a year, its production shortfalls have made India the world's third largest coal importer despite having these fifty largest reserves.

We are looking at productivity which is characterised by low mechanisation. I agree that capital expenditure is much less, about 800 million, whereas if you look at China you have Billion dollar

investments for most domestic Chinese firms. And you look at the output per employee per year which is about 1200 tonnes compared to 10,000 tonnes in places like Australia.

I would like to go into a bit about why the situation emerged which led to the court quashing 204 out of 218 coal blocks. Madam, with the country's economic future looking imperilled, the previous Government tried to look at the 24-hour electricity problem by allocating 44 million metric tonnes of coal across 142 blocks. Even accounting for the coal reserves' inaccessibility in marginal economics, this led to private firms having hundreds of years of coal supply at a very nominal fee. The scam which is now talked about by everybody and which is one of the reasons for the dramatic loss of election was essentially the discretionary opaqueness. It had these subjective overlapping guidelines providing favoured firms potentially large amounts of coal reserves under subjective criteria without any sort of competitive bidding at all. The windfall gains looked at almost \$ 170 Billion. Even after present value discounting and looking at smaller reserves, it is a huge sum.

As noted by the CAG, the Government had the legal authority to auction these coal blocks through a simple administrative action. Despite enough economic evidence to the contrary, the captive mine

route was taken over an auction mechanism. The Government claimed at that point that the reason that the auction process is better is that it would lead to lower input cost which would render these industries like cement, steel etc. commercially viable. But if we actually look at this reasoning, this was the exact reasoning given for tele-density being given at cheaper price for spectrum to be distributed to telecom companies at rock bottom prices. We saw what happened with that.

Let us see what actually happened in the coal issue. The discretionary allocation of coal blocks to a handful of companies encouraged crony capitalism. It led to no significant increase in coal production, consequently starving the power plants of fuel, reducing the output and indirectly causing huge stresses to Nationalized Banks balance sheets. You look at the windfall gains which resulted with these coal blocks. All it did was create disparities between intentions and outcome because where producers were incentivized to maintain *status quo* on an official front, they were also encouraged for clandestine mining which led to disastrous consequences.

Because of these legal wrangles that happened, when the Government finally did have the first coal block auction in February, it was an absolute disaster. If done correctly, coal market reform and liberalisation would have resulted in marked improvement in coal

production efficiencies. In the end-user segment, they would have unleashed a manufacturing fuel-saving gadgets and a lot of efficiencies leading to better long-term results. Coal blocks auction would have incentivized entities to fast-track production.

I just want to talk about what the NDA Government have done since they came in. The hon. Minister is sitting here. I think he has done an extremely commendable job. I would like to talk about three or four things in short. One is, opening up the industry to commercial mining. We had a 42-year policy of maintaining State monopoly via Coal India Limited. All of us know how well State-run monopoly is panned out. The fact that we allowed private players into the competition, signals a paradigm shift and a shift towards efficiency and accountability. The Government has been proactive enough to plan for enhancing the efficiency of its largest coal miner and double production to one Billion tonne by 2019 and all India coal output by 2019 to feed the coal-hungry power plants. A Coal India Limited stake sale will rise between three and four Billion dollars which will not only help in disinvestment targets but what it will do is it will improve the accountability and also improve add market exposure to these plants.

A potentially ruinous miner's strike was averted with the good grace of the Minister giving a sound labour management practice and open channels for communication in place. If you remember, a similar strike had thwarted a stake sale plan by previous Government. To resolve logistics issues, the Government is planning to spend \$ 1 Billion by 2019 to buy railway wagons and transport coal from remote mines. The Bill in question looks to ensure smooth transfer of rights in interest and title in mines alongwith their land and assorted mining infrastructure to the new allottees to be settled through an auction or an allocation.

It also looks to amend two Acts – the Coal Mine Nationalization Act, 1973 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which removes the restriction of end-use from the eligibility to undertake coal mining in the national interest and it will be carried out in e-auction mode. That means, it is entirely transparent and completely open.

I would like to say that the prior coal block allottees, which is the major concern that the Opposition had, have been asked to declare the details of permits and licenses that they had obtained; they have been asked to disclose the bank-wise credit facilities with respect to coal blocks that they already have. It is a competitive bidding event, which

means that it will eliminate corrupt forces to favour group of bidders and ensure transparency at every step.

This Bill is a step in the right direction because it will ensure that the coal supply is not interrupted after March 2015.

There are certain concerns with this Bill, which have been looked into. One of them is whether we are replacing a monopoly with an oligopoly which basically means that you replace the control by one party with maybe 3-4 parties which act in consonance with each other, but the Government is proposing rejection criteria to separate good and bad companies. It will limit a company's ownership in the number of block and geological reserves while catering to breaches made by concealing and false submission of information about partially and subsidiary ownership, which is a big scam earlier on.

The Government, most importantly, is promoting a market based regime for natural resources which will attract private investment in both capital and technology. Continuing captive production has drawn concerns from some. However related issues can be mitigated by giving the responsibility of mining operations to a company of the same parent group and ensuring arms length pricing between the concerned entities. Of course, all this assumes that the wheels of our regulatory framework moves swiftly. We would like to congratulate

the Prime Minister and the Environment Minister with the speed and alacrity with which environment and forest clearances are being fast-tracked and are being put on the Internet so that entire transparency is taking place. This assumes that the wheels move more swiftly and it avoids the multitude of clearances, which is a huge stumbling block particularly in UPA-II.

The challenges remain – how do you attract private investors, given the track record of litigation in coal mining, the regulatory barriers that might make captive coal production uneconomic by genuine means. However, this is a major step towards what was seen as a huge crisis and now what is being seen as an opportunity.

I just want to say that this is an attempt to fix the very dangerous situation where the Government and the country can look forward to energy security, accountability and transparency. It has been done; it is an incremental step; it is one step; it is not a final solution; but it is a major step in the right direction. I want to compliment the Minister and congratulate the Government for doing so. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: The discussion will continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 12th December, 2014 at 11. a.m.

18.39 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday,
December 12, 2014 / Agrahayana 21, 1936 (Saka)*

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