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Shravana 19, 1940 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifteenth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXIII contains Nos. 11 to 17)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 10, 2018/Shravana 19, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I have to raise an urgent matter relating to Kerala. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I know about the situation in Kerala. I will allow you and Karunakaran-Ji also after the Question Hour.

11.01 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 341, Shri Jitendra Chaudhury.

(Q. 341)

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Madam Speaker, this is a very important day for me today. This is the first time in four years that I am getting to ask a question for oral answer and secondly today is the last day of this session after which we will go back to our home, a place for wild animals.

Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. minister what is the elephant population after the latest census. Unnatural deaths of not only elephants but also other animals are occurring not only in Assam but in the entire country mostly because of illegal poaching. What is the number total casualties of elephants during the relevant years? How many illegal poachers have been apprehended so far? What is the rehabilitation package as on today for the victims of the man-animal conflict? What is the expenditure incurred for rehabilitation of the victims in terms of money?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Madam, I respect the sentiments of the hon. Member and recognise the importance of wildlife.

The hon. Member sought the number of elephant population. As per preliminary reports, it is 27,312 in 2017. As regards the number of poaching or the number of casualties of human beings and elephants, in the three years from 2013 to 2016, 100 elephants have died because of unnatural causes and around 489 human lives were also lost in the last year.

The Government of India's Environment Ministry is especially concerned to have a win-win situation over the issues of wildlife preservation, especially of animals in Schedule-1 of which elephant is a part. The Government of India has taken initiatives to increase the compensation for loss of human lives and loss of crops due to man-animal conflict. Earlier the compensation for human life lost was Rs. 2 lakh; now the Government of India has increased it to Rs. 5 lakh. Compensation in cases of major injuries used to be Rs. 2 lakh and in the cases of very minor injuries it used to be Rs. 25,000. The Government has increased it from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Then, some State Governments are using their own funds to compensate the loss in their own way. The Government is concerned about compensating this loss and reducing the man-animal conflict in a big way.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY: Madam, unnatural deaths of wild animals are occurring not only because of poaching but also because of population explosion and the resultant increase in agricultural and industrial activities.

Wildlife areas, including the elephant corridor, are being encroached. Would the Ministry review the rehabilitation package, including compensation given to the families of the deceased? Is the Government thinking of shifting the villages or families living in the villages to some protected areas to create an elephant corridor, and to ensure conservation of elephant corridor, etc.?

Not only in the North Eastern Region, but also in West Bengal, we often see accidents taking place in railway tracks. This is a very serious problem. To combat the situation, would the Ministry come out with a special mechanism or would the Ministry construct a bypass or a flyover? Unless such measures are taken, accidents take place as a daily affair. What type of efforts would the Government take in this regard?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Madam. Hon. Member is concerned about the holistic approach being taken by the Government of India in protecting wildlife, especially elephants. Yes, it is right that it is not only about poaching but

also train accidents, electrocution, etc. Sometimes, in retaliation, farmers use poisoning. While the Government is taking care of infrastructural development of those protected zones, sometimes, damage take place in the corridors. Hence, the Government is taking a holistic approach towards development of infrastructure.

Hon. Railway Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, and Shri Gadkari Ji, and other infrastructure development agencies have formed a group to protect wildlife, especially elephants by providing them safe corridors, providing bench terraces and ensuring physical barriers between the human zones and the animal zones. These are some of the measures which the Government would be taking.

About settling the population in different areas, yes, we have been in touch with the State Governments whenever such zones are declared. In consultation with the State Governments, the Government of India takes initiatives in settling the population as a family zone also. Definitely, the Government is taking it in a big way ensuring holistic development. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You have already asked questions. Now, your colleague wanted to speak.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: The responsibility of shifting again lies within the purview of the State Governments. We have extended all the packages. We have increased the package from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per casualties. For settling of the families in an outside zone, there is no specific package. Whenever a demand comes from any specific area, we take necessary action at that point in time.

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Madam, the hon. Minister is also very rich in knowledge of ancient culture. I am saying so not because I am a 'Trivedi' but I just would like to remind our ancient culture, specifically the Rig Veda. It talks about protecting the environment, whether it is ecological balance, whether it is rainfall, etc. So, protecting environment has been our heritage for many thousands of years. The reason I am mentioning it is that if I see the figures the hon. Minister has given, from 2013 to 2016, every year, there is an increase.

The concern is shared with the hon. Minister; the Minister of Railways is also here. Specifically, I just want to ask this. Even when I was the Railway Minister, this was a big concern. Big '*Gajarajs*' for no fault of theirs, face problem. We have to understand that we have gone to their territory; they have not encroached our territory. My straight question is this. Today, in

the modern world, with so much of technological advancement, whether it is Google Earth or any other way, you can really map them. That is the only solution. Are you looking at using modern technology to ensure the movement of these big elephants to protect them?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Respecting the sentiments of the hon. Member linking it to our rich heritage, culture and traditions of linking the humanity with the nature, I would say that it is our nation which links it with Mother Nature. Starting from the schools, we have been taught about the Mother Nature and we have relations with our rivers, animals, our trees and plants, emotional relations with the river Ganga, Tulsi Mata and all such things are there in Indian culture. Definitely, we value these relations of Mother Nature and we promote in a big way as to how we can have a win-win situation with Mother Nature.

It is World Elephant Day the day after tomorrow that is 12th of August. We will be celebrating it in a big way in IGNCA where there will be a three-day celebration for a nationwide participation as to how we should respect our mother nature, the wildlife of India, and especially, the *gajaraj*. The Gaj Mahotsav is being celebrated in a big way. As soon as some measures come from the hon. Minister with his rich experience

in this field, we will try to incorporate all such suggestions which can be included as a part of this.

HON. SPEAKER: I think Minister of Railways, in particular, wants to say something. Piyush Ji, I will allow you also.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: The hon. Member has rightly said that we are invading their zones. We are passing through their buffer zones and protected zones. We are definitely trying nowadays to avoid electrocution of elephants and to avoid railway accidents. All such measures are being taken and modern technology is being used. As a pilot project, use of modern technology is being taken up with railway drivers to prevent railway accidents. We have taken special measures in that matter.

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister of Railways wants to supplement it. I am allowing him.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I did not understand this, because Shri Trivedi said that 'not because I am Trivedi' and 'Rig Veda' What is this? I didn't understand.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, what are you saying?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: When Shri Trivedi Ji asked the question and the hon. Minister gave the answer, ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It is written in the Vedas, so he has said.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Dwivedi or Trivedi- they are all Vedis. There are Chaturvedis also.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS; MINISTER OF COAL; MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add one thing to this because the former Railway Minister *ji* has raised a very serious question. In railways also, we are very concerned about this issue. In fact, there are demarcated zones in the railways where we expect that when the elephants pass through that area, they slow down every train. In the last two or three years, it has been found that

they have moved outside their demarcated corridors. From this, it is not clear as to from where such a big piece of land will come for railways. When we slowed down the trains, the trains started getting delayed, which made the passengers angry. Then we thought about the boundary wall, they broke that too. We thought of a light electrification also, but if it is too heavy, then there is a fear of electrocution, but it does not make any difference. Today, the former Railway Minister gave a very good suggestion of 'Google Earth'; I will definitely examine it. I think it is a very good idea.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Hon. Speaker Madam, I also share the sentiments of the earlier speakers on both sides of the aisle about the importance of respecting nature and humanity. But I am sorry to say that in Kerala, during 2016, 26 captive elephants were killed. In 2017, 20 elephants died and just in the first six months of this year, we have report of 18 elephants being killed. These have all happened or mainly happened in the premises of a new profession that we have in Kerala called elephant contractors. These are contractors who supply the elephants for temples and for tourism purposes after taking the elephants on rent from people who actually own them illegally.

Madam Speaker, under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and the Declaration of Wildlife Stock Rules of 2003, no one is supposed to take custody of an elephant without possessing a valid ownership certificate. Despite that, there is an estimate in Kerala that there are 518 elephants which are possessed by people without an ownership certificate, most of them smuggled from other States as far as Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. So, I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of this phenomenon of smuggling and possession of elephants without ownership certificates. What does the Government propose to do about them? It is not only illegal but it is also cruel and inhumane, resulting in the deaths of animals every year.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Thanks for the concern.

Kerala has got the highest population of elephants because of the rich dense zone of trees and plantation, but there is a decrease in poaching in Kerala from 2015 to 2017. In 2015, the poaching incidents were 16; in 2016-17, it was two; and in 2017-18, it is zero. In Kerala, there have been four deaths due to electrocution; poisoning and other methods have been definitely used by people. There is a Captive Elephant Management Rule. Looking at the sentiments of the people and

given that our country has got a varied heritage and culture, there is a Captive Elephant Management Rule in Kerala. The Forest Department of Kerala is taking strict measures against violation of this Captive Elephant Management Rule; and cases are being booked against culprits who violate these rules. We will definitely take care of the concern shown by the hon. Member in this matter and we will have a discussion to ensure that especially animals are not being tortured and killed in captivity.

SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM: Our beloved leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had launched the 48th Annual Rejuvenation Camp for Temple Elephants in Tamil Nadu in 2003. This is very important for the good health of elephants. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has got any plans to conduct rejuvenation camps for elephants in temples throughout India and the steps taken by the Government to protect wild elephants from being killed in accidents and poaching.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Let me compliment the hon. Member from the State of Tamil Nadu since poaching incidents in that State have been nil after 2014. There has been not a single case of elephant poaching being reported in Tamil Nadu.

So, let me compliment the hon. Member also because the number of deaths due to electrocution has also declined from an average of eight or seven to three in the last year. We are taking all measures respecting the sentiments of the people of that State to protect the animals in captivity in the State of Tamil Nadu. We will take special measures for that.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan Banerjee, have you got any good suggestion like Shri Dinesh Trivedi?

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Madam, I am very grateful to you.

I want to just intimate to the hon. Minister, through you, that yesterday the hon. Supreme Court has directed that 91 resorts in the elephant corridors be demolished. This type of resorts and hotels are there all over India. My question is. Now, the Supreme Court has taken care of it and, of course, it has to be implemented. I would like to know whether his Ministry has any assessment or is taking any steps for demolishing this type of hotels, resorts, etc., in the elephant corridor. That is my question.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: It is a concern of the hon. Member and the hon. Supreme Court also as to how we can protect the wildlife, especially in the elephant corridors. As a result of

increasing population, devastation, and deforestation and also tourism being a State Subject, State Governments are permitting opening of these corridors in consultation with the wildlife zones. We will definitely take care of the concern shown by the hon. Member to see that such corridors are being maintained in a big way. We will definitely take care of the concern shown by the hon. Member and the hon. Supreme Court.

Again, it is a win-win situation. We have to see the interest of the tourism in that State and at the same time we have to take care of the wild life, especially the elephants. We will definitely take care of the concern shown by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. B. Rajesh - Not present.

(Q. 342)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the State Bank of India has 22,414 branches, including its associate institutions and Mahila State Bank. I, through you, want to know from the hon. Minister that when they had separate associate branches and

Mahila State Bank, there must have been some reasons for their separation. Administrative difficulties have arisen due to the merger of banks. Is this in his cognisance? For example, I would like to talk about the North-East. What is the number of single-manager branches? Many have become inactive and are unable to operate due to security reasons. In the area of Madhya Pradesh to which I belong, there are no branches of State Bank in rural areas. There is no issue of security here; there is a market-related issue. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many single-manager branches are not functioning due to security reasons? It is also said that branches are no more making profits. In all such non-profit earning branches the Mahila Banks have not been included earlier. How many single-manager branches are there, and how many banks are not functioning due to security reasons?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, many subsidiary banks of the State Bank of India were in operation for many years due to historical reasons. Long ago these were private sector banks; they were not managed very well, so State Bank has taken over them at different times. Some banks belonged to kings and maharajas, which were taken over. Many banks were merged before 2014. When State Bank of Bikaner, Jaipur,

Mysore, Patiala, Travancore, and Hyderabad Banks were merged after 2014, they were considered associate banks. An attempt was also made to merge Bhartiya Mahila Bank to create a stronger combined entity. It is ranked 53rd in the category of world banks. In fact, when banks go for banking on a large scale, then the bigger the bank, the better facilities and services they may provide to the consumers, and the interest rates may be lower. Administration and management costs can be kept low. Therefore, it was found that the expenses of the small associate branches of the banks were disproportionate to their income. After the merger with State Bank, not a single person was retrenched or fired from the job; on the contrary, the workers of Associate Bank benefitted by joining a strong bank like State Bank. There was a win-win situation in this entire system.

As North-East was mentioned by the hon. Member of Parliament, so I would like to say that in fact the single manager branches function as extension counters. When it comes to Purvanchal or North East. We never look at profit-loss; it is done with a spirit of service. If you are aware of any such problem, then inform us immediately and we will take appropriate action on it.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Thank you, Madam, Speaker. In the answer given by the hon. Minister, it is stated that 6,950 banks have been merged post-amalgamation of the banks. We had discussed an issue regarding the amalgamation of the banks in the House, especially the SBI and SBT. In Kerala we had a strong protest. It was promised in the House that there would be better service even after the amalgamation of the banks. The experience shows that there were no better alternative systems even though the amalgamation has taken place. Not only that, the new generation banks have come in at the cost of these earlier banks, especially the SBT banks.

As a result, people are not getting better services as they have been getting earlier, especially in the State of Kerala from the SBT Bank.

Madam, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has made any assessment after the amalgamation of these banks or not. I would also like to know whether services are being provided by these banks or not. Further, I would like to know whether the Government would take any action on this issue or not.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member's concerns are very serious and the Government will look into it very carefully.

But, so far, when we look at the customers' complaint story, it does not seem to suggest that in Kerala particularly or anywhere in the country, merger has had any negative effect on the customer service. By and large, the State Bank is known to have a very high standard of customer service. It is a bank which is committed and is very focussed, particularly for the poor, downtrodden and the middle-class.

So, if any such instance has come to the attention of the hon. Member, I would urge him to kindly inform us and we will take the strictest action.

(Q. 343)

[Translation]

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Hon. Madam Speaker, I have read all the details of the reply carefully, which I have received. I have a question, *[English]* I would like to know the details of the CSR funds that have been used for the betterment of minorities and BPL persons in the country.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Have you given the details?

[English]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I do not understand as to what the question is.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: I would like to know about the minorities and BPL persons.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, when it comes to CSR, it is actually for every citizen and poor person in the country. We have a common concern for everyone in the society. 'Sabka saath, Sabka vikas' is our 'credo'. We cannot do everything on different parameters. The expenditure incurred through CSR is meant for the society and the poor.

[English]

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Madam, I do not want to ask any more supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in

Jharkhand, Rs 7.86 crore was spent in the year 2014-15, Rs 115.70 crore was spent in the year 2015-16, and Rs 242.24 crore was spent in the year 2016-17; how has it decreased; and the expenditure should have been more because the profit has increased. I would like to say that whatever work is being done under the CSR, is done in better way than before, but it needs some improvement. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that Jharkhand is a new state, and you should pay special attention there.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, hon. Member of Parliament may not have read the answer properly. We have applied an asterisk for the years 2016 and 2017 above and written down that this is the data regarding the files which came up till 30 November, 2017. When the data of the entire year is filed, then the figure will naturally increase; that is the first thing. Secondly, Jharkhand is very dear to all of us, and it is a very beautiful and good state. As a Minister of Coal, this is my major state; coal comes from Jharkhand. A company like Coal India is under my jurisdiction. If it has carried out the most work, then it has done all these through the CSR in Jharkhand.

I would like to tell specially the hon. Member of Parliament through you that Coal India has built national stadiums for

sports and national games were held there. These stadiums were in a very dilapidated condition in 2012-13 and when we came to power in 2014, we gave an amount of Rs. 100 crores to upgrade them. The tribal brothers and sisters of Jharkhand should also get a chance, and they can also win medals in the Olympics. Fourteen hundred students will get education and receive training there every year to prepare for it. They will get good nutrition and good education from childhood; we will prepare them to make India proud. Good work is being carried out in Jharkhand; even better work will be done there.

Apart from this, many companies have not specified the state or have given total data in general for all the states; state-wise allocation cannot be done in it. It is written below about it; around Rs. 4,500 crore is spent in different states every year, but there is no state-wise allocation.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: For this question, let me give preference to the Members from Jharkhand, Telangana and Maharashtra.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Madam Speaker, though India is the first and probably the only country to have statutorily mandated the CSR, yet there are many loopholes in regulating and governing the CSR. Section 135 of the

Companies Act of 2013 encourages the companies to give preference to local area and the area where it operates for CSR spending.

However, in most of the cases, the factories are located at some place and the Head Offices are located at the other place. In such cases, the local community is deprived of CSR funds because the factory management says that the decisions regarding the CSR are taken by the Head Office. I myself have experienced this. I have a large industrial area in my Constituency in Ambernath and there are some tribal villages besides that industrial area. I had prepared a holistic plan for the development of this area but the same reason was told to me.

One more serious practice which has come to light is called U-turn. The promoters hire NGOs, transfer CSR funds to these NGOs and get those funds back thus turning the white money into black. Also, there is no expert in the company to decide which projects to be taken up on priority. Therefore, I would suggest if we can form a committee at the district level which can include the Collector, other representatives and the NGOs which can decide on the priority of spending of CSR.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, I believe that CSR activities are carried out from the heart; this is not done at the behest of law and government. Despite this, it is mentioned in Section 135 that it's in this area; let me correct it. Along with this, we have stipulated that if any CSR project or programme give benefits to the employees of the company or their families, then it will not be considered as CSR. Apart from this, one thing to be kept in mind is that the companies which carry out the work around themselves get direct or indirect benefits from these works. We want more CSR funds to be spent in remote areas. According to me, it would be more appropriate and in the interest of the country to spend more CSR funds in those area which are backward, deprived, or aspirational districts or backward regions.

If you have any specific problem, then you will have to talk to the local management only for it. *[English]* The Government does not micro-manage what the CSR activity should be. *[Translation]* The day the Government starts managing it, there will be more problems, and then everything will be done by the Government itself. I think that the people should be given autonomy so that they decide what good work to do. If the hon.

Member has information that someone has misused or someone has stolen, then you must give it in writing; appropriate action will be taken against him.

There is a provision in the law to form a CSR committee in every company, under which a CSR committee is formed.

[English]

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me an opportunity.

The on. Minister has given a detailed reply *vis-à-vis* how he is monitoring violations of the law which I am proud to say was introduced by Veerappa Moily Ji during his tenure.

The important part about the North-Eastern States is that industrialization is low. There are a very few big companies which have this kind of turn over. Therefore, the public sector units play a very important role.

In my State, ONGC is one such Company. But if I look at the dismal figures in the State of Assam when it comes to expenditure of CSR, I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that some micro-management or some kind of scrutiny is there of how ONGC is spending. To give a small example to the hon. Minister, for the last two years, we are waiting for sanctioning

of a electronic pyre in the Silchar crematorium but we have not got it.

Sir, you have to reduce bureaucracy, especially, in the North-Eastern States because our pool of resources is very low. We are completely dependent on the public sector companies. This is my humble request to the Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think the hon. Member has raised a very important point. I fully agree and sympathise with her. Madam, particularly after 2014, this Government has had the maximum focus on the North-East to the extent that almost every 15-20 days, one of the Union Ministers is in different parts of the North-East. We are working towards the development of the North-East on a mission mode.

We very sincerely believe that unless the North-Eastern and Eastern parts of India develop, India cannot see a holistic development as a nation. I will ensure that our Public Sector Companies focus even more on the North-East.

Madam, as regards the Silchar Electronic Pyre, I am happy to announce that Coal India itself will set it up over there. The hon. Member may kindly send me the details.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the area from which I am elected is a very backward in terms of development and Naxal-affected area. Both the districts of my Parliamentary Constituency – Gaya and Aurangabad – are far behind the national average development of the country in terms of development. For the development of those areas and to bring them into the mainstream of development, 115 districts of the country have been selected as aspirational districts under the vision of our Prime Minister. He has also discussed aspirational districts in response to a question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any willingness or intention to issue any guidelines through his ministry with regard to the districts selected as aspirational districts under the vision of the Prime Minister, to develop them, to bring them up to the average development of the country, or to take them beyond that? Would you like to issue any guidelines through your Ministry for the development of those districts under corporate social responsibility through the PSUs of the country? If so, by when?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the board of directors of the company or their CSR committee takes the

decision as to on which project or plan they want to spend the CSR funds, and in which area they want to spend their CSR funds. I personally believe that the Government should not interfere in it. But we are all concerned about the aspirational districts. Everyone should be more concerned about it. I believe that there is no problem with issuing it as guidance and that we can send an appeal. Through you, on my behalf I would appeal to the country and also to all the Hon. Members of Parliament that wherever possible, we should pay special attention to it. But, when the scheme of aspirational districts was prepared, the intention of the Hon. Prime Minister was that the thousands and crores of rupees to be spent in different sectors at present and all of us, Hon. Ministers and all Hon. Members of Parliament should try to ensure that the money is properly spent and monitored. People should be held accountable for that. We believe that the money that already goes to the aspirational district, should be used honestly and in a good way for the welfare of the poor. For Example, during the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, we made a programme of saturation in 16 thousand villages. Hon. Members of Parliament must have seen that in some or other villages of all regions, where Dalit families constitute more than 50 per cent,

we have saturated seven schemes in those villages, which have been very successful, like providing electricity to every household, giving the benefit of Ujjwala to every woman, providing LED lights in the house, and giving them a public safety insurance policy for their safety. I think we should have special concern for all aspirational districts; I would also request the Hon. Members of Rajya Sabha. I will give my MPLAD fund completely to the aspirational district and to my state. If we all take this as a national mission, then a lot of work can be carried out.

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone is taking an interest in it. Your work is very good. I will allow two or three people, but only if your answer is short and the question is also short.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam Speaker, you are really gracious and thank you for the opportunity.

I want to ask a short question. The hon. Minister has said that the Central Government does not want to micro manage the spending of CSR.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You take it well and get the work done.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: But when I look at the list provided by the Minister I find that the programmes of Government of India like *Swachh Bharat Kosh*, Clean Ganga Fund, Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Benefits to Armed Forces are being funded by CSR.

These projects can be funded by the Government of India straightaway rather than from the CSR Fund.

In this context, I just want to ask a short supplementary to the hon. Minister. Our Chief Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has written to the Prime Minister that since he is allowing contribution to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund from the CSR Fund, why can he not allow the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to benefit from the CSR Fund as States have many responsibilities for which they have very limited resources?

I would request the Minister to please agree to our CM's request and allow contribution to CM's Relief Fund from CSR Fund.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: At the outset, if people give it to the Swachh Bharat Kosh, or Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or Clean Ganga Fund, it is out of their own volition. We

are not asking them or we are not directing them to do so and neither is the Prime Minister making any specific request that people may donate to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is entirely left to them. Maybe, some companies do not want to get into the hassle of CSR Committee and monitoring the expenditure and so, they may be putting it there with the full confidence that our Prime Minister will take good care of that money and use it towards good effect for the people of the whole country. That is the idea that the funds are used for the benefit of the whole country. Clean Ganga affects West Bengal as much as it affects UP, Bihar and other States. It is for the whole nation. None of this is for any particular area or any particular State.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Jagdambika Pal Ji, ask a short question. Don't make it a speech.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, I will ask a very short question. I am thankful to you.

The Hon. Minister has said that regarding CSR we will make an appeal. I request that there is a guideline regarding the CSR that two per cent of the profit money of any PSU or private company will be spent in backward areas. If the Government

has laid down this guideline that the companies will spend the CSR funds in areas around the company and in backward districts, then for the 115 districts for which the Government is not allocating any extra budget, and only ongoing schemes are running there and as backward districts have been included in the CSR guideline so instead of making appeals, will the Government take action to include these 115 aspirational districts in it? I wish to seek clarity in this regard.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I understand that it will be micro-management. I think all the companies that have to spend CSR funds should be given autonomy. I believe that those who are citizens of India, who are businessmen of India, and who are associated with industry need not furnish any details of two per cent or anything else. Our heritage and our history tell us that even without any law, the people used to open schools, colleges, hospitals, etc. We are very proud of that. I think they will do it well. I believe in them.

[English]

SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam, I will put a brief supplementary. ... (Interruptions) I want to know one thing from the dynamic Minister.

I am belonging to an industrial area. As per rules, they have to spend two per cent of the profit towards CSR. But companies like Nissan and Honda which are functioning in my area are not concentrating on this aspect and no company is fulfilling these criteria. Who is the monitor of this aspect? Law says that the corporate itself should appoint the Director for CSR. There is no monitor for this part. Who is the monitoring authority? I want to know this from our dynamic Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, we can only monitor the total amount that has been spent. That is also mentioned in the Annual Reports and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has to ensure that two per cent at least, it could be more than that, has been spent on it but the projects on which they are being spent are left to the discretion of the company. If there are any irregularities that come to any hon. Member's attention, he or she may flag it off to the Ministry and we will take appropriate action. If any particular company, which you feel, is not spending on it, and if you may write to us, we can take the details from the ROC records and check it out. But as regards actual spending, if there is any irregularity and it comes to the notice of the hon. Members that there is a misuse of that Fund,

then please do let the Ministry of Corporate Affairs know about it so that we can take action.

SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN: Who is the authority who is monitoring it?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: We cannot monitor the project on which anybody is spending this money. Otherwise, we will have to have one more Department, one more level of bureaucracy and that will actually become a disincentive for people to do CSR rather than incentivising and encouraging them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM: Hon. Madam Speaker, there seems to be some contradictions in the reply. It has been stated in the written reply that we have started pilot projects, and we are monitoring them. In the oral reply to the supplementary, he is saying that the Government should not go into micro-management. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Madam Speaker, my question is that the CSR is outside the scope of the audit, and this is an expenditure of two per cent. It should be brought into the audit system of the company, and the Government should start the social audit;

then it will be known as to where there is heart, there where is pocket, or where there is power, there is pocket. Will the Government proposes to introduce a social audit?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, hon. Member of Parliament, may not have seen properly. I have said it three times. I repeat it for the fourth time. Whether this two per cent was spent or not, we do this by looking at the ROC records and their reports, and as I have also written in the reply, if any violation is found, the action is taken. Last year, after studying the accounts of 2014-15, 254 companies were questioned, and action was sanctioned on them. 33 companies had also requested for compounding once again. I think that it is our responsibility to monitor the amount, and we do that, but the decision to choose project on which they want to spend CSR fund is taken by the company and its CSR committee. The company also furnishes details its annual report as to how this much fund was spent. These details, which we have pulled out as to how much was spent on which project, have been extracted from those reports. For this information, I didn't have to ask for data from thousands of companies for its reply. It is available in those reports. It is in the public domain, in the records of the ROC. Now if we

continue to audit and add, then you will allege that I, as a chartered accountant, am increasing the work of the chartered accountants.

HON. SPEAKER: The heart aspect of power should also be strong in the matters of heart and power. He is saying that which aspect has to be strong the heart or the power.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I am very fond of the Hon. Member. We take all his reactions very seriously....
(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Hemamalini— Not present.

(Q. 344)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. India is spending 1.2 per cent of its GDP on healthcare. Seeing that, the Prime Minister has thought of a plan to increase the spending to 2.5 per cent of the GDP till 2025. He proposed the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission. The Minister in his answers to parts (a) and (b) has said ‘No’ With ageing population, even NSSO has said, the cost for the people going to hospitals has increased by 300 per cent. We need to

look at our ageing population. The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation has said that out of 103.9 million people at the age of 60 years and above, 8.5 per cent are suffering from various illness. They are having various problems like heart disease, strokes, cancer, kidney ailments etc. Is the Government of today looking to reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure and what are they doing to help the common man in aspirational districts? I belong to an aspirational district of Baran. Is the Government considering 115 aspirational districts and other districts of the country to increase the Government spending to help the common man so that they can get medical facilities, especially the aged people?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Hon. Madam Speaker, elderly population is growing at very fast speed all over the world. This is happening very fast in India as well. The growth rate of our children up to the age of 14 years is 0.4 per cent, but the elderly population is increasing at a rate of 2.6. By the year 2050, our elderly population will be more than 340 million, and what is declining in our social and family values? Today, we leave the elderly people to look after their health issues by themselves. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of the

Government to take care of the health of the elderly people. We have implemented the National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly for this purpose, in which we are intervening through our 19 Regional Geriatric Centres, District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, and Sub-centres.

This is our system; this is our effort. This entire programme is state-oriented; that means, all the healthcare delivery systems of the state at every level – tertiary, secondary, primary – should be available to the elderly population for their full benefit. We have sanctioned this programme in 591 districts of the country. It has already become operational in 250 districts. Apart from this, it has become operational in about 837 CFCs. There are about 32 thousand subcentres and about 19 hundred PHCs in which it has become operational. It is our endeavour to provide healthcare facilities to the elderly population. It also offers our preventive services, OPD services, and physiotherapy services. We are also running weekly and bi-weekly clinics at PHCs and CHCs and everywhere. We are trying our best; it has become operational in 250 districts. For the remaining 241 districts, we are encouraging the state to start this programme soon through PIPs.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Madam Speaker, the statement laid on the Table of the House says that the Study Reports will be used for developing comprehensive national and state level health policies and programmes for the elderly population in India. It is in future tense. That means, the policy does not seem to be in place now. Recently, the hon. Member Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab had also brought in a Private Member's Bill for extending geriatric services to the districts. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such a policy is being thought of and if so, how much of the extension of this particular programme has been done in the States.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Madam, as I said in my reply earlier, there are 591 districts for which the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly has been sanctioned and in 250 districts it is operational. There is a need for a systematic study as well because in many parts of the world, we do systematic studies to collect data on the health, social and economic well-being of the elderly population. So, we have initiated the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI). This is one of the most comprehensive studies in the world, which has a sample size of 61,000 and it is being conducted in wave-

1 and wave-2. In wave-1, we have two phases. Phase 1 began in 2016 and we have completed it in 16 States and Phase 2, which began in 2018, will end in 2019 and we are covering the rest of the 20 States. We are trying to collect data on the disease burden which is affecting the elderly population, the health care financing facilities which are available to them, the social network that they have etc. Individual survey, family survey and community survey are the various instruments which we are using and we are even using the functional health markers and performance-based markers. We are trying to collect this information and once this study is completed, it is going to be one of the biggest studies and it will give us the basis for forming any of the curative and preventive policies in order to provide health care facilities to the elderly population of the country.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam Speaker, perhaps you remember that in December, 2016, a book was compiled on the debate that we had earlier and it was released by you. At that time, the Health Minister was also present and he made certain commitments. My question is relating to geriatric care. The issue here is not preventive or curative. The issue is, the elderly persons need care and attention and I raised

this issue earlier also that in our curriculum, be it in AIIMS or in any Medical College, the nursing care system has not been strengthened. An assurance has been given by the Minister outside the House that he would be taking adequate steps to bring geriatric care into the curriculum because hardly one paragraph is there in the curriculum today. So, I would like to know whether the Minister is going to take steps to bring the nursing care of the elderly persons also into the curriculum at the earliest.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Madam, although this is being answered in the question, where the Minister will talk in detail, the only thing I want to submit is, as you can see from the commitment that has been expressed by the Head of the Government, hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, we have laid the foundation stone for the National Centre of Ageing at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi just a few days back.

There is one more National Centre of Aging, which is being developed in the Madras Medical College, Chennai. That work is going to be completed very soon.

So, this is the highest level of commitment that the Government is showing towards the elderly population; and the rest of it would be answered in the next Question.

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 345, Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde –
Not present.

Shri Dharmendra Yadav: Not present.

This is very bad. He has asked questions and is not in the House. Does anybody want to ask?

Yes, Shri Dushyant Chautala.

(Q. 345)

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Madam, the hon. Minister has replied that an MoU has been signed with IGNOU as to how skilled help will be taken for health development; be it pharmacists, allied professionals or nurses, the Health Ministry will work on their training and skilling.

Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether IGNOU is the only institute in our country with which the Ministry will collaborate for skilling, or the Government of India will take any further steps in the coming time to collaborate with the other institutes that are focusing on skilling at their level in different states? A notice has been issued by the Government that if you are a lab attendant, then you must have a certain degree. Those who have been giving such technical assistance to the health department for 20 years, today they are on the verge of being rendered unemployed. Will the Government of India make any provision for skilling those people as well? Will the Government take steps to bring the people who do not have degrees today and are running pharmacies into the mainstream?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Madam, we have a health training programme at the national level; similarly, every state has its own health training programme, and the states keep providing training in their respective sectors as per their own need which we know as State Training Institutes. They are also free to associate or affiliate themselves with other councils that provide training. Along with this, our councils recognise many institutions, and training is also imparted through them. If there is any institute within the states that wants to impart training, then it can get recognition from the respective council, and impart training.

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: Madam Speaker, today, there is a lack of paramedical staff and also technicians. In most of the States where the districts want to upgrade facilities of blood banks, labs, dialysis centres, just because we are not getting technicians, we are not able to make these facilities available at the district level.

Madam, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Nandurbar, we have thousands of patients, who require dialysis facilities. The Government of India has also given us the dialysis centres

where there are five dialysis machines. We want to increase the number of these machines, but we do not have adequate technicians.

So, would the Government sign similar kinds of MoUs with the State Government and try to increase such skilling for all the technicians be it blood banks, lab technicians, dialysis technicians, and also increase the paramedical staff and give good healthcare facility at the rural level?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Madam, the States are free and they are independent and autonomous as far as the training part is concerned. They can go for it. What we can do is to give them the technical support and financial support.

(Q. 346)

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Madam, in the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, the maximum age for girls to open an account is 10 years, and generally the Aadhaar card is not being made for the ten-year-old children in rural areas, whereas since last June, the Aadhaar card has been made mandatory for girls to open an account.

HON. SPEAKER: The Question Hour will get over in asking your questions itself.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Madam, earlier the account was opened on the basis of a birth certificate. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will give permission to open the account again through a birth certificate by abolishing the mandatory requirement of an Aadhaar card for opening an account.

12 00 hrs

But since last June, the Aadhaar card has also been made mandatory for opening accounts of girls under this scheme. Earlier, accounts were opened on the basis of birth certificates.

HON. SPEAKER: Ask your questions directly; The time of Question Hour is getting over.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: I would like to ask that by abolishing the requirement of an Aadhaar card for opening accounts for girls, will it be allowed to open the said account on the basis of a birth certificate again?

[English]

SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN: Madam, they can open the account on the basis of the Birth Certificate.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, notices of adjournment motions have been received from Members on various subjects. These matters are important but can be allowed to be raised on other occasions. Therefore, any notice of adjournment motions has not been allowed.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 347 to 360

Unstarred Question Nos. 3911 to 4140

12.01 hrs**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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

Item no. 2 – Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, we had raised a very important issue yesterday. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Let the paper be laid first.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table: -

1. A copy of the Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 630 (E) in

Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9722/16/18]

2. A copy of the High Court Judges Travelling Allowance Amendment Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 631 (E) in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9723/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): On behalf of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, 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 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

1. Review by the Government of the working of the ONGC Videsh Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.
 2. Annual Report of the ONGC Videsh Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, 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 9724/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following paper on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, 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 9725/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2016-2017.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9726/16/18]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2015-2016.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9727/16/18]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9728/16/18]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9729/16/18]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public

Library, Patna, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(10) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9730/16/18]

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(11) (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(12) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9731/16/18]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2016-2017.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9732/16/18]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, Tawang, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, Tawang, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(16) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9733/16/18]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English
(17) versions) of the Tibet House, New Delhi, for the year
2016-2017.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English
versions) of the Tibet House, New Delhi, for the year
2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by
(iii) the Government of the working of the Tibet House,
New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(18) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9734/16/18]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English
(19) versions) of the Central Institute of Himalayan
Culture Studies, Dahung, for the year 2016-2017,
along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(20) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9735/16/18]

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2016-2017.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(22) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9736/16/18]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English
(23) versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda,
for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English
versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda,
for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report
thereon.

A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by
(iii) the Government of the working of the Nava Nalanda
Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2015-2016.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for
(24) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9737/16/18]

(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English
(25) versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for
the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2016-2017.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for (26) delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9738/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999: -
1. The Foreign Exchange Management (Cross Border Merger) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 244 (E) in Gazette of India dated 20th March, 2018.
 2. The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) Regulations,

2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 280 (E) in Gazette of India dated 26th March, 2018.

3. The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 520 (E) in Gazette of India dated 1st June, 2018.
4. The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 279 (E) in Gazette of India dated 26th March, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9739/16/18]

- (2) A copy of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 675 (E) in Gazette of India dated 25th July, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 27 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9740/16/18]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S. O. 1964 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 17th

May, 2018, containing order regarding appointment Shri Ashok Lahiri as a Member (Part time) of the Fifteenth Finance Commission under Article 280 of the Constitution read with Section 6 and 8 of the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9741/16/18]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 25 of the Coinage Act, 2011: -

1. The Coinage (Issue of Commemorative coin on the occasion of 350th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 281 (E) in Gazette of India dated 26th March, 2018.
2. The Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 99 (E) in Gazette of India dated 31st January, 2018.
3. The Coinage (Issue of Commemorative coins on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis) Rules, 2018 published in

Notification No. G. S. R. 592 (E) in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9742/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9743/16/18]

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance
- (2)

and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9744/16/18]

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9745/16/18]

A copy each of the Notifications (Hindi and English versions)
(5) under sub-section (6) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) The Bank of Maharashtra (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. F. No.:AX1/ST/Pension Reg./1524/2017-18 in Gazette of India dated 14th March, 2018.
- (ii) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. F. No.:AX1/ST/OSR/1324/2017-18 in Gazette of India dated 14th March, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9746/16/18]

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English
(6) versions) under Section 166 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017:

- (i) G. S. R. 718 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th July, 2018, together with an explanatory

memorandum extending the due date for filing of form GSTR-6.

- (ii) G. S. R. 692 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 prescribing Central Tax Rates on specified goods.
- (iii) G. S. R. 693 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 2/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 exempting Central Tax Rates on specified goods.
- (iv) G. S. R. 694 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/2017-Central Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 allowing refund of accumulated input tax credit on textile fabric subject to lapsing of specified accumulated ITC remaining in balance after payment of tax for and upto the month of July, 2018.

- (v) G. S. R. 695 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing concessional CGST rate on specified handicraft items.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9747/16/18]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 24 of the Integrated Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017:

- (i) G. S. R. 696 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 prescribing Integrated Tax Rates on specified goods.
- (ii) G. S. R. 697 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 2/2017- Integrated Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 exempting Integrated Tax Rates on specified goods.
- (iii) G. S. R. 698 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory

memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 allowing refund of accumulated input tax credit on textile fabric subject to lapsing of specified accumulated ITC remaining in balance after payment of tax for and upto the month of July, 2018.

- (iv) G. S. R. 699 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing concessional IGST rate on specified handicraft items.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9748/16/18]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 24 of the Union Territory Goods and Service Act, 2017: -

- (i) G. S. R. 700 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2017-Union Territory Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 prescribing Union Territory Tax Rates on specified goods.

- (ii) G. S. R. 701 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 2/2017- Union Territory Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 exempting Union Territory Tax Rates on specified goods.
- (iii) G. S. R. 702 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 5/2017- Union Territory Tax (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 allowing refund of accumulated input tax credit on textile fabric subject to lapsing of specified accumulated ITC remaining in balance after payment of tax for and upto the month of July, 2018.
- (iv) G. S. R. 703 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing concessional UTGST rate on specified handicraft items.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9749/16/18]

- (9) A copy of the Notification No. G. S. R. 704 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2017, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2017-Compensation Cess (Rate) dated 28th June, 2017 prescribing Compensation Cess rates on specified goods under Section 13 of the Compensation Cess Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9750/16/18]

- 10) A copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 705 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt IGST calculated on the assessable value over and above the value (Pool in Price) at which Urea is sold by Department of Fertilizers to Fertilizer Marketing Entities on high sea sale basis under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9751/16/18]

- A copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 717 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 30th July, 2018, together with an explanatory memorandum
- (11)

seeking to impose safeguard duty on imports of “solar cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels” falling under heading 8541 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 for a period of two years under sub-section (5) of Section 9A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9752/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table: -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 -
 - (i) The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourteenth Amendment Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. F. No. Stds/O&F/Notification (3)/FSSAI-2016 published in Gazette of India dated 13th October, 2017.

- (ii) The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Third Amendment Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. No. 1/Infant Nutrition/Std/Notification/FSSAI-2016 published in Gazette of India dated 15th March, 2018.
- (iii) The Food Safety and Standards (Import) First Amendment Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. No. REG/11/25/Import amendment/FSSAI-2017 published in Gazette of India dated 8th February, 2018.
- (iv) The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. No. Stds/O&F/Notification (5)/FSSAI-2016 published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9753/16/18]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956-
- (i) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 published in Notification No. F. No. F. 14-369 (98) Co-ordination Cell/Estt. I published in Gazette of India dated 19th May, 2011.
 - (ii) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 1981 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 914 published in Gazette of India dated 10th October, 1981.
 - (iii) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 2012 published in Notification No. 14-3/69 (98)/Coordination Cell/Estt. I published in Gazette of India dated 29th November, 2012.
 - (iv) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in

Notification No. G. S. R. 373 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 1998.

- (v) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. F. 14-3/69-Estt. II published in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2003.
 - (vi) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F. 20-7/2007-Estt. I published in Gazette of India dated 2nd December, 2009.
 - (vii) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. F. 14-3/69/99/Estt. I published in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 1999.
- (3) Seven Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9754/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. F. No. NCTE-REGL 012/16/2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 29th June, 2018, making certain amendments in the Notification No. F. N. 61-03/20/2010/NCTE/ (N&S) dated 23rd August, 2010 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9755/16/18]

- (2)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the UEE Mission Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Delhi, Delhi, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the UEE Mission Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan

Delhi, Delhi, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9756/16/18]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Panchkula, for the year 2016 2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Panchkula, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9757/16/18]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya Society Gujarat, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya Society Gujarat, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013 2014.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9758/16/18]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Goa Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Goa, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Goa Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Goa, for the year 2016-2017.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9759/16/18]

- 10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.
- (11) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9760/16/18]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha

Abhijan Assam, Guwahati, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhijan Assam, Guwahati, for the year 2016-2017.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9761/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sashastra Seema Bal (Combatised Engineering Cadre Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 220 in weekly Gazette of India dated 21st July, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 155 of the Sashastra Seema Bal Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9762/16/18]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA
REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I**

beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: -
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9763/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited, Kavaratti, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon under sub section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9764/16/18]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): On behalf of Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, 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 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2016-2017.

Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith 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 9765/16/18]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): On behalf of Shri C. R. Chaudhary, I beg to lay on the Table a copy

of the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 3663 (E)/Ess. Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated 26th July, 2018 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9766/16/18]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:

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- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad, Hubballi, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad, Hubballi, for the years 2015-

2016 and 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad, Hubballi, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9767/16/18]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9768/16/18]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2016-2017.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9769/16/18]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9770/16/18]

- (9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the EdCIL (India) Limited and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9771/16/18]

- 10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, Ranchi, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, Ranchi, for the year 2016-2017.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9772/16/18]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, Kashipur, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Kashipur, Kashipur, for the year 2016-2017.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9773/16/18]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, Indore, for the year 2016-2017, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Indore, Indore, for the year 2016 2017.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9774/16/18]

- 16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, Nagpur, for the years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

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

Management Nagpur, Nagpur, for the years 2015 2016 and 2016-2017.

- (17) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9775/16/18]

- 18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Sirmaur, Sirmaur, for the year 2016-2017, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Sirmaur, Sirmaur, for the year 2016-2017.

- 19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9776/16/18]

- 20) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956:

(i) The University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. 1-2/2017 (EC/PS) in Gazette of India dated 18th July, 2018.

(ii) The University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. 1-19/2016 (CPP-II/DEB-1) in Gazette of India dated 4th July, 2018.

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of
(iii) Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 published in Notification No. F. 1-18/2010 (CPP-II) in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9777/16/18]

21) A copy of Notification No. CUK/ADMN/ORDINANCE/2010 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 29th June, 2018,

relating to amendment of the 20 Ordinances, mentioned therein, of the Central University of Kerala under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Universities Act, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9778/16/18]

12. 04 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th August, 2018 agreed without any amendment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2018.”

12 05 hrs

ASSENT TO BILLS*

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I lay on the Table the following 2 Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 19th July, 2018: -

1. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018;
and
2. The State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2018

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9779/16/18.

12 05 ½ hrs

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

Minutes

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirty-ninth to Forty-third sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the Fourteenth and Fifteenth sessions.

12 05 ¾ hrs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

112th Report

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I beg to present the 112th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2018-19) on the subject” Incorrect Adoption of Exchange Rate and Undue Benefit to the Service Provider”.

12 06 hrs

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Statements

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table seven Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee: -

- (1) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRCON in Infrastructure Building of Indian Railways'.
- (2) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Commercial Utilisation of Vacant Railway Land- Role of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA)'.

- (3) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Thirteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRFC and use of SPV methodology in financing development needs of Indian Railways'.
- (4) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fourteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Share of Railway Traffic vis-a-vis Road and Air Transport- An Evaluation'.
- (5) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Consultancy, Engineering and Project Management Services by RITES'.
- (6) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee

contained in their Nineteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Tenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Scrap Disposal System in Indian Railways'.

- (7) Statement showing Further Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Twenty Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Twelfth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Green Energy Initiatives in Indian Railways'.
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12 06 ½ hrs

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

27th Report

[English]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2018-2019) on the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs regarding Action Taken by the Government on there commendations contained in the Fifteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)'.

12 07 hrs

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1205 REGARDING (i) FOREST LAND AND UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1214 REGARDING (ii) ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE DATED 22. 12. 2017 ALONGWITH REASONS FOR DELAY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): I beg to make Statements (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1205 given on 22nd December, 2017 asked by Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar, MP regarding 'Forest Land' (ii) correcting the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1214 given on 22nd December, 2017 asked by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, MP regarding 'Ecological Imbalance' and (iii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the replies.

**(i) STATEMENT BY DR. MAHESH SHARMA,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT,**

**FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
CORRECTING THE ANSWER GIVEN ON 22. 12.
2017 IN THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1205 DATED 22. 12. 2017 ASKED
BY SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR
REGARDING “FOREST LAND”**

In the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1205 replied on 22. 12. 2017 regarding 'Forest Land' raised by Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar, the Annexure 'A' – Statement Showing Forest Area Diverted for non-forestry purpose (State/UTs-wise) under FC Act, 1980 may be read as:

Annexure 'A'

Statement Showing Forest Area Diverted for non-forestry purpose (States/UTs-wise) under FC Act, 1980		
<u>Category: All Categories</u>		During the period: <u>2014-2017</u>
<u>S.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>STATES/UTs</u>	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	24. 19

2	Andhra Pradesh	3669. 43
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1086. 34
4	Bihar	658. 93
5	Chandigarh	40. 25
6	Chhattisgarh	5048. 40
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1. 51
8	Delhi	15. 15
9	Goa	41. 59
10	Gujarat	1265. 21
11	Haryana	866. 18
12	Himachal Pradesh	745. 50
13	Jharkhand	3126. 09
14	Karnataka	717. 60
15	Kerala	26. 61
16	Madhya Pradesh	8047. 42
17	Maharashtra	6345. 87

18	Manipur	776. 90
19	Meghalaya	142. 93
20	Mizoram	74. 73
21	Orissa	6140. 64
22	Punjab	912. 40
23	Rajasthan	4392. 66
24	Sikkim	83. 72
25	Tamil Nadu	538. 45
26	Telangana	7388. 54
27	Tripura	94. 58
28	Uttar Pradesh	609. 87
29	Uttarakhand	2107. 01
30	West Bengal	285. 17
Total		55273. 88

REASON FOR DELAY

The Ministry, immediately after detection of the error, processed the matter. Accordingly, the corrective statement is being submitted in prescribed format.

**(ii) STATEMENT BY DR. MAHESH SHARMA,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
CORRECTING THE ANSWER GIVEN ON 22. 12.
2017 IN THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1214 DATED 22. 12. 2017 ASKED
BY SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY
REGARDING “ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE”**

In the reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1214 replied on 22. 12. 2017 regarding 'Ecological Imbalance' raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, the Annexure 'A' – State-wise details of the proposals accorded approvals under FC Act, 1980 for non-forestry purposes including mining for three last years may be read as:

Annexure 'A'

State-wise details of the proposals accorded approvals under FC Act, 1980 for non-forestry purposes including mining for three last years

<u>Category: All Categories</u>		During the period: <u>2014-2017</u>	
<u>S.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>STATES/UTs</u>	No. of Cases	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	8	24.19
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	3669.43
3	Arunachal Pradesh	28	1086.34
4	Bihar	75	658.93
5	Chandigarh	3	40.25
6	Chhattisgarh	38	5048.40
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2	1.51
8	Delhi	4	15.15
9	Goa	5	41.59
10	Gujarat	98	1265.21
11	Haryana	796	866.18

12	Himachal Pradesh	60	745.50
13	Jharkhand	23	3126.09
14	Karnataka	57	717.60
15	Kerala	5	26.61
16	Madhya Pradesh	98	8047.42
17	Maharashtra	40	6345.87
18	Manipur	10	776.90
19	Meghalaya	2	142.93
20	Mizoram	2	74.73
21	Orissa	69	6140.64
22	Punjab	566	912.40
23	Rajasthan	50	4392.66
24	Sikkim	16	83.72
25	Tamil Nadu	13	538.45
26	Telangana	20	7388.54
27	Tripura	11	94.58

28	Uttar Pradesh	9	609.87
29	Uttarakhand	91	2107.01
30	West Bengal	10	285.17
Total		2237	55273.88

REASON FOR DELAY

The Ministry, immediately after detection of the error, processed the matter. Accordingly, the corrective statement is being submitted in prescribed format.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9780/16/18]

12 07 ½ hrs

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED
QUESTION NO. 316 DATED 08. 08. 2018 REGARDING
SHORTAGE OF MOBILE TOWERS**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting reply to Starred Question No. 316 dated August 8, 2018, regarding Shortage of Mobile Towers.

Statement

Statement to be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications to amend the reply given in respect of Parts (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 316 of the Lok Sabha dated August 08, 2018 regarding Shortage of Mobile Towers.

It is requested that the reply given in respect of Parts (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 316 dated August 08, 2018 regarding **Shortage of Mobile Towers** may be amended as under:

parts	In place of the following	should be read as
(a) and (b)	(reply given earlier)	(Amended reply)
(a) whether there is an acute shortage of towers for cellular phone services in the country, and if	(a) and (b) (ii) Scheme for Mobile Communication Services has been implemented in the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of 10	(a) and (b) (ii) Scheme for Mobile Communication Services has been implemented in the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

<p>so, the details thereof;</p> <p>(b) the details of the agencies responsible for this situation;</p>	<p>States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Stages of the scheme. Phase-I of the scheme has been executed by M/s BSNL. Out of 2555 mobile tower-locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2335 mobile towers are radiating.</p>	<p>affected areas of 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Phase-I of the scheme has been executed by M/s BSNL. Out of 2355 mobile tower - locations identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, 2335 mobile towers are radiating.</p>
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The inconvenience is regretted.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 9781/16/18]

12 08 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 53rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 53rd Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I have sore throat. You people make my throat sore.

... (Interruptions)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 9782/16/18

12 09 hrs

PERSONAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): On behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Divorcee Act, 1869, the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Divorcee Act, 1869, the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956.”

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10. 08. 2018.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour'

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):

Madam, we also have a privilege notice against Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji... *(Interruptions)* What has happened in this regard so far? ... *(Interruption)* He has misled the country...

(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you also. Karunakaran Ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

12 10 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Large scale floods and land slips resulting in loss of lives and property in Kerala

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to place before the House the serious situation that Kerala is witnessing. There are about six districts which are very badly affected.

In Idukki district alone, 20 persons have lost their lives. In Wayanad district, five persons have lost their lives. Palakkad, Calicut, Malappuram and other districts also are facing the same difficulties. It is difficult to move persons from one place to another. The Chief Minister of Kerala has sent urgent messages to the Government.

This is the third consecutive natural calamity that we are facing. One was the Ockhi. The other was the natural calamity in Kuttanad and Alleppy. The third one is this. So, we would request that the Government has to take it as a special issue and give all possible assistance. What we need is the Defence assistance, the Military assistance. It is not possible to handle it

by the State alone. So, the Government has to take very immediate and urgent steps regarding this.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Supriya Sule is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, this is the fourth time that I am raising the same issue regarding the severe situation, due to flood, prevailing in the State of Kerala. Actually, unprecedented rain, continuous rain has played a havoc with the entire State. During the last two days, it has further worsened. Around 23 people were killed yesterday alone. At least 23 people have died in the State until now due to heavy rains and landslides. Wayanad district was cut off from the rest of the State by a series of landslips along key ghat roads. Landslips and floods devastated the eastern hilly part of Malappuram district claiming six lives of an Adivasi family at Chettiyanpara near Malappuram. There were multiple incidents of landslips in the rural areas of Kozhikode. Most rivers in the State were in spate and the water level in reservoirs was nearing the danger mark due to the heavy inflow caused by incessant rains in the catchment areas. For the first time, shutters of 22 dams, including Idukki dam, were opened on Thursday due to heavy rains. Three shutters of the Cheruthoni dam in Idukki has

been opened to ease the pressure of water on the Idukki hydel reservoir. This has been done after a gap of 26 years. The Idukki and Ernakulam district administrations have warned those living on the banks of Periyar. This has increased the water level in all rivers causing flood and waterlogging in the areas adjacent to river banks. Around 13 villages of Aluva taluk are expected to be affected by the release of water from Idukki dam. Yesterday, the Cochin International Airport was also closed.

The hon. Home Minister is here. The Central Team is there in Kerala itself. I would request the hon. Home Minister that we need Navy assistance, Coast Guard and we also need additional units of National Disaster Response Force. Also, a special financial package should be given to the State of Kerala. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mullappally Ramachandran, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Shri M. K. Raghavan, Dr. Kulmani Samal, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena and Shri Rajeev Satav are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K. C. Venugopal.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Madam Speaker, a crisis has arisen due to the

flood situation in Kerala, and a few days back, I had sent my colleague Shri Kiren Rijiju to conduct a survey there. He went there and took stock of the situation. Even today I was trying to talk to the Chief Minister there, but I have not been able to talk. After going back, I'll talk to him again. I want to assure that we will provide all the assistance required from the Central Government.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to an important matter of public importance. In the state of Bihar including my Parliamentary Constituency, Sheohar, poor elderly people are being deprived of the Old Age Pension and Family Benefits Scheme of the Government. At present, as per government rules, the benefit of Old Age Pension is being given only to persons who are above 60 years of age and have their names in the BPL list. Similarly, under the Family Benefit Plan, after the death of the head of any family, whose age is below 60 years of age, assistance of 20 thousand rupees is provided to the dependents of that family. Only those people who are included in the B.P.L. list get the benefits of this scheme, while the benefits of many public welfare schemes of the Government for the poor, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ration Card, etc., are being given on the basis of the list of Social, Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC). It is noteworthy that earlier the benefits of all the above schemes were given to the poor on the basis of the BPL list, but the amendment was made in view of the discrepancy in the determination of the BPL list.

Therefore, it is requested to the Government through the House that like other public welfare schemes of the Government, the facility of old age pension and family benefit scheme should be given to the poor on the basis of the list of social economic and caste census year 2011 of SECC, 2011, and those who are left out should be included as they are getting discouraged.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr Kulamani Samal are permitted to associate themselves with the issues raised by Shrimati Rama Devi.

Shri A. P. Jitendra Reddy – Not present.

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA): Hon. Madam Speaker, the increasing drug smuggling and consumption in the country are not only bad for the health of the youth, but they are also increasing criminal tendencies. Due to this, the future of the country is in darkness. I request you to instruct the Government to formulate a strict policy in this regard. Action should be taken against those who consume it as well as who are involved in its smuggling. The youth of entire Rajasthan, including Dosa, are getting ruined due to this. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here and I request him to make a policy for this at the earliest. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kulmani Samal and Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Harish Meena.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am going to talk about the mess that the previous Government has created in Punjab during the last ten years. This is more important because the hon. Home Minister is present here.

Madam, in the previous Punjab government, the BJP also had an alliance with them, so it is their responsibility also to provide assistance. The menace of drug addiction which was taking place for the last 10 years, we, the Punjab's government of ...* has completely checked that. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, the cases are coming in on daily basis showing that drug addiction has increased in Punjab.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Allegations levelled against anyone's name will not go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: You are asking for funds for development.

* Not recorded.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Madam, 126% of the youth are coming to hospitals to quit drugs addiction, and we are making arrangements for that. My point is that drug addiction have stopped in Punjab. ... *(Interruptions)* But international smugglers are smuggling drugs from Kandla ports through Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. ... *(Interruptions)* Now drugs are being supplied in Punjab from outside. I have two demands: that the persons who were using injections for taking drugs for the last ten years have got hepatitis and jaundice. This is a very expensive treatment. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You ask money for redevelopment.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Madam, the Punjab Government is making efforts to the best of its capacity, but we need help from the Central Government for healthcare. We need money for the skill development of 126 per cent of the youth who are being treated for de-addiction. Modi Ji had also said in his speech that we will spend huge funds for skill development, but not a single penny has been received by Punjab. If the youth quits drugs, then we will have to give them some work or the other. Therefore, we need money for their skill development.

What Thakur Saheb is saying is that they are also equally responsible, as much as the Akali Dal. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not respond to mutual interactions.

Now, nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: This is not a place for side conversations.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA (BANSWARA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Women and Child Development towards the issue relating to the construction of buildings of Anganwadi Centres in my Parliamentary Constituency, Banswara Dungarpur, Rajasthan. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I have been raising this issue since yesterday... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What has happened?

... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, there is a huge scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I had given you the opportunity to speak yesterday. It doesn't happen every day.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have to conduct the proceedings in the House as per the list.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: The buildings of Anganwadi Centres are being constructed in rural areas by paying Rs 2 lakh per Anganwadi in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme. ... *(Interruptions)* However, due to the non-implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme in urban areas, it is not possible to construct the buildings of Anganwadi centres with said an amount. ... *(Interruptions)*

12 19 hrs

At this stage Shri Deependra Singh Hooda and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA: Most of the Anganwadi Centres in urban areas across Rajasthan are run in the rented buildings. ... *(Interruptions)* In the past also, a request has been made by the Rajasthan government to the Government of India to sanction Central share as per the construction cost of Rs. 7 lakh per Anganwadi centre for the construction of buildings of Anganwadi centres in urban areas. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to request the Minister of Women and Child Development, through the House, to kindly approve the central share as per the construction cost of Rs. 7 lakh per Anganwadi centre for the construction of buildings of Anganwadi centres in urban areas of my Lok Sabha constituency Banswara. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Manshankar Ninama.

[English]

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I want to raise a very important issue which I have raised several times in this august House regarding completion of the unfinished work of approach road of newly constructed railway bridge over river Bhagirathi near

Nashipur under Murshidabad district. The construction work of the bridge has already been completed at least eight years ago but the approach road towards Azimganj junction is still incomplete due to some land problem. I have requested the Government several times for immediate intervention in this matter and asked to instruct the state government to resolve the land problem. But no action has been taken in this regard.

Under the circumstances, I again request the Minister, through you, to look into the matter on urgent basis and instruct the Departments concerned and also the State Government to resolve the land issues and start the unfinished work immediately and arrange to start the functioning of the railway bridge as soon as possible. Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODERMA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak during Zero Hour, and today is the last day of the Session. The achievement of the Railway Department directly gets connected with the hon. Member of Parliament in the Constituency. In today's Zero Hour, through you, I want to convey a very important matter of my area to the Ministry of Railways. Madam, the state of Jharkhand was formed in the

year 2000, and the border districts of Jharkhand are Giridih and Koderma. As there is lack of daily train services from Koderma and Giridih to Ranchi and vice-versa, I had raised this topic earlier also, and today there is a need to run an EMU train which will run from Giridih to Ranchi via Koderma, Gomoh of Dhanbad, and Bokaro and vice versa on daily basis. That's our big requirement. I had raised the issue that the railway line that has been built between Giridih and Koderma has dozens of railway stations. But the platform has not been built anywhere at those stations, due to which women and elderly people have to face a lot of difficulty in boarding and de-boarding the train. The assurance to build the said stations has been given, but nothing has been done so far. I would like to put one more demand: that the stoppage of the Jammu-Tawi Sealdah Express at Chaubai, Chichaki and Parsabad should be provided and Bombay Mail should also be provided a stoppage at Parsabad, as lakhs and thousands of people from these regions are working in Bombay.

Madam, the achievement of the Railway Department is linked to us. That's why I am raising these demands before you.
...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Sunil Kumar Singh are permitted to associate themselves with the issues raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam, Through you, I would like to raise the issue of Shiksha Prerak engaged in the literacy mission of the Government of India. They must have been in several lakhs in the country, but if we talk about Uttar Pradesh alone, there are approximately one lakh Shiksha Prerak whose services were terminated on March 31, 2018.

Madam, through you, I want to tell the Government that the Education Mission Programme of the Government of India has not been completed yet. Despite this, one lakh Shiksha Preraks have been rendered unemployed in Uttar Pradesh alone. When Shiksha Preraks were agitating, at that time the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs went to Lucknow and assured them that their services would be restored.

Madam, I would like to request the Government through you that not only the services of Shiksha Preraks be restored but also their honorarium so far, which is about Rs 656 crore and which is due to one lakh Shiksha Preraks of Uttar Pradesh

alone should also be paid. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to clear the dues of those Shiksha Preraks first.

The scope of their services should be expanded. Today, the country is facing the biggest unemployment crisis. The Shiksha Mitras of Uttar Pradesh have become unemployed, Rozgar Sevaks have become unemployed, and Shiksha Preraks have become unemployed, and on the other hand, the Government is constantly talking about providing employment, while today lakhs of people are becoming unemployed.

I would like to request the Government to take this problem seriously and restore the services of the above-mentioned people.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve is permitted to associate herself with the issue raised by Shri Dharmendra Yadav.

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards the National Highway 56 running from Lucknow to Sultanpur. Here the Lucknow-Sultanpur Road is being built, which passes through Khurdehi market, where the road is not being constructed properly on

both sides. No notice was given to the people regarding their shops and houses there. They are acquired illegally. No notification has been issued in this regard; they have not been informed, and attempts are being made to demolish their shops and houses illegally, causing loss to those people.

Our demand is that the land being acquired for the widening which is being done on both sides of the middle road, should be taken equally on both sides, and for this a committee should be formed or two officers should be appointed, who visit the spot and conduct the survey of it and submit a report. On the basis of the report, the action should be taken. The matter is neither in the knowledge of the District Magistrate nor the Land Acquisition Officer. In this way, injustice is being done to the shopkeepers and landlords there. To ensure that they get proper justice in this regard, the Government should form a committee and an equal area of land on both sides of the middle road should be acquired. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Kaushal Kishore.

DR. YASHWANT SINGH (NAGINA): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Health Department towards the problem of 267 Data Entry

Operators and Operation Managers working under C.G.H.S. of the Central Government. These people were appointed in the year 2006. They were interviewed by C. G. H. S.; all the criteria were met by C.G.H.S., and after appointing these 267 people, the right to pay their salaries was given to N.I.C., N.I.E.C. and S.I.C. agencies. Due to that agency 35 per cent of their salary is cut. These people have been continuously serving C.G.H.S. for the last 12 years without any break. C.G.H.S. has their transfer and posting rights. But due to one agency only, their 35 per cent salary out of the salary they should get is deducted due to GST and other items. He has given the 12 prime years of his life to C.G.H.S. Now they are no longer even eligible to work outside. There is a court order for equal pay for equal work. Accordingly, I expect the Hon. Minister today that the data entry operators who have been working for 12 years should either be regularised, and if not regularised, they should be paid equally as the computer operators.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. Yashwant Singh.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Madam, today I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the rights of Divyangjan. For the rights of persons with disabilities, we enacted the Rights of Disabled Persons Act, 2016 two years ago, under which various types of disabilities were determined. Subsequently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, through a notification dated 4th January, 2018, has also issued guidelines for assessment of Disabilities and the grant of Divyang Certificates. Despite this, in many states, the persons with the disabilities of blood deficiency such as haemophilia, thalassaemia, and sickle cell anaemia, which have been declared disabilities under the law, are not given disability certificates, due to which they are deprived of many government facilities.

The UPSC has issued a notification for the recruitment in civil services on February 7, 2018 and as per the reservation that was provided in 2016 for the disabled, all types of persons with disabilities will be the beneficiaries of this reservation. Despite this, those who are affected by blood disability are unable to fill up the form because they do not get this option in the form, and as a result they are deprived of it.

Through you, I would request the Hon. Minister that the Ministry of Personnel and Training, under which this examination is conducted, should be asked to include these disabilities in it. Along with this, the governments of every state should be directed to issue disability certificates as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kulmani Samal, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad, Shri Arvind Sawant, Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Dushyant Chautala are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde.

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter. The number of the least influential and deprived classes or children, who are called orphans in English, is estimated to be around two crores in our country. Such destitute children have either been abandoned or have no parents. It is estimated that their population in our country is more than the population of Sri Lanka. By the way, we have discussed reservation many times in the House here. I believe this, and I think that the whole House will also agree that if any class should have the first right to reservation, then it belongs

to these orphans. But they did not get the right to reservation? They have not even got the right to equality. In this regard, Pulomi Pawani Ji, an advocate of the Supreme Court, has filed a PIL that these children, who are neither getting education nor employment nor reservation, should get the right to life, equality and education. Therefore, I request the Government through you, and I demand from the Government that first of all, an official survey should be conducted to ascertain the number of such children in our country who need care and protection. At the same time, my second demand is that a law should be enacted and passed in this House to give reservation to such children in government jobs and education.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Raghav Lakhanpal.

[English]

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Madam Speaker, in my Lok Sabha constituency, Chevella, there is a small town called Shamshabad. It used to be a small village. Now, an international airport has come there and it has become a part of Hyderabad.

There is a narrow one-lane railway underpass. Now, the population has increased multi-fold. So, there is a huge congestion. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to widen the said underpass (bridge number 74) from Umdanagar to Timmapur.

I would also request for construction of a railway underbridge at Satamarai Village in Shamshabad Mandal, a railway overbridge near Vikarabad Court on Tandur Road and a railway overbridge at Ramyagadha Road, Vikarabad.

Madam, these facilities are very much required to decongest the railway crossings.

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an important issue in the House. The one who is the weakest employee of the society, a labourer, gets two types of minimum wages. One type of wages is decided by the state government, and the other by the central government. If you compare it in different states, their minimum wages are not even half of the minimum wages paid by the central government. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Central Government that in coordination with the State Governments, either the minimum wages should be made

uniform or bridge the huge gap in wages paid by the different governments as the gap is somewhere more than double. Hon. Narendra Modi's government has worked for the welfare of crores of poor people. At this point, I think that the Government should also take action with regard to minimum wages for the welfare of the labourers. This is my request through you.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Pashupati Nath Singh.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to talk about an issue regarding Jharkhand, that the condition of electricity in state has deteriorated. ... *(Interruptions)* The Central Government says that we will provide electricity to every village, but due to the work given to private contractors there, the situation is still very bad there. ... *(Interruptions)* Work is not being done in villages, and people are being charged unnecessarily. Our state capital is also not getting electricity round the clock. Electricity is being provided in mines clandestinely by charging extra money... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to draw the attention of the Government through the House that the power situation in the state should be streamlined, and special attention should be given to those private contractors who have been entrusted to provide electricity to target villages. Thank you very much....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR (HATHRAS):

Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways towards the HAD train (Hathras-Aligarh-Delhi). This is the only train which runs daily from the Hathras district of my Parliamentary Constituency to Delhi. The elderly and women passengers have to face extreme difficulties because of the absence of toilets in the coaches of this train. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways through you to ensure that toilet equipped coaches are arranged for this passenger train at the earliest so that commuters may get proper toilet facilities. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, along with this, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Kaka Hathrasi of our Hathras has been

a world-famous poet. I demand from the Government that Hathras Junction should be named after Kaka Hathrasi. Thank you very much. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Kulmani Samal are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Kumar Diwakar.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim – Not present.

PROF. A. S. R. NAIK (MAHABUBABAD): Madam Speaker, in my parliamentary constituency, Mahabubabad, one of the Assembly segments Mulug is having the oldest Ramappa monument. It was built in 12th Century during the Kakatiya dynasty. Our Government and, I personally, submitted the dossier for identification and inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is a very famous temple. We have submitted the dossier for identification and inclusion of the monument in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. But unfortunately the Archaeology Department and the Minister of Culture are not considering our request for the last three years. We have

submitted the dossier as per the requirement. Whatever they have asked we have given it in writing. As I said, we have submitted the dossier for identification and inclusion of the monument in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam, there is no quorum. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I rise to raise the issue of development in my Parliamentary Constituency. My Constituency, Bulandshahr, is just 70 km from Delhi and my Constituency falls in NCR, but as far as development is concerned, facilities like NCR are not available there. Neither a good university nor modern health facilities are available there. No train facility is available for my constituency. ... *(Interruptions)* No train heads to my Constituency. through you, I would like to request the Government that a survey of a railway line has been carried out for us; that survey work should be completed. My area is just at the distance of 35 km from Pari Chowk in Greater Noida. Metro has reached Pari Chowk. ... *(Interruptions)*

I request the government to extend the metro up to my Constituency. There is a Dibai station in my Constituency; earlier there was a stoppage of the Dadar and Mahakal trains there. The stoppages of these trains should be provided there. Thank you very much. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Bhola Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):

Madam, there is no quorum, so we are leaving.
...(*Interruptions*)

12 39 hrs

At this stage Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon.

Members left the House.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards an important issue. The Murrah

breed buffalo of my Lok Sabha constituency is world famous. Today, the people of my Lok Sabha constituency have a very important contribution to the milk industry. Today, the situation is that people sell water with foreign tag for up to Rs. 180 per litre, but on the other hand, the price of milk today is kept between Rs. 30 and Rs. 35 per litre.

I urge the Government of India to enact the law to bring the farmers to the norm of the Alternative Source of Income Right Revolution. The way farmers have contributed to the white revolution, MSP should be fixed at least at the rate of Rs 40 per litre for milk also. This will help farmers a lot in the future.

Along with this, the Government of India should restrict the price of water below Rs 20 per litre, which is up to Rs 180 per litre today.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Dushyant Chautala.

... *(Interruptions)*

***SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Hon Madam Speaker, Vanakkam, Hosur is an industrial town in my Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency.

In order to reach Chennai and other places by using air connectivity, we need to go to Devanahalli Airport which is 83 kilometres away from Hosur. It takes more than 2 hours and 30 minutes to reach Devanahalli airport which is 83 kilometres away from Hosur. Under the UDAN Scheme announced by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for providing better regional air connectivity, it was proposed to start a flight service between Hosur and Chennai by linking all the neighbouring potential districts and towns benefitting the common man including the poor. Taneja Aerospace and Aviation Limited (TAAL), a private company said that its air field in Hosur may be utilized for starting this flight service between Hosur and Chennai. Moreover, in a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, it was assured to start this flight service between Hosur and Chennai before September, 2017.

But till date this flight service has not been started. I therefore urge upon the Union Minister for Civil Aviation,

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

through this august House, to start this flight service under UDAN Scheme between Hosur and Chennai at the earliest.
Thank you.

12 42 hrs

At this stage Shri Deependra Singh Hooda went back to his seat.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK):

Madam, my Point of Order is that there is no quorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Hon. Madam Speaker, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has stated in its report that 70% of the plastic used for consumables is dumped as waste. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: There is the quorum, there is everything. Zero hour is going on, so no point of order.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI: In the report released by CPCB, a study by IIT & CSIR, Lucknow states that the said plastic packaging material which is dumped adversely affects the soil and water by releasing toxic gases as well as leaching dangerous cancer-causing elements.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, plastic packaging of food items adversely affects health, as leaching of elements from plastic such as lead, antimony, etc., takes place in food items, which has been confirmed by laboratory tests.

Madam, various national and international studies, research and laboratory tests have confirmed leaching of cancer compounds in water and soil from packaged food, pharma and dumped plastic.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I request the Government through you to impose a complete ban on the use of plastic for food items, and the Government should consider recycling dumped plastic waste or other harmless provisions.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

[English]

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM): Madam, my humbly repeated submissions highlighting the hardships of our Tamil Nadu fishermen, are continuously ignored by the Centre. The office of the Prime Minister must make a concerted effort involving all the Ministries like External Affairs, Agriculture, Defence, Home, Skill Development and even the Finance Ministry, apart from the Ministry of Environment, otherwise, our poor Tamil fishermen will suffer endlessly. Our economic interests and traditional fishing rights, especially around Rameswaram coast are affected seriously.

Even last week, the Rameswaram fishermen protested against the apathy of the Union Government. They are not getting back their fishing boats taken away from our own waters by the Sri Lankan Navy even after two years. They are seizing our catches, capturing our boats and attacking our fishermen.

Asserting our fishing rights in our own waters near Katchatheevu is a definite need. So, I would like to bring this issue before Parliament in the form of an amendment to Article 368 of our Constitution. The Centre must also give utmost

importance to protect the livelihood of fishermen by enacting a law pertaining to Coastal Zone.

Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister to solve all the problems faced by our fishermen which I have been highlighting all these four years.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. J. Jayavardhan is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Is my voice not reaching you nowadays?

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention towards a very important issue of my parliamentary constituency. There are a large number of cancer patients in my constituency. There is no

cancer centre even as far as 200 to 300 kilometres away. There is not even a centre for fomentation.

I, through you, want to say that there is a medical college in my Banda district. The district hospital is located in Chitrakoot. Banda is the headquarters of the division. A branch of cancer treatment should be opened there in which adequate arrangements are made so that cancer patients can avail the facility there.

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

[English]

SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA): Thank you, Speaker, Madam. In my Constituency, the work regarding Karaikudi to Pattukottai broad-gauge conversion was finished, and the Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) service was operated by the Railway authorities.

The DEMU from Karaikudi to Pattukottai, the bi-weekly passenger train, was being operated. This passenger train takes over six hours in both directions to travel just a distance of 80 kms. due to shortage of manpower for manning the level-

crossing gates falling along this stretch. There are about 35 such gates in this route.

The DEMU train is being run with Travelling Gatekeepers on-board in both directions, and they have to get down at every level-crossing to close and open the gates. This process is pathetic and really time-consuming. This inordinate time delay could only be avoided if the Railways appoint regular gatekeepers for the same.

The DEMU train has seven stoppages. This train must be extended up to Madurai *via* Manamadurai, and should be operated on a daily basis instead of weekly basis. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Thank you, Madam, for giving me the opportunity. *[Translation]* In my Lok Sabha constituency, Bishnupur and district Bankura, there is a stretch of NH-60 which is still a two-lane road. NH-60 passes through Mejia, Durlabhpur, Bankura and Bishnupur in my Lok Sabha constituency. My demand is that this road should be made at least four lanes. Today, the number of vehicles has increased, due to which many accidents are occurring. I demand that this two-lane road should be converted into four-lane road. Thank you.

[English]

DR. ANUPAM HAZRA (BOLPUR): Thank you, Madam, for giving me the opportunity to raise a vital issue.

I represent the Constituency of Bolpur in West Bengal. In Bolpur, the only Central University of West Bengal is situated, namely, Visva Bharati University.

Madam, I would like to inform you that few years back, due to corruption and mismanagement, the last regular Vice-Chancellor was directly dismissed by the Ministry, and since the last 3-4 years, this University is being run by an in-charge Vice-Chancellor.

Recently, I came to know that the interview of the Vice-Chancellor has taken place, but unfortunately, the current in-charge Vice-Chancellor is also a close associate of the earlier Vice-Chancellor who was dismissed by the Ministry. She is trying her level best to become the permanent Vice-Chancellor.

So, I would like to plea to the hon. HRD Minister, through you, that the current in-charge Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sabujkali Sen, should not be selected for this post. I have given enough representation to the Prime Minister's Office because he is the Chancellor of that University as well as to the Office of the hon.

President of India regarding this issue. Further, enough corruption-related allegations are also there against her. So, I would like to place this issue here on an urgent basis in front of the HRD Minister. Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARDWAR):

Hon. Madam Speaker, as you know, Uttarakhand has 65 to 70 per cent forest cover. There are more than seven national forest parks, including RajaJi National Park and Corbett Park. The whole world visit these Parks.

Hon. Madam Speaker, nowadays the entire area, including the Haridwar Lok Sabha constituency, is troubled by the terror of man-eating tigers. Dozens of people have been killed by tigers. While on the one hand, man-eating tigers are killing people by entering houses, on the other hand, elephants are also breaking houses and picking up children and killing them. Such incidents are taking place on a large scale. On the one hand, tigers and elephants are killing people, and on the other hand, dozens of villages in Haridwar and Rishikesh are completely submerged due to floods.

Hon. Speaker Madam, I, through you, demand from the Government that the people of our region should be saved from

the terror of these wild animals. They have ruined agriculture system and made life difficult for the people. Wire fences should be installed, electric wires should be arranged, walls should be built to protect people from wild animals and those who are affected should be compensated suitably because in some cases families have single earning person. If a tiger kills a person his entire family is ruined, so someone from the family must be given a government job. I request the Government to look into this issue. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Anshul Verma and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance regarding Post Matric Scholarship Scheme to the students belonging to the SCs and STs.

Knowing full well that social and economic upliftment of under-privileged sections of the society is possible only by ensuring their educational progress, the Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing the Post-Matric

Scholarship Scheme to the students of SC/ST community, which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Unfortunately, the Centre, through a revision in its guidelines, had notified that the fees claimed by students who took admission against Management Quota/Spot Admission would not be reimbursed with effect from April this year. In Tamil Nadu, a large number of students were availing this benefit which led to tremendous growth in the Gross Enrolment Ratio. But due to revision in guidelines, the poor SC students would not be able to pursue higher and technical education, which may cause serious resentment and unrest among this community.

Another issue is the sharing pattern between the Centre and the State. Presently, expenditure under this scheme, at the end of the five years, is taken as the committed liability, which was Rs. 353.55 crore in 2011-12. But from 2017-18, it has risen to Rs. 1,526.46 crore, which puts unbearable burden on the State's finances.

Hence, I request the Government to fund this scheme in 60:40 ratio between the Centre and the State. Further, release of funds by the Centre to Tamil Nadu over the years has been delayed and inadequate. Till 2017-18, the Government, of

Tamil Nadu is to receive arrears of Rs. 1579.58 crore from the Indian Govt. Hence, I request the Government, of India to release this amount immediately for the welfare of the poor SC students.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):

Hon. Madam Speaker, yesterday Maharashtra was completely closed. In many places the Bandh was peaceful, but in many places some unpleasant incidents occurred. I would say that all the workers were on the roads for the Maratha movement, but they carry the movement in a very peaceful manner. The Maratha community should get reservation. All parties have made such demand. The Shiv Sena has also demanded reservation for the Maratha community.

Waluj, Bajaj Nagar is a very large industrial area. Many people entered the closed factories during the protest. To defame the movement of Maratha Community some people entered the closed factories and resorted to vandalization and damaged the computers also. I will tell you the names of the companies. Sterlite is a big company; they entered the companies named Sterlite, Endurance, Goodyear, Siemens, FDC, Mylon, Atra Pharma, NRB Bearing, Compaq, and

Wockhardt. All this was happening in front of the police. A fire brigade vehicle was also set on fire in front of the police. The police commissioner was present there but did nothing. I would like to ask through you as to who were these people who resorted to vandalization there to defame the movement. There should be an inquiry by the Government of India and strict action should be taken against them.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. As per the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister, a scheme was started to provide gas connections to all the villages, poor farmers and labourers of this country through Ujjwala Scheme. In the first phase, it was decided to provide this connection to those who were socially and economically backward as per the 2011 census, and later, the Hon. Prime Minister made a plan to increase the number of gas connections from 5 crore to 8 crore. About 5 crore people have been provided gas connections.

Madam, I would urge the Government through you that the Divyangjans in the society should also be included in this category so that their lives may be improved by providing them free gas connections.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

In Bihar, the reservation category of the Lohar caste got entangled in English and translation. Then under the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Order Amendment Act, 1976, the Hindi words for 'Lohara/Lohra', was written as 'Lohar/Lohara' at serial number 22. During the tenure of the UPA government in 2006 it was replaced by 'Lohara', 'Lohra'.

The matter got complicated due to the Repealing and Amending Act 48/2006. The Bihar government consulted various organisations with the intention of removing this discrepancy and prepared ethnography reports from social institutions and sent them to the Central Government. Even

before a decision could be taken on this report, the Central Government through the Gazette Notification dated 9 May 2016 repealed 229 of the 290 Old Laws Amendment Bill. There was also the amendment Bill of 2006 in which the Lohar caste of Bihar was considered a Scheduled Tribe. The year 2006 was amended in the Scheduled Tribes Order Amendment Act, 1976, in which the Hindi translation of Lohara of English is recorded as Lohar. In Bihar, the word Lohra is also used in colloquial language for the Lohar caste. Similarly, Surendra in English is called Surrender in Hindi and not Surendra. The previous government has divided the country on the basis of caste. Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi Ji, the NDA government is moving ahead in providing justice to our blacksmiths.

HON. SPEAKER Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

[English]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH (MAYURBHANJ): I would have preferred to speak in Santhali but I hope that it will happen in the next Session.

Madam, there are eighteen biosphere reserves corresponding to IUCN Category V Protected Areas and

Simlipal is one of those areas. It is also situated in my constituency. The Simlipal Sanctuary could not be declared as National Park. As around sixty-four families are staying inside, the core area could have not been relocated.

Biosphere reserves are meant for protecting larger areas of natural habitats, not only with flora and fauna but also with symbiotic existence of the people around it. The protection of the Sanctuary could only be assured if we could provide sustainable livelihood to the inhabitants residing inside the biosphere region.

Therefore, the development of eco-tourism spots inside the region is very essential. If the Ministry of Tourism or Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change pays enough attention to develop tourism in the Simlipal area, livelihood for a lot of people could be ensured.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shri Ramchandra Hansda.

[English]

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU): I would like to raise a very important issue of health infrastructure in my constituency. We have a serious dearth of physical infrastructure. Hence, I requested the hon. Minister many times through you to sanction tele-medicine centres and they were sanctioned. The hon. Minister of the Union Government sanctioned many tele-medicine centres in my constituency but, unfortunately, these tele-medicine centres were opened in the urban areas only. In the rural areas, even today, we have a serious dearth of medical amenities.

So, I request the hon. Minister through the Chair to kindly enquire into this matter and sanction tele-medicine centres in the rural areas also.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shrimati Kothapalli Geeta.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Health Minister towards this issue. On the one hand, there is a shortage of doctors as compared to patients in the country, and there are institutions like GSS, where

doctors with degrees above the DGHS and MBBS would have attended 200 to 500 patients if they were in the OPD. On one hand, they are taking NPA, and on the other hand, they are only doing clerical work without attending the patients. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Health Minister to please ensure the attendance of these doctors in the OPD and safeguard the interest of the patients.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

[English]

SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Madam, the demands have been raised by EPS-90 pensioners. There are upwards of 60 lakh EPS-95 pensioners nationwide. They have contributed for their social security throughout their life. However, they are getting meagre pension of Rs. 200-2,500 only. This makes it impossible for senior citizens to live respectably in this meagre amount.

On 6th December, 2017, the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment invited representatives of the EPS-95 pensioners for a detailed discussion in the presence of concerned

bureaucrats. The hon. Minister principally agreed to their demands and also sent recommendations to the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister.

13 00 hrs

However, there have been no results till date. They have four main demands:

1. They are requesting a higher pension on full salary, as per the decision of hon. Supreme Court, and the withdrawal of EPFO interim advisory of May 2017.
2. They request Rs. 7,500 as basic pension plus DA, adjusting it based on inflation, as recommended by Koshiyari Committee.
3. They request medical facilities to all EPS95 pensioners and their spouses.
4. They want to include EPS non-pensioners in these schemes by granting them *ex post facto* membership.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to address the grievances and to state before the House his time-bound assurances in view of the demands raised so as to resolve the issue at the earliest.

SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE (HOWRAH): Madam Speaker, I am really happy that you have given me a chance. I have a small question but a very serious question.

I am from the Howrah constituency in West Bengal. *[Translation]* Shalimar Station is there. The distance from Shalimar to Santragachi is two kilometres. There is no flyover over the railway crossing here; there is no arrangement. People here have been facing troubles for past 40 years. If one has to go to Howrah from the Buxara area, then one can find the railway crossing closed for one, two or three hours citing the reason that the mail train will cross now.

Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railway that as it is difficult to construct a flyover here, but if an underpass is made, an ambulance can pass from here. Right now it is very difficult for an ambulance to pass from here. Constructing an underpass will make it easier. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam Speaker, final draft of Kasturirangan Report is yet to be finalised. In Kerala, 125 villages are adversely affected by the Kasturirangan Report for being in ecologically sensitive area. The Government of Kerala has appointed Oommen V.

Oommen Committee for a detailed study on the basis of Kasturirangan Report. The Oommen V. Oommen Committee has made a detailed study and identified which are the populated areas and which are the ecologically sensitive areas. But the Ministry of Forests and Environment of the Central Government has not taken any steps to declare the final draft of Kasturirangan Report. In Kerala, especially in the hill areas, thousands of families and lakhs of farmers are facing problems. They are unable to construct houses; they are unable to cultivate lands. This is a very sensitive issue in Kerala. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and take care of the interests of the people of Kerala. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY (COOCHBEHAR): Madam Speaker, for the people of Coochbehar, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri Districts, the three rivers of Teesta, Torsa and Jaldhaka flowing through the Districts are the primary source of water. All these three rivers are tributaries of Brahmaputra flowing from Tibet. So, when heavy rainfall is noted in the

Himalayan region the Brahmaputra floods these rivers and causes havoc in the villages of the Districts. In extreme situations, communications between the villages are lost. Every year people suffer in these three Districts due to Brahmaputra floods. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation have formed the Brahmaputra Board in 1982 to address the issue in the Brahmaputra Valley. I, therefore, request the Government to respond to the situation in Coochbehar, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri Districts.

[Translation]

***SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT):** Hon. Speaker Madam, I am deeply grateful to you for allowing me to speak in Zero Hour. At the same time I am also grateful to our Hon. Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee for whatever I am today. I will not take much time but will say a few things in Bengali.

Madam, during the Left Front Government in West Bengal, huge amount of loan was taken.

Now our Government has to repay it. So with due respect I urge upon the Central Government to give relaxation and waive off the loan.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali

Madam you are our custodian. So I appeal to the Central Government through you Madam that kindly ensure that the forthcoming Janmashtami festival is celebrated peacefully in the country.

Madam, I appeal to the Central Government and the State Government to take necessary steps so that Janmashtami and Idu'l Zuha may be observed peacefully.

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to demand from the Hon. Minister to run a direct flight from Lucknow to Jammu. Right now a private airline, IndiGo is there, but I want you to please allow Air India to operate there too.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate himself with the issue raised by Shrimati Anju Bala.

The House is adjourned to meet again at 2:05 p.m.

13 06 hrs

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

14 07 hrs

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

(Shri Kalraj Mishra in the Chair)

**ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. -26, Hon. Minister.

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI P.
P. CHAUDHARY):** Hon. Chairman Sir, on behalf of Shri Ravi
Shankar Prasad, I beg to move:*

“That the Bill further to amend the Arbitration and
Conciliation Act, 1996, be taken into
consideration” ... (Interruptions)

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, I had raised an issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, speak on the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would urge respected Kharge Ji that the discussion on the Bill has begun. Please take your seat. I will allow it when there is a proper opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now the discussion on the Bill has begun, I have called the Minister to speak. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, what is going on? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kharge Ji, the discussion on the Bill has started, you please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kharge Ji, you are one of the very senior Members. Now, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, there is no question of being new Member and senior Member. Will this House function as per the rules? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please continue.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY: Hon. Chairman Sir, with respect to arbitration in our country and all over the world, I would like to quote the famous words of Mahatma Gandhi. ... *(Interruptions)* This is the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018. I would like to quote the famous saying of Mahatma Gandhi because in our country, deep-rooted in the villages, we have seen that issues are being settled by arbitration. I would also like to suggest to Shri Mallikarjun Kharge that if any issue is there, we could settle them outside Parliament also since we are talking about arbitration. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to quote the words of Mahatma Gandhi. he said:” Differences we shall always have but we must settle them all whether religious or other, by arbitration.” At the same time, Lord Denning, who was a famous jurist and judge, said

and I quote: 'In a way, arbitration is one of the most important spheres of activity in the system of administration of justice'. Likewise, in our country also, it is the policy of the Government that we always encourage resolution of disputes through arbitration; and alternative dispute resolution is one of the mechanisms whereby we can resolve disputes.

Due to globalisation, industrialisation, and development of economies all over the world, commercial disputes have increased manifold.

An imbalance has been created. On the one hand, a large number of disputes have been created and on the other, so far as the resolution of a dispute is concerned, that is outpaced. Hence, this Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill will prove a milestone for resolution of the dispute between the parties.

I would also like to make it clear that a large number, around 30 million, of cases are pending in our country. With a view to unclog the pendency of the disputes, ADR mechanism has been created. Earlier, in the year 2015 we had amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. By way of an amendment of the Act in 2015, it has been made user-friendly, cost effective and the cases are being decided expeditiously.

At the time of working of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended in 2015, we had seen the practical difficulties with respect to the working of this Act. So, a High Level Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice B. N. Srikrishna, Supreme Court judge, to identify the roadblocks and find ways to remove them so as to make it more effective and also provide a mechanism of institutional arbitration. In our country we do not have the mechanism of institutional arbitration. Therefore, a robust Centre for Institutional Arbitration was created.

It may be a domestic arbitration or an international arbitration, we have seen that a large number of cases are being conducted outside the country. Whenever any arbitration issue is involved, the seat of arbitration is either in London, Singapore or Paris. We also have cases where the Government is involved in bilateral issues, issues like the bilateral treaty being signed with other countries. Those issues are also referred and decided by the arbitrators situated either here on in London or Paris.

Under the able leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, it was visualised that India should also have a seat of arbitration. We must also have an institutional

arbitration. Therefore, for creating institutional arbitration, certain recommendations were made by the High Level Committee. Those recommendations were with respect to establishment of an independent body. Earlier, only the Arbitration Act was there and nowhere the institutional arbitration mechanism was provided. Although the Act came into force in 1996, no such body was created thereafter. Therefore, an independent body was required to be created for grading the arbitration and for accreditation of the arbitrator as also to minimise the need to approach the Courts. Once it is done, most of the cases will be settled outside the Court.

We have seen that the developed countries' jurisdictions, like in America, UK and France, have the Alternate Dispute Resolution system outside the Court and maximum cases, around 75 per cent cases, are disposed of outside the courts. Courts are not being burdened with so many cases. India wants to create this mechanism so that not only the domestic issues but also the international arbitration issues could be settled in our country.

Taking into consideration the recommendations of the High Level Committee, constituted under Justice B. N. Srikrishna, certain recommendations were made with respect to the

appointment of the arbitrators by the arbitration institution. Earlier, in case of dispute between the parties over the appointment of an arbitrator, we used to approach the High Court. The application used to be filed in the High Court and if any order is passed by the High Court, the aggrieved person can then first approach the Division Bench and then the Supreme Court.

It takes a lot of time for the appointment of an arbitrator. Therefore, to curtail that time and to impart justice and redressal of the grievances of the aggrieved party, this mechanism has been created. Hence, arbitral institution has been created. Those arbitral institutions will not only be graded by the Council, but also by the hon. Supreme Court and the hon. High Court. If that particular institution is dealing with the cases with respect to the international arbitration, then those will be graded by the hon. Supreme Court. If those cases are within the jurisdiction of that particular hon. High Court, then that will be graded by the respective hon. High Courts. In case there is no creation of the arbitral institution or there is no appointment of the arbitrator, then the respective Chief Justices of the hon. Supreme Court and the hon. High Courts will take this into consideration. In case, there is no decision taken by the

Council with respect to the gradation of the arbitral institution, then, as I have said, the Chief Justice of the hon. High Court shall maintain the panel of arbitrators. Those will function and will perform the duties of the arbitral institutions.

Sir, I would also like to make it clear that Part 1 (a) is a newly inserted provision under 'The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended by this Bill of 2018, for the establishment and incorporation of completely an independent body that has nothing to do with the Government. So, this body, that is, the Arbitration Council of India, has been created for the first time.

We want to make India as a hub of arbitration. The Council will be there for grading arbitral institutions and at the same time, it will provide accreditation to the arbitrators. Basically, *inter-alia*, the Arbitration Council of India will perform two functions: (a) grading arbitral institutions; and (b) accreditation of arbitrators. It will also provide certain norms. We are also authorising the Arbitration Council of India to provide the norms. Earlier, there was no institution to promote and encourage arbitration.

Now, we are creating the Arbitration Council of India to promote and encourage arbitration and also at the same time,

we are creating it for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. Apart from this, the Arbitration Council of India shall also evolve policy. The policy decision is required to be taken by that institution. We are also delegating that power to them. There are also guidelines as to how it will function and how it will discharge its duties for the establishment, operation and maintenance of uniform professional standards. There will be so many arbitrators. Earlier, there was no educational qualification or experience. Now, it is being formalised. They will lay down the guidelines as to what type of standard is required for the arbitrator and as to what type of standard is required for the professional. Therefore, by creating this mechanism, we want to make India a hub of international arbitration.

Now, I come to the Statements of Claim and Defence. We have seen that a lot of time is wasted in the court. Earlier also, in the arbitration proceedings, a lot of time is wasted, due to so many adjournments. Basically, that was a roadblock in the ease of doing business for our country. We have also established commercial courts and those commercial courts are resolving the disputes. Besides arbitration, Insolvency and Bankruptcy

Code and all these things have created an eco-system in our country. This is the reason that we have made a jump in the rank in the World Bank's ease of doing business from 136th rank to 103rd rank. There is an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code apart from the commercial courts. We have recently passed the Commercial Court Act, wherein the threshold limit has been reduced from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 lakh. In theory, we have performed well. But, in practice, we are awaiting the ranking from the World Bank and very soon, we will be graded well in ease of doing business because we are performing as per the guidelines, directions and vision of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

The statement of claim before the court is a very important aspect of the issue. Whenever we are filing any statement of claim before the arbitrator, then there is no time-limit fixed for filing the defence. So, for the first time, by bringing this amendment Bill of 2018, the statement of claim has to be filed immediately and defence has to be filed within six months, with effect from the date the arbitrator has received the notice of appointment.

Once the Arbitrator receives the notice of affirmation, within a period of six months, statement of claim by the petitioner

stating what his claim is, what his demand is, what his grievances are, what redressal he is claiming before the Arbitrator are to be presented. The defence is also required to be presented within a period of six months. We want that the justice delivery system should be fast and immediate so that justice could be imparted. Today, the foreign direct investors are there and they are also seeing what type of action is being taken by India. It will prove to be a milestone for our country.

As regards working, we have also created a mechanism for that. Earlier, the confidentiality was not there. We have introduced a provision in this amendment Bill for maintaining confidentiality. Earlier, the information used to be leaked and nobody was trusting our justice delivery system. That is why, we have provided a mechanism for maintaining confidentiality with respect to the working of arbitral institution completely. The confidentiality will be maintained with respect to the information furnished, Arbitrator, arbitral institution and the parties. So all the three – Arbitrator, arbitral institution and the parties are required to maintain the confidentiality.

Apart from this, protection has also been given to the Arbiter. An act or an omission of the Arbiter cannot be

questioned or challenged. So, protection has also been given not only to the Arbiter but also to the arbitral institution.

As regards applicability, a clarification was required under Section 26 of the Act of 2015 as to when it will be applicable. Clarifications were sought as to when it will be applicable, from what date, etc. So some confusion was there. Therefore, we have issued a clarification. An amendment to this effect is also there.

It will be applicable only to the arbitral proceedings which had commenced on or after 23rd October, 2015. At the time of enacting the Act of 2015, we had made it clear.

So, these are my preliminary views. I would request the hon. Members that it may kindly be considered and may also be passed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR (GURDASPUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

I would really love to call it the most important Bill for which we are taking the time of the House. Somehow the Government in its wisdom has decided to grant priority to a Bill on arbitration rather than talk about the plight of the farmers and the so called achievement of increase in MSP. These issues have been relegated to the side lines and here we are talking about the arbitration.

I was listening to the hon. Minister talking about the institutions being formed to create the arbitration panels. In the end, he mentioned that from 23rd October, 2015, onwards all the cases can be referred to the Arbiter under this law.

Sir, I have no hesitation in acknowledging that I have come here to discuss the plight of the farmers. But it seems we are going on a different track. The hon. Minister has mentioned the cut of date from which the arbitration proceedings will be subjected to this law. Today, the most important issue which is troubling the minds of this nation and I hope which is also disturbing the minds of the Members of this House is

concerning a deal which will definitely end up in an international arbitration court.

I do not know whether it was through a design or a matter of co-incidence that the government has decided to institute an international arbitration seat, rather than going to London, Paris or Hart. Could it be speck in the beard of a thief because the government is fearful that the Rafale deal will end up in one of these arbitration panels? It is because this deal itself smacks of total arbitrariness having sacrificed not only the national interest but, I believe, this deal also has sacrificed national security at the altar of appeasing certain businessmen. I do not see any reason why this deal will not end up in an arbitration panel and I do not know whether Dassault Aeronautics has opted for any arbitrations to be taken up in Paris itself. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify, at the time of passing the Bill, whether the Rafale deal will be arbitrated in a court in India or it will go to Hart or Paris.

Sir, through you, hon. Chairperson, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that a deal of the magnitude of something like Rs. 63,000 crore was summarily dismissed by our hon. Prime Minister on 10th of April, 2015. A deal about which even the then Foreign Secretary, Dr. S. Jayshankar was

not aware and two days prior to the Prime Minister's visit said that everything was on track and that India would be signing that agreement. A deal for procuring 126 Rafale aircraft was summarily dismissed by the hon. Prime Minister and a decision was taken to buy 36 Rafale aircraft in fly-away conditions at the cost of 126 aircraft. 126 aircraft would have cost the same amount. This will end up in arbitration. ... (Interruptions) Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, this will end in arbitration because how can the price of 36 aircraft be equal to 126 aircraft?

The biggest lacunae or the biggest sore point in this that rankles the mind of this nation is that the company did not exist 12 days before the visit of hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister visited Paris on 10th of April, 2015. On 25th of March a dummy Defence Company was formed in Bombay Stock Exchange. On March 28, three days after... * registered his company... * woke up ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please speak only on the Bill.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No name will go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: I will withdraw the name of the businessmen ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Sir, I think that the Congress leaders have not come prepared. They are unable to speak on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: This will be the biggest arbitration case after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. ...*(Interruptions)* The biggest arbitration case after Bhopal Gas Tragedy in our country will be the Rafale deal because a company that did not exist 12 days before a deal was signed and instead on 28th March a businessman friend of our... * This is an Arbitration Bill.

* Not recorded.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: It is unfortunate that the hon. Member is not speaking on the Arbitration Bill. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Sir, either the hon. Minister gets up and says that this issue will be looked into by JPC, otherwise this Bill will end up in an arbitration court ...
(Interruptions) It is because M/s Reliance Aeronautics did not exist 12 days before the deal was signed. This is the point.

Another issue which might come under the purview of the Bill is, how come the Foreign Secretary of our country did not know that a deal of this quantum is being signed but the company which got itself registered. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a very serious allegation that I am making. ... *(Interruptions)*
[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is better if you speak on arbitration only. You have made your point.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Hon. Chairperson, a company is formed 12 days before. How did the company find out? *[English]* See, the official secrecy act was breached. Nobody, not even the foreign secretary, knew about this deal, but a businessman sitting in Mumbai goes to the registrar of

companies and gets a company registered to make these aircraft. Is it not a breach of the Official Secrets Act? I think the company and the people who have breached this. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: I can only laugh at this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: There is nothing to laugh about it. This is a matter of national security. *[Translation]*

This is like a guilty conscience needs no accuser.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your point is recorded.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Sir, the Government has decided to bring home the arbitration so that the Government of the day is not exposed in a Court of Arbitration at Hague.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018. I rise to speak in favour of this Bill. This Bill was brought in the year 2015 by the Hon. Minister. Again, today it has been brought before the House for some

amendments. The Indian economy is now being recognised at the global level and this Bill will prove helpful in establishing the working system in an even simpler way. Today it is a matter of pride for every person in the country. If we talk about the Sensex, it is above 37000. This in itself is a great example to establish the scale at which the Indian economy is operating in this country. The economy of many developed countries of the world is faltering, while India's economy is growing at 7.5 per cent. We are not citing this report on the basis of allegations and counter-allegations at the party level. The meeting of industrialists from 43 countries of the world was held. Based on that meeting, the Washington Post has prominently published in its newspaper that the Indian economy is operating on the basis of the Ease of Doing Business. We have no hesitation in saying that in the coming 20 years India will lead the whole world on an economic front as a strong economy. If it comes to a particular economy, its ease and its operation. ...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Under which rule? You tell me the rule.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI: The Congress party has fostered big industrialists. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson Sir, today I would like to say with great sincerity that though I wanted to speak on the subject but the system regarding which our hon. Members of Congress are talking about, I would like to say that the work of fostering the industrialists has been done by the people of Congress till four years ago. Whatever scams happened in this country through those industrialists, the entire responsibility lies with the Congress. I did not want to speak on a political issue, but the hon. Member has forced me to say that the industrialists who are being talked about to be involved in it today – should we expel all those industrialists out of the country in one day? In the last four years, the base of our country's economy has strengthened globally; have these people done that through those industrialists?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today our Government is preparing the foundation of dialogue and discussion through ECGC. We will also talk and discuss with them and also do mediation in it.

Based on that medium, today technology institutes all over the world are committed to investing in India. We know that which party was in power for the last 55 years, and who gave the chance to the institutions and industrialists to establish the monopoly that these people are talking about today? Being the largest economy, there have been a number of industrialists in this country, but they were given the opportunity to establish monopoly on the yarn. There are many such sectors, but I don't want to discuss those here. Our Government has identified 67 industrialists. This list includes many industrialists of their government's tenure, due to which there is a requirement for mediation today. How to strengthen India's economy today? How can the companies of the country be strong and foreign companies contribute to the economy of India so that employment can be generated, which is the promise of our Government? Our Government is not only working on making the youth of the country servants, but to make them masters, our Government has brought such Bills in the House. This will generate jobs and boost the economy. Through this, 67 people have been identified who were from the tenure of the Congress government. They had taken the hard-earned money of the people of this country in the name of setting up industries but

took that money out of this country. They shouldn't they have discussed it at that time? Who gave those industrialists the opportunity to flee? Industries were set up through those industrialists and middlemen. But the whole country knows who is indirectly involved in those industries.

Hon. Members were discussing here. All their leaders are either in jail or making noise by rushing to the Well of the House. Our Government is committed to lead the world on economic fronts by setting new records every day through such Bills. It is the gift of our Government. The Government which once promised that India is the country of the economy of such people, where Kautilya used to contribute. By accepting Kautilya's principles of the economics, Germany has established itself on strong economic footing by merging West Germany and East Germany. Economics was born in this country. The Bill, which has been brought today is the outcome of tireless hard work of our Hon. Prime Minister and of hon. Ministers under his leadership. It has fixed a six-month period for arbitration. There were many such cases which were causing troubles to the investors. Our Government has made it time bound, whether it is on the basis of arbitration or on the basis of conciliation. This will provide them with robust

mechanisms and justice to set up technology. About 67 such people who are being talked about have been identified, and their NPA money had to be deposited in the banks by selling their land. This is our government's job. The slogan of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas* is not only for speeches as our Government has made every effort to make it a ground reality. The economy that we talk about and Kautilya about whom I mentioned, our country was the centre of collective trade during that period. But all the Governments which have been in power for the last 45 years, what did they do in Uttar Pradesh in the name of ECGC? I come from Uttar Pradesh, and Hon. Chairperson Sir, you also know every block of Uttar Pradesh very well. Kanpur was known all over the world as an industrial hub and the whole country wants to know as to who forced the closure of all the factories there. The arbitration of these people was organised through ECGC and on the basis of that arbitration, the money used to go elsewhere.

Our Government has brought the Arbitration Bill for ensuring transparent and time bound decisions, in which it is not possible that any legal expert will suddenly mediate by becoming the arbitrator. It has been made mandatory for the legal expert to have a minimum practice of at least four years

for becoming an arbitrator. In that also, on the basis of the profit and loss, whatever companies or parties will be there in it, on the basis of that arbitration, we will also give them the opportunity to stand on its feet once again within six months after compromising or reaching an agreement. This legislation is going to be helpful in resolving all these problems that our Hon. Minister has put here today. Our Government is setting new records day by day in the entire country working on the principle of *Sabka Saath aur Sabka Vikas*. In that new record, I also support this Bill which has been brought into the House today in a transparent manner. I support it on the basis of fact that in views of the economic policies of our government today, the countries of the world are forced to see how to change their economies. There can be no other example of things which are forming the basis of such Bills. Anyone can say anything to make political allegations. Even when it comes to political allegations regarding all the scams or whatever scams committed or the bigger scams in the economy, the whole country knows it as to under whose government all these scams were committed. When the people of the whole country were suffering due to scams, they thought that when the government of Bharatiya Janata Party would be formed, and there is our

Prime Minister, respected Narendra Modi Ji, who said from the beginning that he would neither involve in any act of corruption nor let others do so. Today, some people are in pain today as they are not able to indulge in corrupt practices. That is why they are making political allegations on such strong Bills these days. But as far as I know, and on the basis of this Bill, I can say that our Prime Minister has not only given the slogan of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, but is also working to make it a ground reality. I honestly say that there were companies which were wondering whether Indian economy is really going to emerge as such a strong economy. But they have got the confidence in the economy today. The farmers have been talked about, and during the last Session that has just taken place, our Hon. Members talked about the farmers because I also come from a farmer family and many respected Members of this House come from farmer families. For the first time, a strong pillar has been created for the farmers of India, in which data ranging from about 88 per cent to 89 per cent is established only for the farmers if the entire schemes of all the departments are put together. Whether it is hatchery, Tigri, Gutri, Kisan Sampada, Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana, Crop Insurance Scheme, or Maximum Support Price, in such a short time,

industrial investment will also be made in it. In that too, many machinery companies related to the farmers are ready to come and set up their projects here. When we give them a strong system that, if you suffer any loss and benefit, then you will not have to go to the courts. Our government is bringing such a Bill in which we will also fully support you through arbitration. So, I support this Bill. Hon. Chairperson Sir, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my gratitude to my beloved leader *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* before I speak on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018. This Bill seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.

The Bill seeks to establish an independent body called the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) for the promotion of arbitration, mediation, conciliation and other alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. There are several thousands of dispute cases pending before various courts which need an alternative redressal through arbitration.

Framing policies for grading arbitral institutions and accrediting arbitrators, making policies for the establishment, operation and maintenance of uniform professional standards for all alternate dispute redressal matters and maintaining a depository of arbitral awards made in India and abroad are the main functions of the ACI.

The ACI will consist of a Chairperson who is either a Judge of the Supreme Court; or a Judge of a High Court; or Chief Justice of a High Court; or an eminent person with expert knowledge in conduct of arbitration. Other members will include an eminent arbitration practitioner, an academician with experience in arbitration and Government appointees. The State Governments should be consulted before appointing members to the ACI and it would have been a good idea to include prominent persons in the society like the Ex. MPs in the ACI.

Under the 1996 Act, parties were free to appoint arbitrators. Under the Bill, the Supreme Court and High Courts may now designate arbitral institutions, which parties can approach for the appointment of arbitrators.

For international commercial arbitration, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the Supreme Court. Care should be taken to avoid the role of any favouritism or bias while doing this.

For domestic arbitration, appointments will be made by the institution designated by the High Court concerned. This institution should maintain an impeccable record.

In case there are no arbitral institutions available, the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned may maintain a panel of arbitrators to perform the functions of the arbitral institutions. An application for appointment of an arbitrator is required to be disposed of within 30 days. This is a welcome provision and will avoid any deliberate delay in the appointment of arbitrator.

Under the 1996 Act, arbitral tribunals are required to make their award within a period of 12 months for all arbitration proceedings. The Bill proposed to remove this time restriction for international commercial arbitrations. But it is desirable that the international commercial arbitrations should be completed in shortest time limits.

Currently, there is no time limit to file written submissions before an arbitral tribunal. The Bill requires that the written claim should be completed within six months of the appointment of the arbitrators. This is a welcome provision.

The Bill also provides that all details of arbitration proceedings will be kept confidential except for the details of the arbitral award in certain circumstances. Disclosure of the arbitral award will only be made where it is necessary for implementing or enforcing the award. The Bill clarifies that the

2015 Act shall only apply to arbitral proceedings which started on or after October 23, 2015.

Every day, there are countless agreements entered into online for sale of goods and services. When problems arise out of this e-commerce transaction, parties can be located all over the country making it difficult to resolve the dispute in one physical location. The Government must enable simple provisions that the parties need to resolve the disputes in a way that is as easy and quick as the original online purchase. This is very important.

I belong to Ramanathapuram. Suppose, I purchase an item in Ramanathapuram and the seller is in New Delhi. If there is any dispute, how can I resolve it? It is very difficult. So, this should be simplified. Such type of provision should be included in this Bill.

Therefore, I request the Government to make provisions for a simple, fast and affordable online dispute resolution.

Thank you, Sir.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): *Namaskar*, Sir. I am very happy to speak on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 which is being taken up at this late hour. But, I may mention that I have never seen such an air of uncertainty in the functioning of the Lok Sabha. In the morning, we were told that the National Song would be played around 12 o'clock or 12. 15 p. m. Then, when I came here, they said that there would be as many Zero Hour matters as possible, and then there would be a lunch break for one hour. Then, up to 3. 30 p. m, we would have a debate on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill. By that time, news would have come from Rajya Sabha whether the Triple Talaq Bill has been passed or not.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, there is a time limit; it would be good if you speak on the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, you are a senior Member; you held the portfolio of a minister also. Please listen to me; I am coming to the Bill. Just now I came to know that that Bill has not been passed in the Rajya Sabha, so the talk of extension was over now. If the Government has to pass something, why is the

urgency not being shown? That's what I have to say to the Government. They keep a number of Members in the suspense. The Lok Sabha represents the public. All these should not remain in suspense. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, please speak on the Bill and take care of the time limit.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I will take full care of the time limit. Sunil Jakhar Sahab has expressed his views here. Balram Jakhar Ji, his father, was the Hon. Speaker here. Sunil Jakhar Ji said that a discussion is taking place about Rafale in which it is being stated that the Government of India has suffered the loss. A private company has made a lot of profit. I say that the Ruling Party has full majority, so why should they not say that they are ready for any inquiry, even if it is JPC. They have raised this issue; we have not raised it. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, this is a matter to be decided separately. But it will be better if you express your views on the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I am coming to the topic. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, please sit down; Hon. Minister is saying something.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

Hon. Chairperson Sir, Saugata Roy Sahab is a very senior parliamentarian; we all respect him. If the discussion is taking place on arbitration, then he should talk about it. I don't know what is being said. ... *(Interruptions)* A lot of things about rafale and others are being said. ... *(Interruptions)* How are all these things related to arbitration? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, please speak on the subject. Nothing will go on record except what is being said on the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, with your permission, I am speaking on this subject. This Arbitration and Conciliation Act has been discussed before as well. First, it happened in 1996,

then in 2015, [*English*] this Government brought the arbitration and conciliation (amendment) act to make arbitration process cost effective and speedy with minimum court intervention and to maintain the credibility of arbitrators.

Why do people go for arbitration? You know, if a contractor does work for the Government, he has a big bill. The Government does not accept it. If it goes to court, it will take 15 years. So, they settle for arbitration in the hope that it will be settled within three-four years. So, arbitration is to short-circuit it. The dispute resolution in case of commercial transaction or contract negotiation is very common in the case of civil contracts. You will know that in civil contracts, a lot of arbitration is there with the Railways, with the NBCC. So, arbitration is very essential. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, our Minister, wants to make India a robust centre for international arbitration, both domestic and international. Therefore, he appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Srikrishna. He had earlier investigated Mumbai riots.

He is a lucky judge who always gets this Commission. The ten Member Committee included Justice RV Ravindran, Retd. Supreme Court Judge, Shri KK Venugopal, Attorney General, Shri Arghya Sengupta, Research Director of Vidhi Research

Institute. The ten Member Committee then made their recommendations. Some of the recommendations have been accepted by the Government and they have been incorporated in this Bill. The main recommendation was this. The Government is setting up regularly new bodies and is appointing some of their own people. We had earlier Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. Similarly, an Arbitration Council of India is being set up for the purpose of grading of arbitral institutions and accreditation of arbitrators.

[Translation]

A new body is being formed to control arbitrators, as the Government has set up various bodies and regulators. This new regulator has been appointed by the Government. I do not know whether this regulator will improve the situation or not.

[English] This Bill also tries to shorten the period of arbitration. The Bill proposes to change that to one year after the pleadings are closed. Also, that would apply only to domestic and not to international arbitration reversing a 2000 amendment that sought to fast track arbitration. Other changes include providing immunity to an arbitrator except in acts of bad faith, incorporating model rules of procedure and ensuring confidentiality of proceedings. So, this ambition of the Law

Minister to make India an arbitration hub is not unfounded and it is being done with good intentions. It is because these days people are having businesses all over the world. A company like McDermott may dig for a well here. A company like Schlumberger from America may dig for coal bed methane.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, conclude now.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I am just concluding. In the end, I want to say the most important thing, perhaps the Minister will reply to it. *[English]* Arbitration has become the biggest scam today. Lawyer arbitrators are becoming more corrupt. The problem is that the arbitrators are not public servants. They are all retired judges. So, they are not covered by the rules governing a public servant. Very often, they are teaming up with a contending party. I want the Law Minister to hear me. Mr. Minister, I seek your indulgence that please put a cap on how many arbitrations one arbitrator can do because they are taking five to ten arbitrations and they are not giving time.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Saugata Roy Ji, okay. You have expressed your views. Now, please conclude.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: In arbitration, the disputes should be resolved in one or two years, but it is taking five years. I have expressed my views. *[English]* Shri Chaudhary, said that 30 million cases are pending in India. How many arbitration cases are pending and for how long? I want exact number. I want that there should be rules for arbitrators.

With this, I end my speech.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Thank you Sir for giving me an opportunity. *[Translation]*

Sir, whatever I wanted to say, all those things have been said by Prof. Saugata Roy. *[English]*

I fully endorse what all he spoke. I do not know whether I am allowed to take the names of the companies here as per the procedure of the Parliament.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is better if you do not take names.

[English]

DR. RAVINDRA BABU: When we speak of arbitration, we automatically understand that it refers to disputes and related litigations. This is what we understand by arbitration. In order to minimise the litigation or to mitigate the litigation, we will go for arbitration. This is what we understand.

15 00 hrs

Arbitration is a word which is usually written as a part of the MoU. It will be written in anybody's MoU. So far in India there is a legal status for arbitration as per the Act. We are going to give more teeth to it so that it becomes more independent in status. This is what the intention of the Government is. I do not

know whether the name has to be taken or not. For example, the Swiper Company is there. It has been awarded a contract by the ONGC for undertaking drilling operations. Both the ONGC and the Swiper Company have agreed to have an arbitration, in case of any dispute between these two. They have gone to the arbitrator. The arbitrator has given arbitration order but against that arbitration order, the ONGC being a Government organisation, has gone in appeal to the High Court. Therefore, the arbitration order is being ignored by the Government itself. It is not the private party which is going for arbitration and then afterwards to the courts. It is the Government which is going to the court.

So, I would like to ask this question to the hon. Minister. What is the inbuilt mechanism in order to prevent the parties from going beyond arbitration? It is because, you are going to give independent legal status for the arbitration. You should give independent legal status for the arbitration. Then only, we will not be enthused to go beyond the arbitration. Otherwise, this arbitration will continue to go on. Lakhs and crores of rupees are locked up. I would also like to know this from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir. What is the money locked up

in post-arbitration awards? So many arbitration awards were given by the arbitrators.

There is another system, 'independent external monitoring system' to resolve the disputes. After this also, in India most of the times, the major litigant, the major appellant is the Government only. Therefore, I earnestly appeal to the Government to honour the arbitration awards, though I welcome this Bill in order to strengthen the Arbitration Act. Our over-enthusiastic hon. Minister is trying to make India both a domestic and an international arbitration centre. This is really an over-enthusiastic attempt. I do not know as to how many foreign institutions will believe in this type of arbitration institutions because our experience in India, as far as arbitration is concerned, is very bitter, to say the least.

So many companies have gone to arbitration and so many companies are disappointed. So many companies have gone back also. We have to give a serious thinking to arbitration awards because this is the one which affects the morale of foreign companies. Whenever they come to India, they will see as to which laws have been made to resolve the disputes, especially, arbitration laws. When the arbitration law is weak, the doing of business, ease of doing business will also get

affected, especially, the oil and gas companies get affected. We import 80 per cent of the gas requirement of the country or the crude requirement of the country, and 20 per cent is produced.

But in case of 20 per cent production also, our Prime Minister Saheb said in 2014 that we have to substitute the import every year by five per cent. That means, we have to increase the production and exploration. But because of this arbitration, because of the legal litigations engulfing the upstream companies like ONGC, Oil India Limited and other companies, we are caught in the legal wrangles and we are not able to resolve those disputes. I do not know what the hon. Minister is going to suggest to give teeth so that nobody should prefer appealing, after arbitration. The arbitration should be binding on those parties. The financial implications of arbitration should also be thought of.

On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, we welcome this Bill. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Sir, I welcome the Bill with the heart and soul together.

But considering the number of cases pending in the courts for arbitration, number of cases pending in the High Courts and in the Supreme Court, as rightly Dr. Ravindra Babu has given some examples because we are in the same Committee and we are observing it, what I feel, particularly about the 2-3 clauses where the arbitrator is to be appointed within 30 days, is that they are good clauses. It is because that also takes a lot of time. But after arbitration, the decision has to be given within six months. The decision will be given about the arbitration within six months and if that decision is not implemented-- it is written like this—"to provide that the arbitrator, the arbitral institutions and the parties shall maintain confidentiality of information relating to arbitral proceedings and also protect the arbitrator or arbitrators from any suit or other legal proceedings for any action or omission done in good faith in the course of arbitration proceedings."

Sir, this is the only clause which I feel will hamper it because there is no provision in the law if an arbitrator commits a mistake. Corrupt practices can get anything done in the world. Suppose, an arbitrator himself becomes hostile and gets tilted

towards one side, in that case justice will not be delivered and they will again go to the higher courts. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into the clause, which is at page no. 10, where he earlier mentioned:

“to amend section 23 of the Act relating to
“Statement of claim and defence so as to provide that
the statement of claim and defence shall be
completed within a period of six months from the
date the arbitrator receives the notice of
appointment.”

It is a good thing and we welcome it. But the very next clause of the Act says:

“...and also protect the arbitrator or arbitrators from
any suit or other legal proceedings for any action or
omission done in good faith in the course of
arbitration proceedings.”

The question is, how to decide the term ‘good faith’. I may feel that he is not delivering justice to me and I have no faith in him. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten

me on this aspect. He is the most versatile personality in judiciary. I also know that he is an expert lawyer.

Sir, this is really a good Bill, which we believe will deliver results. The number of cases will also reduce as the time period has been prescribed in the law.

With these words, I welcome the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

Sir, we are amending the main Act, that is, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The intention of the Government for bringing in this Bill is very much mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I have gone through the Statement.

15 07 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

As mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Government had earlier constituted a High-Level Committee under the chairmanship of Shri B. N. Srikrishna, the former Judge of the Supreme Court along with some other members. They have submitted a detailed report and suggested for amending the main Act, that is, the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

In this Bill, they have brought in an institution, that is, the Arbitration Council of India. The aim of this Council is also mentioned in this Bill. I think the intention of constituting such a Council is very much required and is the need of the hour.

Madam, India is a developing country and a growing economy. We have to learn lessons only through experience. So, the main Act might have faced some problems, which have been studied by this Committee. I welcome all the necessary amendments through this Bill for resolving a number of disputes which are pending in this country.

Madam, it has been found in many reports that the grievance of many national as well as international companies is about the dispute resolution system in our country. They feel that our civil courts, High Courts and even the arbitration councils take a lot of time in resolving issues. So, let us hope that by amending the main Act the disputes will be resolved at the earliest and, in the event, we face some other problems, we can once again come to the Parliament. I welcome the hon. Minister for moving this Bill.

Thank you.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Madam, first of all, I welcome the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 because the Minister has already promised, and that is the stated objective, to strengthen and institutionalise the matter. Always as a parliamentarian, we ask for institution building. Instead of going into it on case-to-case basis, it is better that Arbitration Council will be there and arbitrators will also be appointed.

Since a high-level committee headed by Justice Srikrishna was there, I do not cast any aspersion, and it should not be. Based on the Terms of Reference, the recommendations came. *[Translation]* I have complaints against our own people. *[English]* First, this is technical in nature, and hardly we are involved in this matter on a day-to-day basis. That is why the Standing Committee was conceived. Now, it is introduced and being passed. We are building an institution. That is why an amendment came in 2015, and now in 2018, we are amending the Act. It should have been referred to the Standing Committee. The Heaven would not have fallen. *[Translation]* I can also say anything; you have straight away objected that there should not be any kind of delay, and it should be cost effective. *[English]* I buy your argument. It is correct that India

can become a hub for international arbitration. *[Translation]* This is genetic in our civilisation. Whether it is philosophy or religion, Purva Mimamsa or Uttar Mimamsa, we argue, and as an Argumentative Indian, logic is within us. We have to create infrastructure. We have to build institutions. I agree with that and absolutely support it, but it is stated as to who can be councils in the eight-schedule: chartered accountants, advocates, and even officers of the manager level; the Government should have also involved the cost accountant. Most arbitration is post -facto. When there are commercial deals or deals in construction, it is contractual, and then the cost account has to show as to how much claim is being made, but it has been omitted. *[English]* Section 43(G) mentions the general norms applicable to arbitrators. In sub-section (ii), you are saying that the arbitrator must be impartial and neutral and avoid entering into any financial business. Why should there be 'avoid'? There should be 'should not' if 'must not' is not there. *[Translation]* Since one who is sitting in arbitration, justice demands that we will not go into any transaction with him. The arbitrator should not be involved in any legal proceedings. When the financial transaction takes place in such a commercial transaction, he should not be involved in financial

business. It should be strengthened. The Government has stated in Clause three that they will review the functioning from time to time. A timeframe of three years should be given. When the terminology of the council is three years, the specific time for the review should be two years, three years or six months. Nothing happens due to the timeframe; it should be brought under restriction; it will be brought in the rule that one will have to review within such number of days. The Government is setting up arbitration. Reviewing the functioning is very important.

Madam, I am speaking on this Bill itself. Adjudication, *[English]* justice is a very complex concept. *[Translation]* The cases remain pending in the court for years. The Government is setting up arbitration separately so that the cases do not get stuck in the court; the disputes are resolved immediately and quickly, but India can be International and Domestic Arbitration Hub only when it is made cost-effective; restrictions have to be incorporated into the rules regarding fees. The legal system costs so much that people cannot go for justice, so there will be no level playing for such big companies and multinational companies, who are local players, therefore the Government will have to keep the fees low from the

beginning according to the whole world because both money and time are sensitive matters.

Sir, I request that such Bills which are of technical in nature and whose impact in long lasting, it would have been better if such Bills go through the Standing Committee.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2018. I would like to thank Hon. Minister for this and congratulate Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji for this. After the formation of the Government, the Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee was constituted in the year 2015, and it submitted the report in the year 2017. The Government have brought this Bill accepting its suggestions.

Hon. Madam Speaker, earlier there used to be an arbitrator in the house, there used to be an arbitrator in the family, it used to be in the society, and it used to be in the village. After 70 years of independence, the influence of money increased and humanity decreased, and all these disputes started rising steeply. Now no one goes to the court to seek justice but to do injustice. We hear about many such incidents. The person who is on the side of the truth knows that if he goes to the court for justice, the case will be dragged for 15-20 years, so the number of wrongdoers has increased in the court.

I request the Law Minister that if he just stands up and appeals to the countrymen, then many people will come forward for settlement. I would like to give an example of this

in Mumbai. Justice Kathawala *Ji* started work in the morning, sat till 3 O'clock in the night and disposed of more than 130 cases. I would like to request the Law Minister that the judges like Justice Kathawala should be recognised across the country. He should be honoured by the Hon'ble Prime Minister so that other judges also start working in this manner. Justice Kathawala *Ji* called both the parties, listened to them and told them to reconcile; otherwise, I will give the judgement. In this, the most people reconciled, and the judge did not need to give any kind of judgement. When the people go to the court, both the parties know as to how much they are right and how they are wrong, but the mindset of passing the time and perplexing and disturbing the people has developed in the country. We have to get our country out of this mindset. These days, the corporate sector has started harassing the government. In a big contract, if one does not get the contract, he goes to the court and tries to stop the work of the Government.

I believe that the Arbitration Bill is very good; it has a time-bound period to appoint an arbitrator. There is also a system as to in how many days or months the arbitrator has to settle the disputes. Other speakers said that the style and system of the arbitrator are more complex than the judge of the Supreme

Court, so people often feel as to where they get stuck in trouble. We went to the court to seek justice, and we were sent to the arbitrator; they trouble us. They ask all kinds of questions. Thus, this creates many problems in people's minds.

I once again congratulate the Law Minister that a time-bound period has been provided in this Bill. Along with this, conditions and rules have also been imposed on them. The cases in the court have been pending for 15-20 years; I believe these will be resolved with the introduction of this Bill.

In the end, I just want to say that the Senior Member of parliament has just said that India will become a hub of arbitrators in the coming days. I believe that India is becoming the powerful and influential country in the world; India, our own country will be the hub of everything. The identity of our country will be how fast India is progressing and how much India thinks about the common people, and the middle-class families. I believe that there will be a huge revolution through this Bill. The Government should make arrangements to implement it immediately. I conclude with this demand. Thank you.

[English]

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I welcome the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018. I believe that unless we have a quick and efficient Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism in this country, it will not attract investment and the kind of vibrant business atmosphere that we need in this country.

My only concern is that, just like judges are accountable when they sit in a court of law, the judges in the Council should also be accountable. Once the Council is formed, there will definitely be some rules and regulations. In that, there must be strict measures for accountability of the retired judges or whoever sits as the arbitrator. Apart from that, I would request the hon. Minister to take care that arbitration should not be relegated to a process which is the privilege of the rich and the big business houses. So, the cost of arbitration is a big concern in this country. The idea of arbitration is to reduce the burden that is there within the judicial system. If we can find a way to make it more cost effective, I feel it will help the larger sections of people.

Last but not the least, I would request hon. Minister that whenever someone asks for an adjournment under the CPC, the other party asking for the adjournment must pay for the cost of the other side.

This must be encouraged in an arbitration proceeding. If there can be some rule to that effect, I welcome it. It must be inserted in the 1996 Act, if it is amended.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Very good, well done. And if I have made comments, what's wrong with that? I have always appreciated good things. It's not a question of mood.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Hon. Madam Speaker, a brief but meaningful discussion has taken place on this topic and all Members have supported this Bill. I want to summarise this entire Bill. You are right that we want India to become a hub of domestic and international arbitration. Today, the highest investment is taking place in India. India is the world's economic power. We have good judges, good lawyers, and good jurists, so why shouldn't it be?

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the House that nowadays I am fighting another battle. A new type of imperialism is emerging that *[English]* only the British Queen's Counsel are the best barristers and arbitrators. I have no disrespect for them. They are monopolising arbitration in London, Singapore, etc. They may be the good arbitrators, but they are not the best. Let me make it very clear in this House that this Government will not allow a new imperialism to come in the arbitration proceeding globally, which brings in only a particular type of arbitrator to the arbitration. *[Translation]* We want that India emerges as a hub of good arbitrations and good arbitrators come forward.

Hon. Madam Speaker, why did we constitute the Shrikrishna committee? Srikrishna and Rabindran, whom I want to congratulate today, are the top arbitrators of the world. We said that you have carved a niche in the world with your honesty, so you should tell us as to how we can take India forward. They suggested that Institutional arbitration should be strengthened in India, and we should have a body that can provide grading to them. Saugata Babu, if you go through this legislation you will find *[English]* there is a provision for an arbitration council of India. It will be headed by a retired chief

justice of India or a Supreme Court judge. It will have leading arbitrators and also the commercial bodies as its members. They will grade the institutional arbitration.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, when I was drafting this Bill, I asked the Department to find out as to how many arbitration institutions are there in the country. Their number is only 36. It is learnt that institutional arbitrations have not yet been promoted in many states including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and North East. It is in Mumbai; it is in Tamil Nadu; it is in Bengaluru; it is in Gujarat. We said that we will have a blend of both. Institutional arbitration should emerge, and till then, the Chief Justice of the High Court should keep a panel prepared so that he/she can make an appointment. I want to address all the concerns you have raised. *[English]* If you see the section, you will find that this particular body, the arbitration council of India, shall have proper rules. How shall the concerned institution be graded, and what type of norms do they need to follow to make their institutions more confidence-inspiring for the sake of clients?

There will equally be monitoring on the quality and performance of the arbitrators. They must rise to the occasion.

They must perform well, and the most important thing is the training of arbitrators in India that should also be encouraged so that we have a good quality of arbitrators.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, today I want to tell you one thing. I have always been in favour that big public men of the country who retire shouldn't we use their services for arbitration? They have the credibility. I am in the favour that if there is a senior and sincere Member of Parliament and his experience is of fifteen-twenty years, and he is no longer a Member of Parliament now. If he is eminent, why should we not use his services? ... *(Interruptions)* It would be gracious if we take it a little seriously.

Thirdly, Hon. Speaker, there are many retired finance secretaries and banking secretaries of the Government of India – now I am also the Minister of IT – IT professionals are very important because IT disputes should be brought into arbitration.

It is our endeavour that such good people become arbitrators and work in institutional arbitration; that is why we have incorporated this norm that the disputes will have to be disposed within six months.

[English]

You have rightly raised the issue of the accountability of the arbitrator. You are very right about the norms and the regulations that we are going to form. Even otherwise, in the schedule, one must have seen that enough indications have been given that they have to measure up to standards and that they must perform. But what is important is that the further regulations to be framed by the Arbitration Council of India will ensure that the norms and accountability of the arbitrator must be strictly followed.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, it should not be seen in isolation; just two or three days ago, on your instruction, I had moved the Commercial Courts Bill in this House, and the House passed it, in which we are fast-tracking disputes involving up to three lakh rupees. Today we have brought the Arbitration Bill; in addition to this, there is another legislation in the queue, in which we are going to bring the New Delhi Centre of Arbitration. I would like to tell how things have gone. I will tell it very seriously: the Government gave land worth crores of rupees, and in 26 years, 21 arbitrations took place there. You can understand how large the number is. Land worth

crores of rupees, cooperation worth crores of rupees and 21 cases in 26 years; the committees have been formed. We are bringing this Bill to professionalise it.

[English]

The reason as to why we are doing all this is that we want India to become an important hub of domestic and international arbitration, and for that to happen, it is very important that we have a robust mechanism in place, which grades the arbitration; grades the institutions doing arbitration; regulates their performance; and ensures training for them.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, you are also well aware of laws. Whenever I see as Law Minister, I find that there are very good judges in India and we should be very proud of them. There are very good lawyers in India, who work very hard. A new class with dispute resolution capabilities is also emerging in India. We highly expect that we should also promote the arbitration bar for arbitration. That's our expectation.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit to you that we will take all the suggestions made regarding this Bill into

account and when the matter progresses, we will think about it.

Saugata Babu, you have mentioned as to how many cases are pending? *[English]* I will give it to you separately, but what is important is that I would request you to kindly understand that we are taking a giant leap in favour of an institutional arrangement to promote India as a hub of arbitration. I know your background, as you and your family have a strong stake in this whole process of arbitration. Therefore, unless we have a very strong element of institution, of people, of judges, and of regulatory mechanisms, the arbitration engine will not take great speed. But what is more important is that the institutional arbitration becomes the order of the day.

[Translation]

Hon. Madam Speaker, one concern has been expressed. I do not want to criticise anyone. Two judges are sitting, date after date is falling, and top lawyers are fighting the case. I understand your concern; that is why in this law we have taken special care that everything should be in accordance with law and regulation. Its time limit should be fixed, and if an arbitrator tries to escape from that time limit, then there will be accountability for that arbitrator also.

Hon. Madam Speaker, one thing has been said as to why people buy time. This is a serious question of which I do not have answers. Many times, the lawyers made the consensus beforehand that we should buy the time. I also come from the same profession. In this Bill, we have imposed restrictions on unnecessary adjournments. *[English]* One cannot take an unnecessary adjournment because the whole timeframe has been fixed. If an institutional arbitration centre becomes notorious for only long adjournment and delayed disposal of cases, then people will not go to that institution. Therefore, the whole grading of the arbitration institution will also take into account how much time is being spent in the disposal of cases there. Therefore, it is a very robust mechanism.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to request this hon. House that this is a very momentous piece of legislation *(Interruptions)*. What is important is that it is a very momentous piece of legislation. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR JAKHAR: Madam, nobody knows how long. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, I do not think that even you are aware about this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Jakhar sahib, I would like to say one thing very humbly to you today. You have the right to satirize. But it is a historical legislation.

[English]

Madam, we always pass legislations but certain legislations are momentous legislations. This is one of the legislations – it is a defining moment – which will make India a big hub of domestic and international arbitration.

I would commend that the entire House passes this Bill unanimously. I think no one raised any specific objection. I heard all of them. Before I came, even my distinguished MoS gave me inputs. By and large, everyone has supported.

[Translation]

Saugata Babu, I listen to you very carefully. Everyone knows about your experience, intellectuality, versatility and knowledge of parliamentary traditions. I will be very happy, and I am saying this very seriously that taking advantage of his experience, Saugata Babu will also become an arbitrator in an arbitration proceeding sometime in future. We want to change the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Saugata Babu, I have said this very seriously and with full sincerity. When you withdraw

yourself from parliamentary life, I am talking about that time. The way these things are being said is wrong. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Madam Speaker, today I am happy for one more thing. I was relieved that today Salim Babu was also discussing the traditions of India, and he was deliberating. I think that your love for the Indian traditions will create a lot of peace in the country and will also do it in the politics of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: India is nobody's property. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): He is praising you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Bidhuri Ji, what happened to you?

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): It is unfair. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Members of the Communist Party of India are representatives of India.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Madam Speaker, I have known hon. Salim Saheb for a long time. There is no need for any other bridge in the relationship between me and him. What did I say today? I also know his theoretical commitment. I also know his studious temperament. Today, if I mention it in the House, I was saying it with a sense of happiness. There was no question of any comment on his personality.... (*Interruptions*) please calm down.

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: He is a Communist. That is why, he is saying this.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Madam Speaker, I fully follow the traditions of the House. If I am expressing these sentiments while praising him that I liked to hear the praise of Indian traditions from his mouth, then what is the objection? What's wrong in that? And I think that you too are happy with that. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Ravi Shankar Ji, it's okay. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House to pass this Bill.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

As Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Shri N. K. Premachandran are not present to move their amendments, I shall put all the Clauses together to the vote of the House.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: An injustice was done 68 years ago. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Mohammad Salim Ji, we will talk later. Don't speak in the middle of discussion on the Bill. Let the Bill be passed.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Hon. Madam Speaker, I had to speak before lunch; you had also allowed me, but as there was ruckus at that time, so I could not speak. There was an agitation at Jantar Mantar regarding it, so I went there. This is a case from the year 1950. A presidential order led to a serious anonymity and injustice in the year 1950, in which we do not want reservation for anyone in the name of religion but do not want to deprive anyone in the name of religion. Those who are washermen, and the people from weaker sections, are not getting anything by saying that they become religion-based. On that order, the Government is correcting many old traditions which are wrong. I believe that the Government will rectify the 1950 constitutional order.

15 37 hrs

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, the Fifteenth session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 18th July, 2018 is coming to an end today. During this Session, we had 17 sittings spread over 112 hours. During the current session, No-Confidence Motion moved by the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Srinivas Kesineni was discussed for 11 hours and 46 minutes on 20th July, 2018. As many as 51 Members participated in the discussion. The Motion was negatived. During the debate on No-Confidence Motion, a wide range of issues were also discussed, which were vital for the Members and which were earlier sought to be raised through various procedural devices.

During the Session, important Financial, Legislative and other Business were disposed of. The discussion on Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 2018-19 and Demands for Excess Grants (General) 2015-16 lasted for 4 hours and 46 minutes and thereafter, the demands were put to vote and the Appropriation Bills concerned were passed. During the current

Session, 22 Government Bills were introduced. In all, 21 Bills were passed.

Some of the important Bills passed are: The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2017; The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018; The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018; The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018; The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018; The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018; The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Third Amendment) Bill, 2018; The National Sports University Bill, 2018; The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018; and The Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

I am pleased to inform the House that in this Session, we have passed such Social Welfare Legislations in Lok Sabha, which will have far-reaching impact on the well-being of the deprived sections of the society, such as, The Constitution (123rd) Amendment Bill, which has paved the way for conferring constitutional status to the National Backward

Classes Commission. Similarly, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill was also passed.

During the Session, 75 Starred Questions were answered orally. Written replies to the remaining 285 Starred Questions along with 4140 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table. About 534 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and by sitting late in the evening. This is the number of the issues raised during Zero Hour. Besides, hon. Members also raised 326 matters under Rule 377. The Standing Committees also performed well and they presented 62 Reports to the House. The House also held one Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on the flood and drought situation in various parts of the country. The Discussion concluded with the reply by the Minister concerned. As many as 64 statements were made by the Ministers on various important subjects including 3 statements by Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs regarding Government Business. During the Session, as many as 1290 papers were laid on the Table by the Ministers concerned. Under the Private Members' Business, as many as 128 Bills on different subjects were introduced during the session. Motion for consideration

of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 moved by Shri Vincent H. Pala on 5 August, 2016 during the ninth session was taken up for further discussion on 3 August, 2018. However, the discussion could not be concluded that day.

Out of 29 hours available in this Session, the House sat late for 20 hours and 43 minutes to discuss various important issues. I am not mentioning the time we lost due to interruptions.

Hon. Members, I have been time and again emphasizing upon smooth and productive conduct of the proceedings of the House, which is so essential for maintaining the credibility of Parliament. I am very happy to inform that this Session has been more productive and satisfying as compared to earlier productive sessions in the recent past, namely the part II of Budget Session, 2017 (11th session) and Monsoon Session of 2017 (12th session). I am extremely grateful to all the Hon. Members for their excellent cooperation to the presiding officers.

I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Deputy Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their co-operation in the smooth conduct of the House. I also thank hon.

Kalraj Mishra Ji. I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders and Chief Whips of various parties and groups and all the Hon'ble Members for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House.

I also thank the allied agencies for their assistance in the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House.

Hon'ble Members, I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes on the occasion of Independence Day in advance on behalf of the House and myself.

Hon'ble Members, now we all shall stand up for *Vande Martram*.

15 45 hrs

NATIONAL SONG

(National Song was played.)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

15 47 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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