

25.07.2024

1

Eighteenth Series, Vol. II No. 4

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Shravana 3, 1946 (Saka)

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
(English Version)

**Second Session**  
(Eighteenth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol. II contains Nos.1 to 10)*

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, July 25, 2024/ Sravana 3, 1946 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

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

*[Translation]*

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (JORHAT):** Hon. Speaker, we seek your ruling ....

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question No. 41.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** What kind of language used by an Hon. MP of BJP yesterday... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Alright, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** We seek your ruling .... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is saying something.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** The Hon. Minister did not say anything....  
*(Interruptions)*The Hon. Minister neither expressed any regret nor said anything.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Alright, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF**

**MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Hon. Speaker sir, we are all Members of this august House and you preside over it. If any Member makes such a comments which tarnish the dignity of the House, then it is a very sad. Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to request you that if any Member, whether he

belongs to the ruling or opposition party, uses such remark or language, which is not permissible in the parliamentary practice and tarnishes the dignity of the House, you can take action against them time to time. Besides, expunging from the proceedings of the House, you have the power and authority to take appropriate action and comment against any hon. Member who behaves in this manner. I want to say this on behalf of the Government in short, I was not here in the House yesterday, I was in the Rajya Sabha. When I came, this incident happened.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** You could not take the action that had to be taken

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** I can defend if I want, I am not making any comment. I do not want to comment. I am not going into the details as to who provoked, I am just saying that if any proper statement is not made in the House, then Hon. Speaker has the power to take appropriate action and we request that the Hon. Speaker take appropriate action. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR):** He has spoken in general....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seat.

Question Number 41 - Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** This kind of a person was the Judge of a High Court! It is a very unfortunate thing...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please listen to my ruling. I am giving ruling. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY (BERHAMPUR):** Sir, Question Number 41.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** Hon. Speaker, will you take action?... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Members, this House maintains a very high decorum, tradition and practices. We are all fortunate that we are Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and have been elected by the people. I urge all the hon. Members belonging to ruling party or the opposition or the independent members that all the hon. Members make their points in the House, participate in the discussion, maintain decorum. Please do not make any comment which is not in consonance with the decorum of the House and Parliamentary traditions. We should try more to create a tradition of high order in this House. People should discuss that hon. Members of the 18th Lok Sabha enhanced the dignity and the decorum of this House. Its dignity and prestige have been enhanced and

the kind of reputation that democracy of India carries in the world, the same tradition has been maintained.

I would like to urge all the hon. Members that we do expunge such words, but at the same time, in future, please do not use such words in your comments while sitting or make such comment in your speech.

I would like to make one more request to you that never argue and challenge the Chair. I again urge you that the more we keep the dignity of the Chair and the House, the more people will respect us in our respective Constituencies. The hon. Members taking part in the discussion in the House....

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have made my point and warned for future.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:** He has not been asked to regret.... *(Interruptions)*

The Hon. Minister has expressed regret.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have told the entire House. It is not like that. I told you.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** We request you to please intimate him....

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Alright.

## <sup>α</sup>ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question Number 41, - Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy.

*...(Interruptions)*

\*41. [click to view Question & Answer](#)

*[English]*

**DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want the Minister to illustrate before the House the measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency, accountability, and equity in the carbon trading schemes, particularly, in the verification process of carbon credit while preventing abuses like under-reporting emissions and greenwashing. How can the block chain technology be leveraged to enhance tracking and verification by fostering participation across all sectors aligning with India's broader environmental goal?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Speaker Sir, as far as the implementation of this mechanism is concerned, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency has published a very detailed procedure in which information related to its validation, certification or verification is available, these issues are really serious and the whole world is worried about it. International market do have many parameters, all the countries contemplate on it in the meetings. This subject was first introduced in the Kyoto Protocol in the year 1997. Registration started in it in

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<sup>α</sup> For Questions and Answers Click Link shown against each Question Number. Edited Questions and Answers are available in Master copy of Debate, placed in Library.

the year 2001 in India. In 2005, a method was evolved measure its intensity and since then we have been continuously participating voluntarily under 'The Clean Development Mechanism'. Further, our achievements have increased continuously. We made some commitments to the World Community and today's topic is related to that only that the carbon credit market should be established in India. That is how we are moving forward.

*[English]*

**DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY:** Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is interested to implement the blockchain technology while addressing these issues.

**SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Under the Registry of the Grid Controller of India, the Carbon Credit Certificates are being issued.

**SHRI MANISH TEWARI:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. With your permission, I want to ask a broader policy question. Going back to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there was a consensus which emerged in the global community that global warming must be limited to 1.5 degree centigrade or 2.7 degree fahrenheit of the pre-industrial temperature which prevailed during the 1500s, before the First Industrial Revolution took place. Now, from 1992 till 2024, this figure has been the trigger for a number of regimes like the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and the Nationally Determined Contributions.

In the current Economic Survey – I do not know whether the hon. Minister has had the chance to read the current Economic Survey – there are

two chapters which pertain to energy transition. Those are Chapter 6 and Chapter 13. Interestingly, in this Economic Survey, the sacrosanctity of 1.5 degree centigrade, that is, the global temperature should not rise beyond 1.5 degree centigrade, has been questioned in both the chapters. This is extremely significant.

So, my question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government agrees with the assertion which has been made in the Economic Survey.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister – Please speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI MANISH TEWARI:** If the Government agrees with the assertion which has been made in the Economic Survey, it disrupts a large number of global consensuses which have held the field and triggered the CBDRs and the National Voluntary Contributions.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Hon. Speaker, as you mentioned, *[English]* I have completed just one month's tenure in this House. *[Translation]* Being a Minister, overall it is a very big issue as per my study. It is a matter of international concern. Since 1992 or 1997, the concern has been increasing. We have also made some commitments to the world community. Commitment regarding emission was the one of those commitments that has been made by us. The commitment made in the year 2005, i.e., the commitment of carbon emission,

was that *[English]* we will reduce it up to 33 to 35 per cent.*[Translation]* It was our commitment, but later we achieved it. We were supposed to achieve it by 2030, but we have already achieved it....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The target has already been achieved.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** We have already achieved the target....*(Interruptions)*

Hence, we had set our ambitious target on our own and said that we will reduce it to 45 percent by the year 2030. When we reduce carbon emission, we will definitely achieve our goal of reducing global warming. Nevertheless, It is such a big issue and being a technical issue, we will definitely discuss everything over tea. Thank you ....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please, take your seat, I am telling.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, never say like this in the Question Hour that you will reply over tea. The reply you made is right. You will not reply after tea.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have replied in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI:** Sir, the organisations that issue carbon credits should also report the carbon emissions that they have reduced. Otherwise, there is absolutely no legitimacy. We have companies which, to

offset their carbon emissions, invest in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

So, my question to the hon. Minister would be this. Is there a tracking system on whether such companies are really reducing their own carbon emissions before they invest in projects which are already reducing their carbon emissions? I think, it also connects to the question that has already been raised earlier. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MANOHAR LAL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, certain targets are set for carbon emission. Each sector in every industry is given certain targets. On account of that they compete among themselves that who meets its carbon emission targets, who achieves better than those targets. The one who achieves the better target is issued carbon certificates, only then he can sell it in the open market.

If the process of selling and buying starts, certainly it will be measured automatically, because *[English]* our Indian carbon market is yet on the way.*[Translation]* By the year 2026, the Indian carbon market will come up, only then it will be evaluated that which sector of the industry has achieved its target and which sector has not? Whoever do not achieve the target, they will have to buy certificates. Whoever achieves the targets, moreover achieves better *[English]*, they have to sell their certificates. *[Translation]* things will be decided automatically in that only.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please tell this also that India is the only country in the world that will meet its targets on time and we have reduced carbon emission more than our liabilities. It should be a message to the world from the Parliament.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question No. 42, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

\*42. [click to view Question & Answer](#)

**SHRI AMRA RAM (SIKAR):** Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that lakhs of Indians go to the Gulf countries for employment and business. 0.2 per cent domestic flights have been canceled in the last 3 months. 2 per cent of flights to Gulf countries have been cancelled in the last 3 months. I would like to know how many hours before the airlines have informed the passengers in this regard. How many passengers got affected and how many have incurred losses due to this? I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister that while this is the condition of one of the Indian Airlines, there are other airlines too. How many flights out of the total flights of all the airlines have been cancelled and how many people got affected in total?

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHANNAIDU:** Sir, since this question was asked regarding Air India, so we had provided information related to it. By the way, as far as cancellation and delay is concerned, overall 164 flights have been cancelled during the last three months between April to June this year. Since this question was related to Kerala, now the reply is confined to that only, otherwise, if your question is related to the entire country, we will definitely let you know, later we will circulate it too. According to this, Overall, there have been 14 cancellations in April, 132 in May and 18 in June.

[English]

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Thank you very much, Sir. Nowadays, the delay of flights especially of Air India and other flights has become the order of the day. Being a Member of Parliament from Kerala, I want to say that a huge number of people from Kerala are living in Middle East countries. They are badly suffering due to these delays in flights. Sometimes the flights are cancelled without any information, and no refund is done to the customers. Once it is cancelled, the amount is gone.

Sir, I want to know whether the Government has taken note of these things, and whether they are going to set up a system to monitor these cancellations. What action is the Government going to take in this regard?

There is one more thing, Sir. The fares are very high. The Government of Kerala itself has written to the Centre and many hon. Members have also submitted in writing with regard to the exorbitant hike in fares of the Gulf sector. The fare is very exorbitantly high. There is no justification. ....(Interruptions) All over India, same pattern is there – exorbitant fares. I want to know whether the Government of India has developed any mechanism to tackle this issue.

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Sir, the hon. Member, the senior Member has raised his concern regarding the cancellation of flights. We acknowledge the fact that there has been one issue with the Air India Express, not Air India, especially in the month of June. On May 7<sup>th</sup> this year – there were a lot of the crew with Air India Express – because it was merging with Air Asia,

there were some internal issues that had cropped up, and there was a mass strike that happened. It was because of that strike, a lot of cancellations happened. We have seen this in the month of May. In fact, in the earlier answer, I have given the reason with regard to the number of cancellations. There was a huge spike in May because of this issue. When this issue started, it was the Ministry which got the DGCA involved, facilitated a lot of discussions between the airlines, the crew members and everything. So, it was sorted.

But because of the gap which was there for three days when the crew was not functioning and there were cancellations, there was another software glitch also which happened. Because of this software glitch, the crew member data which was supposed to be with the airlines, there was some problem with that and then, they were trying to enter it manually. So, for everything to get back to normalcy, there was some time. Right now, we are ensuring that there are no cancellations or no delays happening in the flight system.

Sir, like you have mentioned, there are civil aviation requirements also. There are already regulations and guidelines which are in place, which will ensure that whenever there is a delay or a cancellation happening, and if the airline is not following the regulations that are being set up by the Ministry, then the Ministry gets involved. It is ensuring that they get the refund, re-accommodation or readjustment done in other flights.

I would also like to take an example. Recently, when we investigated and observed that Air India was not following certain guidelines, we have penalised them for Rs. 10 lakh.

Then, the strike incident of Air India Express also happened. The DGCA is going into its depth and investigating the issue. If there seems to be any non-compliance by the airlines, then we are definitely going to penalise them and ensure that the passenger is the top priority.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask question. I would like to ask a question to the Hon. Minister regarding Prayag Raj Airport. Last time, about 22 crore people had visited Kumbh and a large number of people visited here by air.

Sir, since the forthcoming Kumbh is going to be held and this time about 40 crore people are expected to visit here, therefore airport will be under acute pressure. Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to whether night landing facility will be provided there. Is it possible to provide international airport like facilities at this airport during Kumbh?

*[English]*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, the question is not directly related to the Question that is on the list today. So, I will give the Member relevant information afterwards.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are a newly appointed Minister. You should collect information about all the airports within three months. Next time your reply should be perfect.

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Sir, there is a question regarding a particular airport in the Question List. There are total 157 airports. There were 74 airports in the country earlier but in the last ten years, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the number of the airports has increased to 157. Now we are collecting information about 157 airports.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question Number 43, Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni

\*43. [click to view Question & Answer](#)

*[English]*

**SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:** Sir, first I congratulate Shri Rammohan Naidu *garu* for becoming the Civil Aviation Minister. He is the youngest Minister in the Cabinet and I wish him all success.

Sir, Vijayawada Airport comes under my parliamentary constituency. As the Chairman of Airport Advisory Committee, I have visited and reviewed the ongoing development works at the airport on many occasions. These works were started in 2019 and they were supposed to be completed by 2022, but till today, there is no major visible progress. What is the reason behind the delay?

Since the hon. Minister is from my State, he understands the importance of this airport. It is the airport of our capital city, that is, Amravati, which is the new capital of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, this airport is important for us.

What is the new deadline for completion of this project? How does the Minister make sure that this time, all the proposed works will be completed before the said deadline?

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, I totally agree with what the hon. Member of Parliament has raised here that this is a work which was started in June 2020. The overall estimated cost of the project was Rs. 611 crore. There has been subsequent delay, which was observed,

because of COVID-19 that has happened. Like the Member has mentioned, I also come from the same State.

It is the capital airport that we have but for the last few years there have been other external factors also in the State which has hampered the progress, especially due to the non-availability of sand and other materials in the State. Right now, we are ensuring that it is going to be completed on time. I have taken it up as a top priority and the new deadline that we have fixed for this project is June, 2025.

**SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:** Sir, at the outset, let me also thank the hon. Minister because as soon as he took the charge, he introduced two flights from Vijayawada to Mumbai. Earlier, there was no flight to Mumbai. This was a long pending demand. We are requesting flights from Vijayawada to Kolkata, Vijayawada to Varanasi, and additional flight from Delhi to Vishakhapatnam and Tirupati also. There is a demand for the flights to Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Singapore also.

I would like to know from the Minister whether these sectors are also in the consideration at the Ministry level.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, it is a very good sign for the country that the people of the country are curious to know through the hon. Member that airport will be developed in their area too. It is indeed a very good sign for the country.

*[English]*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** As I have just mentioned, the infrastructure around airports has increased so much in the last 10 years. A huge push has been given for Civil Aviation Ministry. Right now, the way Members are raising their demands and asking for new airports or connectivity, if you go 10 years or 20 years back, it used to be the demand with railways.*[Translation]* Earlier, the demand was made about the need for introduction of train or providing stoppage of the train. Now the same demand is being raised for the airways. *[English]* So, airways is the new railways of the country, and I am very proud about it. ...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]* Dada, I'm talking about that only....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** ... Don't reply to his queries.

*[English]*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** The Hon. Member has mentioned about the connectivity but let me make it clear from the Ministry that we do not have any direct jurisdiction where we interfere with the connectivity of the airlines. It is entirely a demand-driven process, market-driven process and the airlines decide the connectivity. We offer the infrastructure.*[Translation]* If the airlines request that they want to operate between particular places, *[English]* we ensure that there is airport connectivity at both the places. As there has been a big demand from all the Members that we need more connectivity, we are just forwarding the request to the airlines and asking them to favourably consider according to the demand of that airport.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Kalyan Banerjee ji.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji.

Kalyan ji, this question has been asked by Sudeep Dada.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR):** No issue, Sir. He is my leader.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** Sir, I am happy to see this young Minister whose father was one of my best friends in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabhas.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister is very active.

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** His father, Yerran Naidu was my very dear friend. Shri Baalu was there. That was long time back during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabhas. He knows it well. So, my question is this.

West Bengal is always neglected from all corners. Why is the second international airport in Kolkata not taking shape? The proposal has been taken up. The budgetary allotment has been done. The space has been proposed by the State Government. But why is the Government not initiating the proposal? A reply is being given by the Government that the distance of the second airport from Kolkata is very long. But if the State Government agrees, if the people of West Bengal agree, if the land is available, then why is the second

international airport not being initiated immediately which is the desire and expectation of the people of Kolkata and West Bengal for a long time? Will the Minister reply in a positive form?

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** I would like to thank the senior hon. Member also who has given his blessings.

Regarding Kolkata, the need is there. If the land is available, if the State also supports for the construction, and if the connectivity between the two locations is possible, then definitely we are going to take it up positively. I would request him that we will definitely meet up after the Session also. We can have a special meeting regarding the Kolkata airport and the development of the new terminal.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, all of you want to speak on this particular subject. Several hon. Members have requested to ask supplementary questions in this regard. If there is time left in this Session, then in this Session itself; otherwise during next session, we will include this subject in Calling Attention Motion and allot time to all the Hon. Members to express their views on the said matter, so as to ensure detail discussion on the matter.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to ask to the hon. Minister that the Hon. Home Minister, Amit Shah and the hon. Prime Minister on many occasions have mentioned about Purnia Airport and Bhagalpur Airport that they are operational and all works have been completed. But till now, the government of Bihar is yet to acquire remaining 15

acres of land out of the total required land for Purnia airport. I have also met you personally and requested to start the construction work of Purnia Airport. Whether there is any proposal to start air service from Purnia Airport within two years by laying the foundation stone this year? I want to know from you....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Pappu Ji, please take your seat, else people will say that Bihar is being favoured.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Hon. Member has already met in this regard and also obtained information from our officers on this subject. The land issue is likely to be settled soon. We will start this work very shortly.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Deepender Singh Hooda— Not present.

Dr. Sambit Patra

**DR. SAMBIT PATRA:** Hon. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister about Puri International Airport. In the year 2021 *[English]* there was a need, which arose for the international airport in Puri, and in the year 2023, the grant for the site clearance was forwarded by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. What is the progress in this field? I am asking this because the airport is to be built in Brahmagiri Tehsil which is very close to the Jagannath Temple and because of the Jagannath Temple and Puri being a tourist destination, this airport is of prime importance. So, I would like to know this through the hon. Speaker. How much have we progressed in it? Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Sir, I also support it with regard to the Puri airport. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly do it quickly. More Bengalis go to Puri than the Oriyas. ...*(Interruptions)* So, kindly do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Sir, Puri is known as the land of Lord Jagannath and Puri airport is a Greenfield airport. When a greenfield airport is built, first of all, the concerned state submit proposal that we are arranging land here for building a new airport. Similarly, when the proposal was received in the Ministry to the effect that the state wants to construct an airport there, site clearance for the same was provided. The general procedure is that after the site clearance, the state submits again after preparing DPR with regard to land, power and water etc. for in-principle approval. But so far, we have not received any information from the state for in-principle approval.

*[English]* Since it is a greenfield airport being made on PPP mode, the responsibility lies with the State Government to construct the airport,*[Translation]* We provide site clearance, that has been given. If the state submit that in-principle approval is required, we will definitely act on it. But proposal for in-principle approval has not been received yet.

**HON SPEAKER:** Question Number 44, Shri Shafi Parambil.

\*44. [click to view Question & Answer](#)

*[English]*

**SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:** Sir, you are a young Minister. I know your answer will not be a template or a copy-paste. I know kind of an answer you will be having an intent to do something for our NRI communities. They are treated by the airlines like people deported from the country. At times, the airline seat prices will be Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000, but for the same sector during the vacation time or during the season when they come to meet their family, they are being charged Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 or even Rs. 85,000 for Economy Class. How can a four-Member family afford this? How can they come back? At the time of their parent's death, people cannot even come to attend their funeral. It is a sad state of affairs for our NRIs. So, something must be done for them. They are not orphans. We have a Government to question the airline companies which are treating them very badly. So, I request you to kindly get involved in this to take some action on the issue raised by me.

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. Of course, I sympathize with the issues that he has flagged. Regarding the rules that we have within the Ministry, the airlines use market-driven approach for deciding the airfares. In fact, after I took charge as the Minister of Civil Aviation, my immediate commitment to the people of this country was to make the airfares affordable. I did not know what was going

through it. I was not aware of the rules, but I gave a commitment to the people that we are going to make it affordable. I am ensuring that. Whatever process can be involved in achieving this, we will do it. At present, the rules are totally against doing that. At one point of time, when the DGCA also wanted to do something, the courts got involved. It is a very tricky process. Even while deciding the airfares, there are a lot of parameters that come into play.

Especially, one situation that the whole country needs to be aware of is that there are 800 and odd planes in the country, and because of engine issues, almost 120 planes are grounded right now. They are not able to fly. Due to lack of aircraft that we have in our fleet, there is a lot of additional burden on the existing aircraft. That is also driving up the prices. The happy thing the country should know is that we have 1,200 aircraft order which is the highest in the world. The country with the highest aircraft orders is India and we are ensuring that they are delivered on time. We will do whatever best we can do in this scenario.

Additionally, there are already civil aviation requirements. Already, the rules are in place which protect the passengers. If the airline is trying to manipulate the situation or they are not trying to give them a prior information, or if they are not trying to give them refund, the rules are already in place. If the hon. Member has any specific case that has happened, we are very much willing to support the case and fight on behalf of the passenger and ensure that his right is protected. The customer is always the king. That is our priority.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, you please speak. I have given you the opportunity.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL:** Sir, you talked about specific cases. The extreme exploitation has become a new normal for the airlines. An amount of Rs. 1,10,000 crore is the remittance from NRI people that a State like us receives. What do we give them back? Why can we not constitute a high-level committee to look into it, to hear out our people, to know the social economic consequences, to enact a new law, and to stop this exploitation? Why can we not constitute a high-level committee?

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** It is a suggestion being given by the hon. Member. We will definitely look into it.

**SUSHRI SAYANI GHOSH:** Sir, there has been rampant increase in the number of elderly passengers and senior citizens travelling by airline due to various reasons like physical convenience and saving time. Is there any senior citizen discount or concession available right now? If so, I would request the Hon. Minister to provide the details. If not, will the hon. Minister take into consideration any sort of concession or discount for the senior citizens or measure for ease of commutation and easier access?

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** I would like to comment on behalf of the Ministry. Whatever best we can do for the differently-abled community or the senior citizens of this country, we are going to do it. I do not have specific

details on what is being done on that side, but I will pass on the information to the hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have been given a chance, but you make a lot of comments while sitting.

*[English]*

**SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:** Sir, thank you. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister. He is young and very dynamic. His father was a good friend of the DMK Party.

I have a habit of booking the flight tickets for Delhi online through the Vistara Airlines which belongs to Tata, and the software is operated by Tata's TCS. When I book a one-way ticket from Chennai to Delhi, it is Rs. 33,000. But when I go to make the payment, an error message pops up. The moment the error message comes, the price goes to Rs. 93,000 or Rs. 78,000.

Sir, this has been happening probably because the TCS is using a super messy software, and everybody has got a Miles Account. So, we have logged in. Sir, this has been happening very frequently on the Delhi-Chennai or Chennai- Delhi route. Sir, this does not come under the DGCA route. DGCA is the In-charge when the airline cancels a flight or re-schedules it. But this is happening in the software. There is a conspiracy happening. We would like you to do a thorough inquiry. Tata is having a monopoly in this business segment. The money is paid by the Government of India.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, it is a very serious matter, it should be examined. Several hon. Members have also complained in this regard. We are concerned as the money is paid by the Parliament.

*[English]*

**SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU:** Definitely, Sir. We will get the matter investigated.

Like our senior Member has mentioned, the DGCA looks after the rights of the passengers and it dwells into that. Also, there is a DGCA Tariff Monitoring Unit which looks after this specific issue that he has raised. So, we are going to investigate that. We are going to ensure that these kinds of incidents do not happen in the future.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question no. 45, Shrimati Kamaljeet Sehrawat

\*45 [click to view Question & Answer.](#)

**SHRIMATI KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I have read the answer laid on the table carefully. First of all, I would like to thank the Ministry. MSME has played a very important role in providing employment to the women and youth of the country. The answer laid on the table states that till the year 2021, this number was 4 lakh 88 thousand. The Ministry came up with a very good scheme called 'Udyam' on 1st July 2020. This scheme was introduced online, a paperless mode, based on self-declaration. I have received the

answer that the number of women has increased from 4 lakh 88 thousand to 1 crore 84 lakh. I would like to thank the Ministry for further supporting 'Udyam', by launching the Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) on 11th January 2023, which is especially convenient for women to do the registration.

I would like to know what are the sector-wise details of women engaged in MSMEs?

**SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, it is evident that the Government of India, under the leadership of hon. Narendra Modi ji, is paying special attention towards women and the people belonging to the weaker section of the society including the Scheduled Castes. The question that has been asked regarding women, we are very thankful to the hon. Member because through this, we have been able to inform the august House today about the work being done by our department, especially MSME, for the upliftment of women. We have already discussed it.

The hon. Member have asked about the different fractions. There are two types of sections in it, one is 'Udyam', the second one includes those who cannot fulfill all the conditions in a normal way. In 'Udyam', there is a separate provision for micro, small and medium enterprises. The Provision of Rs. 26,921 crores in micro, Rs. 7,011 crores in small and also Rs. 19,900 crores in UAP. It means that separate provisions have been made for both. Involvement of women under 'Udyam' is 21.35 percent.

There is involvement of 63.11 in UAP, thus, it can be said that we are working towards promoting women participation through this, We will convey the information sought by the Hon. Member of Parliament by post.

**SHRIMATI KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:** Hon. Speaker Sir, the progress of country is not possible without the participation of women. The Prime Minister considers half of the population important which reflects in all his actions. I thank the Hon. Minister for increasing this number. As we all are colleagues present here, I would like to ask a question. There are both urban and rural sectors, if we get to know the number of women registered in urban and rural sectors, it will be easy for all the hon. Members of parliament sitting here to work in their respective constituencies.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what percentage of women are registered in MSME in rural and urban areas, as the information will make it easier for us to carry this work forward. Thank you.

**SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I already informed that there is a report of all the individuals who have registered with MSME, and we have implemented it from 24/7/2024. I have the data, I will send it. As far as percentage is concerned, the total percentage is 38.80. In respect of women, they are covered under two categories, one is 'Udyam', which comprises 21.3 percent and the other is UAP, who do not qualify for 'Udyam' because of the requirement of PAN card and GST number. There are people doing petty jobs like tailoring etc., who do not have PAN card and GST number, we register

them too to provide them benefits. The percentage of such women is 63.11 percent of the total 38.80 percent registered under MSME. This shows the sensitivity of the Government towards women.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:** Speaker, Sir, the MSMEs are called the powerhouse of Indian economy. Reportedly, they account for about 11 crore jobs in the country, and they contribute 29 per cent of the country's GDP. They not only fuel economic growth, but also serve as a vital catalyst for inclusive development across various sectors. The PM Modi's Government talks of women-led development.

I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. How many registered MSMEs are there in Odisha and in the Bhubaneswar Parliamentary segment? What are the concrete steps or initiatives taken by the Central Government to ensure women's participation in the MSME sector? Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I have stated in our reply that as far as the number of MSMEs owned by women is concerned, it is 1 crore 84 lakh 57 thousand at all India level. Out of that, Himachal Pradesh has 83 thousand 834. As far as Odisha is concerned, it is 6 lakh 96 thousand 559. Data of Mayurbhanj was sought in the question. In Mayurbhanj, this number is 35 thousand 935, which is also mentioned in the fraction.

*[English]*

**SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:** Thank you Speaker, Sir. The Minister has given a very elaborate answer. I would like to ask a supplementary regarding the actual functioning of this entire process in UAP and Udyam. There was an amendment which had taken place in 2018 regarding public procurement policy which was amended mandating the Central Government, the Departments and the Undertakings to go in for procurement from the women entrepreneurs to the extent of three per cent.

There are instances where the cottage industries go for procurement within the limits prescribed. But when the small timers -- the small-time enterprises run by women entrepreneurs -- supply it, the bills are not being paid in time because of paucity of funds with the Undertakings itself. Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask this question to the hon. Minister. What measures are being taken in this direction? It is because the small timers do not have any alternative but to go for closure of their units. What measures are being taken by the Government to see that this anomaly is taken off and the units run seamlessly? Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI:** Hon. Speaker, in this regard, I would like to inform you and the House that under this scheme, women entrepreneurs have been given such concessions and facilities that Ministries, Departments and Undertakings have to procure 3% of the goods purchased from women entrepreneurs. Under this condition, women have done a business of Rs 300

crore. 19,000 women are associated with it. Entrepreneurs have benefited from this. The given figure is sufficient considering that it has been started from 01.7.2020, however we are working towards increasing it further so as to benefit at least 50 percent of women entrepreneurs.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question no. 46, Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao.

\*46. [click to view Question & Answer](#)

*[English]*

**SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:** She. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to ask question.

The main question is this. Will the hon. Minister of Jal Shakti be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the number of Functional Household Tap Connections provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission during the last five years in each district of Andhra Pradesh year-wise.

(b) The percentage of rural households in Andhra Pradesh that have received FHTCs under JJM compared to the total number of rural households in the State.

(c) Whether any audit has been conducted to measure the impact of JJM on reducing the distance to water sources for rural households in Andhra Pradesh; and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The hon. Minister has provided all the details.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:** Yes, Sir. I thank the hon. Minister for giving an extensive answer for that. Now, I would like to ask the supplementary question.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Andhra Pradesh is the sixth lowest State in terms of households with tap water supply, which is less than the national average of 77 per cent. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the State Government has contributed its share of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission during the last five years.

Has the State Government submitted Utilisation Certificates under this scheme for the last five years? Has the Central Government observed any discrepancies or fund diversions by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission over the last five years?

*[Translation]*

**Shri C. R. Patil:** Hon'ble Speaker Sir, when the JJM scheme was started under the chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, 32 per cent household had tap connections at that time in Andhra Pradesh. In the last five years, about 40 per cent tap connection were provided, it means 72-73 percent of the work has been done in Andhra Pradesh. In the coming days, we are moving towards achieving 100 per cent household tap connections in the state through the funds and technical support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Government.

*[English]*

**SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:** I would like to ask this question to the hon. Minister. What are the major challenges that are being faced by the Government in achieving 100 per cent functional household tap connections in Andhra Pradesh under the JalJeevan Mission? What measures are being taken to overcome these challenges especially in the remote districts?

*[Translation]*

**SHRI C. R. PATIL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, 100 per cent work has been completed in 11 districts and 8 UTs/States in the entire country. In the ensuing days, several states are moving towards achieving 100 per cent target. Andhra Pradesh has achieved 73 per cent of work and tender process for the rest of work is completed. The work is in progress and I hope that the state will join in 100 percent club very soon. Andhra Pradesh will also achieve the target and tap water will be provided in all the villages.

**SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:** Hon. Speaker Sir, although this question is basically related to Andhra Pradesh, but 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is a National Programme. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards Bihar and would like to know how the 'JalJeevan Mission' is being implemented in Bihar in view of spreading cancer disease on a large scale due to presence of excess of arsenic in ground water in Bihar. What efforts are being made to implement the said Mission effectively? The number of households provided tap connections under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' in Bihar so far. I have observed during visit to

my Parliamentary Constituency Katihar under Seemanchal, which is an extremely backward area of Bihar that this programme is not being implemented effectively. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the effective implementation of the scheme in Bihar.

**SHRI C. R. PATIL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, Bihar has not sought any fund from the Central Government for JJM. The state has executed the work of providing tap water by introducing a different scheme there. As he said that there are different types of solvent in the water causing health issues there, we will definitely bring this matter to the notice of the Government there and request them to take action in this regard. According to the report submitted by the state, the state government of Bihar has achieved almost 100 per cent of the work related to tap water connection on its own.

*[English]*

**SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU:** There is a good progress that has been made with respect to JalJeevan Mission in the last five year, that is, the number of new connections have increased from three crore to almost 11 crore. And also, in Andhra Pradesh, 39 lakh new connections have been added to the 30 lakh connections already given. But the problem is this.

I come from the Constituency of Palnadu where Rs. 350 crore has been given under the JalJeevan Mission. We are giving connection from the overhead tank to every household. But I come from a location, from a Constituency where even if you dig a borewell of 1200 feet, you will not get

water. So, we have connection from overhead tank to the household but there is no water in that overhead tank. The funds that you have allocated, that you have spent, are not being used properly. So, if you can guide us in such a way so that the source of water can be found whereby the water is actually given to the overhead tank. Then those tap connections will be of any use. Unless you do that, this is a huge wastage of funds, which is happening. If you can guide us how that can be addressed, it will be of great help to us.

Thank you very much.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI C. R. PATIL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, the question of the hon. Member is very important and we have received complaints from various quarter. It is the accountability and responsibility of the State Government to locate the water source. But at many places where water bore wells have been digged by the state governments, no water or less water in the bore wells were found, as a result water scarcity problem arises there from March-April. That is why tap is there without water. We have held separate meetings with different state governments and brought this matter to their attention. With the new technical system, we are able to know everything regarding water availability and its quantity. Based on that technology, bore wells digging will be undertaken. We have suggested them that if a village is big, more than one bore should be made. Funds will be provided to them from the Ministry for two or three bores. But by fixing the quantity of water, as per the expectation of the villages, it has been planned to provide 55 liters of potable water in every village. If the

planning is executed in this way, the problem of the hon. Member will be resolved. We are moving towards that direction.

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**\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 47 to 60

Unstarred Question Nos. 461 to 690

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

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

**12.01 hrs**

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[Translation]*

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

Item No. – 2, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu.

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Height Restrictions for Safeguarding of Aircraft Operations) Amendment Rules, 2024 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.335(E) in Gazette of India dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 205/18/24]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK):** Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:-

- (1) The Electricity (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.45(E) in Gazette of India dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

- (2) The Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.36(E) in Gazette of India dated 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.
- (3) The Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) (Amendment) Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.146(E) in Gazette of India dated 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- (4) The Electricity (Third Amendment) Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.181(E) in Gazette of India dated 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.
- (5) The Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.125(E) in Gazette of India dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2024.
- (6) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023, published in Notification No. L-1/2064/2022-CERC in Gazette of India dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024.
- (7) Notification No. RA-14026(11)/4/2020-CERC. published in Gazette of India dated 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, extending the period of applicability of the RE Tariff Regulations, 2020, till 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 or notification of the Regulations by the Commission for the next control period, whichever is earlier.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 206/18/24]

- (8) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission Licence and other related

matters) Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. L-1 / 270 / 2023/CERC. in Gazette of India dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 207/18/24]

- (9) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Connectivity and General Network Access to the inter-State Transmission System) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. L-1/261/2021/CERC. in Gazette of India dated 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 206/18/24]

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Item No. – 4, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal,

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Kiren Rijiju Ji.

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):** Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Kumari Shobha Karandlaje Ji, I beg to lay following papers on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection 1(b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-
- I. Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2022-2023.
  - II. Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited,

New Delhi, for the year 2022-2023, 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 209/18/24]

- (3) I. A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, for the year 2022-2023, along with Audited Accounts.
- II. Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, for the year 2022-2023.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 210/18/24]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI TOKHAN SAHU) :** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act 1957:-

- 1) Notification No.F.No. F/1/0027/2019/CORD/Housing (Coordn.) published in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2024 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.753(E) dated 17th February, 2023.
- 2) The Delhi Development Authority, Director (Ministerial), Recruitment Rules, 2023, published in Notification No. G.S.R.635(E) in Gazette of India dated 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.
- 3) The Delhi Development Authority, Commissioner (Systems), Recruitment Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.117(E) in Gazette of India dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.
- 4) The Delhi Development Authority, Commissioner (Planning), Group 'A' Post, Recruitment Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.355(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2024.
- 5) The Delhi Development Authority (Posts of Commissioner and Secretary) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2024, published in Notification No. G.S.R.366(E) in Gazette of India dated 4 th July, 2024.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 211/18/24]

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**12.03 hrs**

**MOTION RE: 1<sup>st</sup> REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF  
MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Sir, I beg to move:

“That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business  
Advisory Committee presented to the House on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.”

*[Translation]*

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

“That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory  
Committee presented to the House on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.”

The Motion was adopted.

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**12.03½ hrs**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 342<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2023-2024) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway\***

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI AJAY TAMTA):** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 342<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2023-2024) pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 204/18/24.

**12.04 hrs**

**ELECTION TO COMMITTEE**

Rajghat Samadhi Committee

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI MANOHAR LAL):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to move the following motion :-

“That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee for the term commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

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

“That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee for the term commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

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**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

*[English]*

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker Sir. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the woeful situation of traditional fishermen in Kerala who are grappling with the debilitating shortage of kerosene.

The limited quantity of kerosene available through the Public Distribution System has proven vastly detrimental to the operators of thousands of small country boats which do not have onboard motors. They use kerosene as fuel. They say that they are scarcely able to make their both ends meet. The traditional fishermen are compelled to buy kerosene from black marketeers at extraordinary prices.

It is high time that the Union Government took cognisance of the agony of these Indian citizens. Most of them are socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

The Government should augment the quantity of subsidised kerosene made available from the PDS. Moreover, both the availability of kerosene and the volume of their daily catch are in doubt which make numerous fishermen

cut short their working day to toil in odd jobs in the hope of earning, at least, some money. The lack of support from the Union Government is worsening their misery. In fact, the allocation by the Union Government of PDS kerosene to Kerala has declined from 55,000 kilo litres during fiscal year 2018-19 to just 15,000 kilo litres last year. I know, the Union Government will say that they want to encourage States to shift to cleaner and safer fuels like LPG, PNG, and so on which is why they are reducing PDS kerosene. I understood, Sir. But, coastal States like Kerala are already amongst India's foremost States in terms of LPG and green energy coverage but the demand for kerosene is only to alleviate the agony of our traditional fishermen who rely on kerosene for fuelling their fishing boats.

If the Union Government truly desires to facilitate the transition to more sustainable fuels, then, it must subsidise an alternative, perhaps, provide other kinds of engines to our fisher people with genuine subsidy. Otherwise, they should provide more kerosene, Speaker Sir.

Thank you very much.

**SHRI ISHA KHAN CHOUDHURY (MALDAHA DAKSHIN):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, my erosion-prone constituency of Dakshin Maldaha in West Bengal consists of five blocks in Maldaha District and two blocks in Murshidabad district.

Since the construction of the Farakka Barrage in 1971, which is managed by the Water Resources Department, severe river erosion has occurred in Maldaha and Murshidabad Districts. The construction of the Barrage has caused huge silt and sand deposits which led to the creation of

new silt land formations and caused the Ganges to change its course by 17 kilometers east towards Maldaha. More than 900 square kilometers of land has been eroded since then.

This has meant that five of the seven Blocks in my constituency namely, Farakka and Samserganj of Murshidabad District and Manikchak, Mothabari, and Baisnabnagar of Maldaha District are heavily impacted by erosion because over the years the Ganges is constantly changing its flow and course. More than one lakh families or 7,00,000 people in this vast area have lost agricultural land and homes into the Ganges. They are facing severe problems. More than 35 primary schools and 10 secondary schools, innumerable temples, mosques, markets and Government infrastructure have been destroyed by Ganga erosion. In the last seven to eight years alone, severe erosion has started again in various parts along the river. About 5000 families from my Constituency are still living in temporary shelters and temporary colonies along the river and not on their own land.

Furthermore, there is a grave concern that the part of Ganges River in Manikchak Block of Dakshin Maldaha may soon merge with the Fulahar River channel of Ratua potentially wiping out large areas of Bhutni, Bilaimari and Ratua.

Sir, I offer a few suggestions to this burning issue of erosion caused by the Ganges. The Ganga River is a national river so the Central Government and Farakka Barrage Authority with the cooperation of the State Government of West Bengal should take back full responsibility for anti-erosion work for a

120-kilometer stretch of the Ganges. This was the case from 2005 onwards under the UPA Government. The Central Government took the responsibility for managing 40 kilometres upstream into Malda from the Farakka Barrage and 80 kilometres in Murshidabad downstream of the Farakka Barrage.

The current erosion prevention methods using sandbags are ineffective. Large scale investment in the present Budget using boulder pitching, porcupine work and even dredging is required. New technologies and approaches such as geo-synthetic tubes need to be explored for their effectiveness to save the people.

The rehabilitation and housing for thousands of families affected by erosion, including legal land rights for 5000 families in rehabilitation colonies is required.

Thank you, Sir.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, there will be no lunch break today. Discussion on the General Budget will resume at 1300 hrs.

*[English]*

**DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I rise to bring to your urgent attention about the recurring flooding of the Teesta River which is severely affecting the areas like Totgaon under Mal block and Gajoldoba under Rajganj block, apart from some other areas of Mekhliganj and Maynagar blocks in my constituency. Despite repeated

flooding, the West Bengal Government has failed to implement any permanent solution to this, resulting in displacement of numerous people, significant agricultural loss due to siltation, and also tragic loss of human and animal lives. The persistent flooding suggests potential misuse of Central funds by the State Government as temporary measures are implemented annually instead of addressing the root cause.

Sir, I urge upon the Central Government to constitute a team to analyse the situation and propose permanent measures to mitigate flooding. Immediate intervention is necessary to safeguard the livelihoods and homes of our citizens and also to prevent further loss of lives.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI KALABEN MOHANBHAI DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I would like to tell you about the Union Territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli. My State is a tribal dominated State. Despite having Panchayati Raj in the State, due to lack of authority in the Zila Panchayat, Panchayat and Municipality, even today the people of the region are deprived of basic facilities like good roads, potable water, affordable electricity, good education and employment.

Sir, all the schemes of the Government of India should reach every household of my region, and the people should get their rights and entitlements. In order to make the provision of Assembly once again in my

region so that our region is connected with the democratic process in the world's largest democratic country, recommendations were made under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Vice President, the Standing Committee to make the provision of Assembly once again in both the regions in 2014. This issue was also raised in this House by the then MP Mohanbhai Delkar in the year 2019 and 2021. I am raising this issue before you for the third time.

Sir, through you, I request Her Excellency the President and the Government of India to take this issue seriously and take appropriate action and start work towards the provision of the State Assembly again in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Sir, until the assembly is formed, all Swaraj institutions should be given full rights. Thank you very much. Jai Hind! Jai Dadra Nagar Haveli!

**SHRI ANOOP SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA):** Sir, my subject is related to the farmers.

*[English]*

Sir, I request that the crop loans should be treated on a par with the other cash credit loans. To get interest subvention benefit, farmers have to pay their entire loan amount by 31<sup>st</sup> March every year. This is unfair because the farmers have to often sell their produce at lower prices to meet this deadline. In contrast to other industries, they need to maintain the sanctioned loan amount to renew their cash credit loans and have to pay the full amount.

*[Translation]*

The farmers have to sell their crops when the market price of their entire produce is low, so I request the Government that loans of the farmers should be put in the cash credit category and they should get the same treatment. This will provide great relief to the farmers. The Government spends Rs. 1 lakh 70 thousand crore on MSP, there will be relief in that too. Farmers will get great support from this. I expect that Modi ji led Government will take such a revolutionary decision.

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Hon. Speaker Sir, the Constitution is in danger. Here we talk about saving Dalit, backward and tribal people. The policies of all the Governments, be it is the Union Government or the State Government, its only aim is to ensure that the benefits of that policy reach the last person of the society.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I come from Santhal Pargana region. In the year 2000, when Jharkhand was separated from Bihar, the tribal population in Santhal Pargana was 36 percent and at present this population has come down to 26 per cent. This House never expresses concern over where 10 per cent of the tribal people have gone missing or are lost. All this is because of vote bank politics.

Our State has a coalition Government led by Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Congress. They do not take any action on this. Today infiltration from Bangladesh is increasing here continuously. Infiltrators from Bangladesh are marrying tribal women. This is not a matter of Hindus and Muslims. The women who contest the Lok Sabha elections here contest from the tribal

quota, but their husbands are Muslims. The husband of the President of the Zila Parishad is a Muslim. Regarding tribal heads, you should be aware that there are 100 such tribal heads whose husbands are Muslims.

Hon. Speaker Sir, we have just had Legislative Assembly elections. Everyone has come here after contesting elections. Every five years the population increases by 15 to 17 per cent or the number of voters increases. Here the number has increased by 123 per cent. In Madhupur, an assembly constituency in my Lok Sabha constituency, the population of Muslims has increased by 117 per cent in about 267 booths. There are at least 25 such assembly constituencies in Jharkhand where their population has increased by 110 per cent. This is a matter of great concern.

Secondly, there were riots in Taranagar, Ilami and Dagapada in Pakur district. The riot happened because from Bengal...\* the police and people from Malda and Murshidabad are coming and making our people run away from their areas. The Hindu dominated villages are becoming empty. This is a very serious matter....(*Interruptions*) I am saying this on record. If my single statement is wrong, then I am ready to resign....(*Interruptions*). People from Bengal, Murshidabad and Malda came here and committed atrocities against the Hindu population here. It is on record and Jharkhand Police is not able to do anything....(*Interruptions*)

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Hon. Speaker Sir, as per the order of Jharkhand High Court dated 22nd July the population of Muslims is increasing day by day in the entire Malda, Murshidabad, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar and Asarganj, therefore through you I request that the Union Government should intervene there or Kishanganj, Araria, Katihar, Malda, Murshidabad and the entire Santhal Pargana should be converted into Union Territory, otherwise the Hindu population will be swept away... (interruption) NRC should be implemented there... (interruption) If nothing can be done before, then first of all a House Committee should be sent there and all the MPs of Trinamool Congress should be included in it. Second, the 235th report of the Law Commission of 2010 should be implemented under which permission is required for religious conversion and inter- religion marriages... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** If the name of any hon. Member, who is not a member of the House is taken, that will be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**\*SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA):** Thank you hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. This matter pertains to Tandur and

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

Basheerabad railway line. This is an important and urgent matter. Railways is a mode of transport for all of us but for the people of Basheerabad it is a mode of education, because passengers travel to schools by using trains. It is also a mode of employment because people travel for their jobs. People travel from Vikarabad and Tandur to Hyderabad. For medical emergencies as well, people depend on the railways here. There is the river 'Kagna' between Tandur and Basheerabad. If you have to travel by road, we will have to take a long detour but if we go by train it goes straight because of the railway bridge over this river. Several trains pass through Basheerabad but they do not stop in Basheerabad. We had made several requests that train number 17319 Hubli Express may be stopped at Basheerabad. We have been making this request for the last five years. Recently Rayalaseema Express, which used to stop at Basheerabad, was cancelled for the last three days. Now people of Basheerabad are deprived of a regular train which used to stop here. Their request for giving stoppage to new trains has not been accepted yet. This is an important issue which I would like to bring to the notice of the Railway Minister on behalf of the people of Tandur. People of Tandur and Basheerabad will be thankful if the Railway Minister accedes to their request. Once again, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB (TRIPURA WEST):** Hon. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to inform the Union Civil Aviation Ministry that MBB Airport, Agartala is the only airport in Tripura. It is an important gateway for travelers in

the North-East region. The new terminal building there was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister on 04.01.2022. According to the information received, it has the capacity to handle one thousand inter-state and two hundred international passengers, it has twenty check-in counters and an annual capacity of three million passengers. The State Government has given a sum of Rs. 18.85 crores to the Airport Authority of India to start operating international flights on the Agartala-Chittagong route. The facilities of instrument landing systems and ground lighting are available there. The Ministry of Finance, Government of India has declared MBB Airport as Customs Check Post on 04.01.2023. I am waiting for the announcement in this regard from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Hon. Speaker, I had written a letter to the then Ministry of Civil Aviation on this subject, in response to which they have informed that the subject of immigration check post is related to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is requested to the hon. Civil Aviation Minister that after talking to the Home Ministry, start the immigration check post at MBB Airport as soon as possible and declare it as an International Airport....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT (FARRUKHABAD):** Hon. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to inform the Hon'ble Minister that in my Parliamentary Constituency Farrukhabad there is not a single hospital run by the Employees State Insurance Corporation.

Sir, there are hundreds of brick kilns and a huge beedi industry in Farrukhabad district. Apart from this, there are several tobacco warehouses

and factories. The work of cloth painting and zardozi (golden embroidery) is done on large scale in our area, in which thousands of labourers are engaged. But there is not even a single dispensary to provide medical facilities to the labourers.

Sir, through you I urge the Minister of Labor and Employment to please set up an ESIC hospital for the labourers in my Parliamentary Constituency Farrukhabad. In case of any accident or health related problem, labourers should get treatment there so that they may support their families...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PUSHPENDRA SAROJ (KAUSHAMBI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I have been elected from Kaushambi. First of all, I would like to raise the voice of those people whose voice is rarely raised in the House. The voice of people of Indian Folk Art Federation and culture is rarely raised here.

Sir, the NCZCC auditorium in Prayagraj is under renovation for a long time. They have three small demands which I would like to place before the hon. Culture Minister. Sir, one demand is that the said renovation process should be expedited by doing some intervention because they are not able to do their bookings and thus, not able to do their practice. Their second demand is regarding the booking fee which is being increased four times. This is a priority as it is a four times burden on them which is too much. So my request is to take the cognizance of the matter and slightly reduce the booking fee. Their third demand is about booking slots which are four to six hours. They

work all day and then get time to do their practice in the evening. I once again request hon. Minister of Culture to take cognizance of these three priorities and provide solution to protect people of our folk art federation and culture. Thank you.

**SUSHRI IQRA CHOUDHARY (KAIRANA):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the House for the first time. I would like to put forward the issues pertinent to the people of my Constituency before the House. Various issues pertaining to the Ministry of Railways in my Constituency Kairana are pending for long and need to be addressed in view of public interest. Panipat-Kairana-Meerut railway line had undergone several surveys but the work on this route had not yet commenced. The route connecting Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is crucial and my Constituency will be greatly benefited with the direct rail connectivity between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The people of my Constituency have been constantly demanding new trains to be made operational on Shamli-Prayagraj and Shamli-Vaishno Devi route for a long time. This connectivity is important in view of the presence of Uttar Pradesh's High Court in Prayagraj and Vaishno Devi being a religious pilgrimage.

Railway bridges on Jandheri railway crossing and Rampur crossing on the Delhi-Shamli-Sahranpur route have been pending for long causing inconvenience to the people. It is essential to construct these railway bridges at the earliest.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I urge upon the Minister of Railways through you to take cognizance of the demands of the Parliamentary Constituency of Kairana pertaining to railways and address them at the earliest. Thank you.

*[English]*

**\*SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I want to raise an important issue regarding the injustice faced by the people of Tamil Nadu. I wish to remind you of the unfair treatment being faced by the people living in and around Kappalur Toll Plaza. I had raised this issue in the same House on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Thereafter I had a meeting with the hon. Union Minister of Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 and discussed this issue. The hon. Minister gave a reply in March 2023. I urged upon him to shift the Kappalur Toll Plaza to some other place. But he assured that he will find a solution to this issue in a scientific manner. Even after 15 months after his assurance, the same atrocities continue to take place at Kappalur Toll Plaza. On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the people of this area have planned to do a lockdown strike in Tirumangalam. The whole city of Tirumangalam will get into strike mode for removing this Toll Plaza. This is a clear indication of the approach of BJP being anti-people. For around 900 vehicles of this area, each vehicle has to pay Rs 350 for just passing through two kms, which is unjustified. This is an unfair treatment. I request that the vehicles belonging to Tirumangalam and Kappalur Sipcot should just be exempted from paying this toll fee. The BJP Government should provide justice to Tamil Nadu. Why is the

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

Government reluctant to provide us with these rights? I request, through you, Sir, that the Union Government should come forward to stop such unfair and unjust treatment faced by the people of Tirumangalam and Kappalur Sipcot due to Kappalur Toll Plaza. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR (SHAHJAHANPUR):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.

Sir, Kanshi Ram, also known as Bahujan Nayak and Manyavar, was an Indian politician and social reformer who worked for the upliftment of the Bahujans, the backward or lower caste people including untouchable groups standing at the lowest stratum of the caste system in the country. In fact, he was a grassroots leader who has always lived a simple life and dedicated his entire life for the cause of Dalits. It is no secret that Manyavar Shri Kanshi Ram has carved a prominent place in Dalit politics. He has always been committed towards the upliftment of the downtrodden and backward classes of the society.

I urge upon the Government, through this august House, to take appropriate steps to confer 'Bharat Ratna' on Manyavar Kanshi Ram in view of his contribution towards the society and the country.

Thank you.

**SUSHRI KANGNA RANAUT (MANDI):** Hon. Speaker Sir, on behalf of myself and of the people of Mandi, I express my heartfelt gratitude towards you, for

giving me the opportunity to raise issues pertaining to my Parliamentary Constituency Mandi for the first time.

Several art forms of my Parliamentary Constituency Mandi are on the verge of extinction. We have the kath kuni style of building houses or the Himachali tradition of making clothes such as jackets, hats, shawls, sweaters, etc., from sheep and yak wool that fetch a good price abroad. These art forms are becoming extinct. I would like to ask about the steps being taken to preserve these art forms?

I would also like to say that the musical traditions of Spiti, Kinnaur and Bharmour, tribal art of cloth-making and their folk art forms, are on the verge of extinction. I would like to ask about the steps being taken to preserve this tradition.

Thank you.

**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY (KUSHINAGAR):** Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways towards the important Chhitauni-Tamkuhi rail line project which was taken up about one-and-a-half decades ago to cater the needs of the people of the border areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The tracks were laid and a new railway station at Chhitauni was constructed within seven-eight years but the project remained stalled since then. Last year, in view of persistent demand of the people and as per the directions of Hon. Minister of Railways, the Railway Board has de-frozen this closed project in the month of February and sought a fresh DPR from the General Manager of Gorakhpur Railways. While drawing

attention towards this project which is pending for 5 months, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to restart this crucial stalled project to cater to the needs of the people of the border areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Thank you.

**SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP (SHIMLA):** Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Himachal Pradesh is known as the 'Apple State' of India. Himachal Pradesh is the second largest producer of apples, 80 percent of the apple in the state is produced in my Constituency alone. The apple economy in Himachal Pradesh is estimated at Rs. 5,000 crore.

Sir, natural calamities, inadequate snowfall, excessive rainfall and hailstorms cause extensive damage to apple orchards, due to which the farmers and the horticulturists have to suffer huge loss.

Through you, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and hon. Prime Minister to bring apple cultivation under 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' in line with other crops in order to compensate the farmers against crop loss due to natural disasters.

Thank you very much.

*[English]*

**DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI (ARAKU):** Sir, despite mandated reservations, there is a prolonged issue of insufficient recruitment of faculty from Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Central institutes of higher education. The Government data reveals a

persistent and substantial gap in faculty positions within the reserved categories.

In 2021, 6,074 faculty positions remained vacant across 42 Government-run universities, with 75 per cent falling under the reserved categories. A recent Parliamentary data on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2023, revealed that only four per cent of professors recruited belonged to the OBC category. Data for an RTI reply in 2023 also exposed faculty shortages in SC, ST, and OBC categories in several departments of IIT-Delhi, with 14 departments having no faculty from SC or ST, 24 departments lacking any SC faculty, 15 departments lacking any ST faculty, and nine departments having no faculty from OBC.

The Central Universities, including IITs, mandated to follow the reservation policies allocating 15 per cent to SCs, 7.5 per cent to STs, and 27 per cent to OBCs in faculty appointments and admissions, display a clear mismatch between the Government equity goals and the actual recruitment outcomes.

**12.36 hrs**

(Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

I urge the Government to take immediate corrective action. Initiatives like intensified special recruitment drives, rigorous implementation monitoring, and forward-looking measures such as Government-sponsored preparatory programs for aspiring faculty are essential.

**\*SHRI MADHAVANENI RAGHUNANDAN RAO (MEDAK):** Thank you Chairperson for allowing me to speak for the first time in the 'Zero Hour', as a first-time elected Member of Parliament from Medak. Medak Parliamentary Constituency, which is being represented by me, was earlier represented by former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and K Chandrashekhar Rao.

The constituency I am representing is Medak which was earlier represented by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Telangana Chief Minister, KCR also. But, unfortunately, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was contesting in the year 1980, she promised a railway line from Tellapur, Patancheruvu, Sangareddy, Jogipet, Medak, Ramayampet, Siddipet to Karimnagar. A railway line of 225 kms was promised in the year 1980. Since then, for the past 44 years, just nine kms of railway line has been laid from Tellapur to Patancheruvu. After running the train for a period of three months,*[Translation]* The officials of the Department of Railways said that they discontinued the train services due to its unprofitability . The railway line that had been constructed in Patancheru was also dismantled and the train was discontinued.

*[English]*

It is a long-pending demand. When Telangana was formed, it had only 10 districts. Now, there are 33 districts in the Telangana State. Only one district headquarters, that is, Sangareddy does not have the railway station, rest of the 32 districts are connected by a railway line. One of the Assembly constituencies is Patancheruvu, which falls in the Parliamentary constituency,

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

is among Asia's biggest industrial areas. It is my sincere appeal, through you, to the hon. Minister. As there is a demand and a survey has been completed in the year 1980 itself, I urge the hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter of 225 kms of railway line from Tellapur, Patancheruvu, Sangareddy, Jogipet, Medak, Siddipet and Karimnagar. This is one of the largest industrial areas. So, there is a huge demand from the people for this new railway station which will connect almost seven districts of Telangana.

**SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL (JHARGRAM):** Madam, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important issue of my constituency in this august House. I would also like to thank the people of my constituency.

The people of my constituency, Jhargram, popularly known as Jangalmahal in West Bengal, has a long-pending demand for laying down of new railway line between Jhargram and Baripada. During the past Lok Sabha election campaigns, leaders of a national political Party gave many assurances to the people of Jangalmahal/Jhargram, and one such assurance was the Jhargram-Gopiballavur-Baripada railway link. But till today, no step has been taken to fulfil their assurance. In fact, there is no direct railway connectivity between Jhargram and Baripada, and between Jhargram and Bandwan of Purulia district in my constituency.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government and the hon. Minister of Railways to take up this railway project and construct the new

railway line between Bandwan and Baripada via Jhilimili-Jhargram-Gopiballavpur in my constituency.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI ROOPKUMARI CHOUDHARY (MAHASAMUND):** Madam, thank you very much on behalf of myself and the people of Mahasamund Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency for giving me this opportunity to speak in august House of the country.

Madam, I come from Chhattisgarh, which is also known as the rice bowl. In the last few years, the area under rice cultivation has increased manifold in Chhattisgarh in both Rabi and Kharif seasons and instead of growing pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops, all the farmers have started cultivating rice. As a result, the country is witnessing a horrible problem of stubble burning after harvesting of paddy. It increases environmental pollution and continuously decreasing the fertility of the land. There remains possibility of accidents too.

Madam, today the whole world is facing a terrible situation due to climate change. The situation may get worse in future. For stubble management, the Super Straw Management System machine which is attached behind combine harvester machine should be made mandatory with every combine harvester at the time of harvesting. This will also solve today's fodder problem for our domestic animals like cows, oxen etc. If a special subsidy is given for that machine, then instead of burning it, we can give it to the cowshed. At first, stubble may be collected and then the land should be used for farming. This is very necessary for us. Very soon the paddy crop will be harvested again in

October-November, and we will face this problem again. I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this. Thank you.

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** Madam, Namaskar. I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak today. A large area of urban Pune falls under my Parliamentary Constituency Baramati.

*[English]*

\*A large part of Pune city falls under my Constituency, Baramati. Yesterday, there was a heavy downpour in that area. Heavy rains lashed Pune, Satara and Kolhapur Districts. So, the administration opened the floodgates of Khadakvasla Dam. The dam water should have been released gradually in small volumes but the floodgates were opened suddenly without sounding any alert. This is not carelessness but absolute negligence. If the Government knew about the yellow and orange alert, they should have shared the information with the locals there. In and around Sinhgad Road, Pimpri-Chinchwad and in Pune area, houses, schools, and offices drowned and people had to suffer a lot.

Hence, I would like to request the Union Government that, through NDRF, necessary help should be provided. The Maharashtra Government should declare a relief package for the affected people. The people residing in Pune and Kolhapur area should be given immediate help, and relief work should be carried out by the Administration and that is my only request to you.

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

*[Translation]*

**SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK (MUZAFFARNAGAR):** Chairman Sir, I come from Muzaffarnagar, which is called the Gateway of NCR. Even after inclusion in NCR, we are facing various problems. Recently, the Government started the service of rapid rail up to Meerut but this rail service should be extended up to Muzaffarnagar, because it has highest number of Industries. People here are suffering the brunt of industries, because they cause water pollution. Cancer, eye and lung diseases are rampant here. If the rapid rail is extended up to Muzaffarnagar, then people will have the facility of commuting and business will also flourish.

Madam, through you I would like to request the Government to extend the service of Rapid Rail up to Muzaffarnagar and restriction should be imposed those industries which are emitting smoke that causes eye and lung problems to the people and polluting ground water that causes cancer.

**SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING (LUDHIANA):** Chairperson Madam, I would like to draw your attention towards a very serious problem of the country. Today, Dainik Bhaskar has published a news and it reads that 'now it is intolerable' and published the names of drug smugglers. Those who take drugs themselves have made a video and named the drug smugglers of Punjab. This is news from Ludhiana. They said that they cannot tolerate this anymore and they are badly trapped in the grip of intoxication. The next news is from Indian Express *[English]*– "Vaping trend in classrooms of Ludhiana rings alarm bells; schools increase vigilance after recovery of devices from

children.”*[Translation]* What I mean to say is that in Punjab, although this is a problem of the country, but the problem of drugs is so big in Punjab that many villages have become empty. Some youths have left the country and those who are left behind have become drug addict. I would like to highlight the reason that Punjab shares 425 kilometer border area. When people blame the State Government about this that the problem of drugs has increased four times, then the State Government says that the jurisdiction of BSF has been extended. Till 13/10/2021, the Border Security Forces could enter up to 15 kms. but after 13/10/2021, the jurisdiction has increased by 50 kms. The BSF went to every house, yet the problem of drugs was not solved.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House that there should be a discussion on drugs for at least two to four days. This is a matter of great concern and it should also be looked into that who is responsible for this.

*[English]*

**SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI (KANDHAMAL):** Respected Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity. I represent one of the most backward Parliamentary constituencies, that is, Kandhamal Parliamentary constituency in Odisha. Most of the area in my constituency is hilly terrain inhabited by tribals and backward population. In spite of the best effort of the Modi Government, some areas are not covered with internet and mobile services. I thank the Modi Government for completing 300 mobile towers in the last two years. Another 600 mobile towers are required in my constituency to cover the areas. Kandhamal district comes under Aspirational Districts. That is why, I would

request the hon. Minister of Communications, through you, to provide adequate telecom services in my area. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK):** Hon. Chairperson Madam, as we know the Central Police Forces, the Central Armed Police Forces that consist of the BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, NSG, SSB, Assam Rifles, plays an important role in the security of the country. Our police forces are not only responsible for the security of the country from Kashmir to North-East and in Naxal areas, but also for the security of the borders, ports and airports. Even the security of Parliament is now in their hands. Through you, I would like to make two-three points related to their interests.

Madam, one of their demands is that the Old Pension Scheme should be introduced for them, because when the New Pension Scheme was introduced for the country, at that time it was said *[English]* -'New Pension Scheme for all employees except for the Armed Forces in the first stage'.*[Translation]* In that, the old pension scheme is still continuing in the Army, Navy, and Air Force, which is a good thing. But, after that the Ministry of Home Affairs clarified that these CAPFs are also the 'Armed Forces of the Union of India'. They should also be covered under the definition of Armed Forces. Therefore, while they are being entrusted with the responsible of the security of the country, I believe it is also the duty of our Government to secure their future.

Hon. Home Minister said that 100 days leave would be provided to them so that shooting incidents may be prevented, but no action has been taken on

it so far. These forces are being given only 60 days leave. 100 days leave should be ensured for them.

Paramilitary Boards should be set up on the lines of Military Boards in every state. Along with the state of Haryana, Paramilitary Boards should be constituted in every state so that the interests of these personnel are protected.

**SHRI RADHESHYAM RATHIYA (RAIGARH):** Hon. Chairperson Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Madam, during the tenure of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India, hon. Nitish Kumar served as Minister of Railways for the first time. When he was Minister of Railways, in view of the abundance of coal, limestone, dolomite and other important minerals in Raigarh district, he laid the foundation stone of the railway terminal there in the year 1998 for expansion of Raigarh railway station, but after that the construction works of the terminal was put on the back burner.

The revenue income of Raigarh railway station in the previous year 2023-24 includes about 19 crore rupees from passenger reservation tickets, about 28 crore rupees from unreserved tickets, about 46 crore rupees from freight charges, about 5 crore rupees from parcels. In Bilaspur zone, it generates highest revenue along with Korba. Today, 24,000 MW of power is generated by NTPC power station there and due to hundreds of factories there; the commuting of people to this place has increased from all over India, as a result revenue from passenger tickets is continuously increasing. But

Since Bilaspur zone is not paying any attention, the people there feel neglected and cheated. Madam, I request hon. Minister of Railways to construct a terminal there for the people of Raigarh district.

**SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH):** Hon. Chairperson Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue related to Chittorgarh.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, the Ministry of Road and Transport has done many works in the entire Rajasthan including Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency. More work has been undertaken in the entire Rajasthan including Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency in the past 10 years than what has been done in the 60 years since independence. It includes roads constructed from Central Road Fund (CRF) and widening of 4-lane roads to 6-lane roads.

Madam, a six-lane road from Kishangarh to Ahmedabad has been laid. There is town named Gangrar of around one and half to two kilometers between Bhilwara and Udaipur. If a flyover is constructed, then the markets on the both sides will be abolished in a way. I urge through you that an elevated flyover is constructed there, then not only the market on both sides will remain intact but also the people of that area will get the facility.

There is a Vallabhnagar Assembly Constituency near the airport, which is also the headquarters. There is a dire need of an underpass to reach there.

Madam, if these two-three works are done there then definitely, the people of that area will get the benefit of having a 4- 6 lane road. This is my demand from the Government, through you.

*[English]*

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Thank you Madam for giving me an opportunity to raise the most important issue relating to the US ban on the import of sea shrimp from India.

Since 2019, the US has not imported shrimp from India, accusing Indian fishermen of not attaching Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) to their nets. As a result, our fishermen are suffering greatly. Since then, there has been only a meagre increase in the export of sea shrimp from India. The US claims that sea turtles are getting caught in the nets, but this argument is not entirely true. Traditional fishermen are the ones who traditionally protect sea turtles. Moreover, in 2019, the CMFRI reported that the presence of sea turtles on the West Coast is very low, with fewer than 10 sea turtle eggs found on these beaches in a year.

The fishermen argue that various Governments and the Seafood Export Development Authority, who were supposed to act on the said report, have completely failed to address this reality. No sea turtles are caught during trawling in any Indian State. In Odisha, where the sea turtles are largely concentrated, trawling has been banned during their breeding season. In Kerala also, there are no reports of sea turtles being caught in nets at any stage of fish production.

Due to the US ban initiated in 2019, India is estimated to lose Rs. 2,500 crore in seafood exports every year. Taking advantage of this situation, the European Union, China, Japan, and other countries are bargaining and reducing the price of shrimp. Consequently, the prices of shrimp varieties like kara, naran, karikadi, poovalan, and kazhanthan in the domestic market are falling, pushing our fishermen into a severe crisis.

Considering the seriousness of this matter, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter urgently and find out a solution to this issue.

Thank you, Madam.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND (SHEOHAR):** Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.

Madam, I come from Sheohar Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency. There is a decade's long pending demand to construct a bridge on the river Bagmati which will connect Aduari Ghat to Khoripakar in Parnahia Block in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sheohar to East Champaran District. The construction of the bridge will reduce the distance between both the districts and a population of around 4 – 5 lakh will be benefitted directly. Besides the district Sitamani will be connected to East Champaran and the distance will also be curtailed. Whenever there is excess rain, it leads to floods and land erosion there. Therefore, at least a dam should be constructed there. With the construction of this bridge, Sitamarhi, East Champaran and Sitamarhi's Janki Dham and Ayodhya will be connected directly.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Rural Development that the Central Government should give approval for the construction of this bridge at the earliest.

**SHRIMATI SANJNA JATAV (BHARATPUR):** Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank the people of Bharatpur Parliamentary Constituency for electing and sending me to the biggest panchayat of the country.

Madam, I come from Bharatpur Parliamentary Constituency. There is a severe water crisis in the city as well as in the villages. There is an acute shortage of potable water in my Parliamentary Constituency as the water contains fluoride and salinity, due to which people are suffering from serious diseases.

Madam, the livelihood of most of the people of Bharatpur depends on agriculture. There is no other source of livelihood other than farming to feed the family. Farmers are forced to starve and commit suicide due to scarcity of water.

Madam, I can feel the pain of farmers as I am daughter of a farmer family and have seen problems at grass root level. The Government has made many big announcements regarding water, but no work has been done on the ground level till today. I am sad that the entire country is well aware of the water scarcity in Rajasthan, yet Rajasthan has been ignored in the budget. The Government has not announced any package related to water or any other relief package for the people of Rajasthan.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kindly complete your speech.

**SHRIMATI SANJNA JATAV:** Madam, in the end, I request the Government through you to help the people of Rajasthan and my Parliamentary Constituency Bharatpur by paying attention to the above grave issue. Thank you.

*[English]*

**\*SHRI MURASOLI S. (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Chairperson, Vanakkam. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House of Parliament. I have been elected from my delta district, Thanjavur of Tamil Nadu which belonged to the Chola kingdom. You are aware that Chola kingdom is called the rice bowl with so much of paddy production. Water is released from Mettur dam for the farmers of my delta district. Last year since there was no water flow towards Mettur dam, farmers of my delta district had to suffer a lot. Now, this year, all the dams constructed in Karnataka are full and overflowing. Hence the excess water from these dams are only released to Mettur dam. I urge upon the Union Government that unlike the present situation it should ensure through the Cauvery River water Management Authority, that sufficient and prescribed volume of Cauvery water should be released to Mettur dam by Karnataka. Sir, I place this request through you to the Union government on behalf of the people of my delta district of Thanjavur. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

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

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The zero hour is over.

*[English]*

**LIST**

**OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE  
ISSUES RAISED UNDER MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

<b>MEMBERS WHO HAVE RAISED MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE</b>	<b>MEMBERS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THE MATTERS RAISED</b>
Shrimati Sanjna Jatav	Shri Navaskani K.
Shrimati Lovely Anand	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri K. C. Venugopal	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Murasoli S.	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Deepender Singh Hooda	Shri Rahul Kaswan
Dr. Gumma Thanuja Rani	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Kalipada Saren Kherwal	Shri Navaskani K.
Shrimati Roopkumari Choudhary	Shri Navaskani K.
Shrimati Supriya Sule	Shri Navaskani K.
Dr. Shashi Tharoor	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Isha Khan Choudhury	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy	Shri Navaskani K.

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Mukesh Rajput	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Pushendra Saroj	Shri Navaskani K.
Sushri Iqra Choudhary	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri B. Manickam Tagore	Shri Navaskani K.
Shrimati Kalaben Mohanbhai Delkar	Shri Umeshbhai Babubhai Patel
Shri Deepender Singh Hooda	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Amrinder Singh Raja Warring	Shri Navaskani K.
Shri Harendra Singh Malik	Shri Navaskani K.

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**13.02 Hrs****MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

*[Translation]*

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

*...(Interruptions)*

**(i) Need to confer Bharat Ratna upon late Shri Kanshi Ram**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR (SHAHJAHANPUR):** Shri Kanshi Ram, also known as 'Bahujan Nayak' and 'Manyavar', was an Indian politician and social reformer who worked for the upliftment of backward castes including the 'Bahujans' and the lowest level untouchable groups in the country. In fact, he worked on ground level and lived a simple life. He dedicated his entire life for the welfare of Dalits. This is known to all that Hon. Shri Kanshi Ram has created special place for himself in Dalit politics. However, he always prioritized the upliftment of the oppressed society of the country over politics.

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\* Treated as laid on the table

I request the Government to initiate appropriate action to confer Bharat Ratna upon Hon. Kanshi Ram for his contribution towards the society and the country.

**(ii) Need to construct a weir at Badalpur in Anand Parliamentary Constituency**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MITESH PATEL (BAKABHAI) (ANAND):** In many areas of Khambhat and Borsad, under my Lok Sabha Constituency Anand, the land of farmers is turning saline due to ingress of sea water through Mahisagar River. The villages adjacent to the river of these areas are badly affected due to this. If the sea water continues to flow in the river like this, these lands may turn barren which may have devastating impact on the farmers. If a weir (water barrier) on Mahisagar River in Badalpur village is constructed, then the land of many farmers could be protected from becoming barren due to salinity. I request the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take appropriate steps at their level to construct a weir in Badalpur.

**(iii) Regarding construction of rail over bridge at Chandwa**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KALI CHARAN SINGH (CHATRA):** Parliamentary Constituency of Chatra in Jharkhand is affected by Left Wing Extremism and this district is included in the list of aspirational districts declared by the Government of India. There has been better implementation of development schemes in these aspirational districts in the last decade by the efforts of the Union Government and special programs run by Ministry of Home Affairs. The growth rate has accelerated due to improvement in road connectivity through the construction of more roads and densification. The main road crossing the Chopan-Gomoh railway line is NH-22 Chandwa-Chatra-Latehar. The local residents are facing lot of difficulties due to absence of rail over bridge in the Chandwa. The area is already affected by Left Wing Extremism and the absence of rail over bridge has created further problems related to security and transportation. For years the local people have been demanding a rail over bridge on the Gomoh-Chopan railway line at Chandwa. In view of this important demand, I request the Minister of Railways to construct a rail over bridge at Chandwa so that the local people can get relief and development of this area is further accelerated.

*[English]*

**(iv) Need to bring Ayurved College in Paikamal, Bargarh under  
Central Government**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRADEEP PUROHIT (BARGARH):** I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of AYUSH towards the need to take over the Ayurvedic College at Paikamal in Padampur sub-division in Bargarh, Odisha by the Central Government. Gandhamardan mountain range is located between Balangir and Bargarh districts of Odisha. This hill is famous for medicinal plants. There is a bauxite reserve that has been decided to be explored by the State Government in collaboration with private enterprise. Mountain Piduru of Sri Lanka is the abode of Lord Hanuman. As per Hindu mythology, Lord Hanuman lifted this mountain from Himalayan range on his shoulders to save the life of Lord Lakshmana. Lord Nrusinghanath is worshipped here and Nrusinghanath temple is one of the pilgrimage and holy places in Odisha. According to the Botanical Survey of India, there are more than 2200 medicinal plants. There is an Ayurvedic college situated at Paikamal in Padampur sub-division of Bargarh, which undertakes the research work etc. This college should be brought under the Central Government for further research and development works. I urge upon the Government to consider bringing this College under its aegis, in the interest of college and its students.

**(v) Need to declare Teesta flood as a National Disaster**

*[English]*

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** Over 500 families living along Teesta river in Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts have been impacted due to the floods in river Teesta. People have lost their homes, agricultural land, livelihoods, and even their lives. Major portions of NH – 10, which is the only highway connecting our border region of Kalimpong, Sikkim and Darjeeling is damaged in many places. Despite the scale of the disaster, neither the West Bengal Government has not taken any steps to assist the people, nor have they been able to fix NH-10, which is under WB PWD NH Division.

We are also part of India; we also pay taxes. Revenue from Teesta's hydro-dams alone exceeds Rs 750 crores annually, totaling over Rs 7500 crores in the past decade. WB Government is the sole beneficiary of this revenue collected. Yet, they have not taken any steps to rebuild or resettle the people. I request the Central Government to declare Teesta Floods as National Disaster, West Bengal Government to ensure adequate compensation, and take steps for their rehabilitation; and NH-10 be handed over to BRO/NHAI or NHIDCL, so that connectivity to this strategically important road is restored at the earliest.

**(vi) Regarding completion of various developmental projects in Deoghar**

*[English]*

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Deoghar is an important religious hub and is home to one of the twelve Jyotirlingas and a Shaktipeeth with upwards of fifty million people visiting the pious city annually. I urge to chalk out a comprehensive programme in which previously sanctioned projects shall be reviewed and new projects be tabled for further development in the backward region.

1. Q-Complex, which received a grant of Rs. Twenty-five crores from the Government of India in the year 2012 is lying unfinished.
2. The Ministry of tourism has included Deoghar city in the Prasad Yojana. At the time of its inclusion, I had raised an issue concerning the narrow streets of the city leading to the temple should be widened.
3. The Prime Minister in the year 2015 had announced a package for the development of religious sites in the region, especially the Sultanganj to Deoghar corridor for the betterment of the facilities in the Kanwar Yatra and the overall holistic development of religious sites in the area.
4. The Deoghar, Santhal Pargana, and Jharkhand region is the hub of numerous religions, including Jainism and Hinduism. A comprehensive plan should be chalked out for the development of a circuit which connects the major religious hubs of the pious region.

This circuit will impact India's reputation globally. Parasnath, Deoghar, Basukinath, Maluti, Tarapith, Vikramshila, Bateshwarsthan, Mandar, Champapuri, sultanganj, Karangari in Munger are all pivotal religious hubs with hundreds of millions of devotees flocking to these temples annually to pay their respects.

5. The Food Craft Institute is an incomplete project in Deoghar.

Thus, I request to complete the projects for the development of the backward region.

**(vii) Regarding setting up of an IIT in Satna, MP**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA):** My Lok Sabha Constituency Satna is an industrial district, the Vindhyan, Mahakoshal and Bundelkhand region adjoining it have significant reserves of minerals. There is only one Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Madhya Pradesh which is located in the western region, Indore district, and is 800 kilometres far from my Constituency. There is no facility for the skill development of the youth of my Constituency. My Constituency fulfils the criteria for setting up of IITs. Neighbouring state Uttar Pradesh has 2 IITs, while Madhya Pradesh has just one. As of March 2020, there are a total of 23 IITs in the country. There is a demand for technical education in my Constituency. The setting up of IITs will promote social and economic development. There are various major cement industries in my Constituency. I strongly urge upon the Central Government to kindly allow the setting up of an IIT in Satna.

**(viii) Need for stringent regulations for labelling and sale of processed  
food products**

*[English]*

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** Today, I highlight a critical health concern regarding the surge in processed food consumption. Concerning data shows that top urban households spend over ₹500 monthly per person on such foods. Lab tests reveal that chips have 5.2 times more fat and namkeen 6.1 times more salt than recommended limits. This trend may lead to 351.1million cases of abdominal obesity, 315.5 millions of hypertension, and 254.2 millions of generalised obesity in adults as projected by the ICMR-INDIAB National Study. While I commend FSSAI's recent limits on trans-fat in various food items, I humbly request the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to implement front-of-pack nutrition labelling, regulating marketing of ultra-processed foods, and promoting access to healthier alternatives. This aligns with Prime Minister's vision for a healthy India. I urge comprehensive action to safeguard our citizens' health.

**(ix) Regarding relief and rehabilitation of flood affected people by Ganga, Phulhar and Koshi Rivers**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KHAGEN MURMU (MALDAHA UTTAR):** I would like to humbly submit that due to heavy rainfall and decrease in the depth of the river, the water level of River Ganges, Phulhar and Kosi has crossed the danger mark, leading to unprecedented flood like situation. Khasmohol, Nasiruddin Tola, Bhasharam Tola, Kantu Tola, Mahanandatola under Ratua block, villages under Bhilai Mari panchayat located on riverbed have been devastated by floods, with more than 300 families affected by the erosion of River Ganges, Phulhar and Kosi. While villages like Uttar and Dakshin Bhakuria under the block Harishchandrapur - II have also been inundated by Phulhar affecting more than 135 families. These villagers have unfortunately been displaced from their villages due to the havoc created by these three rivers. These people should be rehabilitated and provided adequate relief and compensation at the earliest.

I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti and the State Government of West Bengal to make arrangements with immediate effect to rehabilitate the people affected by the floods in River Ganges, Phulhar and Kosi.

**(x) Regarding infrastructure development for setting up of a Mega Food Park in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):** My Lok Sabha Constituency Maharajganj in Bihar is agriculture-dominated area. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood and income for most people of my Constituency. Cereals, vegetables, fruits and crops cultivated during all cropping seasons including Rabi and Kharif crops are produced by most of the farmers in my Constituency. Therefore, there is a need to preserve all levels of produce, provide modern storage facilities and make arrangements for good and remunerative marketing system for farmers in my Constituency. There is an urgent need to set up mega food parks, integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure in my Constituency under various schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries so that the farmers of my Parliamentary Constituency may get an opportunity to become financially empowered and their income may be doubled.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Food Processing Industries to set up Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure in my Constituency under various schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

**(xi) Need for proper planning to check floods in North Eastern States**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DILIP SAIKIA (DARRANG-UDALGURI):** Lakhs of people are affected by floods and landslides in the North Eastern States in India and suffer loss of life and property. Thousands of hectares of crops are destroyed and many people and animals lose their lives. This year too, floods, landslides and storms have affected more than 24 lakh people in 26 districts including Darang, Kamrup and Kokra Jhar. More than 50 thousand of hectares of crops got inundated. Kaziranga National Park has witnessed its worst floods in recent years, resulting in 159 wild animals drowning or dying during rescue operations. Due to this devastating flood, there has been a lot of damage to the infrastructure here, this damage includes 94 roads, 03 bridges, 26 houses and six embankments. The State Government and Central Government are carrying out rescue operations at their own levels and are also providing help to the people, but I request the Union Government to make some kind of action plan and take concrete steps on a large scale to save the North-East States of India from the severe floods that occur every year.

**(xii) Need to increase wages of labourers under MGNREGA and enhance allowances of Gram Pradhans**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL (PHULPUR):** The MGNREGA programme is being implemented since 2005-06 under the Ministry of Rural Development. It is one of the largest employment guaranteed programmes. Under this, every family is provided with at least 100 days of guaranteed employment and the adult members of the family voluntarily work in the local area. Almost 19 years have passed since the Act was passed and at present, the average wage is Rs. 289 per day and inflation has also increased. In such a situation, it is difficult to afford daily need items at a wage of Rs 289. The funds of the village heads are also less than required. I request you to consider sympathetically and increase the MGNREGA wages and allowance of the village heads.

**(xiii) Need to provide stoppage of trains at Angamaly railway station in Kerala**

*[English]*

**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY):** Angamaly is the nearest railway station to Cochin International Airport, which carries over 1 crore passengers and 36.95 lakh international passengers, which is higher than either Bengaluru or Hyderabad. Angamaly also serves as a major bus hub for people travelling to North Kerala, and will soon become a railway junction with the completion of the Sabari Railway project. Despite its importance, it has not received the attention it deserves. Out of the 190 trains that pass through Angamaly, only 48 trains stop there. This allocation is disproportionate to Angamaly which is among the top 100 revenue-generating stations in Southern Railway, especially when lesser revenue-generating stations are granted more stops. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to urgently allot the stopping of more trains at Angamaly railway station.

**(xiv) Regarding approval of Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) in Kerala**

**SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM):** The CRZ Notification 2019 dated 18.01.2019 aimed to provide coastal communities more room for development while protecting sensitive ecosystems. However, the implementation of the new notification has been considerably delayed. The State Government of Kerala after approval from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSM), Chennai, on 07.02.2024, had subsequently submitted to the Union Government, the prepared CZMP. Regrettably, the Union Government has not yet considered and notified this CZMP. Until the CZMP is finalized and notified, the stringent provisions of 2011 remain in effect, restricting development and causing difficulties for them. Additionally, the CRZ Notification 2019 mandates the preparation of Integrated Island Management Plans (IIMP) for each island within the CZMP, which has also not been prepared. It is also important to recognize that coastal people have played a significant role in the history of Keralites. Fishermen, often described as Kerala's own army, have received the honours and respect of society for their heroic efforts in saving lives during floods. Despite their invaluable contributions, both the Central and Kerala governments are showing great deception in addressing their critical issues. I urge upon the Ministry to expedite the approval of the CZMP for Kerala, including Ernakulam, without delay.

**(xv) Regarding conduct of NEET Exam**

**SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR):** Even after several students' suicides, claims of impersonation, question paper leak scams, grace mark scams and merit scams, it is said that "No big malpractice took place", but they can't entirely deny their guilt and stand against their grace mark scam. Moreover, in the All India Quota for NEET PG, the OBC category faced total exclusion, resulting in the loss of 11027 seats from 2017 to 2021, despite OBCs constituting over 60% of the population. This exclusion underscores the competitive disadvantages inherent in the current NEET framework. From the beginning, Tamil Nadu advocated for a NEET ban and unanimously passed the "Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Act, 2021 (TN L. A. Bill No.43 of 2021)' bill in the assembly in response. Despite Tamil Nadu's robust health sector and commitment to social justice through comprehensive reservation policies, NEET imposition undermines these efforts and erodes state autonomy. This system has inadvertently fueled the rise of capitalist coaching classes, leading to student fatalities and diminished medical education quality. For the betterment of the national medical infrastructure, it's imperative to abolish NEET and till then grant Tamil Nadu an exemption, upholding the state's autonomy in accordance with the constitution.

**(xvi) Need to give priority to local people for employment in companies set up in Barmer Parliamentary Constituency**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI UMEDA RAM BENIWAL (BARMER):** I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Labor and Employment towards the problem of unemployment in my Parliamentary Constituency Barmer-Jaisalmer due to which local people are forced to migrate to other places for the employment this problem has arisen due to not giving priority to local people in companies related to solar, wind, minerals, gas, oil sector and refinery etc. It is also to be brought to your notice that my parliamentary constituency is adjacent to the international border of Pakistan and the companies in the field of oil, gas, mining, solar, wind energy and refinery here do not give preference to local people for employment. It is unfortunate that the sons and daughters of the farmers on whose land these companies have been set up are not being provided employment. When a company takes environmental clearance, there is also a provision to provide employment and other facilities to the people affected by the land acquisition, but no company, whether it is a technical or non-technical field, is currently providing employment to the local people.

I urge upon the Government that a policy should be made to give priority in employment to local people in such companies.

**(xvii) Regarding establishment of a Medical College and Multi-Speciality Hospital in Sivakasi**

*[English]*

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Today, I present a transformative vision for our Virudhunagar constituency: the establishment of a state-of-the-art medical college and multispeciality hospital in Sivakasi. This initiative aims to enhance medical care and serve as a hub for education and research, ensuring high-quality healthcare and advanced medical training accessible in our district. Currently, our region faces significant healthcare access challenges, with advanced medical facilities located far away, causing financial and physical burdens. A multispecialty hospital will provide comprehensive local medical care, reducing the need for long-distance travel for specialized treatment. The proposed Medical College will offer diverse medical courses, nurturing a new generation of skilled healthcare professionals dedicated towards serving our community. This project will generate significant employment opportunities, stimulate the local economy, and foster research and innovation in medical science. The total estimated cost is approximately ₹1000 crore, allocated across various components of the project. To realize this vision, we need the united support of all stakeholders. I urge each member of this esteemed assembly to back this vital initiative. Establishing a Medical College and Multispecialty Hospital in Sivakasi is a promise for better health, advanced medical training, and a brighter future for our community.

**(xviii) Regarding provision of train stoppages in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JITENDRA KUMAR DOHARE (ETAWAH):** There is a need to restart the trains that were stopped during the Corona period in Etawah Lok Sabha Constituency. Many superfast trains/express trains had a stoppage at Ahalda Railway Station in my Parliamentary Constituency which has been withdrawn. The Government is requested to resume the stoppage of those trains at this station. Apart from this, (Ajmer Express) 12987 and (Ziyarat Express) 12395 should be given stoppages at Etawah station and Rajdhani and Duronto trains should also be provided stoppages, so that people can travel conveniently.

**(xix) Regarding establishment of an AIIMS in Sambhal or Moradabad**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN (SAMBHAL):** I would like to make a demand regarding setting up an AIIMS in my Lok Sabha Constituency. No AIIMS has been set up in my Lok Sabha Constituency till now. Thousands of people are suffering from cancer in Sambhal and Moradabad districts. Apart from this, the area is also affected by many serious diseases. Many people have died due to this. There is no treatment available for these serious diseases in Moradabad and Sambhal.

Poor people are not able to get themselves treated due to lack of money and lose their lives. Kindly, due attention may be given to this serious issue and an AIIMS may be set up in Sambhal or Moradabad.

**(xx) Regarding provision of basic railway infrastructure in Medinipur  
Parliamentary Constituency**

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI JUNE MALIAH (MEDINIPUR):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Medinipur (West Bengal) approximately 13 to 15 thousand households with a population comprising 70 to 80 thousands approximately reside on land owned by the railways for more than 50 years.

Their lives and livelihood are both dependent within this area which comprises 8 wards of Khargapur Municipality.

Unfortunately, each time the Municipality tries to provide basic infrastructure to the residents, they face absolute non cooperation from the Railways.

This issue has been pending for the longest time and the people of Khargapur who are living in these wards for more than few generations definitely deserve an immediate intervention and solution from your end.

**(xxi) Regarding grant of funds under MGNREGA**

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR):** I write today with deep anguish and despair of millions of citizens who have been consistently denied their rightful wages under MGNREGA. This grave injustice stems from the Central Government's inexplicable decision to withhold funds since December, 2021. MGNREGA is not merely a scheme, it is a beacon of hope for the rural poor, ensuring their livelihood and dignity through guaranteed employment. Yet, despite its monumental importance, the centre has withheld Rs. 6913 Crore. The consequences of this fund stoppage over devastation of the rural economy are crumbling.

Accountability is essential, but punishing millions of innocent, hardworking people for alleged discrepancies is not only unjust but also cruel.

I issue a fervent appeal to the conscience of the Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and the Central Government to release the pending MGNREGA funds to West Bengal immediately. The essence of MGNREGA is to provide timely guaranteed employment and we must honour this sacred commitment. Kindly release the funds now and restore dignity and justice to the lives of our rural people.

**(xxii) Regarding surge in cancer cases in Erode**

**SHRI K. E. PRAKASH (ERODE):** I rise to bring to your attention the alarming surge in cancer cases in Erode and the surrounding region. One of the primary reasons for this increase is water contamination from untreated waste discharged by industrial units. Additionally, there are other environmental exposures contributing to this health crisis. As a result, Erode is now being regarded metaphorically as the "cancer capital" of the state. Despite plans to establish a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), the situation remains dire. The residents are suffering, and there is a critical need for a dedicated cancer research centre to address this public health crisis. It would be beneficial if this centre could specially focus on preventive care based on the unique environmental exposures of the region. I earnestly request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to prioritise this issue and take immediate steps to establish a cancer research centre in the region. The health and lives of countless citizens depend on it.

**(xxiii) Regarding grant of special status to Bihar**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** As per the report of NITI Aayog, Bihar has been ranked as the poorest state in the country in the Planning Commission report. Per capita income of Bihar is much below the national average in terms of human development and standard of living parameters. Lack of natural resources, absence of coastal border and high population density in Bihar too contribute to this. Bihar is also a flood and drought prone state. Central Government has not yet taken any initiative to promote industrial development and technical education in Bihar, while the three Northern states viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as well as all the eight North- Eastern states have been accorded special status which paved the way for industrialization there.

Granting special status to Bihar is necessary. This will enable Bihar to provide subsidies and revenues and it will help Bihar to achieve the same result as has been achieved by the three Northern States and the North-Eastern States with the initiative of the Union Government.

I urge the Union Government to grant special status to Bihar in line with the North Eastern States and in accordance with the Gazette No. P-44015/1/2023-DBR-2 dated 9th March, 2024 and The Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI) 2024.

**(xxiv) Regarding development of various tourist sites in  
Ramanathapuram Parliamentary Constituency**

*[English]*

**SHRI NAVASKANI K. (RAMANATHAPURAM):** Rameswaram Ramanathan Swami Temple is located in my constituency. Thousands of devotees from all over the country visit there every day. Similarly, Dhanushkodi, which is a historical landmark, is already visited by all who visit Rameswaram and if developed further Dhanushkodi itself might become a separate tourist attraction spot especially from overseas countries and without saying it will pave way for the revenue through tourists. There are also areas of outstanding coastal beauty covered in coastlines which are still lying unnoticed and underdeveloped and if the Ministry focuses on the same the entire stretch will stay unique due to its nature's beauty. I table below recommendation on basic amenities like modern parking facilities and improved basic facilities, marine sports activities etc. can be established to attract the interested tourists. Similarly, the beaches in areas such as Atiyaman Irumeni Emmanam Kondan and Prappanavalai Riverside under my constituency are beautiful beaches without rocks which is a nature's gift on the northern coast. But quite unfortunately, these areas are still underdeveloped and unnoticed by the tourism industry resulting in lack of development. Therefore, I request special attention to these locations and allocate special funds for the development of various tourist sites.

**(xxv) Regarding four laning of National Highways connecting  
Machilipatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM):** In my Parliamentary Constituency i.e., Machilipatnam, a new port is coming up. So, there is a need to have better road infrastructure for transportation of goods. For this purpose, there is an urgent need for 4-laning of National Highways connecting Machilipatnam Port to enhance trade and supply-chain efficiency. The port's benefits can only be fully realized with good connectivity and infrastructure. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Road Transport & Highways Minister regarding the following issues:

1. Pedana to Gudivada section of NH-216H proposed 2-lane may create traffic issues.
2. A portion of NH-216 from port connectivity road to NH-216H and NH-65 4-lane needed to prevent traffic congestion.
3. Link road from port connectivity to its junction at NH-216 is needed. Land has already been acquired.

These upgrades will ensure smooth movement of traffic for port, strengthen NHs, interconnectivity and contribute to economic growth. I appreciate your consideration and look forward towards a positive response and swift action.

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**13.03 hrs**

**UNION BUDGET (2024-25) – GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET (2024-25) –  
GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND  
KASHMIR), 2024-25**

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Shri Charanjit Singh Channi Ji I

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI (JALANDHAR):**

‘Deh shiva bar mohe ihai, shubh karman te kabhu na taraun

Na daron ari siyoon jab jai laroon, nischai kar apni jit karaun’

Hon. Chairperson, I believe that the present Government has exhausted its ideas and sincerity after ten years in power. An important discussion is going on the Budget of the country. Since the discussion has started, I have been noticing that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Finance are not present in the House, look at their side....*(Interruptions)* please notice that their seats are lying vacant ...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, hon. Minister is present.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Minister of Finance is not present in the House and everyone is waiting for her. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, Chirag Paswan is present. Please maintain silence.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Where are the Members of the ruling party? Where is hon. Prime Minister? Where is hon. Minister of Home Affairs? Where is hon. Minister of Finance?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, you discuss on the Budget.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Where is our hon. Minister of Finance who presented the Budget? We would like to apprise her about what have been provided and neglected under the budget. The whole country is questioning the sincerity of the Government.

Hon. Chairperson, when I came here post my election, the first thing that I wanted to do, is to pay homage to Hon. Dr. Ambedkar. When I went there, there was no statue. It was displaced and relocated somewhere in the backyard. The Government can displace the statue of hon. Dr. Ambedkar but his ideas cannot be suppressed. They cannot subdue his thoughts and amend the Constitution drafted by him. The People have not elected them with full majority because they did not want them to amend the Constitution.

‘Aisa chahu raj main, jahan mile saban ko anna,  
Choto-bado sab sam base, Raidas rahe prassan.’

Madam, the Budget was presented on 23rd. I was very happy to be a part of the Budget discussion. I have been elected to the House for the first time. I would like to thank the voters of Jalandhar who has given me this opportunity. I have worn new clothes today with the hope to gain experience. I and all our MPs will go to Punjab and hold a press conference to inform the public what has been granted under the Budget. I came here in new clothes as if I am going to attend a fair. This Budget proved as great cry and little wool. We have got nothing. We have been given step-motherly treatment. Funds have not been fairly distributed. This Government is not treating every citizen equally. They are treating individual as per political angle. They are only worried about saving their Government. This Budget is not meant for the country; it only serves the interest of their Government.

They ignored the devastation caused by floods in Punjab. Poor people were guaranteed 100 days of work under the MNREGA scheme of hon. Manmohan Singh led Congress Government but this Government could not increase the number of days from 100 to 101 or 200. They could not increase their daily wages. Plight of poor is not considered. Nothing has been given to Punjab in this Budget. Industries in Jalandhar, Punjab are closing down. There are leather industry and sports industry in Jalandhar. They are in distress. Nothing has been done for them. No hospital is announced for Jalandhar. Jalandhar has already been declared a smart city. Water is contaminated there, roads are in bad condition and there was no mention of railway under bridge. Drugs menace is widespread in Punjab, but no one is paying heed to

this. Hon. Prime Minister had said that Adampur Airport would be renamed after Guru Ravidas Ji, but it has not been done till date. I also demand this.

‘Bada shor sunte the pahalū mein dil ka,

Jo chira to ek katra-e-khun na nikla’

Madam, income of Rs 32 lakh crore and an expenditure of Rs 48 lakh crore have been shown in the Budget Estimates for 2024-25. There is a deficit of Rs 16 lakh crore between income and expenditure. The house which incurs a loss of Rs 16 lakh crore in a year, will certainly bound to be ruined. The BJP is ensuring it. It is proposed to borrow Rs. 14 lakh crore this year. If such loans are taken every year, what will happen to the country? Today, situation like financial emergency is arising in the country. BJP is responsible for creating such a situation. They talk about Emergency every day. But today there is an undeclared emergency in the country, what about it? This is also an Emergency that a famous young singer has been shot dead. Sidhu Moosewala's family has not got justice till date, they are running from pillar to post, this is also an emergency. This is also an Emergency that a Member of Parliament who was elected by 20 lakh people in Punjab and he has been jailed by imposing NSA. Freedom of speech – he is not able to talk about his constituency, this is also an emergency. Central agencies are used to take action against the persons in the opposition and they are put behind the bars, this is also an Emergency. This is also an Emergency that thousands of farmers are called Khalistani when they put forth their demand. Is Punjab not a part of the country? Punjab is a part of our country. The National Highway in

Haryana has been blocked. Farmers are unable to come here, they are not being approached, this is also an Emergency. This is also an Emergency, ... *(Interruptions)* you may also feel, ... \* take the feeling, it can be felt, it looks good. This is also an emergency that Manipur, a State of the country, has been burning for the last one and a half years and has been left to its fate, this is also an Emergency. This is also an Emergency that a Dalit girl was forcibly cremated in the middle of the night at Hathras. This is also an Emergency that someone urinated on the face of a Dalit man in Madhya Pradesh, this is also an Emergency. This is also an Emergency that women wrestlers are agitating for their honour, but it is called as propaganda, this is also an Emergency. This is also an Emergency that if a journalist asks questions, he is sent to jail. This is also an Emergency. Students who are demonstrating for their education were called traitors, this is also an Emergency. What Emergency are you talking about....*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, I come from a poor family in Punjab. When I was born, all the expenses of my education were borne by the Government. Today I am standing here as a result of the reservation policy of the Congress Government and the Constitution framed by Dr. Ambedkar Sahab., Congress party led Government gave scholarships to poor children, I kept getting scholarships, I did Ph.D with this, all this could be possible because of the Congress party. When the BJP Government came to power in 2014, the worst thing done by them was that earlier the share of the center in the scholarships

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

was 90 per cent, now they have brought it to the ratio of 60-40 and thus the Government did injustice to Dalits. Poor children of class 1 to class 8 used to get scholarships; today it has been stopped by this Government. They are doing injustice to Dalits. Scholarships for the Minorities of class 1 to class 8 have also been discontinued. When this Government was formed in the year 2014, the hon. Prime Minister had set two criteria to look at the economy of the country. The first was the price of dollar and the second was the price of petrol and diesel. The dollar has risen by Rs. 25 in the last 10 years. It rose by just Rs.13 during Hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh led Congress Government and it has doubled during this Government. When their Government was not formed and the value of the rupee fell due to the rise in price of the dollar, at that time the hon. Modi ji had said about it in the year 2014 – "What is the reason for decreasing the value of rupee of the country. It has to be answered. The Nation wants to know from you. I do not understand whether the value of Prime Minister is falling or the value rupee is falling. Sometimes it seems that there is a competition between the rupee and the Government whether the value of the Government is falling more or the value of rupee is falling more?" Hon. Modi ji had said – "The Government as well as the Prime Minister of the Nation whose currency is weak are considered weak. I say today that the value of rupee of our country is decreasing. Today the economy of the country is collapsing. The currency of Nation is weakening, has the Prime Minister become weak or is the Government of the country getting weak?" ...(*Interruptions*)

The second thing is the price of petrol. Hon. Prime Minister said in the year 2014 – "Petrol prices are increasing and hon. Manmohan Singh ji is not at all concerned, the country is weakening." In the last ten years, the price of petrol has increased by Rs. 23 and the price of diesel has increased by Rs. 35, while, the price of crude oil was reduced by 20 dollars per barrel during the hon. Manmohan Singh led Government. I would like to ask whether the price of petrol is increasing or the income of your companies or people are increasing. What are you increasing? To whom are you giving the country's money? The poor are being looted.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, when someone goes to petrol pumps and purchase 50 liters of petrol to fill the tank of the vehicle, Rs.2,000 goes to the Government. Every person of the country pays four rupees per kilometer to the Government to run, it means the Government earns four rupees for every one kilometer, whereas the Government has posted a loss of Rs 14 lakh crore and then they say that a lot has been given in the budget.

Hon. Chairperson, I visited an airport. A man came to me there, gave me a bouquet, welcomed me and congratulated me. I said, 'Brother, who are you and why are you congratulating me?' He said, "We are welcoming you on behalf of Adani. I said, "Brother, why are you welcoming me?" He said – Now this airport is acquired by us, now we own it. We have taken it on lease for 50 years. I said, 'Alright, you owned it, thank you. I boarded the plane and again I received a bouquet. When I asked, he said – you are welcome, we are doing it on behalf of the company. I said – this is a plane of Indian Airlines, what are

you doing here? Who are you? He said, "This plane now belongs to our company, Hon. Modi ji has sold it to us." I would like to ask what else to be sold. To what extent will you sell the country out? ...*(Interruptions)* I have been to seven airports. These seven airports — Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, Trivandrum and Mumbai are owned by Adani....*(Interruptions)* They have leased out these airports for the next 50 years. *(Interruptions)* Gifts have been given for the marriage of the son and thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on the wedding....*(Interruptions)* My son got married in a Gurudwara....*(Interruptions)*

Till today, the police are enquiring what was cooked in the Langar? The police have been enquiring to me about the quantity of pulses and the wages paid to the cooks of Langar for the last two years. Thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on this wedding and the hon. Prime Minister paid a visit with a bouquet and they have welcomed him. The poor are being looted. The poor do not have money for food and the hon. Prime Minister is attending the most expensive wedding with bouquet. It does not matter. What else will you sell? ...*(Interruptions)* You have sold out all the airports and aeroplanes. You are the custodian of the country's property, not the owner. Do not commit a mistake of selling them. Do not commit the mistake of ruining the country. You call yourself a statesman, you call yourself a great well-wisher of the country and you are selling the country. Where will the poor man go one day?

“jo haar samajh kar pahana tha gala apna sajane ko,

We nag banker baithe hain gala kat khane ko”

Hon. Chairperson, when the East India Company came, they first took hold of the trade and through trade, they took control of the country. There is no difference between them and the British, only the skin colour is different. They also first came to power and then through this political power, today they are favouring their associates in capturing the business of the entire country.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, now you please conclude.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Madam Chairperson, I just want to make a point....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, please you speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** It is alright. You please take your seat  
*...(Interruptions)* Bittu ji, your father was martyred. But, let me tell you, he did not die on that day, he died on the day... \* *...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, you please conclude your speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, I request you not to make personal comments.

*...(Interruptions)*

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Madam Chairperson, they are disturbing me. ... You ask him to sit down....*(Interruptions)* Just because they are from Punjab does not mean they keep disturbing me.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare Ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**(SHRI RAVNEET SINGH) :** Madam Chairperson, he took my name. My grandfather Sardar Beant Singh sacrificed his life for the country, not for the Congress...\* he should tell about his property, he is talking about the poor here?... \* ...*(Interruptions)* ... \* First of all tell this.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I request hon. Members not to make personal comments.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:** Madam, In "Me too" cases, in all the cases ... \* .  
...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, you please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Chairperson, I will speak.  
...*(Interruptions)* Please ask hon. Members to take their seats.

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Madam Chairperson, allow me to speak one last thing before I sit. I just want to say that today ... *(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. ... *(Interruptions)*...

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I urge hon. Members to take their respective seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

**13.19 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*[Translation]*

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The House stands adjourned till Fourteen of the clock.

*[English]*

**13.20 hrs**

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

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**14.01 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at One Minute past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)*

**UNION BUDGET (2024-25) – GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET (2024-25) –  
GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND  
KASHMIR), 2024-25... Contd.**

*[Translation]*

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please wait for a minute.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Sir, I am raising a Point of Order.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Under which rule are you raising the point of order?

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, I am raising a Point of Order under Rule 352.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know the Rule 352 very well.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, while our hon. Member, Channi ji was speaking, he was speaking about general politics. At that point of time, the MoS from the Treasury Benches intervened. Hon. Chair allowed him to intervene. That is okay. But while intervening, he personally made allegations against the hon. Member, Shri Channi. As per Rule 352, is it applicable? It is clearly against the rules. A Minister is violating the rule. And that Minister even crossed the border. He tried to attack the Members. How can a Minister attack a Member? This is actually against the customs, conventions, and decorum of this House. You are the person responsible to maintain the decorum of the House. We need an action. He has to apologise.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister of Defence is also present here. The Hon. Minister of Defence would like to say something.

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to request all the Hon. Members to go through the speeches from both sides and find out if anybody has used unparliamentarily language or tried to violate the decorum of Parliament. Such unparliamentarily contents should be expunged from the proceedings of the House. Let us all maintain decorum in the House so that the proceedings of the House can run smoothly.

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is another important issue that must be addressed today that no Members either from the ruling party or the opposition should come to the well of the House.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Sir, Hon. Minister was the first to go there. ...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Wait for a minute. First listen to what I am saying.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister of Defence and the Deputy Leader of the House has said in the Chamber, here, personally and publicly, it is for all the hon. Member from all the parties. I have specifically mentioned it to the Hon. Minister.

Let us maintain the decorum of the House so that the dignity of India's democracy is not diminished in the country and the world. If you have to comment on anything or if there is any issue, you can meet me in my Chamber and raise your issue there, then we can further discuss the issue publicly. We can have discussion with leaders of all the parties in the Chamber also but we should maintain this decorum. Such things do not even go on record and the hon. Members keep debating among themselves. Many Hon. Members make irrelevant comments.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** ... Who has allowed you to speak?

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** If any Hon, Member says anything irrelevant about the Chair that does not go on record. If something is recorded then I would definitely take action. In any circumstance, if any comment is made on record about the

Chair, I would surely take action but whatever they speak remains unrecorded. I will try and all the Members on Panel of Chairpersons will also try the same.

Members from all parties constitute the Panel of Chairpersons and all of them maintain the same dignity irrespective of their parties. When they sit as Chairperson, they invariably maintain the dignity of the Chair. It is expected that we should also keep this in mind.

Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare Ji.

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Sir, I would like to continue my speech.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You please conclude your speech.

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Speaker Sir, as you have said, it is our duty to respect the Chair and we shall do it. You are the custodian of the House. We shall obey all your orders. During the discussion on the budget, I have raised issues like fiscal deficit, depreciation of rupee, rising inflation due to high prices of petrol and diesel. Also nothing has been given for the poor in this budget. 'Dalits' and women have been ignored in this budget. Some states were given nothing but political inducements. Actually they got nothing in this budget. I am trying my best and will continue to do so. Whatever I speak will be within the ambit of law.

Hon. Speaker Sir, today the country is pinning its hope on Mr. Rahul Gandhi. People from different sections are meeting him and sharing their problems. Farmer organizations met him yesterday and he on behalf of INDIA Alliance assured them to fulfill their demands. INDIA Alliance and Congress party stands today with the demands the farmers and completely supports

them. What are the demands of the farmers? The promises made to farmers do not reflect in the Budget. 736 people were martyred during farmers' agitation. The Congress Government in Punjab where I was the Chief Minister, provided jobs to 736 families. We gave jobs to the family members of all the people who died in agitation and also gave a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to their families but till today Union Government has done nothing for them.

Hon. Speaker Sir, today the farmers are demanding legal guarantee of MSP which was committed to them in writing by the Union Government. Why is this guarantee not being given? What else do the farmer want?...*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) :**

Hon. Speaker Sir, whatever hon. Member has said should be authenticated. He is stating wrong facts. His claims are utterly baseless. Channi Ji is trying to mislead people with concocted facts. It is necessary to authenticate these facts. He is misleading people by making false statements. Channi Ji, Congress and INDI Alliance mislead people by saying baseless things everyday. They have nothing but baseless claims. He must immediately authenticated his claims and apologize. He is doing injustice to our hardworking farmers and our food providers by uttering wrong and baseless things.

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Speaker Sir, the farmers are the 'Annadata' (food providers) of the country, who have flourished the country with

food after independence. Today they are living in condition of poverty and want their loans to be waived off, then there is nothing wrong in it. Why are their loans not being waived off? You waived off the loans to the tune of lakhs and crores of rupees of the capitalists. I want to know that why can't you waive off the loans of the farmers, poor and labourers of 2-3 lakh rupees? Why do you object to this? Rahul Ji has just said that you call farmers 'Khalistani'. Four farmers have been put behind bars by imposing NSA because they were protesting. Is this not an act which proves that you consider the farmers as 'Khalistanis'?...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Sir, hon. Member is speaking absolutely baseless. He must authenticate his claims today itself....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, Kindly produce proof in support of what you are saying.

....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** They allege that 'due to the farmers' movement', they should authenticate this statement....*(Interruptions)* Sir, we need your protection....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** They will authenticate. I have asked them to authenticate their statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** They are trying to mislead the House....*(Interruptions)*  
The statement that 'NSA has been wrongly imposed' should also be

authenticated. Otherwise, action should be taken against them for contempt of privileges....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You also have to authenticate whatever you are saying.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Sir, farmers would like to meet hon. Prime Minister....*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Sir, everyone is well aware about the Parliamentary system and there is no need to give lesson in this regard....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (JORHAT):** ... Sir, whether three Ministers will intervene during the speech...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Sir, when a Member while putting his point makes some false statement, then the concerned Cabinet Minister, who is in charge of the said Ministry and is aware about the concerned subject, clarifies his point. He said that if you have made any allegation, you need to authenticate it, then why these Members are interrupting in between....*(Interruptions)* It is an established Parliamentary system to seek authentication from the treasury benches if a Member makes a false statement....*(Interruptions)* Why the Members of the Congress party are interrupting in between?...*(Interruptions)* otherwise also making false statements in the House...*(Interruptions)* He has been the Chief Minister earlier as well...*(Interruptions)* Why did he make the false statement in

the House?...*(Interruptions)* This matter should be referred to Privilege....*(Interruptions)* He has made a false statement in the House and tried to mislead the House....*(Interruptions)* This is wrong...*(Interruptions)* I urge on behalf of the BJP and the entire House that this matter should be referred to Privilege....*(Interruptions)* You cannot make baseless statements and mislead the house....*(Interruptions)* You are making a wrong statement here...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Speaker, farmers want to meet hon. Prime Minister. They have come all the way from Punjab to interact with the Government. ....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Piyush Goyal ji said that it is to be authenticated but it should be in his knowledge that*[Translation]* It is not authenticated in Lok Saba but in Rajya Sabha. This should be in his knowledge *[English]* It is not authenticated in Lok Saba. He is not aware of the fact. He should withdraw....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** What do you want to say?

....*(Interruptions)*

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Sir, Sudip Da is a very senior Member and I really respect him. However, Directions 115(1)(2)(3)(4) of the Directions

by the Speaker states that if a Member makes a false statement, then a Minister or Member can rectify it and the hon. Speaker can ask him to authenticate it....*(Interruptions)* Therefore, Sudip da should possess the knowledge of this rule that. As per this rule, it has to be authenticated....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you have got enough time to put your point. The allotted time of your party will be over.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am telling this after deducting the time taken by him.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have no issues. If your party's allotted time is getting over, then other Members of your party will not get the opportunity to raise their point.

....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Speaker, Gurbani says that when truth is spoken, the liar responds with anger. I am talking about farmers and labourers, but they are not letting me speak. I would like to ask you, whether you have any enmity with the farmers...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, farmers have come all the way to Delhi to interact with the Government....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is not a part of Budget discussion.

....(Interruptions)

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Sir, it is a part of Budget discussion because we want that the loan of the farmers should be waived. That is why I am saying that....(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Who came to meet whom, will this be a matter of discussion in the House? Is this the system? If you intend to meet me then it is up to me to give appointment or not.

....(Interruptions)

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** Hon. Speaker, are Punjabis not a part of India? Concrete barricades have been put up in Haryana and farmers are not being allowed to enter Delhi. The Haryana Police shot dead the farmers. They were shot dead from the front, but till date no action has been taken in this regard. That is why I would like to ask you, what enmity do the Government has with the farmers. Hon. Speaker, if you do not want me to speak, I will not speak.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am not against you raising your point, but you should speak on the general Budget.

**SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:** 'Tumhe gairon se kab fursat, Hum apne gam se kam khali, Chalo bas ho chuka milna, Na tum khali na hum khali.'

*[English]*

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE (RAIGAD):** Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to start the debate on the General Budget on behalf of the Treasury Benches. I have no words to express my gratitude to the NDA leaders. I am the only one from the NCP Party. But I have been given the opportunity to start the debate.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SHRIRAMPUR):** Speaker Sir, will the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs keep moving around and sit here and there?...*(Interruptions)* Will he keep changing seats? First he went there and sat, then he came here and sat...*(Interruptions)*. Kindly ask him to go back to his seat....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The seats have not been allocated yet. That seat also belongs to NDA and their ministers.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It's not even your seat. Seats have not been allocated yet.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** Sir, I have no words to express my gratitude towards the most towering leader, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. ...*(Interruptions)*. The whole of India is headed by him. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** Sir, I would like to express my view...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** Now, I will talk in my Marathi language till the Marathi language is given the status of classical language.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, your leader is asking you to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

**14.20 hrs**

(Shri Jagdambika Pal *in the Chair*)

**\*SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** Hon'ble Speaker Sir, today all of us are the part of this 18th Lok Sabha. The opposition Parties have too much hatred and malice against Narendra Modi ji that we have been witnessing for the last-couple of days. I have been in politics for the last 40 years and it is for the first time after Jawaharlal Nehru ji that somebody has secured power for the third consecutive term. The opposition tried hard to set a false narrative about constitution. ...(Interruptions) Don't disturb me. Listen to me. ...(Interruptions) I am talking about Maharashtra and I talk straight forward. I feel a sense of pride that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has secured power for the third consecutive term. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru ji had also served this country as a Prime Minister for three consecutive terms. But in those days, this social media was not there.

Sir, I did not say a word, what objectionable did I say. ...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please keep silence.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kalyan ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

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

**Shri Kalyan Banerjee:** What is he saying?...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing will go on record....

...(Interruptions)\*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Kalyan Banerjee ji, you are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kalyan ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Defence Minister, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** All of you please please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kalyan Banerjee ji, I will give you the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

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\* Not recorded.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** All of you may sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kaushlendra ji, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Sudeep Dada, I would request you to maintain the decorum of the House.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kalyan Banerjee ji, you may sit wherever you want.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You may sit wherever you want, I am giving the ruling.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Hon. Chairperson, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** ... You may sit wherever you want to sit, I am giving the ruling.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Hon. Chairperson, Sir. (Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You asked whether you may sit anywhere.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You are saying that you want to sit anywhere.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** All of you please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** ... You may sit there only.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Kalyan Banerjee, please don't interrupt the House in this way deliberately.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I adjourn the proceedings of the House till *Fifteen of the Clock*.

*...(Interruptions)*

**14.24 hrs**

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

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**15.00 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.*

(Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar *in the Chair*)

**UNION BUDGET (2024-25)- GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AN KASHMIR BUDGET (2024-25) -  
GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND  
KASHMIR), 2024-25**

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Sunil Dattatrey Tatkare ji, you may speak.

**\*SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE (RAIGAD):** Hon'ble Chairperson, over 140 crore people of India believe in Modi Ji's leadership and they have elected him for the third consecutive term. This reality is hard to digest for them. They were pretty sure about securing power this time but 140 crore people have shattered their dream. The way they are raising hue and cry on petty issues, that is not a healthy tradition for our democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please speak on the Budget.

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** Madam, I am talking on the Budget only. Were they discussing the Budget from the very beginning?

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

\*The opposition benches are making allegations that in this Budget, the priority has been given to Bihar State only. But they do not remember the history. There had been a great freedom struggle under the leadership of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Ji in this country. I was a student in those days. When there was an anarchy in this country, he led agitations. Karpuri Thakurji, another great leader from the State of Bihar, protested against the Emergency and we cannot forget that black episode of Indian democracy. If we have given priority to Bihar, why do they feel offended? They are also claiming that nothing has been given to the State of Maharashtra. But I want to mention here that in the very first Cabinet meeting, Vadhavan Port Project worth Rs. 78,000 crore has been cleared....(*Interruptions*)

If you do not want to listen, please keep quiet. You people have also talked like this. The State Government under the Chief Ministership of Hon'ble Sharad Pawarji was dismissed because he was not ready to accept the leadership of Sanjay Gandhi. I just want to flag this issue as they have no moral grounds to talk about the Constitution. Shri Yashwantrao Chavanji served in the Ministries like Finance, Defence, Home and External Affairs as a Cabinet Minister, but the Congress party gave ill treatment to him in his later years. The Congress party also insulted Ex Chief Minister Late Vasantdada Patil ji, so he tendered his resignation. We consider this as an insult of Maharashtra and we will never forget it.

Hon. Modi ji has given funds for the development of railway network in Maharashtra Nanar Project worth Rs 2 lakh crore. It was about to be

implemented, but who stopped it? This project could have provided employment to 10 lakh people. But, due to political tussle, we lost that big project. Now they are also opposing Vadhavan Port Project.

During elections, you made the issue of our Constitution and misguided the voters. But still the BJP managed to win 240 seats, and succeeded in securing power for the third time. You are jealous of this success. You people miserably failed even in winning 100 seats, hence you are completely frustrated. Our Hon. Prime Minister has recently visited Raigad Fort and I feel a sense of pride for it.

We successfully landed on the moon under his Prime Ministership. In the year 1971, when we liberated Bangladesh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had called the then Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi, 'Durga'. But when we successfully completed the lunar operation, the Opposition parties were not ready to give the credit to Shri Narendra Modi Ji but to the scientists.

I would challenge the Opposition parties to prove that the personal welfare schemes run by Modi Government are meant for a particular caste or religion. In fact, these schemes are being implemented for everyone and everybody. But they are trying to polarise the voters in the name of caste, creed and religion. We have brought this Budget to empower women, unemployed youth and farmers but not for any single State. Today, we are running a coalition Government in Maharashtra under the leaderships of Shri Eknath Shinde, Shri Devendra Fadanvis and Shri Ajitdada Pawar for the overall development. But they are only criticizing us for smaller issues. Mumbai

is a capital of Maharashtra and also a commercial capital of India. During this NDA regime, Mumbai has received the highest amount of assistance.

I hail from Konkan Region. The Atal Setu Project worth Rs. 22,000 crore has been completed during this regime only. The credit goes to Shri Narendra Modiji as he had provided sufficient funds for this project. A metro rail network has been developed in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur too. Some other infrastructure projects have also been completed. Road connectivity has improved a lot. Only Mumbai-Goa Highway is incomplete and I hope it will be completed soon.

Today, I would like to request that the Konkan Railway Corporation should be merged with the Indian Railways so that it could be developed like other railway networks. I am sure that the Government would definitely look into it for the overall development of the Konkan region. We have got 720 kilometres long coast line.

Madam, 4 Bharat Ratna Awardees named Maharshi Dhondo Karve, P.V. Kane, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Acharya Vinoba Bhave were born in my Lok Sabha Constituency. I consider myself lucky that these 4 great personalities belong to my region. I do not know, whether I will be there are not, but I am pretty sure we will be a developed nation in the year 2047 just because of Modiji's development agenda. The Government should develop a memorial for these four 'Bharat Ratnas'.

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister Yashwantrao Chavan had played a key role in the development of Maharashtra. Now, the NDA is also committed

towards overall development of Maharashtra. Do not oppose for the sake of opposition. You should go through the budget and verify how much of fund have been allocated for the Metro Rail Project in Mumbai. At the same time, we are facing some critical issues of onion-growing farmers regarding the MSP and Onion Export Policy. There was a meagre increase in MSP during UPA regime but during Shri Narendra Modi regime, it has increased manifold. Justice should be done to the farmers who grow onions, sugarcane, soya bean etc.

A lot has been done for the farmers but a lot is needed to be done in future because ours is an agriculture dominant country. In the name of reservation, some anti-social elements are trying to tarnish the social fabric of Maharashtra. In coming years, only NDA can help for the upliftment of Maharashtra. The Mahayuti Government in Maharashtra has brought Laadki Bahin Yojana for the welfare of women. I believe that we will definitely secure power in Maharashtra in October-2024 elections.

I would like to request the Union Government to confer Bharat Ratna Award on Ex Chief Minister Yashwantrao Chavan. Padma Shri award should be awarded to late Barrister AntulayJI.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please take your seat. Do not talk with each other. Address the Chair. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE:** I would not like to say anything about it...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that NDA Government has tried to provide

justice to the farmers of India....(*Interruptions*) There is no doubt about it that there is a need to take more steps. There is no dispute about it. India is an agriculture-based country.

\*I can speak Hindi and English equally well but, I prefer to speak in Marathi and I will continue to speak in Marathi till the classical language status is accorded to Marathi language. Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram have explained about the importance and sweetness of Marathi language. During the general elections, you, the people, in the name of Constitution and today you are portraying this Modi Government as anti- Maharashtra. But, 13 crore people of Maharashtra will never trust you. The Modi Government has cleared the Vadnavan Port Project and around 10 lakh people would get employment through it. You should not mislead and misguide the people. Today the BJP has given me this opportunity to speak on the Budget. I am really thankful to them.

Jai Hind. Jai Maharashtra.

[*English*]

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Madam, I rise to speak on the Budget. It is good that the Finance Minister is here.

Yesterday, Shri Abhishek Banerjee from our Party had enunciated all the objections we have to the Budget, particularly with regard to the dues to the State of West Bengal on account of MGNREGA and Indira Awaas Yojana. The

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

Government has always been strangely silent on this demand of West Bengal. I again reiterate the same. This has proved to be the most divisive Budget in recent times. It is because a Budget is supposed to present the future plans of the Government. But this is a Budget which is called as the 'AB Budget – Andhra-Bihar Budget'....*(Interruptions)* They have allotted Rs. 59,000 crore to Bihar and Rs. 15,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh for a new Capital. At least three Chief Ministers of the Congress Party, the Chief Minister of Punjab, and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu have opposed the Budget. And, of course, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has called this Budget as an exercise to save the Government. She also said that this Budget gave zero to West Bengal....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Yes, the Chief Minister of Kerala has also opposed the Budget.

Madam, I read the Budget Speech several times very carefully. It is a copy-paste job. The Congress has already complained that they have taken some ideas from their Nyay Patra.

Just have a look at Point No. 26 which relates to education loans. It is the exact programme launched by the West Bengal Government for students. The amount of Rs. 10 lakh is also the same....*(Interruptions)* You are not even original. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not expect the Finance Minister to be like Dr. Manmohan Singh, as she is not a Ph.D. from Oxford, or like Mr. Chidambaram

who has got the Management degree from Harvard. She is from our own JNU....*(Interruptions)* But the problem is that she is bereft of new ideas which is why this Budget reads very dull....*(Interruptions)*

Then, you realize that all the notes in the Budget have come from the PMO, whatever the PMO has said – she has no original idea – she has put it in the Budget by way of copy and paste method.

Now, this year, the Finance Minister vowed to spend Rs. 2 lakh crore over five years on five skills, which are part of what she called the 'Prime Minister's Package', aimed at spurring jobs and imparting skills to 4.1 crore youth. This marked a shift in strategy from the previous Governments, preferred reliance in letting multiplier and trickle-down effects. Formerly, they said, you give a lot of money, something will trickle down. But earlier they did not give any direct handouts to any section of society. The trigger, why the Budget has changed course, is due to the BJP's electoral reverses, now there is a Government without a majority. Abhishek called it 'shaky Government', I would call it further, 'brittle Government', just like a glass which will break at any time.

The Finance Minister tried to address the perceived disenchantment among the youth, the salaried class, the farmers and the small entrepreneurs. One important thing – Madam, you should take note of it – that just before the elections, the revelations came about the donations received for electoral bonds. The BJP alone got 50 per cent of all electoral bonds received by all political parties. Which meant what? This is a Government of the

moneyed-class, as some people say of Adani's and Ambani's, who contributed to your elections.....(*Interruptions*) They contributed even to you – \* Please do not forget. ....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Madam, what is he talking about?...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Did you see the revelations?

[*Translation*]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You may respond on your turn.

Please take your seat, let him speak....

(Interruptions)

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Madam, he has taken my name....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No name will be taken.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Madam, Adani is not a name, it is a title....(*Interruptions*)

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Madam, I would like to speak....(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Let him finish his speech.

...(Interruptions)

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\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Madam, he has taken my name, so as per rule I have the right to explain it....(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** But in spite of all this, the stock market has reacted badly. It was probably because of the Capital Gains Tax. So, in spite of all this, the capitalists are not happy.

Now, Madam, I will emphasise what the basic problems of the Indian economy are, and whether they have been addressed by the Finance Minister or not. According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, unemployment rate rose to a high of 9.2 per cent in June 2024. The female unemployment rate was higher than the national average of 18.5 per cent in June 2024. Now, we have been doing very poorly in terms of employment generation. You may be knowing, Madam, that there have been job losses in the IT sector. With artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence) coming in, there is fear of further job losses in what was seen as the most profitable part of the Indian economy.

The second big problem in the Indian economy is rising inflation. The annual consumer inflation rate in India rose to 5.08 per cent in June 2024, well above the market expectations. Prices accelerated steeply for food - 9.36 per cent - which is responsible for nearly half of the weight of Indian consumer basket.

One company called Kantar did a study and found that in 2024-25, 34 per cent households reported that they are finding it difficult to manage their expenses, indicating that a third of India is still under severe financial stress.

The other problem is, Madam, the shrinking informal sector. This is what has sustained the economy for so long, but informal sector is in a grave crisis. As NSSO data shows, India's 65 million informal or unincorporated sector enterprises employed 110 million workers. They are suffering very badly. What we call MSMEs are also suffering.

The other big problem is falling private investment. The Finance Minister, in our presence, handed over a tax bonanza to the corporate sector, but the private investment has been falling. The Government has been hoping that large Indian corporations would step in and ramp up investment. They introduced production linked incentive schemes for big businesses, but all these incentives have failed to motivate private investments. They will spend money on their son's marriage, but they will not invest in new enterprises. That is a big problem of the Indian economy.

Lastly, we have the problem of shrinking labour productivity. Labour productivity contracted in FY23 compared to the preceding year, thus highlighting India's lack of competitiveness in industrial sectors. There is what is called extreme disparity in wealth and income distribution which has pushed the economy to a state of 'gated stagflation'. That is what the economy is today. The Finance Minister must resort to Keynesian prescription of boosting aggregate demand by allocating more Government funds for the social sector

and targeted welfare programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Increased Government spending will boost household consumption which will stimulate private investment. The Finance Minister has not gone this route at all.

Madam, let me now come to the very important study of the social sector. How much money has the Government doled out to the poor? The allocation for school education has increased only by a nominal amount of Rs. 5,000 crore and for higher education by only Rs. 3,000 crore. In both the cases, the estimated recoveries are substantially higher compared to previous year, indicating higher fees and self-financing schemes in educational institutions. Allocation for health and family welfare has barely increased by Rs. 1,500 crore. So, health and education, as Dr. Amartya Sen is fond of saying, are the foundations of the economy and there, we are not having enough money. There is hardly any increase in food subsidy too, despite the need for expanding coverage to the current population level.

Madam, lastly smaller yet critical schemes – please listen to this, Madam – that address vulnerable population have not got much attention. There is only a slight increase to Rs. 12,467 crore for the Poshan Scheme, that is, school mid-day meal scheme.

That is actually less than the actual expenditure on this scheme. The other thing is that budgetary allocation for anganwadis – Madam, you are familiar with all these things – is only Rs. 21,200 crore. It was only Rs. 20,554 crore last year. What does it mean? There is clearly no hope for higher salaries

for anganwadi workers which has not been revised since 2018. It is shameful that you have no sympathy for the poor anganwadi workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

The other thing I want to mention is the budget for National Social Assistance Scheme. Madam, you are an MP. Old people come to you for widow pension and disabled pension. Look at this. The budget for National Social Assistance Programme, which gives social security pension to the elderly single women and disabled, remains unchanged – not a rupee is added – at Rs. 9,652 crore. This is a reduction in real terms taking inflation into account. Madam, please consider this.

Lastly, I will come to the new package. They say it is the Prime Minister's package for employment and skilling, which includes Government sponsored internships, formalisation of jobs through incentives for Employees Provident Fund Organisation enrolment and skill development programmes. These schemes do not seem, Madam, may I say, very impressive when one looks at the budgetary allocation. You say that you are taking care of unemployment but the entire package has an allocation of Rs. 2 lakh crore over a period of five years. How much per year is Rs. 2 lakh crore amount for five years? It comes to Rs. 40,000 crore per year for employment generation.

Further, the private sector is required to spend money towards this package from CSR funds. Earlier, private sector used to develop a school, a hospital, etc. Now, the Prime Minister is taking in the money from CSR fund. By allowing this, CSR fund through which companies contribute to society in some minimal way is now mandated to be used towards subsidising wages for

themselves. How will this economy survive? Rather than discussing damping demand, stagnant wage, and what can be done to revive employment, the announcement only includes supply side schemes towards incentivising the private sector. You are like Milton Friedman. You are indulging in supply side economics. You are of the view that if you give more incentive to the private sector, they will create employment. Different versions of this have been tried earlier and failed. Whether this package will be any different, it remains to be seen.

Madam, as I was saying earlier, this is a disappointing, anti-poor people scheme. One question is this. Madam, you have only discovered this now. You have been a Minister for seven years though you are not a trained economist. You are lucky that way. ...*(Interruptions)* She is not a trained economist. What is wrong in saying that? She is no Manmohan Singh. She is not even Chidambaram. She is not even Anantha Nageswaran. Why did you not act upon demands made by Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha earlier?

Why are you thinking of them now? It is only because of the political compulsions. In your brittle and unstable Government they are the crutches on which you lean and your economy and Budget is going haywire or is lopsided because of all these things. India is more unequal now than in the 1920s. It is an unequal society that we have. During colonial rule we were still somewhat more equal than we are today.

The Finance Minister, of course, has not dealt with inflation. There are only 10 words on inflation, which is the most important problem affecting

everybody. I will just give one or two figures and wind up because my friend Shrimati Satabdi Roy Banerjee is due to speak and she is naturally feeling disappointed as I go on and on. I will wind up.

They were saying that Rs. 11.11 lakh crore is given for infrastructure. Good! They think that is the real panacea or ready medicine for all the ills affecting us. Is it so? One infrastructure project will take five to 10 years to complete. There is an infrastructure project in your area, namely Dum Dum - Barasat Metro Line. How many years it has taken now? It is nowhere near completion. The problem with an infrastructure project is that it has long-term spill-off and no short-term spill-off. This does not appeal.

I will give a figure. They say that Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw is a great Railway Minister, and that he has introduced Vande Bharat trains. In FY 2024, the Railways are at 5.42 per cent of the Budget. It is known that the Budget is Rs. 48 lakh crore and revenue is Rs. 32 lakh crore. Now, Railways have come down from 5.42 per cent to 5.3 per cent. As regards Civil Aviation, young Mr. Rammohan Naidu was waxing eloquent in the morning. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I am winding up. Even on Aviation, the allocation is 0.05 per cent of the Budget; and on shipping, the allocation is 0.05 per cent. As regards social sector spending, on health it is only 1.85 per cent of the Budget. On Rural Development, which is most important, it is only 5.51 per cent of the Budget. As regards higher education, you want to educate the people, privatise education and people will learn on their own, but the Finance Minister's prescription is higher education is 0.99 per cent of the Budget. The allocation

for school education has come down from 1.61 per cent to 1.51 per cent of the Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, this Budget will not give relief to the poor in the country. This Budget will not spur investment. This Budget will not take from the rich and give it to the poor. This Budget will not stop conspicuous consumption by those who indulge in marriage feasts. This Budget is for poor people who just look and gape at whatever happens in Mumbai -- all the stars descending in Mumbai.

With that, I end my submission on the Budget. Thank you, Madam.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA (KENDRAPARA):** Madam, Chairperson, as I rise to speak in support of the Budget, I seek your indulgence. From the turn of the century for almost two decades, I had the opportunity and I was privileged to speak many times on the Budget in both the august Houses. But I have been away for a while for about five and a half years, and now back as a member of this house, it is my great privilege to speak on this most important Budget, but it is almost akin to a maiden speech.

Madam, I compliment hon. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji on this historic Budget. It is 'historic' because not only is it her seventh successive Budget, but the first one in the historic third consecutive term headed by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji. Madam, I wish to put this Budget in the context of what has happened in the last ten years.

I will speak on the Budget, but this context is important. Just a few minutes ago, we heard a pining for the colonial era. Before that, we have heard weird allegations that this Government is like the British Raj, which has just been contradicted by my previous speaker who was pining for the colonial era of the 1920s. There are terms to describe this kind of an attitude, but I will remain parliamentary. So, the parliamentary term for it in social sciences is referred to as a 'Westernized Oriental Gentleman', a wog. That is because while you pine for the former masters and the degrees that they give from their countries and denigrate ours, those former masters do not respect you. They refer to you when they are charitable as wogs.

The context of the last ten years is as follows. When the hon. Prime Minister Modi formed his first Government ten years ago, he inherited from the previous Government a huge backlog of undone reforms. In fact, in the words of my friend, the hon. Member from Thiruvananthapuram, you may call it a long laundry list of unattempted reforms starting with GST, going on with the Bankruptcy Code, and we could keep going on and on.

This Budget is both very wide in its scope, but also very deep in addressing the reforms that are necessary to take Bharat forward. For the last five years from outside this House, I have admired Nirmala Sitharaman ji's previous Budgets when, during the second Modi government, she consolidated on the deep fiscal reforms that were initiated in the first Modi Government by my friend, the late Arun Jaitley.

In the second term, during Nirmala ji's Budgets being presented, India consistently remained the fastest growing large economy in the world. Now, sometimes questions are raised what the importance of being the fastest growing large economy is. How does it benefit the *aam aadmi*? How does it benefit the average *Bharatiya*? It is because this growth has enabled the massive increases in allocations and the massive improvement in outputs and results that have been demonstrated in the last ten years. This has been commented upon by a wide variety of experts around the world. I will refer to some of them.

Now, if you look at just a few weeks ago, looking at the data coming out for the financial year that we just completed and entered this financial year, these are the words of some of the pink papers in both India and abroad.

I quote one, but this has been repeated many different times. I quote; "In 2024, India has experienced significant economic growth with exports reaching a record high of USD 776 billion at an 11.8 per cent increase. The unemployment rate has dropped to a record low of 3.1 per cent, and business activity and job creation are at an 18-year high, reflecting a robust economy."

Madam, some of my friends in the Opposition Benches get a little triggered when we cite some of these statistics. So I will have to issue a trigger warning. But the data indicates, if you look at the job creation data, for example, I will tell you where it is manipulated. The manipulated data comes from certain organizations where the head of the organization is the head of your manifesto drafting committee. When you cite organizations where the head of that organization is the head of your manifesto drafting committee, that is biased. This is not biased. These are RBI data. These are reflected by the World Bank and by the IMF and India's pink paper. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, just in the manufacturing and services sector, in the last 10 years, 89 million jobs have been created; compare this with only 66 million in the previous 10 years. Look at the Economic Survey that preceded the Budget just a couple of days ago. The Economic Survey points out that the percentage of youths who are deemed employable has improved from 34 per cent to 51

per cent in the last 10 years. This work is being taken forward with many other steps to be mentioned in this Budget which I will come to later.

Madam, I think while increasing these allocations - I will refer to some of the increased allocations in infrastructure and other areas – for example, my previous speaker just mentioned about allocations to health. I think the House deserves to know that in the last five years under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Nirmala Ji allocated a compounded annual growth rate of allocation to the health sector of 9.5 per cent which is a new record. The system has to have a capacity to absorb, and that is why, it has to be stepped up gradually. You cannot beat this high CAGR commitment to health. But one of the most impressive parts of the Modi Government, especially in the last five years is how the fiscal deficit has been managed despite these high allocations for the growth of India. I refer to the fiscal deficit, it gets referred to a lot, but I want to take a moment to go behind why it is important. In this House, not just in the Treasury Benches, also in the Opposition Benches, there are many friends with whom I have personally sat and engaged in discussions with multilateral and global financial institutions, and they point out that the single biggest factor they look at when giving a country rating is the fiscal deficit, and that is what impacts inflation, that is what impacts our exchange rate to which some of our friends have been referring.

The fiscal deficit which was inherited 10 years ago at 10.5 per cent was continually brought down in Modi Ji's first term until it reached 3.4 per cent, and then the whole world was turned upside down because of the COVID-19

pandemic and India managed it far better than all other countries. But yes, of course, we saw a rise of fiscal deficit to 9.2 per cent. But the roadmap that has been shown since then by the hon. Finance Minister has been rigidly adhered to coming down year after year to 6.7 per cent, 6.4 per cent, 5.9 per cent, 5.8 per cent, 5.6 per cent and 4.9 per cent this year, and her commitment to bring it back down to 4.5 per cent next year is extremely commendable.

One of the challenges of high growth rate is that sometimes it does create inequalities. That is an allegation that some of our friends have been wrongly making. I will tell you why. This is because inequality is something that is measured. There is something called the Gini Index which measures inequality in a society across all countries. The reality is that India's Gini Index which started out 10 years ago in the mid-thirties has remained in the mid-thirties. Inequality has not changed by economic parameters. Why is this particularly impressive? ...*(Interruptions)* The important thing is that the Gini Index of India is far better than other BRICS countries like China and Brazil which means despite being in the same economic strata, we are a far more equal society. What is even more impressive is that our Gini Index compares more favourably than highly developed countries which have been allocating huge sums to welfare such as the United States, such as the UK. The reason that our Gini Index has been so impressive is because of the allocations, the outputs and the results of many of the aspects of the last 10 Budgets and particularly this historic Budget. Let me give you an example.

To maintain equality in a society, if you provide *roti, kapda aur makaan*, that is what helps maintain equality. Coming to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – it is just a comparison – in the years before the last 10 years, there were schemes like the JNNURM and the Rajiv Awas Yojana which sanctioned a total of less than thirteen-and-a-half lakh houses. By comparison, since 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has sanctioned 42 million houses, and this year 30 million more houses are going to get built. Take for example the Jal Jeevan Mission, another very key aspect of the various Budgets of the Modi Governments I, II and III, especially in the last few years. ...*(Interruptions)* Take a look at this. I will give you the statistics. The Jal Jeevan Mission just a few days ago ...*(Interruptions)* Please have the patience to listen. The Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved a milestone of 150 million rural tap connections up from just 30 million five years ago. There is five times growth in just five years. This translates to 2.28 lakh villages and 190 districts achieving the Har Ghar Jal milestone. Similarly, Ayushman Bharat, which provides health coverage to hundreds of millions of Indians, the world's largest such programme, again this year has got an allocation of Rs.7,300 to take it forward.

There have been some comments on this historic Budget's focus on Purvodaya. I think, it is important to discuss this. Now, the Prime Minister is on record as having a deep commitment to the North East and the East which he has repeatedly explained that unless these previously neglected regions get developed, Bharat is not going to get developed. That is why he has visited

the North East a record number of times more than all his predecessors. The Budgets that have been allocated for the East and the North East have been a witness to this transformation. Now, I will come to the point where you might really want to get excited.

### **16.00 hrs**

Madam Chairperson, the Eastern States had traditionally been neglected by the Centre. But what is more tragic is that within the East, there was discrimination from one State to another despite the Ministers from those eastern States having had a role in Delhi.

Madam Chairperson, more than 20 years ago, I first spoke on the Budget. In those days, the Railway Budget was different, and it was a separate one. I myself was shocked to find some of these statistics. I still remember the statistics more than 20 years later. ...*(Interruptions)* My friends, please reflect on this. Twenty years ago, when I first spoke on the Budget, I found that West Bengal had the country's highest rail track density. And I remember the number. It was 42 kilometres per square kilometre. Right next door to West Bengal was my State of Odisha which had the lowest number in the country. It was 14 kilometres per square kilometre. Every year, we used to appeal to the Centre to increase our allocation. We used to keep getting a few piddly hundred crores of rupees. And our appeal was, 'At least, please give us a 1000-crore rupees'. In the first Modi Budget ten years ago, we were gobsmacked when the allocation straightway went five times to Rs. 5,000 crore. We did not then have a Railway Minister from Odisha. The Modi

Government does not believe that 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', is determined by proportionate representation, but it is for all India. Madam, I thank the hon. Railway Minister. This year the allocation for railways for Odisha is Rs. 10,500 crore. This will go a long way towards bringing Odisha up to the national average and beyond.

Madam Chairperson, when we talk of 'Purvodaya', even West Bengal is included. Yes, there has been a lot of talk about Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Some of our friends from other Parties in the other House created a ruckus because they wanted to know how much has been allocated despite the hon. Finance Minister specifically covering a wide ray of investment opportunities. And just yesterday, from what has been presented in the Parliament, it looks like our long-awaited Coastal Highway Project, which is going into the DPR stage, is moving forward, and that is something like two and a half times of what the Railway Minister has given us. This will be a total transformation for Odisha.

Madam Chairperson, I want to refer to a couple of important voices that have been celebrating India's success. These are the global voices.

**16.03 hrs**

(Shri Krishna Prasad Tenneti *in the Chair*)

Sir, I will first mention that many ...(*Interruptions*) I apologise. I did not realise that there has been a change in the Chair.

Respected Chairperson, Sir, the Modi Government believes in finding win-win solutions which are fiscally and environmentally sustainable. There are

those of our friends in other Parties, who run some States; who run their States into the ground because of freebies which they cannot fund. Then, they keep running to the Centre asking for special funds. The Modi Government works differently. Look at electricity. The massive thrust on renewable energy as well as on solar energy has been something of a world record set-up. If you look at it, 10 years ago, India inherited a total installed capacity of 2.6 gigawatts. It is something that has been cherished and celebrated around the world. But today, this photovoltaic capacity, the solar cell capacity, installed is 85.5 gigawatts.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please wind up in a minute.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:** The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is another such win-win solution and it was important that the hon. Finance Minister mentioned that more than 1.28 crore applications have been received for this because this proves that this is a yojana which is getting uptick, which is getting enormous interest. And, not only will these households get 300 units of free electricity but the extra electricity that will be generated and sold from their rooftops goes into their accounts. This is something that is being again talked about a lot everywhere else.

Sir, as I start coming to the end of my speech on the Budget, I want to talk about the digital transformation that has happened under the Modi Government one, two and three, which is the talk of the world.

Now, look at the start-up environment. Ten years ago, we had a total of some 350 start-ups. This has grown 300 times in the last 10 years and now,

India has more than 90,000 start-ups, third highest in the world, and these have been made possible by the various policies of the Modi Government and the budgetary support for such development.

Sir, the World Bank has made the following comment. I think it is worth mentioning.

“Without the digital payment infrastructure such as Jan Dhan Bank accounts, Aadhar and mobile phones, the JAM trilogy, India may have taken 47 years to achieve the financial inclusion which it has achieved only in six years. This is the kind of transformation that is happening”.

Sir, in the limited time available to me, I will not be able to go into each and every aspect of the Budget but suffice it to say that the thrust on infrastructure continues and this is again the talk of the world and this year's allocation of Rs. 11,000 crore continues that initiative which is transforming India, creating jobs and keeping us as the fastest growing economy.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:** Yes, I will just make this one last point and I will conclude.

Sir, one of the most transformational infrastructure initiatives that was started under the late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji in the first NDA Government was the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana scheme.

Sir, I represent the coastal district of Odisha, Kendrapara, where many areas used to get completely cut off during the monsoon, and children could

not go to school and the citizens could not go to hospitals but the PMGSY concrete roads made it possible that even something which may be 15 kilometres away becomes easily accessible on a bicycle. It has transformed lives but there are still areas that are left behind and I compliment the hon. Finance Minister that in this historic third Modi Government, she has proposed the fourth phase of PMGSY which is going to create connectivity to another 25,000 habitations and it transforms places like Kendrapara, places around the country, especially in the North East, and the previously neglected areas where many habitations, many villages used to be deprived of the basics of life, which are now being made available to them.

Sir, I could go on and on. I will just conclude by saying that sometimes our friends in the Opposition tried to blame us for their own faults. Sir, whether the infrastructure which is facing problems, was built during their time or whether the crisis in the banking sector, the transformation in the NPAs in the banking situation is noteworthy. I will conclude with that.

Some Rs. 64,000 crore worth of assets have been seized which was not happening and it may be paining some of our friends because the parties of nepotism, parties of corruption obviously had a stake in all those defaults.

Now, some Rs. 15,000 crore have been returned to banks and in this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister pointed out that Rs. 3,30,000 crore has been returned to the creditors so far because of the policies of the Modi Government.

With that, I conclude my speech in favour of the Budget.

Thank you.

**\*DR. T. SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):** Hon Chairman Sir, thank you for this opportunity. I thank our DMK leader and hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru *Thalapathi* M.K. Stalin for making me to get elected from Chennai South Parliamentary Constituency for the second consecutive term and enter into this Parliament. Our leader Thiru *Thalapathi* M.K. Stalin is such a great personality with so much generosity and pride as he presents the Budget every year for the people who voted him to power and also to those who did not vote for him. I also thank the people of Chennai South Constituency for electing me. I thank the people of Tamil Nadu, who gave a huge victory to INDI Alliance with all 40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry just crushing the day dream of those who were claiming to win more than 400 seats. Hon. Chairman Sir, Sengol, the sceptre is placed prominently in this House. Long ago we gave up monarchy and started practicing democracy. The essence of democracy, as enshrined in the Constitution, states that we have to treat the people of all the States equally without any bias, favouritism or hatred. But forgetting those ideals, this Budget is presented without a single mention of words like Tamil Nadu and Tamil. That is why, I wish to say in my mother tongue Tamil that I am alive because of my mother tongue and I would not even want elixir from heaven in exchange.\*

“Oh my dear precious mother tongue, I survive and thrive because of you. I would not plunge even for the nectar from heaven.”

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

\* I started my speech in Tamil which is 3000 years old, and I continue to speak in Tamil. While presenting this Budget, our hon Finance Minister said and I quote,\* "The Government is determined to ensure all Indians regardless of religion, caste gender and age, make substantial progress and realizing their life goals and aspirations". \*We are Tamils living in Tamil Nadu which is a State in India. Are we not Indians? Why are we ignored? Everyone is here saying with pride that the hon. Finance Minister has presented this Budget consecutively for the seventh record time. It gives us immense happiness. But the hon. Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu eight times and even then he could not make a Candidate of his Party or an ally to win an MP seat from Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu have been victimised for the reason that they upheld democracy, federalism and religious harmony. This is not our statement. Rather this is the statement made by eight crore Tamils living in this country. You have never thought of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh during the last 10 years of your regime. Now you have given them in abundance. But you are not bothered to give at least something to Tamil Nadu. During April 2024, Bihar paid only Rs.1992 crore through GST to the Union Government whereas Tamil Nadu paid Rs. 12,210 crore. But the Union Government has given Rs. 37,500 crore to Bihar. On the contrary, Tamil Nadu has received nothing. The amount allocated is just zero. Is this the Vasudaiva Kudumbam or the Global Family that the Prime Minister talks very often? Is this the justice rendered by the

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Viswa Guru? The hon. Finance Minister made a mention about Andhra Pradesh five times in this Budget. The word 'Bihar' was mentioned five times in this Budget. Not even once she mentioned about Tamil Nadu in this Budget. Not even Tamil Nadu, States like Telangana, Karnataka are also not mentioned. Even Kerala did not find a mention. Now I am reminded of a saying from *Ho Chi Minh* who fought for the freedom of the people of Vietnam. He said everything will start for the South. In his footsteps, our great leader *Muthamizh Arignar Kalaingar* had said "South has the strength to complete everything that is started". Therefore, as a continuation of our struggle, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has decided to boycott the meeting of NITI Aayog which even stated that Tamil Nadu has the prestige of being No. 1 in the country in 13 important fields. The hon. Chief Minister of a neighbouring State has also decided to boycott this NITI Aayog meeting. Disaster relief fund has been provided to our friendly States like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. We do not have any ill-will towards the fund allocation to such States. Our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister looks at all these States with a sense of brotherhood. He sends Rs.10 crore to Himachal Pradesh as relief fund. He has given disaster relief assistance to Kerala during floods. Thiru M.K. Stalin has sent relief assistance to the affected people of Manipur by ensuring that it reaches their places of stay. When a rail accident took place recently in Odisha, a 24-hour round-the-clock Control Room by Tamil Nadu Government was set up to safely bring out the stranded rail passengers. We have done all these things. We are not blaming anyone. When the people of Chennai

suffered losses and lived in pain and anguish due to heavy rains and floods, many Union Ministers visited the affected areas. We sought Rs 37,000 crore as flood relief assistance. But we got only Rs. 276 crore that too a legitimate amount. Is this the Vast Bharat or Akand Bharat the Prime Minister often talks about? The hon. Prime Minister often quotes Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Thiruvalluvar. "Let us say with pride this is our country, Bharat", Bharathiyar said. In a letter addressed to Nellaiyappar, Mahakavi Bharathi says "My brother, what can I do? I am saddened when someone says there is a language that is so special than Tamil. I do not accept the statement that some others are even stronger than Tamils." This is not to bring inequality or a bifurcation. I am not at all talking on these lines. But as far as our rights are concerned, we have to raise our voice to protect our rights. "Your enemies decide what weapons you hold in hand", says Che Guevara. We are here to voice our concern and to get back our rightful due. This Budget is presented just to appease the Alliance Parties. I will say\* it is not an all India Budget. It is an Alliance Budget \*because Tamil Nadu, which is not part of the NDA alliance and which has not made them at least to secure one MP seat, has been completely ignored. There is no prominent or big scheme for Tamil Nadu in this Budget. Whether it is the Highway project or the Railway project or the Metro Rail Project of Coimbatore and Madurai Cities, all are kept in abeyance. I wish to say that many schemes that were announced by the hon. Finance Minister

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

are just a copy of the schemes of our Dravidian Model of governance. Up-gradation of 1000 ITIs and Thozhi- the friendly hostels for Women, are being implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu. Hostels for workers and labourers and other schemes are also implemented in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Finance Minister as a matter of gratitude for emulating such schemes from Tamil Nadu should have allotted adequate funds for the State of Tamil Nadu. For example, if you take Chennai South Constituency, our hon. Union Minister laid the foundation stone in Chennai Kalaivanar Arangam for the Second Phase of Chennai Metro in the year 2010. The hon. Prime Minister, in the year 2011 announced that Rs 63,000 crore will be allocated for implementing this project. Till now not even a single rupee was allocated for this project by the Union Government. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with a kind heart has allocated Rs 33,000 crore and the work has begun. Already the State of Tamil Nadu is under financial burden. Now if you see the Prime Minister Awas Yojana, the hon. Finance Minister has announced that three crore houses would be constructed under this Scheme in the next five years. But there is no mention about increasing the amount of financial support given by the Union Government for construction of each house under this Scheme. If the Union Government provided Rs 1.5 lakh for construction of a single house under this Scheme, the State Government has to spend from Rs. 12 lakh to Rs.14 lakh per house. Even though the State Government spends the maximum amount under this Scheme, the name of the Scheme is Prime Minister Awas Yojana. How is it justified? Stamp duty falls under the State List. The Union

Government has instructed the States to reduce this stamp duty. Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu asks a valid question. If you want the States to reduce the stamp duty, are you not supposed to pay compensation to the States for making such a reduction in stamp duty? Due to the levy of GST, Tamil Nadu is facing a loss to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore per annum. Our hon. Chief Minister is asking the Union Government that how much money has been given by them as compensation to Tamil Nadu. Not only our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, but also all the people of Tamil Nadu are also asking the same question. This Budget is on five important aspects. The hon. Finance Minister calls this\* it is a Prime Minister's package. \*In the Interim Budget, she had already mentioned giving priorities to Women, Farmers, Poor and Youth in a broad framework. As a supplement to that, the hon. Finance Minister has now announced about this Prime Minister's package. The Five-Point Policy includes employment, education, skill development, and development of women. If you take employment, 4.1 crore youth will be provided with employment during the next five years. The Finance Minister says Rs. 2 lakh crore will be allocated for skill development initiatives. In the year 2014, the unemployment ratio was 5.44 per cent and that rose to 9.2 per cent in 2024. Recently, in the Ankleshwar city of Bharuch district in Gujarat, a private company organised an interview for providing employment to the local youth. This interview was

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

attended by thousands of youths in a building which was about to collapse. This is the achievement of BJP during their last 10-year rule.

As regards skill development, in the next five years, one crore youth will be provided Internship opportunities in 500 companies. An incentive of Rs 5,000 will be provided by the Union Government. Ten percent of expenditure of this Internship would be borne by the private companies through their CSR funds. That comes to Rs 60,000 crore for a five-year period. This will again benefit the big companies. The MSMEs and the Start-Ups will not be benefitted by this Scheme. The hon. Finance Minister has announced that 20 lakh youth will be given skill development training in the next five years. Hon. Chairman Sir, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru *Thalapathy* M.K. Stalin has been implementing a scheme in Tamil Nadu, which provides skill development training to 15 lakh youth every year. One month wage will be given to the first timers who get jobs in the formal sector. They will first be enrolled in EPFO and only if they get a monthly salary of a minimum of Rs 15,000 and up to Rs. 1 lakh, they may become eligible for this one-month's salary to be given by the Union Government. I wish to remind you that a company can be registered with EPFO only when it has at least 20 employees on pay roll. Therefore, this Scheme will not also benefit the MSMEs. This will rather benefit bigger companies and business magnets. As much as R.3 lakh crore was allocated to the development of women, but the funds for MGNREGA have been totally stopped, which will definitely hamper the growth in the rural areas. The funds for MGNREGA have been completely blocked. You talk about Naari Sakthi-

the women power. Whether this Government has so far provided any relief assistance to the affected women in Manipur? After making big reduction in MGNREGA funds you have not even given any relief assistance to the affected women of Manipur. There is a saying which goes like this. "You read Ramayan but demolish the Vishnu temple". I wish to point out here one thing to you. Education, employment, skill development and women's development\*  
...(Interruptions)

Sir, I am the second speaker. Just give me five more minutes. \*After dismantling all the basic infrastructure, this Budget claims to give a seat at the top of a high structured building. This is just like they are giving false assurances here and there, everywhere, they do it in the Budget also. If it comes to education, are you allocating these many crores of rupees to basic education? But there are so many irregularities in the entrance exams to higher studies like question paper leak. At the height of it, you are providing grace marks, you can call it a mockery and nowhere such things can happen in the world. It has become the biggest farce of this century. It is just a mockery that you are not stopping award of grace marks rather you say you are allocating funds for educational development. That is why, I call this as a BASE Budget without any base.\* It is Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Satisfying, Elbow greasing Budget. It is BASE Budget without any base. \*I wish to state about the Budget presented in the British Parliament by the then Liberal Government

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

during 1909-10. Even today that is praised as the People's Budget. There were increases in income-tax for the richer people in Britain and the tax revenues thus collected were to be used for implementation of social welfare schemes. This was the announcement made during that People's Budget. This People's Budget was prepared by the Chancellor of Exchequer Shri David Lloyd George and his friend Shri Winston Churchill who were then referred as Terrible Twins. As against this People's Budget, this present Budget shows a step-motherly attitude towards many States of the country.\*

I would like to quote our DMK Party Supremo, the founder of our Party, our *Peraringnar* Annadurai. \*I want to quote some lines from his speech which he delivered as a Member of Parliament when he was in Rajya Sabha.\* I quote. "What right has this government to demand more and more taxes when their performance is of such a lower order? I think that this Government, after having taxed the people so much, has not given proper returns or proper account to the nation. Therefore, though I realise that I do not have the power to stop it, I cannot abet a crime of allocating colossal sums to this insufficient, unrealistic, unresponsive and undemocratic Government that is being carried on. But whatever may be the criticism that is offered on this side, they have their numbers and their logic is based on numbers. Therefore, Mr Chairman, offering this criticism we have to go to the other forum and receive justice from only one source, the public and Mr. Chairman we are confident of getting a

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

proper verdict". These were the words by our great leader C.N. Annadurai. We have had a proper verdict. \* Because of the right verdict of the people of Tamil Nadu, BJP which was having majority earlier was reduced to minority government now. Moreover, Tamil is a race which has a distinct character on its own. Hon Finance Minister is very well aware of Silappathigaram. If this Government betrays Tamils and Tamil Nadu, I should remind our hon. Finance Minister the lines of Poet Ilango Adigal in Silappathigaram. "Arasiyal Pizhathorkku Aram Kootragum". The meaning is that "those who commit injustice while ruling this country, virtue itself will turn as demon of death." Thank you.\*

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\*...\* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

**\* SHRI BASTIPATI NAGARAJU (KURNOOL):** I thank our leader and honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu and youth icon Nara Lokesh for giving me this opportunity to enter Parliament. People of our country believed in the ability of Shri Narendra Modi to take our country to new heights and that is the reason why they elected him for the third term and as a result we are seeing the Budget Session going on smoothly in the Parliament. I bow my head in respect for our Prime Minister. We considered this Budget, which was introduced yesterday, as a revolutionary Budget. I would like to refer to some important highlights of the Budget introduced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

Taking into consideration the financial situation of Andhra Pradesh, the Finance Minister announced Rs15,000 crore funds for the development of the capital city Amaravati. An assurance was given to complete the Polavaram project with the help from the Union Government. A special package has been announced for the development of backward regions of Rayalaseema and North Andhra Pradesh. We are happy about this announcement.

For industrial development, Kopparti node in Visakhapatnam - Chennai industrial corridor and Orvakal node in Hyderabad - Bangalore industrial corridors were announced. It was assured that all basic facilities like water, electricity and roads will be provided to these industrial nodes. For this, I would like to thank our honorable Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. It is sad

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

that some are painting this Budget as the Andhra Pradesh - Bihar Budget. In our country every State has a capital city except Andhra Pradesh. In 2014, the honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the capital city Amaravati. Through this House, I would like to explain the condition of the people of Andhra Pradesh. In 2014, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu 73 per cent of the Polavaram project was completed, but the previous Government completely neglected it. They could not even complete 3.84 per cent of the civil works. That is the reason why we are given assurance to complete the Polavaram project. That project is a lifeline for the farmers and will help Andhra Pradesh thrive. Due to the previous Government's follies, we could not complete the Polavaram project. Now under the Narendra Modi's leadership, we are sure that we will complete this project on time.

The previous Government in Andhra Pradesh has betrayed the people, in the name of three capitals. They denied the capital city Amaravati for which the foundation stone was laid by our Prime Minister. This shows how bad the administration of the previous State Government was. That is the reason why the people of Andhra Pradesh had given 93 per cent of the seats to the NDA Government in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The people of Andhra Pradesh believed in the alliance between TDP, Janasena and BJP at both the State as well as at the Central levels. In this direction, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had sanctioned Rs15,000 crore for Amaravati. I would like to thank her again for this gesture.

As far as the economy is concerned, Nara Chandrababu Naidu's Government has handed over Andhra Pradesh to the previous Government with Rs.3.5 lakh crore and in the last 5 years they had borrowed Rs.13.5 lakh crore loans and destroyed our State. In 2014 when Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated there was a deficit budget of Rs. 6,000 crore. Even then Nara Chandrababu Naidu recorded a 13.5 per cent growth rate in GDP. The previous Government has brought this growth rate down to nine per cent and pushed our State into bankruptcy. If we look at the per capita income between 2014 and 2019 there was a growth of nine per cent which was dropped to three per cent under the previous Government's regime. This shows the bad governance of the previous Government and that is the reason why it is the responsibility of the Central Government to save Andhra Pradesh.

The Narendra Modi's Government has taken up an ambitious project Jal Jeevan Mission, through which every household will be provided with tap water connection. But the previous Government has misused and diverted funds meant for Jal Jeevan Mission. They could not even utilise funds meant for Jal Jeevan Mission and deprived the people of drinking water under that scheme. Now our leader Nara Chandrababu Naidu has resolved to provide drinking water to every household. PM Aawas Yojana is another ambitious scheme of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with an objective to provide houses for homeless people. Between 2014 and 2019 Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu had constructed several houses under the PM Aawas Yojana but the previous Government neglected those houses by not providing water and

electricity, thus depriving the people of those houses. Recently after taking oath as MPs, we had visited our constituencies and provided those houses with all basic facilities under the leadership of our leader Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

As far as women empowerment is concerned, the NCRB has reported 30,000 missing cases of women in Andhra Pradesh. This reflects the condition of women under the previous Government. In yesterday's Budget, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has provided a lion's share for the empowerment of women. I thank the Finance Minister for taking up this step.

When it comes to employment for youth under the previous Government, we did not find even a single opportunity of employment for youth. Not even a single notification for employment was announced by the previous Government. Nara Chandrababu Naidu after forming the Government, within one month has announced 16,000 posts under the DSC. As far as the Government employees are concerned, the previous Government was not in a position to even pay their salaries. In such a scenario, we request the Union Government to save and help Andhra Pradesh. Even the SC, ST, BC sub-plan funds were diverted for the State-sponsored schemes like 'Navratna'.

Sir, now I will talk about my Parliamentary Constituency, Kurnool which is known as the most backward and drought hit region of Andhra Pradesh. I represent Kurnool Parliamentary Constituency and even today Kurnool is known for migrations. In yesterday's Budget, a special package was

announced for the backward regions like Kurnool. I thank Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for that announcement. Even after 75 years of Independence, our Kurnool does not have even a small irrigation project. As a special package has been announced for the backward regions, I request that in Kurnool, the importance may be given to irrigation projects. Even today Kurnool is deprived of drinking water. By developing different projects like Undralla and Vedavathi we can ensure development of Kurnool. Similarly, we do not even have a single National Highway that passes through Kurnool. I request a highway between Bellary and Kurnool. We are hopeful that this Government would sanction a highway in our constituency. I believe that our State and the nation will be on the path of development under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji. In Kurnool we have only one general hospital. Under the AP Reorganisation Act, an assurance was given by the Union Government to build a cancer unit in this hospital. That work was sanctioned under the Chandrababu Naidu's Government but the previous Government has left those works in the middle and neglected that project. I request that the work may be resumed at the earliest and the cancer hospital in Kurnool may be made functional.

We believe in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu to check the migrations from Kurnool. Let it be works related to the hospital, National Highways, youth or irrigation projects, we request that special attention should be paid to a backward region like Kurnool. I once again plead, on behalf of the people of Kurnool, to help in the development of our Constituency. I once again thank you for giving me this

opportunity on my own behalf and also on behalf of the people of Kurnool and Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

**DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ):** Hon. Chairperson, thank you. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on behalf of the people of my Constituency, the people of Bihar and the people of our country on his historic victory for the third time.

I express my gratitude towards hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and our hon. Chief Minister, 'Vikas Purush' Shri Nitish Kumar, under whose able leadership this important and development-oriented budget has been brought for the country and the State of Bihar. I would also like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for successfully presenting the Budget for the seventh time for the development of the country. I wholeheartedly welcome this Budget which is presented with an optimistic approach. The demands of Bihar have been specially taken care of in this budget and an amount of Rs. 58,600 crore has been allocated for various projects.

Sir, special allocation has been made for road projects, power projects, airports, medical colleges and sports infrastructure in this Budget for Bihar, which is a commendable step.

Sir, with more than 144 crore population, India is treading towards the path of development today. With the hard work of more than 92 crore working age population, the country's economy now stands for more than 327 lakh

crores. With GDP growth rate of more than 7 percent, India has now become the world's 5th largest economy.

Sir, the allocation of 26 thousand crores rupees under the Budget 2024-25 for the construction of expressway and bridge over the river Ganges in the State of Bihar is not only essential, but unprecedented also. The provision for setting up a 2400 megawatt power plant costing Rs. 2,14,000 crore in this budget is also commendable. I especially thank the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance for making special provisions for Bihar in the budget.

Sir, while speaking on this Budget, I urge upon the Government that Sabeya airfield in Hathua, Gopalganj, spreading over 473 acres and is included under the UDAN scheme for which the Ministry of Defence has already made an allocation of Rs. 4 crore 41 lakh for its boundary and fencing. Its commercial revenue and feasibility is also quite high. A population of about 1.5 to 2 lakh of Sabeya lives abroad and we also receive huge amount of foreign exchange from there. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to cover it under the Budget and start operational activities after the bidding process.

There has also been a record allocation of Rs 2.55 lakh crore for the Railways in this budget. My Parliamentary Constituency has more commercial feasibility for railways, so a provision should be made for direct train facility from Thawe junction of Gopalganj to metro cities and a provision for the same should also be made in the budget. The budgetary provision for pit line and yard facility in Thawe Junction should be made so that we can get direct train facility for metro cities.

Sir, under the leadership of hon. Minister the State Government of Bihar has sanctioned a medical college in Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency and simultaneously the tender process has also begun. I urge upon the Government to get approval from NMC at the earliest and allocate Budget so as to start the construction work of medical college as soon as possible.

Sir, NH-27, which is part of the Golden Quadrilateral, passes through many districts of Bihar via Gopalganj and connects Bihar to major metro cities of the country. I would like to suggest that a provision should also be made under the Budget 2024-25 for attracting investment and setting up of new business and industries in Bihar and tax exemption should be given in this regard to ensure overall development of Bihar.

Sir, in 1776, a book 'Wealth of Nation' was written in which Adam Smith says that the breadwinner will eat, but it does not seem to be entirely true, because according to Indian traditions, he who is born will eat and the breadwinner will feed. In this way, in this Budget Bihar is lagging behind in progress compared to other states on many parameters. Therefore, in this Budget Bihar should get more special assistance.

Sir, this Budget for the year 2024-25 will bring revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers, women, youth and poor people. Income of farmers will increase, opportunities will be available for youth, women will be empowered. The allocation of Rs 1.52 lakh crore in the agriculture sector will definitely increase agricultural productivity. Farmers will be benefited from new technology and the Government will promote technology from village to village.

Sir, the first Budget of the country, which came in the year 1952-53, at that time the revenue receipt was Rs 404.98 crore and the expenditure was Rs 401.25 crore, which in the current financial year for 2025 is estimated to be Rs 48.21 lakh crore and the receipt is estimated to be Rs 32.07 lakh crore. It is the result of the able leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, due to which the fiscal deficit of our country is also estimated to be less than 4.1 percent next year.

Sir, the allocation of 4.8 lakh crore for education and skill enhancement in Budget 2024-25 is commendable. But while suggesting this, Prof. Mahalanobish, popularly known as Jensly the father of modern Indian Budget, says that *[English]* it would be, however, a total mistake to establish a system of education on the model of an advanced country which has little relevance to local needs and would be beyond the means of the national economy.*[Translation]* Therefore, the education system should be affordable for all.

Sir, the receipts for the year 2025 is 32.07 lakh crore. In this regard, I would like to quote the speech of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Saheb in Nashik in the year 1939. He said that the taxes collected by the Government must be used for farmers' debts, for poverty alleviation and for education.

Sir, while concluding on the Budget, I would like to suggest that the today India is a country of more than 144 crore manpower. It has 156 million hectares of arable land, which is more than 120 million hectares of land of China. India has 48 percent of irrigated area whereas China has 41 percent of irrigated area. The gross sown area is 198 million hectares in India while that

of China is 166 million hectares. Yet China's yields are three times higher. China's productivity is 1767 billion dollars whereas the agricultural production of India is only 407 billion dollars, so agriculture should be developed more, economy should be developed and rural areas should also get all the facilities like that of cities. So, I welcome this Budget.

One more thing I would like to say is that one of our senior colleagues said a while ago that this Budget is only for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. It is said that the present is a mirror of the past. Hon. Member forgot that when their hon. leader was the Railway Minister and at that time the Railway Budget was separated, at that time she took the maximum number of railway projects to her State Bengal and gave a negligible budget to Bihar and today her party leaders are taking a dig at Bihar. I do not agree with him and he should not have said this keeping in mind his seniority.

I conclude by welcoming this Budget. Thank you.

[English]

**SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM):** The hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced the Budget with the idea of the terminology used 'Vikasit Bharat'. However, there was no feeling of Bharat in the entire Budget. The Government has failed to take the States together. The idea of 'India' has been totally shattered in this entire Budget. This Budget is a classic example of destroying cooperative federalism of our country. But I am glad that the Government took an inspiration from the 'Nyay Patra' of the Indian National Congress. This is the 'Nyay Patra' of the INC.

The Congress's promise of an internship for a yearly stipend is included in the Budget. The Congress's promise of an incentive for corporates to win tax credits for additional hiring against regular quality jobs is included in the Budget which is linked to the EPFO. The Congress's promise of Angel Tax removal is also included in the Budget. We are very glad. In 2019, when the Government came into power, Modi Sarkar had promised two crore jobs every year. By 2023-24, 10 crore jobs should have been given to young people. But unfortunately, this has not happened. So, we expect that at least the idea that Congress gave would be implemented by this Government.

In 2019, the colleagues from BJP in this august House shouted the slogan, 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai.' For Manipur, there is pain in our hearts. In Manipur, hundreds of people lost their lives, thousands got displaced. Our Prime Minister went to Pakistan for the birthday reception of Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, but till date, he has not gone to Manipur.

...(Interruptions) It is a shame to the entire country. ...(Interruptions) 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai.'

Sir, Terminal 1 of the Delhi Airport collapsed. Roofs of the airports of Jablapur and Rajkot, inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister collapsed. In the State of Bihar, 14 bridges which are already in construction have also collapsed.[Translation] Sir, all this can be, 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai.'  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

We get distressed about the terror attacks and targeted killings of Jammu and Kashmir. Later the abrogation of Article 370 happened. The truth is, earlier the attacks were in the borders, but now it has spread to the inner parts of Kashmir. The recent ones were in Reasai, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri districts of Jammu. 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai.'

There were daily riots in North-East in 2020 when the President of the United States, Donald Trump came here to visit Delhi, the capital of our country. There were riots were in full force. 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai.' This is an institutional attack against the minorities of this country. This is an institutional attack against the Christians and Muslims of this country. This is happening at a time where you talk about the secular fabric of this country. BJP came into power with 239 seats. When this Government came into power, they were already in the Intensive Care Unit. But with the presentation of this Budget, we clearly understand that it is not in the Intensive Care Unit, but it is

surviving with the support of two ventilators in this House. The Budget clearly shows there are two ventilators. Two ventilators run this House.

Sir, there is a very critical point which none of my colleagues has noticed. The MPs from the coastal belt should understand about offshore mining. The Budget talks about the critical minerals mission. There is an announcement of offshore mining. There is no doubt that this is going to increase. There is no doubt that the mining is going to affect the lives and livelihood of lakhs and lakhs fishermen of this country. Offshore mining is going to disturb the flora and fauna. Offshore mining is going to disturb the marine wealth, environment, and the eco-system would be destroyed. There is no doubt, offshore mining is going to happen. Like the corporates have taken over the seaports, airports and telecom industry, offshore is also going to be taken over by the corporates. The critical mineral mission is going to be an Adani-Ambani Mission ...*(Interruptions)* There is no doubt. Along the biggest coastal line which spreads to Gujarat, lakhs and lakhs of fishermen are suffering. Their lives and livelihood is going to be badly affected and the corporates will take over the seashore, no doubt.

The Budget has shown clear discrimination against the State of Kerala. There is no place for Kerala in the Budget. AIIMS for which there has been a big demand was announced by the BJP Government. The people of Kerala gave a mandate for one BJP MP. The Treasury Benches gave us two Ministers, but still no AIIMS. During COVID-19, there was continuous threat of new viruses. The Government has no focus on preventive healthcare. There is

no allocation for vaccination drives, public health campaigns, regular health check-ups or screenings. We are still waiting for vaccination for the nine to 14-year-old girls, as the hon. Minister said, for giving the preventive cervical cancer vaccination to young girls. We are still waiting for that.

Kerala is facing a huge financial crisis. We have a huge financial deficit. But still the Central Government has not announced any special package. In 2018, Kerala faced the most disastrous floods in the history of the State. Certain States like Bihar, Assam, Uttarakhand and Sikkim were given flood packages. We had presented a package of Rs.8,500 crore, but no flood mitigation package was allotted by the Central Government.

In the reply given to me by the hon. Minister of Finance to a Starred Question, she clearly said that after 2015, after the UPA regime, there are no funds allocated for the coastal belt for building the seawalls or the groins in the State of Kerala. No single rupee has been allotted for building the entire seawall. No tourism package has been allocated to Kerala.

The place I come from is the Queen of the Arabian Sea, Kochi. Kochi is a place of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. Kochi is a place of the Kochi Metro Rail. Kochi has a huge potential for tourism, heritage and culture. But in 16 square kilometres, there would not be any other place in the country where you have 21 different communities living together in harmony including the Jews. Not a single rupee has been given for heritage tourism.

The Budget has been constantly denying the youths of this country. The budget for MGNREGA has not been increased. It is remaining the same.

Unemployment in the country is at its peak, particularly the rural unemployment. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has given a report. Only three per cent of the workers received the unemployment allowance in the last five year because no budget for MGNREGA was kept. No action has been taken on the report.

What is the situation of our PSUs? Sushri Jothimani had asked a question. There are 36 PSUs in the process of getting sold. Ten have already been sold. The remaining are under process and they will be sold in the coming years. This is the position of the Government which has been ruling us and this is the Budget which has been announced by the Government.

*[Translation]*

Sir, this is an anti-farmer Budget. It is an anti-youth budget. It is an anti-student Budget. This is an anti-Dalit budget. This is an anti-women budget. This is an anti-tribal budget. This is a budget, which is anti exploited, downtrodden, oppressed and deprived people of this country. *[English]* I totally oppose this Budget. Thank you.

**SHRI C. M. RAMESH (ANAKAPALLE):** Mr. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the general discussion on the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. This Budget is a roadmap in the pursuit of Viksit Bharat. This is the first Budget in hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's third term and it stands as evidence to the country's inclusive growth, sustainable development and economic resilience. This Budget is going to be a milestone Budget of Amrit Kaal.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting her record seventh Budget in a row. This clearly indicates how the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving importance to empowering women. I wish her best of times to come. I am confident that the Finance Minister, under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, makes India the third largest economy in the world and makes this country 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

This Budget, as the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji said, is for Viksit Bharat. This Budget ensures inclusive growth, benefits every section of society and makes this country great again. Many hon. Members have spoken about many things. I do not want to repeat them.

**17.00 hrs**

But I only want to say that this Budget focusses on 'GYAN' - 'Garib', 'Yuva', 'Annadata', and 'Nari', with a theme focussing on employment, skilling, MSME, and the middle-class.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the total expenditure proposed for 2024-25 is Rs. 48.21 lakh crore. The total receipts are pegged at Rs. 32.07 lakh crore. The tax

receipts are Rs. 25.83 lakh crore with a fiscal deficit of 4.9 per cent, and inflation is moving to achieve four per cent. If you look at the proposed borrowings, they are less than last year. I compliment the hon. Finance Minister who said that from 2026-27, the fiscal deficit will be on a declining path as percentage of GDP. It means availability of more money and spending more on development and welfare. This is Modi's guarantee.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, here, I wish to submit that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given an in-principle approval for setting up of six 1208 megawatt capacity nuclear power plant at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. So, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister to look into it and see that the nuclear power plant is set up early at Kovvada.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I will just touch upon briefly how Rs. 48 lakh crore is going to be spent on some of the sectors. Sir, Rs. 11.11 lakh crore is given for the capital expenditure which is 3.4 per cent of GDP; Rs. 1.5 lakh crore interest-free loans are given to the States for infrastructure development; Rs. 2 lakh crore is given for employment, skilling, etc., of 4.1 crore youth in the next five years. We are an agricultural country. Therefore, Rs. 1.5 lakh crore is given for agriculture and allied sectors. One crore farmers will be convinced to move towards natural farming. Sir, Rs. 3 lakh crore is allocated for schemes which will benefit women and girls; Rs. 2.66 lakh crore has been allocated for the rural development. As we know that India lives in its villages, so the hon. Finance Minister has allocated money for rural infrastructure. Defence is given Rs. 6.21 lakh crore. Sir, Rs. 2.62 lakh crore is

allocated for the Railways, and out of that, more than Rs. 1.08 lakh crore is allocated for the railway safety. The PMAY-Urban 2.0 is given Rs. 10 lakh crore, and the assistance of the Government of India under that scheme is Rs. 2.2 lakh crore.

The Budget announced Phase IV of PMGSY to connect 25,000 more villages with roads. The limit under Mudra loans has been increased to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh. It benefits the small shopkeepers, micro entrepreneurs, service-providers, etc. And the list goes on.

Now, I come to my State of Andhra Pradesh. This is a very important subject. Sir, five years of *Jungle Raj* is over. People of Andhra Pradesh have given an unprecedented mandate to the NDA. A visionary leader became the Chief Minister again with the guidance, support and helping hand of the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. I am confident; the BJP leaders are confident; the Karyakartas are confident; and NDA is confident that Andhra Pradesh will regain its lost glory. The importance of Andhra Pradesh is reflected in this Budget. Never in the history, if I may say so, there are five paras under one heading relating to Andhra Pradesh. This clearly indicates the importance that Narendra Modi ji's Government is giving to Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, this Budget is like oxygen for Andhra Pradesh which is on ventilator because of the wrong deeds of the earlier YSRCP Government. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister is releasing White Papers on various sectors - Power, Amaravati, Polavaram, Mines and Liquor etc. So far, five White Papers have been released and, I think, three more are going to be released in the Andhra

Pradesh Assembly during the current Budget Session. These White Papers will give a clear picture of irreparable damage done by the YSRCP Government in Andhra Pradesh between 2019 and 2024.

Sir, since I have a limited time, I wish to touch upon only a few issues about my State. Now, Andhra Pradesh is handed over to the NDA Government after five years of rule by YSRCP with financial mess, economic bankruptcy, lawlessness at its hilt, rampant corruption, being termed as a mafia ruled State - be it through liquor, sand, land grabbing, etc. The former Chief Minister constructed a palace in Rishi Konda with Rs. 500 crore for himself. There was a debt of Rs. 12 lakh crore on the State. There were attacks on political opponents with nil development.

Sir, one Dalit driver was murdered and the body was door-delivered to his house by an YSRCP MLC. A doctor working in the Government hospital was brutally killed when he had asked for masks during COVID-19. He was also a Dalit. There were 2,686 murders which happened during the YSRCP regime. There were nearly 150 attacks on temples. Centuries old chariot of Lakshmi Narasimha Swami was set on fire in Antervedi. Three silver lions of Mata Durga's silver chariot disappeared during the YSRCP regime. And, there are umpteen attacks on the temples in Andhra Pradesh by YSRCP and its goons. Attack on Dalits, OBCs, women and minorities is countless. This clearly indicates how a State would become if a person with criminal background, who had spent nearly one-and-a-half years in jail filled with vengeance against a particular group and community, becomes the Chief Minister of a State.

Sir, five crore people of Andhra Pradesh are greatly thankful to the hon. Prime Minister, Modi Ji and the hon. Finance Minister for all the proposals made in this Budget.

Sir, Amaravati and Polavaram are like two eyes of the State and the hon. Finance Minister has made announcements. Both the announcements really touched the hearts of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Some of the important proposals announced are as follows:- Rs. 15,000 crore was given for Amaravati for this year alone and the Polavaram project would be completed by the Government of India.

In the election campaign, the hon. Home Minister said in Dharmavaram that in two years, he would complete the Polavaram project. So, the Government of India is taking care of it.

Grants are given for the backward regions of Rayalaseema and the North-Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Now, Prakasam district has also been added to the list.

Sir, I only request the hon. Finance Minister to provide grants to these backward regions on the lines of Bundelkhand region and KBK Districts in Odisha as promised. Nearly Rs. 50,474 crore will be given to Andhra Pradesh under tax devolution. It is nearly 13 per cent higher than the last year. It is 4.047 per cent of the total amount given by the Government of India to the States.

Under the Purvodaya Plan, funds will be given to Andhra Pradesh for human resource development, infrastructure, and generation of economic

opportunities. Funds will be given for water, power, railways, etc. Kopparthu Node on Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor will be done. Orvakal Node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor will also be done. Vizag steel plant has got Rs. 620 crore; Rs. 150 crore have been given to Visakhapatnam Port Trust; Indian Institute of Petroleum which is in my parliamentary constituency in Anakapalle has got Rs. 168 crore. Capital investment would be given for economic growth, and the list goes on. Sir, kindly allow me to speak in Telugu. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu and Shri Pawan Kalyan, I contested from Anakapalle seat of Andhra Pradesh for BJP. I have won with a margin of three lakh votes. Earlier, I was in the Rajya Sabha for two terms. I contested for a Lok Sabha seat for the first time and I have won with a margin of three lakh votes. It is because the people have confidence on Shri Narendra Modi ji, Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu and Shri Pawan Kalyan.

\* Jagan Mohan Reddy asked for one opportunity 5 years ago. People thought that he is a young leader and give him an opportunity. But he ...\*\* Andhra Pradesh like anything. Let it be land, let it be sand or let it be through liquor. Andhra Pradesh has been pushed to deep debt and there are many outstanding bills. I can speak about this for one more hour. We may control corruption to some extent but if an economic offender becomes chief Minister of a state we have witnessed what can happen, in the last 5 years in Andhra

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\* ... \* English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

\*\* Not recorded.

Pradesh. The Union government should take action on all those officials who assisted in irregularities of the previous Government and ensure that such incidents do not happen in any other state. On the basis of white papers released by the chief Minister, action should be taken and investigations should be conducted by both the state and Central Government agencies. CBI, ED and vigilance should investigate these cases and bring back the money looted by these economic offenders. That money should be spent for the development activities in Andhra Pradesh. We should find the money even if they hid that money in any other state or country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation for Amaravathi in 2014 with an intention to provide the capital city for Andhra Pradesh. But later on Jagan Mohan Reddy became chief Minister and he neglected Amravati, as developing Amravati City would give a good name to Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Narendra Modi. Amravati is a government property but still it was destroyed by Jagan Mohan Reddy. For the first time farmers pooled in 50,000 acres of land to construct a capital city in Amravati. Even those farmers were subjected to harassment, as a result people of Andhra Pradesh have given a decisive mandate with 93% strike rate. No where in the country did such election results were seen, even now, they failed to learn from their failures. Though he killed his paternal uncle, he is visiting Delhi for protests. A new government in Andhra Pradesh was formed only 40 days back. People are watching his actions. The government should take action against him and recover the money that he looted from Andhra Pradesh. Enquiry should be conducted and all those officials who are

found guilty should be punished. I witnessed 12 budgets in the Rajya Sabha, this is the 13<sup>th</sup> budget and till now I never saw such benefits for the state of Andhra Pradesh. On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh and NDA I thank the honorable Prime Minister and Finance Minister for this budget. Thank you.\*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJEEV RAI (GHOSI):** Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the discussion on the Budget.

If you read this budget carefully and try to understand, this budget is nothing but a reveals the false claims, lies and jumlas of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The amazing story of the Government is that for the last ten years, two crore jobs are being given every year. Hon. Prime Minister said a few days ago that eight crore employment and jobs have been given in three-four years. It is amazing that five kg ration is being given to 80 crore people for years, this figure did not turn 79 crore 99 lakh 999 lakh till now, it is only 80 crore, how can both figures come together? There can be no bigger lie than this. There can be no more shameful situation than a Government under which 80 crore people survived on five kg ration for years and the Government kept doing self praise. I would only say that such a situation should not have happened.

“Tumane koshish hi ki nahian ye halat badal sakate the,

Tumhare ashka meri aankhoan se bhi nikal sakate the,

Tum to thahare hi rahe zheel ke pani ki taraha

Dariya banate to bahut dur nikal sakate the”

You are stagnant water of a lake in the country. When I was listening to the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister and going through the booklet, at one point I felt that I was listening to this Budget from the Finance Minister of Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Sudhakar babu, do not be happy that the people of Bihar have got a lot. You may remember, brothers and sisters, Where did the Rs 70,000 crore, Rs 80,000 crore, Rs 90,000 crore, Rs 1 lakh crore, Rs 1.25 lakh crore went? Either the funds was not provided or if it was provided, all the bridges got collapsed.

Hon. Chairperson, I am very much concerned about two things. First of all, I would like to know about the great person who has advised the Government to launch 'Purvodaya Yojana' in Bihar. Why was Purvanchal not included under the said scheme? Shershah Suri ji had said that Chandauli was the Gateway of Eastern Uttar Pradesh at that time and you didn't include Purvanchal in any of your schemes. After your defeat in Uttar Pradesh you are so full of hatred that you did not even mention the name of Uttar Pradesh. I do not want to present figures here because if I do, I can surely expose the Government through them. I am aware that many of my colleagues have presented figures here and the Government also understands all this, but you talk about 'Purvodaya Yojana' and do not include Purvanchal under the same. You did not give anything to Uttar Pradesh in the budget speech. Recent election results show that you have lost your hold in Purvanchal and your days there are over. If you continue to show this kind of hatred, then the entire Uttar

Pradesh will abandon you in the coming elections, keep this in mind and check your arrogant attitude.

I urge that Purvanchal and Uttar Pradesh be included under the Purvodaya scheme. You did not give anything to my Lok Sabha constituency during 11 years of rule. There are three indigenous cotton mills. The sugar mills of Pardaha and Rasra have been lying closed for years. The Hon. Textile Minister and the Hon. Chief Minister had announced to run these mills 7 years ago. There is 85 acres of land at one place and 25 acres of land at another place, due to which land mafias are active here. I have heard that a plan is being made to divide them. In this budget, I urge upon to revive all the three mills in my Lok Sabha constituency so as to create employment opportunities. If for some reason it is not possible to revive those mills, then alternative industries should be set up there. Ghosi is the extremely backward area of Purvanchal.

You are talking about floods. I am unable to understand that if there is a flood in Buxar, then how come there will be no flood in my village Ballia. MP from Purvanchal is present here. It adjacent to Pilibhit. Almost all the districts which are affected by flood? The dam from Bintoliya to Ghazipur in Madhuban block is in dilapidated condition. All the villages from Buxar to Ghazipur, Semra village have been submerged for years. Hundreds of acres of land is being changed. Government is not concerned about it. When we go through the budget, it becomes clear that this budget has not been made for the country

but for the two allies of the Government with the support of whom, this government is counting its last breaths and will not be able to outlast.

Chairperson Sir, one crore internships have been mentioned here. Those who were talking about two crore jobs have now come down to one crore internships. That too is an imaginary figure, an illusion, a lie. It is not possible with 500 companies. You are bringing a scheme for the youth that is even more harmful than Agniveer, due to which they will be on the streets in a year. The members of the ruling party used to talk about giving jobs and employment. I urge that Purvanchal region should be included in the Purvodaya scheme. Total area of Paradha Mill is 85 acres. A Skill Development Centre may be set up there. Mau region is emerging as a medical hub of Purvanchal but it lacks government facilities and is dependent on the private sector. A Multi-Specialty Hospital, Trauma Centre, Skill Centre should be built here. Besides, a saree processing unit should also be set up here as it is dominated weavers area. The condition of our Mau area is pathetic.

This Government promised to provide jobs, and boasts repeatedly about bringing two crore jobs and employment every year, but the members of this House should know that the matter has been put on the back burner. The Government should stop making false claims. I will not take much of your time. The Government make false promises. The Government consider it in the

budget every year, but the achievements of previous budget are not discussed as to where the money was spent?

“aap apni baton se is aavam par kuchh is tarah ahsan karte hain

Annkhen to chhen lete hain,aur chshme daan karte hain”

We do not require your false assurances. Stop deceiving us. Now, I would like to make one last point. I repeatedly say that the government should immediately take cognizance of the poor weavers, distressed farmers and unemployed youth of my constituency and compensate all the villages of Ghazipur, Ballia, Mau, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar that are getting submerged due to erosion. I had a lot to say in the time allotted by you but that time was insufficient to put forth my points. I hope that the Government will understand and pay attention towards it and provide suitable solution. Thank you.

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much. I have risen to express my views on the Finance Resolution presented by the Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. Especially the four things she said about youth, women and farmers, when she mentioned the problem of unemployment, I felt that for the first time she has brought some schemes to deal with the issue. The first thing is to understand its root cause.

Sir, today we have the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Private Limited. According to the data shared by it, the unemployment rate has

increased to 9.2 per cent in June 2024. We currently have an unemployment rate of 9.2 per cent here. Furthermore, it indicate that the current rural employment rate is 9.3 per cent. In this regard, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) stated that 83 per cent people are unemployed here. In such a situation, what will be our expectations from the budget that you are presenting here? If anyone has been affected the most by the budget, then they are youth, women and farmers. We say that our country is a country of youth. In a country of youth, the youth are unemployed. The Government conducts Labour Force Survey wherein wrong method periodic calculation is being used. According to it, the unemployment rate is only 5.2 per cent. The unemployment rate in urban areas in the last three years has been reported. In the year 2020-21, it is 3.3 per cent in rural areas and 6.7 per cent in urban areas.

We have the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. *[English]* Unemployment rate on usual status of persons aged 15 years and above in both rural and urban area along with last three years is 3.3 per cent to 6.7 per cent. In respect of rural areas in 2021-22, it was 3.2 per cent and in respect of urban areas in the same period, it is was 6.3 per cent; and the same in 2022-23 was 2.4 per cent and 5.4 per cent respectively. *[Translation]* Now what is it indicate? The data of ILO reports different percentage. They want to create confusion in our country by giving such reports. The major point is, *[English]* share of educated youths among all unemployed people also increased 11.5 per cent from 54.2 per cent in 2000 to 65.7 per cent in

2022.[*Translation*] There are large number of unemployed youths. I have deliberately root cause earlier. What is the intention of the Government? What are the names of schemes introduced? When you go through all the schemes, you will find the same.

Earlier, an unemployed person used to register his name with the employment office. Then we used to get real data. Now we depend on EPFO. We decide on the basis of the Employee Provident Fund Organization that so many people are unemployed. Even a contract labour are enrolled under EPFO. The Government will claim that we have given employment. I have an objection to the word 'employment'. Talk about 'jobs', not about 'employment'.

If you carefully go through the schemes, you will find out the reality. Total four schemes have been introduced where it is explained as to how apprenticeships will be given in companies, what will be given and how it will be given. If you go through it then you will find that every scheme is for two years. This is similar to the Agniveer scheme. What will that person do after two years? What benefits will be provided to them? According to this scheme, a person whose monthly salary is Rs. 1 lakh will be given Rs 15,000 later.

I am unable to understand why we have to give it to him? He is getting a salary of Rs. 1,00,000 per month. Why should we give it to him? He will be provided Rs. 15,000 in three installments of Rs. 5,000 each. What will we do if someone quit the job after one year? Then we will take the money from the company, which means nothing is going from the government's funds. There is

no responsibility either, the rest will be done from the CSR fund. If we look at all these things, then I am unable to understand what you are planning, whether you really want to curb unemployment or not.

The Government should consider about unemployment. I work in a trade union and Anil Desai also works with me there. How the jobs are created? It is said there are 500 companies, but tell me where are the companies? Where are the jobs will be provided? Each big companies have set up base in cities like Mumbai. They have looted everything from Maharashtra. Vedanta Foxconn, Tata Airways, Bulk Drug Park, Medical Device Park and all the factories and industries have been shifted to Gujarat. Where are the jobs? Tell me which manufacturing units are coming up there? How are jobs going to be provided employment? This is the basic question. First you answer this. I have said this because this is nothing but another Agniveer scheme.

Sir, I would like to state that they have sold all the public sector companies. Where are the jobs? What will the educated children do? I have the report of 10th and 12th class. As per that report the number of people who pass 10th or 12<sup>th</sup> and graduates is more than the number of less educated children. Are you going to recruit them to banks? You should visit any bank and see, there is no scope. Now if AI comes, then there will be more problems, then what will you do? Think about the population of the country. How many people are unemployed among 140 crore people? You say that you will give jobs to four crore people, but after two years, I don't know whether their fate

will be similar to Agniveers or not? That is why I say that you have ruined all the companies - banks, insurance, railways, post and oil.

Sir, recently when I was travelling I met two employees on the train. I asked about their occupation. One said he is a generator operator and the other said he is in housekeeping job. He said when he first got the job he was paid Rs. 45,000. Two years later the vendor changed and the salary was Rs. 16,000. Then after two years a new vendor came and his salary increased to Rs. 18,000. Now another new vendor has come and his salary has increased to Rs. 24,000. Everything has been privatized. We are sitting here in the Parliament. ... \*CISF has been deployed here. We have no enmity with them, ...\* Let us understand this. Right now BVG looks after all the housekeeping work. There is BVG in Rashtrapati Bhavan, BVG also cleans the Parliament, but...\*If you have to deploy CISF then deploy them outside the premises, why are you deploying them inside? ...\*If Modi Sahab is there then everything is possible. ...\*

Sir, Nokia Company of Madras was arbitrarily closed in a single day. Nobody knows about the future of those 40 thousand people employed there. I am telling you the latest news, but who will tell you about the units which have been closed? Today electric vehicles are gaining traction in automobile industry. Our old petrol and diesel engine vehicles had many moving parts, but

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\* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

these electric vehicles do not have such moving parts. There were ancillary companies for manufacturing these moving parts, but today all those ancillaries are closed. The ancillary of Kolhapur are closed. People there have been rendered unemployed at the age of 40-45 years. Where are the employment opportunities? There are limited employment opportunities. The main point is what kind of jobs being provide? What laws have been enacted in this country for the labourer and workers? We have enacted a law that if the owner of any company having 300 or less employees and intents to shut it, then he is not banned to take prior permission for the same.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:** Sir, the owner is free to take any decision. Despite that, what are the terms and conditions prescribed for casual, contract labour and fixed term labour. What is the meaning of casual labour? Casual means the labour engaged only for one day. See what is happening in our Naval Dock? Last week some people came to meet me, they have been working as casual workers for 25 years continuously, without any break in service. What kind of system is this? I wrote a letter to the Defence Minister, and to the Western Command. What happened after writing the letter Sir! The Western Command immediately taken decision to call the vendor as soon as possible to outsource it to a third party. You will put the services people who have been working for 25 years to the dispose of Vendor! Your responsibility is

over. In Mazgaon Dock, it takes two years to become fixed term employees and now they have to start again to become fixed term employees.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT :** Sir, I have not even taken 5-7 minutes. I am not giving any political speech. Till now you have heard many political speeches. I can say a lot about that, but I am deliberately avoiding it.

There is a fixed tenure of two years. The person is engaged for period of two years with salary of Rs 25,000. Now, a new Vendor been engaged. The employee and the employer will again make a fixed term contract and say that last time they gave Rs 25,000, as salary but now they will not be able to provide you the same amount. If you want to work for Rs 20,000 then do it, otherwise you are free to go. In Mazagon Dock, PSUs, people are working on fixed term for 14 years. I am deliberately taking the name of Axis Bank. People are working there for ten years without any increment. How will the salary increase? If you ask the Vendor to increase the salary, he says that he is ready to increase the salary, but the bank is not giving it to me. This is the condition of thousands of employees... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, Shri Arun Bharti Ji.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:** Sir, I am concluding in two minutes. ...  
...(Interruptions)... Sir, it is such an important subject. 20 hours have been  
allotted for discussion on the Budget. I am also a member of the BAC  
Committee. ... ..(Interruptions)...

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI (JAMUI):** Thank you, Chairman Sir, for giving me the  
opportunity to speak on the Budget.

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:** Those who are less in number than us  
have been given more time to speak. ... ..(Interruptions)...

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** Sir, It is my maiden speech and I hope I will be given  
enough opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, first of all, I would like to  
thank the people of Jamui, who for the first time trusted me and for the third  
time in my party and sent me to the Parliament of India. ...(Interruptions)...

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You may sit, you will get time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI :** I would like to say with great pride and responsibility  
that I have got the opportunity to present my party's views regarding the  
Budget and for this I also thank my party's National President, Union Minister  
Hon. Shri Chirag Paswan....(Interruptions)

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** Sir, the hon. Member is a senior Member of Parliament, please give him two minutes to speak...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI :** Sir, I am from Bihar which is famous for Lord Jain, Lord Buddha, Mata Sita, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Acharya Chanakya...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am speaking for the first time, please give me enough time to speak. I seek your patronage it is very important....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You will be given time to speak. Please sit down now.

Arvind Sawant ji, please conclude your speech in one minute.

**SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:** Sir, it has all the information. You just heard about the NEET exam. A woman named Khedkar is caught in the UPSC scam. You can look at the MPSC. Under the Staff Selection Commission, 1200 people were recruited in the Income Tax Department in Mumbai. Out of 1200, only three are from Maharashtra, where did the rest come from? The Staff Selection Commission exam should also be investigated. Sir, get all such irregularities investigated. We do not have enmity with any state. All the people have not been selected from all the states of the country but from only two states. That is why I demand an investigation into this.

Finally, I want to raise two issues here. It has been mentioned here that how many cases are pending in NCLT. Regarding Jet Airways, NCLT has

given a decision that its employees should get gratuity and PF but still they are not getting it. Hyatt Regency Hotel in Mumbai has been closed. People are becoming unemployed after serving for 30-30 years. Therefore, I urge that if the Government talks about unemployment of the youth than these issues should be kept in mind. There is another issue which is related to pension. I have been fighting for this issue for ten years. In the EPS Pension 95 scheme, Rs 800-1200 are provided.

Sir, why are they being messed with? Therefore, I request that these three issues of Maharashtra be resolved. The first issue is related to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. They say in Maharashtra that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's blessings are with the BJP and when we asked to place the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Railway Station, the Railway Chairman replied that there is no such policy. If there is no policy, then how did Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue get installed? How did Vishweshwaraiya's statue get installed? Is there no policy to install Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue? Your land policy has also been bad till now.

Secondly, along with installing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue, Marathi language should be given the status of a classical language. Apart from this, Nana Shankarseth was the one who started the rail that is running in our country today. I have been demanding for the last 10 years that Mumbai Central Station be named after him. The Government has made some progress in this regard but that work has still not been completed. I urge that

the Government should complete these works and then only talk about the Budget, otherwise everything else is useless.

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI** : Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am speaking for the first time. I request you to give me enough time to speak. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget discussion today.

First of all, I congratulate our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who got elected to lead this country for the third time. I also wish him all the best for that. I also thank the esteemed people of my Lok Sabha Constituency Jamui, who have trusted me for the first time and our party for the third time. With great pride and responsibility, I would like to present my party's views on the Budget for which I also thank our National President Shri Chirag Paswan Ji very much for giving me this opportunity.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am from Bihar which is the land of Lord Jain, Lord Buddha, Goddess Sita, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Acharya Chanakya, Jayaprakash Narayan Ji, Karpoori Thakur Ji and late Ram Vilas Paswan Ji. Bihar, a city of culture, art and knowledge, where many great men were born, is today facing challenges at every level. The reason for this is the discriminatory attitude of the former Central Government towards Bihar. There was a conspiracy by the Congress Government at the centre to keep Bihar away from the mainstream and after that, the RJD government with the mindset of 'Jungle Raj' came. Their rule pushed Bihar back at least two decades. I want to explain this to you through one 'Shayari'.

“ye manjar bhee dekha hai taareekh kee najaron ne

lamhon ne khata kee thee, sadiyon ne saja paae hai .”

Today the whole of Bihar is paying the price of their mistakes and if this Budget has corrected those mistakes and taken Bihar on the path of development, then it is very commendable. I don't understand why the opposition Members feel very uncomfortable with such kindness extended to Bihar.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to tell you that Bihar has never questioned the Grants provided to other states in the Budget. For example, in the 2021 Budget, the Union Government provided an economic corridor of Rs. 25 thousand crores to West Bengal. In Kerala, where the NDA Government was not in power, an amount of Rs 1 lakh crore was provided for the 1100 km highway. But when something is being provided to Bihar in this Budget, then why is there an objection. I do not understand this. There is a need to pay special attention to backward states.

Being a Bihari, I feel that this Budget is an inclusive and a fair budget in the context of Bihar and Bihar was in need of it for many decades. Bihar is a backward state. We are repeatedly told that Bihar is a backward state, but if such efforts are being made for its development and to bring such a backward state forward, then it should be greatly appreciated.

Do not you want Bihar to progress and the people there also get better facilities? This Budget not only works to take the idea of developed India forward, but is also a positive step towards realizing the idea of our party and our National President Hon. Shri Chirag Paswan to make Bihar developed and is also an initiative to make the idea of 'Bihar First - Bihari First' into reality.

I thank Hon. Narendra Modi ji and the Finance Minister for the priority given to Bihar and the 'Bihar First - Bihari First' vision in this Budget today. Now, along with Mother Ganga, a lot of development will take place in Bihar, because this time the Union Government has done justice to Bihar. Bihar has been given its due rights which were not provided for a long time.

The people of Bihar had blessed the Hon. Prime Minister in the year 2024, and he has lived up to that trust in the first Budget itself. Modi ji has always been worried about the development of Bihar. He has given respect to Bihar on the world platform. The whole world saw the picture of Nalanda University in the G-20 Summit. The NDA Government did social justice to Bihar, when Late Karpoori Thakur ji was awarded Bharat Ratna. We got economic justice through this Budget. Bihar has been become an integral part of developed India. The Government has announced the Purvodaya Yojana, which will take Bihar on the path of progress through all-round development of Bihar including human resource development, infrastructure, generation of economic opportunity.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I will tell you about the benefits later but I would like to tell you a little about the past. About two decades ago there used to be a then Chief Minister of Bihar. There is a story about him in Bihar that when the people of that village requested the Chief Minister that they want a road, the Chief Minister replied that it is beneficial for them to not have a road in their village, because when someone commits a crime in their village and if there is a road then the police will come to nab the criminal....(*Interruptions*) And if there is no road then how will the police come to nab them?...(*Interruptions*).

This was the thinking about infrastructure in that state. Now with this Budget, expressways will be built there and new bridges will be constructed on the river Ganga...(*Interruptions*). Those who are raising questions now, where were they when Bihar was in such a pathetic situation...(*Interruptions*) When we needed an expressway...where were those people who raised questions on the Budget then...(*Interruptions*) With this expressway, the economy of Bihar will also be connected to other parts of the country, business will become easier, employment opportunities will be created and economic development will be there. This will make our vision of 'Bihar First-Bihari First' come true as well.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I express my gratitude towards the Government for announcing road connectivity projects namely Patna-Purnea Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali and Darbhanga spurs worth Rs. 26,000 crore under this Budget. The construction of an

additional two-lane bridge over the river Ganges has been approved. This step is worth commendable.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, some may find my statement objectionable. In my Lok Sabha Constituency Jamui, the Members of Opposition propagating Jungle Raj constantly referred to me as an outsider during elections. Now the question arises who termed Biharis as outsiders? What compelled them to migrate from Bihar in search of job, education and for the sake of their life and property?

Sir, after decades we have witnessed such a Budget which will create plethora of employment opportunities. Be it through Prime Minister's package for employment that includes five schemes or through new infrastructure projects such as setting up of a new 2400 MW power plant. With the project of new expressways in Bihar, establishment of new airports, alongside sports infrastructure, Biharis can now consider to settle in Bihar itself.

Sir, the Government has announced the setting up of a new power plant at Pirpainti at a cost of Rs. 21,400 crores, new airports, medical colleges alongside sports infrastructure. We also welcome the additional allocation provided by the Central Government to support capital investments. For a state like Bihar, additional allocation under the Budget is needed to ensure development for which Bihar Government will also give priority to multilateral development banks for providing external assistance.

*[English]*

Sir, the data shows that Bihar alone accounts for 17.2 percent of the flood-prone areas in India. In recent decades, the flood intensity has increased and so has the extent of flood-prone areas.

*[Translation]*

Sir, floods and droughts are a regular phenomenon in Bihar which is beyond our control. In such a situation, the allocation of Rs. 11,500 crore for flood mitigation measures and irrigation projects is a major relief for us. The Kosi-Mechi intra-state link Project and other irrigation projects are crucial to secure the livelihood of our farmers and ensure agricultural sustainability.

I express my heartfelt gratitude towards the Government for taking commendable step to mitigate floods. Hon. Minister of Finance also spoken about the role of Nepal in causing floods in Bihar. Bihar will be granted an allocation of Rs. 11,500 crore through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The funds will be used for Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project *[English]* and 20 other ongoing and new schemes including barrages, river pollution abatement and the irrigation projects*[Translation]* In addition to this...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, please give me some extra time. Additionally, survey and investigation of Kosi-related flood mitigation and irrigation projects have been undertaken therein. Floods in Bihar not only results in loss of life and property but also of revenue. The Government could have utilized the Budget to ensure the development of the State which is spent on compensation. Flood control

measures and interlinking will not only help in mitigating the flood but will also ensure better fiscal management for development works.

Sir, our Bihar, which was infamous for organized crime under the Jungle Raj of the then Chief Minister will now be known for Vishnupad Temple, Mahabodhi Temple and religious tourism. The cultural heritage of Rajgir and Nalanda will be preserved and promoted which will not only help in boosting economic development but will also help in realizing our party's vision of 'Bihar First, Bihari First'. The glorious culture of India is evident from innumerable sites in the state of Bihar but no previous Government had taken steps to promote tourism in Bihar. I am glad that this Government is committed towards development and legacy.

With the allocation for Bihar under the Budget, the Government is fulfilling the long-awaited expectations of Bihar in a federal country like India working on the principles of equality and justice.

The Members of Opposition ask about Bihar. So, I would like to tell them that Bihar is witnessing development, employment and business opportunities, Jamui, Hajipur, Samastipur and Katihar are treading towards the path of development, allocation for projects under the Budget and opposition is feeling helpless with the success of double engine Government at both Centre and the State....(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you.

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** Sir, please let me finish.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude in last 30 seconds.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** If I talk about the development in Bihar and allocation made in this regard, Central Government has fully supported us in the last 10 years....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, rest of the Members will not get time to speak. *[English]* Please understand.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** Sir, this is my maiden speech.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude in 30 seconds.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** A provision of 71 thousand crore rupees has been made for 12 new lines, 4 gauge conversions and 18 doublings in Bihar.

An amount of 1500 crore rupees has been allocated for road projects in our State under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CIF) during the last four years. During the financial year 2023-24, Bihar has received about 1 lakh 73 thousand crore rupees from the Central Government.

During the last 10 years, 8 new medical colleges have been set up in Bihar.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude. Thank you.

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** Sir, I would like to share a personal experience. A medical college in my Lok Sabha Constituency Jamui was approved at a cost of Rs. 250 crores. Even after so many years of independence, there was not a single medical college in Jamui. Jamui is an aspirational district and medical college has been announced.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Dhairyasheel Mane ji, you may start.

**SHRI ARUN BHARTI:** Sir, there is one more paragraph.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you. I will give you one more chance again.

*[Translation]*

Shri Dhairyasheel Mane ji.

**SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE (HATKANANGLE):** Hon. Chairperson, an Hon. Member from Bihar has just finished his speech, now Maharashtra has got the opportunity.

I would like to express my gratitude towards you and the Hon. Minister of Finance that she has presented a historic Budget with a vision to ensure the development of entire nation. Several Members have criticized this Budget for being biased towards Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. We can not leave these two states behind in the development journey and have to take the whole country along to realize the resolve and dream of Hon. Narendra Modi to transform this nation into a developed nation by the year 2047....*(Interruptions)*

The mother pays special attention to the youngest or the weakest child among other children....*(Interruptions)*

You should not have any objection if the Government provide assistance to the backward states. Perhaps, you are not aware about Maharashtra that it has always been on the top in every sector including revenue. Maharashtra has also been the economic capital of the country. Maharashtra has always worked for the progress of the nation and not against it.

**18.00 hrs**

This time too, the Government of Maharashtra is working in tandem with the Central Government to take the nation forward. I would like to present some statistics before the Parliament. You are only focussing on the Budget, but I would like to draw your attention towards the allocation made in respect of Maharashtra in the past....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mane ji, please wait for a few seconds.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, it is 6 o'clock right now and I have a long list of speakers. If the House allows, I extend the time of the House till 8 p.m.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes, Sir.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you very much.

Mr. Mane, please continue.

[Translation]

**SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE :** With everyone's consent, the House will run till eight o'clock. Many new MPs who are taking part in the Budget discussion are elected to the Parliament for the first time. I would also like to congratulate all of them for becoming a part of world's largest democracy.

I would also like to express my gratitude towards the people of my Constituency for electing me for the second time to express their concerns before the Parliament. When I was first elected to the Parliament, there was a quality atmosphere. Today, the way the senior Members of the Opposition are behaving and speaking, trying to take over the treasury benches....(Interruptions) one needs to be elected by the people to be a part of treasury bench....(Interruptions)

It is unfortunate that even senior leaders are not maintaining the decorum, and setting wrong example in the Parliament?...*(Interruptions)*  
*[English]* I am not yielding at all. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.  
 ...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]* Definitely, this Parliament belongs to all, you will also get the opportunity to put your point....*(Interruptions)*  
*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Mane ji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:** Sir, I would like to address the Chair,*[Translation]* but I am unable to ignore the voices coming from there.  
*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kindly address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:** Sir, while coming to this august House of the country, it becomes the collective responsibility of all of us to take our Nation forward, be it the Opposition or the ruling party.

I would like to say a few things. There is no provision for this in budget of Rs.76,000 crore as Central Government has already given to Maharashtra. Yesterday, one hon. Member was saying that 'Keep the seat belt fastened, the weather is going to change'. I would like to tell him that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji was a Member of the Parliament. His party is part fo rulling alliance. He was

called the 'Political weather scientist' of the country.. ...*(Interruptions)* This country knows the weather as well as the direction of the wind, that is why Shri Narendra Modi has been elected as the Prime Minister for the third time....*(Interruptions)* The mood of the country is with the people coming from grass root level, not with affluent one. ... ...*(Interruptions)*... We are common people connected to the grass root level, we do politics for those common people and that is why the opposition is in high spirits even after losing....*(Interruptions)*

We did not have to seek the help of any DADAs (musle power) to win the election, because the schemes and guarantees made by the Modi Government have been rewarded and because of that the NDA Government has come to power again. ... ...*(Interruptions)*... This august House is the living example of this....*(Interruptions)* But these people are happy in their own way....*(Interruptions)* There was an old serial – 'Mungeri Lal Ke Haseen Sapne'. These people are engrossed in their beautiful and colorful dreams. I do not want to disturb them, but the people of this country have done the work of giving the future of this country in the right hands....*(Interruptions)*

I would like to put forth the works done by the my party Shiv Sena. I would like to say something for my people in Marathi.

\*Hon'ble Chairman, for the sake of their knowledge. I, would like to explain it in Marathi. They should be aware of the Budget provisions made for Maharashtra. This Budget is not meant for a particular class but for the

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

farmers, women, youths, skilled artisans. It is for employment generation and infrastructure development. It is for women and girls' empowerment. Around Rs 3 lac crore have been allocated for youths.\*

A hon. member who is not present now, said that opportunities are decreasing in Maharashtra. If a bomb is planted in front of the houses of industrialists who are investing in Maharashtra....*(Interruptions)* will the industries be set up in Maharashtra in this situation?...*(Interruptions)* The protest against a project like Nanar that was going to come up in Maharashtra was launched....*(Interruptions)* The people were misled. ....*(Interruptions)*

2 lakh jobs were to be generated in Maharashtra but these people opposed it. Today, they say that industries are not coming to Maharashtra. They opposed metro car shed....*(Interruptions)* Even today, when Rs. 76,000 crore has been granted for the port, they are protesting against it in Maharashtra. They have nothing to do with the progress of Maharashtra. They just want to use the state for the sake of their political aspirations.

\*Around Rs 10 lac crore have been given to Maharashtra during this regime. Around 4.4 lac crore for Airport development, sufficient funds for Atal Setu Project, Rs 11000 crore for Palkhi Procession, Rs 5800 crore for Railway projects, Rs. 2600 crore for fisheries and around Rs 10,000 crore package for Sugar Mills have been given to Maharashtra. For flood control and management, around Rs 3000 crore package has also been given through World Bank. I would also like to mention that for the conservation of forts in

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

Maharashtra, the ASI should monitor and control the encroachments in fort areas.

Sir, I am sure, in coming years too, the Union Government under Prime Ministership of Shri Narendra Modi ji and Chief Ministership of Shri Eknath Shindeji, Maharashtra will continue to progress at fast place.

With these words, I conclude\*

Jai Hind. Jai Maharashtra.

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Budget.

This Government has conveyed a message 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikash' to the entire country and this had been the motto of this Government for the last 10 years. But this year, the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance has conveyed a message in the entire country that may be explained in one line that those who are with us, we are with them and this is very much visible in this budget.

It has been said that the announcements and provisions have been made in this budget for saving the Government. I hail from the State of Rajasthan. People from the different corners of the country think that what has been granted for the farmers, youths, Dalit and labourers of the country in this budget? The most important thing is that what is in this budget for this transforming India, for this developed India? In the year 2023-24, GDP growth rate has been around 8 percent. Everyone has mentioned it. I come from Churu Lok Sabha constituency of Rajasthan. I will only talk about farmers and

farming. I have got the support and blessings of those people, not once but seven times, so I will talk about them. The GDP growth rate of agriculture has been 1.4 per cent in India. You talk about 8 per cent, it has been 1.4 per cent for the farmers and farming. Just now, one of the hon. members said with an open heart that perhaps Maharashtra does not need it so much, but Rajasthan needs it very much.

Sir, there are some of the big projects on which common people of Rajasthan is hoping that they will probably get something in this Budget. The people were expecting this. The State is having a Government ruled by their party; the Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal went village to village and made promises during the elections. 16 states will get potable water as well as irrigation water under ERCP. We expected water from Yamuna link, which is the biggest hope for the Shekhawati belt of Rajasthan. The program was named 'Bhagirath'. This program was to facilitate irrigation of one lakh hectares of land in Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and to provide drinking water for Sikar district. This fact did not find a mention either in Union Budget or in the State Budget of Rajasthan. No irrigation project has been undertaken in this country in last 10 years. We talk of doubling the income of farmers. Not a single big canal project is visible in North India. Consumption of water has increased due to rise in population. but the Yamuna Link Project has been designed with the idea to tap the access rain water. Its DPR was finalized in the year 2018. The project was worth Rs 22,000 crore. The farmers would have been benefited from this project. The project could play the big role in transforming India. The

project was to facilitate gap funding for irrigation of Rabi crops to farmers by tapping the rain water. The project has been pending since 2018. The Government of Rajasthan claimed that they had talked to the Government of Haryana, The then Chief Minister of Haryana stated that there was no clarity on the agreement between the two states and they expected a project worth Rs 22,000 crore in the current budget which could have facilitated tapping and supplying the water wasted in floods to states like Rajasthan. Haryana is as big as my Constituency Churu. The Green Revolution established Haryana and Punjab as leading agricultural states in the country. There is a need for the next level of green revolution. We are dependent on import for oil seeds and pulses. If this area of Rajasthan gets water, Churu Lok Sabha Constituency and the entire Shekhawati belt have the capacity to feed the whole of India.

Sir, I would like to talk about agriculture. Many projects have been mentioned here. If you check your schemes, you will find in every scheme, either the budget has been reduced or the budget is lying intact. There is no improvement and no hand holding in any project. Schemes are launched without any support.

Sir, the way you are looking at me, it seems you are about to ring the bell.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now.*[Translation]* I'm ringing the bell with a smile.

*[English]*

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:** Please give me only one minute.

*[Translation]*

Sir, the claims related to Kharif crop for the year 2023 have not been settled in Rajasthan till date. In the coming seven days, would have filled the claims for the year 2024. Farmers are upset. Everyday there is a protests in Rajasthan. The claims are not disbursed even after one year. The contract of Churu has been awarded to Reliance Insurance Company. Some or the other objection is raised on the claim. Today Hon. Minister said that we have not given anything in writing. I would like to ask what you have given in writing. What guarantee did you give to the farmers? Farmers are in poor condition and are demanding MSP guarantee. You are distributing budget of crores of rupees in the country, but the farmers are demanding guarantee of MSP. The agriculture sector also generates ample employment opportunity in the country and a large population is dependent on this sector. Last year was declared Year of Millets, but this time nothing has been said. The Government of Rajasthan has not been able to procure Bajra till date. The Government intends to recognize Bajra as millets. My Lok Sabha Constituency has the highest production of Gwar. I would like to talk to you about the inclusion of Gwar in MSP.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** There are so many speakers and they are all sitting here.

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:** Please give me only two minutes.

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:** Sir, I have many issues to raise, but you have allotted me less time.

Sir, I would like to talk about oilseeds and pulses. We imported 160 lakh tonnes of edible oils worth Rs 1.4 lakh crore last year. Import duty on palm oil has been reduced to zero. What was its impact? There are Shekhawati area, Nagaur, Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh adjoining Churu Lok Sabha constituency. Mustard is produced in large amount in these areas. Farmers here are not getting its remunerative price. The farmers there are not at all interested in sowing it. I do not know how we strike balance.

Sir, you talked about natural farming. You will issue one crore certificates. Who will purchase the crops from natural farming, zero budget farming and organic farming? We don't have a mechanism for that. Today, where do the farmers sell their produce from natural farming? There is no mechanism to monitor if they are getting the right price in the market.

Sir, there have been many schemes in this country, but till date they have not been supported. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was formulated in the country. Village development plan worth Rs 22 crore was prepared under a scheme. I give an example of Churu Lok Sabha Constituency. It has an allocation of Rs 325 crore under MNREGA. A Sarpanch gets Rs 1.25 to Rs 1.5 crore a year for development work. How long would it take to complete VDP project worth Rs 22 crore with an annual allocation of Rs 1.5 crore? It will take

22 years to complete. You can imagine how we will be able to develop villages.

There was so much of discussion on education. ... (*Interruptions*)...

Sir, I just have to say that there are many schemes, but those schemes are failing due to lack of action and handholding.

Sir, there is a news from Rajasthan today. 16,000 children have dropped out of Government schools In Churu, Rajasthan, just because Churu needs more than 1700 rooms. Schemes like 'PM Shri', 'STARS' have been launched. The budget of these schemes has been reduced. The 'STARS' scheme is a mere Rs 1,200 crore scheme which enables us to build rooms. Unless we add-on certain elements we will not be able to develop the villages.

Sir, I want to extend thank you to you. In the end, I would like to say that a Budget of Rs.3,900 crores has been allocated under MPLAD. The quota of one MP is Rs.5 crore per annum. It should be at least doubled so that we are able to enter the villages.

Thank you very much, Sir.

**SHRI VIVEK THAKUR (NAWADA):** Hon. Chairperson, I thank you from bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Annual Budget for the financial year 2024-2025. At the same time, through you, I would also like to sincerely thank my leadership for giving me the opportunity to speak here today.

Sir, I express my gratitude to the people of my Parliamentary Constituency Nawada, a part of historic Magadha Empire, for electing me to this House.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the respected Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for leading the NDA to form a Government with a clear majority for the third time. I would also like to congratulate my colleagues in the Opposition who have succeeded in securing the post of Leader of Opposition in this House after a decade with the help of allies.

Sir, English is a peculiar language. For every aspect, you will find words in it. A term 'moral victory' was coined after this election. I can recall a verse of Wasim Barelwi Saheb –

Khud ki haisiyat hogi to duniya kadr karegi,

Kisi ke ird-gird kahde hone se kirdaar unche nahi hote.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, it is not easy to form the Government with clear majority for the third after being in power for a decade especially in the situation when the Corona pandemic engulfed the whole country and the world

in the first year of the second term of this Government. The condition of economies in the world after the Corona pandemic is no secret to anyone.

**18.20 hrs**

(Shri Dilip Saikia *in the Chair*)

Even today, many economies of the world are struggling while India has achieved a growth rate of 8.2 per cent in the last quarter, which is the result of the vision and strong leadership of the honorable Prime Minister.

Sir, this victory of NDA is not ordinary. This victory is important, if we look at global politics post Corona epidemic, we find that there has been change of power in most of the countries be it America, Brazil, Israel, Germany or England where it has happened recently. The main reason behind change of power was the economic crisis in these countries. At the same time, the people of India have trusted the Prime Minister and his economic policies for the third time and have again voted him to power.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the current Budget is also a reflection of those positive economic policies. I was surprised to see the kind of reactions after the presentation of this budget. The next day when I looked at many newspapers in the morning and read the headlines and views, I noticed that all the sectors, whether it was a financial newspaper or a general newspaper, and the reactions I saw here, I was surprised to see the huge gap and discrepancy?

I would like to tell you what made to the headlines in the newspapers.

*[English]* 'The Budget is unruffled by 2024 election results'; 'The job of job creation done well'; 'Spending gets rural springboard'; 'Future-proofing the

Indian Economy';*[Translation]* 'Experience based practical budget'; 'Government relies on Financial Discipline' These all were the Headlines the next day.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the nine priorities mentioned by the Hon. Finance Minister in this Budget are the foundation of New India. These priorities are – *[English]* Productivity and resilience in Agriculture; Employment and Skilling; Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice; Manufacturing and Services; Urban Development; Energy Security; Infrastructure; Innovation, Research and Development; and Next Generation Reforms.*[Translation]* If anything is left, that one should think about the entire country. But unfortunately this budget discussion has been limited to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, Northeast and East. The budget of the whole country has been limited to such an extent that it is not going to be of any benefit. If you exclude Bihar from the history of India then no one in the world will be able to tell the history of India nor will any pen be able to write it because no one will know where and how to start.

Hon. Chairperson, I am a Member of Parliament from the Lok Sabha constituency of Bihar which falls under the Magadh region. Magadh has been a historical state. We all have heard and read about it in history books. Emperor Ashoka's empire, which ran from Magadh, was stretched upto Iran, Thailand and Afghanistan etc. But today the situation of Magadh is somewhat different. Magadh finds a place in history for its valour and splendour and in a particular time span, the saga of its destruction was also written. Today

Magadh is waiting for development. I would like to place before the House the description of the situation of Magadh given by Shrikant Verma, a famous Hindi poet, in his poetry collection 'Magadh'. He says - 'Here I see Magadh. Here it disappears. But it is not the Magadh you are looking for. You must also be searching. Brother! This is not the Magadha you have read about in books. This is the Magadha you have lost like me.'

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister, who undertook, we the people of Bihar will always be indebted to them. This budget includes the development of Bodh Gaya as an international tourist centre, development of Vishnupad Temple and Mahabodhi Temple in Gaya on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, development of tourism in Rajgir, construction of Gaya-Vaishali Expressway which will pass through Nawada. There is a proposal to build an industrial hub in Gaya. It is not only limited to Gaya, it is a part of the Kolkata-Amritsar corridor, from whichever state it will pass, there is a proposal to set-up industrial centres there. Chennai-Vizag corridor was also announced. But the discussion is only about Gaya, there was no discussion even on the name of Kolkata-Amritsar corridor. All these discussions are limited only to Bihar. If it is passing through Bihar and is being built there, then what is the problem?

Hon. Chairperson, Vishnupad temple has its own significance for performing Hindu rituals. Apart from the country, crores of people from every corner of the world come to Gaya to offer 'Pind Daan' and 'Tarpan' to their

ancestors after death. Should it not be developed? Why is there a problem? All these will help in regaining the glory of the Magadh region. Gaya and Magadh is a wonderful blend of development carried out by this Government and heritage, which has been discussed this budget.

Hon. Chairperson, the Government has taken supportive steps for the development of not only Magadh but the entire Bihar. Be it the Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, Patna-Purnia Expressway or the 2400 MW power plant to be set up in Pirpainti. The biggest obstacle in the development of Bihar, especially North Bihar, was the Kosi flood. One of the Hon. Member was saying that floods occur all over the world, all over the country and in their region too. Although everyone knows that floods occur everywhere, even in America, what is new in this? But, there should be proper arrangements to deal with it. So many stories, films, poems have been written on the plight of Bihar due to floods and you are taking it lightly. The description of the floods that come every year is horrific and no Government has made any arrangements till date to deal with it. If for the first time concrete steps have been taken for flood management, then it is commendable. Poet Dushyant would have said this, which is directly applicable to our Prime Minister, that my aim is not just to create ruckus, my effort is to change this situation.

Hon. Chairperson, the Members of Opposition are alleging that special attention has been paid to Bihar, whereas, discrimination has been done with other States. Let me define what discrimination actually is. When the Congress

led Government was formed for the first time, it brought freight equalization policy that negatively impacted Bihar. Discrimination against Bihar is not a new phenomenon it started decades ago. Those advocating economic inequality should understand that economic equality is impossible without the development of Bihar and the North-East. If they agree, then I would like to quote Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in support of my statement:

*“Shanti nahin tab tak, jab tak sukh bhaag naa nar kaa sam ho,  
Nahin kisi ko bahut adhik ho, nahin kisi ko kam ho.”*

So, whatever Bihar has received under the Budget is its right. The people of Bihar never seizes anybody's share.....*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, this is my maiden speech in this House. The Opposition cannot digest the development of Bihar. As has been rightly pointed out by Bharti ji that during the flood like situation in Bihar they stated that people are lucky to have Maa Ganga coming to their doorstep, not everybody gets 'Gangajal' in his home.

Hon. Chairperson, I do not want to describe the destruction that has taken place for decades. They also stated that if the roads will be constructed, the police will have easy access to your house. The Opposition wants our Bihar to remain submerged under floods and deprived of development. Your Government remained in power at the Centre for ten continuous years till 2014, if you would have ensured the development of Bihar, we would have welcomed it but you have done nothing in this regard. If it is being ensured now what objection do you have.....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Hon. Atal ji set up the power plant Barh, AIIMS at Patna and started the work of road construction in Bihar. When the NDA Government under the leadership of Nitish ji and Sushil ji came to power in Bihar, it introduced the Bihar Model. Your Government had done nothing for the development of Bihar and you were infamous for your wrongdoings. The statement made by the chief of your party yesterday was disheartening. He said that only two states have '*Pakora*' and '*Jalebi*' in their plates; rest got nothing. It is unfortunate that they are unhappy with the development of Bihar and the North-East. The people of Bihar pleaded decades ago that nothing has left in Bihar after bifurcation except floods, droughts, scams and crime.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, you may conclude.

**SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:** Hon. Chairperson, I will conclude in two minutes. I have been waiting since morning. I am just concluding. I express my gratitude towards the Union Government. Now Bihar will move forward and so will my country.

Hon. Chairperson, with regard to the provisions made for Eastern India under this Budget, one has to understand that the average income of Bihar is ten times lesser than Goa. Hon. Prime Minister has talked about '*Purvodaya*'. I am grateful for this. He has focused on the Look East Policy since 2014 when he first came to power. Yesterday, fellow Member Biplab ji also explained in detail about what is being done for the North-East India under this policy.

Hon. Chairperson, you are a witness to it.

I appreciate the North-East Policy meant for the development of Eastern India. I would like to quote the Rashtrakavi:

*“Ho timir kitna bhi gehra, ho roshni par lakh pehra,*

*Surya ko ugna padega, surya ko ugna padega,*

*Phool ko khilna padega.*

*Ho samay kitna bhi bhari, humne na ummid hari,*

*Dard ko jhukna padega, ranj ko rukna padega.*

*Sab thake hain, sab akele, lekin fir aaenge mele,*

*Sath hi ladna padega, sath hi chalna padega.”*

“sab thake hain, sab akele, lekin phir aaenge mele,  
saath hee ladana padega, saath hee chalana padega .”

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude your speech in one minute.

**SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:** Sir, this is my maiden speech. I am concluding my speech in two minutes.

Sir, I hail from an aspirational district. The Pradhan Mantri JanJati Unnat Gram Abhiyan is a revolutionary step. It is to state that the water level in Nawada, Sheikhpura, Barbigha area has depleted to 300-400 feet. In this regard, I have a suggestion that all these aspirational districts areas including old identified areas should be included under this program through CSR. All these areas will benefit a lot from this.

Sir, there is a lot to say, but, with the permission of Hon. Chairperson, I would like to make one last point about infrastructure. There has been a continuous increase in Capex since the constitution of the Government. This year, the Capex of the Government of India is Rs 11.11 lakh crore. In the last three years, it has doubled from 1.7 to 3.4 percent of GDP. This is the highest in this financial year after independence. 10 years ago when we came to power, the Capex was only Rs. 2,29,128 crore, which has increased to 11 lakh crore today....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude your speech in 30 seconds.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:** ...*(Interruptions)* In the last budget, the Finance Minister had set a fiscal deficit target of 5.8% and achieved 5.6%. This is possible, 'Modi hai toh Mumkin Hai'.

**SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH (BUXAR):** Sir, first of all I would like to thank the National President of Rashtriya Janata Dal Lalu Prasad ji, who gave me the opportunity to get elected to be a member of Parliament of the country. I also would like to thank the great people of Buxar, who have elected me to fight for the rights of Bihar with a huge margin. I am extremely disappointed with this budget. There is nothing new in this budget, especially to eliminate poverty. The Hon. Finance Minister has not made any reference about reducing unemployment. Also, she did not mention about the 30 thousand farmers and agricultural laborers who have committed suicide in this country. However, this

time in the budget she has mentioned the establishment of hostels for working women. But, I want to point out the fact that benefits of the scheme never reached Bihar after its launch. At present there is not a single said hostel in Bihar. Whereas in states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu there are 129, 77 and 54 hostels respectively. The Central Government is trying benefitting already developed states and is neglecting poverty stricken states like Bihar which requires special attention, but such states are being neglected by the Central Government.

The Prime Minister had promised to give houses to everyone by the year 2022 at the launch of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, but he is still extending the deadline by including an additional 3 crore houses. Is the Government admitting that it has failed to give houses to poor people of the country? The Government has announced plans to develop 12 industrial mega parks. I have apprehensions that all these industrial parks will be announced for the developed states, as witnessed in case of centrally sponsored projects. Take example of the first bullet train that was introduced between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, while the Prime Minister of the country has been elected Member of Parliament from Varanasi. He could have made the first bullet train run between Ahmedabad and Varanasi, but we have not witnessed it. Hon. Finance Minister should state as to how many industrial parks will be developed in states like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal? There should be reservation for poor states in such schemes. The Government stated in the budget that several companies' disputes have been resolved through the IBC

code, but the Government is not disclosing the amount of loans that have been waived off in the country under said scheme. The Prime Minister had promised to double the income of farmers a decade ago, but the farmers are still waiting for it. A movement was carried out by the United Kisan Morcha of the country to get the guarantee of minimum support price in the country which continued for a long time. After the martyrdom of 736 farmers, the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department in letter states that justice will be done in favour of the farmers in the near future. But, even after three years, no action has been taken in respect of this.

The Government talked about introduction of natural farming in the Budget, but the issue regarding the impact of this step on grain production in the country was not discussed. Disasters caused by climate change are creating huge problems for farmers, resulting in a decline in grain production in the country. It is sad news that the Government has decided to reduce the amount of wheat given to poor people every year from two kg per month to one kg due to the fall in wheat production.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was set up with an ambitious goal, but it has failed to achieve it. As per the current Economic Survey, only 51.25 percent of our youth are eligible for employment. This means that almost one among two students passing out of college is not eligible for employment. It is indeed a matter of great concern. The educational institutions in India are unable to produce enough employment

opportunities. The unemployment rate is still higher as compared to pre-pandemic period in India. Projects worth Rs 58,900 crore were provided to Bihar in the budget, but the Government secretly provided projects to other states as well, which were not mentioned in the budget. Is the amount Rs. 58,900 crore too much? The Central Government has given Rs 70 thousand crore from its treasury for a single scheme to set up two semi-conductor plants in Gujarat. I was just listening to a Member of Parliament from Maharashtra that the Central Government has given Rs. 10 lakh crores under Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of Maharashtra. There is hue and cry over the amount of Rs. 58,900 crore provided to Bihar is not acceptable. Whether 14 crore population of Bihar comprises 10 percent of the country's population does not deserve to be upgraded? Here we are talking about highways. Maharashtra has built 15 kilometers of national highways per lakh population, Gujarat has built 11 kilometers of roads per lakh population, while only 5 kilometers of roads have been built in Bihar. But what is happening? Pirpainti power plant worth Rs 24,400 crore was discussed in the House. This project was approved by Manmohan Singh led Government in UPA-2. This is not a new project, but rebranding and repackaging of old projects is a new trend of the ruling party.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude your speech, you were given five minutes. Now, conclude your speech in thirty seconds.

**SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, both Members of our party should be given three minutes each to speak. Do you think that these projects were given only to Bihar? I am well aware that more projects have been given to other developed states than Bihar. This has been specifically mentioned in this budget especially to fool the people of Bihar because assembly elections are to be held in Bihar in the year 2025. This is part of the strategy of vote politics and not any special package. Taking this point forward, I would also like to say that the expenditure on education has been reduced compared to last year. It is continuously decreasing. The Government is collecting cess for education, but is not increasing the allocation. In the year 2004-05, when there was no education cess, the then Government was spending 2.3 percent on education. There should be six percent expenditure spent on education. To achieve this target, education cess was added to the income tax and Rs 65 thousand crore was collected last year, then why is the allocation for education in the main budget decreasing? Obviously, Universities, Higher Education Institutions and Primary Education are needed to upgrade the knowledge of power in this country, but the approach of the Government is indifferent to this aspect. If we deduct Rs. 65,000 crore education cess from the Rs. 1.2 lakh crore allocated for education, how much will be left? This means that there has been a constant decline in the allocation since the year 2003-04. I would like to point out that about two and a half percent of GDP is allocated for education at present, which is insufficient to realise this ambitious target. An allocation of at least six percent of GDP is necessary to improve in higher education and to

remain competitive in global markets. But just two and a half percent is allocated in spite of six percent.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now please conclude your speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:** I am concluding my speech. The Government has reduced the fertilizer subsidy. Production is falling in various sectors, the budget has been reduced from Rs. 1 lakh 89 thousand crore to Rs. 1 lakh 64 thousand crore....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You should at least say thanks for the Budget allocation made for Bihar.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:** I am concluding my speech in half a minute.

I urge upon the Central Government to make the special provision in the current budget for the development of Bihar. I seek reconstruction of old dilapidated Mandis and construction of new Mandis to increase the income of farmers in Bihar. The industrial zones of Nawanagar, Buxar and Motihari as proposed by the State Government should be recognized as a special economic zone. Buxar and Vaishali should be developed as religious tourist places on the lines of Rajgir and Bodh Gaya. Budgetary allocation should be made for new Greenfield airports for Bihar, and should be equipped with new facilities. Raxaul and Purnia airports should be developed under the Regional

Connectivity Scheme. I seek budgetary allocation for Arrah, Mundeshwari Rail Project via Bhabua Road.

**\*SHRI MALVINDER SINGH KANG (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me the opportunity to speak on Union Budget 2024-25.

Sir, I have read the Budget speech of Hon. Finance Minister ma'am. This Budget is undemocratic, unconstitutional and anti-federal structure. Discrimination has been meted out to Punjab. This Budget is against the spirit of Federalism of the Constitution framed by Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji.

Hon. Chairman Sir, I am happy to note that the word '*Annadata*' or provider of food has come in this Budget speech. The BJP had defamed the same '*Annadata*' by calling them names like Pakistani, Urban-naxal and anti-national etc. When the issue of providing food to 80 crore people has come up, the Hon. Finance Minister in her Budget speech has used the word '*Annadata*'. I welcome this. However, let me say that the State of Punjab plays a crucial part in providing food grains to 80 crore people. Punjab contributes 50% food grains in the Central pool. However, in the entire speech of Hon. Finance Minister, the State of Punjab has not been mentioned even once. Hon. Chairman Sir, this is very unfortunate.

What should have happened was that our farmers who were protesting since long, should have been granted Minimum Support Price. Sir, but MSP on

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

food grains has not been granted to farmers which is very unfortunate. When Modi ji was CM of Gujarat at that time, the then PM had said that farmers should get MSP guarantee. But, in the last 10 years, the BJP Government has refused to accept this demand of farmers.

Hon. Chairman Sir, the Budget speech talks about employment. But, in the last 10 years, our youth have become more unemployed. Unemployment has increased by leaps and bounds. The Agniveer Scheme is pushing the youth towards unemployment and organized crime. In my constituency in district Mohali, an Agniveer who had served the army for 2 years, has been caught stealing things red-handed. He gave the statement that we have no future. I have said this because hon. Members and hon. Ministers are here. This is the condition of youth today.

In Haryana, elections are going to take place. The Haryana Chief Minister had to announce a special package for Agniveers to avoid trouble. The Haryana CM is also against this Scheme. So, I urge upon the Government to withdraw the Agniveer Scheme.

Sir, the Budget Speech talks about Kolkata to Amritsar corridor. We do not oppose it. But, if Mumbai-Karachi trade link is there, why Amritsar-Lahore trade link is not there? So, the Central Government should open the Wagah border trade route with Pakistan. It will benefit the entire North India, including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Rajasthan etc.

Sir, discrimination has been done against Punjab. Andhra Pradesh has been given a package of Rs. 15,000 crores.

Sir, give me some more time. This is my first speech. I want to make two more points. Rs. 15,000 crores have been given to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of its capital city at Amravati. But, step-motherly treatment has been meted out to Punjab. In 1966, the Reorganization Bill was passed. After 58 long years, Punjab has not yet been given its capital city of Chandigarh. I urge upon the Central Government that Chandigarh should be given to Punjab as its capital city because this city came up when the villagers of Punjab were displaced from this land.

Sir, floods had wreaked havoc in Punjab last year. I don't oppose any package given to any State including Bihar. But Punjab suffered a loss of over Rs. 1680 crores. The Budget does not mention this loss suffered by Punjab. I request the Indian Government to announce a special package to Punjab to compensate for this loss.

**SHRI MIAN ALTAF AHMAD (ANANTNAG-RAJOURI):** Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I would like to bring to the kind notice of the entire House that along with the Union Budget, we are also going to have discussion on budget allocation made for Jammu and Kashmir. No Member from Jammu and Kashmir has spoken earlier. There are two to three MPs from Jammu and Kashmir, one is a Minister and the other is behind the bars, so we should be given ample time to express our views. There is no Assembly there. We are facing problems. The Hon. Minister of Finance is a respected leader. She is a senior leader and holding this portfolio for the past several years. But, it would have been better if she had interacted with the people, MPs and traders of Jammu and Kashmir before presenting this Budget. Nothing has been done in this regard and whatever has been done was done at the level of bureaucrats. It is very unfortunate that there has been no elected Government for the past seven years. No Assembly Elections have been conducted for the last 10 years. We are at the mercy of bureaucrats. Corruption, bureaucracy, unemployment and inflation are at their peak there. The Hon. Minister of Finance herself would have prepared this Budget in light of the ground realities of Jammu and Kashmir before presenting it before the House.

It has been highlighted under the Budget that huge amount has been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir, but the reality is that the contractors have bills pending worth several thousand crores pertaining to last year. They are not getting their money. They have taken loans from banks. I do not think that

the amount allocated under the Budget can cover the pending liabilities. The situation there is that the employees are not getting pension and GP fund.

I would like to bring this matter to the kind notice of the entire House that everyone should be aware of reality of this place. She has presented the Budget, but I would like to tell you about the real situation of employees, farmers and unemployed there.

Anantnag district is one of the oldest district of Jammu and Kashmir. I am the Member of the Lok Sabha from the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency. A medical college has been set up there which is operational since the last six, seven or more years, but there is no MRI facility out there. Nothing has been allocated under the Budget for such a historic town. There is a need to build flyovers over the critical spots there. Nothing has been provided for Jammu and Kashmir under the Budget. There is a need to build a bypass in the oldest and popular district. The Amarnath Yatra passes through this tourist spot of Pahalgam. A high number of pilgrims cause traffic jam in that district for hours. Nothing has been provided under the Budget for such an important district.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice that Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Jammu and Kashmir was a prominent institute. The Kashmiri doctors passing out from here are well-known for their work all over the world. They are working diligently and this institute was being run with lot of efforts. It is a matter of regret that they are subduing the autonomy of our institute in the same way as they had subdued our state. Today the said

institute has been brought under the Health and Medical Education Department. The functioning of an institute which was serving the health requirements of the whole Jammu and Kashmir is being adversely affected. Thousands of posts are lying vacant.

The area of Jammu and Kashmir is quite large, which the Government refer as UT now, but we do not consider it a UT. We will talk about the state. The functioning of that institute is adversely affected. Its autonomy has also been scrapped. We appreciate your decision of setting up an AIIMS in Jammu, but by scrapping the autonomy of the institute you have adversely affected the health care system.

Similarly, nothing has been allocated under the Budget for the hilly and the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. An additional allocation should have been made for departments like PMGSY, PWD and Jal Shakti in hilly and border districts. That is my Parliamentary segment. The roads are in dilapidated condition there. Proper allocation has not been made for the State in terms of requirement. The State is not getting its due share. I would suggest you to constitute a House Committee to look into the matter. Project Beacon is underway in both the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

I have also met the Hon. Defence Minister. I have also informed him that BRO holds negligible importance there. The 220 km stretch from Jammu to Poonch, is in poor condition. I would like to inform the Hon. Chair that casual labourers and daily wagers are not getting their salaries for the past several years. There is another prominent project that has been neglected. There was

a road project from Kulgam district to Ramban district via Dum Hal Hanjipora-Mohore, that project was started during the tenure of the previous Government but it has been stalled. People are suffering a lot because of that project. Casual labourers and daily wagers are not getting wages.

Sir, there is one more thing about which I had tried to ask a supplementary question that air travel between Delhi and Srinagar is the most expensive. The people travelling to Jammu and Kashmir are not mere tourists, some are patients as well. I am a Member of Parliament and if I have to pay this much fare on a daily basis then I will not be able to survive on the airfare provided to me more than a month or two. Airlines do not have any control over it, especially on the Srinagar route. The airlines are arbitrarily charging fares. The hydel projects have also been stalled. They have been stalled because of the inadequacy of the Government. Electricity bill have been increased there and FIRs are being filed to recover electricity bill. We are a part of a democratic India. What is worse than filing an FIR against someone for not paying electricity bill?

Sir, a lot has been talked about tribals. I also belong to the tribal community. Nothing has been provided for the tribals neither under the Union Budget nor under the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir. No amount has been earmarked for the tribals. The Government has created a hype with regard to the welfare of tribals but I would like to ask the Government whether four-kilometers long road, hospitals and schools have been built for them. People have this wrong impression that huge amount has been allocated for the

tribals, both at the country and the state level. It has been said that tribals living on the forest land will be given rights under the Forest Right Act. They would be given five or ten marlas or one or two kanals of land, but they are knocking at the doors of Government offices since four years. Nobody is paying heed to them, on the contrary the person who was living in an old house and received financial assistance under PMAY is denied construction by forest department because it is a forest land. The Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir are claiming that they are not disturbing tribals. The poor are not getting land under PMAY to build house at a place where they have been living for twenty years.

Sir, the reality is way beyond the claims made. The injustice made to the Jammu and Kashmir in terms of political, administrative, funds, unemployment and developmental level needs to be done away with. We urge the Hon. Finance Minister to respond to our statements, especially what has been said about contractors, unemployed, casual labourers and the Border District. The rail has reached Reasi. Reasi is far from Katra. Reasi is mere 40 km far from Rajouri-Poonch, but nothing has been provided under the Budget for the Rajouri-Poonch railway line. Thank you very much.

**19.00 hrs**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** We will look into it as the Member has provided the wrong information. National Highway has been constructed and AIIMS have also been established in Jammu and Kashmir. There is no mention of it.

*[English]*

**SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY (BHONGIR):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget. It is my maiden speech. I am a first timer in this House. I am thankful to the Congress leadership Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji, Rahul Gandhi ji, Kharge ji, and also Shri Revanth Reddy ji for giving me this opportunity to represent Telangana and my constituency Bhongir.

With a lot of enthusiasm, I have come to this House as a first timer. This is my second session. In the first session also, I tried to speak on the Presidential Address. But I could not get the opportunity. Now, I want to say a few words on that topic. The Presidential Speech was not a reality. Whereas my leader Rahul Gandhi ji, who had done the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir, wanted to talk about the reality. But they had disrupted the House that time. They do not want the people of this country to know the facts. For the last two Sessions, I have been watching them. They have only been appreciating themselves and have only been clapping for themselves but have not been speaking for the people of this country.

Now, I come to the Budget. For me, this Budget looks like a political survival Budget. *[Translation]* this time they could not win 400 seats, they won only 240 seats. *[English]* They won 273 seats. This is a reflection of political survival in the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. It is because they want to speak only about two States, that is, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. When I came to this House, I thought that this is a Temple of Democracy and everybody will get an

opportunity and every State will get an opportunity. But what I found later in this House is that the leadership on the other side wants to survive themselves in the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. That is why, they want to compromise and they want to give more budgetary allocation to Andhra Pradesh. And we do not want to object to it also. It is a matter of their development. Every State need development. We are also asking budgetary allocation for every State.

The hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji in her 2024-25 Budget speech announced substantial funds for Andhra Pradesh, while Telangana was notably overlooked. At the beginning of her speech, she dedicated a section to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. She said, and I quote:

“Our Government has made concerted efforts to fulfil the commitments made in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Understanding the need for a state capital, we will facilitate special financial assistance through multilateral development agencies in the current financial year with Rs. 15,000 crore.”

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act also includes the State of Telangana. Telangana is also a part of it. She did not even bother to talk about Telangana. In the last 10 budgets, we are always kept away. They have never bothered about it. In the past, we used to have Members from the BRS Party. They were also supporting the BJP indirectly. They had supported many Bills in the past. They had supported Article 370 and demonetisation, and they had also supported the BJP when there were elections of President, Vice-President

and Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha. But even then, they did not demand anything for the State. Now, the people of the State have kept them away from this House. There is no Member from the BRS Party. Now, they have given opportunity to eight MPs from the BJP and eight MPs from the Congress thinking that, at least, this time in the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, they will have an opportunity and they will get allocations in the Budget. But this Budget is a total disaster. It kept Telangana away from it.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister said, and I quote:

“Under the Act, for promoting industrial development, funds will be provided for essential infrastructure such as water, power, railways and roads in Kopparthy node on the Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, and additional allocations will be provided this year.”

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, we also requested our hon. Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy ji. In the last eight months, even though the Model Code of Conduct of election was in force for three months, he met 18 Ministers in the Government of India in the last five months. He met the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji three times for the sake of development of our State. Even I myself, after winning the elections, requested the Members of Parliament from the other side to work together for the sake of Telangana. For the last two days, I have noticed none of these MPs are working on this issue and not fighting with their leadership on behalf of Telangana. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji was talking about the Polavaram Project in Andhra Pradesh. We also have a

major project which covers 12 lakh acres, that is, our Palamuru Rangareddy Irrigation Scheme. She did not speak about this project. This was the promise made in 2014 when the Reorganisation Act was made. But we have got the Central Horticulture University. They have promised a steel plant in Khammam. They have promised a Rail Coach Factory in six months. More than 10 years have passed. They also promised road connectivity in the backward regions of Telangana. Yesterday, Nirmala Sitharaman Ji was talking about the same thing with Andhra Pradesh also. We would have been very happy if the Reorganisation Act is implemented for both the States. But it did not happen like that. They kept everything away because their only agenda is to safeguard this Government in the 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. They know that they do not have the Members. Today also, they are very proudly saying that they have won the elections. How did they win the elections? They got only 240 Members. They have bargained from Nitish Kumar Ji and Chandrababu Naidu Ji and they are trying to survive here.

Our Chief Minister has already given Rs. 31,000 crore to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 2,00,000 at one stretch. This has happened for the first time in India. Nobody is looking at that. We thought that the Government will help us and our Chief Minister will get empowered. Our Chief Minister and our leader Rahul Gandhi Ji gave the guarantees in Andhra Pradesh. We want to fulfil all the guarantees. It is because the BJP, which is in alliance with the BRS Party does not want Congress to perform. They want us to go down. That is why,

they made this Budget and they did not allocate anything in this Budget. They did not even care about the promises made in the 2014 Act.

I want to conclude by requesting them to at least, now, look back at the 2014 Act. The 2014 Reorganisation Act is for both the States. It is not for Andhra Pradesh and it is not for any political survival. This Budget is for the people. From here, everybody has to hear. There are many people who are representing across the country. Everybody should get their stake.

Now, yesterday, Nirmala Sitharaman Ji was saying that there was no time to talk about other States. "We have a lot of Budget for other States. I have only time to talk about Bihar and Andhra Pradesh". This is just because of political gain.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR (FATEHPUR SIKRI):** Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you very much for giving me time to speak on the Budget. I would also like to thank the top leaders of the party for giving me the opportunity to be a Member of Parliament for the second time. I would also like to thank the people of my Lok Sabha Constituency, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra (Uttar Pradesh) from the bottom of my heart for electing me as a Member of Parliament again and giving me the opportunity to raise the issues of the people before you in future too.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget presented by the Government. I would like to thank the Hon Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting this Budget for the seventh time under the

leadership of one of the most popular Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi.

Hon. Chairperson, I am sorry to raise the issue and would like to know from the colleagues of the Congress Party and the Aam Aadmi Party who are present here that during their regime, whenever they ruled, what rules, schemes and laws were made for the farmers, farms and for the villages to increase the income of the farmers. They do not have anything to emumerate. They make false promises. They spread rumours and create confusion among people....*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I want to urge through you that even if the Congress Party continues to apologize to the farmers and the people of the country, they will never forgive the Congress Party....*(Interruptions)* They will never forgive you....*(Interruptions)* Your leader may not know the difference between the crops of barley and wheat....*(Interruptions)*... What are you talking about?...*(Interruptions)* Your leader does not know where green chillies and red chillies are grown....*(Interruptions)* You are talking about farming....*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Minister of Finance of our country has presented a very historic Budget for the villages, the poor, farmers, labourers, small shopkeepers, small traders, unemployed youth, women, tribals, downtrodden, exploited, deprived, backward, dalits and common people of the country. This Budget will provide employment, it will also provide self-employment and will also contribute in realizing the resolve of developed India.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the Indian economy is growing at the fastest pace in the world. We have reached to the 5<sup>th</sup> position from 11<sup>th</sup> position. We are very soon going to be the third largest economy of the world under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi. It will certainly become the third largest economy because the people of the country have elected the hon. Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister for the third term also.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to submit that this Budget is in the interest of the people dwelling in the villages and the slums, the poor, the exploited and the drowntrodden sections, many schemes have been announced in this for the laborers and for all the sections of the society. This Budget will pave the way of their progress. This is a Budget to empower Tribals, Dalits and Backwards.

I was listening to my colleagues from Congress just a moment ago. Before 2013-14, the total Budget for agriculture was 23,000 crore rupees, but today it is 1.52 lakh crore rupees. About 25 thousand crore rupees more has been allocated in this Budget for agriculture as compared to the Budget presented last year. The people of the Congress party are not concerned about the farming and the farmers.

Now, hon. Members from the Aam Aadami Party were delivering their speeces. I would like to ask them that it is Aam Aadmi led Government in Delhi. In Delhi, farmers are not provided the status of farmers. There is no

facilities for farmers in Delhi. Farmers do not get any facility in Delhi....*(Interruptions)* Despite they talk about farmers and farming.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is making continuous efforts through the Budget to ensure that income of farmers grow constantly . Schemes are being regularly launched to increase their income. Government is giving priority to diversification of crops, changes in farming methods, increase in the yield of fruits and vegetables, arrangements for their storage and distribution....*(Interruptions)* Their government has never done anything other than Saifai festival. ... ..*(Interruptions)*... they don't see anything beyond Saifai.

Hon. Chairperson, The focus of the Government is to achieve self-reliance with regard to production of pulses and oilseeds and their storage and marketing. Among the crops, production of mustard, groundnut, sunflower and soybean has been promoted for edible oils. Provisions have been made in this Budget for the formation of clusters for production and supply of vegetables, development of storage and marketing infrastructure.

Sir, even during the Corona period when all the sectors were came to a stand still, the agriculture sector remained operational. The farmers of my country toiled hard and the hon. Prime Minister of the country has also inaugurated Kisan Rail for the farmers. Today, I am happy to say that the farmers are able to transport their produce to the Mandis across the country, where they are getting higher prices. Presently Kisan Rails are being run on

167 routes for this purpose. It is a great initiative to increase the income of farmers.

Sir, they often talks about MSP. They ruled for 50 years. They had never fixed MSP. The hon. Prime Minister of the country Shri Narendra Modi has done the work of giving one and a half times of the input cost as MSP. Today, the farmers of the country are moving forward on the path of progress.

Sir, whether it is Rabi or Kharif crop, the farmers of our country have achieved record yield....*(Interruptions)* I would also like to say that hon. Members from Congress in between must name any scheme for the farmers, which has ever been introduced during their regime. I challenge them....*(Interruptions)* I challenge my worthy fellow hon. Members, especially those from the Congress Party, to name two schemes of their regime, that they can say that they have implemented these for the farmers. Politics cannot run in the country only by misleading and spreading misunderstanding. Presently they have come to 99 from 100, but in the coming time, I am confident that they will come to 39.....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the olden days, when it was the time of moneylenders, they did not allow the farmer to speak....*(Interruptions)* They will not be able to stop the farmer now. I would like to discuss the Kisan Credit Card....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dharmendra Ji, please take your seat.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Dharmendra Ji, please don't interrupt, otherwise you will not be able to speak further since I will interrupt then....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Chahar Ji, please address the chair. Don't pay attention to them.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Sir, kindly extend my time since they are intermittently interrupting me....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Let them say anything. It will not go on record.

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

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Sir, the farmers were in the clutches of the moneylender during the Congress rule....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dharmendra Ji, don't do this time and again.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Sir, they had to take loans from moneylenders on very high interest rates. They had to mortgage even their farm. The farmers used to take loans for their daughters marriages and for the education of their children. As a farmer, I would like to thank the then hon. Prime Minister of the country Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for giving the facility of KCC card to the farmers. Today, the hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi has brought animal husbandry and fisheries under the Kisan Credit Card facility. Today, the addition of animal husbandry and fisheries under KCC will contribute in the progress of the farmers.

I remember, we used to go to bring the bags of DAP and urea on our bicycles. During the time of Congress, farmers were lathicharged. It was Congress led Government at that time. I remember, my colleagues from

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\* Not recorded.

Madhya Pradesh are present here, farmers did agitation in Madhya Pradesh and the Congress Government ordered firing against unarmed farmers, 29 farmers were killed but they did not even bother about them....*(Interruptions)*

Time has changed today. Today urea has also become neem coated, today urea has also become nano. We don't need to carry the bags on our backs today. Today we use nano Urea....*(Interruptions)*

I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister for creating Ministry of Cooperation. The Home Minister of the country became the first Cooperation Minister. I would rather say that the Iron Man of this country Shri Amit Shah is making efforts for setting up cooperatives societies in the villages.

Sir, there are still two lakh Panchayats in the country where there is no cooperative societies. Hon. Shri Narendra Modi led Government has made such provisions that, the task of attaching these two lakh Gram Panchayats with cooperative societies will be completed in the coming two years, which will pave the way for the progress of the farmers.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please, conclude now.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Sir, kindly give me five minutes more.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No. Please conclude in one minute.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** The crops which are suitable and beneficial for the farmers will be publicized and encouraged. The work of giving 109 new varieties for 32 crops has also been done in this budget.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna has brought revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers. My farmer brothers cultivate crops fearlessly today. If the

crops get damaged due to excessive rain, hailstorm, storm and fire, then this crop insurance scheme provides compensation to the farmers and thus it saves the life of the farmers and their family. Crops like millets, coarse grains require less water, and are contributing in increasing the income of farmers. Less urea and DAP are required for them, they are also healthy and today they are known as super foods in the world. Our farmers are engaged in growing these super foods today and the people of the country and the world are getting healthier by including these foods in their diets. Thus, it also contributes in increasing the income of farmers. Please state the name of any scheme which the Congress party has brought for the benefit of the farmers. No such scheme has been brought till date. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I would like to tell that 246.42 million tons of food grains were produced during the Congress rule. At present, food grains production is 329.69 million tons. We have made progress in pulses production and in horticulture. I would also like to discuss about e-NAM Mandi. Nothing like e-NAM was introduced during Congress rule. But today 1389 mandis are functioning as e-NAM mandis. By the year 2023, more than 1.76 crore farmers have joined it and are benefiting from it. Traders have also joined it and got registered in it.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, please conclude.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Sir, listen to the farmers. None of them have spoken about the farmers. The Congress party has only misled the people.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to discuss about the FPOs. More than seven thousand FPOs are registered with the Farmers Producer Association

today. 129.5 Grants worth crores of equities have also been released to them. A guarantee cover of Rs 226.7 crore has also been issued to 994 FPOs. The Congress had never even thought about it. Hon. Chairperson, the soil has health the way we have health. The Hon. Prime Minister of our country, Hon. Modi ji has introduced done the work of giving 'Soil Health Card'. The Congress party has not even thought about it. More than 45,971 projects are currently underway for the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund. Be it Bee Keeping, agricultural irrigation, 'Per Drop, More Crop', agri start-ups, charging for agricultural loans ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude in half-a-minute.

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Hon. Chairperson, today the Prime Minister of the country is working continuously to increase the income of the farmers. An important issue has also been taken up. In the near future, one crore farmers will be connected to natural farming, ancient farming, zero budget farming. It will increase the income of farmers. I would like to ask the Hon. Members of Congress party, Whether they agrees to the fact that today urea, DAP, other pesticides and chemical fertilizers are causing serious diseases like cancer and if so, then, will they encourage farmers to adopt natural farming on the behalf of the Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji, I also urge the farmers of the country to adopt natural farming and do not use urea, DAP. The Government is providing incentives for this. In this way, one crore farmers are able to adopt natural farming.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the land details of our six crore farmers will be recorded in the registry of the farmer's land. ... *(Interruptions)* This provision has been made within the Budget. ... *(Interruptions)* PM Awas, toilets, Ujjwala, all these schemes are going on. ... *(Interruptions)* 25 crore poor people have been uplifted from the below poverty line. ... *(Interruptions)* The Congress kept raising slogans, but till date that has not been able to do good to any poor person. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, the free ration to 80 crore people is being provided. ... *(Interruptions)* Advanced Village Campaign is being run for five crore tribal people in which 63 thousand villages are included. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Anand Bhadoria .

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** Hon. Chairperson, the youth are being given employment in companies so that the youth of the villages can progress. ... *(Interruptions)* I'm concluding in one minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Complete in half-a-minute.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJKUMAR CHAHAR:** The youth from the village should progress and so, the rural economy. The village, the poor and the farmers should prosper. ... *(Interruptions)* This is the biggest priority of our Hon. Prime Minister of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* opposition always tries to tarnish the image by making and faking up things but the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri

Narendra Modi, is continuously working for the interest of farmers. ...

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Anand Bhadoria – You may start your speech.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA (DHAURAHRA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir,, thank you. I would like to thank my party, my hon. leader Shri Akhilesh Yadav for giving me the opportunity to speak in the discussion on the General Budget presented for the financial year 2024-2025.

Sir, I associate myself with the objections raised by other hon. Members of my party with regard to the Budget. This Budget is in fact an insult of the Constitution made by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar as this Budget is the price paid by the Government to its allies to remain in power, by completing ignoring the constitutional federal Republican system.

Sir, we all know that the English alphabet consists of letters from 'A' to 'Z'. Each of its letters together completes the alphabet. Every letter has equal importance, but unfortunately that Hon. Finance Minister has picked only 'A' and 'B' letters. The Government has seen only letters 'A' and 'B' and then, stopped. Here 'A' means Andhra Pradesh and 'B' means Bihar. I hail from Uttar Pradesh which begins with letter 'U' and the union government and Hon. Finance Minister just like 'U' letter in alphabetical order has left the Uttar Pradesh in their Budget.

The BJP supporters of Uttar Pradesh used to boast about the double engine Government of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to ask whether a special

financial package should be provided for the most populous state or not?  
'GHAR MEIN THANDE CHULHE PAR AGAR KHALI PATILI HAI, MAIN KAISE  
BOL DUN KI DHUP PHAGUN KI NASHILI HAI ?'

Sir, when the Budget was being presented, the villages, the poor and the farmers of the country were struggling with unemployment. The labourers, women and youth, upper-backward class, Dalits, Muslims, exploited-oppressed and deprived people were eagerly watching the TV with high expectations but they only got disappointment from this Budget.

Sir, since 77 years of Independence, so many Budgets have been presented, still the common man has to struggle for basic facilities like education, health, potable water. The Government had waived off the debt of about 20 lakh crore rupees of industrialists, but why the loans of the farmers and education loans of unemployed youths of the country cannot be waived off?

Sir, it is very disappointing that the budgetary allocation for MGNREGA has not been increased. The Government should double the number of working days under MGNREGA in the interest of the labourers. Files under the PM Awas Yojana are not getting cleared promptly due to red tapism.

Sir, I therefore would like to say that many needy people are not able to get houses through the PM Awas Yojana. I demand that houses under PM Awas Yojana may be provided to eligible persons on the recommendations of the hon. Members of the Parliament., The Government reported fiscal deficit of 4.9 per cent of the GDP in the Budget, but there was no mention of the debt on

our country, which has been increased to 210 lakh crore rupees currently from 55 lakh crore rupees in 2014. Youths are still waiting to be included in the definition of this budget's inclusiveness and growth. The budget allocation for the Divyang students has also been reduced.

Sir, I will conclude by pointing out that stray animals have created havoc in our Parliamentary Constituency Dhaurahra as well as the entire Uttar Pradesh. The farmers are forced to stay on their fields day and night for the security of their crops. Stray animals are claiming lives of the people. I demand a compensation of at least 10 lakh rupees for them. Hon. Prime Minister had announced during the elections of Uttar Pradesh that the responsibility of stray animals is mine, therefore I would like to remind the Hon. Prime Minister about his promise and demand a special package to formulate a permanent plan to get rid of this acute problem.

Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. Jai Hind, Jai Samajwad. Long live Netaji . Jai Bhim. Long live Akhilesh Yadav.

**SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH (KARAKAT):** Sir, I rise to speak against this Government's Budget because it is anti-farmer, anti-student, anti-youth, and anti-poor. This budget is not in accordance with the mandate of the last election. The Government has not paid attention to the mandate while preparing the Budget. Despite receiving setbacks time and again in elections and also in the by-elections, similar type of budget has been presented. I would like to point out that the allocation for agriculture sector in the Budget is continuously decreasing which is against the farmers. It was 5.44 per cent of the total budget for the year 2019-20, 5.08 per cent for the year 2020-21, 4.26 per cent for the year 2021-22, 3.84 per cent for the year 2022-23, 3.20 per cent for the year 2023-24 and 3.15 per cent in the current budget for the year 2024-25, this shows continuous decline in the allocation of budget for agricultural sector. It appears that the Budget has been prepared in the interest of the corporate houses while the agriculture sector has been completely ignored. These figures are not false. Agriculture in the country is not profitable and the farmers of the country are constantly striving for making profit from farming. Farmers are committing suicides due to debts. It is not clear regarding MSP whether C2 plus 50 per cent or A2 plus 50 per cent will take place. The Government claims that they are paying remunerative prices, but the Swaminathan Commission recommended C2 plus 50 per cent. Cost of the labor of the farmer's family and the rent of the land are also included in the Comprehensive cost. So, farming may be made profitable and the pending demands of the farmers with whom the Government made agreement may be

implemented. The Government has made written promise on all these things along with building a memorial for the martyred farmers at the Singhu border.

Secondly I would like to say that this Budget has neglected the youth also. First, as per the Economic Survey, half of the unemployed youths lack the required skills for the employment. They are unemployable, so what the Skill India was scheme doing. Was it Skill India or Kill India? What was that scheme? Why have the schools not been built? Now again the Government is talking about providing internships to one crore youth. This Government finds an excuse to help companies and corporate in any case. Corporate have been paid three times more under Fasal Bima Yojna, only one-third was provided to farmers. The Government is paying more amounts to those 500 companies who are providing internships than the unemployed persons.

Hon. Chairperson, the Government will create 'Company Veers' like Agniveers with this scheme. How will these one crore youths make their livelihood after this internship? The Government is trying to give benefit to the companies through internships programmes which offers lower salaries. The current tax regime reflects that the Government is pro-corporate and anti-poor Government. The common people (Aam Aadami) are contributing 60 per cent and the rich and the super rich hardly contribute two per cent in the total tax of the country. The Government may state how funding for health and education sectors will be done. How OPS will be implemented? How will the differently abled and the poor get 3,000 rupees as social security pension? The Government is continuously benefitting the super rich.

I would like to put forth the demands of my region. There is a continuous discussion taking place regarding the package for Bihar. This Government has not given any special package. I was a Member of the Bihar Assembly at the time of bifurcation of Bihar and Jharkhand. Bihar was in deficit of 450 crore rupees and Jharkhand has the surplus of 2700 crore rupees. Hence, the demand for giving special status to Bihar was raised at that time. Hon. Advani Ji was then Deputy Prime Minister and an all-party delegation from Bihar went to meet him and BJP was in opposition in the state. Today, this Government has not yet given status of Special State to Bihar. Moreover the Government has not answered the crucial questions like the water supply from the international border and the measures taken by the Government for the problem of floods in Bihar. I understand that a high dam was to be constructed on the Kosi River. A high dam is to be constructed in Nepal. The Government has done nothing for the same. Till date, The Government has not taken any initiative on the demand to build Indrapuri reservoir on the Son Canal system in Southern Bihar which was built in the year 1874. There is no irrigation facility and no arrangement to control flood yet.

The question of poverty alleviation does not arise here. A caste census was conducted in Bihar and its our demand that the same should be conducted at the national level. As per Socio-Economy Survey, income of 34 per cent of the people is less than six thousand rupees per month. The Government will provide financial support of two lakh rupees to them. Whether the said clause is included in this package? Whether the provisions of poverty alleviation, flood control, irrigation are covered in this package? That is why I urge upon that Bihar Should be granted status of special state.

**SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN (BIJNOR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion of Budget 2024-25. At first, I would like to express my gratitude towards the respectable people of the country for re-electing NDA led hardworking Government for the third time. The slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas and Sabka Vishwas is being reflected in the historic Budget of 2024-25. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance have seriously considered all the sensitive issues while preparing these 70 pages of Budget and covered each and every aspect of social-economic needs of the country.

Sir, the projected growth rate of ten and a half per cent in the Budget for the year 2024-25 is an indication of the progress of India towards becoming the third largest economy in the world. This Budget focuses on the four sections i.e. the youth, the women, the farmers and the poor and the Minister of Finance has made various provisions in the budget for them which are very

important for any developing country. Particularly, if I say, this Budget mainly focuses on employment, skilling, MSMEs and the producer of India i.e. the farmer and the middle class.

Sir, I am happy to say that while the word 'skill' has been used 24 times in this Budget, 'entrepreneurship', 'employment' and 'jobs' have been mentioned 38 times. Words like 'youth', 'education', and 'needs of the youth' have been mentioned 17 times in the budget.

Hon. Chairperson, this is the spirit of the NDA led Government and it shows commitment of the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance towards the youth. The empowerment of farmers, all out efforts to boost agriculture sector, providing special concessions to the middle class to make substantial change in their livelihood are the examples of futuristic thinking.

Sir, I am very glad to note that the dream Ministry of Prime Minister - the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is functioning under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Shri Jayant Chaudhary ji by following the ideals of late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh. Model Skill Loan Scheme has been launched and loan facility of Rs 7.5 lakh will be provided thereunder. It is expected that over 25,000 students will be benefitted from this. More than a thousand ITIs will be upgraded in the next five years. At the same time, the target of providing skill training to one crore youth in the next five years is also a very ambitious scheme of the Government.

Sir, I am very happy to say that 802 crore rupees and Rs 330 crore rupees more have been allocated to the KVS and the NVS respectively in this Budget in comparison to the last year for the benefit of our children and students who are the foundation of the country. It will contribute immensely in making India a developed country in the future.

Sir, the foresightedness of Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Finance and the Government reflected in this budget plans to prepare the country to face every challenge related to employment and agriculture on account of climate change, artificial intelligence and climate change.

Sir, I hail from farmer family. I am aware of the challenges being encountered in the agriculture sector. In view of the challenges related to climate change at present, the Government has decided to develop climate-friendly varieties of crops including setting up Agricultural Research Centers, releasing 109 high yielding varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops and encouraging natural farming among farmers at Gram Panchayat level etc.

The idea to make India self-sufficient in the production of pulses and oilseeds was being contemplated. In such a situation, the action plan that has been made for crops like mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, sunflower is definitely important for the farmers.

Sir, late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh was against corruption and dishonesty. He used to say that the soul of India lies in the rural areas. Keeping this true spirit in mind, today a provision of 1.52 lakh crore rupees has

been made in the agriculture sector to accelerate the growth of the rural economy and I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for the same.

Sir, it will generate new employment opportunities. The fourth phase of PMGSY has started. It will connect more than 25,000 villages. Whereas PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna is also meant for rural areas and the poor.

Cancer medicines have become cheaper today. This is also going to be useful for the poor and the people associated with farming. All the schemes be it PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Urea Subsidy Scheme, Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Awas Yojana Modi and others are aimed at improving the rural economy and to provide better facilities to the farmers.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Chandan Chauhan Ji, please conclude your speech.

**SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN:** Sir, I am concluding in just a minute....*(Interruptions)* Sir, today when we are talking about women entrepreneurs and women empowerment across the country, more than 30 crore loans under Mudra Yojana are being given. The Government will ensure the participation of women in the workforce by setting up working women hostels and creches with the collaboration of the industries. ....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, please conclude now.

**SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN:** Sir, I am concluding. More than 70% of houses under PM Awas Yojana are being allotted to women. Girls and women

enrolment in STEM courses is 43 per cent. Sir, one lakh students will be given loan amount through e-vouchers with 3 per cent interest subvention. There is nothing that has not been considered by the Government....*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am concluding in just thirty seconds....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude in half-a-minute.

**SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN:** Sir, I would just like to say that the people of the country have faith in this holy temple of democracy. Ashoka Chakra is inscribed on your Chair. It has 24 spokes which inspires all of us to serve our country 24 hours and strive to strengthen the democracy of the country by implementing these 24 resolutions and principles in our lives. I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister for his continuous efforts to increase the farmer's income. I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**\*SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI):** Vanakkam. I stand here to speak on the General Budget for the year 2024-25. I think that the Budget has been formulated on the basis of the Census taken in 2011. Therefore, the budgetary approach is imbalanced, non-progressive and non-inclusive. This Budget intends to save the Head and those in power. It does not spell even a single word about Tamils and Tamil Nadu. Therefore, this Budget is against the cooperative federalism and democracy.

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

This Budget does not seem to respect the principles of federalism in its true spirit. Tamil Nadu is totally ignored in this Budget. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru *Thalapathy* M.K. Stalin demanded Rs 37,000 crore for implementing several schemes in Tamil Nadu from the Union Government and only a meagre amount of Rs 276 crore was provided by the Union Government. When there were heavy rains and floods that affected Chennai, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu demanded flood relief assistance from the Union Government. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Ministers have not even visited the flood-affected areas. They have not even released any fund to Tamil Nadu in this regard to carry out flood relief work.

But the hon. Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu seven times for campaigning during the General Elections. The people are taking note of how Tamil Nadu has been ignored in this Budget. When there was flood in Gujarat, before the flood water got receded, flood relief assistance was provided to the State of Gujarat. But for Tamil Nadu, not only flood relief assistance, but also the Union Government is showing biased attitude by not releasing funds for carrying out several projects in Tamil Nadu, including the metro rail projects. But Tamil Nadu occupies the second place in collection of tax revenue to the Union Government whether it is the GST or the income-tax collection.

Even though Tamil Nadu collects and provides so much of tax revenues to the Union Government, this Government has brought a Budget which is purely based on vote bank politics. This Budget claims to improve the global

economic ranking of India from 5<sup>th</sup> place to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Besides, they have stated that almost 80 crore people are getting foodgrains and other benefits under the public distribution system as these people are below the poverty line. What an irony? They earlier gave an assurance to double the income of farmers. But after lots of resistance faced by them from the farmers of our country for the proposed three farm legislations, this Government was forced to withdraw all the three farm legislations. You had given an assurance to streamline the conduct of NEET exam.

**19.49 hrs**

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

But today we have witnessed so many irregularities in the conduct of NEET in our country and it has affected the future of our student community so much. Only three per cent of GST is levied for Platinum and Gold being used by rich and wealthy persons of our country whereas the GST is levied at 18 per cent for food products used by the common people. We see 77 per cent of wealth accumulated with 10 per cent of the higher strata of our population. You should have provided 20 crore jobs during the last 10 years if you have provided two crore jobs a year as per your assurance. Now in this Budget you have assured once again to provide five crore jobs in the country. I should say that the Union Government is showing partisan approach with favouritism among the different States of this country. I urge upon the Union Government to consider the demands put forth by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru *Thalapathy* M.K. Stalin. As regards release of funds to Tamil Nadu, since

Tamil Nadu is the State, which provides more revenue to the Union Government by way of tax collection, I request that the Union Government should immediately release adequate funds that are due to Tamil Nadu and as demanded by our hon. Chief Minister. Thank you.

**SHRI SASIKANTH SENTHIL (TIRUVALLUR):** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I stand before you today to discuss a Budget that is less a financial document and more a desperate attempt by the BJP to hold on to power, a Budget that prioritises pandering over policy, coalition politics over the common good, and optics over outcomes, a Budget that reads like a gratitude letter, a love letter to only two States, while the rest of India is left feeling like a neglected stepchild. By the way I want to remind the States that it is not real love. The same promise was given to them in 2015 when there was special package announced to Bihar.

*[Translation]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Whether these two states are not part of India?

*[English]*

**SHRI SASIKANTH SENTHIL:** I am just reminding them. It earlier announced a Rs. 1.25 lakh crore package in around 2015.*[Translation]* I am just reminding them. This has happened earlier also, but no one discusses it now. *[English]* Nobody knows what happened to this Rs. 1.25 lakh crore package which was given in 2015. This is a Budget that seems more like a Bollywood blockbuster

trailer big on hype, but when you look closer, it is all special effects with no real story.

Sir, what is required in this Budget? A large portion of the Indian economy is about consumption; 57.2 per cent is consumption. How are we going to increase the demand? That is the primary question.

In 2014, in UPA Government, 66.6 per cent of direct taxes came from corporates. Today it is 47 per cent; and 53 per cent of the tax is now paid by individuals. If we do not put money into people's hands, how is the demand going to rise? How is it going to improve the economy? That is the primary moot question that has to be discussed.

It is a classic case of "Kahani main ab twist hai". I was reading the Budget document to know what is there. Without any substance, filled with buzzwords and sound like they were picked straight from a corporate jargon dictionary. In fact, this time, I should be thankful that they have not gone in for 'Stand up India', 'Sit up India', 'Sleep India', 'Walk India', thanks to the Finance Minister for sparing us from that.

The BJP as usual is more focused on staging a show than addressing the pressing needs of our nation. I am going to outline only a few *jumlas* for the sake of time.

Let us talk about agriculture, where the Budget promises new "high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties." It is almost as if the Government thinks farmers need a new superhero crop to save the day! The push for

'natural farming' sounds like an attempt to make organic farming the new masala mix that will fix everything. But in reality, farmers are dealing with high input costs, low MSPs which are not legally guaranteed and poor procurement systems.

In fact, in the current Budget, the fertilizer subsidy has been reduced by 13 per cent as compared to RE 2023-24. There are issues that no amount of 'organic mix' can fix.

With great sadness, I would say that as per the NCRB data, one farmer and one agricultural labour are committing suicide every hour in this country. Then, there is an announcement of Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture. It sounds as if the Government believes that all farmers are in need of a strong internet connection.

Coming to employment, the Employment Linked Incentive scheme is offering Rs.15,000 for new employees, which is touted as a game-changer. But it is like giving a single samosa at a wedding feast. It is woefully inadequate. The Budget's focus on the formal sector, while ignoring the vast informal sector, is like showing off a picture of a five-star hotel room in an ad for budget accommodation. The Mudra loans are not the miracle cure as they are made out to be. It is all as if the Government believes that throwing in a few freebies will solve all the problems.

From 2014 to 2022, 22.05 crore people have applied for jobs and only 0.33 per cent, that is 7.22 lakh, people got the jobs. What are you going to do

about this? You have destroyed the bright MSME sector that we had which provided 12 crore jobs. There are no jobs now.

Infrastructure is another comedy where around Rs.11.11 lakh crore for capital expenditure has been declared in the Budget. It has been presented with much fanfare. As per the data of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, out of 1,843 infrastructure projects, 779 projects are having cost overruns and 449 projects are experiencing delays. When infrastructure projects are declared for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, they should be very clear that this is what is going to happen with them.

Coming to welfare, the Government talks about targeted and efficient spending which in plain English means cutting budget for MGNREGA, NSAP and things like that. Even in this Budget, amount for MGNREGA has been cut down, amount for Samagra Shiksha has been cut down, amount for PM-POSHAN has been cut down, and amount for old age pension has been cut down.

Finally, I would like to say that Tamil Nadu has been completely ignored by this Government. They have not given us anything. They have stopped our relief fund; they have stopped amount for our GST and they have even stopped amount for our school education.

We have been fighting this ideological battle for a long time. Tamil Nadu will fight fascism. We will fight with our language; we will fight with our wisdom;

we will fight with our unity; we will fight with our poetry; we will fight with our music. We will fight and challenge you with joy and celebrations.

Finally, I would say that this is a childish Budget. It is the real *balak buddhi* Budget. Thank you.

**SHRI M. MALLESH BABU (KOLAR):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to thank my Janta Dal Secular great leader, the former Prime Minister of India and Rajya Sabha MP Shri H.D. Deve Gowda ji and my another leader and Union Minister Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy ji. I also extend my gratitude to the people of my constituency Kolar and people of Karnataka for entrusting me with this responsibility. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji who has presented a good Union Budget 2024-25.

In the history of Indian democracy, our hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has been elected for a third consecutive term, and NDA Government is presenting the budget for a record 11 years continuously, promising a true and wide vision on key fields that emphasise the development of the nation and ample opportunities for all.

The Budget has focussed on skill development to reap benefits out of demographic dividends where the youth, both men and women, will improve their skills and take advantage of abundant opportunities in the field of employment and entrepreneurship.

The Government has taken steps to skill 20 lakh youths over five years including women. Importance is given to women which is almost 50 per cent of our population by reserving Rs. 3 lakh crore for women led development schemes for their economic development. Importance is also given for working women hostels. The Government has also opened new opportunities in higher studies by giving financial support of up to Rs.10 lakh in domestic institutions.

Projecting the MSMEs to compete globally would make the nation's footprint in manufacturing and services industries another important priority.

### **20.00 hrs**

Providing MSMEs with credit guarantee and enhancing Mudra loan limit to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh will make the young entrepreneurs to establish on their own. A scheme to provide internship in top 500 companies to one crore youths in five years by giving Rs. 5,000 internship per month will create employment to youth. The Government has taken responsibility by sanctioning three crore houses in rural areas, which will bring down the economic burden on the people who come under the Below Poverty Line category. The Government has planned for constructing one crore houses under the PMAY-U 2.0 Scheme by allocating Rs. 10 lakh crore.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I request the House to extend the time till the hon. Member concludes.

**MANY HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I urge the hon. Minister to ask the Hon. Members who are going to speak next, to remain present in the House. Hon. Members, who are supposed to speak next, are not present in the House. You ask them to be present in the House from now onwards. Hon. Members, whose names are in the list of speakers for tomorrow, should also be present in the House. If they remain present in the House, they will better participate in the debate. Any hon. Member, who only comes to speak and leave the House after concluding his speech, will not be given opportunity to speak next in future. I accept your suggestions in the House, but it is the discretion of the Chair to take in this regard.

*[English]*

**SHRI M. MALLESH BABU:** The Government has given importance to research in the agriculture sector to provide climate-resilient varieties, which is utmost required due to climate change. It is also giving thrust to natural farming and digital public infrastructure for coverage of farmers and their land. The Government has adopted PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, where solar units are installed on rooftops to obtain free electricity to one crore households. This will reduce the burden on the power sector, and economically, the householder will benefit. The schemes and allocation that the Government of India has announced under innovation, research and development and next generation reforms, would rather attract and support new way of thinking and exploitation of themselves in a good manner for the establishment of Viksit Bharat, which is the utmost aim of this Budget 2024-25. The Government is giving priorities to

youth, women, agriculture, housing, tourism and entrepreneurship development. So, India is surely going to become the third biggest economy in the near future.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I also wish to emphasize the importance of key issues relevant to my Parliamentary Constituency, Kolar. They are; water for drinking and irrigation purposes to Kolar and Chikballapur districts from Krishna River; food processing units for tomato and mango at Kolar, Srinivaspur and Mulbagal; a Government Medical College and a Multi-Speciality Hospital; Railway Coach Factory, which was proposed in 2016; and retirement benefits for the employees of Bharat Gold Mines Limited, which has been pending since 2001. Regularization of BEML Contract Employees at KGF Unit; and upgradation of State Highways to National Highway from Hoskote to Madanapalli, from B. Kothakota to Hosur, and from Kuppam to Bagepalli are other issues.

Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity in this august House. Jai Hind.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Lok Sabha stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 26, 2024/Sravana 4, 1946 (Saka).

*[English]*

**20.03 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock  
on Friday, July 26, 2024/Sravana 4, 1946 (Saka).*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in  
Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition)

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