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Tuesday, May 10, 2016  
Vaishakha 20, 1938 (Saka)

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

**(English Version)**

**Eighth Session**

**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XVII Contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, May 10, 2016/Vaisakha 20, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question No. 221, Shri Ramcharan Bohra

**(Q.221)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, along with farming, livestock is also the main source of income of the farmer. As the Prime Minister has envisioned, the income of the farmer will be doubled by the year 2021.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to what is his opinion on insurance for livestock as well as the income from livestock and what plan has been formulated in this regard?

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, under the Livestock Insurance Scheme, before year 2014, any farmer could get two milch animals insured. After the year 2014, it was changed and now the farmer can get five milch or big animals and 50 small animals insured. This has been a major change and so far 50,56,000 animals have been insured in the year 2015-16. This insurance is done based on the demand of the states. All the animals have been insured as per the demand that came from the states.

**SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:** Hon. Madam, the Prime Minister has implemented Jan Dhan Yojana and under this scheme, the money is transferred to the beneficiary's account without him having to go around here and there. On the lines of this scheme, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any plan to transfer the money of the insurance scheme directly to the account in case of accidental death or disability of livestock and if not, whether the Governments going to implement any such scheme?

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** All the State governments have been directed to transfer all such inputs directly into the accounts of the farmers which they are entitled to receive.

*[English]*

**SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA:** Madam Speaker, the insurance that is being provided by the Union Government only covers any eventual loss of animals and in such cases the insurance amount will be given to the farmers. But to maintain the balance of nature, we have to increase the number of livestock in our country. There are some local breeds of cattle like Hallikar and Amruthamahal in Karnataka. Now, due to lack of infrastructure and also due to lack of funds we are not able to increase the number of

local breeds. There are some local breeds in various parts of the country which are to be encouraged to maintain the balance of nature and they are almost at the verge of vanishing. So, my question to the hon. Minister is this. Is there any specific scheme proposed to be implemented by the Government of India to improve and protect the local breeds of these cattle?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH:** Hon. Madam Speaker, under the National Livestock Development Mission, adequate support is provided to the States for this purpose. Moreover, this Government has launched a Rashtriya Gokul Mission scheme which mainly focuses on breed improvement of indigenous cattle.

**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:** Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister of Agriculture has given a very detailed and good reply. I would like to tell that as per the provision of fodder for livestock in the drought affected states, Rupees 100 crore has been allocated in the year 2016-17 in the drought affected states under a sub-plan of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana of the Department of Farmers' Welfare and like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to formulate a special plan for the animals

in our Bundelkhand region, where thousands of animals are dying due to lack of fodder so as to protect the animals in the Bundelkhand region.

**SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH:** Hon. Madam Speaker, under the Additional Fodder Development Program, assistance is provided to the states for drought-affected areas only. In the year 2014-15, the amount allocated in this regard was Rs.100 crore, in the year 2015-16, it was Rs.50 crore and this year also an amount of Rs. 100 crore has been kept for this purpose. This amount is given to the States from where the proposal comes, and it is mainly given for the drought affected areas.

The assistance provided by the NDRF to the states also covers the provision of fodder for drought affected areas and the amount provided from NDRF to all the states in 2015-16 also includes funds for fodder development and drinking water.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri M. Srinivasa Rao - Not present.

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government has sanctioned a scheme under which it has also been decided to subsidize the manure of cow dung. This will increase the inclination towards animal husbandry and this practice will get

encouragement. But I would like to tell the Agriculture Minister that under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, there is a premium of one and a half percent for Kharif crop and two percent for Rabi crop. Similarly, there are varieties among animals as well. Some rear cows, horses, oxen and some other goats, sheep and pigs. There are varieties of different animals. If the government specifies as to how much premium will be there for each type of animal in the livestock insurance scheme, it would benefit the cattle breeders in insuring their animals under the scheme. How will the Government do this?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN):** Hon. Madam Speaker, the insurance cover for the cow under the scheme is charged at the rate of three thousand rupees per kilogram of milk. The insurance cover for buffaloes has been fixed at Rs. 4,000 per kg of milk. For other animals such as sheep, goat, etc., the assessment of their insurance amount is typically done in consultation with the insurance company, concerned veterinarians, and the beneficiary farmer. As far as its premium rate is concerned, if there is one year insurance, then its maximum premium rate has been fixed by the Central Government at 3 percent. If someone

wants to get three years insurance, it has been decided to keep the premium rate below 9 percent.

In this manner, different rates are set by the respective state governments in different states. The Central Government also has its share in this regard. If the beneficiary is BPL, SC, ST, then the share of the Central Government is 40 percent along with the State Government's share of 30 percent and the beneficiary farmer's contribution is also 30 percent. If a farmer belongs to another category, the beneficiary farmer's share will increase to 50 percent and the share of the Central Government and the State Government will come to 25 percent.

**(Q. 222)**

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Madam Speaker, as has been stated in the reply and as also is evident in the market, by and large, prices of essential commodities are under control, except Urd, Chana and some increase in the prices of sugar and potato, the prices, by and large are under control. The Wholesale Price Index also reflects that.

One of the foremost steps taken by this Government to ensure the better governance and transparency in the field of future trading was to see that commodity brokers are brought directly under the supervision of SEBI. This was due to the merger of Forward Market Commission with the SEBI. Even the Finance Minister had in his Budget Speech recommended the merger of SEBI and FMC in order to curb wild speculative behaviour. The FMC has been regulating the commodity markets since 1953, but it was seen that they have lacked the muscle to control the alleged irregularities in this market segment.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. After having merged these two organisations, to regulate it properly, whether the Ministry has assessed the impact of merger of FMC with SEBI on trading in the futures market in the essential commodities. If so, has the speculative behaviour considerably reduced as a direct consequence of the merger? By that, whether the prices of the essential commodities are reducing because of this merger. What is the assessment of the Government?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Madam, there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee for this. The committee is looking into these items, as soon as it is decided, we will share information.

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** As per the reports received from the State Governments on pulses seized under de-holding operations and auction or offloading the same to increase the availability, Karnataka Government has seized 25,445.82 MT, which is one of the highest seizures by the State Government. But, out of them, only 371 tonnes, that is, just 1.5 per cent of the quantum seized has been auctioned. Whereas Chhattisgarh has auctioned 30 per cent; Madhya Pradesh has auctioned 50 per cent of the stocks seized. By auctioning this and releasing it to the market, automatically prices will be reduced. But the Karnataka Government, which has seized, has just auctioned 1.5 per cent of the total seizure. Besides this, as per the reply of the Minister, the Karnataka Government has not submitted the reports of the action taken under the Essential Commodities Act. Unfortunately, the State Government has not also submitted any such report even though it had many cases of hoarding and black

market trading of pulses. Because of that, in Karnataka, prices of pulses have gone up.

My question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Central Government will take steps to ensure that the State Governments especially the Government of Karnataka, take measures for price stability and availability of the pulses by auctioning the seized pulses.... *(Interruptions)* I would also like to know whether the reasons have been given by those State Governments, including Karnataka, who have not submitted report of action taken under the Essential Commodities Act. ... *(Interruptions)*

Not only they have not seized, they are just bothered whether Siddaramaiah should be continued or not. They are more bothered in that. They are not able to auction the commodities which have been seized. I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to give any directives to the State Government. This is my question.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member has said, it is true that the price of any of the 22 essential items which we monitor has not increased except pulses. The reason

for the increase in the price of pulses is that its production is less and demand is high. Last year, in the fiscal year 2015-16, there was a production of 173 lakh tonnes, while the demand was 237 lakh tonnes. Private parties imported 58 lakh tonnes of pulses. Apart from this, one of the main issues is hoarding. The issue of hoarding and black marketing, which I mentioned in my reply last time also, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. We have given powers to the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments have also been directed to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing. Last time, we had received information that the importers who import pulses keep it at the port itself and when the price increases here, they bring it. Our Customs department and Revenue department are closely monitoring it.

Replying to the Member's question, I would like to state that last time when the action was taken against the hoarders, goods were seized in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and some other states. We had suggested two-three ways to sell those goods either through auctions or through the PDS, but this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the State Government. If the Hon. Member seeks information regarding Karnataka, we will provide him the details.

**SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the grave issue related to rural employment.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inquire from the Hon. Ministers to whether economic downturns in other countries also have an impact on inflationary trends here? If so, provide the details of the last three years. Whether any concrete steps are being taken to ensure that the economic downturn in foreign countries does not affect our nation? If so, the details thereof?

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the answer to the automatic question is also automatic.

**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:** Hon. Madam Speaker, last year, the production of pulses came down by twelve and a half to fifteen percent, but the rate of pulses has increased by more than hundred percent. According to the figures, 50 percent of pulses production occurs in BJP-ruled states. The Minister has said that this is a state matter. Does the government believe that the State Governments have failed to take action against hoarding?

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, all I want to say is that we have lower production of pulses crop in our country. The oilseeds crop production is also limited but we meet the scarcity by importing it from other countries. Since there are no restrictions on private parties regarding what we import, they bring it. In such a situation, we repeatedly urge the State Governments to take action. Although, it has not been asked, but still through you, I would like to inform the House that last time when the price of pulses was increased, we had tried our best from the beginning to ask the State Governments to send their requirement, so that we could meet the same in advance. This time again, we are repeatedly writing to the State Governments in this regard. Some State Governments have indeed demanded, but most of the State Governments which blame the Central government, have not sent their demand. Besides the stock limit, we have purchased an additional 50 thousand tons in buffer stock. An order has been placed to import 26 thousand tons, out of which 11 thousand tons have already been imported. We are going to purchase an additional one lakh tons. In addition to this, we have plans to import, but through you, I would like to urge the State Governments that we have decided to provide arhar dal at Rs. 66 per kilogram. Different pulses have different prices. The State

Governments should not sell arhar dal at a price more than Rs. 120 per kilogram. In Delhi, we are selling through Safal stores. Through you, I would like to urge the State Governments to send using writing the quantity of pulses they require. We will provide them the pulses, and in future, if the price of pulses exceeds Rs. 120 per kilogram, the State Governments will be responsible for it.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** Hon. Madam Speaker, this question is very important and the entire House should take it seriously. In the country, the number of cows is steadily decreasing. The reason for this is that the trade in cow meat is increasing. Cows are caught and sent to America after getting slaughtered. There is also manipulation on their ship. We found out about this, when 1600 cows, possibly more, were being taken to Unnao, or to some other places.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh ji, question is regarding pulses.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** America loves cow meat and 1600 cows have been tied to be sent there.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mulayam Singh ji, the question is regarding pulses.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** This is a very important question. Either you give me a chance to speak in Zero Hour. ... *(Interruptions)* At least you will listen. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, we are raising 1600 cows.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question here is regarding pulses. Please, that is not how it works. You know, it doesn't happen like that. Question No.223, Shri Rajendra Agrawal, please speak.

**(Q.223)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for giving a detailed reply. The most important criterion for assessing the proficiency of the fire department in incidents of fire is the response time, which is set at five to seven minutes. This is appropriate, and I understand that reducing it further may not be feasible. However, experience tells that maintaining this time limit is often not possible. Fire tenders arrive half an hour, an hour or even later. Six months ago, a fire broke out in Hapur, and a child died in it because the firefighters did not arrive on time and when they arrived, they did not have a ladder.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether such deficiencies are documented, such as what are the reasons for fire tenders not arriving on time, what causes the delay, and whether they are not prepared? This is an essential type of service. Is there no water available in them, or is there any other reason? Sometimes there is no ladder. What exactly is the reason? Is there any data kept on it, and are there any measures being taken to rectify it? That's what I want to know?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, it is a fact that the Standing Fire Advisory Council had fixed a criterion as to how many fire service stations should be in India, how much response time should be, all these guidelines have been issued. Regarding the guidelines, just as the hon. member said that it will only be possible everywhere when you have the means and when you have the complete arrangement. There is a total 65 percent deficiency in our country. It means you can imagine that India needs approximately 8500 fire stations, but currently we have not completed even three thousand fire stations. So, the deficiency is about 65 percent as such. Time is very important because if emergency responders do not arrive on time, whether it's in a municipal area or a village, anything can happen, so timely arrival is crucial during fire accidents.

Therefore, we are continuously engaging in discussions with State Governments that essential fire stations should be present everywhere, and there should be adequate resources available as required. For that, training and other necessary assistance are consistently provided, and further also, we will continue to engage in this regard. This is the state subject at serial number 7 of the Constitution and it has to be looked after by the Municipal Corporation. Nevertheless, we continue to have arrangements to coordinate and work together.

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:** Hon. Madam Speaker, when a building etc. is constructed, generally NOC in respect of fire is to be obtained for it. In it, I have generally seen that the points to be observed are how many exit points it has or what other things are there. However, many times, the fire caused by short circuits depends on the quality of the wires. Teflon-coated wires do not catch fire even at high temperatures. In my opinion, such arrangements could be made or other measures could be taken.

I would like to know if, as a preventive measure against fire incidents, the government pays attention to certain aspects during NOC issuance, or if the government is considering adding new elements to this process?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, I would like to state that there is no international code on how to fix fire safety measures internationally. In our country, especially in our own municipality, locality or city, everyone has made rules and regulations according to their needs. Everyone has to follow it. Nowadays, so many fire incidents happen in front of us. For this, whatever stringent measures and guidelines are there, and whatever NOC has to be obtained, it should be taken. Just as there is Municipal Corporation in Delhi and NDMC in New Delhi, a particular building can be operationalized by taking permission and NOC from these civic bodies. This system is there. We have every intention to implement it strictly.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any scheme for setting up modern technology based fire station at congested market places in rural areas to tackle the fire incidents effectively in quick time; if so, what steps have been taken in this regard and what is the allocation of funds?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, there has been lots of ways and means as to how the funding has taken place. Various Finance

Commissions also have recommended certain amounts, which have been devolved to the State Governments. But from 2014-15 onwards, as we all know, the Finance Commission recommended that the fire safety measures are purely the State Subject, and each State has to manage their internal resources. However, we also continue to supplement wherever it is necessary. For example, training, which is very important; we have a world class fire service training college at Nagapur, which I have visited and interacted with the head of the institutes and the trainees also. So, it is a very, very effective training college, which every State is taking benefit out of it.

At the same time, identification of particular locations, as I stated earlier, is the responsibility of the local Government.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:** Hon. Madam Speaker, a lot of action has been taken through NDRF on the fire that broke out in Uttarakhand recently, for which first of all I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister. As stated in Article 243 (B) of the Constitution, the work of maintenance of firefighting services is the primary responsibility of State Governments. I hail from Uttar

Pradesh. Just as Minister has said in his reply to the question, today there is a shortfall of 65 percent in the requirement of fire stations. Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the country. In the past month, fires have broken out at many places. In my parliamentary constituency itself, fires have broken out at many places. There are 237 fire stations in Uttar Pradesh, and many such fire stations are ready and operational there. However, there is insufficient staff and inadequate resources there. While there is also a rule in disaster management that the Uttar Pradesh government can purchase fire equipments for the fire stations there. I would like to know as to when will the gap between them be filled? I would also like to know as to when will the State Government establish coordination and complete all tasks there?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, we have issued advisories to all the states that they must adhere to the guidelines set and also ensure compliance. I would like to point out that the guidelines for pumping stations mandate one pumping station per 50 thousand populations. If the population is up to three lakh, then it is mandatory to have six pumping stations. After that, there should be an additional pumping station for every lakh population. As the Hon. Member has just asked, we will also issue an advisory again to Uttar

Pradesh that all the recommendations of the council formed related fire service, should be complied with.

*[English]*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Madam, my question is a bit different from the questions that are being posed today. The Union Government has a Director-General, who prepares and supplies fire safety publicity educational materials, printed and electronic, to the State Governments. As it deals with educational materials and publicity, my question relates to other than sending advisory to the respective State Governments. The Union Government has a responsibility also to identify the places, which are in the middle of the city and can be disastrous for the locality.

Accordingly, the Municipal Corporation and even the State Government have made a request to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Union Government. In Cuttack, in my city, there is a railway depot which had a depot of the Indian Oil Corporation, which had a depot of the Hindustan Petroleum Limited and which still has a depot of Hindustan Petroleum Limited. It is in the middle of the city. A number of times when terrorist activities happen, there is every possibility that things may blow up at any point of time.

Last Friday evening, an incident had happened and the whole city was panicked. Is the Government thinking of advising the Railways and also the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to shift these depots outside the city?

**KIREN RIJJU:** This is an important suggestion and he has pointed out certain probable dangers which we cannot take it lightly. I will pass on this message to the National Disaster Management Authority to contact the State Disaster Management Authority where the Chief Minister is the Chairman of the Authority. The Home Ministry will also coordinate. We will coordinate with them.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** They have already written to them.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Now, your suggestions have come on the floor of the House. We will take it up seriously.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:** Keeping in view the frequent fire incidents in the country, in large organizations like Railways, Division Levels and Railway Workshops are facing loss of life and huge loss of country's property due to non-availability of fire control equipment and fire mitigation team. Through you, I

would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of building such a system through the State Governments. Thank you.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Member has raised a question related to Railways which is under the Central Government, so we will communicate with them and afterwards wherever necessary, we will take action.

**(Q.224)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NINONG ERING:** Hon. Madam Speaker, this is the question which also deals with Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. What I have asked is specifically about the North-Eastern States. He has tried to reply, but I would like to ask him this because considering our Look East Policy, Nampong is a place in our Arunachal Pradesh, which has a very old history. There is Stilwell Road, from where you can go through Pangsau Pass to China, Myanmar and then to the South East countries. Therefore, I would like to ask him that as we have Moreh, we have Stilwell Road, in which connectivity is very important. In addition to that, such trade posts of ours could also be

there, like Bumla, Geling, Kibithu, so will the Government make provisions in this regard?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a very detailed question.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You also know the state in detail, that is why he would have asked.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Yes Madam. Hon. Member come from my state, if he doesn't feel satisfied here, I will inform him outside the House.

Hon. Madam Speaker, he mentioned Stilwell Road, which is a historic road, and also mentioned about Pangsau Pass. Our negotiations are going on with the Myanmar government, and discussions are also underway between local-level officers there. The road has been almost completed from Hindustan's side to the border, and I myself attended its inauguration. It should start quickly, that is what we want. He has asked about other places, if there is a dispute on the border, then trade cannot be done there. With Myanmar, we want our business relations to grow, and we will make every effort towards that goal.

**SHRI NINONG ERING:** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Minister of State for Home Affairs because he comes from my state. He is still saying that it is a disputed area. But what have we inherited or what have you managed. We see him as a young and capable leader from our state. <sup>(English)</sup>You know, you are a very prestigious leader for us. <sup>(Translation)</sup>But one thing is there. In the previous session, <sup>(English)</sup>you always used to take up the challenge of the stapled visa. <sup>(Translation)</sup>Look from this angle that it is 1100 kilometers from China, 520 from Myanmar, and here in Nathu La, see how well trade is going on. We are not concerned with walls made of bricks, concrete, or stone. We want to increase the relationship of our heart. We do not have enmity with China, we want to maintain a relationship of friendship. <sup>(English)</sup>You have always challenged it. <sup>(Translation)</sup>Now please tell us, do you know that maintaining traffic with China from these areas - Bumla, Geling, Kibithu - is very easy. Why don't you deploy Border Force in this? Why don't you set up border haats there? We could not do that work, but now we have the Hon. Minister of State or the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, they should address this issue and set up border haats there.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, if you want to set up an airport inside your own country, then we can find a place and sit comfortably. The seaport also operates at our own coast. We identify that too and make a seaport. But the land port is connected with other country. Sounless we negotiate according to that country, we have no point in setting up a port at our border, unless our relations with other countries are good. Our other neighboring countries should also be agreeable to this. Where there is no drawn border line, how will trade happen if we forcibly establish land ports, land customs, or border haats there? We want trade to happen, but it's essential to take the other country into confidence also.

**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you, for giving me an opportunity to raise question. Jammu and Kashmir is a state in India that continues to face challenges along its border with Pakistan, including instances of infiltration. However, despite this, the barbed wire fencing installed in 1999 has been placed one to two kilometers behind the actual border. In between, there are villages of the respective countries. There are two or three villages and many people have houses. There is difficulty in traveling there. People cannot even do farming, and people face difficulties. B.S.F. or army personnel do not allow them to go home, and they are not provided

compensation or accommodation for their homes. I would like to request and ask the Minister as to when will this fencing restriction be removed and the border be taken to zero line, so that farmers and residents there do not face any inconvenience.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, the Member has asked a serious question but we are also bound by a system and international agreement. The distance you need to erect fencing from the international border to the zero line is fixed. Therefore, you cannot proceed forcefully. But still, within our border where fencing has been placed, our people do farming up to the zero line. Our people go inside. It also leads to hardship to the security and the way out for commuting also causes loss. But they are allowed to ensure that there is no loss to our people, there should be no loss in their cultivation and there should not be any security breach at that time. The BSF deployed at our Indo-Pakistan side take this thing very seriously and the human angle is also taken care of in a serious manner so that along with strengthening the security, our citizens, the local indigenous people, are also not harmed.

*[English]*

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:** Speaker, Madam, I come from a border area. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know, that's why I have allowed you.

*[Translation]*

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please, I am observing and trying to give you time.

*[English]*

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:** I have almost 100 kilometres of border there. In my 40 years of political life I have closely seen the border areas and its problems. A huge problem of smuggling is there, specially of cattle smuggling. At present, the Government is taking some serious measures. But in spite of that the problem of smuggling still exists. The Government has established border huts in Tripura and Meghalaya only. So, my definite question to the Government is why they do not establish border huts in my districts – Murshidabad, Malda and Dinajpur – to make it a lawful business of cattles. Then, this problem will be solved itself.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, it is true that Border haats should be there in more places. Because border haats are small and they cover only people of a small area. If there is more space then it is a good thing. We also want more land customs. For example, in the North East, we have 2 border haats in Tripura, 2 in Meghalaya and 6 more are going to be set up, 2 in Tripura and 4 in Meghalaya. The member coming from West Bengal should know that Petra pole, which will be the largest integrated check post, will be several times larger than the Atari border, which has become ready. We didn't wait for the inauguration. The work has been started. Additionally, many other locations have been identified. There is no need to list everyone's names, but if necessary, additional identifications will be done.

*[English]*

**SHRI PREM DAS RAI:** Madam, in this august House let me say that the North Eastern Region border is almost 99 per cent with the international borders. Therefore, if we have to look at every issue in the North East from the security lens, then we will never reach anywhere. I think the most important thing is that we now move

from the Home Affairs to the Commerce side so that most of these border areas can be opened up.

In my own State, where the Nathu La check post is located, the border trade has been going on since 2006. But we want to upgrade this to a level where the trade actually happens in a much more definitive and a commercial manner. So, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us when this will see the light of the day.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** My good friend from Sikkim has made some pertinent remarks. We agree to that. The Home Ministry is there not to do business but to provide security and safety to the people. Border management is an important factor where we also take care of certain developmental activities. For integrated check posts also, we handle cargo and provide security and facility so that business can smoothly run. What items to be included, what not to be included and what not to be traded is a matter to be decided by the Ministry of Commerce. We do not decide that but we personally discuss the things for promotion of trade from North Eastern Region side to the neighbouring countries. That is why, as I have mentioned earlier, the Government has taken unprecedented efforts to identify so many border huts in such a short time. It is only two years to our

Government in power. But you can see the speed of identification of border huts and how we are going on it.

I request the hon. Member to please be appreciative, though we are not satisfied with what we have done so far. We will do much more. This is our commitment.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Q. No. 225. Shrimati Neelam Sonker - not present.

Mr. Minister may answer.

**(Q.225)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV:** Hon. Madam Speaker, in the reply given by the Hon. Minister, the Ministries, Offices, PSUs and Banks of the Central Government have been mentioned. But they have not included the judiciary in this. I would like to know because the experience of the last few days shows that...\* many times he said contemptuously as to why is there so much hype about Hindi. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Judiciary can be seen as something to be kept out of the domain of National Official Language Policy?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam Speaker, we respect the views expressed by the Hon. Member. Since we cannot comment much about the court, I can tell you that the use of Hindi and regional languages in the High Court has been provided under Article 348, sub-clause two of the Constitution and section seven of the Official Languages Act, 1963 and after that many steps have been taken by the government. We want our national language Hindi and all the local languages of India to progress, receive encouragement, and get publicity and promotion. You know the process as to what can happen in the court, I also mentioned and there is a decision of the Cabinet in 1965, it says that before any decision is taken about how Hindi should be used in the court, in the High Court and in the Supreme Court, the opinion of our Chief Justice of India of the Supreme Court is to be sought. His opinion was taken which was in the negative stating that this matter should not be taken further. This issue is at a standstill, but there are four states where Hindi is widely used. Alongside English, Hindi is also widely used in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar, and there is a proposal to promote it in other states as well. That step can be taken with the approval of the President and the Governor there.

**SRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, what the Minister is saying about Bihar is absolutely wrong. The High Court judge refused to hear when the lawyer was arguing in Hindi. Is our court still a slave of the British? One question has always been there in my mind and I am also a member of the Committee on Official Language that when a government is formed, the President's Address takes place and the President's Address is completely in English and after that Hindi is said to be considered as read. I feel deeply saddened by this, and I wonder if we are in India or still in the shadow of British colonialism. At least we should think, are we giving respect to Hindi in this country's largest Panchayat, whereas the issue of taking it to ministries and courts will come later?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** As I said, we are all connected with emotions that not only Hindi but also the country's regional languages should receive encouragement. There are no two opinions on this, but in Bihar, which the Member has mentioned, I have also told earlier that the Governor should be approached and requested, and pleaded that if it is not being implemented in the High Court and not being complied with and if Hindi is not being allowed to be used there, then it is a serious matter. The Member should definitely talk to the Minister in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Don't discuss with each other in this way. You yourself are speaking very good Hindi.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** My request is that the Member should go with a delegation to meet the Governor there.... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS:** Hon. Madam Speaker, when the Constitution of the country was written, it clearly mentioned that Hindi would be the national language of this country. English will be the medium, but in 10 years, English will be phased out gradually and Hindi will be implemented throughout the country. Today, it has been 69 years since the country became independent, and the way we are promoting Hindi, I believe that India is perhaps the only country in the world where a committee has been formed and the committee tours are organized to establish its national language. I would like to give an example that when Israel, whose national language Hebrew was almost on the verge of extinction, got established, at that time they decided that our national language will be Hebrew and by reviving a dead language they have shown the world today that if we are determined then even the smallest task as well as the biggest task can be accomplished. I feel sad to say that in the process of saving our national language, it has become more of an official language than a national language. Official Language has

been functioning for 50 years, does the government make an assessment as to what percentage have we achieved in this regard? If we have not been able to implement Hindi in the whole country so far in the last 50 years, how many more years will it take to establish Hindi?

**HON. SPEAKER:** It all depends on us.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Member has put forward a point of larger background. But, there should not be any doubt about our efforts. A committee under my chairmanship is also working on how far we can take Hindi language in administration. We have extensively discussed this matter. Especially, in the 'A' category states in North India, there seem to be no lacking in this regard. Work is being carried out there quite well. Secondly, in the two other categories States, we cannot impose anything on the basis of language. Therefore, we have tried to simplify the language so that the new generation finds it easier to use. For the use of simple Hindi, we have prepared a glossary of about five thousand words in the Department of Official Language, which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which we have also distributed to other ministries so that it can be used.

Besides, in other places, like in the PSUs, we have tried to encourage it in the social media. Nowadays, in computer language, you will find the provision of Hindi language. These are all efforts of the government. The Home Ministry has made considerable efforts.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question Number 226 - Shri Anto Antony - not present.

Kiren Rijiju Ji, it is your day today.

...*(Interruptions)*

**(Q.226)**

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Satyapal Singh.

Arvind Sawant Ji, what happened? You will speak about Marathi, we are aware of that. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH:** Hon. Madam Speaker, my question has come after a long time.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that the performance of athletics in our country is lagging behind as compared to other countries of the world, while

the population is very high here. Are any concrete steps being taken by formulating a special plan to ensure that our country surpasses other countries in terms of performance?

Second, to nurture sports talent among youngsters.....

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please ask one question.

Your question has not come. I am aware of it. That is why I have allowed you. Your question number is 230. But, you have to ask supplementary question for question number 226.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, Hon. Member has rightly expressed that considering our country's population and size, we should aim to win more medals in competitions like the Olympics, Asian Games, and other international events. This is what we believe. Not only the government, but all the other institutions, private agencies, companies and everyone should work together to achieve this. But we have taken some steps in this regard. Especially, for the Olympics to be held in August in Rio, Brazil, a program called 'Target Olympic Podium' has been chalked out so that players bring more and more medals for our country. We want our tricolour to fly there. We have also earmarked a lot of funds for this purpose. The targeted athletes who can win medals have been

specially provided with separate arrangements. Wherever they want to get training in case there is no arrangement in India for that, the funds have been provided for them to get training in America or anywhere in Europe.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

Do you play some game?

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** Madam, I play a little bit. You should organize for this. You started 'Speaker's Research Initiative', now start a 'Speaker's Sports Events.'

Madam Speaker, I liked that the Minister spoke about Olympics and told about the scheme of Olympics. But, I think, again we got stuck in the vocabulary itself. Today, athletics preparations for the Rio Olympics are underway in Delhi. The athletes who are in Delhi, are not able to complete the qualifier seconds time for the Olympics because there is extreme heat in the athletics stadiums of Delhi and there are no such facilities for the athletes. They are not able to run. There is pollution. Is this Government serious because today in another incident, a pole vaulter while doing a pole vault, missed the jump and he fell down and for ten minutes that poor athlete, who wants to represent India, was pleading, he was in pain and there are

no medical facilities there. Are we giving this honour to them? It is mentioned in Question number 230 which must have been written by some bureaucrat.

*[English]*

“Not so impressive performance of India in international sports events can be attributed to lack of bench strength, lack of sports culture, etc.”

*[Translation]*

Madam Speaker, in India, there is neither a lack of bench strength nor a lack of sports culture. If we want to improve, we will have to improve the bureaucrats. If we have sensitivity towards athletes; there's still time to target the Olympics. So far, we have a boxer Shiva Thapa and some badminton players from Assam, but there is still time to boost the athletics, their infrastructure and their medical facilities so that more and more Indian sports persons qualify for the Olympics?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** I do not refute the views expressed by the Hon. Member. He has talked about bureaucrats for us to work in the future, so I understand why only bureaucrats? Let all the Members of Parliament run a drive. We should also create players from our

respective constituencies. We should also encourage people. That is what everyone should be doing. It would not be right to leave it only on the bureaucrat officers.

He has mentioned about the facilities. There are some outdoor games in which you cannot put air conditioners. In our country, there is a huge shortage of funds. Nevertheless, this time the Olympic contingent will be the biggest, the largest ever contingent to participate in an Olympics. So far, our 90 people have qualified. This has never happened before. There are 58 who have qualified individually and 32 people from hockey, both from women's and men's teams, they have qualified and to remove the concerns regarding shortcomings in our facilities as raised by the Member, I will definitely talk to the authorities of the Sports Authority of India, which handles the stadiums and tell them that these concerns of the sportsmen should be addressed. Especially for those who are going to the Olympics, whatever arrangements are necessary should be made in the proper way.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Prasun Banerjee, you play football.

**SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE:** Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to you. We have been listening for so long, thanks to the Minister.

All the Hon. Members raised questions. I first represented India in the Olympics in the year 1980 in Moscow, after which I got the Arjuna Award from the Government of India for the first time. I would like to tell the Minister that there is no dearth of talent in our country. Talent is everywhere, but we are not searching. We do not bring them forward properly, we do not look at the villagers. In the village, there are so many good players, sportsmen, but we don't see them, we don't encourage them. Madam, you can never become a world champion just by eating bread. There is food, there are some other things and our sports budget is very low. Sports budget should be increased.

The Hon. Minister is over there. My question is how many facilities are provided to the children, who are sportspersons. This information should be given. Only in our country, across the whole world, sportsmen get very meagre money. They don't get enough food; the children of rickshaw drivers also play sports but are not noticed by anyone. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will do something for them? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please Vijaya Ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, first and foremost, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend full respect to the Hon. Member for participating in the Moscow Olympics in 1980. I was a kid at that time. Our last hockey gold medal was won in Moscow only in 1980, after that we never won again. Persons like the hon. Member have earned a great reputation for the country. This time, Rs.116 crore has been earmarked for the National Sports Development Fund. For the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, we are spending Rs.49 crore now in view of the Olympics going to be held this year.

Apart from that, athletes like the hon. Member who are great personalities, and other Members of this House, should give their suggestions. Regarding sports policy and sports culture, such an environment should be created all over the country so that we can become a sporting power. The Member has himself said that there is no dearth of talent, the shortcoming is in the system. We are also committed to set right the whole system, and we all should move forward together.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dushyant Chautala Ji, please ask a short question. The Question Hour is running out.

*[English]*

**SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a question. He has spoken extensively about sports and improving our infrastructure. I want to inquire about the *Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan*, which was launched in April 2014. This scheme aimed to build integrated sports complexes, both outdoor and indoor, in every block across the country to support sportsmen. The scheme provides funding for infrastructure. *[Translation]* I am noticing a different convergence that was supposed to happen through the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, and NITI Aayog, but it has not materialized yet. Is the Government making a new plan to assure that the convergence will lead to the development of rural areas?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, earlier three schemes regarding infrastructure used to run, among which was Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme, another scheme in the name of 'Rajiv Gandhi Khelo Abhiyan' and along with it, there was a scheme of Talent Search, and now a scheme under the name 'Khelo India' has been started by intergrating all these schemes. Through this, a new policy has emerged. I understand that previous Indian governments have

never paid as much attention to sports as this current government has, and we will also see its results in future.

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*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Dushyant Chautala, Shri Rajesh Ranjan and Shri Shailesh Kumar *alias* Bulu Mandal on different issues.

The matters though important do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised through other opportunities.

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

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your notice is there with me. I will consider it, but not now. I will have to see all these things.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have received notice of Question of Privilege by Shri M. Veerappa Moilyji. The matter is under my consideration. That is what I said. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

## **\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 227 to 240

Unstarred Question Nos. 2531 to 2760

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

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

**12.02 hours****PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[English]*

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN):** Hon. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Radha Mohan Singh Ji, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Academic Regulations, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 136 in Gazette of India dated 19th April, 2016, under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4787/16/16]

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Madam, on behalf of my colleague Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4788/16/16]

(3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4789/16/16]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Regulation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls Order, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1327(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th April, 2016 under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4790/16/16]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Sections 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

(i) S.O. 3553(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st December, 2015, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.489(E) dated 30th April, 2003.

(ii) S.O. 3552(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1741(E) dated 25th June, 2015.

(iii) S.O. 1212(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.19(E) dated 6th January, 2011.

(iv) S.O. 1213(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.20(E) dated 6th January, 2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4791/16/16]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

(i) The Hazardous and other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.395(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2016.

(ii) The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.338(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4792/16/16]

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY):**Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the National Investigation Agency Act,2008:-

(1) S.O.149(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16<sup>th</sup>January,

2016, appointing a Judge to the Special Court i.e. Court of Chief Judge, City Sessions Court, Calcutta under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(2) S.O.398(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, notifying the Court of the City Civil and Additional Sessions Judge Greater Bombay presided over by Shri Vijay Venkatarao Patil, City and Additional Sessions Judge Greater Bombay as a Special Court for the purposes of Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 having jurisdiction throughout the state of Maharashtra for the trial of schedule offences.

(3) S.O.399(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, appointing a Judge to the Special Court i.e. the Designated Courts under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act/Prevention of Terrorism Act (TADA/POTA) at Jammu for the purposes of Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(4) S.O.400(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, appointing a Judge to the Special Court i.e. the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Manipur East Imphal under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(5) S.O.1097(E) published in Gazette of India dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, rectifying the name of the judge appointed to the Special Court i.e. the Court of the Chief Judge, City Sessions Court, Calcutta.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4793/16/16]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA) :** Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of Notification No. S.O.1222(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 notifying the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 as 'Special Order' under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4794/16/16]

- (2)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4795/16/16]

- (4)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4796/16/16]

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Guwahati, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4797/16/16]

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:

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

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4798/16/16]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4799/16/16]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-clause (2) of Clause 2 of the Foreigners Order, 1948:-
  - (i) S.O.1816(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2015, appointing Commissioner of Police, Siliguri, as the “Civil Authority” for the purpose of Foreigners Order, 1948 for the Immigration check post located at Phulbari in the jurisdiction of Government of West Bengal with effect from 06.06.2015.

(ii) S.O.1505(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th June, 2015, appointing Superintendent of Police, Lakshadweep U.T., as the “Civil Authority” for the purpose of Foreigners Order, 1948 for the Immigration check post located at Agatti & Minicoy Islands in the jurisdiction of Lakshadweep U.T. with effect from 30.06.2015.

(iii) S.O.2016(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2015, appointing Foreigners Registration Officer, Bhubaneswar District, as the “Civil Authority” for the purpose of Foreigners Order, 1948 for the Immigration check post located at Biju Patnaik Airport Bhubaneswar in the jurisdiction of Foreigners Registration Officer of Bhubaneswar District with effect from 10.07.2015.

(iv) S.O.1818(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2015, appointing Foreigners Registration Officer, Madurai District, as the “Civil Authority” for the purpose of Foreigners Order, 1948 for the Immigration check post located at Madurai Airport in the jurisdiction of Superintendent of Madurai District with effect from 01.09.2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4800/16/16]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950:-

(i) S.O.1815(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2015, designating Phulbari in West Bengal as an authorized Immigration check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

(ii) S.O.1504(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th June, 2015, designating Agatti & Minicoy Islands in Lakshadweep U.T. as an authorised Immigration check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

(iii) S.O.2017(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2015, designating Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar of Odisha state as an authorised Immigration check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

(iv) S.O.1817(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th July, 2015, designating Madurai Airport of Tamilnadu State as an

authorised Immigration check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4801/16/16]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 167 of the Assam Rifles Act, 2006:-

(i) The Assam Rifles Subedar Major (Buildings and Roads) (Engineers) Group 'B' (Combatised) Recruitment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 225 in weekly Gazette of India dated 5th December, 2015.

(ii) The Assam Rifles Naib Subedar (Electrician Motor Vehicle) Group 'B' Combatised Post Recruitment Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 223 in weekly Gazette of India dated 28th November, 2015.

(iii) The Assam Rifles, Naib Subedar (Teacher), Group 'B' Combatised Posts Recruitment Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 26 in weekly Gazette of India dated 27th February, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4802/16/16]

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:-

- (1)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.
  
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4803/16/16]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th April, 2016 under Section 97 of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4804/16/16]

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of the third quarter of

financial year 2015-2016, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4805/16/16]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:-

(i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Registration and Operations of Branch Offices of Foreign Reinsurers other than Lloyd's) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDAI/Reg/17/107/2015 in Gazette of India dated 23rd October, 2015.

(ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Registration and Operations of Branch Offices of Foreign Reinsurers other than Lloyd's) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDAI/Reg/1/113/2016 in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4806/16/16]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of Section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4807/16/16]

**12.04 hours****COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES****31<sup>st</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> Reports**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH):** Madam Speaker, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) 31th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(2) 32th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Department of Space.

(3) 33th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(4) 34th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).

(5) 35th Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (Not Acceded to).

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**12.04 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY****18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2015-16):-

(1) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2015-16.

(2) Nineteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Energy Conservation' pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

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**12.05 hours**

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

**285<sup>th</sup> Report**

**SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN (JAMUI):** I beg to lay on the Table the Two Hundred Eighty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Effects of Tobacco Curing on Environment and Health' of Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests.

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**12.05 ½ hours**

**PRESENTATION OF PETITION**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I present a Petition signed by Sarvashri Lakhan Turi and Mahendra Prasad Kushwaha regarding opening up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Deoghar, Jharkhand.

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**12.06 hours****STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers\***

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) :** Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4808/16/16

**12.07 hours**

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED  
QUESTION NO.5615 DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015 REGARDING  
BEGGING AMONG CHILDREN ALONGWITH REASONS  
FOR DELAY \***

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA):**

Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a statement correcting the reply given on 28.04.2015 to Unstarred Question no. 5615 by Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan, Member of Parliament regarding 'Begging among children'.

<b>Part of the QA</b>	<b>In place of</b>	<b>Read this.</b>
(a) and (b)	The Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of	The Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of

	<p>India has informed that as per Census, 2011, the number of beggars, street children etc.in the age-group of 0-14 years is as under:</p>	<p>India has informed that as per Census, 2011, the number of beggars, street children etc.in the age-group of 0-14 years is as under:</p>	
<p>Beggars, street children, etc. (non-workers) in the age group of 0-14 years</p>	<p>372217</p>	<p>Beggars, street children, etc. (nonworkers) in the age group of 0-14 years</p>	<p>41285</p>
<p>Beggars, street children in the age group of 5-14 years</p>	<p>41453</p>	<p>Beggars, street children in the age group of 5-14 years</p>	<p>4011</p>
		<p>State-wise details is given</p>	

	State-wise details is given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.	in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.
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Inconvenience is regretted.

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**12.08 hours****MOTION RE: THIRTY-FIRST REPORT OF BUSINESS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE****SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER):** I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 9th May, 2016.”

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 9th May, 2016.”

*The motion was adopted.*

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*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue today. I would like to draw attention to the issues of faulty Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for highways prepared by consultants appointed by us for constructing national highways in our country. Highways are built, DPRs remain faulty. We have always seen that the DPRs are faulty. For example, the highway from Gurgaon to Delhi, which was built ten years ago, still faces traffic jams at entry and exit points even today. So many people have lost their lives. After that, an FOB was constructed over there. As on date, the highway from Sikar to Bikaner has been built in my parliamentary constituency. Service lanes were not given inside even a single city and you have divided the city into two parts without service lanes. As of today, the livelihood of those people have been affected. Even today, the new highways are being built in such a manner that they divide the city and the village into two parts and no crossing facility is provided there. Through you, I would like to urge the government to make the consultant accountable for the faulty DPR and they should also be made a party in this regard. They leave after submitting the DPR, the contractor leaves after constructing the

road but the public suffers and face problems everyday and the people die in accidents every day. Through you, I would like to demand from the Government to take action against the consultant who prepared the DPR.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri C.R. Chaudhary, Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Shri Arjunlal Meena, Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato, Shri Kuwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Hariom Singh Rathore, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Sudhir Gupta and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan.

**12.10 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Ravneet Singh, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRIANSHUL VERMA (HARDOI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to bring an issue to the notice of the Human Resource Development Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the government's ambitious scheme 'Mid Day Meal', mothers and sisters have been engaged as cook for 11 months on an honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month for cooking food for children in all primary schools and upper primary schools of the country including my constituency and Uttar Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, 10 months payment is made by the Principal or Headmaster after taking 11 months of work. ... *(Interruptions)* At some places, the headmasters do not pay honorarium to the cook sisters for many months due to political malice. ... *(Interruptions)* A memorandum was given to the Hon. Minister by the office bearers of Hardoi Janpad Adarsh Kalyan Rasoiya Samiti and this matter has been conveyed by the cook sisters by staging a dharna at the state

and country level. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to provide 11 months honorarium to cook sisters and transfer the funds directly into their bank accounts. ... (*Interruptions*) Renewal should be done on the work basis instead of applying form every year. At present, they get an honorarium of just Rs. 33 per day, which is much lower than the daily wage. (*Interruptions*) In such scenario, every cook sister should be added to the BPL list and get the benefit of BPL facilities. Through you, this is my request to the Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Ashwini Choubey, Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ajay Misra Teni, and Shri Nana Patole are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Anshul Verma.

[*English*]

**SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER):** Hon. Speaker Madam, the DJ musical system or band are gaining popularity day by day in the ceremonial functions and various processions carried out for different reasons like birth anniversaries and many other functions. ... (*Interruptions*) As per the recent report from various medical institutes, hospitals, private clinics of ENT, the patients for

permanent hearing loss are increasing at an alarming number. There are more than 35 to 50 per cent patients complaining for the hearing loss in these medical institutions and hospitals per day out of the total number of patients only because of the large sound pollution on high decibel wavelengths output which the human beings cannot bear. ... (*Interruptions*) Not only this, there are very high vibrations which the surrounded lives and concrete structures are observing with large disturbance for any kind of work till the DJ systems are not moving from their place to a long distance.

This high decibel wavelength output is from the DJ sound systems which are very commonly used on the roads and affect very badly on the passers-by and the families living nearby though these are not directly the part of the ceremonial function. ... (*Interruptions*) There are no rules and regulations specially meant for this and the governing mechanism is not taking stringent action. The vague norms are written down while permitting to play which are also not observed by the DJ system operators.

Just as very recently the ban has been imposed on the fireworks display due to which an accident occurred at a temple, a similar ban should be imposed on the DJ system operators without any loose rope or relaxation of any kind to play the system. ... (*Interruptions*)

Through the hon. House, I request the Minister to take serious and immediate steps to ban the DJ musical system which is going on the common roads for any reasons. Strict action with high penalty should be imposed for violating the norms of playing DJ musical systems, thereby saving the hearing health of the human beings across the country.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Rakshatai Khadse.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you understand one thing, a question of Notice of Privilege is under Rule 222 and if I give permission for this, then only you can speak. It is under my consideration. That is why I am not allowing it today.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND**

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Hon. Speaker Madam, there cannot be a discussion in the House about admissibility. It has to be with the Chair inside.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know it. That is what I said. I have not given any consent.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJESH PANDEY (KUSHINAGAR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue.

Madam Speaker, on the issue of the revival of sugar factory regarding which I would like to express my standpoint, it is important to mention that the illustrious Prime Minister of our country has also expressed his serious concern over the closure of that factory. At the same time, I have written a number of letters to the Ministry. Along with this, I have also had several meetings with the hon. Minister and his concerned officers.

Madam Speaker, whenever I visit my constituency, I am repeatedly asked the same question as to when will the Padrauna Sugar Mill revive? It is also essential to mention here that in the Kushi Nagar district, 5 lakh sugarcane farmers are directly associated with this mill, and they all know that its ownership lies with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The factory is fully capable of being operated and there seems no justification on the part of the Ministry of Textiles to let it remain non-operational. The entire responsibility lies with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Santosh Kumar Gangwar ji, who is the Minister of State of the Ministry of Textiles in the Government of India, for sending experts from the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur to assess whether this factory is worth running. ... *(Interruptions)*...

Hon. Madam Speaker, the report has now arrived, confirming that the factory is fully capable of operating at normal expenses. It serves as an economic backbone for the workers and sugarcane farmers there. Now, the ministry is left with only two options, either to leave the property worth Rs. 350 crores including the value of land and factory to decay over time or run that factory at normal cost

and secure the future of sugarcane farmers, labourers and businessmen there forever.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister and the ministry today to immediately announce the revival of this factory for the complete economic development of Kushinagar district. Thank you very much.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Sarvashri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Sudheer Gupta, Alok Sanjar, Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Pandey, Hon. Member of Parliament.

... (*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

**HON. SPEAKER:** You Please be quiet and be seated at your respective places. ... (*Interruptions*)... Every speech given outside the House is not mentioned here. So please you go to your seats. No. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please go back to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Only what Shri Rameswar Teli says will go on record.

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

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAMESWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** Hon, Speaker Madam, I want to speak in my mother tongue Assamese. So please allow me to speak in Assamese language.

[*English*]

\*\*Over the past several decades Assam has been suffering from the perennial problems of floods and resultant erosion. Lakhs of families have either been displaced or rendered homeless due to the devastation and destruction by floods. Every year Assam losses about 8000 hectares of land to rivers like the Brahmaputra and the Barak and their tributaries. Embankments also get breached inundating several places causing untold miseries and suffering to the people. Floods have pushed millions of people to an uncertain future having shattered Assam's fragile economy as a whole. The recurrence of floods and erosion continued to be a major obstacle towards development of Assam for decades. In fact the successive

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\* Not recorded.

\*\* Not recorded.

waves of devastating floods in almost every year have virtually destroyed the agriculture based economy of the state. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to find out a permanent solution to this serious issue so as to relieve the state of this problem and declare Assam's flood problem as national problem.

\*\*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Assamese.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel associates himself with the issue raised by the Hon. Member Shri Rameshwar Teli in the House.

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, at the outset, through you, I would like to say to my Congress colleagues that this is a very important issue related to students, so please maintain silence and assist me in raising this issue in the House, but from their noisy behaviour it seems to me that they no longer have any concern for the youth of the country. Therefore, they are not ready to go back to their seats and maintain silence in spite of your repeated requests.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to seek three additional and permanent opportunities for students affected by CSAT paper of Civil Services Of Union Public Service Commission (????) from the year 2011 to 2015.

Hon Madam Speaker, the point is that it will not be justified to ignore the opportunity and interest of the students who have lost their valuable time and effort in these five years. From 2011 to 2015, the students had to suffer disadvantage of frequent abrupt changes in the exam pattern. This disparity can also be clearly seen in the 63th and 64th and the latest 65th reports of UPSC.

Hon. Madam Speaker, most of the students of rural India are from the background of humanities subjects. A look at the list of final selections in these five years clearly shows that these students have continued to be eliminated in the preliminary examination itself and the graph of selection of the students of technical subjects is increasing rapidly, which is about 80 percent.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to say that due to this unjust system, the interests of the student group have been affected by CSAT and their equality of opportunity has been violated. I desire that they should be given the opportunity to fulfil

their aspirations and demonstrate their capabilities in this examination.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, Shri Rahul Kaswan, Shri Alok Sanjar, Shri C.P. Joshi, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Manoj Rajoria and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

*[English]*

**SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO (SHIRUR):** Thank you Madam. I wish to draw the attention of this august assembly to the important issue of Red Zones in the district of Pune and in my constituency. I have been following this issue with the Ministry of Defence since my first election to the Lok Sabha in the year 2004....

*(Interruptions)*

Dighi Magazine Depot is established by Ammunition Factory, Khadaki, district Pune. The notification by the Ministry of Defence in this regard states that the area within the radius of 1145 metre of the Dighi Magazine Depot is a restricted area and that is a Red Zone. It has imposed a ban on the usage of land falling within the radius of

1100 metres. Such a move by the Ministry of Defence has led to the issues that have a bearing on the aggrieved occupants on said land.... *(Interruptions)* There are more than 50,000 houses from Dighi, Bhosari, Moshi and Charholi villages of Pune district that are affected by this decision of the Ministry of Defence. It is pertinent to mention that in a meeting held in the year 2000 between PCMC Commissioner, District Collector and General Manager of the ammunition factory, a draft agreement was prepared. It stated that the Outer Safety Distance would be reduced to 600 metres. Subsequently, the draft agreement was sent to the Ministry of Defence for approval. But no action was taken on the revised draft agreement by the Ministry of Defence. More houses have been constructed on the said land. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce the OSD to 500 meters to minimize the loss of property.... *(Interruptions)*

Similarly, the Red Zone issues of Rupinagar, Talawade and DOD Dehu Road are of vital importance. The Central Government has sanctioned an important BSUP project at Sector No.22 Nigdi in PCMC area. The said project is consisting of almost 11,760 units. Out of that 3,500 units have been constructed and 2800 houses are occupied by the beneficiaries and they are living there. This is such

an important project but due to the restriction of Red Zone, 2000 yard boundary of the project is held up. Apart from this, MIDC has developed an IT Park at Talawade in the area of about 42 hectare.... *(Interruptions)* It is learnt that necessary permission was obtained from the State and the Central Government for the project. But, now the Ministry of Defence has declared that as unauthorized construction. In addition to that, it is very difficult to demolish 40,000 houses which were built 20 years ago in the periphery of the said Red Zone.... *(Interruptions)*

I am happy to inform you that the hon. MoD Shri Parrikar has shown willingness to resolve this long pending matter. Madam, Speaker, I, therefore, request you to instruct the Ministry of Defence to speed up the process. If it is done on an urgent basis, then all related process of earmarking of land, acquisition of land and payment of compensation can be taken up. The BSUP Project at Sector No.22, Nigdi in PCMC and the MIDC projects can be realized soon. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao.

Shri Shrimati Aparupa Poddar – Not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is no point of order during ‘Zero Hour’.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue. This issue is related to the farmers as well as the Fair and Remunerative Price(FRP) to be paid to the farmers by the Sugar. On 26 April, 2016, the Government of India passed an ordinance and published a gazette announcing the stock limit. In this regard, a limit of 10 thousand tonnes has been fixed for West Bengal and 50 thousand tonnes for other states. The reason being given in this regard is that the production of sugar in the country is likely to decrease next year. But there is no such situation because last year's stock is 90 lakh tonnes. This year's production has been 260 lakh tonnes, totalling 350 lakh tonnes. Out of this, only 15 lakh tonnes have been exported and 335 lakh tonnes is available for domestic use and still there can be a stock of 90 lakh tonnes. Next year's possibility that there will be 240 lakh tonnes of production, does not seem to be a good enough reason. Owing to the stock

limit's decision, the price of sugar in the market has fallen by Rs. 400 per quintal. This decision benefits neither the sugar industry nor the consumers; it only benefits the traders who stockpile sugar, buying it at Rs. 30 per kilogram and selling it in the market for Rs. 40-45 per kilogram.

Hon. Madam Speaker, in the last two years, the rate of sugar was Rs 1900, due to which the sugar factories were facing problems in providing FRP. These factories have paid FRPs by taking loans from banks. Due to a reduction of Rs. 200 per ton by banks over the past two years, sugar factories are unable to pay the FPR this year as well. This is making it difficult for both farmers and factories.

Future trading is also very extensive. Last year, 16,000 crore Assumption was shown in Future Trading whereas there was a direct trading of 16 crores. Traders in the market create artificial bullish trends, which affect direct sales. Until this rate is Rs. 3500, sugar factories will not be able to give FRP. Out of sugar production, only 25 percent sugar is used for food, the remaining 75 percent sugar goes to the industry and used for chocolate, biscuits. Sugar factories will benefit even if the rate of what we eat is fixed at Rs. 30 and the sugar that goes to the industry is fixed at Rs. 60. Last year, the steel industry came into recession and the government had taken a very

important decision of rescheduling the loan for 25 years. Similarly, loans for sugar factories should be rescheduled for 25 years and a three-year moratorium period should be given.

The government is considering banning exports, it should not stop. Through you, I would like to request the government that at least 40 lakh tonnes should be exported. The Ranganathan Committee had decided to give the CACP FRP, its recommendation should be accepted by the Government. In it, the ratio of 70-30 was fixed. 30 per cent was fixed for the industry and 70 per cent for farmers, if this ratio is given, then this industry can revive. Through you, I would like to make this request to the government.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri A.T. Nana Patil, Shri Sharad Tripathi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Dhananjay Mahadik.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (BALIA):** Hon. Madam Speaker, my parliamentary constituency is a region surrounded by Ganga and Ghaghra rivers in Ballia district. Here, the birthplace of the Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Ji, Sitab Diara is located. The people there are suffering due to the erosion of Ghaghra and Ganga rivers. I blamabad, Navran, Atgaon, Jagdishpur, Basola, Gadaria, Narnara

and Ghazipur on the banks of Ganga and Dattah and Tirapur villages on the banks of Ghaghra are affected due to erosion by Ghaghra and Ganga rivers. Last year, thanks to your directions, the anti-erosion work was carried out, but it remains incomplete. I blamabad and Navran are adjacent to the parliamentary constituency of Hon. Minister Rajiv Pratap Ji and the work here is incomplete. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India, to pay attention in this regard and complete the work lying incomplete through funding from NABARD so that this work gets completed before flooding and these villages can be protected.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri C.P. Joshi, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Alok Sanjar are allowed to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Bharat Singh.

*[English]*

**SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY):** Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important matter during the Zero Hour.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has decided to establish its Capital 'Amravati' in Guntur district. Amaravati region is known for its rich

history culture, art and architecture including the famous Amaravati *Stupa*

In this context, I would like to bring to the notice of the Union Government through this august House that some Buddhist sculpture were shifted in the past from Amaravati to the British Museum, London (1857-1879) and the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai (1879-1950). The State Government intends to bring back these precious heritage items and place them in the proposed Statemuseum at Amaravati.

In this regard, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandra Babu Naidu has already requested the hon. Union Minister for External Affairs in the month of October, 2015, to use her good offices to impress upon the Government of U.K. to return the above items from the British Museum to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to enable us to showcase our heritage in the new capital city, Amaravati.

I would, therefore, earnestly request the Union Government and the hon. Minister for External Affairs to consider the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for return of the artifacts from the British Museum at the earliest possible.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M. Murli Mohan.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA):** Hon. Madam Speaker, there are four lane roads all around from our city Rewa to Banaras, Allahabad, Jabalpur. Currently, a four-lane concrete road is being constructed from Rewa to Singrauli. The people of Rewa are getting the benefit of Golden Quadrilateral Scheme but the route from our National Highway No. 7 to Rewa railway station is very narrow. The Railway Department is not permitting the widening of this route.

Through you, I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to permit the widening of the route from the railway station to National Highway No. 7 which is on the land of the Railway Department so that a four-lane road can be constructed there and can be well adjusted with the four-lane facility available to the people around Rewa.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Alok Sanjar and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Janardan Mishra.

**SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):**

Hon. Madam Speaker, water pollution has become a major global problem today. For this, efforts are also going on at all levels. Water pollution is increasing not only from rivers but also from contamination of ponds, lakes, seas and ground water. Today, only cleaning of Ganga is being discussed in the country, but almost all the rivers, drains, ponds in the country are covered with dirt. Tourists visiting Taj Mahal are greeted with the sight of the extremely polluted Yamuna River, while residents of Mumbai face the daily challenge of dealing with highly polluted rivers like Oshiwara, Poisar, Walbhat, Dahisar, Tansa, Tasso etc, which are causing numerous health issues. People are falling sick and also dying alongwith animals. Diseases are spreading due to water pollution due to biological or industrial activities of humans or animals. According to an information, approximately 14 thousand people die worldwide every day, including 580 in India. This is a scary truth.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Government that not only cleaning of Ganga is necessary but there is a need to clean the rivers, drains and lakes also flowing across the country. It is necessary to remove accumulated waste from rivers, streams, and

ponds. Strict action should be taken against industrial units. This task needs to be carried out at a war footing. This could alleviate the problems of drought, improve access to drinking water, increase the number of trees and plants, and rapidly improve people's health. The productivity of agriculture will increase and as a result the country will progress.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Alok Sanjar, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

**SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA):** Hon. Madam Speaker, there are three crucial branches - legislature, executive, and judiciary - for the successful functioning of any democracy. The legislature is accountable to the people, ... *(Interruptions)* the executive is accountable to the government, but the judiciary is not accountable to anyone. ... *(Interruptions)* if the maximum number of people in India are suffering, it is because of the functioning of the Judiciary. ... *(Interruptions)*

Crores of cases are pending all over the country. A case which should have been settled in one year takes 20 years to get disposed

of. ... *(Interruptions)* They do not do their own work and tell the Executive and the Legislature to do this and not do this. ... *(Interruptions)*

Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to constitute an All India Judicial Service.

Their selection and working should be impartial. ... *(Interruptions)* We don't even know how one becomes a judge. When did a judge take up the exam and who took the examination remains unknown. It is often heard that the son of a judge became a judge, and the son of a lawyer became a judge, suggesting that judges are frequently appointed from among these circles. ... *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the government to promptly establish an All India Judicial Service... *(Interruptions)* so that the people of this country can get timely justice and we can get freedom from the monopoly of the judiciary. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Sarvashri Rahul Shewale, Shrirang Appa Barne, Sunil Kumar Singh, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Ajay Misra Teni, Rahul Kaswan, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Raghav Lakhanpal, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Rodmal Nagar, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, P.P. Chaudhary, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Shrimati Meenakshi

Lekhi are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Harish Meena.

**SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the bypass in Garhwa district of my parliamentary constituency, through which NH 75 passes. ... *(Interruptions)*

The approval for the construction of this bypass was granted in the year 2010 itself. ... *(Interruptions)* But surprisingly, till date, its DPR has not been prepared, whereas NH 75 is in a state of completion. ... *(Interruptions)*

The traffic system of Garhwa city has become chaotic. ... *(Interruptions)* People have to spend hours just to cover a short distance there. This is causing a lot of inconvenience to the general public. ... *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the government to expedite the construction of a bypass in Gadhwa district to alleviate the problems faced by the general public. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA):** Madam it is a very important issue. ... *(Interruptions)* We are particularly talking today about the Breach of Privilege motion.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, no, that's not the point. Nothing will go on record.

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

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have given the notice regarding the other subject. This will not go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have to speak on the issue on which you have given the notice. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD (BHIND):** Hon. Madam Speaker, Indian Constitution is the most important document for every citizen of India. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Don't think that nothing is heard by the Speaker. It is not like that. I am listening to everything. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

**DR BHAGIRATH PRASAD:** The system of the whole country, Parliament and other legislatures, executive and judiciary are governed by the Constitution. The provisions of fundamental rights of citizens, duties, principles of state policy, etc., are enshrined in this constitution.... *(Interruptions)* This constitution provides the path

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\* Not recorded.

to India's social and economic system, fraternity, equal opportunities for progress, and liberation from injustice and exploitation. ... *(Interruptions)* We have just celebrated Constitution Day on 26th November, 2015, on the 125th year birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution. ... *(Interruptions)* But, it is regrettable that the original copy of the constitution has not reached the hands of the common people.... *(Interruptions)* Its publication is prohibited by the Ministry of Law and Justice. ... *(Interruptions)* Here, we feel the shadow of Official Secret Act of British period. ... *(Interruptions)* No publisher can publish the Constitution in its original form without the permission of the Department. ... *(Interruptions)* It is necessary for the publisher to take permission for this. ... *(Interruptions)* On the other hand, a very small number of it is published by the Government of India and its value is also kept very high. As a result, it is rare for the common man to access the Indian Constitution.

My request to the Government of India is that the Indian Constitution should be published on a large scale. In order to encourage publication, publishers should be encouraged to publish better at a lower cost. In this era of Right to Information, every

person has the right and duty to give concrete shape to the purpose of the Constitution according to his democratic right.

Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Alok Sanjar, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. Bhagirath Prasad.

**YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the incidents of fire across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh.

Madam Speaker, due to sudden rise in temperature in the last one and a half months, thousands of small and big incidents of fire have occurred in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar etc. ... *(Interruptions)* Thousands of hectares of standing crops of farmers have been burnt, thousands of houses or buildings and huts of the poor have been burnt. ... *(Interruptions)* After the burning of standing crops, the assistance that should have been provided to the farmers at the state government level, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, has not been provided. ... *(Interruptions)* Mandi committees have refused to help farmers saying that if the crop is burnt inside the

barn, then they will cooperate, if there is a fire in the standing crop in the field, then it is not the responsibility of the Mandi committees. Recently, Hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the crop insurance scheme for farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the Kisan Fasal Bima Yojana, if the standing crop of the farmers is damaged by fire, then it should also be covered under the Kisan Bima Yojna. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, I would like to request that the poor, whose residential complexes are vulnerable to fire tragedy, should be provided one house each from Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Alok Sanjar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Daddan Mishra, Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Rodmal Nagar are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Yogi Adityanath.

**SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-CHIMUR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to my Parliamentary Constituency Gadchiroli-Chimur in Maharashtra.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Madam Speaker, forest wealth, mineral wealth and water wealth are found on a large scale in my area.... *(Interruptions)*Not only this, the mineral wealth like granite, dolomite, diamond, emerald, gold, manganese and coal etc.is in abundance there and especially 80 per cent is forest area. ... *(Interruptions)*Many factories and industries based on all these forest wealth and mineral wealth can be set up, but the only reason it could not be done is that there has been no construction of good roads and no railway network. ... *(Interruptions)*Within these two years, the Central Government has sanctioned good railway network in my area and has also sanctioned good roads, in other words, a National Highway, costing more than Rs.5,000 crore. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Madam Speaker, if the railway line and network come up there, big factories and industries will also come up. .... *(Interruptions)*I would like to request you that after the construction of good roads there, factories and industries will be set up, ... *(Interruptions)*but the Central Government has exempted the industries in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand from State and Central taxes and has announced a tax holiday package there.... *(Interruptions)*Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government that in my area also, if the holiday

package is announced to exempt industries from Central and State taxes, then industries will be promoted there. ... *(Interruptions)* There will be development and the large number of unemployed, who are going on the wrong path, will be able to join the mainstream.... *(Interruptions)* That is my request to you. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to raise the matter of public importance related to my constituency Ranchi in Zero Hour.

Madam, my Lok Sabha constituency is Ranchi city which is also the capital of the State of Jharkhand. After nearly being the capital for almost sixteen years, Ranchi city's main roads like Pandara Bazaar, Ratu road, Kutchery Chowk, Firayalal Chowk, Sarjana Chowk, and Sujata Chowk are still the same. From Kutchery Chowk to Shaheed Nirmal Mahato Chowk, Lalpur Chowk, Dangra Toli Chowk, Kantatoli Chowk to Siromatoli Chowk, and from Sujata Chowk to the residence of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Morhabadi Chowk, RIMS, Booti Mod to Kokar Chowk, there is often heavy traffic congestion on the road leading upto to Kantatoli Chowk.

Madam, since the formation of the capital, neither the road has been widened properly nor the flyover is still being constructed to avoid jams. In this regard, I have done correspondence several times with the Chief Minister of the State Government as well as the Minister of Road Transport of the Central Government. Alongside, I have raised this issue several times in the Lok Sabha through the House. But so far, I have only received assurances. A ring road has been inaugurated in Ranchi city to lessen the congestion on main roads. Due to the negligence of the contractor and the State government, the construction of even half of ring road has not been completed in ten-twelve years till now. The common people are facing a lot of problems due to incomplete construction work after the passage of so many days.

Therefore, through you, I would like to appeal to both the Union Government and the State government to pay attention to widening of the aforementioned roads in my Lok Sabha constituency, to expedite the construction of flyovers over these roads, and to complete the construction of the ring road at the earliest. I would like to request the Union Government to provide sufficient funds to the State Government for the completion of all the said works.

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** This is about the present affairs of the Tea Board of India which is facing problems. Some bureaucrats dealing with the Tea Board are showing highhanded behaviour.

Tea Board was constituted by an enactment of Parliament – the Tea Act, 1953. It was running very smoothly. Since 2012, there is no permanent Chairman of the Tea Board. A few bureaucrats started transferring more than 30 employees together to the different regional offices in a very undemocratic manner. There is a suspected move that existence of Tea Board may face a big challenge.

I had a talk with the hon. Minister yesterday, and handed over a memorandum with a request that this decision to transfer be withdrawn and discussion be held with the employees association and with the Tea Board Members. If necessary, the Minister may be involved. As the local MP, I want to be involved with the whole issue.

Madam, I would like to request the hon. Minister that a high level enquiry be instituted to probe the affairs in the Tea Board; a full time Chairman to be appointed shortly; transfer of employees

being done in an inhuman manner be revoked immediately; Board's head office should also be strengthened, not only just the regional offices, and that too at the expense of head office; and professional management, who are conversant with the problems of tea industry, should be appointed.

Most of the staffers of the Board are going to superannuate in the next few years. To make the organization vibrant, fresh blood should be infused. Staff restructuring should be done in such a manner that the pangs of such an exercise should not be felt by those employees who have forgone many career advancement opportunities to look after their families and infirm dependants.

I hope the hon. Minister will rise to the occasion in the interest of the Tea Board and take such appropriate steps by which the functioning of the Tea Board continues with inspiration and enthusiasm. The employees should not be targeted and the Tea Board has to be saved in the interest of Indian economy. I hope the hon. Minister will intervene in the matter immediately, come to the House and give a reply.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the matter raised by Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay.

**SHRI RAMSWAROOP SHARMA (MANDI):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this House, to the Manali and Rohtang areas. Rohtang is an international tourist destination where tourists from all over the country and abroad come to enjoy its beauty.

Himachal Pradesh presented the incomplete side of the public in the NGT after a long delay, as a result of which the businessmen of Manali and Rohtang and tourists coming from within the country and abroad had to face a lot of difficulty. In the order passed by NGT on 3 May, 2013 on the basis of National Environmental Engineering Regional Institute of Kanpur 'Niri', one thing was highlighted that Rohtang is a glacier and an eco-sensitive area. But after that, on the basis of the report of Shri J.B. Pant and on the basis of the report of the scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru University, it was made clear that Rohtang is not a glacier but just a snowline and it is not an eco-sensitive zone. There is no ecology on Gulaba either. If there is any glacier near Rohtang, that glacier is called 'Hamta'. The NGT has now accepted this.

Madam Speaker, as per the NGT (National Green Tribunal) order of 6th July, 2015, tourist activities like snow scooters, taxis, horse riding, paragliding, dhabas, kiosks, carts and food shops were completely banned in and around Rohtang Pass. But yesterday the NGT (National Green Tribunal) judgment of 9 May, 2016 has provided some relief to these people till May 12.

Madam Speaker, such an order has not been implemented in any state other than Himachal Pradesh till date. The local residents' employment here also depends on tourists, and without any plan, the livelihoods of the people here have been taken away. Those who had taken loans from banks to buy hotels, taxis, snow scooters and other equipment for the convenience of tourists, all of them have become unemployed today.

Through you, I would like to urge the various Ministries of the Government of India, that the MLA of Manali and other public representatives have filed SLP in the Hon. Supreme Court. Therefore, the Government of India should present the said issue of Manali and Rohtang Pass before the Supreme Court on scientific grounds so that the businesses of Manali and Rohtang residents continue as usual and tourists from India and abroad can enjoy the

beauty of Rohtang Pass and the valleys of Himachal Pradesh as before.

Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Virendra Kashyap, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri P.P. Chaudhary are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma.

**DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVNAGAR):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. Today, you have given me the opportunity to speak about an institution which is truly imbibing gandhian values, village life and agricultural practices even today. In the 21st century, The International Commission constituted a Committee of Scholars from 15 different regions of the world regarding the subject 'Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century' and handed over a report 'Learning: The Treasure Within' to UNESCO. If we look at this report, we find that the new education system has included the same four main fundamental values of teaching as mentioned by Gandhiji years ago. With the idea of new education system, venerable Nanabhai

Bhatt started an institution Gram Dakshina Murthi Amla, in a small village of Bhavnagar which has also been declared as National Heritage School. After that, Nanabhai Bhatt, Manubhai Pancholi (Darshak), Buchdada and Moolshankar Bhai Bhatt established a Gram Vidyapeeth namely Lok Bharti for higher education. It is a very good institution. I can say with full confidence that Amla and Lok Bharati have taught me and thousands of students like me as to how should we live. Lok Bharati is an organisation that, while being a gram Vidyapeeth, also spearheads a rural revolution distinct from a rural university. During its foundation, our esteemed Presidents Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Rajendra Prasad visited there and, at a national lecture, remarked that our faith in the new education system has strengthened.

Madam, our hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Bhai Desai, was also their trustee. Through you, I would like to request our government, the Education minister and the Agriculture minister to provide assistance to keep alive the work of shaping the institution in accordance with our country's culture and character, that has been going on for years.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri P.P. Chaudhary and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Bhartiben D. Shyal.

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM:** now one minute only; not more than that.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):** Thank you, Madam, for giving me an opportunity to speak in the 'Zero Hour' to address a very important issue concerning my constituency, that is, Kakinada.... *(Interruptions)* Likewise, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Food Processing Industries as well as the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests to take account of an important issue pertaining to my constituency Kakinada. Carion Pokand Foods (CPF) India is a sea food processing industry commencing at Chinnampalem Village, Prathipadu Mandai of East Godavari District of my constituency Kakinada during the year April, 2015.... *(Interruptions)* It is feared that this company is not strictly observing the pollution norms, resulting in major health

complications to the nearby villages, that is, Yerravaram, Somavaram, Krishnavaram and Boorugupudi.... (*Interruptions*) Moreover, it is feared that if the company becomes fully functional, the chemicals emitted may affect the air and water causing major pollution to the environment. ... (*Interruptions*) The surrounding villagers are apprehensive to get different types of cancers, ulcers, skin allergies, heart, lung diseases etc. These villagers are small and marginal peasants who are not at all in a position to afford treatment. At the outset, the villagers were very happy with a fond hope that they will get employment to their children and prosperity to their villages. The present scenario is totally reversed. Neither had they got employment, nor prosperity as the company is not giving any preference to any of the villagers of my constituency.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister to Sandila, a town in my Lok Sabha constituency, Misrikh. Madam Speaker, many devotees from Sandila keep visiting Jammu to have darshan of Mata Vaishno Devi. But due to no stoppage of trains arriving from and going to Jammu at Sandila railway station, the devotees have to face a lot of problems while going to and

coming from Jammu during the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. Due to which there is a lot of anger among the devotees and the general public here. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister to ensure the stoppage of Amarnath Express at Sandila Railway Station for the convenience of pilgrims travelling from Sandila to Jammu and vice versa, considering the issues faced by devotees of Sandila.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Anju Bala.

**SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI):** Madam, I would like to draw your attention to the condition of the environment and forests of Assam.... *(Interruptions)* Due to cutting and felling of the trees, 70 per cent forest cover has been lost.... *(Interruptions)* Not only the forest, even the hills of Assam have been levelled.... *(Interruptions)* As a result, the silt comes to the river and bed of the river is coming up.... *(Interruptions)* It has caused landslide in such a way that in one month time, 50 people have been killed in the landslide.... *(Interruptions)* And because of this, without any obstruction, heavy silt, sand and stone come down

to the plains and it causes a heavy flood and it breaches the embankment also.... *(Interruptions)* So, this is a very difficult position.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say that nearly 73 per cent embankments in the rivers have been breached because of siltation. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government of India has rendered Rs. 414 crore but that has not been spent at all.... *(Interruptions)* So, due to cutting of the forest, the wild animals like rhinos are killed like anything. Already 1400 rhinos are killed either by smugglers or due to natural death.

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is your demand?

**13.00 hours**

**SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:** It is because of the nefarious nexus between police, forest guards and smugglers, rhino horns are sent to China through Nagaland and through Myanmar. The price of one horn is about Rs. 1,50,000. That is why, I request the Minister of Environment and Forests not to sleep over this degraded condition but to act positively.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rodmal Nagar, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty.

**SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA):** My matter is about the divorce in India. Marriage is a beautiful institution which is totally based on love and respect for each other, that is, between man and woman. *[Translation]* Marriage is the beginning of a very beautiful and sweet relationship.... *(Interruptions)* Man and woman are like the two wheels of a cart.... *(Interruptions)* which go on in the same fashion.... *(Interruptions)* But sometimes, this relationship

ceases to continue because it turns bitter at some point of time....  
(*Interruptions*) No matter how much effort is made by parents, relatives and friends to explain, this relationship becomes impossible.... (*Interruptions*) Young girls of today's generation are facing this a lot.... (*Interruptions*) They are not able to maintain this relationship....(*Interruptions*) They want divorce.... (*Interruptions*) But when they go to the court for divorce, their divorce cases last for ten years.... (*Interruptions*) While the golden period of their life goes wasted in this struggle.... (*Interruptions*) If they get divorce at the earliest, they can very well start their lives again.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, through the House, I would like to say that a separate court should be constituted for giving speedy verdict in the divorce case.... (*Interruptions*) where these people can be set free as soon as possible.... (*Interruptions*) These girls get liberation so that they can start their life again.

Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Kunwar

Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shrimati Hemamalini ji.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Thank you hon. Speaker Madam for allowing me to speak on this important issue during 'zero hour'.

Sports occupy a prominent place in the life of a nation as it keeps one healthy and fit. Sport shapes the character of a person significantly, brings out leadership skills and creates job opportunities. Sport is a field where only talent has to be considered not caste.

Recently, BCCI has announced reservation in Indian cricket. This system is followed in various countries like South Africa which has given a new hope for them in sports. In the recent T-20 Cricket World Cup, West Indies won both Men and Women World Cups.

Article 38(1) and (2) of the Constitution provides introduction of reservation in sports bodies. Out of 15-man squad, BCCI has proposed that 7 players will be from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or OBCs.

The Sports Minister should come with a proposal to give importance to SCs and STs in sports in our country. It is sad that many talented youths are denied opportunities due to casteism. My Parliamentary Constituency Arambag needs grants for providing better infrastructure facilities like training camps, sport kits to encourage SC, ST. It will pave the way for them to get themselves involved in sports activities as they do not get any exposure.

Madam, we have to give credit to West Bengal for producing various eminent sports personalities like Sourav Ganguly, Leander Paes, etc.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BHADOHI):** Madam Speaker, I would like to pose a very important question before you.... *(Interruptions)* Panchayat has had great recognition and respect in this country.... *(Interruptions)* But currently the Panchayat elections which are being held in the country, are being held in Bihar, recently elections were held in Uttar Pradesh.... *(Interruptions)* Bidding has been going on since the day the Panchayat was formed.... *(Interruptions)* Be it a Gram Panchayat, a Kshetra Panchayat or a Zilla Panchayat.... *(Interruptions)* The most unfortunate thing is that

in some states, the Legislative Council which is formed by Panchayats is being subject to bidding... *(Interruptions)* Money is going directly to the panchayats from the Central Government treasury.

Through you, I would like to say that Hon. Mulayam Singh is sitting here. He agrees to the point that the Kshetra Panchayat elections, the district Panchayat elections should be held directly, otherwise if the panchayat is formed on the strength of pistols and money, then the role of Panch Parmeshwar will end. Through you, I would like to say that we should explore alternatives as to how should the Panchayat be formed so that it holds significance for the public and maintains the dignity of the Panch Parmeshwar. That is why I am constrained to say today that earlier I used to consider Gram Sabha, Kshetra Sabha to be appropriate, but today I am saying that Lok Sabha is most appropriate and Gram Sabha, Kshetra Sabha, Zilla Sabha are in crisis today. ... *(Interruptions)*

Through you, I would like to submit that if the opinion of Mulayam Singhji is needed, it can be sought, as he will say something on this issue. Mulayam Singh ji, please speak something.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do not compel him.

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Dr. Banshilal Mahto, Smt. Kamla Patle and Shri Daddan Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Virendra Singh.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I fully agree. Hon. Member has given an appropriate suggestion and at least, you should save democracy because you also have a responsibility to save democracy. What is happening here is in front of you. So, I agree with what the hon. Member has suggested.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Many Hon. Members agree on this.

Shri Daddan Mishra, Dr. Banshilal Mahto, Smt. Kamla Patle are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Madam Speaker, another aspect of solar land scams has emerged in the last week. In Bikaner, 7 solar companies have purchased 1400 acres of land. ... *(Interruptions)* One family is doing money

laundering through that scam. ... *(Interruptions)* A company bought 70 hectares of land for Rs. 72 lakh and sold it for Rs. 5.25 crore. That means... \*both of them are doing money laundering together. The Enforcement Directorate should investigate it and ..... \* The money generated by the company through the Solar Land scam and money laundering, should be unearthed and brought before the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya.

... *(Interruptions)*

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

### **13.07 hours**

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

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\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

**14.13 hours**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen  
of the Clock.*

*(Shri Anandrao Adsul in the Chair)*

*... (Interruptions)*

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \***

*[English]*

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

*... (Interruptions)*

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) Need to check the steep fee hike by private schools affiliated to CBSE in Ranchi parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI):** I would like to draw the government's attention to the exorbitant fees being charged from parents under the pretext of readmission by the private schools affiliated with the CBSE Board in my parliamentary constituency Ranchi, which is causing financial burden on parents. This is mass exploitation in a way. The said schools have started a practice of earning indiscriminately in the name of education, which is adversely affecting education quality. While the curriculum generally remains unchanged for up to five years, schools ask parents to buy new books every year under the guise of alleged commissions received from printers who publish these books, even though, it is not required at all. Normally, the book is changed when the curriculum changes after an average of five years, but the work of changing the books every year is going on in the schools. On getting admission once, there is no case for readmission, but every year, money is recovered from the parents in the name of

readmission. Mass agitations are also taking place against such illegal activities in the said schools. Other students are also suffering due to these irregularities.

I would like to request the government to immediately put a check on the activities of extracting money from the poor children, middle class children in the name of education by the private schools affiliated to the CBSC board of my parliamentary constituency and protect the poor and middle class children from their exploitation.

**(ii) Need to declare tax-holiday for industries in Gadchiroli  
Chimur Parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra**

**SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-  
CHIMUR):** Today the country is badly affected by Naxalism. One of it's major reason is the underdevelopment of these areas. If a continuous effort is made to connect the people of the tribal dominated areas with the mainstream of the nation by making their all round development, then the problem of Naxalism can be tackled to a large extent.

The Gadchiroli-Chimur tribal Parliamentary Constituency in the State of Maharashtra is badly affected by Naxalism. Minerals like

manganese, iron, mica, diamond etc. are available in abundance in this area. Employment can be provided to poor tribal people by setting up mineral-based and other small and big industries here. This will not only provide employment opportunities to tribal youth but also contribute to the development of this region, enabling them to integrate with the mainstream of the nation.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union government to provide tax exemptions in central taxes by declaring a tax holiday package for the severely affected remote, backward, tribal, and industry-lacking Gadchiroli-Chimur region on the lines of the tax holiday packages announced at the central level for the development of states like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and by establishing small and large industries in the region so as to provide employment opportunities for the poor tribal youth of this area, address the issue of Naxalism and integrate them into the mainstream of the nation.

**(iii) Need to provide stoppage of Mandore Express and Jaipur-Jodhpur Intercity Express at Ren railway station in Nagaur, Rajasthan**

**SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND):** At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Railway

Minister for addressing the previously raised issue regarding the Ren Railway Station located in Nagaur-Rajasthan in Merta Assembly constituency under my Lok Sabha constituency. This station is close to the Butati Dham, a place of faith visited by pilgrims and paralytic individuals not only from Rajasthan but from across India. As the railway track of this railway station was previously higher than the station platform, causing great difficulty for the disabled passengers in alighting from and boarding the train, the Railway Minister, upon my request, issued orders to elevate the platform and gave immense relief to the affected individuals.

Sufficient number of trains operate at this Ren railway station, but only a few trains have stoppage here. This Ren town is a large town of the Merta Vidhan Sabha constituency and also qualifies as a suitable halting point for long-distance trains from the perspective of railway revenue. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister to provide relief by issuing an order for stoppage of Mandore Express operating between Delhi-Jodhpur and the Intercity Express operating between Jaipur-Jodhpur at Ren railway station.

**(iv) Need to construct pucca bathing ghats and changing room for pilgrims on the banks of river Ganga at Tigri Dham in Amroha parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR (AMROHA):** I would like to draw the attention of the government towards Ganga Dham Tigri of my parliamentary constituency Amroha.

Every year in the month of Kartik, a grand Ganga-snan fair is held in Tigri Dham situated on the holy river Ganga in Dhanaura tehsil of my parliamentary constituency Amroha. A large number of devotees and tourists not only from this region and the state but also from other states like Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan visit the fair and stay here for 2-3 days and earn the virtues of bathing in Ganga. Generally, on the occasion of Amavasya and Purnima every month, a large number of devotees come to bathe in Ganga. In this famous Tigri Ganga Dham, arrangements are made for bathing etc. by making raw ghats, due to which the devotees coming here have to face a lot of inconvenience. Often people die due to drowning in water while bathing here. There will hardly be a month in which no untoward incident has taken place.

Therefore, I would like to request the government that considering the importance of Tigri Ganga Dham, pucca bathing ghats and changing rooms for women should be constructed for the convenience of devotees in Tigri Ganga Dham so that the devotees coming here can easily earn the merit of bathing in Ganga.

**(v) Need to construct an underpass on N.H. 24 passing through Kasta Legislative Assembly, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA (DHAURAHRA):** In Kasta Vidhan Sabha under my constituency, a link road from Maigalganj to Lidhiai Chauganpur and Harnaha is being constructed at NH 24. A bypass of NH 24 is being built here. Families living here are likely to face great difficulty in crossing the road. In view of this, the people of 40 villages are demanding that an underpass should be constructed on this route.

Therefore, I would like to request that construction of an underpass should be ensured at this place for the convenience of villages located adjacent to NH 24.

**(vi) Need to frame stringent laws for eradication of child labour in the country**

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** We all know that engaging the children under the age of fourteen in work or forcing them to work is a crime. UNICEF defines child labour as activities that are harmful to a child. The matter related to children's welfare and protection is also enshrined in our constitution. Despite this, there has been a severe violation of children's rights in our country since independence. The International Labour Organization defines child labour as an act that causes harm to a child's health, causes obstruction in his education and subject him to exploitation. According to the National Sample Survey of our country, every fourth child is unable to attend school due to child labour. Therefore, I would like to urge the government to take stringent measures to eradicate child labour in the country.

**(vii) Need to expedite construction of four-laning of National Highway No. 59 from Indore to Pitol in Madhya Pradesh**

**SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR (DHAR):** The 4 lane widening work of Indore to Ahmedabad, Gujarat section of National Highway-59 was started in 2010. As per the contract, the work was to

be completed by 14th February, 2013 but it is yet to be completed. This work is being done under BOT project whose contract is for 25 years.

This road from Pitol to Ahmedabad is almost complete and CC road is also operational, but this work is lying incomplete from Indore to Pitol in the Madhya Pradesh border. The work is repeatedly stopped after it starts and then new deadline is given.

My Lok Sabha and the entire surrounding area are tribal areas. Due to the delay in the construction of this road, the people of the area are facing a lot of inconvenience. I would like to demand that the obstacles in this work be removed at the earliest so that the people of the area can get rid of the traffic inconvenience being faced by them.

**(viii) Regarding Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh and progress made in Alkaloid sector in the country**

**SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSORE):** Under Rule 377, the Union Government is requested to provide the following information to me:-

1. The various alkaloids produced in Alkaloid Factory located in Neemuch (MP) including the quantity thereof?

2. The various alkaloids imported from outside India during the last 10 years including their quantity and the cost thereof.
3. The various varieties of alkaloids needed in the world including India.
4. The details about the progress made and research done in the field of alkaloids in India during the last ten years till now.

**(ix) Need to provide adequate land-price to farmers of Siddharth nagar district, Uttar Pradesh whose land has been acquired for Indo-Nepal border road project**

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ) :** A lot of alleged irregularities have been found in the rates of purchasing the land of farmers in the Indo-Nepal Border Road Project under Public works of Uttar Pradesh. In Siddharth Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, land of rural farmers was acquired at the rate of three times the old circle rate in rural areas and one and a half times the old circle rate in urban areas while the Uttar Pradesh government has implemented the L.A Act-2013 (Land Acquisition Rules-2013) on 01January, 2014, under which guidelines have been issued in respect of rural tenant farmers to purchase land at the rate of four times the current circle rate or market rate, whichever is higher, in rural area and two

times the rate in urban area. In Siddharth Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, land was purchased for the Indo-Nepal border project at some areas in 2014 and at some areas in 2016 at the old circle rates. After that the proposal made by the District Magistrate, Siddharth Nagar at the old circle rate has also been accepted by the Uttar Pradesh government, which has caused a lot of resentment among the tenants of the rural area. Therefore, I would like to request the Union India to immediately take action on this serious matter, so that the tenants get suitable compensation for their land.

**(x) Need to provide Rajasthan its allocated share of water from Rabi and Beas rivers**

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** The states of Punjab and Haryana often do not provide Rajasthan its share of water, especially at the time of sowing and harvesting, Rajasthan is given less amount of water, which adversely affects the interests of farmers. The Bhakra Beas Management Board formed the Water Account Reconciliation Committee on 12.12.1974. Its para-3 mentions that if less water is provided to a state, then the State providing water should compensate for providing less water in the next 15 days, but

its compliance is not ensured by BBMB. BBMB should ensure the availability of water in the next 15 days by developing appropriate mechanisms and curtailing the water share of Punjab and Haryana to compensate the less supply of water on their part. Whenever Rajasthan faces water scarcity, this issue is repeatedly raised by Rajasthan in front of the B.B.M.B. and the Governments of Punjab and Haryana. However, no action has been taken till date. In addition to this, the share of Rajasthan in sharing of water of Rabi and Beas rivers among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in 1981 was fixed at 8.60 MAF, but 060 MAF water is still not being given to Rajasthan by Punjab, for which the Government of Rajasthan has been making efforts for years. There was an agreement among the said states for allocation of 047 MAF water for Sidhmukh-Nohar area of Rajasthan, but even today 017 MAF water is not being given by Punjab and Haryana for Sidhmukh and Nohar area. I would like to urge the government to take necessary action to provide Rajasthan its share of water as per the said agreements.

**(xi) Need to undertake adequate relief measures in drought-hit districts of Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD (MACHHLISHAHAR):** Our country is currently facing problems of severe drought and drinking water and due to failure of monsoon for two years a large tract of the country has been affected by drought. We are an agriculture based country which is heavily dependent on monsoon. Continuous drought has led to crop damage and acute water scarcity making life miserable in most parts of the country, especially in rural areas. In the year 2015-16, 251 districts of ten states of the country were declared drought-hit, while in 2014-15, 107 districts of five states were declared drought affected. Among the states that have been declared drought-hit, Uttar Pradesh including my constituency Machhlishahar, is no exception. The entire Uttar Pradesh region such as Sant Ravidas Nagar, Sonbhadra, Sultanpur, Mirzapur, Ballia, Siddharth Nagar, Shahjahanpur, Banda, Pratapgarh, Chandauli, Etawah, Basti, Baghpat, Jaunpur, Faizabad, Gonda, Kannauj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Jhansi, Jalaun, Gorakhpur, Hathras, Etah, Allahabad, Ghaziabad, Farrukhabad, Mau, Unnao, Rampur, Hamirpur, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot, Kanpur Nagar, Lucknow, Deoria, Mainpuri,

Maharajganj, Agra, Auraiya, Pilibhit, Amethi, Mahoba, Rae Bareli, Kushinagar, Kanpur Rural, Kaushambi, Fatehpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Balrampur are reeling under drought. The condition here is very pathetic.

I appeal to the Union government to take immediate steps to provide relief in the drought-affected districts of Uttar Pradesh.

**(xii) Need to set up a Urban Health Centre under National Urban Health Mission in Buxar parliamentary constituency, Bihar**

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):** The old District Hospital under my Parliamentary Constituency Buxar City has been closed for the last five-six years and shifted to New District Hospital in a deserted place far away from the city, due to which the city dwellers face a huge crisis in getting medical treatment, especially a lot of difficulty is faced when someone suddenly falls sick at night and there is case of delivery of women. Therefore, in the public interest, the Union Government should establish Urban Primary Health Centre under the National (Urban) Health Mission(N.H.U.M) in Buxar. Additionally, a "Trauma Center" with

the state-of-the-art facilities should be established on the premises of the old district hospital for the benefit of accident victims.

**(xiii)Need to improve BSNL mobile and internet service in J&K**

**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** As we all know that the entire country is making great progress in the field of telecommunications and technology, but mobile network and internet network in Jammu and Kashmir are in a very poor state. Especially in the border areas of Jammu and rural areas, the BSNL network service is quite poor.

This directly impacts local residents as well as government functioning. Many times, despite emergencies, people are unable to contact each other due to which they are not being able to benefit from mobile phones.

Therefore, the Hon. Minister of Telecommunications is requested to install towers for mobile network in Jammu considering the seriousness of the border area and also improve the quality of the network so that the people of the area can get full benefit of mobile facility.

**(xiv) Need to start medical education system integrating Allopathic and Ayurvedic systems of treatment and also promote Ayurveda in the country**

**DR. BANSHILAL MAHTO (KORBA):** The Ministry of AYUSH was started by the Government of India under the guidance of Hon. Prime Minister, I welcome it. In future, it will definitely have a huge impact in the field of Indian medicine. Ayurveda is a part of Rigveda and Atharva Veda, and it is considered as the fifth Veda. Ayurvedic system of medicine is a very ancient medical system, and it is completely scientific. At present, allopathic system of medicine is prevalent, but we need to pay special attention to the propagation and promotion of Ayurvedic system of medicine. In Banaras Hindu University too, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya ji had prepared a curriculum by combining allopathy and Ayurveda, which was named Integrated Medical System, it included allopathy along with Ayurveda, but later this curriculum was discontinued. I believe that this course should be restarted so that the acute shortage of doctors in the rural areas can be addressed. As is well known, MBBS doctors shy away from providing services in rural areas, hesitate and

consider doing it against their pride. So, to deal with such a situation, courses like ' Integrated system of Medicine' are needed.

The efforts of our government and the hon. Prime Minister should be appreciated in giving global recognition to Yoga, which is a part of Ayurveda/AYUSH. The declaration of 21st June as the 'World Yoga Day' by the United Nations is a great achievement for India. Yoga is popular in households today, and many schools have included yoga in their curriculum. We do not oppose allopathy at all. Allopathy system of medicine is nearly 400-500 years old, whereas Ayurveda is an ancient system of Medicine dating back centuries. Ayurveda system of medicine, is an eternal system of Medicine given by the sages. It is the identity of India. There is a need to propagate and promote Ayurveda system of Medicine and only the present government can make Ayurveda popular in the world like yoga.

**(xv) Need to devolve powers to Members of Parliament for better execution of construction works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in their respective parliamentary constituencies in the country**

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL):** The main objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana being run in the country by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is to connect every village of the country with road, but due to the negligence of the officials towards their work, this scheme is not proving to be effective. Every Member of Parliament is made the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee of the concerned district by the Ministry of Rural Development for monitoring the said scheme but they have no authority. In such circumstances, negligence in work is unavoidable. Active participation of Member of Parliament is essential for successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Therefore, I would like to demand from the government that the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be brought under the concerned Member of Parliament for its successful implementation.

**(xvi) Need to adequately compensate the farmers whose land have been acquired by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in Chitradurga, Karnataka**

*[English]*

**SHRI B. N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA):** The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has acquired a huge piece of land in Chitradurga for setting up a new Aeronautical Test Range for India. It is given to understand that the Chitradurga facility will focus on flight test of unmanned aerial vehicles, air-to-ground weapons, parachutes and electronic warfare systems. It has also been told that this Chitradurga range will cover 4000 acres of land and will have a runway. I definitely welcome this move of the Government when it comes to building up our Defence capability but my concern is that the farmers have been coming to me and complaining that they have not been given adequate compensation for their land that has been acquired by the DRDO.

I would urge the hon'ble Defence Minister to kindly look into the matter personally and ensure that justice is given to the farmers so that they are adequately compensated.

**(xvii) Need to reintroduce Integrated Development of Small Ruminants scheme in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka**

**SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJAGAR):** I would like to bring to the kind attention of the government that there was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme –Integrated Development of Small Ruminants (subsidy 25% for General and 33.33% for SC/ST). The potential for goat, sheep and pig development is high in the Karnataka State because of the availability of vast tracts of low rainfall, arid and drought-affected areas. The demand for mutton is increasing in the State due to ever increasing population. This scheme is routed through NABARD, with Bank loan. But, the above scheme has since been discontinued.

This scheme is very popular in Chamarajanagar District of Karnataka State, especially due to low rainfall and drought condition faced by the district. In view of the above, reintroduction of the scheme will go a long way in uplifting the poor from the clutches of poverty.

Hence, I hereby urge the Union Government for reintroduction of “Integrated Development of Small Ruminants” scheme in

Chaamarajanagar District of Karnataka State to uplift the poor people of my Constituency.

**(xviii) Need to declare the Nabadwip city in West Bengal as a National Heritage City**

**DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT):** Nabadwip city in Nadia district in West Bengal under my constituency Ranaghat is situated on the western bank of the Bhagirathi river. It was a centre of learning and philosophy in medieval India and is still noted for its traditional Sanskrit schools. The great Vaishnava saint, social reformer and an important figure of the Bhakti movement, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born here, making this place an important pilgrimage centre in Bengal. Many devotees from worldwide who adhere to Gaudiya Vashnavism come to Navadwip for pilgrimage on the auspicious occasion of the Birthday celebration of Shri Mahaprabhu on the Phalguni Purnima (i.e. on the Full moon day of the March every year), and for various festivals in relation to Leelas of Shri Mahaprabhu like Sri Nabadwip-Mandala Parikrama and other festivities like Dol jatra, Ras purnima and Gaura-purnima.

Nabadwip was the capital of Bengal Empire under the regime of Ballal Sen and Lakshman Sen, the famous rulers of the Sen

Empire. Nabdwwip and Nadia were great centres of learning and intellectual progress. For five centuries, it was referred to as “Oxford of Bengal”.

In the 2011 census, Nabadwwip Urban Agglomeration had population of 175,474 and Average literacy rate of Nabadwwip city is 87.75 percent. State government helps in many ways with its limited resources. Considering all these, I urge upon the Central Government to come forward to declare Nabadwwip as National Heritage City. Sufficient funds under different Central Government schemes should be given to Nabadwwip to improve all ancient heritage infrastructures and modern amenities for better life.

**(xix) Need to set up a Sugarcane Research Institute at Babanpur in Ganjam district of Odisha**

**SHRI LADU KHSORE SWAIN (ASKA):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the status of the only sugarcane industry at Aska of District Ganjam, Odisha, which has been catering to the needs of thousands of sugarcane farmers. The Aska Sugarcane Corporative Society has been extending its financial support to the sugarcane growers for the past couple of decades.

However, over the years, it has been noticed that the productivity of sugarcane has gone down due to various reasons, including lack of research support to these farmers to cope with new technology and innovation. This support to the farmers in introducing new technology and knowledge could help revive the said industry which is urgently required.

Hence, I would like to propose to consider setting up of a Sugarcane Research Institute at Babanpur (Near Aska Sugar Factory) where the state government is having the required land for this purpose. This will not only save the lives and livelihoods of thousands of sugarcane farmers but also contribute to the state and national economy.

**(xx) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra for construction of fishing port at Anandwadi village, Deogarh Tehsil, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG):** The fishermen of Anandwadi village of Devgad Tehsil in Sindhudurg district (Maharashtra) have been demanding for the last several years for constructing a port for fishermen. A proposal has been prepared by the Government of Maharashtra to provide this facility to fishermen. The Anandwadi port project is being implemented under the Union Government's scheme. For this, a proposal of Rs.81.62 crore was sent to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on 30.02.2015, but it is yet to get approval. A port in Anandwadi is a must for the fishermen of Devgad, Malvan and Ratnagiri coastal areas of Maharashtra state. I request the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take appropriate action in this regard at the earliest.

**(xxi) Regading various institutions to be apportioned between  
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under the Andhra Pradesh  
Reorganisation Act**

**SHRI MUTHAMETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI)  
(ANAKAPALLI):** Schedule 9 and 10 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act lists a set of institutions that were supposed to be apportioned between the two States in a time bound manner. These institutions form a total of about 196. The Central Committee appointed to divide these institutions is not resolving the dispute between the two States. In the meanwhile, the State of Telangana is showing high-handedness and is illegally claiming these institutions. As a set of those institutions lie in the erstwhile capital of the undivided State, Hyderabad, which is in Telangana, the State is seeking to claim these institutions. A delegation of AP Ministers has also met the Hon'ble President in this regard.

We request the immediate resolution of this issue. These institutions have to be apportioned based on the population ratio of 42: 58 at the earliest. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also actively pursued this matter. The issue has to be resolved immediately and amicably in order to deliver justice to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

**(xxii) Regarding drought situation prevailing in Telangana**

**SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD):** I would like to draw kind attention of the Government regarding drought conditions prevailing in Telangana. Drought is forcing distress sale of cattle and migration. 14 major reservoirs across Krishna, Godavari are at dead storage level. Never-before seen acute drinking water shortage across the State and production of food grains and pulses has fallen drastically.

Reeling under a second successive drought, the State is facing a water crisis, with scarcity hitting not just the villages and towns but even the capital Hyderabad. Dependent mostly on rain water, the state of 35 million people is witnessing migration of small farmers and farm workers to cities in other states. And acute shortage of water and fodder is forcing people, especially the farmers, to sell their cattle at throwaway prices. Nearly 1.4 million people have migrated from the worst affected districts of Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad and Adilabad. The migration is indicative of how terrible the situation is. People are mostly migrating to Pune, Mumbai, Bhiwandi, Ahmedabad and Surat in search of job. Out of 450 mandals or revenue units comprising varying number of villages, 231 have been drought affected. The

farmers' organizations claim that 368 mandals are hit. The food grain production was 6.5 million tones in 2015-16 as against the target of 11.1 million tones. Rice production was 3.5 million tones while the state's consumption is six million tones. The production of pulses and oil seeds has also fallen drastically. The State sought Rs. 3,064 crore from the Central Government for drought relief but it has announced Rs. 791 crore. Of this, only Rs 400 crore has been released. The farmers say the disbursement of compensation for crop losses is yet to start. For drinking water supply, the Centre released Rs.72 crore against the State's request for Rs.555 crore. Every day 20-25 people are dying due to heat wave.

Hence, I request the Union Government to kindly intervene in the mater and help the State by releasing required funds.

**(xxiii) Need to set up a steel plant in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY (KADAPA):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the promise made on the floor of the August House on the establishment of Steel plant in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

AP Reorganization Act, 2014 in its 13<sup>th</sup> Schedule clearly mentioned the establishment of a steel plant in YSR Kadapa district. I wrote several letters to the Hon'ble Minister for Steel and I have also raised this issue in the House, but till today this promise has not been fulfilled. It has been two years since the formation of new state. Hon'ble Minister replied that a task force had been formed comprising of representatives from Central and State Government, SAIL RINL and NMDC on 4.8.2015 to suggest ways and means to make the project financially viable and in the last meeting of task force held on 18.3.2016, it has been decided that feasibility report will be reexamined on the basis of information of concessions/incentives which can be made available for the project. But the people of our district are very anxiously waiting to hear the date of laying of foundation stone for steel plant from the Government of India. If this issue is further delayed, people of our district will launch serious agitations and I, as their representative in this House of People, am prepared to make any sacrifice to ensure that the promise made in Parliament as a part of AP Reorganization Act, 2014 is fulfilled.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the matter and initiate steps for setting up of steel plant at

the earliest in YSR Kadappa district of Andhra Pradesh, which will be a boon to the people of backward Rayalaseema Region.

**(xxiv) Regarding problems faced by Indians going abroad to earn livelihood**

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):**

Thousands of Indians go abroad to earn livelihood. Travel agents take their passports when they enter the foreign countries. They seek political asylum there. They cannot return to their native land. I request the Government to convert these political asylum into economic asylums by amending the Act to make way for them to come India. We need to open more consulate branches in main cities of too big countries like USA, Canada and Australia to avoid inconveniences to our NRI brothers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take remedial steps in this regard.

**(xxv) Need to construct additional staff quarters for employees working in Hisar Railway Station in Haryana**

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Hisar is one of busiest and important railway stations in Northern Railway division. It caters to more than 5000 commuters every day. There is a long pending demand for construction of adequate quarters for the railway employees working in this station. Further, the existing quarters lack basic amenities and nearly 70 staff quarters have been abandoned in view of their dilapidated condition. While the allocation of Rs. 2.76 crore for construction of 24 new quarters in the current railway budget is a welcome step but comparing to the requirement of the quarters, it is quite inadequate. It is pertinent to ensure the welfare of the employees who work in night shift travelling long distance every day. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister to allocate Rs. 7 crore additionally to construct staff quarters according to the actual requirement in Hisar railway station.

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**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, Item No. 21 – the Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** No, Sir...

*(Interruptions)* What about our motion?... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Your motion is under consideration of the Speaker. That is why I cannot do anything unless it is permitted by the Speaker.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please cooperate with me.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** We have been agitating since beginning on this issue.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I know, but it is under consideration of the Speaker. The Speaker is not here.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** We have to discuss the drought.

... *(Interruptions)*

**14.15 hours**

**INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION)  
AMENDMENT BILL, 2015  
(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):** Sir, I beg to move:

“That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill\* further to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 be taken into consideration:-

**ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word “Sixty-Sixth”, the word “Sixty-seventh” be *substituted*.

**CLAUSE 1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure “2015”, the figure “2016” be *substituted*.

**CLAUSE 2**

3. That at page 2, line 3, *for* the figure “2015”, the figure “2016” be *substituted*."

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The question is:

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\*The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with amendments at its sitting held on the 28th April, 2016 and returned it to Lok Sabha on the same day.

“That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 be taken into consideration:-

### **ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word “Sixty-Sixth”, the word “Sixty-seventh” be *substituted*.

### **CLAUSE 1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure “2015”, the figure “2016” be *substituted*.

### **CLAUSE 2**

3. That at page 2, line 3, *for* the figure “2015”, the figure “2016” be *substituted*."

*The motion was adopted.*

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**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** We shall now take up amendments made by Rajya Sabha. I shall now put amendment Nos. 1, 2 and 3 made by Rajya Sabha together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

**"ENACTING FORMULA**

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word "Sixty-Sixth", the word "Sixty-seventh" be *substituted*.

**CLAUSE 1**

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure "2015", the figure "2016" be *substituted*.

**CLAUSE 2**

3. That at page 2, line 3, *for* the figure "2015", the figure "2016" be *substituted*."

*The motion was adopted.*

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**HON. SPEAKER:** The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha, be agreed to.

**SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN:** Sir, I beg to move:

“That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.”

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The question is:

“That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to.”

*The motion was adopted.*

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**14.17 hours****DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

**Situation arising out of drought and drinking water crisis in many States and need to consider inter-linking of rivers and water resource management for sustainable solution to mitigate the crisis**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, Item No. 22. Smt. Aparupa Poddar.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA):** Sir, let us discuss drought first.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, we have started it.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Thank you hon. Chairman Sir for allowing me to speak.

In India, drought has resulted in natural disasters as Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on the climate.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Aparupa Poddar ji, please stop for one minute.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, we don't want to disturb the House and disturb you also. We will cooperate with you. But, the point is that regarding the issue of privilege motion raised by Moily Ji in the morning, we simply wanted to read our notice here and after that, whatever decision you have, according to the law, you either reject it or you say that you will consider it....

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Where is Moily ji?...

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You please be seated. I will look into it.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You please sit down. I will take care of it.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You, please sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** That is why, we wanted this. But, as our Scindia Ji said in Marathi. He has told you very well. Now, I think that after hearing that, you are going to allow me.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** That is why I have allowed you to speak only for two minutes.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** We all come under the purview of law and we have to work within the framework of the laws that we have accepted. That is why we have given notice.

*[English]*

We have given notice. When we have given notice, they should reply and some ruling should come. Four people were allowed earlier. Therefore, since morning we have been agitating. But unfortunately, the Chair has not given us the permission. I repeatedly request you because this is a very important matter.

You have taken our President's name openly in public speech. You have condemned and you have told that... *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, I want that such things should not go, and the Prime Minister should not say outside the House. Whatever he wanted to say, let him say. The Defence Minister did not say it. In the public

meeting, he has said it. Therefore, we moved a Privilege Motion. We are agitating.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Anyway, Kharge Saheb, the matter is under the consideration of the Speaker. Unless she permits, I cannot do anything.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Therefore, we do not want to disturb the discussion on drought. We are not interfering in it.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Definitely, it is an important one.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** That is important. That is why, peacefully, we will sit here on *dharna*, and you can continue with all your debates.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** As you like.

**14.22 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Ninong Ering and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.)*

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Sir, there is a small submission. The entire argument raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition is invalid. First, the submission of, what he calls, a privilege notice is with the Speaker. She has to take a call.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Definitely, I have told them.

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** But under rule 225, there is a specific mention.

“225. (1) The Speaker, in case the Chair agrees, if gives consent under rule 222 and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall call the Member concerned who shall rise in his own place and, while asking for leave, be given permission.”

The Member is not present in the House. So, all the arguments given by Mr. Kharge are invalid because the person, who has made a petition himself, is not present. ... *(Interruptions)* He has come. ... *(Interruptions)* I said that the matter is under submission with the Speaker who has also discontinued and the permission is only given to the Member. So, both the cases are not *laagu*. She has already taken a call.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister, we have to run the House. Important subject is going on.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I will continue.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You understand my limitations, please.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:** In India, drought has resulted in natural disaster as Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on the climate of India as it requires good South-West monsoon for irrigation.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** It is with the Speaker. Unless she permits, I cannot give it, please.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:** Crop yield in many parts of India is badly affected due to failure of monsoon resulting in water shortages. Maharashtra, Northern Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and some States are declared as major drought-prone regions.... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You try to understand my limitations.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:** Monsoon is very brief in India as we get about 100 hours of rain in a year and this has to be used for the remaining period. Water shortage is the central point of focus. India is among the top growers of agricultural produce in the world and hence the consumption of water for irrigation is very high. Sewage and waste water drainage into traditional water bodies can be solved if the Government intervenes seriously. Lack of inefficient water management and distribution of water to agricultural and industrial sector is also a main reason.

The Government must create water reservoirs at least every 20 kilometres across the country. Every citizen should take the responsibility about the importance of water and reduce its wastage. More dams must be constructed mainly at places where rainwater gets drained out without utilization.

The Union Government should study the water scarcity problem and look into its solutions. Rain water harvesting facility must be made compulsory for every independent home, flat and group housing colony as it is the need of the hour. Unless we are aware and conscious of water shortage, we will not be able to overcome this serious problem. No NOC should be issued till rain water harvesting system is installed and become functional.

In West Bengal, our hon. Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee has taken up projects to construct around 800 check dams and various water harvesting structures. Eco-friendly scheme called Jalatirtha has been launched benefiting 4000 farmers and 32000 hectares of land for agricultural purposes. Around 1.2 lakh ponds have been created under Jal Dhara Jal Bhara scheme, which has given major boost to agricultural productivity in West Bengal.

Recycling and reuse of water is another process by which water problem can be tackled. Recycled water can be used for irrigation, which will fulfil the requirement of water in agriculture. But this is not practised in India. By following recommended dosage of fertilizer, crop rotation, proper timing of fertilizer and application of eco-friendly and safe limits of agro chemicals to reduce pollution, this problem can be sorted out.

*[Translation]*

We are an agricultural country. Today we are all concerned about propelling the country's advancement. Our farmers are the backbone of the country, but the farmers in the country are committing suicide and their condition is a matter of grave concern. We should all think about this together. Today we are sitting in the Parliament, we are having comfort, enjoying AC, having pure water to drink but the issue needing consideration is that 30 crore Indians do not get pure water to drink properly. They are struggling with heat and they are dying of heat wave. We all have to think about this issue unitedly.

*[English]*

The Ministry of Water Resources should speed up its rivers interlinking programme. A total of 14 links have been identified under the National Perspective Plan. Since this programme is of national importance, it must be taken up on a high priority. As per the National Perspective Plan, interlinking of rivers project would benefit around 35 million hectares of irrigational land and generate around 34,000 megawatt of power. It will also help in controlling flood, navigation, water supply and fisheries.

Hon. Chairman, I would like to highlight a very important point. The assessments of exact acreage affected by drought like condition, the extent of damage to standing crops as well as short-term and long-term ameliorative steps are being compiled. The preliminary estimates suggest that approximately Rs.6000 crore may be required to set in place drought proofing agriculture which would be a permanent measure to stabilise incomes of smallholder farmers. In this regard a reference will be made to the Central Government by our State Government.

As per the SDRF norms, the damage by flood in 2015 was assessed to be Rs.8761 crore. Against this, an amount of Rs.713.9 crore was recommended for release by the high level committee in the Ministry of Home Affairs. But, out of this, only Rs.446.1 crore has been released by NDRF.

Over six lakh houses and 30 lakh hectares of agricultural land were affected.

Sir, for landslides which occurred in Darjeeling in 2015, as per norms, we had sought Rs. 67.7 crore and the Ministry of Home Affairs has recommended only Rs. 21.6 crore while we got Rs. 13 crore only. Where the Ministry has recommended Rs. 21.6 crore, we

have got only Rs. 13.5 crore from NDRF and it is still pending. Sir, through you, I would request the Union Government that the funds may be released quickly. What about the poor people who are now heartless? They do not have any source of income. Their livestock have been totally destroyed. So, I would request the Government to immediately release funds so that justice may be done to the people of West Bengal.

With these words, I thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of Shiv Sena in the discussion about the drought situation in Maharashtra and Marathwada region which is going on under Rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)* The entire State of Maharashtra, particularly the Marathwada region, is facing a severe drought for the fourth consecutive year. The drought of this year is more severe than the last three years. There are 11 major dams in this area, out of which 8 have completely dried up and 4 dams have less than 2% water left. If we calculate the average of the entire Marathwada, then 8.5 per cent

water is left. Due to drought, farmers' crops are not growing and, therefore, they have to commit suicide. Last year, 1138 people committed suicide in Marathwada. This year, till date 392 farmers have committed suicide in Marathwada. Famine has occurred there, so suicides are taking place. If we look at the statistics, 80 percent of the area in Maharashtra and 90 percent of the area in Marathwada are drought-affected. The Maharashtra government has declared that more than 29 thousand villages are drought-hit. Marathwada has 8,700 villages with a population of over 2 crore. According to government assessment, it has been reported that the entire Marathwada region is drought-stricken,. There was already a shortage of water for irrigation, but now there is also a shortage of drinking water. Tankers are being arranged for drinking water. Marathwada has only 3,573 tankers. The Union government should increase their numbers. As we are providing water by train in Latur, we may have to do the same in Marathwada as well.

Animals and birds are also affected, I will speak more about cows and oxen. Water and fodder are not available for them also. I made considerable efforts, and then 386 fodder depots were started. These also get something sometime and nothing sometime. The Union Government should take full responsibility of fodder depots,

otherwise some people are taking cattle from the market at throwaway prices. This is also a big scam. I wish to inform the Hon. Minister that several animals from Marathwada are being smuggled in Bangladesh. It has to be stopped, and for that, the Union Government should provide fodder, water, etc. This is my demand.

There has been no rain for the last four years. That's why it is becoming very difficult. The temperature has soared up to 45 degrees Celsius this season, causing considerable distress to livestock and people. If the water harvesting and sharing is done properly, then we will not face any problem. The reason for drought is the complete failure of the State Government and the Union Government in water management. If the Union Government and the State government had studied this and made efforts beforehand, the deaths occurring today or the suicides by farmers would not be as frequent. Today, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna will have to be implemented more extensively across the entire Marathwada region. Scaling it back in other areas might be feasible, but full assistance and priority must be given to drought-affected areas. At present, you know that rivers, ponds, drains and wells in Maharashtra have dried up. When a water train arrives in Latur,

section 144 is imposed because all the people clash with each other and riots for water start happening, we should also consider this.

I am of the opinion that the Union Government should look into as to how the problem of drinking water will be solved. The Government of Maharashtra is helping a little bit, but its capacity is limited. The Union Government should assist and set up a special committee for this purpose and should definitely start the work from now onwards. We pray to God and hope that there will be rains in a month or two, what will happen next is not known yet because there has been continuous drought-famine for four years.

Shiv Sena Chief respected Balasaheb Thackeray ji, started Shiv Jal Kranti in Marathwada through Shiv Sena. All of us including MLAs and MPs alongwith Uddhav ji Thackrey went to the place of suicide-victim farmers. The situation there is very serious; we also helped them. We provided assistance of up to one lakh rupees to the families of suicide-victim farmers, gave some grains, and provided clothes to others. Another reason for suicides is their girls not getting married, as from where will they arrange the money. For this reason, Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray also started the Kanyadan Yojana. 244 girls from my constituency participated in Kanyadan Yojana. I would say that there were people of all religions, eight

were Muslims, 42 were Buddhists and the rest were from different Hindu communities. Similarly, the farmers of Parbani, Osmanabad, Beed got some relief from this. I have given you the figures that so many farmers have committed suicides. There is no point in giving one lakhrupees. You should give five lakh rupees. What did Chhatrapati Shivaji use to say?

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR):** I am observing that all the Hon. MPs are sitting down, if you had made them sit also, it would have been great. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** Take the drought matter with seriousness. We are facing the brunt in drought-hit areas. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a serious drought issue. No water scheme started in Maharashtra due to the previous government.

Hon. Chairperson, there is no irrigation scheme for that region. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am seeing that all the MPs who sit on the benches in front of us are sitting on the floor below and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi is sitting on the bench. My request is that it would have been great, if the hon. Members of

Parliament sitting below were made to sit on the bench. ...

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please-Please.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, the drought is a very serious issue. I urge the hon. Members of Parliament to listen carefully to my points. There is no seriousness from either side. I am from a drought-prone area and I am telling about that region.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to inform that during the previous Government of Maharashtra, no water scheme was planned for Marathwada. It has also led to drought situation there. In Marathwada, as I just told, about 1138 farmers last year and about 370 farmers so far this year, have committed suicide. Their number is even higher in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra government is unable to give anything to these aggrieved farmers. Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India that every suicide victim farmer's family should be given at least Rs.5 lakh as compensation.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I want to say that in the year 2015-16, 246 districts in 10 States across the country are affected by drought. These include Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and other states. So many states in the country are in the grip of drought. Therefore, I request the Union government to show seriousness towards this issue and provide some assistance to these states.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, we all have the responsibility to deal with the drought. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj always used to say that if the farmer survives, the people will survive and if the people survive, the king will survive. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government of India that first of all, we have to look after the farmers and save them. If the farmer survives, only then we can move forward.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to provide more and more employment

opportunities in rural areas through MNREGA. Only 10-12 thousand works have been generated in our Marathwada region. My request is that at least 20-25 thousand works should be generated. We have a strength of 3 lakh workers. We can give them work, but only 1.71 lakh people have been given work.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Hon. Minister is sitting here. Through you, I would request him to waive off all types of loans of the farmers in view of the seriousness of drought in the country. All the farmers in drought-prone areas of all the districts of the country should be made debt-free by waiving off all their loans. All types of loans, whether bank loan or any other type of loan, should be waived off. This is the main demand of all Shiv Sena MPs.

Sir, I would also like to request that scholarships should be given to the students living in the drought-prone area to pursue education, so that they get education free of cost and their examination fees should be waived and such arrangements should be made as to provide maximum employment to them.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I want to tell the Hon. Minister an important thing that today our Marathwada region is drought-prone. When Maharashtra elections were approaching, the

hon. Prime Minister came to Maharashtra 27 times. Apart from this, he had also attended some programs, but now the situation in Marathwada is very grave. Thus, if the Prime Minister accompanies the Minister there, it will be of great help to the people there. Through you, I would also like to request the Hon. Prime Minister to visit Marathwada and provide full assistance to the people there, so that they can receive help and have confidence in you. If the Prime Minister visits there, there will be more and more announcements for that region.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the Hon. Minister and Hon. Prime Minister to kindly visit our drought-affected Marathwada region, so that the farmers there can receive maximum assistance.

Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of drought and drinking water crisis in many States and the need to consider interlinking of rivers and water resources management for sustainable solution to mitigate the crisis.

Initially, when this was being debated that in what format we should discuss this issue, my point was that we have been discussing about drought many a time, invariably, every year, but actually the discussion should concentrate more on provisioning of drinking water, water conservation, interlinking of rivers, which was a long pending idea going on for quite some time. Conservation of water is supposed to be one of the major issues, besides recharging of groundwater. However, somehow or the other, we have been discussing on drought situation because it is very alarming in the country. More than 40 crores of people are affected in this country because of too prolonged drought situation, and less rainfall in this country has affected a large section of the population. After two years of drought, India is facing a water crisis.

That is hardly surprising. Even in a bad year, India gets around 2,600 billion cubic metres of rain while it needs around 1100 BCM to meet the entire requirement. As per our population, the requirement of water either for drinking or even for farming is 1100 BCM to meet all requirements. Where is the problem if India is getting more than 2,600 billion cubic metres of rain? The problem lies in the fact that our capacity to store water is mere 253 BCM. We are getting around 2600 BCM of water. India needs around 1100

BCM of water. Our storage capacity in whatever form -- reservoirs or ponds that we have throughout the country -- is only 253 BCM. So, with 90 per cent of available rain water not getting stored, a failure in rain is a catastrophe.

The problem gets worse when it comes to drinking water. Wastage of water is there for everyone to see especially in cities. Water is priced at a fraction of its cost. In Delhi for instance, water is supplied free to a large section of population. There is neither enough money to build out more piped water infrastructure nor is there enough recycling or treatment of water. An interesting thing to note is that Delhi generates 3,700 million litres per day (MLD) as compared to the sewage treatment plant capacity of 2,330 MLD. What to speak of water recycling, we are all aware that the 'urgent' always gets precedence over the 'important'. The important thing to do is to plan for optimal utilization of water resources. India has four per cent of world's water while it has 18 per cent of the world's population. There lies the problem; and there lies our solution also if we attend to that aspect.

I am informed that the Union Government has a draft model Bill on water to stress on storage creation. This Bill will recommend giving precedence to drinking water supply over allocation of

resources for agricultural and industrial purposes. Today what is happening is that it is left to the respective State Governments to decide as per the guidelines. What should be the priority? How much percentage of water will be given for drinking purposes? How much of water will be utilised for farming purpose? How much water will be utilised for industry? Now a model Bill is in the process. That is what I could gather. The Indian Government is now trying to prepare that model Bill. It is going to circulate that Bill. Probably some States may be adopting that Bill. It will be a model for other States to adopt.

As we all know, water is a State subject. Our Party's view is that it should remain a State subject. They can prepare a model Bill as they are thinking of doing it. Government says that this current crisis in several States is due to poor demand side management of water. Earlier, supply side management measures like dam construction have not yielded the desired results. Community participation in water management and changing crop pattern according to rainfall can do wonders.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister because he is here. During the last three Plan periods, some attempt has been made for water management in agriculture. But, it

has not been to that extent that it will revolutionise the water management system in agriculture. We have always been talking about Israel pattern of water management and all that. But the problem still lies that the manner in which we utilise water in flow irrigation method has not yielded that much of result. Rather ground water has been dissipated. We are unable to recharge our ground water to that extent. That has created a huge problem in the country. I can quote here. There is a drought in many parts of India. Why has it not been noticed? While we say more than 40 crore people have been affected, hardly it is discussed in the media or in the House. And as we witness today, the subject that was supposed to be discussed at the earliest has now been relegated to the fag end of this Session and that too done in a staggered way. I may say that if Rajya Sabha had cleared the Appropriation Bill, this House would have been adjourned by now. ... *(Interruptions)* It is a dry well. ... *(Interruptions)*

I come from a rural area. I was born and brought up in a rural area. I have been repeatedly told, “Do not jump into a dry well. If you do, you will not die at all but you will only break your bones. So, be careful when you are sitting in a dry well. ... *(Interruptions)*

Right now the drought is not about agriculture. Whatever rabi crop has been planted is already destroyed. Today when you are discussing about rabi crop, that rabi crop has already been harvested. The more immediate concern now is about drinking water. In about two months from now, in our State it will be another one month, the monsoon will be breaking. By that time everybody would forget about the problem that we are facing today.

Odisha has registered record heat this year in Titlagarh. A number of media reports even called the town Tatlagarh. Titlagarh town recorded 48 degrees Celsius. Around 17 towns and cities in Odisha recorded more than 46 degrees Celsius this year which is unthinkable and unheard of earlier. One consolation India has is that global climate models are pointing to a weakening of El Nino which was the main cause of 2015 drought.

My friend from Maharashtra just now mentioned about Marathwada. I would only mention in brief that not only Latur all the cities in Maharashtra are short of drinking water. In this most rapidly urbanizing State, Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns report abysmal water supply data. And with this Swachh Bharat Mission, I would only draw the attention of the House, we would need more water in the households and that needs to be attended to. The demand for

water will be more. Demand for water in the rural areas also will be more. Demand for water in the urban areas will be much more than that. Therefore, there is a need today to plan accordingly because in most of the cities the demand for water is going up after the Swachh Bharat Mission has come into operation and a large amount of money has been provided in this Budget.

There is a drought prone area programme which the Rural Development Ministry is supposed to look into. Last time during the Winter Session when we discussed about the drought situation, immediately the Agriculture Minister took it upon himself and the Home Minister who is heading that high-level Committee also sat and there was a discussion. And we came to read from the newspapers, “Centre okays Rs.4,000 crore for seven drought-hit States.”

There were seven States including Odisha. A large amount of money was announced and in that respect, I would only mention that we had a problem relating to the allocation of funds for Phailin and there was a demand that we should get around Rs 400 crore of money for Phailin. But in two instalments, only Rs 250.71 crore were released and from that account, the statement from the Government was that they will be providing the full amount as was

demanded by the State Government of Odisha relating to Phailin. Another Rs 149.11 crore has not been given to us.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now. You have taken more than 10 minutes. Only 4 minutes was allowed to you.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to make a mention relating to drought. Why am I mentioning this? It is because we had a discussion in the House. A high level committee sat and it also came out with the statement that this much of money has been allocated to Maharashtra, Odisha etc. which means seven respective drought-hit States. But subsequently, the decision was changed. Though this declaration was made for allocation of around Rs. 600 crore to Odisha, there is still a shortfall of Rs. 214 crore because there was a change in the policy of declaration that if you have that much amount of money in your SDRF, that will be deducted from this. This decision was taken in the last week of December whereas SDRF was allocated in the month of January 2015. The State Government had kept that amount anticipating some difficulty in future. So, that should not have been deducted and that is our demand as to how the Central Government is playing truant, even if with their own amendment.

I would also reiterate again that during the deliberation on the Finance Bill, I had mentioned about the agriculture income that is being taxed. Agriculture income that is to be taxed is not to be taxed because that is the law. But I had also mentioned that if in the name of agriculture income, certain agriculturists or some Members or some citizens or some companies of this country are showing that they are earning more than hundred crores of rupees and they are being exempted from income tax, why are you not taxing them? Recently, a news item has come out. Several realty companies and rich socialites are declaring annual farm income of Rs 100 crore to Rs 900 crore to claim exemption and they are being exempted. There are different Parliamentary committees which can go into that. I had also mentioned about certain companies which are dealing with seeds. They are showing more than Rs 230 crore of income or more than Rs 600 crore income and they are being exempted. They are taking the help of the law that is there to help the farmers whose tax is to be exempted. Especially, IT companies which have large amount of land are also showing that they have this much of income from farming. This should stop.

I would also like to make a mention about interlinking of rivers which I have always been saying. We have been hearing this for the

last 40 years. It is nothing new. It was not during Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time that this idea suddenly came up. We have been hearing it for 40 years or more than that, maybe during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Five Year Plan when this idea was mooted. Rather, I would say, this idea was mooted in 1858 when Sir Arthur Thomas Cotton first initiated this idea of connecting the Himalayan rivers with the peninsular rivers, connecting the Brahmaputra with the Cauvery.

**15.00 hours**

This idea is there since 1858 but this idea has many flaws. The best thing would be to connect the rivers of respective States within the States as it is a State subject and accordingly funds can be provided; but how much fund is required? A sum of Rs. 11 lakh crore is required. That is the reason why the previous NDA Government had dropped this idea and thought it is not feasible.

I would also mention that technically Odisha should not have water problem because next to Uttar Pradesh, Odisha has the largest rainfall and water bodies and because it has an average rainfall of 1502 millimetres. Yet vast areas of our State face an acute drinking water shortage every year with ensuing heat waves. A maximum temperature of 48°C was recorded in Titlagarh. Tubewells stopped yielding water during summer due to a seasonal problem. In water rich Kerala, the water crisis is mainly due to poor water conservation and quality planning. The centralized system of pipes that deliver safe drinking water is the culprit.

My focus today of course was only relating to water. Recently the Water Resources Minister had been to Bhubaneswar. She said there that the Centre was working on a water law to restrict use of

fresh water and there was a need for a national policy on water. There are a number of reports which say that water would be very scarce by 2025. She said that already the National Water Framework Law was in the making and there was a need to review the National Water Policy.

Now, we need to make changes to meet the escalating water crisis through water conservation, drip irrigation, reforestation, recycling of water, harvesting of rainwater and better infrastructure where pipes do not leak. Here I am reminded of that famous place in Shimla where Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto sat down to sign the India-Pakistan agreement in 1972. Once when the Public Accounts Committee was going around that place, they saw a big lawn in front of that famous building. The hon. Member is no more here in this House but he asked very jokingly why that agreement failed. When I said, 'I do not know', he said it had a pit down below where it was all empty. So, conservation of water was thought of during that period; and that water was being used for gardening and keeping the lawns green. That is the idea which should be adopted, especially by the Urban Development Department. Whenever you are going to sanction any bill, water conservation should be kept in mind.

With these words, I would say these are dry days not of Bihar but in the sense that there is a shortage of water, failed monsoons and India has been parched. There is an article published in a newspaper, with the title - "Rivers are dying". Wherever we go around and see the rivers we have seen in our childhood, *[Translation]* there is always discussion about our Ganga Ji that Ganga should keep flowing continuously, but that is not happening now. I think that when Dharmendraji speaks, he will also give some suggestions on how we can conserve the ever-flowing stream of Ganga. Thank you.

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR):** Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on drought and water issues today. Unfortunately for four days people are waiting and looking forward to see as to when will the Members of Parliament discuss the water issue and when will the solution come out and when will there be some relief. Everyone is waiting for this, but every day this discussion was postponed. Today, like a last and less important issue, it has been taken up. It was considered a very important issue. Many MPs were sitting here to discuss Agusta Westland, but the people in the village were wondering what is Agusta? Have Members of Parliament gone mad? This is May

month, so what is the point in discussing Agusta? They say that no one cares about them, some don't even have three meals a day, neither food to eat nor a home to live in, nor water to drink.

Today, after 69 years, hon. Speaker Madam, on the one hand congratulated scientists at Sriharikota for launching a satellite. It is said that India is going far ahead and on the other hand we see that even after 69 years of Independence, people have no food to eat, no house to live, no bread, cloth and house and no one could provide these three things till date. Here every year, the Minister of Finance gives a two-hour exhaustive speech on budget while drinking water. Last time, she allocated 19 lakh crore rupees in the budget, but I would like to ask as to why this money is not reaching the 130 crore people? Why is there a distinction between the haves and have-nots? On the one hand, a man sits in Taj Mansingh Hotel and eats lunch worth Rs. 5000 and on the other hand, a man is not able to eat even a meal worth five rupees. On the one hand, a man wears a suit worth lakhs of rupees and on the other hand a man wears torn clothes.... *(Interruptions)* Ten lakh rupees.... *(Interruptions)* No, I did not see the bill, but my guess is that it will be five lakh rupees or ten lakh rupees worth of suit. On the one hand, one man lives in palaces and in big houses and on the other hand, some man does not even get a

place to sleep on the street. I would like to ask as to why this discrimination is happening today? Why are people not getting drinking water?

**15.09 hours**

(Dr. Ratna De (Nag) *in the Chair*)

The rich people buy cold water of Bisleri, they get it for Rs. 20, but lathi charge is taking place in the village, in Latur today. In Bundelkhand, Section 144 is imposed to protect water, and water is provided on ration basis. *[English]* Today, 13 states, that is 33 per cent of the total agricultured land, 25 per cent of the population are reeling under drought. around 2.55 lakh villages, *i.e.*, 33 crores people are thirsty and devoid of drinking water. This looks like another 'Paani pat' war. Section 144 in latur and police protection in Maharashtra for supply of water to people speaks volumes about this problem. some hospitals in Jharkhand are closed for want of water. *[Translation]* For this reason an operation could not be carried out. A man's life is at stake there without surgery, but there isn't even a drop of water available in the hospital. The hospital had to be closed. Today we are seeing in newspapers and on TV that people are eating grassrotis. Today people are eating grass made rotis. *[English]* It is unthinkable but it is a reality today. Sunstroke is the common word for the common man's death. Earthquakes and floods take the toll in no time but this demon of drought is like slow

poison. I am reminded of Somalia, a common name for starvation. If the Government does not stand up and take energizing measures to tackle this, the coming generations will suffer the brunt of our wrong doing... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Reddy, please address the Chair.

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Our leader, KCR, with his foresight started two long lasting projects like Mission Baghiratha and Mission Kakatiya for supply of water to farmers and drinking water to each and every house in all the villages. We require Rs.40,000 crore to rejuvenate 40,000 lakes for supplying 240 TMC to farmers and Rs.33,000 crore for taking drinking water through pipelines to each and every village in Telangana.

I would request the Central Government to take cognizance of the hugeness of the projects and the dire need for the supply of water. It should sanction funds liberally and show the country a pathway to combat this monster of drought. I appreciate the Government's policy of repayment of loans if the crop-yield is less than 33 per cent.

Again, I would like to say that there is drought politics going on. Some districts get drought relief funds in summer, flood relief

funds in the monsoons and the cyclone relief in winter. These districts are agriculturally very rich. There, the farmers are wealthy with political connections. This should be avoided and available funds should go only to the deserving districts of different States.

The issue of drought should be seen in a way as we see the national disasters. We go to the Minister of Agriculture and tell him that we have drought. Then he sends a team. That team comes for inspection and they ask us to use our State funds and after that the Centre will send the money. That is not how people can be saved. I would request instead of that as you send national disaster people for flood relief or cyclone, the drought should also be tackled in that fashion by sending NDRF teams.

I come from the State of Telangana. It receives an annual normal rainfall of 905.4 mm, of which 79 per cent (715 mm) is received from the South-West monsoon between June and September. The State received only 611.2 mm rainfall as on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 against the normal rainfall of 713.66 mm for this period. During the Rabi season from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, only 27.5 mm against the normal rainfall of 129.5 mm was received during the period with a deviation of -79 per cent. About 231 mandals in the State were declared drought affected

during the South West monsoon in 2015. In this year, the State has received 25 per cent deficit rainfall against the normal rainfall up to March, 2016 and resulted in a fall in water level of 2.61 m bgl when compared to May 2015. In the drought declared mandals, 64 lakh cattle units are present with a fodder requirement of 50.79 LMTs from January to June, 2016. In order to address shortage of available fodder, the Animal Husbandry Department has supplied 1832.97 MTs of fodder seed with an expenditure of Rs. 988.47 lakh under various schemes and programmes in 231 mandals and a total of 1.22 lakh acres are brought under fodder cultivation by 1.83 lakh farmers... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI A.P.JITHENDER REDDY:** Madam, when I take out my glasses, I don't even see it. I am not looking at that side, I am looking straight at you.

*[English]*

Madam, we had submitted a proposal under Drought Action Plan as per NDRF norms for an amount of Rs. 75.90 crore for organisation of cattle camps and also for transport of farmers.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now. There are more 50 speakers to speak on this.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI A.P.JITHENDER REDDY:** Madam, this is a very serious issue, there is no water to drink. If you look at business, there is no work. There are no Bills for the next day in business. Only we three or four people will speak, what will we do till six o'clock.

*[English]*

Madam, agriculture accounts for around 25 per cent of the State's total GDP and the heavy losses incurred due to crop failure is the main reason for the alarmingly high number farmer suicides in the State. The State had taken some time in assessment and declaration of drought. In its final memorandum to the Government of India, it had requested for Rs. 3064 crore from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to undertake relief and drought mitigation. But, till date, the State has been allocated a sum of Rs. 791 crore, out of this Rs. 712.62 crore proposed to be released by Government of India, a sum of Rs. 56.30 crore was released in February, 2016; a sum of Rs. 328.16 crore was released on 31<sup>st</sup>

March, 2016 and a sum of Rs. 328 crore was released on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

Madam, furthermore, as per the recommendation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) allocation to the State of Telangana for the year 2016-17 is Rs. 288 crore. This is totally inadequate for us to mitigate the damage and also make arrangements for the next season.

Madam, I would like to highlight an issue that is being faced by drought-prone States, including Telangana and a few short-term suggestions in this regard depending upon feasibility.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now. There are another 50 speakers to speak on this.

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Madam, we come from the State of Telangana and the State was ruled by the Nizams. *[Translation]* Our Nizams always used to say that whatever work you have to do today, do it tomorrow, and whatever work you have to do tomorrow, do it the day after tomorrow. What is the hurry, when you have to live for a long time. So, if we have to live so long, then where to go by pressing the button quickly.

*[English]*

Madam, the Indian Meteorological Department forecasted deficient rainfall in Telangana during the South West monsoon in 2015. But this is not a new forecast for the State of Telangana. We were expecting heavy losses, crop failures and unemployment. Ours is a drought-prone State and we are taking all necessary measures to address the expected shortage through massive irrigation projects. Another short-term suggestion is that given the poor performance and planning development programme is to commit all funds under the MNREGA scheme towards the revival and creation of water conservation structures and watershed management programmes until water availability improves.

Almost one quarter of our population suffers during water crisis. Such a commitment under MNREGA will be one of the most effective tools in bringing all our citizens together for a common cause, just like the success of the Swachha Bharat Mission.

*[Translation]*

Madam, I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Drinking Water that there is acute problem in Telangana. They should visit there once. We had demanded three thousand crore

rupees from them. Out of that, only 750 crore rupees have been provided. Kindly release the remaining amount immediately, otherwise they will say that the month of July has come, the rains have arrived, so what is its use now. Before that, save the people of Telangana from drought.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM (RAIGANJ):** Madam, there is a serious and critical situation in large areas of our country. I think that it should be discussed with great seriousness. I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to express my views. Our country is in the grip of a severe drought. Last year, we were discussing the areas under the grip of drought till March. On a new scale, this time the crisis is getting even deeper....  
*(Interruptions)* Madam, howsoever less will be agriculture's contribution to the GDP of our country, but still we are a country dependent on agriculture. More than 50 per cent of the people are dependent on our agricultural economy. Though, the direct impact of drought is clearly on other areas but it has a more direct impact on our agriculture system and the farmers, especially the poor farmers

engaged in regional farming, who are agricultural laborers, artisans in villages involved in various tasks related to rural economy. I think that despite having problems for the last three years, in the kharif of 2014, the rabi of 2015 and then the kharif of 2015, this time there has been laxity or ignorance on the part of the Government in understanding the drought situation and working towards it. That is why today this problem is in front of us in such a terrible way. We have one Ministry of Agriculture, another Ministry for Drinking Water and the Water Resources Department has been completely integrated into a Ganga subject. It has been divided into different areas. The Government is saying that this matter should be looked at in a holistic manner, but the division has been done in different ways and the problem has increased even more. We have seen a direct onslaught of drought, as mentioned about Marathwada, Telangana, and whether the region of Bundelkhand, Central India, Western India, its impact is visible even more this time. The situation of drought exists in our other regions also. In this, we see that the looming crisis in agriculture is continuing and even escalating. According to an International survey, it has been found that one farmer is committing suicide in our country every half-an-hour. If we ask the government about this, then sometimes they say that it

can be their personal matter, can be disease and different statements are made in this regard. Basically, the crisis in agriculture is its root cause. I believe that when there is drought, when the farmers are hit by drought, the crisis deepens and it causes even more problems in the lives of the farmers. Farmers, farm labourers and their families are bearing the brunt of this crisis more than anybody else. What happens directly is that they are unable to repay their farm loans or agricultural debts when the crop fails. Its impact is seen on the food crisis. Agricultural production is also decreasing. Drinking water is a big problem.

In our country, the government makes announcement after announcement that we will provide piped water, portable water everywhere in the entire country, but still, in very large rural areas, small and middling towns as well, even in cities like Delhi, we continue to see water crises. In addition, it directly impacts our livestock. In today's Hindi newspaper, I was seeing that a cow is stuck in the dried-up pond marsh. We discuss a lot about cows, livestock, cattle and cattle smuggling, debate a lot, making it a big political issue, but where have those animal lovers gone, who have to save cows and get them drinking water, they are nowhere to be

seen at that time. Drought is also having a huge impact on our livestock.

Madam, in Marathwada, the Government has done decentralization which is a good thing. To save the livestock, Rs. 70 per animal was quoted as an expense because people are abandoning their animals, and by doing so they can keep them. But the situation is strange. The inspector goes and calculates that Rs.7 will be deducted from the sale of the dung and then they make arrangements to deduct it later. Just now our Shiv Sena colleague from Marathwada was saying that the Union Government should take responsibility for this. Whatever crisis there is in agriculture, livestock is a source of income for those who live by farming,. Even if it rains next year, but if their source of income from livestock is lost, restoring it again becomes a lot of trouble for them. I understand that this problem is due to the fact that liberalization has pushed our farmers and farming in our country to the whole world. We have been hearing all these statements about biotechnology, modern irrigation which is costly and expensive. Even today in this era, we have not been able to increase the irrigated area under the area of farming during the last 20-25 years. The crop insurance assistance that should have been given has not happened.The

institutional loans that should have reached the farmers from the banks have not reached to the full extent. Even regarding the water that we are talking about, this Government is diluting the biggest water board i.e Central Ground Water Board. The Minister of Water Resources is not here but it is clear that the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board are directly under attack. You will see that the allocation of Rs.12,961 crore in 2013-14 has come down to two thousand crore rupees in 2015-16 last year. This includes Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. In the first year, when we launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana with a lot of fanfare, only four crore rupees were spent on it in that year. You can understand that the manner in which announcements are being made, the services are not reaching the farmer or the village in same manner. Even now, if we ask something, the government will say that it has formulated plans for the conservation of wells, baoris (stepwells), ponds etc., but my direct question is that how much have we been able to do in these two years? Or how much have we been able to do since the inception of this scheme which was in existence during the previous government as well? Whenever we question, the government gives a statement that there are such schemes. But MGNREGA is a very big scheme under

which there was a lot of work. The Prime Minister himself says that this is a scheme aimed at digging pits. Whereas it was very important to dig the same pits during the drought. In our country, there are 1 crore 11 lakh small, medium, or large water bodies, and if the government looks at the MGNREGA scheme with the right perspective and implements the Panchayati system properly, we can do the said work for groundwater recharging and water storage. However, when we ask the government about this, they put the responsibility on the state government, and if we ask the state government, they show us figures that so many mandays have increased. However, if today we could conserve that resource and could be able to recharge water, we wouldn't find ourselves in this dilemma.

Similarly, the government is supplying water through tankers to address the drinking water crisis. It is alright for short term arrangement, but short term, midterm and long term, all three policies should be implemented to deal with drought like situation. Along with this, it has the social aspect, the economic aspect, the administrative aspect and the environmental concern. It's all interconnected. I am not going into that. I myself come from Bengal.

Madam, you are well aware that as a famine-affected area, we have suffered a lot in the last 100-200 years. Therefore, when drought occurs, it has a direct impact and its results into famine. There is migration of people from villages and migration takes place because they do not get farm related work there. When employment through agriculture decreases and work is not available, their purchasing power also decreases. You can see that a recent survey is telling that the sale of shops in the Marathwada region has come down by 60 per cent. Similarly, the employment related to artisans decreases.

Madam, a huge crisis of fodder and foodgrains is visible and it is having a direct impact on inflation leading to increase in the prices of food items. I think that what the Government should have done in this regard, is nowhere to be seen on the part of the Government. Our Prime Minister is not just a campaigner. Let him go from Assam to Kerala and to Bengal, but he should also visit Marathwada and other areas in Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh. When the discussion has broadened so much now, we are seeing that discussions are being held in different ways with the Chief Minister or his entire team. But the proactive approach on the part of the Government is not visible. Could the Prime Minister not cancel an

election meeting in Kerala and have a stopover in Marathwada, where farmers and livestock are dying? That much we can hope for. We get to see that he toils hard and works for 19 and 24 hours. He could have detoured. If he could deter an international flight, he could easily deter a domestic flight as well. I think that his absence is causing resentment among people. There is not only a crisis of drinking water. Even today, water is being supplied by the State Government and the Union Government through water tankers. We witnessed that the talented photographer Kanaujiya of Indian Express died in Uttar Pradesh. What is happening in the country? Is there a government in the country? If there is a Government, does it think of villages? If it think of villages, does it care about the farmers and the farming?... *(Interruptions)* Prime Minister reached out to NRIs, that is a good thing. Why cannot the Government cope up with the hardships of those who are struggling living in India in the same way it is looking after the Indians who have left India to settle abroad.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Mohammad Salim, please conclude.

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** I am going to conclude. I am very happy that you have shown me indulgence. I would request for some more indulgence.

*[Translation]*

As I said about farmers, there is also issue about children, they are not discussed because they do not have the right to vote. Recently, I heard the speech of our Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi ji. He said that 16.5 crore children are affected by this. This is not just due to famine or simply due to drinking water crisis. What the Ministry of Women and Child Development is thinking in this regard. It has a long-term impact on these children. They have a long-term effect, due to their age, because of famine and lack of drinking water, due to lack of foodgrains. These children are being trafficked, they are being sold like animals. Madam, you are well aware of Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay's "Mahesh" in Bangla literature, when the situation of famine occurs, I think that we should send everyone its complete Hindi translation.

I am running short of time, so I can't speak much. Those who think deeply about animals and cows, they should see as to how Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay showed before independence that

what connection a cow has with a farmer and how he loses it due to lack of water and fodder.... *(Interruptions)* Similarly, their property, jewellery and their land, all are mortgaged. He is being deliberately thrown into a state of pauperization. As a leftist, I understand that when the government does not work properly at the right time in a famine situation, a section, which is marginalised, is directly sent into further marginalization and they have to lose their land, their property, even their family members and their children.

This situation is developing, prompting the government to take note of it and handle it on a war footing basis, while also making arrangements to waive off agricultural loans.... *(Interruptions)*

Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE):**

Thank you, Hon. Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity to speak on severe drought and scarcity of drinking water in many parts of the country. Situation is very alarming. Many people in the country do not have drinking water also. We can understand the severity and magnitude of the problem when drinking water has to be transported by rail to Latur to feed 30 lakh or 40 lakh people.

Same is the situation in many parts of the country, including Telugu States – Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In many parts of the States crops have been withered away and the ground water table has gone down like anything. There is no drinking water even for the wild animals, which are coming out of the forest areas to the villages for water. Such is the situation.

There was a Press Report on 8<sup>th</sup> of this month in Telangana, Adilabad district which stated that a poor woman has started her journey with her two children to go to the neighbouring village. Mother asked her children to be in a tree shadow, and went in search of water. She could not find; she fell unconscious. These two children started roaming around for want of drinking water; they could not find. They fell unconscious; and they died. Such is the situation. Next day, it seems that there was a marriage of the daughter of her sister. Actually the ground water table has gone down like anything where the fluoride content is very heavy. In many villages, where the fluoride content is heavy, people of 25 years of age could not see the sun in mid-day.

That is why, out of concern, I am giving my MPLAD Fund only for setting up RO Plants in many parts of my constituency. The first priority of all State Governments and the Government of India is to

solve this problem of drinking water. They have to look into this problem very seriously and solve this problem by taking steps on war footing. The first priority of the Government of India as well as State Government is to provide drinking water to the people, the second priority is to give water for farming and the third priority is to supply water for industries.

In Andhra Pradesh, we have mighty rivers Godavari and Krishna. In Krishna delta alone, 40 lakh acres are being irrigated through Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar Dams. Both these dams are empty now. In the same way, in Godavari delta also, there is no water for the second crop.

This is the situation everywhere. So we may have to change our crop pattern also. Instead of sugarcane, paddy and wheat, we may have to go for cultivation of arid crops like ragi, bajra and jowar. Till 1980s, people used to eat these grains. But of late, as the Government started the Public Distribution System and started providing rice at Rs. 2 per kg., everybody switched over to cultivating paddy and stopped cultivating arid crops. So, we may have to revisit our cropping pattern and start cultivating arid crops also and we have to supply these small grains through PDS.

Madam, in our country we have very scanty natural resources. We have a geographical area of 2.4 per cent, fresh water of four per cent whereas our population is 17.69 per cent, about 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the population of the world. So we have to preserve our natural resources very carefully and we have to think of connecting our rivers. There are some mighty rivers in our country where there is plenty of water which is going waste into the sea. Sometimes, in Godavari itself, more than 2,000 TMC of water is going into the sea every year. This is plenty of water and with this water we can irrigate both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for two years.

So, it is high time that we have to think of linking our rivers. When Dr. Rajasekara Reddy was alive, he started the Polavaram Project for linking of Godavari and Krishna rivers. Now, if the present Government sticks to their word, the Polavaram Project would be completed by 2018. If it is done, at least local rivers can be connected. This is high time that the Government of India should also think about this. If linking of rivers is technically and financially feasible, they should start this project immediately. We have to take expert advice and definitely start this project. When drinking water is scarce in many parts of the country, naturally we have to think about it very seriously and solve this problem.

Madam, if we cannot provide drinking water to all citizens of the country – leave alone luxuries – then what is the use of mighty Governments? So, it is high time that all the State Governments and the Government of India to look into this problem very seriously and give first priority to providing of drinking water to our people.

As the hon. Member from Telangana said, the Government of Telangana has started a novel project of giving water to every household in the State. This is a good scheme. I appreciate it. If they succeed, it is going to be a model scheme and the entire country may also adopt that scheme.

That Government of India also should think like that. We have to preserve each drop of rainwater. Rainwater harvesting has to be taken in a big way. In many States, nowadays, everybody has started rainwater harvesting. This is definitely going to help. Farmers also nowadays are digging the trenches all around their farming area so that the ground water gets charged and bore wells function very well. We are seeing many examples like that. Like this, the Government of India should think in a big way with the expertise at their command and solve this problem once and for all. It is a recurring thing. Every year when summer comes, we think like this and we discuss this problem. It is not like that. Now it is high time

that the Government of India as well as the State Governments should think about this problem and solve this problem. Thank you very much, Madam.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** Madam, I was listening to the speech of Raj Mohan Reddy ji, he told the story of a victim mother and her two children. Probably, she will be from my state. Because there are 11 States in this country where we are seeing severe drought situation today. Whenever you read newspaper or watch TV, you get to see news coming about Latur and Marathwada daily. Sadly, I have to say that the Government of Maharashtra has completely failed to control it. Just as Raj Mohan Reddy narrated a story, similarly, there was a 12-year-old girl named Yogita Desai who was going to school. She couldn't find water anywhere, suffered dehydration and died. There was a ten-year-old girl named Rajshri Kamble, she had gone to the well to help her mother, she fell into the well and she also died. There are so many children like Sachin, Kheddar, Swati, and we always discuss about farmers' suicide, but this time another terrible situation has arisen that the deaths of children are also very high at this time. There was a girl named Swati Pitale who went to college by ST(State Transport) bus. She

wanted only Rs. 260 for ST bus pass, she also demanded a lot from the government, but the government did not take any decision. The girl wrote a letter to her father, about which perhaps Khaire ji also said that there is a lot of difficulty in the marriage of girls in Marathwada. The girl wrote such a letter that she wants to study, but there is no money for ST bus pass. Tomorrow, I will have to marry which will also cost money, so it is better to commit suicide and the 19 year old girl committed suicide. *[English]* Madam, it is really a tragic situation in Maharashtra today.

I was listening to Khaire *ji's* speech.*[Translation]* Even though we are members of different parties but each party in Maharashtra, except one party, is speaking in one voice. We all demand the same thing that please take some action. In this, we do not want to engage in politics. Although Shiv Sena is in power there, but if you pay attention to all the issues raised by Khaire ji, he has made all demands to the Union Government and not to the Maharashtra Government. His demand for cattle camps can be met by the state itself. Who will provide cattle camps from here? But money can be sent from here. I remember, maybe Khaire ji would also remember and Rajiv Satav has also been elected from Maharashtra that a similar situation had arisen in the year 2012, but then the situation

was not so serious and there was not so much rain deficit, so every party together, perhaps BJP was also active in running cattle camps, whether it is Shiv Sena, Congress or NCP, every republic party together had organized cattle camps. I remember and please correct me Khaire ji, when I say that record milk production had occurred then. Everyone was asking that there is a lot of water shortage, yet how did milk production remain so good during the drought?

This is the first time such a drought has occurred in Maharashtra. This is nothing new. Everyone knew that there was going to be a drought. By August-September, when the rain stopped, everyone knew that Marathwada had a 50 percent rainfall deficit. Many people had also written letters to the Hon. Chief Minister urging him to take action. Work has to be done on war footing. Get water from anywhere, but do something because there is going to be a problem. I regret to say that this government has completely failed.

Everyone is saying one thing about Latur that the train came to Latur. It is a very good thing. It goes to Latur via Khaireji's constituency Aurangabad. Visually it was a very good thing. Everyone felt that water has come to Latur for the first time in history. Not the first time, but the second time. Two years ago, Jalna also got water from the railways. Be it the Railway Department or

any Minister, the Railway Department has always played a helping role towards Maharashtra. This time also, everyone is talking about Latur's water requirements. The water requirement of Latur is 5 crore litres. If there is drought, then two and a half crore litres has to be supplied. Today 65 lakh litres of water is going to Latur. The railway department wants to help. I would like to mention the Collectors of Latur and Sangli. Today water is going from Miraj to Latur by trains. Whatever quantity of water is coming, it is coming in proper manner. Although, it is not coming as required.

Just today, a very grave news has come that water was supposed to come from Patur also. The train is standing at Khaireji's constituency Aurangabad. The Minister there, Shri Lonikar ji, has given a statement today that the train has been stationed for 15 days, but our planning has not been up to the mark, so we cannot give water to Latur. Madam, you should yourself think, is not this mismanagement? You know it. You go through every newspaper of last five months. A cabinet meeting was held for Latur. All the Ministers of Maharashtra went to Latur. We thought we should also help. All the ministers visited as if on tourism and visited every taluka. What happened to the action taken report after that?

I did two things after I visiting Marathwada, - wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and wrote to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I also sought time. The Prime Minister gave me time. Several MPs from Maharashtra also went to meet him. He had listened to our suggestions. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra did not even write a letter acknowledging that he received my letter. It is really a tragedy as to what this government has in mind. They go everywhere, they launched such a big program 'Make in India'. Our Chief Minister keeps traveling here and there. I just have to say that can't hego with all his belongings to Marathwada for ten days? If the Chief Minister goes to Marathwada for 10-15 days, the infrastructure there gets overhauled. The Collector is doing a good job.

Many people talked about MGNREGA. Where did MGNREGA start, it started in Maharashtra in 1972, when Congress Government was in power. I remember that there was a severe drought in 1972, but it was not water, it was of scarcity of food grains. At this time, foodgrains are available, but there is no water. The problem is a little different this year. In Maharashtra, it was called NREGS. At the same time, the scheme was started in 1972. After the inception of the scheme, whenever obstacles arose, the MGNREGA scheme was used there. Madam, you will be surprised to know that MGNREGA

is indeed running in Marathwada today.... (*Interruptions*)The extent of work needed to be generated under MGNREGA is not taking place. I would request the Minister to pay more attention to that.

Salim ji talked about migration. There is considerable migration from Marathwada to other parts of Maharashtra. It's unfortunate that people are doing every kind of work. There is a lot of pressure on urban infrastructure. Whether it is Mumbai, Thane, or Pimpri-Chinchwad, everyone from Marathwada is moving there but if there will be good opportunities under MGNREGA in the villages, they would not need to migrate.

I have a few demands. The government knows the situation very well. I remember that a very nice workshop was initiated by the Speaker Madam as Speaker's Research Initiative. We should discuss first and later on the Research Initiative had to take up the issue. The reverse happened here. The Speaker is sensitive but the Government is not so serious which is visible. It is factual, it is really a tragedy.

In the given circumstances, I request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to consider our three-four demands from Maharashtra. Salim ji and Chandrakrant ji also said the same thing that we want a complete loan waiver for all the farmers. We want a complete loan

waiver and a complete crop waiver. It has been said that it will rain in 15 days. When Chandrakant ji was speaking, someone was saying that it rained yesterday. What the government has thought about the fact that if a farmer goes to the bank, then who will give him the money and this needs to be replied straightforwardly in 'yes' or 'no'. Will the government give a full loan waiver or not? I need a reply in 'yes' or 'no'. Will the government restructure the loans taken previously or not? These points have been raised regarding farmers, but there are many landless labourers who have no land and no work. What has the government thought about them? Salim ji made a good point that women and children suffer the most. Salim ji, you will be surprised to know that when the tanker arrives, section 144 is imposed but no man stands in the queue, only women stand and sometimes women have to stand for four hours. Sometimes the tanker arrives at 11-12 at night and remains till 2 A. M during which the women engage in fighting with each other for water, so the government should also think about them. What will you do about this? If Uma Bharti ji were here today, it would have been much better. Two days ago, I saw her statement on TV, Uma ji is also in charge of this department. She mentioned that she plans to visit Maharashtra where many good programs are lined up. She

specifically mentioned to meet Popatrao Pawar, who has done excellent work in Ahmednagar .

Khanapurkar Ji has done very good work in Dhulia through the Shrirapur Pattern, Avinash Pol Ji is also doing good work in Marathwada, and in Beed, Lohiya Ji's NGO named Manav Lok is doing excellent work. The Gram Vikas organization is also working diligently. Today, these NGOs are even doing better work than the government. I request the government to think about this and give a direct reply for loan waiver. What has the government thought about children's education? The government had announced that it will help in the education of children, but only the examination fee has been waived and full year fee has not been waived. I am not asking for the entire state, but for the children in this distress who have a desire to get education but whose parents cannot afford even a single penny. If the motor has not run, how will people pay their electricity bills? The government should also think about this. Today, the Government of Maharashtra is doing a very good work in the field of water and it is a very good thing, but there are two technical issues, i.e no geologist is working there and this work is not being done scientifically. Once the aquifer gets damaged, after 20 years it will be a national disaster. I request the government that it should

indeed do all these works but if it takes technical advice then it will be more helpful to the farmers. There is a huge challenge of migration. What do you think of the cattle camp because the payment is not coming. Today, whether in Osmanabad, Beed, Latur, or Solapur, there is a lot of problem of Cattle Camp. The government already has the data, so I would not share it with the government. Maharashtra is in a lot of trouble today, the leadership there is not performing very well. I am not saying this alone, this has come up in Khaire ji's speech as well. I humbly request the Union government to have conversation with the leadership of Maharashtra and verify the data. If they are not able to work, send the army there and help us. Today, Maharashtra's Marathwada needs all of us, not politics.

**16.00hours***[English]*

**DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE (BEED):** Thank you, Madam. With your permission, I may be allowed to speak in my mother tongue, Marathi.

**16.02 hours** (Shri Ramen Deka *in the Chair*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Yes, please.

**\*DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:** Hon. Chairman Sir, I would like to speak in Marathi. If an MP from *Marathwada* rises to speak, in this August House, it is a foregone conclusion that he or she would definitely speak on drought. And that is why when I demanded for a passport office in *Marathwada* region few days ago as many people came to me and asked why I was demanding for it while ignoring the

\*severe drought conditions in *Marathwada*. I know that unfortunately

drought is a common phenomena for *Marathwada* but it does not mean that we would not raise any other demand except drought. I am thankful to all for giving me an opportunity to speak on drought

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

conditions. It is really very unfortunate that we are facing this serious situation. Here, we should discuss about how we can deal with this drought condition in future; but in place of that, we are simply discussing and citing examples about how the Central or the State Government have failed to fight this drought. I, being a young MP, feel that we should change our approach towards drought.

Some issues like these should be spared and they should be seen through a social angle. Regarding drought relief, firstly, we should focus on what losses farmers have already incurred and what has been done in that regard. Secondly, we should think about how our farmers would face the drought conditions in future if it happens again and what had been done in past.

Every time, we discuss about farmers' suicides and what was the number in the different regimes. I have a NCRB report right now with me. But instead of going through the data, I think, the steps taken by the Government are more important. We should not make it a sport. We can not be so insensitive. Our Chief Minister met our Hon. Prime Minister last week only and they decided to offer a package of Rs.5200 crore for drought-hit farmers of Maharashtra and I am really very thankful for it. A six week joint action plan has been proposed by our Chief Minister. Through the earlier

Memorandum, a demand for Rs.4500 crore was made and Rs.4000 crore has been sanctioned. In addition to this, a supplementary memorandum is also permitted for further relief assistance as it is being treated as a special case. I think it is a great achievement on the part of State and Central Government which cannot be ignored.

We always keep on talking about loan-waiver. But it should not be taken as one time measure. We should take it positively and I think loan-restructuring is more important. The approach of this Government is to strengthen the last man of our society and not to make him depend on somebody. He should be self-reliant and independent so that he can service his loans. He needs our support in that regard too.

About loan-waiver, we know it very well that it is not confined to this Government only. These loans were taken by the drought-hit farmers of Marathwada during last four years. The BJP Governments at the State and Centre, are in the process of loan restructuring and through this, they are restructuring the loans worth Rs.8500 crore with the concession in the interest charged. It can be regarded as a great achievement.

RBI is not permitting the restructuring of the loans taken during 2012-13. Had the then Congress Government taken a stand that time, the present BJP regime would not have to take up this issue now.

For the last many years, while fighting with drought, Government set up, the cattle shelters. Usually they started it in the month of January or February. But our State Government had started it in the month of August and it is still working properly. For this purpose, Rs.170 crore had been allotted. In Marathwada region 371, cattle shelters have been opened and they accommodate around 4 lac cattles. Government has proposed to waive off the examination fees of all the students of the drought-hit area.

Everybody is talking about the tragic incident of suicide by a school girl in Latur for a bus-pass. Latur is my neighbouring district. It is very unfortunate and painful. Only for a few hundred rupees, that girl had to commit suicide. Hence, our Maharashtra Government has decided to issue bus passes free of cost to every student.

Everybody should come forward for the crop insurance scheme. Every MP and MLA should contribute for the success of this crop insurance scheme. It is not necessary to be in power to do something good for the people. We only keep on blaming the Government. We

have been elected by lacs of people and we should keep that in mind and should also work for public awareness. In my district, the farmers have got the insurance cover of Rs.300 crore just because we are working together. We are providing them solar pumps. They are also getting discounts in electricity bills.

Through *Antoday Yojana*, our State Government is providing rice at a rate of Rs.3 /kg. and wheat at the rate of Rs.2/kg. to the poor and needy farmers other than the BPL families. It is a revolutionary decision taken by the Government.

Health issues are also equally important. In my district, we organized a mega health camp and 1.5 lac people got benefitted out of it.

I would like to elaborate upon a few of the schemes being implemented by Maharashtra Government. '*Jalyukta Shivar*' is the most successful scheme of the State Government. During the last one and a half year, works of worth around Rs.2400 crore have already been done and 24 TMC of water has been conserved through it. The Government of Rajasthan and a delegation from Israel had come to study it. We will see its positive effects in the next monsoon. The Soil Health Card and drip irrigation are other

important subjects. Atalji had initiated for the River-linking Projects. In the year 2014, Government started this work through different committees constituted by it. It would be a great achievement on the part of the Government.

Rainwater harvesting should be made compulsory not only in urban but also in rural areas. We should keep in mind that not only farmers get affected by drought, Jinning industries and Sugar factories also get affected. Government should take some steps for operating a thermal power plant through the waste water management.

If the farmers are facing so many problems then what would be the fate of farm labourers? The sugar schools should be started again for the children of labourers.

There is no point in blaming each other. I would like to recite some lines written by an unknown poet who said that a farmer should never quit fighting. Time will definitely change. Have patience and keep on fighting.

This is my message to all the farmers. We have the solid support of the State and Central Government and hence we will be able to fight the drought situation vigorously in coming days.

Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, more than 40 crore people are suffering due to drought in about 10-11 states in the country. Big statements are being made by the Union Government in Delhi. I feel very sad because I think drought is not a matter of politics, but till date it has not been declared a national calamity. It is a national problem and the States also come under this, but till today the government has not declared it a national calamity. When it has not been declared a national calamity, then how much meaningful efforts the government must be making gives rise to apprehensions in mind.

Not from today, but from the time of independence, since 1950-60s, our leader Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ji kept saying that unless the rivers of the country are interconnected, there can be no permanent solution to drought or flood. I regret that even after 68 years of independence, no serious efforts have been made for this. Be it drought or flood, both these problems can be solved in two ways. One, efforts will have to be made for permanent solution and secondly, how to provide relief immediately to the affected people,

this will have to be work out at both the levels, be it the State government or the Union government. Let the Minister tell this in his reply as to in which way the government is serious. ....  
(*Interruptions*) Anurag ji, I respect you a lot, you are a very serious person. You want to do politics by sending empty trains. You want to do politics by parking empty trains at Jhansi station. Two and a half lakh villages are affected by drought today, in how many villages there is a railway track....(*Interruptions*) It is not a matter of politics. The Union government and the State governments should work together. An Hon. Member was just saying in this regard that a journalist of "Indian Express" died in Jhansi due to electrocution....(*Interruptions*) By sending empty trains, the government is doing politics on water.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to have a permanent solution to this problem. Ten States are reeling under drought. I have sympathy for every state where there is a drought crisis, including Uttar Pradesh. Through you, I would like to tell the country that if anyone has made the best efforts to solve the problem, it is the hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I am not saying this without basis....(*Interruptions*) In Uttar Pradesh, one lakh eighty thousand people of Bundelkhand are

suffering and they are in difficulty, they were given relief material under the name of Samajwadi Rahat packet. In that packet, ten kilograms flour, ten kilograms rice, twenty-five kilograms potatoes, five kilograms pulses, five kilograms mustard oil, one kilogram pure ghee, one kilogram milk powder, salt, sugar, turmeric etc. were given. Member of Parliaments from Bundelkhand will be sitting here, it can be verified from them. Hon. Chief Minister met the Hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister also tweeted that they had a very positive meeting. In that meeting, Hon. Chief Minister had put forward some demands for Bundelkhand. Through you, I would like to put those demands before the House and the country. Hon. Chief Minister has demanded to release Rs. 1123 crore assistance under the Drought Memorandum 2015. The Hailstorm Memorandum 2015 assistance is Rs. 4741 crore. The Uttar Pradesh government distributed Rs 7500 crore and the Union Government gave Rs 2800 crore. We want you to return Rs. 4741 crore to us. For the period 2015-16, there is a memorandum of Rs. 1261 crore as sowing relief for deficient rainfall in the districts. A demand of 200 mandays of work under MGNREGA in drought-hit Bundelkhand and Vindhyachal areas, has been made. We want the Hon. Minister to accept it. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has demanded Rs. 300

wages under MNREGA in Bundelkhand region and we want the government to accept this also. There are 24 drinking water projects in Bundelkhand for which the demand of Rs. 1689 crore should be accepted.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there was a lot of mention of train, the Uttar Pradesh government has demanded 10 thousand tankers. We earnestly request the government to leave aside the politics and provide us the tankers so that the work of quenching the thirst of the people of Uttar Pradesh can be carried out at a faster pace. The Uttar Pradesh government is doing the work of quenching their thirst at its own level. Even today, 1100 tankers are being run by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in Bundelkhand. The Government of India is 10 times that of Uttar Pradesh, so I would like the Government to meet the demand of tankers also.... *(Interruptions)* We are asking for tankers, please provide it. It is a mighty government with vast treasure, so provide us the tanker.... *(Interruptions)* The people of Bundelkhand are watching as to who are disrupting when we are raising the voice of Bundelkhand.... *(Interruptions)* You are doing politics on drought.... *(Interruptions)* Anurag ji, this is wrong.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is extremely

objectionable.... *(Interruptions)*We will not tolerate wrongdoing....  
*(Interruptions)*

We listened to Dr. Munde ji's points. She hails from Vidarbha.We listened to her pain. If I speak about the pain of Bundelkhand, you won't listen. ... *(Interruptions)*what kind of politics you do, you should be sorry. ... *(Interruptions)*

The Uttar Pradesh Government has made a lot of demands. At the same time, a lot of colleagues have demanded and associating myself with them, I would like to say. ... *(Interruptions)*Stop this politics. What insurance is the government offering? I want to say that in your election manifesto, it was said that farmers will be given one-and-a-half times the support price. Did you give them one-and-a-half times the support price? I have a demand and I am saying with pride that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has worked for it. The Uttar Pradesh government has waived off bank loans worth 1650 crore rupees taken by farmers. Our demand is that their entire debt of the nationalized banks and especially the loans of the farmers of drought-prone areas should be waived off. ... *(Interruptions)*let the government waive off only the debt of drought-hit areas. The government is not even doing that.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You conclude your speech in one minute.

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** The country is facing a crisis. You people are politicizing this issue also. That is why the Government of Uttar Pradesh has made a lot of demands. ...

*(Interruptions)* Let the government waive off the loans, give one and a half times the support price to farmers and provide ten thousand water tankers. The Samajwadi Party government has done this in Uttar Pradesh. This government should also demonstrate it. ...

*(Interruptions)* your shouting would not make it happen. ...

*(Interruptions)* The Government of Uttar Pradesh is working for this. The people of Bundelkhand are aware of this. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is being cheered there. But the Government of India is not paying attention at all. This is my accusation as well as my question. I respect the Minister a lot, that is why I am saying that he should do it, he also comes from a farmer's family. But of what use is the Minister's honour,

if he doesn't pay attention to farmers?

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):**

Hon. Chairperson Sir, a very serious and important issue is being discussed today under Rule 193. I feel sad that the seriousness which

should be there in keeping with the gravity of the matter is not visible in this House. Look how the Members of the largest party in the opposition are sitting.

I believe that in the prevailing drought situation in the country today when people of 300 districts of the country are drought affected and 25% of the population of the country is in distress, the Members of this House should show seriousness. As far as water crisis is concerned, it is serious for health, education, even for animals. It has an impact on farming, because 70 per cent of the poor people of our country depend on farming. Today production in agriculture is declining. Farmers are committing suicide and farming is in crisis. One of the reasons is water crisis. There may be other reasons like farming costs, which are increasing. The seed companies, as the Minister himself has acknowledged, are having a monopoly. He has said that the monopoly should be broken. For this, the system has to undergo a change.

I think that the head of the government has tried it by introducing the Soil Health Card, Crop Insurance Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna. He has talked about the National Agriculture Market. Only 17% of the farmers will benefit

from this because 83% of the farmers have less than five acres of land and they do not sell grains in the market.

The importance of water is immense for our life and for farming. It is written in our Gurbani: Pahla Pani Jiyo hai. Gurus have described water as father in our Gurbani – Pawan Guru Pani Pita. Here, we are blaming each other. This is a natural calamity, drought occurs due to climate, but I can say that if governments, country and society come together to deal with this crisis, then we can reduce the loss that people are bearing. This is very serious matter. The government has surveyed that there is 1870 billion cubic meters water availability in the country, out of which we can use 1123 billion cubic meters of water, but sadly, we have been able to use 450 billion cubic meters of surface water and 240 billion cubic meters of ground water only. In this way, we use a total of 690 billion cubic meters of water.

Today, drought is being discussed here. In this regard, I would like to say and UNO has also mentioned in its report that there is a loss of ten thousand billion dollars due to natural disasters, out of which 7,470 million dollars loss is caused by floods. We have to seriously think about how we can save this water. Reports say that 70 per cent of the rain water goes wasted. My constituency is

connected to the hilly region and Anurag ji's constituency is also adjoining. From there, water goes away and does not reach our fields. Beyond Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, the Pakistani people built a dam. Suratgarh has plenty of water. If we want the water to be restored in our areas, we have to formulate a scheme for this purpose. I have said several times and the hon. Agriculture Minister, Chaudhary Birender Singhji is also sitting here, so, I want to say that MGNREGA should be given the top priority in this regard....

*(Interruptions)* Chaudhary Sahab, I want to make one request to you. Ask the hon. Prime Minister to give funds under MGNREGA, the government has formulated a very good scheme that it is giving money for digging ponds, but no one has received the money so far. Under MGNREGA, people do all sorts of work, sometimes cleaning the aqueduct, putting soil on the roads, etc. If all the money is spent in digging ponds, in digging lakes, in building check dams, in building low dams, I can say with confidence that it would be better thing. We are not in favour of interlinking rivers. It will become the cause of conflict between two or three states and will cost the maximum. If effort is made to handle water in every state with 11 lakh crore rupees, then the country can move forward and can come out of this crisis. A difficulty arises in this regard that our ministries

like water, Agriculture, Mines and Forest are under the charge of different persons. Anurag ji knows that when we build check dams or low dams on rivers or when we excavate the pond, the people related to mines ask not to dig and the people related to forests say that it is a matter of environment. Therefore, there should be a Water Management Board at the national level and if these four ministries come together, only then it will be possible to carry out the work and we will be able to handle the water.

Today our ground water is depleting and using the depleting water for farming is very expensive. So when ponds and lakes are built, we will be able to bring cheap water for farming.

Hon. Prime Minister's concept of 'One Drop-More Crop' is a drip irrigation system and we have to give subsidy to make it successful. The government provides less subsidy, so the farmer does not install the system. Why should the farmer put himself to loss? So, if we consider our water as 'father', then we have to stop the wastage of water. So much loss is occurring today? We misutilised water, mismanaged water and could not use it, so we are facing such a crisis. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that if the National Water Development and Management Board is formed and all these four Ministries begin to function in

coordination with each other, then I think that the dream of the Prime Minister to double the income of the farmers of this country as well as of one drop-more crop will be realized.

In conclusion, I would like to say one thing about the problems in our Punjab. The drought is of two or three types. One drought is that where there has been drought and the farmer could not sow. We also give him compensation. Another drought is one where sowing has taken place, but the crop could not fully grow. We give compensation in this case also. The third drought is the one that Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are facing. These are the states which received the least rainfall, where sowing was carried out on a large scale and the crop production was the highest and which were told that they will not get compensation because they do not meet the parameters. Through you, I would like to make a demand to the Government to change the parameters. What is our fault, is this our fault that we produced more, contributed more to food security, exhausted our water, exhausted the productive power of our land to feed the country? What are the norms, they say that the average of the production will be taken. Our production tends to be higher. Therefore, through you, I would like to say to the hon. Minister that by changing these norms, more compensation should be given to

those states which contribute to the food bowl of the country. Their expenses should be borne by the Union Government. Some previous money is outstanding. The country received the least rainfall and we were not given money. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that irrigation schemes should be taken up in the infrastructure sector, and given priority so that the country can avoid such crises.

Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate, when the country is discussing an important issue, that is, drought, water scarcity and the interlinking of rivers. Drought in India is not a new thing. But what is important is how we deal with it.

Drought is not new to India. Between 1802 and 2002, in the last 200 years, the country has experienced 42 severe droughts, almost once in every five years. Between 1900 and 2006, 1,061 million people were affected and 4.5 million people lost their lives. The important thing is around 68 per cent of cultivable land in India is susceptible to drought meaning failure of rains from south-west

monsoon. It is a known fact that there are three types of drought – meteorological, hydrological and agricultural, but all put together, the common thread or cause is the shortage of water.

This House is aware of the reality that drought is a natural calamity and it is not man-made. Nobody can be blamed, but we have to understand one thing, that is, drought cannot be prevented, but if properly tackled, the effects can be minimized. This is what we have failed to understand, which is what I feel.

In India, the severity of drought is aggravated due to the bad management of water resources. Whatever reservoirs we have in Karnataka, I will come to it later and tell you how we have failed to utilize it and what the situation today is. I will come to that point later. However, I would like to tell one thing. We are facing problems because of lack of storage facilities, proper distribution network and proper planning for its utilization. India receives around 4,000 billion cubic metres of rain annually or about one million gallons of fresh water per person every day, but the problem, as I said, is in its storage and management. India has around 18 per cent of the world's population with 2.3 per cent of geographical area and four per cent of water resources.

It is unfortunate that even after 70 years, despite receiving ample rain, although India's natural environment has indeed bestowed umpteen benefits upon the country. Many a time we are having almost all types of rich natural resources in the country. In spite of that, in the last 200 years, we had 42 severe droughts. The thing is that in the last 70 years after getting Independence, we could have managed it by proper water management. But we have miserably failed.

Today the situation in the whole country is the worst in the last 40 years. About 246 districts in ten States have been declared as drought-affected during the present fiscal year. There has been 14 per cent deficit in rain especially during the South-Western monsoon. The Central Government is trying to do its best to facilitate the States to fight this drought and to minimise its effect. But ultimately in the federal structure, it is the State which has to tackle the situation. But many States have miserably failed in this. For example, Karnataka is reeling under drought which is said to be the worst in forty years. About 136 *talukas* have been affected badly and they have been declared as drought-hit. The worst among them is the North Karnataka area. The position of dam is a worrying factor. The Northern districts have registered 70 per cent deficiency

in rainfall. The Almatti dam in Bijapur District faced the worst drought since its inception. Water catchment is not even half full with the present capacity of 32.23 TMC, while the full capacity of dam is 51.61 TMC. This is the situation. As a result, both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops have been totally wiped out. The analysis of the Revenue Department shows that it is an unprecedented situation with the failure of crops in the same year. According to the data, 74 lakh hectares of the primary *kharif* crop has been lost and eight lakh hectares saw no sowing due to absence of rain.

I have pointed out earlier that the drought is inevitable but the management of it is important. We all know which party was ruling Karnataka State for long years. It is known to all. Look at the electric power situation in Karnataka. The three-phase electric power is supplied for just two to three hours in villages. I would like to explain it. One of the persons by name Girish complained to the State Power Minister about the shortage of power in his village. For having called one or two times, the Power Minister lodged a police complaint and that person was arrested. I would tell you as to how he was arrested. During midnight, the police went to his residence. He did not open the door. But the police broke open the terrace and entered his house and he was arrested. This is how a person who

demanded electric power to his village was treated. Supply of electric power for just two to three hours is affecting even the drinking water. Ultimately, people are dependent on the bore well water. When they have to draw water from the bore well, electricity is needed. ... *(Interruptions)*[*Translation*]Suresh ji, you are the minister's brother, that is why you defend him. You are sitting there, you keep quiet.... *(Interruptions)*That's what they do sitting over there. ...*(Interruptions)*[*English*]He has now understood the incident that I have narrated. What has happened is that he has been jailed. He has been prosecuted. This is a fact. How is water management done by these people? With all west and east flowing rivers in the State including the major rivers Krishna and Cauvery, the State has a potential of 3,425 TMC of water resources excluding ground water. But given the situation, only 1,695 TMC can be economically utilised for irrigation purpose. Who has ruled the country and the State for the last 70 years? Let them understand this.

Out of 3,475 TMC of water, they have just been able to use 1,695 TMC of water. Though in the Krishna Basin we have got 903 TMC, even after more than 50 years of Congress rule in Karnataka they are not able to utilise 700 TMC of water. And what does their

Chief Minister say? Day in and day out he accuses Prime Minister Modi.

What is the situation today? He has recently demanded Rs.12,000 crore. As of now if I can quote the entire country's allocation, Rs.10,275 crore have been released in 2015-16 to the State Government, of which Rs.6,055 crore was released to the State by 31-3-2016 and the remaining Rs.4,220 crore was released on 8-4-2016. But I would like to remind them.... *(Interruptions)* Dhruv Narayan ji, if you had sat there and talked, I would have appreciated your concern. You are more Bothered about your leader than the drought.

*[Translation]* Leader has gone, ...\* Dalit leaders are sitting there....\* Dalit leaders are sitting here, what to do, this sort of party it is. The same thing happened last time. Right now... \* are not here. ... *[English]* *(Interruptions)* Further, the Central Government has released a total of Rs.2,551 crore as the first instalment of Central share in SDRF to the 10 drought affected States.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has enhanced the State Disaster Response Fund. That also has been released to the States, Rs.61,221

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\* Not recorded.

crore has been released. We should appreciate the fact that for the first time ever the Prime Minister himself called the Chief Ministers of all the affected States. This has happened for the first time in the country after seventy years of Independence. The Prime Minister called all the Chief Ministers. For the first time Shri Siddaramaiah appreciated Shri Narendra Modi saying he welcomed this step.

He demanded Rs.12,000 crore and stated that what he demanded was not given. Karnataka Government in the first instance demanded Rs.2,278.7 crore. Out of that, Rs.1,540.27 crore has been released. This is 69 per cent of the amount requested for. Never in the history

Of the country 69 per cent of the demanded amount was given. When we were ruling in 2011-12, the situation was the same in Karnataka.

We demanded around Rs.6,200 crore but the then UPA Government led by Sonia Gandhi, because ultimately it was Sonia's rule, released just Rs.469 crore which is eight per cent of the demand. But this Government released 69 per cent. And what is your position there? It was released in September 2015. Today in 2016 May, you are yet to disburse Rs.346 crore in the State.

What did the Modi Government do? The Modi Government, without thinking even for rabi, released Rs 723 crore. It has been sanctioned and it is going to be released any time. ... (*Interruptions*) You have not utilized not only this, you are yet to utilize Rs 346 crore. I would also like to tell you that the performance of the Karnataka Government is so low that the target for making of ponds and dug wells was around 1,11,340 but work done is just 8763 which is seven per cent of the total target. ... (*Interruptions*) This is the situation in Karnataka.

I would also like to mention that in Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Rs 346 crore was released in 2015-16. The total amount available was Rs 347 crore and the expenditure is Rs 129.23 crore. ... (*Interruptions*) How much money they did not spend? They did not spend Rs 218 crore on Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. This is as per the statistics. It is their statistics, not mine.

In National Food Security Mission, in 2014-15 the release was around Rs 169 crore and the expenditure is Rs 135 crore. They were not able to spend around Rs 34 crore. ... (*Interruptions*) In 2015-16 which ended recently, in National Food Security Mission, the total fund available was Rs 167 crore which the Centre released. Out of

that, they spent just Rs 39 crore. They were not able to spend Rs 127 crore.

I can quote many figures like integrated scheme for oilseed, pulses, palm oil and maize. In that, they have been allotted Rs 13.35 crore and the total fund available was Rs 18 crore. They have spent just Rs 48 lakh. This is how they have dealt.

I quoted the figure of Rs 1540 crore. The amount was released in September. A team of four Ministers constituted by Shri Siddaramaiah went to Haveri, the district of Shri Shivkumar Udasi last month. Just a week back, Shri Siddaramaiah went there and suspended 20 officials. Why was the amount not disbursed? ...

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI):** Thank you very much, Sir. I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important subject. All our friends are in the well of the House today, but on this important subject, when it comes to the farmers, when it comes to the problems of the farmers of the country, today despite being in the well, the Congress party gave me

the opportunity to speak here for which I would like to express my thanks.

Sir, just now our senior leader Joshiji was expressing his view point here and on Joshiji's point, I remembered two lines, 'Jhuth bole kauwa kate, kaalekauwe se dario, janta aapko ghar bhejegi, dekhte rahio'. This discussion is going on here. The Defence Minister is giving compliments, I would like to express my thanks. Here we are discussing famine. When there is a talk of famine, ten states of the country are under the grip of famine and are grappling with it.

I expected that the leader of the House, our hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs would be here. ... *(Interruptions)* Just a few days ago, they talked about Rajmata. When they are talking about Rajmata, where the Twitter PM is what we want to ask. When we talk about Twitter PM, the Prime Minister tweets on everything, so from 17th May, 2014 to 6th May, 2016, I expected the Prime Minister to talk about famine. It is called drought in English. But he did not tweet anything on this issue. I thought that he would have done it in Hindi. There was no tweet on drought and there was no tweet by the Prime Minister on suicide in the last two years. There were zero tweets about Vidarbha. There has not been even a single tweet by the Prime Minister about Marathwada in the

last two years. There are about twenty tweets by the Prime Minister everyday, but the Prime Minister did not find time here to talk about drought, about Vidarbha, about suicide, about the distressed farmers in Marathwada, which is the most unfortunate thing. Our Agriculture Minister is sitting here. The Agriculture Minister has been replying for the last two years. But how much upset is the Agriculture Minister? Who provides famine aid? The famine-related assistance is provided by a committee headed by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. But the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not sitting here. He does not know as to what is the sentiment of the House. When we talk about the banks, the Agriculture Minister says that we will instruct the banks to provide loans. But when we approach the bank, keeping in mind the Agriculture Minister's assurances, the banks do not entertain us, that is the current situation.

The Prime Minister is not here, the Finance Minister is not here, the Home Minister is not here, the Water Resources Minister is also not present here and we are talking about famine. What are you talking about? If you observe, even senior leaders of the BJP are not present here. It looks like that. ... (*Interruptions*)Parrikar Saheb is not the only senior leader. If you consider Parrikar ji as the sole senior leader, then we will address Parrikar ji now onwards. ...

*(Interruptions)* They are talking about famine. I remember that on 20 March, 2014, the Prime Minister came to my district. He was a Prime Ministerial candidate and the famous thing then was 'Chai Par Charcha'. The Prime Minister had come to Dabhadi to have 'Chai par Charcha'. We also felt that he would do a lot when he became the Prime Minister. It has been two years but a farmer named Vitthal Rathore, who participated in that 'Chai par Charcha', committed suicide in 9 months. ... *(Interruptions)* No one went to meet his family members. At the time of election, you go to seek vote. Later, no one went to the house of the farmer who committed suicide.... *(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of my state went to the house of a farmer who committed suicide. He met his wife and within eight days, the wife committed suicide. The head of the state goes, even after that he cannot assure, this reflects the situation of the government. Thus, it is visible as to how the government's work is going on.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to heartily thank the hon. Madam Speaker. She organized the Speaker Research Initiative four-five days ago. There was a discussion on drought and a discussion on water. It was a very good discussion. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I have just started. Give me two-three minutes. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** There is shortage of time.

**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV:** The researchers who came in that discussion included Mangala Rai and many MPs were also present. The researchers who participated in that discussion said that they had told the State government about this situation a year ago but the state government did not take any steps in one year.

There is going to be a famine and a very bad situation is going to arise, but despite telling them, the State government did nothing. No work has been done there under MGNREGA and here I would like to thank the hon. Supreme Court that it is the Supreme Court which has given relief to the people.

Thank you.

**SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN (JAMUI):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the most important discussion in the second part of the Budget Session today.

It has been raining less for the last two years and due to this, a tragedy like drought was already expected, but is the reason for this terrible drought is only less rainfall and our dependence on rains? I believe that apart from lack of rain, there is also a short coming in

our planning and management and we are having this shortcoming for decades. We deliberately ignore the danger. I also have the figures as to how 256 districts in about 11 States like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are affected by drought and are in the grip of drought, but I do not want to go into these figures. The reality is that even if one district was affected by drought, we would have felt the same pain. If even one of our farmer brother had to commit suicide due to drought, we would have felt the same anguish. I had said this before in the House that there are certain issues which we need to discuss rising above party politics, and this issue is one of them.

More important than discussing as to what we got and what we did not get in legacy, is to discuss the point as to what we are leaving behind in our legacy. More important than raising concern as to what they have done and what they have not done in the country-building in the last 60 years, is to be worried about what they are going to contribute in today's crisis, which will be remembered by the country and the world in the times to come. In this sequence, I would like to share the views very briefly on two suggestions on behalf of my Lok Janshakti Party.

The first is the Interlinking of the Rivers, about which we have been hearing for quite some time. I am sure that this is such an

impressive scheme, which if really gets realized on the ground, then most of our water related problems can be resolved by this. Taking the concept of interlinking of the rivers we have seen a pattern across the country that there are some areas which receives more rainfall. There are some areas which get average rainfall. And there are some areas which receive almost no rains. In the state of Bihar from which I hail, we have seen that there is a Kosi belt which remains affected by floods, but there are some areas which remain affected by drought. In my own Jamui Lok Sabha constituency, which includes Sheikhpura Assembly of Sheikhpura district, there are some blocks like Ghatkusumba which are affected by floods and blocks like Ariari, which are drought-hit. I am confident that if this interlinking of the rivers is done and if the water from the areas having more water and high water table, is diverted and channelized and supplied to such areas where there is less water, then we will get to see very positive results of this scheme and we will be able to get rid of the problem of drinking water, irrigation, drought and floods to a great extent. Our previous NDA government had come up with the proposal for this scheme. I hope that our present NDA government will work towards bringing this to fruition.

The second proposal on which I wish to put forth my views is on water policies. It is necessary that in today's time, we need to rework on some water policies, discuss them again, improve them, and strengthen them further. To deal with drought, it is necessary that the Union Government and the State Governments together prepare such an effective plan for water management along with water conservation, so that if ever there is a situation leading to water scarcity, then at least the countrymen do not feel the water scarcity and they do not have to face the difficulties arising out of it.

We have gifted the Food Security Act to the countrymen, but I personally believe that food security is absolutely incomplete without water security. It is necessary that sitting in this House we should also discuss and enact such a Water Security law by which we are able to give our countrymen the right to drinking water in the same way as we have given the right to food to everyone and I would also like the House to discuss this too. We have to do better management of our water resources, which probably requires better and effective water policies, because only through this can we limit the impact of drought and water scarcity.

Sir, the will to fight the drought shown by our NDA Government is evident from the manner in which our Prime Minister

took the issue seriously. I would like to thank our Prime Minister, who made an effort to find a solution by holding a meeting with the chief ministers of the affected states. At the same time, I would like to thank our Hon. Minister of Finance who has already assured all possible help to all the States. I would also like to thank our Railway Minister who worked towards sending water through trains to the affected areas. Sir, these are temporary solutions. We need to work on permanent solutions, to establish a system so that in the future, at least, we do not get to see such horrific pictures, the way we saw the pictures of drought-affected areas through television or print media.

Sir, before concluding my remarks, I have faith that whatever decisions the government takes after today's discussion, they will be presented before our nation as a permanent solution. And whatever outcomes arise, they will be so robust and strong ensuring that we can safely pass on to future generations a priceless gift and an invaluable heritage like water. With these words, I express my sincere thanks.

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH):** Hon. Chairperson  
Sir, I would like to heartily thank you for having given me this

opportunity to speak on a very important discussion. I have heard the speeches of all my colleagues. I will not take my point beyond Bundelkhand and Narmada and I will only express myself in as much as I know. Through you, I would definitely like to make a humble request to the House that let us seriously consider to bring a positive tendency in ourselves needed to tackle drought. We cannot deny that not only from the time since the country gained independence, but even before that this country has faced a deeper conspiracy. It is not that our policymakers or our thinkers could not convey their points. I always quote one thing in the House, perhaps I am pointing it out the third time. It is written in the Daishik Shastra that whenever you ignore wealth and pay attention to money and the strength of money increases, then these situations are bound to come to surface. What is wealth? Our land, our forests, our animals and our water. If anything is affected by drought today, it is these four things. People are demanding money. We are trying to revolve around the money that was chastised by our sages. It may have an immediate effect but it may never be a permanent solution.

I hail from Madhya Pradesh and I am a Member of Parliament today from Bundelkhand. I have seen Narmada while walking on the banks of the river, it is not a glacial river. But today about 285 cities

and towns of the country are drinking water from it and the number of those who are irrigating on its banks is not available. My point is, will the House consider this? Even today, we do not have a reasonable estimate of the number of livestock. There is no estimate of pastures, but we have reduced them. Today in a newspaper, I was reading the report of Delhi. Out of 1,011 ponds here, the figure which I read in a newspaper yesterday, a total of 971 ponds are left in Delhi. We need not talk about the world, Delhi is a place sitting where we are discussing this. Forty ponds here lost their existence, 338 ponds have dried up and 321 ponds have water, but it's gutter water. Encroachment has occurred on 168 ponds, 70 ponds have partially and 98 ponds have completely lost their existence here. This is the condition of the capital. There has been construction on the ponds and the skyscrapers have come up on 117 ponds. Out of it, 78 are legal and 39 are illegal.

**17.04 hours**

(Shri Hukum singh *in the Chair*)

*[Translation]*

Similarly, I will give the example of Tikamgarh. In Bundelkhand, there were 1,065 Parmar-era and Chandel-era ponds of that time, out of which a total of 450 are left today. Through you, I would like to tell the House that had we preserved the old legacy, this crisis would not have arisen today. If we have to discuss this, how many days are left today? The Bundelkhand Members of Parliament went to NITI Aayog. We urged them that we have 22 working days left with us. If the work of desilting cannot be done by machines, then it cannot happen. There can be no desilting of any pond after the advent of rainfall. Today, if we resort to desilting of a small pond or a big pond, the same people near whom that pond exists at their doorstep will use it for domestic and irrigation purpose and it will also lead to increase in the water level. But we did not give priority to that. All the people representing the states have made their arguments, I do not want to say on party lines, but I want to ask with great humility that drought had knocked the door of the country

three months ago. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for calling the meeting of heads of the States at that time, but did he set the priorities, did he give money for desilting? The budget money will go after the budget is passed, but if you do not have the resources available at the time when work has to be carried out, then the weather will not wait for anyone, water will not wait for anyone and later on you cannot fix it. Whether we will consider this?

Drought does not only bother people, people will move from one place to another, but where will the cattle go? Where there is drought, there is no grass and this is the ground reality that we cannot feed the animals by transporting them despite making lot of claims. Those who live in the villages have encountered this situation, they know very well that this is not an immediate solution, it can be tried but their hunger cannot be satiated.

I have been elected from Bundelkhand and it pains me to say that as far as doing work is concerned, there is a pond named Bela Tal after Alha's wife in our region. The pond got rejuvenated without government spending and today it has at least one and a half meters of water. It is not that it cannot happen, our elders have made a system and the catchment areas are already in place based on

geographical condition. But we have made them dirty. Therefore, we have to know the reasons for the drought.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am born in Narsinghpur district, where cash crops are grown and which has the most fertile land in the Asian continent. People say that since the grace of Narmada there, till today there has been no famine in Narsinghpur. Today we are getting water at a depth of three hundred feet. All our perennial rivers have dried up.

I want to bring to the attention of the Rural Development Minister that in 1996, when I was a member of the Sub-Committee on Barren Land Development, I had said that everyone wants to take from the Narmada River but no one wants to give it back, it is not a glacier river. I have said so many times that the Bandhan system which belongs to Narsinghpur district and Patan tehsil of Jabalpur is their lifeline. It was the largest system of watering Narmada. But the farmer suffered due to wrong policies. They switched over to the cash crops for their children education, first we went for soybean crop and now to the sugarcane crop, the result of which was that our perennial running rivers dried up and today the rivers have become canals. If water from the Rani Avantibai Sagar canals does not get diverted into those rivers today, not even a drop of water will be left

in them. We have created these circumstances and this is the consequence of our mistakes. We should consider that our traditional system of recharging did not involve recharging with stones, recharging with red soil. My sister colleague was just speaking, I have been a student of Geology. If you want to think about the system of recharging, it will happen only if there is black soil and there will be no recharging at other places. Recharging can be done from sand, but no one can claim that he will get that water or someone else will get it. So, I think that should we not talk about it before putting in place a mechanism? This House is not only for criticizing. If the government has made a mistake, you should criticize, but the government has cautioned and it has decided to contribute its share. In response to a question in the House, the Agriculture Minister had said that funds for disaster relief will be allocated within 48 hours of passing the budget. Budget is a legal obligation. That is why I said that the time that the State Governments had, did they utilize it properly?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the primary question is, when we put the Union Government in the dock, do we talk about our responsibilities? When standing here you people say that you have done so much work and in that expectation we can do so much work,

provided you give an assurance, I assert that the Government of India is not at all behind in doing work. When the hon. Members went before the NITI Aayog, it asked them to prepare a 20-day programme and send their action plan within three days. This could have been done in the remaining areas of Marathwada as well. But, I think that somewhere it would not be appropriate to make criticism only with such a speed.

Therefore, I would like to say with great humility that there are some issues which need immediate solutions and we should do so. Like we have done in our district, but we also got a little delayed. The money goes to the panchayats. Can't we stop panchayats from doing concrete works? Summer crops use more than three times the water apart from average cultivation, so can't the panchayats be stopped to carry out those works by issuing a decree in advance. This can be done by the governments, it is the job of the State governments. If the decisions that should be taken at the panchayat level were based on these possibilities, then the worsening of the situation could have been prevented from escalating. Had we decided that the animals actually do not have fodder and those water management systems, which we excluded in the name of irrigation do not exist, it would have been better. But today, we are crying

before the government. No government can generate water, it can manage water, but it cannot immediately restore the water table. So, I think that we all should work together to chart out a course to ascertain as to what can actually be done on a war footing level on the basis of disaster. I think that the only thing that can be done on a war footing level is to carry out the desilting of the water sources lying dried up within the time available with us.

There was talk of MGNREGA. The Government of India issued a circular. Earlier there was a ratio of 40:60 at Panchayat level. This ratio was implemented at the district level. Policies cannot be changed immediately. The component which mentions 60 per cent for the workers cannot reduce it. But a way was found that if there is 60 and 40 percent at the district level, then the work in the panchayats located near the cities where labourers are not available, can be carried out by using machines to give it a pace. Through you, I would like to say that if we discuss all these things, we will have a much better solution before us.

I have put forth my points on the basis of my experience. I do want to make a request to the Government of India as to whether we can change the funding pattern. Somewhere, the government will have a legal obligation but when such situations arise before us, in

anticipation, we can provide money to the State Governments or those institutional people who are doing work. Will there be a monitoring system on this financial management? Like you talk about Deendayal infrastructure. Can this monitoring be on the lines of Disaster Management?... *(Interruptions)* States get money. Will there ever be a discussion on the work done by the states after their evaluation through satellite monitoring? Only then, we will be able to check this scam. We witnessed wastage of money in Bundelkhand with our own eyes and today we are facing the consequences of that wastage. I do not want to discuss it on this occasion. I don't want to blame anyone.

Yadav ji is gone. The NITI Aayog is openly saying about Uttar Pradesh. What is seen on the ground does not seem to be reflected here.... *(Interruptions)* So, I would like to say that we all should think positively about dealing with this disaster. We should also think that the policies have gone quite counterproductive. A lot needs to be done to streamline them. I believe that this Government is doing its bit. Thank you very much.

**SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA (SITAMARHI):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important issue. I rise to speak on behalf of the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party today. India has been an agriculture based country since ancient times and even today a large population of the country is dependent on agriculture. Millions of people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Due to this, 59 per cent of the households dependent on agriculture are those who fall in the landless category. Twenty percent households own one to two hectares of land and the households owning two to five hectares and five to ten hectares of land and more than ten hectares of land are three percent and seven percent respectively. It is clear from this figure as to what a plight agriculture has reached in the country today. Today, farmers are committing suicides because of unremunerative farming.

The life of agriculture is water and it is an indisputable fact that for the last two years, the country has been facing drought due to poor monsoon. At present, the government has openly admitted that 25 per cent of the country's population is in the grip of drought. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka are particularly in the grip of drought. But a deeper study in this regard

clearly depicts that ten states of the country have been hit by drought. Out of 678 districts in the country, 254 districts are severely affected by drought.

For the last two years, there is a drought situation in the country. My information through the newspapers is that there has been a 10 to 15 percent rainfall deficit in these years. But as per the information, only 23 percent water is available even in the major reservoirs of the country this year. If we undertake a deeper study of the fact that the rainfall or water availability has reduced by only 10 to 15 percent, but the rain harvesting capacity got reduced by 77 percent, I think the reason involved is the uncertainty arisen due to climate change in the country as a result of rising global temperature. It has led to the uncertainty in rainfall pattern in the country and this uncertainty is not only from the point of view randomness of time but also from randomness of places.

In the previous years, I have seen that the areas which used to be drought-affected in the country have gone under floods and the areas which used to be flood-affected have come under the grip of drought. As a result, there is a huge difference in the percentage of rainfall deficit and the percentage of water harvesting capacity. Therefore, there is a need to increase the water harvesting capacity

in the country. Otherwise, in the next 20-25 years, the country will be bound to import water like other commodities. In recent years, the Ministry of Water Resources has confirmed that the annual water availability in the country is 4 thousand billion cusec meter, which has been estimated to be 1 thousand 869 billion cusec meter taking into account the water reduction as a result of temperature and evaporation process. But even out of this quantity, the availability is estimated to be 1 thousand 123 billion cusec metre as the remaining water is available after the reduction like water current. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has stated in its report that water storage capacity of 458 billion cusec meter is required to meet the water requirement of the country. But the Central Water Commission after a study has assessed that 225 billion cusec meter of water storage capacity is installed in the country at present. My purpose in placing the above information before the House is that the Government should know the solution to the problem and take concrete steps to realise it so that the problem is resolved.

I express my gratitude to the Government, to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and appreciate their idea of constructing a water reservoir in every village under MGNREGA and I support it.

However, I also think its necessary to emphasize that this idea should not merely be left as a thought but should be implemented through a scheme with accountability of time-bound construction targets not only at the state level but also at the district level. A transparent, robust and accountable mechanism should be established for monitoring the implementation of this plan so that the water problem can be permanently resolved.

Today, 30 river basins are flooded during monsoon and this water flows into the sea. We have to prepare a concrete plan at the national level to store this water. I hail from Sitamarhi district, where Bagmati river has water, but many rivers of the Adhwara system have dried up. The scheme of interlinking of rivers will be beneficial for them. Similarly, by interlinking Phalgu, Morhar, Dardha, Punpun and Sone rivers in Magadh, drinking water crisis can be resolved permanently in the area of Magadh. The government has thought of making such a scheme, so I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister. I also express my thanks to the hon. Chairperson for allowing me to participate in the discussion.

**COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for the very important issue being discussed today. This issue is very important because

today there is a drought situation and a lot of problem of drinking water, so this discussion is very important in such a situation. Today we all are becoming help less in finding out as to how to overcome the problem of water? Speaker Madam had organized a seminar on 4-5 May, in which several experts and consultants of India had participated.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the figures that they presented were very astonishing and shocking. So, we have a lot of work to do in that direction. First of all, I would like to talk about drought in this regard. In the past 60 years, numerous committees have been formed to study drought, and several policies have been formulated to do away with it, however, there is still much work to be done in this direction. Still, we have not achieved the desired results we should have got through them. So, we have to work in this direction at a great pace.

Sir, today 13 States out of 29 States are reeling under famine in the country. Famine situation has occurred in 251 districts out of 680 districts of the country. The responsibility of dealing with famine conditions and managing relief works primarily falls on the State governments, however, the Union government cannot run away from its duties because it also has a significant role to play in addressing

these challenges. However, the work done in respect of long-term drought management over the past 60 years has not been as extensive as it should have been. Rather, whatever work has been done is merely of ad hoc nature.

Sir, drought and poverty are inter-linked and drought and foodgrains are also interconnected. When there is drought, agricultural production is lower and when agricultural production is lower, it increases the prices of agricultural commodities. Not only this, when agricultural production is lower, it affects the marginal and small farmers the most. In such a situation, they are compelled to commit suicide. Therefore, it is very important to manage it.

Sir, drought and crop insurance are also related. There were many flaws in the National Agriculture Scheme. I had gone through it. It was also implemented in my constituency. The premium that farmers used to pay was never fully compensated for the losses incurred. So, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the crop insurance scheme brought recently, because the earlier shortcomings and gaps have been addressed. I want to illustrate with an example that previously, if a farmer stored his crop in the open and it got damaged due to rain or any other disaster, he did not receive any assistance under the old scheme. However, under the new Pradhan

Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, if something happens within 15 days, the farmer receives full compensation. You know that there are poor farmers. They also have a hut to live in. So where will he keep his crop in a pucca and covered place? Now, this shortcoming has been removed in the new scheme. I once again thank the Prime Minister for this.

Sir, I want to say about Rajasthan that famine is occurring in the state for the last three years. There are a total of 46 thousand villages in Rajasthan, out of which 27 thousand villages are drought affected today. In such a situation, the Government of Rajasthan has sought an assistance of Rs.10,400 crore from the Government of India under National Disaster Relief Fund, but the Government of India has given only Rs. 1,190 crore to the state. The Hon. Minister is sitting here and I would like to request him to immediately release the remaining funds under NDRF so that we can conduct relief operations.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there is a lot of problem of fodder and drinking water in drought-affected areas. We have to seek fodder from other States. Water is supplied through tankers for drinking water. At least 300 tankers are engaged in providing water in my constituency today. The State government has demanded Rs. 300

crore from the National Calamity Relief Fund to provide water, but the Government of India has given only Rs. 90 crore to the state. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to give us the remaining funds at the earliest, so that we can provide drinking water to the affected areas. We pray to God to bless us with rains soon so that drinking water crisis does not deepen that much in the coming two-three months. Although, this matter pertains to the Ministry of Home Affairs. That's why I am urging the hon. Minister to apprise the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs of this request of mine. The High Level Committee has also visited there and it has also recommended in its report that the Rajasthan Government should get this much funds. So, I hope that you will release the remaining amount soon.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, now I would like to tell about drinking water that there is no river within Rajasthan. There are some rivers outside the state from which water is coming. For example, water is coming from Indira Gandhi Canal, which goes through Himachal Pradesh. The Sardar Sarovar Dam built over the Narmada river is bringing water to my Barmer and Jaisalmer areas of Rajasthan. My point is that there are many schemes for interlinking of rivers and providing drinking water from there, but the Government of Rajasthan does not have the funds to implement those schemes.

Therefore, the Rajasthan government has sought a loan of Rs. 31 thousand crore from the Government of India. The hon Minister is present here and he is listening to my points, so I request him to consider the drinking water schemes in my region, which are to be implemented through the Indira Gandhi Canal and Narmada Canal and estimated to cost around Rs. 30 thousand crore. Therefore, the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Government of India for providing loan from Japan, NABARD or the World Bank. If this loan is made available, the problem of drinking water can be solved.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, so far as interlinking of rivers is concerned, I want to tell that there are 6 such rivers, which can be connected to Rajasthan. With this, the work related to drinking water in our state can move forward. When I was a Member of Parliament in the 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister at that time and he went a long way ahead in this matter. But after that nothing has been done in this regard. I would like to say that when elections were held in my constituency, Narendra Modiji came to the rally on May 12. At that time, he had said that if his government is formed, he will try his best to interlink the rivers here. I am very happy that after he became the Prime

Minister, a lot of discussion and work is going on interlinking of rivers today. I hope that he will further take it forward.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all, I would like to talk about the Sardar Sarovar Dam built on the Narmada River. Water is coming into it but the height of the dam should be increased. The height of the dam is not increasing because some people are protesting there and saying that it will submerge the entire area. In my opinion, the height of this dam should be increased by about 17 meters. If the height of this dam is increased, then Jaisalmer, Gudamalani, Chohtan, Shiv and some parts of Jaisalmer district will also get drinking and irrigation water.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, simultaneously, there is the question of interlinking Tapi river with Narmada. Although, it is three hundred and fifty to four hundred kilometers away. If Narmada river is interlinked with Tapi river, there will be no shortage of water in Narmada. This will provide irrigation facilities along with drinking water in Jaisalmer and Barmer. Secondly, there is project on the Saraswati river. It is a mythological and endangered river. A survey in this regard has been conducted in 2001-02. About 18 trial tubewells have also been drilled. It has established that this river flowing from Yamuna city and passing through Sirsa, Nohar,

Bhadra, Sardarshahar, Dungargarh, Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jalore merges into the Arabian Sea. A scheme should be formulated to harness water from this river. It has plenty of drinking water which can also be used for irrigation. If we work on this by making some scheme, then all these areas can be benefitted.

Secondly, there is Yamuna Sutlej Rajasthan Link Project. This project is also very important. The Sharda Link Canal only goes to the Yamuna. If the work is carried forward in this regard, then Haryana and Rajasthan will benefit a lot. In this regard, by stopping the flow of water in Naroda and its surrounding areas, it can be diverted to Alwar and Bharatpur districts as well as Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Churu and Nagaur to Jodhpur and Luni river, which is called the Ganga of Barmer. That is why I want to say that work should be done on Yamuna Rajasthan link project.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, fourthly, I want to say about the Rajasthan Sabarmati Link Project. It is an extension of the Yamuna Rajasthan link. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Col. Sona Ram ji, now you conclude your speech.

**COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am concluding my speech in one minute. This link passes through Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore from Rajasthan and goes through Banas kantha, Mehsana and Gandhinagar districts in Gujarat, so work should also be done on this project. Similarly, there is Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link. In this regard, Gandhi Sagar Dam and Rana Pratap Sagar Dam which are located across the Chambal river should be diverted and irrigation facility should be provided in new affected areas.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, similarly, the Brahmani and Banas rivers should be interlinked. There is an acute shortage of water in Jaipur. If the water of Brahmani river is diverted to Banas river, then water can reach Bisalpur dam.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, finally, I would like to say that Jaisalmer-Barmer area is such an area where it rained only 11 mm in the year 2014 and only 34 mm in the year 2015. If you take an average of the last fifteen-twenty years, it rains only 25 mm there. In such a situation, the rivers here should be interlinked and if the funds demanded are provided, then we would really grateful to the government for this.

Thank you.

*[English]*

**\*SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE (JALNA):** Hon. Chairman Sir, you have permitted me to speak on the issue of drought and drinking water under '193', I am very thankful to you. Hon. Chairman, around 11 states are facing drought conditions in our country. Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the badly affected states. To tackle this problem, Central Government has given monetary help to the states and some states have succeeded to handle this problem. I would like to state through you Sir, that the relief assistance given by Central Government was of great help to the State Government. But the intensity of this drought is so high. We have seen even the 1972 drought but this is harsher than that one. If we go through the data, we will find that around 28666 villages are drought affected in Maharashtra and out of it, 13817 in Vidarbha, 8526 in Marathwada, 4896 in North Maharashtra and 1427 in Western Maharashtra are in the shadow of drought. Central Government has given the financial assistance even more than what was demanded by State

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Government. But this cannot be political issue now. Everybody asked not to make this issue a political one but everyone tried to make it a political issue. In the year 2011-12, Government of Maharashtra requested for Rs.11026 crore but Rs.5574 crore were allotted by Central Government. In the year 2012-13, Rs.50033 crore were demanded but only Rs.18000 crore were given by Government. In the year 2014-15 Rs.60013 crore were demanded but only Rs.1962 crore were given. But, this is first time in the history of independence of India when Maharashtra demanded for Rs.4200 crore and Rs.3970 crore were given. Hon. Chairman Sir, usually this aid is given in the month of June but this is for the first time that this fund has been released in the month of April which helped to fight the drought condition in Maharashtra.

For the last three consecutive years, there has been scanty rainfall in Maharashtra. Hence the water reservoirs in dams are reduced. If we want to fight against this condition, we will need to do two things. A long time and short time measures would have to be taken up. Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra met Hon. Prime Minister on 7<sup>th</sup> of this month and in that meeting Hon. Prime Minister accepted to finance the construction cost of the long-pending dams in Maharashtra. As of today only 15% water is

available in the entire Maharashtra and only 10% in Marathwada. In Konkan 40%, Marathwada only 2%, in Nagjim 23%, in Amravati region only 15% and in Nashik region only 14% water is available. Jayakwadi Dam which is the largest dam in Marathwada has no water, Bhima Ujni also has no water. Koyna Dam has 19% and Warna Dam has only 15% water available. When we calculate, only 15% water is available for entire Maharashtra and only 20% in Marathwada. In spite of this, Government has taken certain measures in this regard. Latur is a big city and the people there has no water to drink. Hence with the help of Central Government, Government of Maharashtra is supplying water there through water trains. Around 50 lac litre water is being supplied by train every day.

We are very serious about this issue and we are fighting vigorously this drought. We have started to provide employment to the labourers. Somebody has given a data but the issue of migration is not much serious there.

Government of Maharashtra started 'Jalyukta Shivar Yojna' last year and through this scheme we have conserved 24 TMC water by spending only Rs.1400 crore. We completed this work within a year when the opposition parties were in power, they took 8 long years to conserve 24TMC water by spending Rs.8000 crore for it. Now they

are slamming us. They are involved in the scams worth Rs.70,000 crore in irrigation department. 'Paani Adva Paani Jirwa' scheme should have been implemented to store water and if that was done, we would not have faced this kind of situation. We could have averted this menace if we had taken some timely steps.

Through loan-waiver scheme, only the banks got benefitted and not the poor farmers. Today, those who are criticizing us, are responsible for causing heavy losses to these banks. I claim that we have done a commendable work to stop farmers' suicides. Only our Government has taken concrete steps in this regard. On 15<sup>th</sup> August this year, our Government started to provide rice at the rate of Rs.3/1kg. and wheat at the rate of Rs.2/1kg. to the farmers of 14 drought affected districts. We managed to tackle this problem efficiently with the help of Central Government and, we would be able to handle it even in future.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate that we would definitely take some good measures and that would help us greatly to fight with this calamity.

Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, today, the country is in the grip of famine and drought due to water scarcity. About one-fourth of the population i.e 33 crore people of the country are suffering due to drought. 256 districts of ten drought affected States are reeling under drought. Water scarcity in India is taking a catastrophic form and it is also adversely impacting the economy. Passing of two consecutive monsoons with only meagre rains is also a major cause of drought. A huge water crisis has occurred in the country. India is naturally an agricultural economy and agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Although, the contribution of agriculture and allied sectors to the national GDP is gradually declining, yet agriculture sector provides employment and livelihood to more than 50 per cent of the country's population. A weak monsoon and the consequent drought or drought-like situation and subsequent crop failure is like a shock to crores of poor farmers, agricultural labourers and their families. We will be needing 45 crore tonnes of foodgrains i.e twice the current availability, to feed 1.6 to 1.7 billion Indians in 2050. In such a situation, it seems impossible to achieve it only by relying on monsoon without increasing the area under irrigation. I would like to

express two lines on water conservation."Jal nahi hoga to kal bhi nahi hoga. Aaj samajh sakte ho to samajh lo, warna kal iska koi hal bhi nahi hoga." As soon as Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji became the Prime Minister, he made a project to interlink the rivers of all the states of the country by interlinking 30 great rivers of the country to address the famine. Had this project been continued by the Congress-led UPA government, it would have been completed in 2015 and we would not have faced this terrible situation today. Regarding the districts where there is a severe shortage of water, as mentioned by our hon. fellow members, our NDA government has undertaken task to alleviate it and taken a concrete step to share their grief and pain by transporting water to the Latur district in Marathwada through trains and tankers. In view of the serious problem of drinking water in drought-affected areas, the Union government provides funds to the states for the water transported by trains. The transportation expenses of the water transported by trains and tankers are borne by the government.

For example, in order to provide employment to people in drought affected areas under MGNREGA, the government has decided to increase the prescribed 100 days of work to 150 days and MNREGA funds have also been allocated to all the states. The

Union government had last year changed the rules for giving compensation under drought lowering the crop loss from 50 percent to 33 percent and has also made major changes in the compensation rules in the interest of farmers. From this context, it shows as to how concerned this Government is about the farmers. Earlier also there was an insurance scheme but only 20 percent of the farmers used to benefit from it. But now under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, 1.5 to 2 percent premium has been kept on rabi and kharif crops. Under this insurance scheme, the crop has been covered for 14 days from the time of harvesting of the crop from the field to the barns. This shows as to how much respect and honour the Modi government gives to the farmers. We have to make the formula of agriculturally capable country meaningful in such a way.

The Union Government has also initiated the National Water Mission, aimed at conserving water, reducing water wastage, and ensuring equitable distribution through integrated water resource development and management among states and within states.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for launching Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojna with a provision of Rs. 5500 crore aimed at expanding the area under irrigation as soon as he assumed office.

My state Gujarat is also reeling under drought. Rain is a gift of nature, we all know this. Sometimes we get it in less amount, sometimes more. Our hardworking woman Chief Minister of Gujarat, Hon. Smt. Anandiben Patel, under a long vision leadership, has organized intensive events to provide drinking water, grass and fodder and employment to the needy people in drought and semi-drought affected areas. Our state government is working shoulder to shoulder in the difficult times of the people by showing pro-active approach.

As many as 994 villages in five districts of the state have been declared semi-drought-affected. The Forest Department has a consignment of 435 lakh kg of fodder available in different godowns and it has been decided to provide fodder at subsidized rate to small, marginal farmers, landless cattle rearers, farm labourers and poor shepherds of semi-drought affected areas. A fodder depot has also been started for them.

The State government has also provided funds for the repair of hand pumps. Control rooms and toll free numbers have also been made operational at the state and district level to keep updated with the status of drinking water at the state level and to redress

complaints and whatsapp like social media is also being amply used in this regard.

Thus, multi-pronged, result-oriented efforts have been made by the Government of Gujarat to tackle the full and semi-drought situation.

When the Prime Minister was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had urged the UPA Government for the last ten years to increase the height of Narmada Dam and to install gates. But the UPA government did not move and did not approve the installation of gates by doing politics over water. In protest against this situation, Modi ji had to sit on fast for 52 hours. With the formation of our government, Shri Narendrabhai Modi ji gave approval for the gate in 17 days and also allocated funds for this purpose.

I have two demands. Adequate funds should be provided to deal with the severe drought situation in Gujrat as prevailing in North Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch.

My second demand is that Gujarat suffered a loss of crores of rupees due to floods that occurred on 8th to 10th September, 2015. For this, assistance of Rs. 4473.47 crore was sought from the government, but so far the full amount has not been received. I

request the government to provide it at the earliest. I would like to make two suggestions. Israel is the model of water management, a robust law for water governance was passed there in 1955. In that law, water resources have been treated as the asset of the people and almost the entire consumption of water is reflected on the meter. We should also adopt this policy. Gujarat has also improved the efficiency of water use in agriculture with better water management and such efficiency should also be increased. The way we construct check dams, sandbag embankment (Boribandh) and carry out water recharging and rejuvenation of wells in Gujarat, these measures should be implemented at other places also. I request the government to look into my these two demands. Let us rise above the realm of politics and collectively discuss, raise concern and ponder over the drought crisis to get rid of this problem.

Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ; AND MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, discussion on drought and articulation of their views by the Hon. Members in large numbers shows that it is a matter of concern for everyone. In such a

large country having a population of 127 crores, even after 70 years of independence, we are bound to discuss such issues on a very large scale. Hon. Chairperson Sir, my friend and my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare will elaborately discuss the crisis occurred in agriculture and irrigation due to drought. The Minister of Water Resources Sushri Uma Bharti ji will also give reply to the questions related to her Ministry and the issues that have emerged in the discussions. Members have raised questions about drinking water and MGNREGA and discussed as to how this scheme can be more beneficial if linked with MGNREGA. I want to restrict myself to these issues only.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today there is a situation in 13 states which have drought affected areas. Out of these, there are three States which have not declared themselves as drought-hit. Two States are Bihar and Haryana, and Gujarat has also not done it, but has declared partially drought-hit. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Except the Hon. Minister's speech, nothing else will go on record.

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

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Sir, I said that Bihar and Haryana are the two States which have not declared themselves as drought-hit and Gujarat has declared it as partially drought-hit. The country's 313 districts are affected by it and 1,58,205 villages are drought-hit. So, our 4,44,280 habitations are affected. Looking at all these figures, we can say that more than 25 percent of our country's population is affected by drought today.

Sir, many Hon. Members here said that the manner in which assistance should be available, it is not happening. They also raised questions that regarding the arrangements which should have been made four-six months ago, the State governments were also not informed in advance. Last year, it was ubiquitous and it was known to everyone that the Indian Meteorological Department had predicted

that there would be 8 to 14 per cent deficit of rainfall in the country and almost correspondingly, there was drought and deficient rainfall. But for this time, it has been predicted by a private agency that there would be 14 per cent more rainfall this time. But officially also, it has been acknowledged that this time the monsoon will be good.

Sir, I am connected to the village, and our elders used to say that in a span of ten years, six years witness normal monsoon, three years face drought, and one year, the monsoon compensates for the rainfall deficit of the entire three dry years. The Hon. Members from Rajasthan would be well acquainted with the fact that if one crop fails in Rajasthan, the farmers sow another crop. If that also fails, then the farmer estimates that this time, whether it's the chickpeas or mustard sown, the yield will be enough to cover his losses for the last two or three years. This is in those areas of Rajasthan which are rainfed areas.

Sir, we are told that we did not inform the people about drinking water and did not give full assistance to the State Governments. We allocated ₹1360 crore to drought-affected Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh. These funds were already with the respective state governments before the onset of drought conditions. The State governments should have acted to tackle the drought situation as there was no dearth of funds. After the vote on account is done, we start sending funds to the state governments after the 13th. But before that, at the time of Vote on Account, in April and May, we

have sent Rs. 564 crore from the budget of 2016-17 to those drought-affected states.

Similarly, today, the drought-hit state governments have been parked with Rs. 1900 crore, which is the Union Government's money and as per the sharing pattern, 50 per cent funds have to be given by the State Government. If we add both the amounts, the state governments currently have more than ₹3800 crore. Out of this, ten percent constitutes a flexible fund amounting to ₹380 crore that they can spend on anything, without needing permission from anyone, to tackle drought situations. In addition to that, they can also spend 15 percent of the funds meant for maintenance and operational purposes. I intend to say that 25 percent funds available with state governments can be utilized for that purpose.

Sir, I would also like to mention that when the discussion on the drought situation in states began, the Prime Minister invited all the Chief Ministers of the states to discuss this matter. Day before yesterday, a meeting with the Chief Ministers of three states - Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh –was held to discuss the drought situation and they were asked as to what resources they required and how much of the Union government's money is with them, which has already been provided to them and additionally, if

they need any assistance from the Union government now, that will also be provided to them. Similarly, discussions will be held with Telangana and Madhya Pradesh today. In the next two days, discussions will be held with the Chief Ministers of ten States and whatever solution can be found in it, we will try for it. I go with the assumption that if you look at drought, there are two aspects to it. One Hon. Member said that what the God does is beyond our control and what the people on the earth have done, is also watched by Him. If anyone is responsible for the situation that has arisen today, it is us. It has been 70 years since the country got independence. I presume that he was saying that Narmada is a river which does not depend on glaciers. I am talking about the rivers which depend on the glaciers. But, two and a half century years ago, such a system of irrigation was made in those areas that today when we talk about saving water, the biggest problem emerges in those states. Just now Chandumajra ji was saying that we get 73 percent of the foodgrains of this country from the states of Western U.P., Haryana and Punjab. But the irrigation system there is not of flow irrigation type but of flood irrigation type. It can work, if there is flow irrigation. The mentality of the farmer has become such that he does not have that much interest in having a drinking water system, but his interest is

that the tank of the waterworks should get completely filled so that the water system in the village is maintained.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister, please stop for one minute.

If the House agrees, the House may be extended till the hon. Minister finishes his statement.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I was saying that we have to make some radical changes in such a system. If the State, whether it is Rajasthan wants the water to be brought from Indira Gandhi Canal or if it wishes that water should also come from Narmada. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is an intervention of the Rural Development Minister. It cannot be a complete answer because there are 30-35 Members who are yet to speak. The Minister is currently intervening for 15 Members. Right now, 35 Members have to be heard, then the reply has to be given later. Then, the Home Minister will speak, the Agriculture Minister will speak and the Water Resources Minister will also speak. Therefore, please don't say that you are ending on this intervention. He can continue later on. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The discussion will continue tomorrow. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, the discussion should continue tomorrow. [*English*] This is simply an intervention. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a reply. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a list of around 35 Members who are yet to speak. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** It is just an intervention. ... *(Interruptions)*  
*[Translation]*

**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):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, please guide us. You are senior. Hon. Kharge Saheb is speaking from his seat and all his fellow Members are lying on the ground. What sort of system is this? Is it right to make all their members sit on the ground and then come and intervene? ...*(Interruptions)* How far it is correct? ...  
*(Interruptions)* On the one hand, he wants to raise his issue. ...

*(Interruptions)* on the other, they are insulting the House by sitting on the ground and then speaking after that. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister of Rural Development, please continue your speech.

*[English]*

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** I want to make one thing clear. There would be more speakers tomorrow or maybe day after. If some issues are there concerning my Ministry, I have the right to reply to them. What I am telling you is nothing but the steps taken by the Ministries of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation.

*[Translation]*

Sir, apart from what I was saying is that it is a matter of national consensus and there are many issues on which we will have to come to a national consensus rising above many things. If you want to take this country in the right direction, then you will have to create national consensus even after sitting near the well. The most important thing is that regarding the dams constructed in the upper ridges, this point emerges that environmentalists or other people say that the environment will deteriorate due to the construction of dams.

I want to say and my own view is that there should be interlinking of rivers in this country. This is nothing new. There was a great engineer before and after the independence of the country - VKRV. Rao who also raised this issue in the sixties. Later on, our former Prime Minister Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji tried to give it a shape.

At that time also these two things emerged, one was that interlinking would create political disputes in this country. Another one was that this is not possible and it will affect the environment.

Sir, I want to give an example, because in the area you come from, you must have seen plantations of poplar. Poplar plantation is quite high below the foothills, whether it is the Yamunanagar area or your Saharanpur area. In Haryana, our forest cover is 6.5%, but when farmers plant poplar and eucalyptus trees below the forest cover, it increases to 16.5%. On one hand, we have to save the environment of this country. I must say that we have to agree on these things and if we do not make use of the rivers, then no matter how much we keep saying that only 40 percent or 38 percent of the water is used, the rest flows away, it will be useless. Today, if people have become conscious for Swachh Bharat and converted it into a national movement, similarly, it needs to be turned into a national movement to ensure that whatever resources are available in this

country to conserve water, they should be for the farmers of this country, for the people living in the villages of this country, and taking into account the trend of moving to the cities in this country, it is estimated that more than 50% of the country's population may settle in cities in the next 10-15 years.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, please be calm. You are sitting very comfortably. Stay calm.

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** In that system, the availability of water depends on monsoon, and whatever scientists may say, but I also believe that when a crisis occurs, there are some laws of nature which solve that crisis themselves. Six years ago, there were big articles in newspapers about climate change and global warming. It highlighted that a time will come when the glaciers will start becoming smaller and our rivers will ultimately end up drying, but 6 years ago, there was so much snowfall on the Himalayas that it came in the newspapers that there has never been so much of snowfall in 100 years. My own belief is that if we learn to respect the rules of nature in our own way, like when we go to bathroom, when we eat, we should make use of water in a very economical manner, but we did not do this, rather we ended up losing our old lakes, depressions where the rainwater used to get

collected and where there were drains, they all are under encroachment today. If someone says that it is under the encroachment of the Union government, I say that state governments need to control this, and until we strictly control it, we already have thousands and lakhs of land under encroachment, where the water should get collected as per natural cycle and we have done a lot for their management.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** A very important discussion is taking place, I request you to please keep be calm.

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Sir, I believe that in these circumstances, which are our own creation, we must think with a decisive mind that regarding the steps we are taking today to improve the management of drinking water, should we create such a situation in the two years which may lead us to their non-implementation.

Let me read it out to you. We have repaired or restored 9,33,360 hand pumps. Alongside that, we hired 14,407 borewells that were installed in farmers' fields and where there was no provision of water nearby, so that water could be brought from there to villages, ensuring there is no scarcity of drinking water. Similarly,

14 lakh 80 thousand riser pipes were replaced or extended downwards so that the water table, which had gone down, could be restored. In the same manner, 57,728 new borewells were commissioned in those areas where drinking water facilities and water were available. Similarly, 1413 such water bodies which are temporary water works were repaired and rejuvenated.

There was a discussion about tankers that their availability and arrangements should be made to provide water to the people. For this, we made 2,09,766 such trips from one place to another, so that the water shortage could be met. In this way, arrangements were made to supply water to 20,113 water bodies. Along with this, Kharge ji had just said that the Home Minister should also come. I want to point out that the Home Department has released Rs. 465 crore more for those states where drinking water is to be arranged in the places facing drought situation. Similarly, I also assure the Hon. members that Rs. 800 crore will be disbursed ... *(Interruptions)*

**18.13 hours**

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

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You please maintain calm. The first thing is that if you want to say something, you should go back to your seat and speak from there. Whatever disruption is being created, nothing will go on record.

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

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing will go on record except what the Hon. Minister is saying.

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

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Go to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You were sitting peacefully for a long time. *[English]* Please go to your seats. Whatever you want to say, first go to your seats.

[Translation]

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Minister of State is sitting here. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson Sir, it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee to take up this discussion and the Congress member Hon. Jyotiraditya Scindia ji was also in the Business Advisory Committee. It was decided that issue of drinking water and interlinking of rivers would be taken up along with drought. ... (*Interruptions*) Three Ministers had a discussion on the same subject and it is such a vast issue involving the three problems of drinking water, inter-linking of rivers and drought. .... (*Interruptions*) Sometimes, it happens that on each subject, because the matter is so serious, three Ministers are replying to it.... (*Interruptions*) But unfortunately, our Congress members do not seem to have any desire for this, although drought has hit all four corners of the country, and the way they continue to oppose discussions on drought in the parliament is deeply concerning but the people across India are watching that when the entire nation is worried about drought, our hon members are near the Table of the House inside, and there can be no bigger insult to the

people of our country than this. The entire house is deeply saddened by the fact that Congress colleagues are opposing the issue of drought, and they do not seem concerned to the fact that the entire country is facing this critical situation..... *(Interruptions)* They do not want that today, all the members of the house, who are discussing drought, continue to do so and our hon. Members of Congress are ignoring the plight of the farmers by making interruptions and not protecting the interests of the farmers, which is quite conspicuous... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Enough now. First you go to your seats. Let Hon. Khargeji first go to his seat. And I would like to urge the hon. Kharge ji to ask his fellow Members to go to their seats.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I will allow, we'll see later.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Gaurav ji, don't talk to each other. You go to your seat and be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** My request is that first organize the House. Sumita ji you also go please. No, don't speak like that, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You should atleast go to your seat. Gaurav ji, please go to your seat. First set the House in order. I am saying that let the House be in order, first. Let the House be in order first and then speak.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** My request to you is that you should atleast go to your seat. You take your seat, then he will speak. If you do not even listen to your leader, then how will it work? He is also telling you. Gaurav ji, you please go.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please, you sit down. You also sit. You go to your seat. Gaurav ji, you go to your seat and sit for a minute. Why are you showing resentment, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please sit down and cooperate. You sit down. You please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, this is what...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kharge ji, listen to my request. The Minister's statement is underway, he was speaking.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** I have a request...  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I am also requesting you, he is speaking, his statement is in progress.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** There are 35 speakers who are going to speak and if the Minister keeps intervening, who will answer the points raised by 35 members?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Reply is to be given by the Ministers. You have already expressed your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Secondly, what Rudy sahab...  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Let his speech be completed first.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** That the Congressmen have about the farmers, drought... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister, please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on the record. Only the Minister will speak, that will go on record and nothing else will go.

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

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Out of the 328.7 million hectares of land in this country, 195.25 million hectares is such which may not be irrigated or rainfed but is used for agriculture. ... *(Interruptions)* If you... *(Interruptions)* All these people standing there are not farmers, they are all fun-seekers. ... *(Interruptions)* I know the Congress very well. Don't compel me to say more.... *(Interruptions)* If something is done for the good of the country, for the weaker section of this country, for the farmers of this country... *(Interruptions)* If you had wanted to protest, you should have done it outside. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Virendra ji, you go to your seat.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

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\* Not recorded.

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** If the Congress Members had intended to protest, they should have staged it outside in 45degree temperature.... *(Interruptions)*you are using AC facility here, comforting yourself and then not allowing the proceedings of the House to take place.... *(Interruptions)*They should make a decision that if they want to sit in the well, then go and sit near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at 45 degree temperature like others do.... *(Interruptions)*It should not be that they do not sweat and also do not allow the proceedings of the House to run. This is wrong. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** He is speaking, let him make his point.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Please, if you don't want to hear anything in the interest of the country... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** He is speaking on drought. This is today's issue. You people had decided this, it was decided by you people.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, they should at least know that 70 per cent of the country's population, more than 24 crore people, are affected by drought today

and 313 districts of this country are facing drought crisis. ...  
*(Interruptions)* Where were you? ... *(Interruptions)* You will know  
only when you do it. ... *(Interruptions)* Sitting there you can say  
anything but you get to know only when you do it. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister Sir, You please address the  
Chair. Don't talk to them.

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** Sir, How can I  
address the Chair?*[English]* They are not allowing. They do not  
want to listen. That is not proper. You control them first. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You please complete your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH:** I am concluding. Let  
me conclude. *[Translation]* At least try to listen to what I am saying.  
I had told Kharge ji earlier... *(Interruptions)* I said that if other  
points also arise, then we can again reply to them. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, I wanted to say that in today's situation, if we talk  
about MGNREGA, we have transformed it... *(Interruptions)* That is  
not the only thing. ... *(Interruptions)* During their tenure, they

brought the MGNREGA Act but the beneficiary of MGNREGA lost his faith and he withdrew himself from availing it...  
*(Interruptions)*We have restored that trust. ... *(Interruptions)*Under MGNREGA, last year there was a budget of Rs. 37 thousand crore, but we have given Rs. 43 thousand crore only on MGNREGA. ...  
*(Interruptions)*You don't give any reply, Do you know something...  
*(Interruptions)* You know but do not respond, and talk like that only. ...  
*(Interruptions)*I don't talk much. ... *(Interruptions)*I want to say that we spent Rs. 7 thousand crore more through MNREGA. Last year, during their tenure, there were 172 crore mandays, we created 235 crore mandays and rebuilt the trust of MNREGA beneficiaries....  
*(Interruptions)*In the prevailing drought situation today, the 8 lakh 83 thousand village ponds will be cleaned and their soil will be extracted through the works under MGNREGA.... *(Interruptions)*It will be one of the biggest medium as far as water conservation is concerned. ... *(Interruptions)*The Prime Minister says that where it rains, the water should contain there, where the water has contained, it should go down the earth there and the water should reach the farmers' field. ... *(Interruptions)*

Let me speak.... *(Interruptions)*I will speak. ...  
*(Interruptions)*This is not the way.... *(Interruptions)*This is not fair.

... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I have a right to reply. ...  
*(Interruptions)* Preventing me from answering is my privilege's...  
*(Interruptions)* They bring a privilege motion very conveniently, I  
will bring a privilege motion against you. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I want to say that we will construct check dams through water harvesting, build gabion structures under MGNREGA, build recharge pits, drain ponds and also increase the afforestation activities. ... *(Interruptions)* so that a situation builds up whereby the water percolates. ... *(Interruptions)* when there is a shortfall of rain, water should be used in that situation...  
*(Interruptions)* Along with this, I would also like to tell you that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has done three crore such works across the state, due to which their growth rate has reached 24 percent.... *(Interruptions)* Similarly, an amount of Rs. 93,000 crore is expected to be spent on 14,200 projects.... *(Interruptions)* So far, we have brought three lakh hectares of land under cultivation to complete our waste water projects.... *(Interruptions)* That was also an effort in this regard.... *(Interruptions)* Besides, I also want to say that through the 'Niranchal Project' funded by the World Bank, which amounts to Rs. 2,041 crore, we will make arrangements in those states or regions, where there is a shortfall of rain or where rainfall

occurs but its water cannot be properly utilized, to conserve water through research work using new technology under the 'Niranchal' initiative.... *(Interruptions)* so that when there is a shortage of water, then in such a situation they do not have to face any problem in sowing crops and ripening of crops.... *(Interruptions)* In this way, we have spent Rs. 1550 crore through land development in this regard.... *(Interruptions)* We are also making efforts to regenerate traditional water bodies, including de-silting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies, through MGNREGA....*(Interruptions)*

This is how we have made this arrangement in MGNREGA... *(Interruptions)* Silence, silence.... *(Interruptions)* In the present system,...*(Interruptions)* we have spent Rs. 31,900 crore in this scheme through MGNREGA within two years for arrangement of 30,190 farm ponds and 17,000 drainages.... *(Interruptions)* At the same time, I would also like to say that in the area where drought situation occurs, arrangements are also made to provide employment.... *(Interruptions)* We have released Rs. 12 thousand crore for April, May and June through MGNREGA for those areas where people will need wages and work and we will provide them work. ... *(Interruptions)* Besides, I would also like to mention that the Prime Minister and also our colleague Prahlad ji has mentioned

that if we implement the work of MGNREGA to increase productivity for farmers, it will bring about greater transparency and wherever there are drought conditions in our country, we can also manage water to deal with it.... *(Interruptions)*

Furthermore, I would also like to say that in this House, there are at least those members who have love and affection for the people of the villages, who share their grief and sorrows....*(Interruptions)*If the hon. MPs understand their responsibility in this House, then today, I would ask the 24 crore people of the country to go and see there. ... *(Interruptions)*the work here....*(Interruptions)*

I can say that with the kind of management we have undertaken, if we receive cooperation from the State governments, then with the implementation of the measures required in times of calamities as mentioned by me, the people will get relief from crisis and there will be full provision of water in the country. ....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow on 11<sup>th</sup> May at 1100 hours.

**18.33 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, May 11, 2016/Vaishaka 21, 1938 (Saka).*

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