

26.07.2024

Eighteenth Series, Vol. II No. 5

Friday, July 26, 2024

Shravana 4, 1946 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Second Session
(Eighteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. II contains Nos.1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 26, 2024/ Sravana 4, 1946 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

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REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

25th Anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today our nation is celebrating the 25th anniversary of "Kargil Vijay Diwas" to commemorate the indomitable valour and sacrifice of the Indian Army dedicated to protect national unity, sovereignty and integrity.

During the Kargil War, our brave soldiers achieved victory despite difficult geographical hurdles and adverse weather conditions with exemplary courage and exceptional valour.

On this occasion, this House salutes our brave soldiers and expresses its gratitude to the martyrs who sacrificed everything for the security of the nation. This House also conveys its deep condolences to the families of those martyrs.

This House pays its tribute to all the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in this war to keep the unity and integrity of our nation intact.

Now, this House will observe silence in the memory of all those brave soldiers.

11.1½ hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

HON. SPEAKER: Om Shanti Shanti Shanti.

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11.02 hrs

^αORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour, Question No. 61,

Shri Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, Shri Sukanta

Majumdar has to resign. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

[English]

SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, India, despite being home to 19 per cent of the world's children, ranks 113 out of 176 in the well-being of children according to the End of Childhood Index. In 2022, child abuse cases surged by 8.7 per cent and approximately 55 per cent of children in India experience some form of abuse according to a NCPCR study. India's child population is vulnerable, with 28.9 per cent falling victim to sexual crimes as per the NCRB Report 2020. Additionally, child rape cases have increased by 96 per cent between 2016 and 2022 as per CRY analysis of NCRB data. Also, India

^α For Questions and Answers Click Link shown against each Question Number.

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accounts for a staggering 40 per cent of global child marriages, according to the National Family Health Survey.

Speaker Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps have been taken by the Government to bring India among the fifty best performing countries in Child Well Being Index with a timeline for the completion of the same.

11.05 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Sushri Mahua Moitra and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANNAPURNA DEVI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the mission launched by our Government under the able leadership of Hon. Prime Minister through 'Mission Vatsalya' aims to ensure a healthy and happy childhood for the children in India....*(Interruptions)*. A sensitive, supportive and contemporary ecosystem is to be established, so that their overall development is possible, children facing in difficult circumstances are provided assistance and support Under this scheme and they are connected to the mainstream so that no child is left behind. Measures are also taken for the overall development of children from diverse backgrounds. Our Government is of the view that for any child who is divested from the mainstream, we provide all kinds of facilities through 'Mission Vatsalya' so that children may improve by staying in the institutional environment. We always send guidelines to the State Government through the Union Government from time to time and also

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carry out inspection. For that, we run a child helpline. Through child helpline, if children are in any kind of problem or distress, they call the said child helpline. Therefore, facilities are provided to them particularly through our Committee at the State level and then at the district level.

[English]

SHRI CHAMALA KIRAN KUMAR REDDY: Sir, according to various reports, around two million children lost their parents due to COVID-19. The Government launched the PM CARES for Children Scheme in 2021. The Government data shows that only 4,532 children have been adopted.

Sir, I want to know whether this insensitive Government has done any study to understand the plight of the children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19. If yes, share all the necessary data to help us understand what exactly has happened to those two million children.

11.06 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Sushri Mahua Moitra and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANNAPURNA DEVI: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the 'PM Care Yojana' under which facilities were being provided to children whose parents died of Covid, this scheme was launched on 29 May 2021, the time period of the scheme was precisely from 11 March, 2020 to 2023. In this, a committee has been constituted under the leadership of the

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District Magistrate at the district level. There they apply. Those children, whose parents have died of Covid, such children are identified and provided this facility. Many such people, whose parents were not died and they did not face any problem during the said period, have also applied through this portal. In this, all such children have been registered, due to which this list is visible. There is a screening committee at the district level and children are selected through the screening committee and under that, we provide all kinds of facilities to the children from the PM Care Fund. This facility is given to children whose parents have died during Covid. We have provided all kinds of facilities to those who have come under that criteria.

[English]

SHRIMATI JUNE MALIAH: Thank you, Sir. I want to ask a question to the hon. Minister of Women and Child Development through you. There are lots of children with special needs in different child care institutions. Is there any specific plan for these children especially for the children who are having severe specific needs?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANNAPURNA DEVI: Hon. Speaker Sir, through 'Mission Vatsalya', we take care of every child, different types of children, through the CNCP Children's Home. In that, the children who need facilities, the CWC, which is our committee at the district level, the CWCs are DCPUs and there are also JJs, if there is any child with special needs treatment, they informs the CWC.

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After that, the CWC sees where to keep the children as needed. Since we have three types of facilities for children. Some children are to be sent to institutional care somewhere or there are some children with special needs, all sorts of facilities are available for them. CWC takes care of that. Accordingly, the CWC also sends the children to safe places.

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Hon. Speaker: Question No. 62,

Shri Shyamkumar Daulat Barve.

*62.

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

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Hon. Speaker, I am a first time MP, so I will seek one minute to introduce myself.

HON. SPEAKER: Come to the Chamber and introduce yourself. You ask the question here.

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Sir, it will take one minute. I am speaking for the first time.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no, you introduce yourself in the Chamber.

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Sir, I have been elected from the smallest House of the country i.e. Gram Panchayat level. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour, you ask question, 'Who's who' biodata of all of you has been prepared. I will give you that book.

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Sir, through you I would like to ask the Hon.Minister that why has the Government deprived the small drug manufacturing companies in the country from the 'Modified Drug Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme'? While small drug companies have also apprised the Government about their problems, the Government has not taken any positive step. Unless the small companies in our country get the benefit of this scheme, how can they meet the global standards?

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SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that whether it is a small company or a medium company, there is no question of depriving any company, but the government has encouraged them. The question is divided into two parts. The subject of this question is 'Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme'. The Government led by Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken it forward and implemented the 'Revamped Pharmaceuticals Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme'.

Under this scheme, work has been done to support the small or medium industries of our country and to provide them assistance by giving them special protection. The objective is that, how can we strengthen the pharmaceutical industries by good pharmaceutical practices as per the global standards or the standards of WHO, now we can do SPI, we are supporting for that.

I would also like to tell the hon. Member that we provide financial support to strengthen units ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 500 crore and factories or manufacturing units. For example, if a company's turnover is between Rs 1 crore and Rs 50 crore, we give them financial support up to 20 per cent but it does not exceed Rs 1 crore.

Similarly, for companies with turnover between Rs 50 crore and Rs 250 crore, we are giving 15 per cent financial support. *[English]* That also should not exceed more than Rs.1 crore and the component is strengthening of the pharmaceutical industry for manufacturing. *[Translation]* For companies with turnover between Rs

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250 crore and Rs 500 crore, we provide 10 per cent financial support. So, there is no question of depriving them. Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this government is working to encourage them.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask supplementary questions.

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to ask a supplementary question to the Hon. Minister ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Please don't guide everyone.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE (RAMTEK): Sir, it is very important to strengthen small pharmaceutical companies, we had witnessed the Corona pandemic period. Though we are giving incentives to small companies, but the rate of medicines are increasing. Will the hon. Minister inform as to whether the Government will fix rate for these companies?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, this question is not related to the question, but I want to bring to his notice that there are two organizations. One of them is the National List of Essential Medicines. When include medicines to the list of essential medicines, the ceiling price of the medicine is capped and the price of that drug is determined by the Government. We put them on the National List of Essential Medicines. Similarly, there is NPPA, which is the pricing authority under the Department of Pharmaceuticals. The prices essential medicines and other medicines, which may not come under the prescribed drugs, are determined.

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I would like to inform all the Members of the House that the government controls the prices of life-saving drugs to cure fatal diseases, so that the common man can afford to buy these drugs, hence the Government is concerned about it.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, I would like to inform you that Indian medicines are in high demand in all the countries of the world that we have visited. They all are satisfied with their quality and rate.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: India is a global player in pharmaceutical industry. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: We can raise the global standard of drugs. The House is of the view that by raising the global standards, India can become the number one country in the world in drug export.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT: Thank you, hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, while giving an answer to the question, the hon. Minister has mentioned about some slabs. *[Translation]* That we would like to provide assistance from 0 to 50 crores and from 1 crores to 50 crores, but you said in the same answer that *[English]* 'To the extent of Rs. 1 crore' *[Translation]*. If you are going to give assistance of 15 per cent for Rs 250 crore, why is it Rs 1 crore? 15 percent amount

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is more than this amount have you the ceiling amount limit? Otherwise, this percentage has no meaning. You have received more than hundred applications but you have approved only seven out of the same. *[English]* So, I would like to know whether the rest of 93 applications have been rejected or they will be considered in future. *[Translation]* I would like to appreciate the efforts that you are making. It is a good step. Hon. Speaker is also of the same opinion. Medicines produced in the country should be patented, because we are manufacturing world class medicines, so *[English]* we have to create patent also. *[Translation]* Whether the Government provide any assistance to Indian pharma companies to get right patent or not? Whether efforts are being made in this regard or not?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, first of all I would like to add that as far as status of India in drug manufacturing is concerned, today the world accepts that India has become the dispensary of the world. India is producing the world's most effective and cheapest medicines and the Indian government is encouraging it. You have raised the point about one crore rupees, I would like to state that, the purpose of the scheme is to provide support to the small industries. The companies with 250 crores to 50 crore turnover are also being provided support on proportionate basis. We will give 20 per cent to small, 15 per cent to medium industries and its maximum ceiling is one crore rupees. Your suggestion is good, you may send your request to me in writing. *[English]* Schemes are always ongoing, and there is always a situation where we can think of some modifications also. ...

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(Interruptions) [Translation] As far as you have raised the issue of patent, we will make efforts to encourage it in similar manner. You have submitted about seven applications approved, *[English]* it is also an ongoing process. *[Translation]* Hundred applications have been registered and seven of them have been approved.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (JORHAT): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you and, I want to know from the Government that what is the standard of the Government regarding the quality of drugs that we export to other countries from India, because it was reported that concerns were expressed about the adulterated cough syrup which was exported to Africa and the Government has probably taken some steps in this regard. I want to know from the Hon. Minister as to what action is being taken by the Government about the quality of cough medicine as reported in the news.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, we have a very robust system of testing medicines. Sample survey of medicines that are exported is also conducted here and when the consignment reaches the destination country, random survey is also conducted there. The Government of India took action in the matter of cough syrup raised by the Hon. Member. We are vigilant and paying constant attention to all these contemplating of such incidents to check recurrence.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, Hon. Minister has stated about the steps being taken to raise the standard of pharmaceutical industry? Hon. Member Shri

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Gaurav Gogoi has submitted that there are serious complaints about the exported drugs. No corrective steps have been taken so far in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: Please give me your suggestion.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I do not have a suggestion, I have a question that, there are institutions like Bengal Chemicals and IDPL under the Ministry of Hon. Minister. They are closing down. Their condition is very pathetic. What are the steps being taken by the Hon. Minister to raise the standard by improving them?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, the question is related to revamp pharmaceutical upgradation scheme and which I have answered. Hon. Member has a specific question. He is discussing about a unit. Hon. Member, Please write me a letter. I will study it in detail and also give reply.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Please, give reply in the House now. Why are you asking for later?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Because your question is not related to this question.

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HON. SPEAKER: Q. number 63,

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN.

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

[English]

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN: Sir, Indian expatriates are the most marginalized and exploited segment of our population. They opt for overseas career as their last option in life due to the absence of any other opportunity available in India. But our Government is deplorably apathetic towards these hapless people.

Sir, the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) is the best example of the Indian Government's stepmotherly attitude towards the Indian expatriate community. The ICWF is conceived as a critical support mechanism for expatriates in emergency situations. Compulsory contributions to the Fund are collected from the Indian expatriates. But the Indian embassies are very parsimonious in releasing the funds to needy expatriates, particularly in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Hence, this question is raised on the Floor of this august House.

I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to involve the organisations of Indian expatriates in management of ICWF. If so, details thereof.

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Sir, the learned hon. Member has raised many issues but I particularly object to the allegations that have been made regarding the misutilization of the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

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The details of utilization of the fund are very clearly given in the annexures. It shows that we have a large amount of balance available for the welfare and the well-being of our workers who have gone abroad.

Sir, I would like to add that it is a very important issue for the entire country that the welfare of our workers who have travelled abroad are taken care of. It is rightly so as the hon. Member said that they belong to the weaker sections of our society, especially financially. But I would also like to add that apart from ICWF, our Government has taken many such measures, especially under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, that I can proudly say that today every Indian who has travelled abroad either as a student or as a labourer, worker or even as a tourist feels safe and secure given the measures that we have adopted.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Sir, the workers got burnt in the fire in Kuwait. ...*(Interruptions)* What are they saying?... ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Sir, the Member is raising the question of Kuwait. That is a matter of the Kuwait Government. When the Kuwait tragedy happened, we took all possible measures to bring back the mortal remains in a record time. *[Translation]* We brought Mortal Remains in record time from Kuwait. That is their internal matter and they are now looking at it very carefully so that such tragedy

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does not happen there. *[English]* They are going over the system there, but that is their matter.

Our responsibility lies in providing all assistance, whether legal, physical, medical or even giving insurance cover, to our citizens who go abroad to work, study or as tourists.

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN: Sir, ICWF is, among other things, meant to provide emergency medical care on 'means-tested basis' to overseas Indians who are involved in accidents with serious life-threatening injuries or have life-threatening medical conditions or suffer a serious disability. I would like to know from the Minister how much amount has been disbursed for this purpose from the ICWF in the last two financial years.

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Sir, a detailed reply in Annexure A, Annexure B and Annexure C of the main answer is already provided to the hon. Member. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, his answer is not proper. This is a very serious issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN: Sir, he is not giving a proper answer. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, there is no budgetary provision from the Government this entire subject. The entire fund is collected from this. I would like

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to hon. Minister to discuss this matter with all people for better suggestions and what else we can do about it. How could we make it better? Because it is not funded by the Government, the Government has not done any budgetary provision for it, therefore if the fund is theirs, you had better discuss it once to make it better.

[English]

Shri E.T. Mohammed Basheer.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Sir, thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Prof. Sougata Ray: He should not have gone abroad. *[English]* He should not have gone abroad. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I allow you every time during Question Hour. If you get up in between, I will never allow you in the Question Hour. ... You please take your seat. Let the hon. Member speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Sir, thank you very much.

Sir, my question is pertaining to the functioning of this Fund in different embassies. Transparency, accountability and structured feedback mechanism are missing there. It is totally confusing.

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In order to substantiate my point, I would like to mention that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, in its Fifteenth Report, highlighted the need for improved transparency and accountability in the management of the ICWF. The report emphasized that while the ICWF has been beneficial to the needy people, some more attention is required in this. It recommended setting up a transparent mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the Fund's utilization, ensuring that support reaches the intended beneficiaries.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister – he will also agree because he has given in detail the closing balance of ICWF as on 31st March, 2024 in 137 countries – one question.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have a good suggestion. Transparency will be adopted....

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what type of mechanism is going to be introduced to ensure transparency in the system.

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is a very senior Member of the House and he has constantly raised the issue of safety, security and well-being of our workers abroad.

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Sir, we have endeavoured to give a very detailed reply. With respect to the specific question of the hon. Member what transparency measures should be built in, I would like to add that this Fund is constantly monitored by our missions abroad. It is primarily collected by levying charges on our Consular Services. It is a global fund and whichever mission needs it more, it is transferred there.

Since 2014, we have spent Rs. 656 crore to assist more than 3.5 lakh Indians in distress. *[Translation]* Sir, as on date our current balance is Rs. 692 crore. *[English]* But even then, we are ready to take any suggestion from the hon. Member regarding the transparency of the utilization of these funds.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: That is right. You suggest once. Hon. Minister, there should be more transparent system, there is no problem in it.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs is aware that in the last few years, lakhs of youth from many States of our country have been going abroad due to unemployment and frustration through the risky routes, which is called the Donkey waywithout visa. I give the example of the US only. According to the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), US, 97,000 Indian nationals have crossed the Mexican border through the jungles of Panama in the US or through the Canada in the last one year to the US.They have checked them. Young people go there passing through inhuman conditions. Today, there are 1.5 Lakh Indian citizens in the US alone who

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are undocumented, Whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sensitive to the problems that they face, if so, what is the Ministry doing to help them?

[English]

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Sir, the question the hon. Member has asked is not directly connected to our Missions and the ICWF but it is a sensitive question and I will endeavour to give a full reply to it. *[Translation]* Sir, today our Indians who are going abroad to work. *[English]* There are two categories of countries. One is ECR countries and the other is ECNR; countries where the immigration check is not required. *[Translation]* Sir, our Government has started e-Migrate portal. The reason for this is that all our workers who are going abroad, they should register on it, then they should go abroad, then their data remains on the e-migrate portal. *[English]* It helps in keeping our Missions in tracking to them. *[Translation]* If they face any problem, we have taken many steps, 24x7 helpline, insurance scheme and many other things, so that they do not face any problem. Sir, which is the e-migrate system, *[English]* it is compulsory for ECR passport holders going to ECR countries. In other cases, whether the passport holder is non-ECR passport holder going to ECR country or whether the passport holder is an ECR passport holder going to non-ECR country, we recommend and advise to go through the e-migrant portal so that we can keep them safe and look after their well-being. But for the nationals who do not undertake this service provided by our Government, how can we know *[Translation]* what are they doing, how are they doing? The question of

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hon. Member which is *[English]* that relates more to the visa curtailing done by the US. *[Translation]* They are keeping their system so strict that our citizens, who have to go there, adopt all kinds of methods. *[English]* But we cannot be held responsible for that... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Their entire family is here....*(Interruptions)*

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HON. SPEAKER: Question Number 64,

Shri Hanuman Beniwal.

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

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Speaker sir, today a serious disease cancer is spreading rapidly in the country. Poor and middle class people are increasingly coming under the grip of cancer. Deaths due to expensive medicines and not getting timely treatment are a matter of concern. I have asked the hon. Minister a question regarding providing medicines to cancer patients at a lower price, hon. Minister has made the reply.

Hon. Speaker sir, may I ask two questions?

HON. SPEAKER: You ask one question first. You ask the question now.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Minister has stated that NPPA has fixed a maximum limit of 30% trade margin on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs on 27.02.2019, thereby reducing the MRPs of 526 brands of medicines by an average of 50 percent. Hon. Minister the list you have provided in the reply is Tracetuzumab at serial number 118, its MRP is Rs. 54,725. But its price is 13 to 14 thousand rupees. In such a situation, corporate hospitals sell it on full MRP to patients.

Do you propose to issue directives to print the the MRP same as the actual price of the medicines so that the patients are not cheated. If so, when do you plan to do this and if not, what is the reason? Hon. Minister, this was just one example and same is case with many other medicines.

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SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker Sir, as the Hon. Member has asked, it is true that the cases of cancer are increasing continuously and the number of cancer patients is increasing by about 2.5% every year. Breast cancer in women and oral cancer and lung cancer in men are on a rise. More than 15.5 lakh patients are being registered.

Regarding the medicines as the Member brought out, we have a list called Monitor. As I said answering the first question, there are 131 cancer medicines in the National List of Essential Medicines, which forms Schedule 1. They are priced by the Government and NPPA. These are the most commonly used medicines and are being used. NPPA imposes ceiling on the pricing of these medicines. As a result patients have got a benefit of about Rs 294 crore. That is the way we try to take it forward. Apart from this, there are a few medicines which do not fall in the list of 131, but there are 28 combinations, which do not fall under the fixed dose combination. The Government and NPPA have controlled the pricing of these medicines also. The MRP cannot be more than 30 per cent of the cost at which the distributor buys the medicine. It is coming down by 50 per cent, that is, 50 per cent of the prices have been reduced. It is an attempt to make the cancer drugs affordable.

We are paying special attention to two things. There are about 13,000 outlets of Janaushadhi Kendras. 83 out of the two thousand medicines that we are providing at 3,000 outlets are anti-cancer. Similarly we are running Affordable

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Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) scheme. We have also opened outlets in every Government hospital where we try to deliver branded medicines to patients at an affordable price. This is how, we have tried to control cancer. Day before yesterday, in the budget presented by our sister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, custom duty on three cancer drugs has been removed, so that they are made available at affordable price.

Hon. Member has asked about a particular medicine. I will definitely examine it. He mentioned some number of the medicine, I will examine it. If it is being sold above the MRP, the local authorities there must be concerned about that. No medicines will be sold anywhere above the ceiling prices fixed by NPPA. Our responsibility is to ensure this.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, NPPA had fixed a trade margin ceiling of 30 percent on unscheduled anti-cancer drugs on 27/02/2019. But the drugs notified in these categories, are being sold by the pharma companies at the arbitrary prices after adding an additional salt to these medicines. They have devised a mechanism to disobey your notification. Do you propose to bring in a policy to curb such practices by the pharma companies? If so, when do you plan to do this and if not, what is the reason. Kindly provide the details along with the reasons to this House.

You have brought out in the budget that you have done so much for cancer. Does the Government consider providing complete free medicines to cancer

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patients in Government run hospitals associated with all the medical colleges in the country? What is the opinion of the Government in this regard? Hon. Minister may please provide details.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker Sir, Hon. Member has said that the additional salt in the medicine is added or the combination is changed. I have already answered it.

I would like to inform that this is a regular process. Suppose we put a ceiling on 40 medicines; they bring a new medicine with slightly different combination. As a result these medicines go out of the ceiling. For this, we have regular monitoring. That is why I said that there are 28 formulations which do not fall in fixed combination category and therefore they do not fall under ceiling. However we have included these also. *[English]* This is a regular process. *[Translation]* If any such medicine is launched in market and is unaffordable, our effort is to take action and make it affordable by imposing ceiling through NPPA, which is our pricing authority and which is effective. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: Will it be available free? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Beniwal Ji, please take your seat. You are a senior Member. Shri Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

...*(Interruptions)*

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SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING: Sir, we all know that cancer is a very dreadful disease. All of us sitting here were elected on the 4th of June and being a Member of Parliament, I feel that in slightly less than two months, I have signed the maximum number of letters of cancer patients seeking assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

HON. SPEAKER: ... What is your question?

SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING: Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that cancer spares no one. It is a very dangerous disease. On one hand we say that India has become or going to become world's fastest growing economy, on the other hand, even today people below poverty line are running pillar to post to get cancer treatment. Some are getting letter signed by me. Whether the people living below poverty line or belonging to middle class, can get free cancer treatment in the country. I urge upon the Minister not to spend crores on reducing the price of medicines, instead of it Government should provide free treatment to those people.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, I respect the sentiments of the Hon. Member. Cancer is indeed a fatal disease. The family of cancer patient suffers financial setback. However, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, the Government has taken various steps in this regard. The efforts have been made to support 50 crore people i.e. 10 crore 35 lakh families by providing health cover of

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Rs. 5 lakh per year under 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme along with setting up of 'Cancer Units'.

Therefore, efforts have been made to provide health cover to the poor to help them combat cancer. Similarly, many cancer-related procedures are done free of cost for the people belonging to BPL categories, but apart from that we have also provided free diagnostic facilities at many places, *[English]* right from PHCs *[Translation]* to Tertiary Care Units, wherein all these factors are considered.

I would like to highlight that we are focusing on three things – preventive, promotional and curative healthcare. We are emphasizing on disease prevention and health promotion to reduce the prevalence of disease. We are promoting health and by putting labels on tobacco packet, an attempt has been made to highlight the ill effects of tobacco on health which can cause cancer. Whatever efforts can be made to ensure prevention, are being done. As far as curative healthcare is concerned, Government is trying to provide affordable and accessible treatment to cancer patients.

SHRIMATI SHAMBHAVI: Thank you, Speaker sir. First of all, I would like to thank the Government for making cancer treatment more affordable by exempting custom duty on three cancer drugs.

Hon. Speaker, my question pertains to CAR T-cell therapy, which is an affordable cancer treatment, but is available only in 30 hospitals across the country.

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I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that by when CAR T-cell therapy will be introduced in rural and backward areas so that the poor families may also get its benefit.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: We are expanding this facility. We will expand it in-due course. (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There will be a discussion on Demand for Grants.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 65.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member.

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

[English]

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, as the saying goes, 'health is wealth', in our country, the medical infrastructure is the backbone of our growth as a society, both economically and socially. For creating the medical infrastructure, we need new medical colleges, new hospitals and new healthcare centres.

Sir, through you, I would like to ask this to the hon. Minister. In his reply, he stated that there is a condition stipulated by the National Medical Commission on 16th August 2023. There is a restriction of ratio of 100 MBBS seats for every 10 lakh population. With this, 13 States will go out of the system. In the Southern States, especially Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, we will not get

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more seats later. No medical colleges will come. So, this has to be corrected. The hon. Minister has to clear the doubt in the minds of everybody.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: The hon. Member has asked the question about increasing the number of medical colleges, I would like to share with the hon. Member and with the House also that we had only one All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and later on we had six All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and now, we have got 21 All India Institute of Medical Sciences where 6 + 12 are operational.

If I talk about the medical colleges, I would like to share with him that before 2014, there were 387 medical colleges, and now there are 731 medical colleges. There is an 88 per cent increase in the medical college. The MBBS seats have increased to 118 per cent. The MBBS seats were 51,348 in 2014, and now it is 1,12,112. In the same way, if I may talk about the PG seats, the increase is 133 per cent. The PG seats were 31,185, and now there is a big lead. We have 72,627 in 2024. So, I would like to enlighten the hon. Member that the Government is apprised of the matter, and we want to see to it that the expansion of medical colleges takes place and more doctors are there to take care of the healthcare sector.

As far as NMC issue is concerned, there have been certain questions and queries about it. I am reviewing it, and I will see to it. We are having a dialogue with them. The purpose is to see to it that there should be a balance between the quality of the medical education and the quantity of the medical education. So, we are

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trying it as fast as we go. We are trying to convince them also, but at the same time, we do not want to compromise on the quality of the medical doctor because we should be proud of the fact, and I would also like to share with you that it is the Indian doctors who are taking care of people in Europe, England and America. This is the quality of doctors we are producing.

[Translation] So not only this, we are producing world-class doctors, and thus *[English]* as fast as we can go, we are trying to go.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for an elaborate reply. My second supplementary is this. In the last regime, we have been sanctioned three medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh under the Centrally-sponsored scheme as against 17 medical colleges that the State Government had declared. That is 60:40 ratio. There is one medical college under construction in Markapuram in my Ongole Parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh. That is a very backward area. Recently, in this Budget, just two days back, the Finance Minister has declared Prakasam district as a backward district. These medical colleges are already under construction. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to kindly bring it under 60:40 ratio under the Centrally-sponsored scheme. I would request the hon. Minister to include Markapuram Medical College in my Ongole Parliamentary constituency in the Centrally-sponsored scheme. Thank you, Sir.

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[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am urging you all to ask your questions in brief and the concerned Minister should also give brief reply as I have to take up all the 20 questions from the starred list of questions.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I only respect your sentiments and I would like to also enlighten him that we have also opened an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. C.N. Manjunath. Dr. C.N. Manjunath is a world renowned cardiac surgeon. He is a very renowned surgeon.

[English]

DR. C. N. MANJUNATH: Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Speaker for having permitted me to raise a supplementary question. In fact, before asking my supplementary question, my hearty congratulations to Narendra Modi Government and the hon. Health Minister for an exponential increase in the number of MBBS seats and post-graduate seats in the medical colleges in this country.

Today, road traffic accidents account for 13 per cent of deaths in India which is bigger than cancer deaths. So, there is a need to have a Polytrauma Care Centre in our country. So, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. What is the Government's stand on establishing a 300-bedded Polytrauma Care Centre at the

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National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore North Campus.

This is because we need to deliver a treatment in polytrauma cases within the golden hour; otherwise during the transit, a lot of people are dying. Is there any proposal before the Ministry to have a small polytrauma clinic for every 125 kilometres of national highways and expressways?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, take your hands out from your pockets.

Hon. Members, I urge you not to enter the House with your hands in your pockets and do not cross when an Hon. Member is speaking.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please. Hon. Minister, why are you interrupting? What do you want to ask? Please tell. What do you want to ask? Would you like me to allow putting hands in pockets?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB: Sir, I don't do so... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am not pointing you out.

Also while Hon. Member is speaking, then no other Hon. Member should cross in front of him and sit. You can sit behind that Member but there is no need to sit in front of him.

[English]

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DR. C. N. MANJUNATH: With the permission of the hon. Speaker, another question is this. In Bangalore, we have Bangalore city and Bangalore rural area surrounding it. We have 1,65,000 CGHS beneficiaries.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, little time has left for Question Hour to over, quickly ask your questions.

[English]

DR. C. N. MANJUNATH: For the same size of beneficiaries, we have 17 CGHS dispensaries in Hyderabad as well as in Chennai. But in Bangalore, we have only 10 dispensaries.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, though you are a new Member, but you are a senior and renowned doctor. In the Question Hour, the Question is asked in brief.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: The hon. Member has done a very good job, a very good work in polytrauma. His suggestion is welcome. He has asked me to look into it whether NIMHANS can think of a Polytrauma Care Centre. Certainly, it is an ongoing process. We will look into the matter.

As he has suggested that we should have a polytrauma unit on the national highways on every 125 kilometres of road, I would like to say that it is not possible

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at this point of time. But yes, we have opened trauma units on the national highways in different areas. And this is also an ongoing process.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD: Hon. Speaker, I will ask the question in brief. My question is from part 'B' – *[English]* 'the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve the accessibility of healthcare in rural areas.' *[Translation]* This question pertains to senior citizens. Their number is increasing. I would like to enquire about the measures being taken in Primary Health Centres in rural areas to deal with the complex and contagious geriatric health issues. We have healthcare facilities for minor ailments like cough, cold, etc., but we do not have proper healthcare system for geriatric health problems. I would like to know about the measures being taken by the Government to deal with such health issues. In my knowledge, Kerala has such geriatric care facility, whether Hon. Minister would like to apprise us about it?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Member has asked a very important question. I would like to inform them that we started a programme Health and Wellness Centre around 2016 and later it has been formed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir. Under this, we have taken many initiatives. You have talked about old people and rural areas. I would like to share with you that our 1,73,806 Ayushman Arogya Mandir have been built, in which work is going on. For this, free diagnostics and free treatment have also been arranged. I would like to inform you that today there is a footfall of 286 crore in Ayushman Arogya Mandir, since the

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time these Health and Wellness Centres have started. There has been a footfall of 286.50 crore and it is till 3 June, 2024, out of which 38.2 crore wellness sessions have been conducted. 81.29 crore hypertension cases have been screened. 71.48 crore diabetic screenings have been done, 48.82 crore oral cancer screenings, 22.13 crore breast cancer screenings and 14.65 crore cervical cancer screenings have been done. 25.19 crore tele-consultations have been done and consultation is going on in this manner. Our effort is to provide preventive and promotive health care, which also includes geriatrics. Whoever goes to Ayushman Arogya Mandir, all sorts of screening facility is being provided to them. There is everything from dental health, mental health to hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, leprosy, skin checking, etc.

Hon. Member has talked about geriatrics. For geriatric health care, we are making effort to provide it in district hospitals and above mentioned Arogya Mandirs. In rural health, it is always our responsibility to detect people for geriatric care and send them to the right institution with right opportunity.

HON. SPEAKER: Sushri Praniti Sushil kumar Shinde, you ask questions in short because the Question Hour is going to be over.

SUSHRI PRANITI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR): Hon. Speaker, there are many PHCs in our country and also in Maharashtra, which are ill equipped.

[English] Except ultrasound, there is no other machinery in these PHCs, and a lot of people have to come to the main civil hospital in the city. *[Translation]* For

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example, I want to say that even for the disability certificate, they have to go to the civil hospital. They name to go to civil hospital even for simple tests like ECG.

[English] Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question to the Hon. Minister.

12.00 hrs

[Translation]

Many times there are no doctors available there. Those who have additional responsibilities, remains there. The Swavalamban portal has also not been functional for the last three months. *[English]* So, are you going to equip all the PHCs in our country with ECG machines, with more ultrasound machines and also have a disability centre?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, it is twelve o'clock.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Let me tell you in very short that the arrangement we have made is as follows - In sub-centres we provide 106 medicines and 14 tests free of cost, in primary health centres 172 medicines and 63 tests free, in community health centres 300 medicines and 97 tests free and in district hospitals 381 medicines and 134 tests free of cost.

As far as your question is concerned, we have unfolded many programs in these ten years and have done upto district level. You all will also be happy to know that we have a program of dialysis, which people could never think of, earlier people

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used to travel 250-300 kilometers go for dialysis, but today we have started dialysis programs in sub-divisional hospitals and district hospitals too. In this way, our effort is to provide health facilities to the common man on behalf of the Government.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 66 to 80

Unstarred Question Nos. 691 to 920



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[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motion from many hon. Members. I have not allowed any notice of adjournment motion.

Shri Kalyan Banerjee, what did you want to say?

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Yesterday, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, the hon. Minister of North East Region said that the North Bengal will be divided.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Where did he say it? He did not say it in the House, did he?

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: He spoke outside.

HON. SPEAKER: He did not say it in the House. Therefore, outside matters will not be discussed in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, kindly listen to me.... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Nishikant Dubey said in the House that two districts would be taken from West Bengal. What is this? On the ground of religion, *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: He made his point during Zero Hour. But, outside matters will not be discussed in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

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[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: How can the Minister say this?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Mohan , you wanted to say something.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. C. MOHAN (BANGALORE CENTRAL): Sir, in Karnataka, there is a serious scam. In Valmiki Nigam, more than Rs. 100 crore have been transferred into *benami* account.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: No, hon. Member, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. C. MOHAN: The Minister concerned also has been arrested and the Finance Department is handled by none other than the Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah.

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12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

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

Item No. 2, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table: —

(1) A copy of Output Outcome Monitoring Framework indicators (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice for the year 2024-2025.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 212/18/24]

(2) A copy of the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.995 (E) in Gazette of India dated 1st March, 2024, under sub-section (3) of Section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 213/18/24]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 53 of the Mediation Act, 2023:-

(i) The Mediation Council of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2024

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published in Notification No. G.S.R.320(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2024.

- (ii) The Mediation Council of India (Travelling and other Allowances for Part-time Chairperson and Part-time Members) Rules, 2024 published in Notification No. G.S.R.321 (E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2024.
- (iii) The Mediation Council of India (Forms and Manner of Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2024 published in Notification No. G.S.R.322(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2024.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 214/18/24]

(4) A copy of the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Micro and Small Enterprises Arbitration) Regulations, 2024 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. A-60011/4/2024-Admin-IIAC in Gazette of India dated 7th June, 2024, under Section 32 of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 215/18/24]

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HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. ... All of you please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI

PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAV): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 29 of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Act, 2020:-
 - (i) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Doctor of Philosophy Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS(I). in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2024.
 - (ii) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Post Graduate-Ayurveda Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS(II). in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2024.
 - (iii) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Post Graduate-Pharmacy Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS(III). in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2024.
 - (iv) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda for Under Graduate, Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery Regulations,

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2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS(IV). in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2024.

- (v) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/18/2021-AS. in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2024.
- (vi) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda - Swasthavritta and Allied Sciences Programme Regulations 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS-Pt.1.C. in Gazette of India dated 29th April, 2024.
- (vii) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (Diploma in Pharmacy – Ayurveda) Regulations, 2024 published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS-Pt.1.B. in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2024.
- (viii) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Bachelor of Pharmacy-Ayurveda [B. Pharm. (Ayu.)] Regulations 2024, published in Notification No. F.No. L-12015/25/2021-AS-Pt.1.A. in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2024.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 216/18/24]

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(2) (i) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2022-2023.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2022-2023, alongwith Audited Accounts.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 217/18/24]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2022-2023, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, for the year 2022-2023.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 218/18/24]

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12.04 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla and some other hon.

Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2024 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.332(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th June, 2024, under sub-section (3) of Section 6 of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 219/18/24]

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12.05 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Speaker Sir, with your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 29th of July, 2024 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper:- [it contains (i) Further General Discussion on Union Budget for 2024-25 (ii) Further General Discussion on Budget of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for 2024-25 (iii) Discussion and Voting on Demands for Grants of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir for the year 2024-25 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.
2. Discussion and Voting on Demands for Grants of the individual Ministries for the year 2024-25.

[Translation]

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Don't you want the House to run?

... *(Interruptions)*

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HON. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 12.30 hrs today.

... (Interruptions)

12.06 hrs

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

12.30 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

(Shri Jagdambika Pal in the Chair)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 6, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

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12.30½ hrs

**MOTION RE: CONSTITUTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF
PROFIT**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Sir, with your permission, I beg to move the following:-

“That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote;

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be –

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing “committees” (other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred) and all “committees” that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

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- (ii) to recommend in relation to the “committees” examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”.”

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[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote;

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be –

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing “committees” (other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred) and all “committees” that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the “committees” examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

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That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of Members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

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12.33 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

- (i) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora, Bathinda, Bhopal, Kalyani, Nagpur, New Delhi, Raebareli, Rewari and Rajkot

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, I beg

to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Act, 1956 read with Section 6 of the AIIMS (Amendment) Act, 2012, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to each of the nine All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora, Bathinda, Bhopal, Kalyani, Nagpur, New Delhi, Raebareli, Rewari and Rajkot subject to the other provisions of the said Act”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Act, 1956 read with Section 6 of the AIIMS (Amendment) Act, 2012, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to each of the nine All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora, Bathinda, Bhopal, Kalyani, Nagpur, New Delhi, Raebareli, Rewari and Rajkot subject to the other provisions of the said Act”

The motion was adopted.

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[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would like to request the Hon. Members that this is a motion concerning your rights. Whenever a new Lok Sabha is constituted, two members either from ruling party or from the opposition are elected for all the All India Medical Institutes of the country. Today, the motion for the same is being moved. The motion has options of 'AYES' and 'NOES' on this. It is to be filled by this House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Sir, it's a matter of order. When there is a business of the Government; we need to conduct voting as the opposition may oppose the motion. It is a matter of normal authority of the House and there has been a practice of not to do 'Yes' and 'No' on these matters. If you could explain it to the leaders of your party then this house can do the business smoothly. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Venugopal Ji, please allow Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, let me clarify again that the Business Advisory Committee approves the business for the House. Accordingly, the motions are moved. This is

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not the business of the Governmrnt. It is the business of the House. This is what I am trying to say. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Owaisi Saheb, you are not allowed to speak while sitting.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have not permitted you to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: I am not speaking against the rights of the members. I am just trying to sensitise that if any motion is moved in the House, then it belongs to everyone. That is what I am talking about. I am not talking about the Government Bill or the business. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, I agree with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that on some issues, we need to have a consensus. But I would like to remind one thing to the House. The primary duty of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is to carry the House together. He should coordinate between the Opposition and the Government and carry on the Government Business. Unfortunately, yesterday, our Parliamentary Affairs Minister gave a very bad statement. ... *(Interruptions)* He had given a very, very condemnable statement against the Opposition. ... *(Interruptions)*

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, it is enough. I have already given you time.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, I would like to raise one point. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You kindly conclude now. I have already given you time.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, we have told this to the hon. Speaker also. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would request all of you to please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am giving the opportunity to Sh. Venugopal ji. So, I would request all of you to kindly sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Hon. Chairperson Sir, my point is this. Yesterday, the hon. Defence Minister and the hon. Speaker... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have already spoken about it. Please do not repeat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, generally the custom and the decorum of the House should be maintained by all the hon. Members, whether they are from the Opposition or from the Government side. ... *(Interruptions)* While speaking, a very low-level language was used by an hon. Member and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is not seeing to it. ... *(Interruptions)*

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is enough now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: He is only criticizing the Opposition. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not at all acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not at all acceptable to us. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not at all acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I have heard you.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: It is not at all acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I think, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister knows his role, and he is also performing his role.

Now, Item No. 8 – Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.38 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES – Contd.

(ii) Central Supervisory Board

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to move the following: -

“That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (2) of Section 7 read with clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such

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manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board subject to the provisions of Section 15 of the said Act, and the Rules made thereunder.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-section (2) of Section 7 read with clause (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board subject to the provisions of Section 15 of the said Act, and the Rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Item No. 9.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kalyan Ji, if there is any issue, we will listen to it. Please let it complete. Please let the papers be laid. Item No. 9.

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12.39 hrs

**(iii) Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research
(JIPMER), Puducherry**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA):** Hon.

Chairperson Sir, I rise to move the following: -

“That in pursuance of Section 5(k) read with sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, 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 Institute Body of Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(k) read with sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, 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 Institute Body of Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

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12.40 hrs

**(iv) Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER),
Chandigarh**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, I beg to move the following: -

“That in pursuance of Section 5(g) read with sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(g) read with sub-section (1) of Section 6 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted

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12.41 hrs

**(v) Council of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education
and Research (NIPER)**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of clause (j) of sub-section (2) of Section 30A of the NIPER (Amendment) Act, 2021, 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 Council of NIPER, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause (j) of sub-section (2) of Section 30A of the NIPER (Amendment) Act, 2021, 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 Council of NIPER, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members , there will be no zero hour today. I am giving the ruling. If you hear the complete ruling, you will agree to it. Hon. Members whose names have appeared in the ballot today, will get opportunity to speak on priority basis in the next week. Your turn will not lapse. Thank you.

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12.42 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[Translation]

HON.SPEAKER: Hon. Members, matters under rule 377 shall be laid on the floor of the House. The Members who were permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and who wish to lay them on the Table of the House should personally send the text of the matter to the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters will be deemed to have been laid on the Table of the House for which the text of the case has been received within the stipulated time, the rest shall stand lapsed.

(i) Regarding extension of services of Tata Nagar – Thawe Express up to Gorakhpur Cantt.

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Rake halt time of Train No. 18181/18182 Tatanagar – Thawe Express (Four days a week) at Thawe Railway Station is 16:55 hrs. The route of the said train should be extended from Thawe to Gorakhpur Cantt and stoppage should be given at Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Kaptanganj so that our Purvanchali brothers and sisters living in Jamshedpur can get the benefit of dedicated train service between Gorakhpur to Iron City Jamshedpur. At present, the only train service between Gorakhpur and Tatanagar is train number 15021/15022 Gorakhpur – Shalimar Weekly

* Treated as laid on the table

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Express. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways that the route of train number 18181/18182 Tatanagar-Thawe Express between Gorakhpur and Tatanagar up to Gorakhpur Cantt. So that the railway passengers will get the benefit of five days a week train service.

**(ii) Regarding setting up of factories in Palamu
Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Both the districts of Palamu Parliamentary Constituency Palamu and Garhwafall in the category of Aspirational Districts. Being in Aspirational Districts means that these two districts have not developed as much as they should have. The biggest problem of this region is migration due to lack of employment. I have been raising this issue in this House since 2014. But not a single industry or factory has been set up here. There was one Japla cement factory, that too Unfortunately has been closed. The people of this region are forced to migrate constantly to other states to work as labourers as there is lack of employment in this region. There are plenty of minerals and coal is available in abundance here. Apart from this, there is graphite, limestone, bauxite in the neighbouring district Lohardaga. An aluminium factory can also be set up here. Apart from this, graphite-based industry can be set up depending upon the availability and quality of graphite. There are many mines which are still closed and can be made operational as soon as possible. I demand from the Central

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Government that the factories should be set up here, so that the problem of migration from this area can be resolved.

(iii) Need for reform in school education system in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

SHRIMATI KALABEN MOHANBHAI DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI):

The poor children of the tribal belt of Dadra-Nagar-Haveli faces a lot of problems due to inconveniences and shortage of teachers. They do not get school kits, books, uniform-shoes, raincoats, bags etc. on time, which is affecting their studies. Due to the poor condition of local teachers, they are working in a very stressful environment. The Primary Education Department of the District Panchayat suddenly suspended 280 temporary tribal teachers in November 2021 without giving any reason. This has also affected the education of poor children. The school timings are from 9 am to 4:30 pm, due to which children have to face a lot of difficulties in reaching school as the school is far from home. The students of higher secondary schools and colleges have not received scholarships for the last two years. The children had made a written appeal to the District Collector about their scholarship problem, but they are disappointed as no action was taken.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Education Minister to take personal cognizance on the above matter and issue guidelines for providing school kits and scholarships to the children ontime and to reinstating the dismissed teachers.

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**(iv) Need for resumption of flight services from Kushinagar
International Airport**

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY (KUSHINAGAR): The construction of the international airport which was under construction for almost twenty years in our Lok Sabha constituency Kushinagar, was completed in 2021. It was inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20/10/21. Spice Jet Airlines started flights from Kushinagar to Delhi and one flight from Delhi to Kushinagar. The regular flight operated for about two months, after which irregular **Need to establish a Dry Port in Bundelkhand region** flight operations continued for two to three months and then the flight operations were completely stopped citing low visibility as the reason. This demand of public remained the major highlight during the election. Now neither domestic nor international flights are operating from this airport. The staff is already deployed there. There is a loss of revenue and crores of rupees are being spent every month. I urge the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to take cognizance of the above matter and resume domestic flights of IndiGo, Air India and Go Air from Kushinagar International Airport to Delhi, Mumbai and Jammu etc.

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(v) Need to establish a Dry Port in Bundelkhand region

[English]

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA (JHANSI): This issue has been raised to suggest the establishment of dry ports in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh by the Government of India. Bundelkhand, spanning across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, faces significant economic challenges due to its arid climate and limited infrastructure. By developing dry ports, the region can gain critical logistical advantages, boosting trade and commerce. Dry ports will facilitate efficient cargo handling and reduce transportation costs, thereby encouraging industrial growth. According to the Uttar Pradesh government's data, the Bundelkhand region has witnessed only 2% industrial growth compared to the state average of 6%. Establishing dry ports can bridge this gap, fostering economic development and job creation. Furthermore, the Government of India's National Logistics Policy aims to reduce logistics costs from the current 13-14% of GDP to 8%. Dry ports in Bundelkhand will contribute significantly to this objective, enhancing the region's connectivity to major markets and ports. Therefore, it is imperative to implement this initiative promptly to promote sustainable development and economic prosperity in Bundelkhand. Your support is crucial in transforming this region into a vibrant economic hub, fostering public trust in the Government's commitment to balanced regional development.

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**(vi) Regarding construction of service roads, overbridge and underpasses
at NH-18 (Dhanbad – Balasore)**

[Translation]

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): National Highway-18 (Dhanbad-Balasore) passes through Baharagora in my Parliamentary Constituency Jamshedpur. There is no service road constructed along both ends at Kaliadinga Chowk in Baharagora, which leads to frequent waterlogging around the Chowk every day. Therefore, a service road needs to be constructed here. Similarly, the construction of an over bridge in front of Om Hotel Residency in Adityapur and an underpass in Phuldungri and Ghatshila under my Constituency will resolve the issue of traffic congestion. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister to take the cognizance of the problems mentioned above and kindly resolve them at the earliest.

(vii) Regarding alleged Bangladeshi infiltration in Jharkhand

SHRI MANISH JAISWAL (HAZARIBAGH): The tribal community of Jharkhand is constantly in danger due to Bangladeshi infiltration. Bangladeshis are luring the innocent tribal girls and women into forced marriage, acquiring fake Indian citizenship and thus occupying their houses and land. These people are posing a threat to the tribal community and polity of the state with their arbitrary conduct as the State Government is not taking cognizance of the matter. The State Government should seek the help of Central Government if it is unable to tackle the situation. Attention may please be paid towards this issue.

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(viii) Need to provide decorated mobile kiosks to street vendors in Jagannath Dham Puri

[English]

DR. SAMBIT PATRA (PURI): I urge the Ministry of Tourism to provide movable decorated kiosks to street vendors in Jagannath Dham Puri to boost their economy, enhance tourism, and beautify the city.

Street vendors along the Grand Road and sea beach are crucial to Puri's economy, supporting many families and adding cultural vibrancy. However, the current setup causes challenges, especially during major events like the Rath Yatra, when authorities need to clear the streets, disrupting vendors operations and affecting their earnings. The lack of organized vending spaces leads to congestion and detracts from Puri's aesthetic appeal.

To address these issues, I propose that the Ministry of Tourism provide movable decorated kiosks for Puri's street vendors. These kiosks, reflecting local culture and heritage, will enhance the city's beauty and offer dignified, organized vending spaces. Their mobility will allow easy clearance during festivals and large gatherings, ensuring smooth operations for both vendors and authorities. This initiative will significantly improve the economic conditions of street vendors, boost tourism, and enhance the overall image of Jagannath Dham Puri.

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(ix) Regarding integration of village cleanliness work into MGNREGA

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (KAZIRANGA): Similar to the Municipal Board's urban cleanliness efforts, it is essential to implement parallel initiatives in villages by involving MGNREGA Jobcard holders. This strategy will not only enhance the hygiene and environmental health of our villages but also create employment opportunities, supporting MGNREGA's objectives. Integrating village cleanliness programs into the MGNREGA framework will ensure systematic garbage management and disposal. Regular cleaning activities will reduce the frequency of communicable diseases, enhance the rural visuals, and nurture community pride and responsibility. Involving MGNREGA Job card holders will generate significant person days, providing stable income to rural workers and contributing to their socio-economic development. This initiative will promote sustainable waste management and environmental conservation at the grassroots level. Successful implementation requires coordinated planning, awareness campaigns, and provision of necessary tools and equipment. Regular monitoring and evaluation will ensure the program's effectiveness and sustainability. By empowering the rural workforce to take responsibility for their environment, we can achieve cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant villages which will ensure our Government's vision of 'Clean and Green' villages as the key to rural development and the transformation to Viksit Bharat by 2047. I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister,

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Shri Narendra Modi Ji who has given a new dimension regarding Swachh Bharat and personally set an example by taking part in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

(x) Regarding shortage of drinking water in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the severe water crisis in the capital, Delhi. There is acute water shortage in Delhi. The Delhi's water requirement has reached 1400 MGD while water supply is merely 900 MGD. Of the total water supplied in the capital, 52 per cent is being pilfered. I would like to inform that the Delhi Government has not desilted the water plants for 10 years, owing to which the water storage capacity in the water plants has reduced considerably. Plans were formulated on paper to augment water supply in Delhi, including digging of pits and installing hundreds of rain wells on the banks of river Yamuna to store rainwater, but all these schemes could not be materialized.

I urge the hon. Union Minister of Jal Shakti to ask the Delhi Government to take concrete measures to immediately resolve this issue so that the people of Delhi can get rid of the water woes in this scorching heat and humidity.

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(xi) Regarding completion of irrigation projects in Gadchiroli Parliamentary Constituency

[English]

DR. NAMDEO KIRSAN (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti in this matter. I would like to state that many irrigation projects in my Lok Sabha constituency are affected due to forest clearances. The Government has completely failed to complete the irrigation projects in my Lok Sabha constituency. Out of the few sanctioned projects, only a handful of projects have been completed, rests were either cancelled or have not yet started due to want of forest clearances. Due to incomplete projects, people of my Lok Sabha constituency are facing acute water scarcity and lakhs of farmers are suffering. I, therefore request the Hon'ble Minister and the Government to take necessary steps to obtain forest clearances from the concerned authority for the successful completion of the pending projects in my Gadchiroli Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency and also increase the number of irrigation facilities in the region at the earliest.

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**(xii) Regarding construction of a new dam to replace the
Mullaperiyar dam**

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): The Mullaperiyar dam is one of the oldest dams in the country. The Dam is situated in an earthquake prone zone, and it poses a threat to the life of five million people living downstream. The dam is built with primitive technology and has time and again a reason for much anxiety regarding its safety. It was reported that a crack had developed in the dam following an earthquake in 1979. However, no steps have been taken to ensure that new dam is built in its place to ensure safety of the people who live downstream. According to the Dam Safety Act, 2021 - it is moot that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) must perform the role of State Dam Safety Organisation since the dam is located in one state (Kerala) and operated by another (Tamil Nadu). Hence, the Union Government must ensure that NDSA will subsume the functions of supervisory committee that should ensure the construction of a new dam which will ensure safety for Kerala and water for Tamil Nadu. This will lead to a long term, sustainable solution to the dispute. I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that a new dam may be built.

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(xiii) Regarding distribution of wage arrears under MGNREGA in Kasargod

Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD): I would like to bring an urgent matter for immediate action. An amount of around Rs 23 crore to be distributed in the Kasargod Constituency area under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) includes the wages of skilled - unskilled labour and the cost of materials. This is for the current financial year 2024-25 and previous year 2022-23. This amount of wages is arrears despite the rule that wages must be paid within 15 days of employment. Workers are entitled to compensation for delay in payment of wages if the wages are not paid within 15 days from the date of completion of muster roll. Workers are also entitled to compensation at the rate of 0.05 per cent of the wages payable for each day of delay beyond the 16th day after completion of the muster roll. For Example, Development Block wise Details of the dues for the financial year 2024-25 are -In KanhangadRs 75 Laks, Karaduka-Rs 1.5 crore, Kasaragod- Rs 35 Lakhs,Manjeswaram- Rs 69 Lakhs, NileswaramRs 75 Lakhs, Parappa- Rs 1.55 Crores, Payyannur-Rs 55 Lakhs, Kalyasseri-Rs 1.5 Crores. Highest is 1.54 crores more due in Parappa block and 34 lakhs is the lowest in Kasaragod block.

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(xiv) Regarding paper leak in NEET and NET Examinations

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU): The most worrying thing in the country is that the paper leak of NEET and NET examination conducted by NTA is a very sensitive matter for the country. The future of 2406079 students who appeared in the recently held NEET examination is in dark. The Government is talking about transparency in every field, if important pillars like health and education are weakened in the country, in this situation how will the country become a developed nation by 2047. Today, the country is in utmost need of removing the shortcomings of important agencies like NTA conducting its examination and transparency in both the examination and results, so that the confidence of the young students of the country is maintained and their future is secured.

(xv) Need to construct underpass / railway overbridge in Aonla

Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA (AONLA): There is a very busy railway line on the Faridpur to Bukhara route under my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency 24 Aonla. Where there is a heavy jam all the time, common people are very disturbed and sick people are victims of this jam every day. Due to which untoward events also happen. Therefore, through you, the hon. Railway Minister is requested to provide under pass/over bridge on the said railway crossing, it is very important in public interest.

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(xvi) Regarding extension of services of Cheran Express to Pollachi

[English]

SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government to address an urgent issue of significant importance in my Pollachi constituency regarding the need to extend the Cheran Express train service, which currently operates between Chennai Central and Coimbatore Junction (train numbers 12673 and 12674), to Pollachi. Pollachi is a rapidly growing commercial and agricultural hub in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district, without direct rail connectivity to the state capital, Chennai. This lack of direct service forces thousands of daily commuters to travel from Pollachi to Coimbatore before continuing to Chennai, resulting in significant inconvenience, time loss, and added travel costs. This absence hampers Pollachi's economic growth and complicates the efficient transport of goods and access to markets. Students, patients, senior citizens, and other travellers face undue hardships due to this connectivity gap. Extending the Cheran Express to Pollachi would boost the region's economic development and also greatly improve the quality of life for its residents by providing seamless connectivity to Chennai and beyond. Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate action to extend this much-needed train service, which will go a long way in serving the interests of the people of Pollachi and the surrounding region.

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(xvii) Need to build an Airport in Tiruvannamalai

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu is a religious place of national and international importance and prominent pilgrimage destination, which is famous for Arunachaleshwar (Lord Shiva) Temple and Ramana Maharishi Ashram. Around 1 -1.5 lakhs pilgrims visit the said temple every day. Further, 15 to 20 lakhs pilgrims from India and abroad congregate in Tiruvannmalai for Parikrama (Girivallam-14.5 Kms) around the holy hill of Arunachaleshwar every full moon day. The Annual KartikeyeiDeepam Festival attracts more than 35 lakhs of pilgrims including NRIs and foreigners to this place. Tourists from abroad and other parts of the country prefer to fly to Tiruvanmalai but the nearest airport happens to be 200 km away at Chennai or Bangalore. This place has huge potential for revenue generation from religious tourism which is yet to be tapped due to the absence of nearby airport. Therefore, I request the Hon. Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India to kindly instruct the concerned authorities to take viable steps to build an airport under RCS-UDAN scheme, in/around Tiruvannamalai for benefit of visitors to this place.

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(xviii) Regarding implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Bapatla

Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI (BAPATLA): I raise an important matter about my constituency of Bapatla in Andhra Pradesh - access to drinking water. Recently, there was news of more than 25 residents in East PinniBoyinavariPalem village falling ill with diarrhoea due to the then-state government not providing safe drinking water for my fellow Andhra people. Water is an essential commodity, and in our country, clean drinking water is a constitutional right. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) stands as an important representation of the Government's commitment to upholding such a right. The World Health Organisation has acknowledged this and stated that should the mission complete its target of 100% access to drinking water, nearly 101 billion Dollars could be saved, prevent 14 million Disability life years related to diseases, and avert 400,000 deaths caused due to Diarrhoeal diseases. It is deeply concerning to note that Bapatla ranks amongst the lowest in Andhra Pradesh for implementation of JJM at 40%. There are still more than 2 lakh households who are awaiting tap water connections under the Mission. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to undertake urgent action and fulfil the dream of people for clean drinking water.

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**(xix) Regarding setting up of an agricultural university in
Madhubani District**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL (JHANJHARPUR): My Lok Sabha constituency Jhanjharpur is part of Madhubani district, which is situated on the border of Nepal in Mithilanchal of Bihar. It is considered to be the dipole of Mithila culture. It is recognized worldwide for its world-famous Mithila paintings and foxnuts production. Sir, the district was formed in 1972 after the division of Darbhanga district. After the division of Darbhanga into three districts, the only Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University has now gone to Samastipur district. At present, Madhubani district, with a population of about 50 lakhs, and my Parliamentary Constituency Jhanjharpur do not have ever a single agricultural University. Due to which students have to go out of the district. Therefore, the hon. Agriculture Minister is requested to grant approval to set up an agricultural University in Jhanjharpur division of Madhubani district at the earliest.

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(xx) Regarding setting up of a cotton processing unit and industry in

Yavatmal, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH (YAVATMAL-WASHIM): I would like to place my view on different issues pertaining to Yavatmal District during this Session. Yavatmal district is one of the leading cotton growing districts of Maharashtra and cotton is cultivated in the ravine areas of Painganga and Arunavati rivers. Cotton is the main crop in Yavatmal district. In this district, the industries related to cotton and cotton processing should be set up, as the raw material is easily available here. If the processing industry is set up here, the locals would not have to look for the market here and there.

Yavatmal District is also infamous for farmers suicide. As per the information received from Relief and Rehabilitation Department, around 5838 farmers committed suicides during 2001 to 2023 in this district only. Out of this around 2413 are eligible and 3425 are not eligible cases. Even during this current year 2024, from January to May, 2024, total 21 people committed suicide. Out of the total under, 2 cases are eligible and 8 are not eligible while 11 cases are pending for enquiry.

In Washim District, during 2001 to 2023 around 1939 farmers committed suicide out of which 773 are eligible and 1166 are not eligible cases. From January to May 2024, total number of suicide cases is 21. Only 2 are eligible and 8 are

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ineligible while 21 cases are pending for enquiry. If the employment generation takes place in this district, it will help to grow income and also to improve the lifestyle of the farmers. This is an aspirational district and if the agriculture-based industries are set up here, the other agri businesses can be set up easily.

I would like to request Union Government to make necessary provision in the Union Budget to set up cotton processing and other industries in Yavatmal district for the overall growth of business and trade, treating it a special case.

(xxi) Regarding terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

[Translation]

SHRI AMRA RAM (SIKAR): Even after revoking the status of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and making it a Union Territory and the removal of the rights granted by the Constitution, the incidents of terrorism are common, recently there have been martyrdom of military officers, which is continuing. The Government is claiming the end of terrorism. It seems to be an exaggeration and what investigation was conducted into the terrorist incident of Pulwama 5 years ago and for what reasons such a big terrorist incident took place due to which our soldiers were martyred.

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[English]

(xxii) Regarding enactment of exclusive legislation to prevent mob lynching

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (MALAPPURAM): Mob lynching is increasing. It is to be noted that even Supreme Court has laid down preventive and remedial measure to deal with lynching including setting up fast track courts and victim compensation schemes. An exclusive legislation in this regard is very much need of the hour. I wish to point out certain instances to prove after this Government achieved the power. On June 22, a 23 years old man was beaten to death while watching a cricket match in Chikhodra, Gujarat.

On June 7 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, three men from minority Community from Uttar Pradesh were attacked by a mob while transporting cattle. Two died on the spot and one died after ten days. On June 18, a 35-year-old man was beaten to death in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, sparking communal tension. On June 24, a woman in Toylanka village, Chhattisgarh, was murdered after converting to Christianity. Her relatives alleged that local men, including family members, planned the brutal act.

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(xxiii) Regarding Minimum Support Price for agricultural products

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR (NAGINA): There has been a long pending demand from farmers to provide Minimum Support Price for their agricultural products. Farmers are the worst sufferers because agriculture has not been a sustainable activity to survive for majority of farmers because input cost is more than the price they fetch for their agricultural produce. Therefore, it is said that farmers are born in debt and die in debt.

Farmers are not able to come out of the vicious circle of debt from private moneylenders. Majority of farmers are not able to use latest technology in farming due to its high cost and also limited knowledge of farmers to use it or limited land holdings. Therefore, new generation in farmers families are not taking up agriculture activities as their profession. Farmers are demanding for MSP for their agricultural products for a long time.

In such a situation, it is high time that the Government brings forward a suitable legislation to declare MSP for each crop well in advance so that farmers do get what they deserve and do not lead miserable life. I urge upon the Government to take necessary action in regard to fulfill demand of MSP of all crops by enacting law to that effect.

[Translation]

....(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: General Discussion on Budget, Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma?

....(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You Will be given opportunity, please take your seat now.

....(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have made your point. You Will be given a chance.

....(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Kalyan ji, please take your seat. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Owaisiji, you are a very senior Member. If you promote this culture, how will the House run smoothly?

....(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are a senior Member. He is a first-time Member. Whatever question he wants to raise in the House, he can do so according to the rules and procedure of the House.

....(Interruptions)

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SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Sir, through you, I want to request the hon. Health Minister.(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kalyanji, I have allowed you to speak. Please make it brief.
....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: Sir, we are having two eminent doctor Members in the House from Trinamool Congress Party. One is Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, and another is Dr. Sharmila Sarkar.

Sir, among the All-India Institutes of Medical Sciences, Kalyani AIIMS is there. We have got a chance. At least two women Members are there. I would request you to kindly give them a chance.(*Interruptions*) Both of them are very eminent doctors. This is my request to you, Sir.(*Interruptions*).

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12.44 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...Contd.**

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: General discussion on the Budget.

Shri Jugal Kishore

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU): Hon. Chairperson Sir, with your permission, through this august House, I would like to congratulate the people of the country, with whose support the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi formed the Government for the third time. History is made because it has happened in the last 60 years. If there is one person who has formed the Government for the third time in the country, it is the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi. This was possible when the hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, served the nation in the last ten years and dedicated such schemes to the nation and the benefit of these schemes percolated to the poor and farmers of the villages in the country. Only he, who has worked in the interest of the country and the nation, can become the Prime Minister for the third time, public knows whom to make sit where and the public has made them sit accordingly and now it is also visible. Tempting slogans were raised and an attempt was made

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to mislead the people of the country by resorting to lies. I am grateful to the people of the country that instead of believing lies, they expressed faith in the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA and elected Shri Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country for the third time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The hon. Member, who is standing, please take your seat.

... All of you also be seated. I am saying this to everyone.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: I rise before this august House to speak on the financial budget for the year 2024-25 presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman and also support it.

First of all, I thank the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and would like to express my gratitude to Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman that under his leadership, she presented the financial budget before the House for the seventh time keeping in view all the major issues. This budget is important from social and economic point of view. It shows the transparency and accountability of the Government towards the people.

Sir, this budget will prove to be effective and useful in making India a developed country. Many aspects have been included in this budget so that every citizen of the country can get benefit from it. Without going into the details, I would like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to certain specifics. This Budget has taken note of certain specifics and also envisages sustained efforts on

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nine priorities to create ample opportunities. This Budget focuses on productivity and adaptability in agriculture, employment and skill training, all inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy, infrastructure and villages, including the concern for the poor and farmers.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, this budget envisaged a National Cooperative Policy for the systemic and all round development of the cooperative sector with the aim to accelerate the growth of the rural economy and generate employment opportunities on a large scale. Several schemes have been mentioned to encourage employment generations. The fourth scheme on skill training has been announced under the Prime Minister's package, which aims to create several new centrally sponsored schemes for skill training in collaboration with State Governments and industries. It is very heartening to note that several lakh youth will be provided skill training over a period of five years. Loan facility for skill training has also been made available there.

Sir, the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir has also been presented and it is being discussed here. The budget of Jammu and Kashmir clearly depicts that it has been made for the betterment and the development of this state. The budget of Jammu and Kashmir covers every section and sector like agriculture, rural development, tourism, culture, health welfare, education sector, sports and youth initiatives, skill development etc. and funds have been provided for their growth.

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Sir, with regard to Jammu Kashmir I would like to say that ever since the Shri Narendra Modi-led Government came to power at the centre and Articles 370 and 35A were abrogated, Jammu and Kashmir has been moving on the path of progress by embracing change. Development in Jammu and Kashmir is taking place at fast pace. I can say that development in Jammu and Kashmir is moving at a speed of 100. As you move from Lakhanpur to Jammu and Kashmir, you will see a changing Jammu and Kashmir and also a changing Jammu. You will get to see development work everywhere.

Sir, today, huge flyovers, bridges and National Highways are being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir. The construction work of the expressway, which is going to Delhi, Amritsar and Katra, is being done at a great speed. With regard to the development of Jammu, I would like to say that it has always been neglected, whether it is under the leadership of Congress, National Conference or PDP. No steps were taken earlier, especially for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, for the welfare of the society of Jammu and Kashmir and for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. It was in the nature of parties to worry only about the party and the family.

Today, a lot of attention is being paid to the cleanliness and beautification of Jammu and of our lake Jhelum in Jammu and Kashmir. The riverfront is currently being constructed in Jammu. On the lines of Sabarmati river in Gujarat, the construction work of a lake in Jammu like the Kashmir Valley is about to completed.

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The parade is organized in Suchetgarh on the lines of Jammu Zoo and Wagah Border. Various measures are being taken to promote ropeways, roads and tourism.

Sir, I would also like to thank the hon. Minister of Health and family welfare that under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, he has provided AIIMS in Jammu. I feel that new machines of latest technology are being installed in Jammu AIIMS to provide better facilities than those available in AIIMS across the country, especially in Delhi AIIMS,

Sir, I would like to say that the Lok Sabha election that has been held in 2024 was the first election in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A on 5th August, 2024, after I also want to say that for the first time in 30 years, around 60 per cent in the valley people came out to vote. They have made democracy win. In the Kashmir Valley too, people participated in voting in large number. This is not only a victory for democracy, but it also shows support for national policies.....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say that after the abrogation of Article 370, the Government of India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are working together to fulfill the aspirations of the people with special emphasis on development of marginalized communities, women welfare, empowerment, employment for youth and creation of conducive security scenario. So that many schemes and projects launched by both the Governments can be implemented with desired results.

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Sir, it has played an important role in achieving unprecedented growth in almost all regions of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to state that consequent to abrogation of Article 370 and passing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 on 5th August, 2019, all the central laws have come into force in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. People there are overwhelmed with great joy of which they were deprived of for many years. The Constitution of India is now completely applicable to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is like the campaign launched by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Ji has achieved its goal. 'One nation, one symbol, one law', has now been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, as I mentioned a while ago that the elections used to be held there earlier also, but people were not interested in elections. Now under the Shri Narendra Modi led NDA Government, the steps are being taken for the betterment and development of Jammu and Kashmir without any discrimination. There is a uniform development in Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, the Central Government has taken many other steps. Now the people are also getting the benefit of reservation.

Sir, I would like to state that the OBC reservation has been increased by 8 per cent. The reservation for the residents living near the LoC on the international border has been increased to four percent from three per cent. The income criteria to avail benefit of reservation for backward classes has been increased from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. Now the hill dwellers (Pahadis) are also getting reservation which they have been demanding for many years.

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Sir, after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act was passed, Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward for its own betterment. A number of steps have been taken in Jammu and Kashmir. A poor Jammu and Kashmir is transforming into a strong Jammu and Kashmir today. Peace and tranquility is also being restored in Jammu and Kashmir. The provision of including the word Valmiki in the list of Scheduled Castes for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has also immensely benefited the people there.

Sir, I would like to state that the Congress Party has never shown any interest in Jammu and Kashmir. They have always played selfish politics. They have practiced Party and family politics. They never worked for the development of Jammu and Kashmir and never cared about the society and the country. I would like to say that Jammu and Kashmir has been divided into two parts because of the selfish politics of the Congress party. I am aware of what all has been said here.

Sir, I want to specifically mention that after the abrogation of Article 370, a lot has been done there and a lot has been offered in this Budget also. I would like to mention that tourism industry is the lifeline of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and it contributes significantly to the local economy. Due the changed scenario post reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir and due to abrogation of Article 370 and 35(A), there has been a record footfall of 2.11 crore tourists in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2023. This had never happened before. It is historic.

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Sir, I would like to say that, by the end of June this year, 1,00,02,000 tourists have toured Jammu and Kashmir. They came to visit Jammu and Kashmir. They travelled there to enjoy the transforming Jammu and Kashmir. A number of steps have been taken in this budget for the betterment of Jammu and Kashmir. I will not mention them all here, but I will definitely speak on some specific points here.

13.00 hrs

Sir, I would like to say that for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, it was mentioned in this Budget that 7,886 Km of roads have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which is a record. This had never happened before. Construction of a 58 km ring road has been completed. It is very beautiful. I would like people to go there to see it. Talking about railways, many good facilities are being introduced. Another point I would like to mention is the highest railway bridge has been built in Reasikhori in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, Rs 1,044 lakh crore was budgeted between the year 2009 and 2014. However in the year 2024-25 alone, Rs 3,694 crore is being spent there by the Railways. 87 km of new track is being built between 2014 and 2024. Electrification of 343 km of railway line has been done. Four railway stations are being developed under the 'AMRIT Station Yojana'. The development work at Jammu Tawi, Budgam, Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Udhampur railway stations is going on in full swing. Talking about the 'Jal Jeevan Mission', this mission is proving to be a boon for Jammu and Kashmir. Like the whole country, the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' is proving to

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be a blessing for Jammu and Kashmir also. Water is being supplied to the households through taps.

Sir, apart from the smart city project and improvements in the agriculture sector, it has been proposed to open three thousand dairies in the agriculture sector which will provide employment to the people. Electricity will be generated through solar panels on the rooftops. People will be benefitted from this and the electricity bill will also be zero.

Apart from this, many steps have been taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for women empowerment. I would like to inform you that 90 thousand self-help groups have been formed in Jammu and Kashmir. This increases the self-confidence of women because they get employment and they are not dependent on anyone. I would like to say that every citizen in Jammu and Kashmir is getting benefits under the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana'. The loan amount of Kisan Samman Nidhi is also being increased through PM Mudra Loan. I will take a little more time. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some works.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please make your point in brief.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Sir, I will be very brief. Many works have been done in Jammu and Kashmir, but some works are still to be done. I would like the Finance Minister to pay attention to them and help the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

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There we have daily wage labourers, casual workers and need based workers and many people are working in PHE, PDD, PWD etc., they need to be regularised as their salary is very low. Jammu and Kashmir needs assistance from the Centre. I would like to request the Finance Minister to make a plan to help the Jammu and Kashmir Government to regularise daily wage labourers, casual workers and need based workers and people working in PHE, PDD, PWD etc.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has taken care of the refugees from POJK or West Pakistan, whereas the Congress led Government never paid attention towards them and now they have been rehabilitated by providing all the rights. I would like to say that the refugees from POJK, West Pakistan and local allottees have been given land, but they have not been given ownership rights. I want them to get ownership rights. This should also be given for the reason that because those people are not getting the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi, this will not happen until they get the ownership rights. They have got the land, it is allotted to them and they are doing farming, but they should be provided the ownership rights. There is utmost need to build dams on rivers Chenab, Tawi, Balol and Jhelum. Funds should also be provided for this. It is also very important to develop Parmandal, Uttarwani, Khodi, Surinsar, Mansar and Patnitop for tourism. I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak. I thank hon. Narendra Modi ji and Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji that they have brought

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a very good Budget for the betterment and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jugal Kishore ji, along with the general discussion on the Budget, the budget of Jammu and Kashmir is also to be passed here, its budget is also being discussed. You raised the issues of Jammu and Kashmir here, so I gave you more time. But, I request the hon. Members present make their point in five minutes.

SHRI JAI PARKASH (HISAR): Sir, the Budget presented by the Finance Minister for the year 2024-25 is extremely divisive and disappointing. There is nothing in this budget for the farmers, the Constitution and the youth. This budget has been made only for the rich and I strongly condemn it. The hon. Prime Minister repeatedly says 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Through you, I would like to know through you from the Ministers of the Government present here that if you say 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' then why is there nothing for Haryana in it? Many projects are pending in Haryana. When the UPA government was in power, Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda was the Chief Minister, many important projects were brought in Haryana which are still pending. This includes the Cancer Research Center, which was also discussed here. The Haryana Government had given more than 300 acres of land to the Government of India. At that time there was a Congress led Government in Haryana and NDA Government in the Center, but due to discrimination our project

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remained half-finished. 11 more towers were to be constructed there but that idea has been dropped. The drama regarding bringing AIIMS in Rewari has been going on for the last seven years. Till date, nothing has been done there except laying bricks. Doordarshan Kendra of Hisar was built when I was a Minister at the Centre. They have shut it down. The RRTS rail project was prepared which had a route from Delhi to Hisar and Delhi to Panipat via Sonipat, but not a single penny of funds has been provided for it. The rail coach factory was to be set up in Sonipat, but till date there is no trace of it. I would like to ask the Hon. Ministers of the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister whether the state of Haryana is a part of this country or not? Your slogan - 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is false.

Sir, now I would like to discuss two-three more issues. It is still not known whether Hisar Airport will be a cargo airport, National or International? Its foundation stone has been laid eight times, but till date it has not been inaugurated. For eight years, the Union Government has been misleading the people of Hisar and Haryana.

Sir, yesterday the Hon. Minister was saying that they have not made any promise on MSP. Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Agriculture Minister that a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers, Government of India states, 'Dear Sir, with a view to resolve the pending issues with regard to the current astir farmers' movement, the following proposals are presented on behalf

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of the Government of India.' Sir, from the day this agreement was done, the Hon. Prime Minister of India himself and later the Hon. Agriculture Minister announced the constitution of a committee on MSP. People from the Kisan Morcha have not been included in the MSP committee, till date.

Second, a lot of checking has been done in this regard. Apart from this, there is the issue of compensation. This is the letter of Hon. Prime Minister. Who will believe it? Who will accept the guarantee of the Hon. Prime Minister? As far as compensation is concerned, the Haryana and Uttar Pradesh Governments have given in-principle consent. Sir, farmers have been staging a 'dharna' in Hisar for three months, but till date the farmers have not received any compensation till date. Which Government could be more anti-farmer than this? Now I would like to discuss MSP. There is Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi Yojana for farmers. Under this scheme, six thousand rupees are given for one year. 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' was implemented on 24 February 2019. At that time, the price of diesel was 65 rupees per litre. 200 litres of diesel, could be bought at six thousand rupees at that time. Today's diesel price is 100 rupees whereas at that, the price of diesel was 65 rupees per litre. In the year 2019, the amount given under Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme was 6 thousand rupees and even today in the year 2024, it is 6 thousand rupees. This is a big fraud with the farmers. Implement the MSP for the farmers and provide six thousand rupees per month and fix the price of diesel

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according to that of year 2019 or 2014. You have done a big ...* with the farmers. You have done a big ...* with the 'jawan'. Yesterday a discussion was being on fertilizers. DAP was Rs. 1400 per bag in the year 2014 and today its cost is Rs. 2400 per bag. You have manipulated the issue of urea. That is why in Haryana, we say that your Government is for super rich. I will explain it how. Government has not much increased the price of urea, but it has initially reduced its weight for five kilos and later reduced additional five kilos. You are working shrewdly against the interests of the farmers, that is why I pronounce on this budget as anti-farmer and anti-youth.

You talk about employment. Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam was set up in Haryana. As far as poor are concerned, they can get employment through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, but there is no reservation for SC/ST/OBC. Dalits and OBCs have been cheated not only in Haryana but in the entire country.

When the Congress was in power in Haryana, Shri Hooda was the Chief Minister. We have given plots of 100 yards size free of cost to the people belonging to poor, SC and OBC sections. We have given stipend for the education of their children. We have provided tap water connection in every household. You are befooling the Dalits of this country by discontinuing all our projects.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Sir, give me one minute. MNREGA is a very important subject and for this, the farmers of the country too will agitate against the

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Government. At that time also I was the Member of Parliament. The MNREGA scheme was introduced in this country by the UPA Government. Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister at that time. At that time the daily wages were 60 rupees. Today the total wages are 200 rupees.

I would like to say that the hon. Rahul Gandhi had promised to increase the wages to Rs. 400 if INDIA alliance will form the Government in the country and Haryana had promised to increase it to Rs. 600. I urge upon the Government, through you, that the wages under MNREGA should be increased to Rs. 600....

(Interruptions) Sir, the Agniveer issue has not been discussed yet.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Five minutes was allotted to your party. I have given seven minutes for that.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Alright, you may conclude.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Sir, I am concluding. I have a request. This Government is controlling HCIA staff. Our places in Haryana are being raided by ED daily since the Congress party has won five seats in Haryana.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you may conclude. Hon. Minister, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, you may start your speech.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Sir, our MLAs and our leaders are behind the bars. We are being framed in false cases.... *(Interruptions)*

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THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ; AND MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS

LALAN SINGH): Hon. Chairperson, the discussion on the first budget of the third term of the hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government is going on in the House. This budget outlines the resolve of the Modi Government towards making India self-reliant.

The discussion that has been going on in the House for the last three days, is more of a criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi instead of discussion on budget... *(Interruptions)*... You should speak on the Budget....*(interruptions)* The tone of the entire opposition shows that they do not like Narendra Modi. They hate him. Now even if you have so much hatred against him, you do not like him, what will you be able to do? The people of this country like him and elected him for the third time to serve the country....*(interruptions)* It is the achievement of Modi ji that after 60 years and after Independence, someone has got the opportunity to assume power for the third time....*(interruptions)* and the opposition is unable to bear this. What is our fault if they are not ready to accept the reality? ...*(interruptions)* We have a suggestion for them....*(interruptions)* Please take your seat.

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Hon. Chairperson, ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: We will expose you...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

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... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Jai Prakash ji, you were given extra time to put your point and nobody interrupted in between.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please abide by the rule.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are a senior Member. Please take your seat. Please abide by the rule. You were not interrupted while you were delivering your speech. Hon. Minister is putting his point, your party will get the opportunity to respond, the Members of your party will respond to it.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, they are saying we were the part of that alliance for a few days. I came to know... * that they were indulged in such activities that we walked out of the alliance and joined this party. They were playing politics and lobbying within the alliance and trying to divide the party. So we moved out of the alliance, I am telling you...(interruptions)

Hon. Chairperson, they do not want to listen to the truth. They don't like it. That is what I am saying....(interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, whatever you are saying is going in record. The speech of no hon. Member is being recorded. Only your speech is going in the record.

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

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...(Interruptions)...**

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, I am telling them.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sougata Ray, please take your seat. Please put your point when I will allow you to do so.

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Sir, I am on a Point of Order. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no Point of Order.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, we are telling them that the sooner they accept this truth, the sooner they will have peace, else your mind will remain stressed and you will remain restless like this only for the next five years.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the figure of 99 is very unlucky. I do not know if hon. Gaurav Gogoi and others have played Ludo or not. In an effort to reach 100, the moment you reach 99, the snake bites in the game of Ludo and you go back to zero. This is their condition. Therefore, the sooner they calm their minds down and accept the truth of the country, the sooner they will be relaxed. They will get peace

** Not recorded.

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and the country will also get peace. The effort that was been initiated by the hon. Narendra Modi to make this country self-reliant, will continue, do not try to disturb it.

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I am on a Point of Order. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no Point of Order during an hon. Minister's statement or speech. *[Translation]* You may forward in writing.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: We are discussing the Budget only. ... please take your seat. Do you understand the Budget? Now I will apprise about the Budget speeches of each on separately, then the budget will be understood.

The first Budget of the third term makes provisions for creating employment for one crore people. They used to have an agenda that there is unemployment in the country, yet there is no discussion on the employment. They are ignoring it. They will not even consider it, because they are restless inside. How will they be able to see it? ... *(Interruptions)*

In fact, you know what happened, hon. Modi led Government has presented the first Budget of the third term and bowled the first googly through this budget,

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they got bowled out. They are expressing their feelings in the wake of that defeat. They are expressing their frustration. What will happen with this frustration? The truth is that the hon. Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of the country who came to power with full majority. Accept this truth.

This is just the beginning. This is the first year, you will find after five years, that you will not be seen anywhere in the field. It will be like earlier that in an attempt to come to power, you will end up with nothing. That is what only going to happen. Here several hon. Members and many parties mentioned and said that this Budget is only meant for appeasing the two States. Hon. Members, a lot has been talked about saving the Government, what is the point of saving the Government? It is a pre-poll alliance and whether it is ours or the Telugu Desam Party, it is a pre-poll alliance. It is a very strong Alliance like Fevicol. I have also seen your character by staying with you. you ...* . As soon as you came to power, you kept disturbing the Government, you people kept doing this work. We got disturbed and parted our way. Hence, today whether it is the JD(U) or the TDP, we are in the Government by making a pre-poll alliance with ruling party and we got a full majority for five years in the pre-poll alliance. You have got clean bowled. Do not worry....
(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

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Hon. Chairperson Sir, I was reading the speech of Shri Abhishek Banerjee .
... *(Interruptions)*... You have been doing the same thing till today. You have been
doing the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please address the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: ...* ? All these are not done
here. You please take rest. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I was reading the speech of Shri Abhishek Banerjee. Shri Abhishek Banerjee said in his speech that Hon. Modi led this Government which was formed on June 4, 2024 *[English]* which was rejected by the people of India. *[Translation]*, we have to appreciate your wisdom that this is a Government with full majority and you are saying that *[English]* rejected by the people of India. *[Translation]* They cannot see an absolute majority. Shri Abhishek Banerjee should accept the truth. He said in his speech that time had changed. Shri Abhishek Banerjee ji yes, time has definitely changed, because hon. Modi ji has moved with full confidence and determination towards making a self-reliant India in the third term, so the time has changed. What do we do if you cannot see it? You get your eyes examined, wear glasses. You will be able to see what the people of this country did.

We expected that Shri Abhishek Banerjee would apologize to the country while delivering his speech for the incident of viral video of women being forcefully stripped in West Bengal, but he did not ... *(Interruptions)* He will not accept that

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women are being stripped, atrocities are being done on women and common people in West Bengal, he is ignoring all these (*Interruptions*) Now in this House.

... (*Interruptions*)

Now in this House ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Jai Prakash ji is telling you (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: ...** had expressed his anger and pain on many occasions on the floor of this House (*Interruptions*)

There has been no meeting of 'DISHA' for the past five years. The Government of West Bengal did not allow the meeting of 'DISHA' and they talk about democracy....

(*Interruptions*) They do not have any right to talk about democracy. ...

(*Interruptions*)... It is on record.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The name taken by the hon. Member will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You must have patience to listen to me.

... (*Interruptions*)

** Not recorded.

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[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The name of the hon. Member taken by him will not go on record.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please address the Chair. Please avoid mentioning names.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, hon. Member Shri Gaurav Gogoi was also here, he was present in this House, When

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not mention his name. He is no longer a Member of this House.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may mention him as a former Member.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: It is alright. I withdrew his name. Sir, I have withdrawn his name.... *(Interruptions)* But the truth is that in the

17th Lok Sabha, ... *(Interruptions)* Shri Jai Prakash ji please take your seat hon....**

... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please continue your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I was saying that during the 17th Lok Sabha..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I have my point of order.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Deepender Singh Hooda Ji, please wait for you turn.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hooda ji, I have already gone through Rule 355. There should be no Point of Order.

[Translation]

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: He should say that the incident of women stripping in West Bengal was justified, you at least say this much. You should say this in front of the country.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jai Prakash Ji, please take your seat. Let him conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, I urge you to conclude. Please do not mention the name of the hon. Members.

... *(Interruptions)*

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SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Sir, I am not mentioning the name. I have withdrawn.... *(Interruptions)* I have withdrawn the name.... *(Interruptions)*

I am saying that during 17th Lok Sabha, the leader of Opposition Party and the leader of the largest Opposition Party expressed his anguish on several occasions in this House that the meeting of DISHA was not being allowed to be held in his area. Shri Gaurav Gogoi is present here. He is the witness. Shri Jai Prakash was not here at that time, how he would know. Therefore, Shri Gaurav Gogoi witnessed the anguish expressed by him. Not a single seat has been given to the Congress.... *(Interruptions)* Despite that, you are supporting, so you keep supporting. Keep it up.... *(Interruptions)* You will get something, but there is also a threat of figure 99, if snake bites, you come down to zero.... *(Interruptions)* But you keep going.... *(Interruptions)* What to do?

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I have my point of order. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: We have also listened to the full speech of Selja ji. Selja ji entire speech was Haryana-centric. This is country's Budget, It is not the budget of the Haryana. *(Interruptions)* Shri Jai Prakash was also speaking a moment while ago ... *(Interruptions)* It is completely Haryana-centric.... *(Interruptions)* This is the Budget of the country, you speak on the Budget of the country.... *(Interruptions)* Shri Narendra Modi wants to take the

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entire country forward. It is his resolve.... *(Interruptions)* It is his self-confidence....
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will give you time to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will give you time. I have told you. Jai Prakash Ji, please take your seat. ... You cannot dictate in the House. ... please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have told Hooda Ji. I have given the ruling. You please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Chairperson Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance made Budget speech; I said that hon. Members spoke less on the Budget during the last three days. Since they did not like the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, so they spent these three days criticizing him....
(Interruptions) They are not able to see the provisions in the Budget....
(Interruptions) They do not even want to see this, because they are in pain, they are suffering, they are frustrated.... *(Interruptions)* When you are not in a right frame of mind, you do not see good in anything.... *(Interruptions)*

So, I am telling him.... *(Interruptions)* hon. Finance Minister's Budget speech clearly envisages the sustained efforts on nine priorities to realize the vision of 'self-

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reliant India'.... *(Interruptions)* It is clearly stated in the Budget, but they are unable to find it.... *(Interruptions)*

These nine priorities are as follows: 'Productivity and resilience in Agriculture', 'Employment and Skilling', 'Inclusive Human Resource Development', 'Social Justice', 'Manufacturing and Services', 'Energy Security and Infrastructure', 'Innovation, Research and Development' and 'Next Generation Reforms'... *(Interruptions)* The hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is not only thinking about the present generation but also for the future generation.... *(Interruptions)* but they are unable to accept it.... *(Interruptions)* It is not our fault if you are not accepting the reality... *(Interruptions)* you are in a state of dilemma, we pray to God to give you peace of mind so that you can contribute towards the betterment of the country ... *(Interruptions)*

They seem unaware about the allocation of Rs 4.54 lakh crore for the defence segment made in the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance..... *(Interruptions)* They seem unaware about it... *(Interruptions)* It is meant for the entire country, for the defence and security of the country.... *(Interruptions)* They seem unaware about the Rs 2.65 lakh crore that has been allocated for rural development.... *(Interruptions)* They are not ready to accept this fact ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Member, Shri Jai Parkash, was citing that agriculture sector is facing huge loss.... *(Interruptions)* A provision of Rs 1.52 lakh crore has been made for

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the agriculture sector in this Budget.... *(Interruptions)* They seem unaware about it... *(Interruptions)* Rs 1.25 lakh crore has been allocated for the education sector.... *(Interruptions)* They seem unaware about it... *(Interruptions)* Rs 1.16 lakh crore has been allocated for health, information and technology sector.... *(Interruptions)* They seem unaware about it... *(Interruptions)* They cannot see anything but Modi whom they do not like ... *(Interruptions)* But they have no other option because the people of this nation elected him to power ... *(Interruptions)*

They are unaware about the provisions made for sectors like energy, social welfare, commerce and industry.... *(Interruptions)* They are constantly making two references ... *(Interruptions)* One is Modi ji whom they do not like... *(Interruptions)* but people of this country like him so their likes-dislikes do not even matter ... *(Interruptions)* it is better for you to accept this fact and accept Modi ji.... *(Interruptions)* I am telling you this ... *(Interruptions)* Second is Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.... *(Interruptions)* I have already told you all this.... *(Interruptions)* Does it merely include Bihar and Andhra Pradesh?... *(Interruptions)* Modi ji is committed towards the development of the whole country, the Modi Government is treading towards the path of 'self-reliant India'.... *(Interruptions)* We will keep moving forward with full confidence and determination.... *(Interruptions)* So, I conclude my speech while supporting this Budget.

Thank you very much.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda ji, when you first rose to speak, I told you that I will give you the opportunity to make your point once the hon. Minister concludes his speech. Despite that, you constantly caused disruptions.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not do discussion with me. You raised an issue, let me inform the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you are getting assurance from the Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Jai Parkash ji has walked towards the well of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PARKASH: Sir, he took my name.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You also got the opportunity, you are also taking names. There is no wrong in taking names, one can make reference of those who are the Members of this House, because they have that opportunity, they can respond to that.

Shri Deepender Singh Hooda ji, please ensure this in future, if you keep interrupting, other members too will do the same during your speech, there is a dignity and decorum of this House that needs to be maintained, the people of the entire country are watching you. Both sides are having a good debate. I am

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informing you that there will not be any point of order on the general discussion on the Budget. You can criticize the policies and programmes of the Government, but you cannot interrupt in between when the Chair has given you the assurance that you will be given opportunity to raise your point.

Shri Deepender Singh Hooda ji.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, we are accepting your point. Sir, I have a Point of Order.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Under which Rule?

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I have a Point of Order. *[English]* I want to raise a Point of Order under Rule 352 (vii), combined with Article 1 of the Constitution. Article 1 of the Constitutions says:

“India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.”

[Translation]

Every state is a part of India. Hon. Minister constantly reiterated that Selja ji, Jai Prakash ji have only spoken about Haryana. What is wrong in referring about Haryana in the Budget speech, is Haryana not a part of India? I would like to ask the Government.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Deepender ji, you mentioned Rule 352.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, Rule 352 (7)... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please listen to me once.

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... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat. *[English]* It says:

“A Member while speaking shall not – (i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending.”

[Translation]

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I said 352(7).... *(Interruptions)* Sir, you are reading it wrong. Read it as 352(7), not 352(1).... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will go through it. ... Please listen. I will read 352(7) as well.... *(Interruptions)* You are a senior Member.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: There is not any problem. Haryana is very much a part of India. If you will not consider Haryana in the Union Budget, then the people of Haryana will also not vote for you after 3 months.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, my mic is switched off.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Alright, you may speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, I want to raise a Point of Order under Rule 352 (vii), combined with Article 1 of the Constitution.

Rule 352 (vii) says:

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“A Member while speaking shall not utter treasonable, seditious or defamatory words.”

[Translation]

Sir, not considering Haryana as a part of India, is defamatory and seditious.... *(Interruptions)* How can your Government not consider Haryana as a part of India?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am giving ruling that there is no Point of Order.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no Point of Order in this. I have already heard you. He has only referred to the hon. Member from Haryana in respect of whatever she had said in her speech. So, there is no Point of Order.

Now, Shri Harendra Singh Malik.

[Translation]

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have got the opportunity to raise your point. I have already given you the opportunity to raise your point.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, what would you like to say? As he had said mentioned words like defamatory and all, I have given the ruling that you have not said any such word.

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... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Sir, I never said that making reference of Haryana is wrong. What I meant was, discuss about the country as a whole, but these people have been continuously making references of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. They should reply whether the said states are not the part of this country? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: We are staging a walk out of the House with regard to the matter of Haryana.

13.39 hrs

At this stage, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda and some other hon. Members left the House.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Harendra Malik ji, you may put your point. Nothing will go on record except your speech.

SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK (MUZAFFARNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, what is being informed about the farmers is not right. The farmers are neither getting subsidy nor the families of the martyred farmers have been provided any financial assistance till date and there is provision for it in the budget. The youths are unemployed. These are 30 Lakh posts in Union Government are lying vacant. Education has become expensive. The students from poor background cannot pursue medical studies and engineering. As much as the education fees have

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increased under this rule, it seems that books are being snatched from the children of the poor and farmers.

Sir, these are only talk of development. The cancer hospital built by Shri Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow, at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore is ready, but it does not have doctors and staff. Unemployment has increased. The Government has reneged on its promise to implement MSP. The farmers and youths are ruined and devastated. In this budget We hoped that Agniveers will be provided a chance to serve for 20-25 years instead of just 4 years but this Government couldn't even do that.

There is hue and cry everywhere. You give six thousand rupees to the farmer. In this amount only two bags of DAP can be purchased. We expected that you would remove GST on tractors, accessories used in agriculture, but there is no such provision made in the budget. I request the Government, through you, to remove the limit of 10 or 15 years on the farmer's tractor. Secondly, GST should be removed on it. Whether it is a pump set, electric motor or tractor parts, GST should be removed on them. I also request that the books and studies that have been snatched away and the fees have been increased as MBBS studies currently costs about one crore rupees, this needs to be stopped.

You are not providing employment, but at least you should restore the old pension. They all are your voters. You should restore the old pension. I mentioned the cancer hospital. A cancer hospital built at a cost of around Rs 1,000 crore in

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Lucknow is ready. You are not appointing doctors there because it was built under the Government of hon. Akhilesh Yadav. Is this justice? There is nothing but loot all around in the name of development. There is no development anywhere, only your leaders are developing, there is no development of the public seen anywhere. People are crying for help. Every Hindu goes to Haridwar whether he is dead or alive. You should make Haridwar toll free. You were with me in the House on the day when Dr. Amar Rizvi imposed toll in Sitapur. You were the one who said 'Jaziya' tax will have to be paid. Today you are also levying 'Jaziya' tax in Haridwar.

When a man travels on the road, he pays toll tax everywhere. Whoever buys any vehicle like a car, a tractor etc., one has to pay tax. Tax has to be paid ever while buying diesel and petrol. During the registration process, one has to pay tax. How often a person pays taxes is beyond comprehension. There can be no bigger thing than that 750 farmers get martyred and hon. Prime Minister of the country did not write ever a single word to express his condolence. No one questions the hon. Agriculture Minister. The promise made by the hon. Agriculture Minister was not fulfilled. MSP has not been implemented till date.

I would like to say that farmers contribute the biggest part of GDP. Farmers work to feed India. Do you ever sit at night and think about the way you treated them at the Sindhu border* this is not the way to treat them. Today, nails have been hammered and cement walls have been built in the path of the farmer whose

* Expunged as ordered by the chair.

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son is standing as a soldier to protect the borders of our country. For the first time in the history of India, 300 tear gas shells were fired from a drone on the 'Annadata' (farmer) from whom you have taken the votes and are sitting here. Did you not...*, did not you regret it? Say at least one word of regret. Sir, thank you very much, for giving me the opportunity to present my views in the House.

[English]

SHRI DURAI VAIKO (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Respected Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my views on the Union Budget.

The Indian Constitution clearly affirms India as a secular, socialist, sovereign and democratic republic, ensuring that its citizens get liberty, equality and justice. Federalism is an integral part of our republic that ensures diversity, peace, stability and mutual accommodation in a multi-cultural, cultural and diversified country like ours. However, the Union Government and the Budget have abandoned key aspects of both the Constitution and the federalism.

My State of Tamil Nadu has been neglected in the Union Budget though the State is the second largest economy contributing nearly 8.8 per cent to the nation's GDP and also contributing 10 per cent to the country's total exports. Though my State accounts for nearly six per cent of the country's population, Tamil Nadu's share from the total divisible pool of Central taxes has decreased to just four per cent. In spite of numerous letters by our hon. Chief Minister, Mr. M. K. Stalin, seeking Rs. 37,907 crore for flood relief, the Centre had sanctioned a mere Rs. 276

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crore, that too, after the Supreme Court's intervention. However, the Central Government with a step-motherly attitude has allotted thousands of crores of rupees for flood mitigation measures to other States. Is this because Tamil Nadu is the land of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna? Is this because we believe in the teachings of Mahatma and Babasaheb Ambedkar, and we do not believe in the teachings of Veer Savarkar and Godse?

Sir, though a budget of Rs. 24,930 crore has been allotted to MRTS and Metro projects in this Union Budget, it is highly disheartening to note that the second phase of Chennai Metro and the much-awaited Metro projects in Madurai and Coimbatore have not been mentioned. Out of the cost of Rs. 63,000 crore for the second phase of Chennai Metro, our State Government has allotted so far Rs. 21,000 crore in spite of strained finances. The Central Government has not given a single paisa. Is this because Tamil Nadu denied the BJP even a single seat? Trichy city, a central hub of our State, has also been denied quick implementation of the metro rail project. Though the detailed feasibility reports and the detailed project reports for the Trichy Metro have been undertaken in the past, there are no measures in this Budget for implementing the project. Is this because Tamil Nadu does not believe in politics of hatred?

The long-pending demand for a new railway line from Thanjavur to Madurai *via* Gandharvakottai and Pudukkottai has also been ignored in this Budget. A part of this railway line was surveyed and sanctioned in the year 2012-13, and this was

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mentioned in the Pink Book of the Railways till 2018-19. The much-needed Tambaram-Chengalpattu elevated expressway to decongest the traffic in the Chennai city has also been ignored in this Budget. Is this because Tamil Nadu does not believe in divisive politics? The Union Budget has not only neglected my State of Tamil Nadu but also ignored the interests of the farmers, youth, poor and women of our country.

Sir, the growing divide between the haves and the have-nots in our country is alarming and shameful. Ten per cent of our population holds 77 per cent of our nation's wealth. A handful of corporates have immensely profited at the expense of the MSME sector. A billionaire spends Rs. 5,000 crore for a wedding in his family whereas more than 10,000 farmers commit suicide every year due to mounting farm debts. This Budget fails to legalise the guarantee for MSP based on the M.S. Swaminathan Commission formula of C2-plus-50 per cent. This Budget also fails to provide pensions, waivers on farm loans and compensation for more than 700 farmers who lost their lives during the 2020-2021 farm protests.

There has been no waiver of GST on farm inputs like seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. The demand to reduce GST on pesticides from 18 per cent to five per cent has been ignored. The allocation for agriculture and allied sectors as a percentage of the total Budget has been continuously declining from 2019 onwards from 5.4 per cent to the present 3.15 per cent.

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In a stark contrast to the all-is-well story of the Union Government, the unemployment ratio and inflation, the true indicators of the nation's economy, portray a very grim picture. Unemployment ratio is at an all-time high of 9.2 per cent. Food inflation has crossed the 10 per cent barrier. India ranks a pathetic 111 out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index.

This Government for the past 10 years boasts of its love for the Indian youth. However, more than 10,000 youth commit suicide every year due to the stress caused by mounting education loans, unemployment and a faulty education system plagued by question paper leaks and scams.

All the announcements in this Budget about lakhs of crores allotted for upskilling and employment opportunities for the youth are nothing but false promises, just like the lie of doubling the farmers' income made in 2016 by this very Government.

I would like to conclude my speech by saying that this Budget is not a Budget for the farmers, poor, youth and women. On the contrary, it is a Budget that has been drafted to keep this Government alive by appeasing its coalition partners, and it is rightly called the 'Nitish-Naidu Budget'.

I also say that this Budget aids crony capitalism. It is a Budget which goes against the basic tenets of the Constitution, that is, equality and justice. It is a Budget that goes against the spirit of Ambedkar's federalism.

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I humbly request the Union Government to transcend political boundaries and ideologies to serve the common man and this great country.

Thank you, Sir.

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***SHRI VE. VAITHILINGAM (PUDUCHERRY):** Hon Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. I congratulate Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman for presenting the Budget in Parliament for the 7th consecutive time. I am happy to say that our Finance Minister has her roots linked to Viluppuram which is very near to Puducherry. I say this because she knows the ground reality of our area very much. Hon Finance Minister, while presenting her first Budget in the year 2019, brought a big idea of making India a five trillion economy.

Whether she has succeeded in achieving this target of 5 trillion economy? I should say they haven't. While presenting the current Budget in 2024, she claims that India has achieved to be the fifth largest economy of the world. But in India, the per capita income of an individual person is approximately around Rs 2.5 lakh per annum. But we see our 80 Crore population living as poor. If we see their per capita income, it is not more than Rs 4000 per month. Moreover their lives are in a pitiable condition. They are severely affected by price rise.

Today a bag containing 25 kg of rice is sold at Rs.1700 whereas it was sold at Rs.700 earlier. Similarly the price of wheat has increased from Rs. 30 to Rs. 65 per kg. Price of Tamarind has increased from Rs.45 to Rs.65 per kg. Ten eggs were sold for Rs.10 earlier and now it is being sold at Rs.60. Even the price of pulses has risen from Rs.70 per kg to Rs.140 per kg. The people of our country are worst affected by this price rise. Even in MGNREGA, Rs.250/- was provided as daily

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

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wage earlier and it has now increased to just Rs.300/- per day. Those who are less educated like school pass outs are able to get a salary of only Rs.6000/- per month.

Moreover, graduates are provided only a meagre salary of less than Rs.12000/- per month. Whether farmers are getting remunerative prices for their produce? The answer is No. The prices of fertilisers and insecticides have gone up making the farm input cost unbearable for farmers. Whether the farmers are getting necessary loans? The answer is No. I should also say that the women working in informal sectors are not even getting their salaries well in time. Whether the housewives are enjoying their rights? I should say the answer is No. This is the ground reality of today.

These women are not having economic freedom in their lives. They do not have security. That is why our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi called for restoring the rights of women in the society. Poor people suffer a lot. People do not like this Government which has never thought about the people's welfare. As a result, BJP today is a minority Government. INDIA Alliance made this possible and the people of this country have given a strong verdict to make BJP Government a minority Government. You gave up Uttar Pradesh, the land of Lord Sri Ram and thereafter you gave up Lord Shri Ram himself, whom you worshipped for long. We can raise slogans like 'Jai Shri Ram'. But you will now say 'Jai Jagannath' instead of "Jai Shri Ram". You have totally forgotten the States like Maharashtra and Haryana.

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You forgot your birth place, the Devbhoomi. You ignored Varanasi, which brought you up. You did not take care of Ayodhya, where Lord Rama was given birth. You have forgotten the places where you were given birth, where you were brought up and where you lived. You should help them in a way they needed help. You should help these States in a way you helped States like Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Similarly you have given assurances to Puducherry. You assured to give adequate funds to this State. You talked about development of education and tourism in Puducherry. But Puducherry did not get anything. Last year you gave Rs.3,389 Crore and this year you have given only Rs.3,269 crore which has seen a reduction of Rs.120 Crore as compared to last year.

The Government of Puducherry is managing the administration of Power sector very well in the State. There is no loss to this Department. Therefore, it should never be privatised. If there is any such move to privatise the Power Sector of Puducherry it should be withdrawn besides allocating adequate funds to Union Territory of Puducherry. Thank you.

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[Translation]

MS. KANGANA RANAUT (MANDI): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson Sir, for giving me this opportunity today to express my views on the Budget for 2024. I am also grateful to the people of Mandi Constituency, who have given me the opportunity to present their views by electing me as their representative.

Sir, this place is very new to me. I am a new Member of Parliament, but I am aware that the 18th Lok Sabha is not an ordinary Lok Sabha. In this Lok Sabha election our top leader, Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has broken the record of the last 60 years by becoming the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time. We all congratulate him for that wholeheartedly. At the same time, all of us in the Bharatiya Janata Party deserve congratulations, who have received this privilege.

I also believe that the people of India, who have chosen a stable, smooth and successful Government and have chosen a resolution, also deserve to be congratulated.

Sir, we all know what was the condition of the economy of our country 10 years ago. Ten years ago, we had a struggling, crumbling and faltering economy, which was at number 11-12 and the whole country was worried about it.

In the last 10 years, that economy has moved from 11th to 5th place and is rapidly going towards 3rd place. The budget for the year 2024 is a budget to empower all sections. This budget will also give a boost to our economy.

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Sir, our resolution for 2047, the resolution of a developed India, is that we will become the number one economy. Same is expected from this budget also. We will get one step closer to that resolution.

Sir, last year, our Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a major natural calamity. There was a severe flood there, which caused huge loss of life, property, animals and land of our people. But, sadly, Himachal Pradesh is yet to overcome the impact and loss of that tragedy.

The root cause behind this is the ruling Congress Government. People there are still suffering the aftermath of the floods due to the negligence and the corrupt policies of the Congress Government. I express my gratitude to respected and Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman for announcing a special relief fund for the people of Himachal Pradesh. I on behalf of the people of Himachal would like to greet you and express our gratitude.

Sir, I am happy and equally sorry to inform you that the volume of work that has been done in Himachal Pradesh by our BJP in the last ten years is greater than the work done in 60 years after Independence. You all must have been visiting Himachal. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. It is her maiden speech. Let the hon. Member speak.

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[Translation]

SUSHRI KANGANA RANAUT: You all must have been visiting Himachal. You must have noticed that only a few roads were built in 60 years after independence. During the regime of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Ji, these roads were constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Rural. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led Government has announced world-class institutions like AIIMS, IIT, IIM and trains like Vande Bharat for Himachal Pradesh in the last 10 years.

A small state like Himachal Pradesh has been provided the Manali-Kiratpur highway at an estimated cost of Rs 3,500 crores. It has more than 5 tunnels and more than 37 bridges. We have got infrastructure of global standards here. The 9 kilometer long Atal Tunnel which is the longest tunnel in the world is an amazing infrastructural marvel for the entire nation. It's a single tube highway and is a great example for the whole world.

Along with this, hydel projects worth Rs 11 thousand crore have been sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh. If I present the full list, it will probably take a lot of time. Lakhs of beneficiaries are getting benefits of free ration, houses and Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Himachal Pradesh is completely open defecation free and has gas connection in every house.

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(Shri Dilip Saikia *in the Chair*)

Not a single household is without gas connection. I have been fortunate, that the Women Reservation Bill, which provides 33 percent reservation to women in politics, was passed when I was elected to this House.

I am very fortunate to be elected to 18th Lok Sabha. I would like to say that this is definitely a holistic budget in terms of employment or start-up innovations, tax relaxation to poor and middle class or the focus on our food providing farmers.

I would urge upon the Government that an International Airport in Mandi will definitely boost tourism in the area which in turn would benefit our people. The Government must consider this. The people of Himachal wholeheartedly welcome this budget.

Thank You.

SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER (SANGRUR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My state Punjab was not even mentioned in the entire budget. I would like to begin by registering my protest. When I was in school, there used to be a slogan written on the walls, 'Hum Do Hamare Do'. The entire nation knows that The Government is being run by two people for the last ten years. Now two more have joined them. Now that old slogan 'Hum Do, Humare Do' fits perfectly with this union.

Hon. Chairperson the new slogan of this Government is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. I think it is development of two, and devastation for others which is evident

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in this Budget. On the day election result was to be announced, obviously everyone was watching their results and also the results of the entire country in the quest of who was going to form the Government. When the BJP's seats were stuck between 230-240, we were praying it should further reduce by five to ten seats. But now I thank God you secured 240 seats. Had there been five to ten less number of seats, another party would have joined you alongwith Naidu Babu resulting in further deduction of budget for education, health, MNREGA and farmers.

I think the last 70 years, no Government has presented a Budget as helpless as the one NDA Government has presented this time. I think all the opposition parties including parties from Haryana and Maharashtra must be very happy with this budget as they have elections there. I would like to tell them to understand the compulsion of the Government. 'No one is ungrateful for no reason; there must have been compulsions'. The only compulsion is to save the Chair. You can go any extant for that. You have mentioned that four priorities i.e. the youth, farmers, women and the poor have been taken care of in this budget. It was promised to farmers that their income would be doubled and MSP would be granted, but sadly an additional burden has been imposed on farmers by reducing subsidy on fertilizer by 27 per cent. This has further reduced their income. You say it is a Government for the poor. The budget for MNREGA, the most beneficial scheme for the poor has been reduced. MNREGA is also a source of income for the most of the women in rural areas. It is a matter of great concern. You did not spare the poor, nor the

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women. Then you mentioned about the youth. You mentioned in Economic Survey that India is a young country. Its Youngistan. There is no mention of research on AI. If we compare research papers with those of America or China, we are lagging far behind. There was a need to allocate funds for that purpose. It is very sad that you have reduced the budget of IITs and IIMs. Is this how we take the country forward? Madam was just talking about how things were ten years ago. Only statistics are not going to take India forward. We have to see the position of India in the whole world. On Happiness Index list, we have slipped from number 118 in 2016 to number 126 today. On the list of Global Hunger Index, we stand at number 111 out of 125 countries. Our neighboring countries which we do not even consider a nation are also ranking ahead of us. It is most surprising and sad that we stand at number 180 on the Environmental Performance Index in which 180 countries were surveyed. There is no country behind us. Yet we boast to become Vishwa Guru. Talking alone cannot make us Vishwa Guru. Only 4.25 crore people out of 140 crores population have monthly income more than 25 thousand rupees. It is hard for a person with monthly income less than Rs 25,000 to lead a respectable life. Hon. Finance Minister said with great pride that the Government is giving ration to 85 crore people. It is not a matter of pride. It is a matter of shame for the Government. You could not bring out 850 million people from poverty in last ten years. Yet you feel proud of that. This is not how the country progresses.

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Sir, in the end, I would like to speak about Punjab. Although no State has been taken care of. You have allocated a budget for floods. You said about the floods in Assam, Bihar, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Is Punjab not a part of the country? Will the rain water in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh remain in the hills? That rain water flowed to Punjab and caused a loss of Rs 1680 crores. I was Irrigation Minister at that time. I visited TarnTaran, Kapurthala, Mohali and Ropar. Upto three feet of mud was piled up there. I can say with confidence that in such a condition, cultivation is not possible there for the next 20 years.

Sir, as far as Punjab is concerned, I would like to ask as to why there is so much hatred against Punjab? The sacrifices made by Punjab has been immense. 80 percent of the sacrifices made for country's freedom came from there. Even today, you will find not a single village without statue of a martyr. People of Punjab have sacrificed their lives protecting the borders. There is not a single day when body of a young martyr wrapped in the tricolor does not reach the villages of Punjab. You don't even mention that. On what grounds do you say that the country has become self-reliant? Farmers have played a major role in making the country self-reliant. It doesn't happen overnight. We have to pay for it. We have exhausted our water, we have exhausted our land. The train with cancer patients runs from Punjab to Rajasthan. Punjab is feeding the country and what are we getting in return? You have even removed our tableau from the republic day parade.

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I demand special package for Punjab. Our industry is being ruined. I consider this budget only an attempt to save the chair. There is nothing in this budget for the farmers and youth of the country.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the ongoing discussion on the Budget.

Sir, this is the third time they have formed the Government. The soldiers, workers, farmers and the entire society had great expectations, but the common people have been disappointed with the budget. I have been elected for the second time from Nagaur Lok Sabha Constituency in Rajasthan. You secured 25 seats from Rajasthan in the year 2014 and 2019. Rajasthan had high expectations from the Government, but various sections of society in other states including Rajasthan have been highly disappointed with this budget.

I have been listening to the discussion for two days. The ruling party is exaggerating the budget but the opposition has been cursing it. We do not have any issue with the Special package announced for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh because they are also our brothers. In the year 2014 and 2019, we all supported the Government and are still with you. You should keep all this in mind. There should not have been partial treatment with the other states of the country. After the budget was presented, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan tweeted – Patna-Purnia

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Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, road construction in Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Darbhanga will be accelerated. Ganga river bridge will be built in Buxar. Rs 26,000 crores will be provided.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister that the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had to withdraw his tweet after it was criticized in Rajasthan; because he felt that it was a mistake. Your party is in power in Rajasthan. Yet the Chief Minister had to withdraw the tweet out of distress. This is not a right trend according to me. Eight crore people of Rajasthan elected the Bharatiya Janata Party to form Government and always supported you; yet they have been cheated.

The second term of the Government has seen the country's biggest farmer movement demanding MSP and it lasted for a long time. More than 700 farmers have sacrificed their lives during this movement. I was part of the NDA Government then. During the the farmers' protest, the Akali Dal and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party moved out of the alliance with NDA and I also quitted the NDA over the farm laws and for the rights of farmers. Many MPs of the ruling party used to say that people will not vote for me during the next election.

Sir, you are well aware that I and 11 other Members from Rajasthan won this time. Though you have increased the amount of MSP but we want complete procurement on MSP so as to ensure the rights of farmers. Keep the promise you have made.

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Sir, as far as waiving of loans of farmers is concerned, the Government had answered my question on June 30, 2023 in the Lok Sabha and elaborated the current status of farmers' debt which was worrisome. Farmers of Rajasthan alone are under a debt of Rs 1,47,538 crore. Through you, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to prepare a roadmap to waive off the loan of all the farmers of the country including Rajasthan in order to improve their financial condition and also exclude agricultural equipment including tractors from the purview of GST.

Sir, the Government has waived off loans worth Rs. 15 lakh crores of billionaires. Be it the previous Government or the present Government, I am not blaming any particular Government, but no one has bothered about waiving the loans of farmers. If the Government can waive off loans worth Rs. 15 lakh crores of billionaires, then the entire debt of the farmers worth Rs 15 lakh crore should be waived.

Sir, although this budget is better than the previous one but it is a budget without a vision for Agriculture. Hon. Minister of Finance said that farmers will be introduced to natural farming. Therefore, a provision of Rs. 365 crore has been made for need-based 10 thousand input resource centers. Last year, a provision of Rs. 459 crore was made in this regard, but only Rs. 100 crore was spent. I would like to ask the Government if it has any proper criteria to prove natural farming as a successful production process on a large scale? If it has ever sought the opinion of the scientists of the country on this subject?

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Sir, I was listening to the hon. Prime Minister's speech today. He was praising Agnipath scheme. Rashtriya Loktantrik Party supported the anti- Agnipath agitation across the country. 2 lakh youth participated in the rally organized at Jodhpur. Soldiers belonging to farmers' family from Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have always sacrificed their lives in the service of nation. With 50 kg of ammunition, AK-47 and AK-56, they have proved their potential and won the battle at 20 thousand feet height in Kargil. But, everyone is agitated with Agnipath scheme. When two Agniveers were martyred in Punjab and their bodies were brought in an ambulance, people were surprised as there is no provision of pension for them and they have not been given the status of a martyr. Now the BJP Government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister has lost the Haryana elections and the state elections, many of the candidates who have lost had blamed the Agnipath scheme for it. Thus, Agnipath scheme should be scrapped.

Sir, I will conclude my speech after putting two-three important points. We are opposing this scheme because the soldiers of our country are against it. How do we maintain the honor and dignity of army? Earlier, people used to join army with a spirit of selfless sacrifice as martyrs, but now they are less inclined to join the army. I urge that the Agnipath scheme should be scrapped and Government should reinstate the old recruitment process.

Sir, as far as skill development and unemployment are concerned, a new scheme to skill 20 lakh youth has been announced. The Government has offered a

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lollipop but it should pass orders to fill up the vacancies at central level. The Government has talked about skill development. Rajasthan has the highest unemployment rate after Haryana. I am of the opinion that mere providing skill training will not ensure employment. The Government also has to ascertain the progress been made in this regard and whether the training centres are receiving Government assistance or subsidy? There is difference in the price of crude oil today and back in 2014 when NDA Government came to power. Petrol and diesel prices stay high despite crude oil price drop. The rise in the prices of petrol and diesel have direct implications on inflation. What is the situation at present? The rate of inflation is high, but no heed has been paid on women belonging to middle class and poor families under the Budget. You have made life very difficult for them. I urge that the prices of petrol and diesel may be reduced.

Sir, now I would like to draw the attention towards Rajasthan. Special package for my state Rajasthan should be granted on the lines of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and special status should be accorded to the state of Rajasthan as per the requisite criteria since Rajasthan has ravines of Chambal, the Aravalli mountain range, the vast desert and the tribal belt, where people live in adverse conditions. There is dearth of potable water in villages and Dhanis even after decades of independence.

Women used to travel 20 kilometers carrying water pots to fetch water. People still store rainwater in 'tanka' (small tanks). Rajasthan is reeling under crisis

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even after 75 years of independence. The prevalence of malnutrition among the tribal population has resulted into starvation related deaths in India. The last person in line lack access to basic facilities including healthcare. I urge that Rajasthan should be accorded special status and if special status could not be granted then special package should be provided to Rajasthan.

Sir, ERCP has been accorded national project status. The Government of India has still not granted national project status to eastern districts of Rajasthan. The western districts of Rajasthan, including my Parliamentary Constituency Nagaur, experiences frequent famines. I urge you to announce Western Rajasthan Canal Project (WRCP) on the lines of ERCP to provide potable water and irrigation facility in western Rajasthan....(Interruptions)

The Government has introduced 'Saubhagya Yojana' in the country to ensure the electrification of every rural household. Government has brought a new scheme, but the entire budget was not spent on it. Electrification under RDSS should be ensured. RDSS is the revised version of Saubhagya scheme. A provision of 25.57 crore rupees has been made for electrification of 15,615 households in Nagaur and Didwana-Kuchaman district. As far as my Parliamentary Constituency is concerned, Rs. 45,000 has been fixed as per the provision which is to be borne by the Government. I urge to increase the limit of Rs. 45000 to Rs 80,000 to benefit more and more people living in far-flung villages which are distant from each other.

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SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (BATHINDA): Sir, I urge to rename this Budget as it is not meant for the country. This Budget has only thought over how to save the Government. If this Budget would have been meant for the nation, then it should have focused on all 28 States and Union Territories, which are 37 in total, but there was a mention of only 9 States in the entire Budget. The largest part of the Budget was allocated to two states who have lend their support to the Government. This Budget is not meant for the country it has only thought over how to save the Government.

It is disheartening to see that unequal Budget allocation has been made on the basis of natural calamities and religion. I have witnessed such thing for the first time. It is commendable that you have made allocation for religious shrines like Bodh Gaya, Rajgriha etc. Shri Darbar Sahib Amritsar attracts around two lakh visitors every day and they are also provided food free of cost. People from all over the country and abroad visit this place, where they pray for everyone's well-being, but there is no mention of this place in the Budget.

If I talk about natural calamities, the Government has provided flood relief package to the affected states which is commendable. As the fellow Member has mentioned earlier that the Government has provided relief package to Himachal Pradesh, but no one cares when the flood water from Himachal Pradesh creates havoc in Punjab. The Government opens the floodgates of the dam to release the excess water which causes flood in Punjab. When the water level of the Ghaggar

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river rises, the Government opens the floodgates of the dam to protect the adjacent states and submerge our villages. The Government provide relief package to flood affected states and we are grateful for that but why step-motherly treatment with our State? Whether the people, the farmers and the infrastructure of Punjab hold no importance for the Government?

Sir, it is surprising that Punjab always has to suffer due to occurrence of flood. Whenever there is scarcity of water, whether it is Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, BJP, all unanimously conspire to construct SYL canal to release water from Punjab to other states. When there is scarcity of water, the Government release water to other state but when the water is in excess, then Punjab is submerged.

Sir, I would also like to inform that about 70 years ago, the Congress Government released the water from Punjab to Rajasthan which was clear violation of the riparian law. It was said that the cost of water distributed in a year will be paid after due consideration. Even after 70 years, no decision has been made in this regard. I urge through you that either ban the release of water as against the riparian law to other states or compensate Punjab for it.

Sir, according to Central Ground Water Board all the blocks of Punjab are in critical category. The state's groundwater is depleting. As per latest report the toxicity level of water is so high that it is not fit for drinking. The Government should extend help to Punjab but forget help, there is no mention of Punjab under the Budget. I urge that the Government to provide assistance to Punjab. Now, I would

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like to talk about farmers. The Government has mentioned four pillars of developed India i.e. youth, women, poor and farmers.

I would not like to discuss about the number of farmers committing suicide and raging protest. This Government claimed to double the farmers' income by the year 2022. I would like to know the reason as to why agricultural growth rate has fallen sharply, to 1.4 percent in 2023-24, as compared to 4.7 percent growth rate of 2022-23? The reality is that the Government is against the interest of farmers. Look at the price rise. 7-8 years ago, a 40 kg seed bag used to cost Rs. 800 to 1200 which is now costing Rs. 2000, the price of DAP has increased three times, the cost of Potash has increased from Rs. 900 to Rs. 1700, the labor cost has increased three folds, the cost of harvesting has gone up three times. The machine used to be rented and diesel prices have gone up Rs 47 to Rs 90. They should have provided relief to the farmers. There is no increase in MNREGA. People expected, they would increase the amount or man days in MNREGA, but nothing has been done. The amount under crop insurance scheme has been reduced by 2.6 per cent, urea subsidy has been reduced by 7.4 per cent, nutrient-based subsidy has been reduced by 2.5 per cent, the budget of Garib Kalyan Yojana has been reduced by 3.3 per cent, the Kisan Samman Nidhi has been reduced by 10 per cent and all the farmers covered under the crop insurance scheme from the year 2018 to 2022 have lost 8-9 percent.

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Sir, talking about Punjab, Punjab beneficiaries were included in PM Kisan Nidhi Scheme. Allotment of houses has been decreasing since 2018 under the housing scheme. I would like to ask why are you showing enmity with the farmer who feed the country, who contribute the maximum and because of whom you are giving free ration to 80 crore people. I appeal to the Government to implement the Swaminathan Commission's MSP legal guarantee of C2+50%. I would like to give a few suggestions that until it is done; at least bring the price difference scheme. If someone is unable to sell at MSP, the difference of amount should be compensated by the Government. You should bring in a farmer-friendly crop insurance scheme, which favors the farmers not the insurance companies. The GST on farming implements should be abolished so that the farmers are benefited and their fruits and vegetables are saved. With the onset of monsoon, the tomato prices will rise. If the GST on farming implements is removed, it will be of great benefit.

Sir, the industries in Punjab have been ruined by not providing tax incentives. Our industries have run away. Singh Saheb who is a sitting Minister visited Ludhiana, where he told the MSME industry that the amendment 43-B mandates payment within 44 days else the incentives are forfeited. That has not been done in this Budget. Our bicycle industry and the sports equipment industry has been badly hit due to closure of international Wagah border with Pakistan since 2019. This border should be opened. Some tax incentives should be given to the bicycle industry and sports industry, so that the business grows and employment

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opportunities are created in my area. In the end, I would like to say that the Congress party and the Aam Aadmi Party have looted and destroyed the treasury of Punjab in the last ten years. Our small state has incurred a debt of Rs 3.4 lakh crore and the GSPP ratio has gone up to 49 per cent. To punish them, you stop RDF to and the health mission, but what is the fault of the people of Punjab?

Sir, I request you to give our money. Our rate of unemployment is double than that in the country. Our state is suffering from drug abuse. Cases of malnutrition and anemia are increasing amongst the women in Punjab. The suppliers of the ration to poor girls in Anganwadi, lactating mothers and pregnant mothers and children have been changed from Verka Milkfed to the private contractors by the Aam Aadmi Government and crores of rupees are being scammed by supplying sub-standard ration to the people. Sir, please do not stop funds. Instead penalize the culprits so that people get their rights. I would say that Punjab has the highest 32 per cent SC population. Punjab contributes the most to the granaries and we have made the highest contribution to the freedom struggle. Fulfill the demands of this State and give us our capital Chandigarh. Our water is going to other states. It must be stopped and we should get our royalty. Else revoke all the decisions and keep our water in Punjab. I beseech you. Thank you.

[English]

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***DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI (PATIALA):** I thank you, Hon'ble Chairman Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Union Budget 2024-25. This is a budget of compulsion. This is a budget of a politically weak and unstable Government. This Budget ignores the federal structure of the Constitution. The interests of all other States except 2 States have been neglected.

Sir, all States had decided to join India as India has a federal structure. Punjab, Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc. have forsaken their identity and decided to join the Indian Union on the basis of federalism only. All States are to be treated as equal. The Constitution talks about Union List, State List and Concurrent List. In the last 10 years, many subjects belonging to State and Concurrent List have been removed from there and unilaterally put in the Union List. States are consistently being weakened financially. Centre has usurped all the powers of the States and States have been left with a begging bowl only. Except for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, many other States are feeling ignored and marginalized. Their interests have been ignored.

Sir, the States contribute towards strengthening the G.D.P. of the country. Revenue is generated by the States. All natural resources and mines etc. are located in States. But States are being weakened consistently and their rights are being usurped by the Centre.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

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Sir, this Budget does not even mention Punjab. Punjab was at the vanguard in the freedom struggle. Maximum number of martyrs belonged to Punjab. A lot of sacrifices were made by Punjabis for protecting the country. During all wars, Punjabis were at the forefront. There were martyrs in a majority of villages of Punjab. When India was facing famines in the 1970s, Punjab became the harbinger of Green Revolution. India was importing foodgrains at that time from rich and developed countries. But, Punjab made India self-sufficient in foodgrains production. All credit goes to the farmers of Punjab. We had to suffer as our soil got degraded. Our air was polluted. Our river-water became polluted. Punjab needed Central help. But, no help was provided to Punjab. Agro-based industries were not provided to Punjab. Our industries in Batala, Gobindgarh etc. fled Punjab because H.P. and Haryana were given special industrial packages. The industries of Punjab migrated to neighbouring States in search of greener pastures.

Our youths are feeling frustrated. All avenues of youth for progress are blocked. So, drugs have become rampant in Punjab. Our youths are addicted to drugs. Others are migrating to foreign countries in search of better avenues.

Sir, India is a country dependent on agriculture. The farmers of Punjab made supreme sacrifices. They protested against black laws on the roads of Delhi. 750 farmers became martyrs to protect the interests of farmers. They wanted MSP for foodgrains to be given legal guarantee. The Government has not made any provisions regarding this in the Budget. Sir, Adani and Ambani are corporates who

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are friendly with the Central Government. They want to capture the millions of rupees worth of market of foodgrains production and storage. Farmers are being made scapegoats due to this reason. This budget does not give any MSP guarantee to farmers. Their loans have not been waived off....(*Interruptions*)

Sir, let me conclude. I urge the Government to provide a legal guarantee for MSP of foodgrains. The loans of farmers must be waived off. The daily wages of MNREGA Scheme should be increased. The number of days of this Scheme should also be increased. Also, 20 lakh Government jobs must be filled. And old pension scheme must be implemented. Thank you.

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DR. M. P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (PONNANI): Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to speak in this discussion on the Budget.

When we say that this Budget has failed to address the crucial issues confronting the nation and its economy, it is not a mere saying but an open fact. Even the inflation, which has severely affected the common people, has not been seriously addressed through this Budget. It is regretful that even after the eye-opening setback in the elections, the Government is not ready to open its sight and see the reality with neutrality. Here I would like to say:

“Aankhen agar hain band to din bhi raat hai,
Ismein bhala kasoor kya hai aaftaab ka”

Sir, this is the position. The Government has to open its sight to see the reality straightly.

Sir, this Budget is a sign of the changed political landscape and the fractured verdict that the last Lok Sabha Elections have given to this Ruling Party. The verdict was against the single-party majority syndrome of the Ruling Party. That is why, we can understand that alliance is very crucial for the survival of the Government. But sacrificing the interests of the majority of the States for pleasing a few States will go against the principles of democracy and federalism. In our system, our fairness is directly linked with federalism. Federalism means equality, neutrality, plurality, vividity which is there in the politics of the country, in the culture of the country, and in every sphere of our national life.

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Sir, a tree can become a tree only with leaves, and it should give shadow to everybody who comes under it. While thinking of this Government's policy, I am reminded of a couplet:

In pedon ko kya yaaron ped kaha jaaye,
Jo dhoop ki shiddat men bhi chaaya nahi karte.

Even in the heat of the summer, this Government is not ready to give its shade to other States. It is not ready to see all the States neutrally. Not only that, but also it has become a leafless tree,

Kat chuke jin darakhton ke patte,
Fir kahan unke saaye huye hain.

That is the position of this Government. The disability to look beyond one State in the North and another State in the South is the sign of a failed-governance, and also of utter unfairness. For example, many States are neglected and so is my State of Kerala.

Sir, I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to see what the hope Kerala had and what has been given to it. Kerala deserved everything. It expected and hoped for a little, but got nothing. That is our position. Kerala was neglected. Similarly, the minorities, backward communities, farmers, youths, women, and the middle-class did not get the due consideration, which they deserve. I would like to emphasize the point that this Budget is divisionary, diversionary and discriminatory. It is the divisionary policy, it is the discrimination, that leads to a kind of economic boycott.

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The hon. Finance Minister referred to 'inclusion' several times. Once the hon. Finance Minister mentioned about Development with Legacy. What is legacy? Our heritage is the heritage of plurality. It is not of singular polarity. Even in the on-going *Kanwar Yatra*, the policy adopted by the rulers of those States was against the very spirit of our Constitution; it was against the *Virasat* that we have got. Even the Supreme Court had to intervene into the matter and issue a stay order to stop the States from implementing that directive which was asking to display the identity of the shopkeepers.

Sir, even the other day, one Head Constable, Ashik Ali jumped into the river to save a young *Kavwaria* named Monu Singh, a 21-year-old boy. Ashik Ali jumped courageously with a human spirit and selfless courage. This is our *virasat*. This is our Indian society. But what is going on against this? This has to be checked. There are many such incidents. So, the *virasat* is *amnoaman* [*Translation*] and the message of love. We shall continue to glorify message of love [*English*] against all the kinds of hatred and divisionary agenda.

Sir, let me talk about the minorities, the backward communities and the middle class. The Government thinks that the middle-class should be taxed, taxed and taxed. Actually, the middle-class should be considered as a powerful engine of growth.

Sir, what is the essential need of farmers today in the country? At the very outset, the hon. Finance Minister was mentioning about research. Research is

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good. We all appreciate it. But is research the preliminary need of the Indian farmers? The preliminary need of the farmers is the legal guarantee on MSP. In a country where youths share the largest part of the population, where millions of college-educated youths are there, job creation should be the primary agenda of that country.

At least one relief is there that the Government has started identifying that there is a problem of jobs in the country. With regard to women's rights, I would say that there were schemes sanctioned for ensuring jobs for them, but even those schemes have been reduced.

Sir, the solution lies not in giving subsidies to the corporate sector, but in creating the demand. The sources of demand are private consumption, investment and export. So, these things have to be taken into consideration.

While concluding, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that there should be equal rights for all the States, including my State of Kerala. The Union Government should be neutral, and it should respect the principles of pluralism and federalism.

Thank you.

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[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget for the year 2024-25. I am also grateful to the Hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman who has presented a historic budget for the 7th time under the leadership of the country's hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there is a need to look at the Budget for the year 2024-25 in totality. More than 5 months have passed since the Interim Budget was presented in this House on 1 February, 2024. Administrative approval has been obtained with regards to many schemes. Funds have also been allocated for implementation of those schemes.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, if we compare today's Budget with that of 2014, we find that the volume and size of the Budget has increased. The economy has moved from formal to informal. At the same time, GST was introduced and tax collection has increased. The direct tax collection, which was Rs 6.38 lakh crore during the UPA tenure, has increased to Rs 23.37 lakh crore in the year 2024. This tax collection has not increased for no reason. Procedural reforms have been made to achieve this. Budget 2024-25 which is the first budget of the third term of the NDA Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is apart from being inclusive poised to strengthen commerce and industries along with the welfare of the poor, youth, women and farmers. In this budget, there is ample

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opportunities for the growth of women. There is enough for the agriculture and farmers' prosperity in this budget. It has enough opportunities for the youth to grow and has potential to bring smiles on the faces of the poor. This budget is infused with the energy of India and dedicated to employment generation. In the last 10 years, the Hon. Prime Minister has established a system through which the entitled amount of money is reaching the accounts of beneficiaries without the intervention of middlemen.

Nearly 250 million people have come out of poverty in the last 10 years. 'Make in India' in the PLI scheme has increased our exports to a great extent. The country is constantly setting records in the field of export. Our economy has moved towards formal economy in the last 10 years. Digital India has not only strengthened the country's economy but has also left a global impression.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, there are nine priorities of this Budget. There is no need to enumerate those priorities. Everyone must have seen those priorities and taken note of them. Discussion was going on about farmers just now. There was a lot of discussion on what action has been taken by the Government in this direction.

Sir, climate change has a global impact, particularly on agriculture. For the first time, our Government has talked about for a comprehensive review of agricultural research system to increase productivity and develop climate resilient varieties. My Parliamentary Constituency is Palamu, so no one else may understand the importance of this as much as I have had the opportunity to

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understand. My area falls in the in-shadow area. There is almost no rainfall there. Sometimes it rains, it rains so much that it is difficult to grow crops. This is a symptom of climate change, the effect of climate change. In such a situation, if this kind of arrangement is made by the Government, which calls itself to be pro-farmer, this kind of arrangement is made, then, I think, it is definitely a laudable step. It should be appreciated.

109 climate-friendly varieties will be grown and research will be done on them. There is a provision to connect one crore farmers with organic farming in the next two years. There is also a provision for certification and branding. Along with this, provision has also been made in the budget to increase the productivity of pulses and oil seeds, arrangement of storage and market for the said produce. It has also been said that vegetable clusters will be set up in major consumer centers. This is the first time SIMS farming has been talked about. Along with the SIMS farming, provision has also been made in this budget for their processing and exporting them.

There is also mention of making a National Cooperation Policy in this budget. This year, Rs 1.59 lakh crore has also been allocated for agriculture and allied subjects.

Certain schemes for employment generation and skill training have also been discussed. There is a mention of employment linked incentives for first-timers, for job creation in manufacturing sectors and also for employers. In addition, 20 lakh

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youth will be given skill training over a period of 5 years with the help of State Governments and Industries. One thousand ITIs will be upgraded. Apart from this, arrangements have been made for internship for one crore youth with 500 top companies. During this internship, they will also be given a monthly salary of five thousand rupees and six thousand rupees will also be given as lump sum.

Increasing women's participation in the workforce has also been discussed. It has also been said that women's hostel and creche will be provided at the work site. It has also been said that a loan facility of Rs 7.50 lakh will also be provided for skill training. A provision has also been made for a loan of ten lakh rupees for pursuing higher education in domestic institutes. This year, provision of Rs 2.6 lakh crore has been made for road infrastructure development.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, many Members have expressed their views in their own way on the 'Purvodaya Scheme' which has been discussed in the Budget. I come from Jharkhand, which was earlier a part of Bihar. You must have heard about Bihar, the term 'Bimaru State' was invented for it Bimaru States was an acronym for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. ...

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, please give me one more minute, I am concluding my point. The kind of pain that the people of Bihar suffered at that time cannot be imagined. At that time also no attempt was made to eradicate the disease of Bihar. At that time, nothing was said about the development of Bihar. Today, when there

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is a discussion for the development of Bihar, why are others suffering? They are so advanced; we are trying to join the mainstream. In such a situation, I do not think there should be a debate on this. You can definitely demand for your State, you demand, but if Bihar has got something, why are you protesting for that?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, you have to conclude now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I have to speak on Jammu and Kashmir also. ... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please conclude in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: After the abrogation of Article 370, I am saying this because I was a police officer, as you know. That's why, I am discussing it and I have asked you for one minute extra.

After the abolition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the highest priority of the Government was to ensure the safety of the people there. Improving their quality of life was the top priority of the Government. The Government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy to free Jammu and Kashmir from terrorism. Security measures have been strengthened. Actions have been taken to neutralize the efforts and capabilities of terrorists. In order to keep the youth away from terrorism, action has been taken to create employment opportunities and efforts have been made to bring them into the mainstream.

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Hon. Chairperson, Sir, multi-purpose, multipronged strategy has also been adopted to check infiltration from across the border. The stone pelting and organized strike has come to an end. If you look at the statistics, there were 228 terrorist incidents in 2018, while only 46 took place in 2023. 48 Encounter incidents took place in 2023 as against 189 in 2018. The number of security forces killed in the year 2018 was 91 and the number of security forces personnel killed in the year 2023 was 30. ... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM: There are some important results of these security measures. Life has returned to normal, all schools, hospitals and services are open. The number of tourists in Kashmir has increased. G20 Tourism Group Meeting has been successfully concluded in Srinagar. Lal Chowk is now witnessing festivities, now it is full of people, where people never used to go. Elections to five Parliamentary Constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir in the Union Territory completed peacefully with one more poll.

Thank you very much.

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15.00 hrs

[English]

SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHEDE (AMRAVATI): *Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House. I would also like to thank my Congress Party, MVA and people of my Amravati Constituency. Everybody in this House is asking whether this Budget is meant for the entire country or it is only for a few States.

This is quite visible too. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde and Ajitdada Pawar have made a big sacrifice to secure power in the name of Mahayuti. But that sacrifice is completely ignored while preparing this Budget. Maharashtra is the largest contributor in GST collection, but we have received not a single penny. Our Finance Minister tried to show that this Budget is meant for the poor women, farmers and youth but she lacks genuineness. She tried to paint a rosy picture but in vain. Our farmers have to suffer a lot and she is busy playing with the numbers. We regard farmers as 'Annadata' but this is a mockery indeed. Both the Union and the State Governments are playing with their emotions. This Government had promised to double the income of farmers to provide remunerative prices to their produces. But the farmers are still committing suicides in Maharashtra in large numbers. Around 557 farmers have committed suicide in Vidarbha region. In my constituency, 170 farmers committed suicide in the last six

... English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Marathi.

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months because they are not fetching remunerative prices for the crops like cotton and soyabean. In the year 2014, he was getting around Rs. 10,000, but today he gets only Rs. 7,000 per quintal for cotton. For soyabean, earlier it was Rs. 6,000 but today it is only Rs. 4,000 per quintal. We lack the irrigation facilities too. The irrigation projects are still incomplete in Vidarbha region which were started during Dr. Manmohan Singh's regime.

Sir, there are rampant cases of papers leak in Maharashtra too. The students keep on appearing for exams but nobody is ready to take the responsibility. The Union and the State Governments avoid to talk about the old pension scheme. OPS is much needed for the survival of pensioners' family.

Sir, around 30 per cent posts are vacant in the Health Department. Mother and child mortality rates are still very high in my Melghat region. These deaths should be stopped immediately.*

[Translation]

Sir, the reason is that these buildings, roads, bridges have been constructed. Did they not forget themselves while mentioning them because the rural area should be developed.

[English]

*Sir, if we want to develop infrastructure, it should be done in a proper and logical manner. Sir, I am also concerned about the budget deficit. We should work

... English translation of this part of the speech was originally delivered in Marathi.

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together for the overall development of our country.* Jab Tak Suraj Chand Rahega, Hindustan Tera Naam Rahega.

*The MSME sector contributes around 30 per cent to our GDP and also it provides employment to around 11 crore people. But unfortunately, there is no special provision for it in this Budget. This sector had to suffer a lot due to demonetization of 2016 and corona pandemic in 2020. On one hand, you are spreading education, but on the other hand you are shutting down the schools. I doubt our next generation would be illiterate possibly. Hence, I demand that sufficient funds should be allocated for the education sector too. *

[Translation]

Sir, Emergency was declared on 25th June, 1975. To inform the next generation, the Union Government has observed 25 June as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'. Its notification has been published in the Gazette. In my opinion the decision is not in the interest of the Nation. The Constitution Assassination Day, this resolution, this very idea is unconstitutional. This is a negative thought. Is there ever a celebration of murder? You are celebrating the murder. This is not fair. This will cause a rift among them. The Constitution is immortal and the Constitution will remain so. Time and again, our hon. Prime Minister bows down to the Constitution.

...** This is not fair. Today, I beg the Government not to celebrate the day.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: The words that you have said for the hon. Prime Minister that ...** these words be withdrawn, expunged from the record.

You please conclude.

SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE: Hon. Chairperson, hon. Member was speaking, what the Government is selling today was created by the Congress. The school in which she studied or the school where her great-grandfather studied was set up by the Congress. They time and again ask as to what the Congress has done during the last 60 years of its rule, this is the answer.

Hon. Chairperson, this is not a Budget for SCs, STs and Bahujan. These people have been excluded in this Budget, so I condemn this Budget and conclude my speech. Jai Hind, Jai Maharashtra.

SHRI CHHOTELAL (ROBERTSGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the budget for the year 2024-2025 and I would also like to extend my thanks to Shri Akhilesh Yadav, leader of the Samajwadi Party for giving me time to express my view.

Sir, some hon. Members from the NDA and the BJP were just saying a lot, 'Naal Madha Rahe The' that they are very pro-farmer. They have been in power at the Centre for 10 years and the problem has remained the same. Youths are unemployed, papers are leaked and they say they are pro-farmers. What kind of well wisher are they? There is nothing for the youth in this budget, nothing for the

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poor, Dalits and tribals. It was said by the Government that 2 crore jobs will be given. Bharatiya Janata Party has been in power for 10 years. It happens always that nothing happens. This is a 'Save Government' budget. This Budget is not a guarantee for farmers. The State is identified and budget is allocated.

Sir in the blocks, Tehsils of my Parliamentary Constituencies Sonbhadra, Robertsganj, Chakia of Chandauli, Naugarh, etc., there is no such college there where the children of the poor, tribals may study and become IAS, PCS, Inspector and BDO while staying at their home with their families. Everyone should think about their respective constituencies that in what condition are people living are even after 76 years of independence.

Sir, will the well wisher of farmers declare those districts as drought affected districts, where there is no rainfall? There are floods at many places, but there is drought in our Parliamentary Constituencies Robertsganj and Sonbhadra. Not only this, there is also a lot of problem of potable water.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to say that just as the poor get quota of ration, the farmers are made to stand in queues after thumb impression and even then they are not able to get fertilizers, seeds. They are facing a lot of trouble and they say that they are pro-farmers.

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They are not able to get these things due to server down issue there. 200 to 300 farmers wait in queue for the biometric verification, yet they are not able to get fertilizer and on account of that they are not able to plant.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Government should declare Sonbhadra, Chandauli and other districts as 'drought' affected and loan recovery from farmers should be stopped and low interest loans may be provided to them so as to improve their economic condition. The Government of NDA coalition claim itself to be pro-farmers, Will they do this? They will not do so, because they only talk big.

Now one of hon. Member '...*' Shri Lalan Singh was saying... (*Interruptions*)
We want to tell you that should give guarantee this time. Why don't you give guarantee?... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The words '...*' used by the hon. Member should be expunged.

SHRI CHHOTELAL: Hon. Chairman Sir, I have written a poetry (*Sher*). The NDA, the Bharatiya Janata Party, who call themselves pro-farmers, should listen carefully-

Jo Muft Sikchha, Dawa Mjft Dega,
Kisano Ko MSP Guarantee Karega,
Dega Samay Se Bijli, Khad, Pani,
Wahi To Kisano Ka Neta Rahega,

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

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Wahi To Kisano Ka Neta Rahega.

Sir, youth are unemployed and helpless, the poor are suffering. Everyone is looking towards the leader of the Samajwadi Party hon. Akhilesh Yadav. Now the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party is not going to come to power in Uttar Pradesh and hon. Akhilesh Yadav is going to win this time.

Sir, I do not wish to elaborate further and hence, conclude my speech much. Jai Samajwadi Party, Jai Akhilesh, Jai Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (PURNIA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget. First of all I would like to present some figures before you.

According to the latest research of the World Inequality Database, inequality in India is at 100 year high.

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Shri Raghuram Rajan says that along with emphasizing on working capital, there was a need to focus on building human resource capital, which has not been done. We should be ready to face the world of Artificial Intelligence.

As per the published report of Pratham Foundation, one fourth of the children between the ages of 14 and 18 in India today are unable to read even simple sentences.

Health and education of the children severely affected due to Covid-19.

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The Modi Government is far behind the former UPA-II as GDP has decreased by six per cent.

The reason for failure of 'Make in India' is to rely too much on the public-private partnership (PPP) model rather than the state-led development model.

It can be observed from the Share Market that shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India, a renowned public sector company have been listed in open market for the public, with public offering of Rs 21,000 crore.

Only 20 per cent of the India's workforce is engaged in formal employment. According to the latest data of the International Labour Organization, the percentage of educated unemployed youth in the country was 54.2 per cent in the year 2000 which has increased to 65.7 percent in the year 2022.

Similarly, there was a plan to transform India as world's largest factory through the 'Make in India' Scheme and amount of 25 billion dollar was given to the mobile electronics companies by the Government of India under the scheme.

All these figures are not mine but of the Government of India.

About 40 percent of labourers are engaged in the agricultural sector and only 20 per cent workforce is engaged in manufacturing jobs or professional services such as IT. The present Government has not done anything for these 40 per cent labourers in ten years. No special measure has been taken especially for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in terms of reservation in private sector in the Budget. The present Government is not serious

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about reservation in the private sector. As the government jobs have been abolished, there will be no reservation in private sector also.

There is also not much for the OBCs in the budget. An amount of Rs. 210 crore is for pre-metric scholarship, Rs. 921 crore for post-metric scholarship has been earmarked for the student. Rs. 55 crore for the National Fellowship, Rs. 25 crore for Foreign Education Subsidy Scheme and Rs. 45 crore for Hostel Scheme has been earmarked. It means, in the budget estimate of the year 2024, the Government has reduced the subsidy amount for higher education of students belonging to backward classes and scheduled tribe.

On the one hand, reservation of extremely backward classes, OBCs, SCs and STs is being abolished and on the other hand financial support is being curtailed. You have reduced the financial subsidy by three fourth for the children belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs who were going abroad for study. My stand is very clear in this regard.

Hon. Chairperson, It is requested to understand the most important aspect i.e. education, health, MNREGA and widow pension. Widow pension includes old age pension and disabled pension. I would like to know from the Government, how long will you continue to provide 200-300 rupees? Their old age pension should be increased from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000. Secondly, the Government has allocated very less funds for MGNREGA on which our labourers are dependent for their livelihood.

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Sir, the health sector is in poor condition at the village level. The OBCs, the extremely backward classes, Dalits and economically weaker sections are unable to afford treatment for diseases like cancer, brain tumour, heart related problem, contagious and infectious diseases at the village level. Has any provision for such scheme been made for these people in the Budget? The Ayushman Yojana is a failure. Have any scheme been made for providing free treatment of cancer, heart problem, brain tumor. The prices of medicine are constantly increasing. The condition of any hospital at the village level is not good. There is acute shortage of doctors.

Sir, 67 percent of the hospitals do not have doctors including no technicians and lab facility. Medicines are not provided in the government hospital. The medicines are of sub-standard quality. There is no medical system there. You have not said anything on this.

Sir, at last I just want to know their opinion on the caste census. The Government is reluctant to hold discussion on the issue. The other point is about reservation for OBCs and extremely backward classes. What is the status of reservation in renowned colleges including JNU? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Chairperson Sir, now I will talk about my constituency. I will talk about Kosi, Seemanchal and Purnia. I would like to request

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to develop IIT, IIM, hub in Purnia and Central University may be set up in Seemanchal and Purnia. All India Institute of Ayurveda may be set up in Saharsa.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rajesh Ranjan, please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am just concluding. Washing pits facility may be provided built at Purnia Junction. High dam may be built on Kosi river. Purnia should be declared as the sub-capital of Bihar. A High Court Bench may be set up there. I would like to urge that Purnia may be developed as a trade centre of maize and Makhana.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson Sir, provision of fund should be made for food processing, maize and makhana in the Budget. A special package should be granted to Bihar. Provision should be made for all the closed factories there. 2.25 crore labourers are forced to migrate from here for work. They do not have any insurance.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude in 15 seconds.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I have a submission regarding our Anganwadi workers, Cooks, Mamata workers, ASHA workers, regular employed and Contract workers and Shiksha Mitra. The way in which question is being raised about Agniveer at present. There is disparity between employed and contractual Shiksha Mitra teachers in Uttar Pradesh, which reflect disparity towards respectable education.

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SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHNUPUR): Sir, I salute the hon. Prime Minister of the country. Today our hon. Prime Minister is with the Indian Army in Ladakh on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas. I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister of the country.

I would like to thank hon. Minister of Finance Shri Nirmala Ji for presenting the Budget. This Budget primarily focuses on the farmers, youth, SCs and STs. This budget is meant for the development of the youth of the country. In this budget, 1 lakh 25 thousand crore rupees have been allocated for the bright future of students. Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for the space sector. Mudra loan limit has been increased to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh. Homeless women belonging to SC, ST and tribal communities have high expectation from the hon. Prime Minister of the country that they will be provided houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for allocating a huge budget under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. 10 lakh crore rupees has been allocated for urban housing. Till date, no one even considered to upgrade the life of people belonging to below Poverty Line, but it is the vision of our hon. Prime Minister of our country that those people should also be brought to main stream.

3 lakh crore rupees has been sanctioned for women development. Development is taking place everywhere. Everyone expect a train for their area from the budget. I hail from West Bengal, known for Rabindra Nath and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. We are also concerned about the development of Bengal.

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I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance of the country for paying utmost importance to the eastern region for the first time and implementing 'Purvodaya' plan for the development of Bengal, Bihar, Odisha. No one has considered about the progress of Eastern Region. The Western Zone is making constant progress, but Eastern Zone is lagging behind. This year, due to kind consideration of hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal are progressing well. In this Budget, 89 thousand crore rupees has been allocated for West Bengal.

My hon. fellow Member of Trinamool Congress Party was asking about the guarantee of Modi. I would only say that first execute already approved programmes. Funds are allocated for 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna' but this fund is used in the name of 'Bengal Awas Yojna' by changing the name of 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna'. Funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is used in the name of Bengal Gram Sadak Yojna. Development should happen and each hon. Member thinks that his constituency must develop. Refugees from all the Banana countries and Rohingyas from all over the world are being welcomed in West Bengal. Is it good for us, please tell, definitely not. 5,000 to 10,000 Rohingyas are entering West Bengal every day and after coming to West Bengal, they move to all over the India. It is a threat to the country. Our Assam Chief Minister also said that West Bengal should look into it. If you ignore everything for the nephew of the Chief Minister, how India will maintain its republic status? I will say that all the Rohingya Refugees

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in the country should be deported. They are threat not just to West Bengal but to the entire country. Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has taken the responsibility of the entire world. She is saying that whoever getting disturbed anywhere may come to our West Bengal, we will give him refuge. How can be it said that we will provide shelter in West Bengal? Leader of the opposition is being attacked in the Assembly there. But there is no one to speak for it. This is my humble request to the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister and to all that funds allocated to West Bengal should be audited for every penny expend. The hon. Members were talking big and those who were talking big are highly corrupt. So many scams are taking place there; nobody is going to look into it. Who is behind these scams? It should be investigated. Incident of murder is being reported every day in West Bengal, Who is looking into it? It should be investigated. So much has been said by Shri Banerjee and Shri Bandyopadhyay ji.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Saumitra Ji please conclude in one minute.

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN: Sir, give me two minutes, (Interruption) first look at your own shortcomings. Hon. CM of West Bengal will destroy the entire country.... (Interruption) I didn't get time.... (Interruption) An hon. Minister is saying there, all the Hindus are 'Kafirs'(non-believers), it is being said there by a Minister that we are all 'Kafirs'(non-believers). If all Hindus are throw out, where will we go? Please remember the Kashmir of the year 1990, what had happened in Kashmir, the same is going to happen in West Bengal. I would like to request everyone; a committee

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may be constituted to visit West Bengal because West Bengal is not the estate of any individual. It is not individual's property; our party also got 39 per cent votes. What will Shri Abhishek Banerjee and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji say? ED has attached 100 crore rupees of M/s Lips and Bounds company. Who is the owner of the company? It should be answered. Nobody debates on this. No development work is being done in North Bengal. Rohingyas have destroyed Malda, Murshidabad, North Parganas, South Parganas. If some development work is being carried out in our Rarh region of Bengal, and Rohingyas are infiltrating. I will conclude with my demand. I would like to request through you that a rail coach factory may be set up in Bankura, Durgapur, construction work of the dam in Bishnupur may be completed soon and the railway track between Bakunda-Raniganj may be laid. I will also request the Trinamool Congress. A senior hon. Member was repeatedly saying, Investigation may be conducted against these people, ...* Investigation may be conducted to unearth the scams. ...* A scam of 5,000 crore rupees has been committed. It is my demand that they should be arrested. Thank you.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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15.34 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS – Introduced

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the Private Members' Business. Item No. 47 – Shri C.N. Annadurai ji.

15.34½ hrs

(i) MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Amendment of Section 3)

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.35 hrs

(ii) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2024*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.36 hrs

**(iii) COMMISSION FOR REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY BILL, 2024***

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Commission on regulate and promote the development of Information Technology industry in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Commission on regulate and promote the development of Information Technology industry in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.37 hrs

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

(iv) ARTISTS (SOCIAL SECURITY) BILL, 2024*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for social security and welfare measure for artists and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for social security and welfare measure for artists and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.37½ hrs

(v) TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN (PROTECTION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2024*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection of traditional fishermen in the country and for welfare measures including life insurance coverage, healthcare, educational facilities to the children of traditional fishermen and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection of traditional fishermen in the country and for welfare measures including life insurance coverage, healthcare, educational facilities to the children of traditional fishermen and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.38 hrs

(vi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR): Hon. Speaker

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.38½ hrs

(vii) GREENFIELD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS

BILL, 2024*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Greenfield infrastructure Board in each zone of the country to assess the availability of land in the respective zone and decide on the fitness of sites for development of a greenfield infrastructure project and for matters connected therewith of incidental thereto.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Greenfield infrastructure Board in each zone of the country to assess the availability of land in the respective zone and decide on the fitness of sites for development of a greenfield infrastructure project and for matters connected therewith of incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I think the voters in your area understand better in Hindi.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, at times, it is necessary to apprise the House that we can speak English too. You are aware but it is important to improve the image of the leaders in the eyes of new Members..... (Interruptions)

15.40 hrs

(viii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Substitution of New Article for Article 48A, etc.)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.40½ hrs

**(ix) DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRAL SECTOR AND CENTRALLY SPONSORED
SCHEMES BILL, 2024***

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute District Development and Monitoring Committees in each district to promote efficient coordination among all elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislatures and Local Government, including the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Municipal Bodies for time bound development of districts through a streamlined model of monitoring and accountability for implementation of Central Sector and Centrally sponsored schemes in each district and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[Translation]

Sir, this is a proposal to provide constitutional powers to DISHA, which is a Committee of Members of Parliament.

HON. SPEAKER: All right.

The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to constitute District Development and Monitoring Committees in each district to promote efficient coordination among all elected representatives in Parliament, State Legislatures and

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Local Government, including the Panchayat Raj Institutions and Municipal Bodies for time bound development of districts through a streamlined model of monitoring and accountability for implementation of Central Sector and Centrally sponsored schemes in each district and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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15.41½ hrs

**(x) HIGH COURT OF KERALA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH
AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) BILL, 2024***

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.”

The motion was adopted

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.42 hrs

(xi) TRANSGENDER PERSONS (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS)

AMENDMENT BILL, 2024*

(Insertion of New Sections 8A and 13A)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted introduce a Bill to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.”

The motion was adopted

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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HON. SPEAKER: Item nos.24, 25 and 26, Dr. D. Ravikumar – Not present.

Item no.27, Adv. Dean Kuriakose.

15.42½ hrs

(xii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Amendment of Article 43A)

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.

The motion was adopted

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.43 hrs

(xiii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Insertion of New Article 49A)

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.44 hrs

(xiv) RABIES CONTROL BILL, 2024*

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate and control the rabid animals for the prevention and control of rabies in the interest of the public health and for matters connected therewith.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate and control the rabid animals for the prevention and control of rabies in the interest of the public health and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.45 hrs

(xv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Amendment of Article 81)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.

The Bill seeks to amend Article 81 to reserve 10 seats of the Lok Sabha for people under 35 years of age.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.45½ hrs

**(xvi) RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES) BILL, 2024***

[Translation]

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR (NAGINA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of residential schools for children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of residential schools for children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Chandra Shekhar Ji, you are young. You will not have difficulty in rising and sitting. Please sit down once you get up. Shashi Tharoor Ji cannot rise and sit down again and again as he has got some problem.

... (Interruptions)

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, It is good that you are calling me young. You have an eye on me. ...(Interruptions)...

15.46 hrs

(xvii) RESERVATION FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTES, THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND THE OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES IN PRIVATE SECTOR BILL, 2024*

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR (NAGINA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes in private sector and for matters connected therewith.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes in private sector and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.46½ hrs

**(xviii) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS UPTO SENIOR SECONDARY LEVEL
BILL, 2024***

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR (NAGINA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish schools imparting education upto senior secondary level free of cost to all children in the country.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish schools imparting education upto senior secondary level free of cost to all children in the country.”

The motion was adopted.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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HON. SPEAKER: Item No. - 34, Shri Shafi Parambil.

Please tell your full name once.

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL (VADAKARA): Sir, Shri Shafi Parambil.

15.47 hrs

(xix) AIRFARE REGULATORY BOARD BILL, 2024*

[English]

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL (VADAKARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Airfare Regulatory Board for monitoring and regulation of airfare and for matters connected therewith.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Airfare Regulatory Board for monitoring and regulation of airfare and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.48 hrs

**(xx) MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024***
(Amendment of Long Title, etc.)

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL (VADAKARA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I specially thank the Members who have introduced and moved resolutions on their Private Members' Legislative Business today. The House will be pleased to know that today's first Private Members' Resolution contains the names of the hon. Members who have been elected for the first time.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.50 hrs

(xxi) ADVOCATES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Advocates Act, 1961.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Advocates Act, 1961.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.50½ hrs

(xxii) ORPHAN CHILD (WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT) BILL, 2024*

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to ensure welfare and holistic development of orphans and for matters connected therewith.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to ensure welfare and holistic development of orphans and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.51 hrs

(xxiii) RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*

(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.”

The motion was adopted.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.51½ hrs

(xxiv) RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024*
(Insertion of a New Section 24A)

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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15.52 hrs

(xxv) FLOOD AND DROUGHT CONTROL BILL, 2024*

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Flood and Drought Control Board to control food and drought and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Flood and Drought Control Board to control food and drought and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.52½ hrs

**(xxvi) SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF BIHAR BILL,
2024***

[Translation]

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN (GOPALGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special economic assistance to the State of Bihar for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special economic assistance to the State of Bihar for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Sections of people and for the development, exploitation and proper utilization of its resources.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.53 hrs

(xxvii) SINGLE USE PLASTIC (REGULATION) BILL, 2024*

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for framework to enable the country to achieve its goal of eliminating single use plastic by the year 2025 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for framework to enable the country to achieve its goal of eliminating single use plastic by the year 2025 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.54 hrs

**(xxviii) VICTIMS OF FLOODS CAUSED DUE TO HEAVY RAINS, CYCLONES
AND OTHER REASONS (REHABILITATION AND WELFARE) BILL, 2024***

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of floods which may be caused due to heavy rains, cloudbursts, cyclones, breached bunds of dams, reservoirs and other reasons by making various provisions through a statutory board at national level which may also suggest measures to be taken by the Central and the State Governments to control floods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of floods which may be caused due to heavy rains, cloudbursts, cyclones, breached bunds of dams, reservoirs and other reasons by making various provisions through a statutory board at national level which may also suggest measures to be taken by the Central and the State Governments to control floods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.55 hrs

**(xxix) CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (RESERVATION IN
ADMISSION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2024***
(Amendment of Section 2 and 3)

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Benny Behanan.

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I am not a doctor. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Most are doctors here, so I thought you might be a Doctor too. But I do not know whether you are a doctor of allopath or homeopath.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.55½ hrs

(xxx) PROMOTION OF RATIONAL THOUGHT BILL, 2024*

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote rational thought critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making in society with a view to create an environment that foster the cultivation of reason and intellectual disclosure.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote rational thought critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making in society with a view to create an environment that foster the cultivation of reason and intellectual disclosure.”

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

26.07.2024

15.56 hrs

**(xxxix) AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT)
BILL, 2024***

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to recognize and address the needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders to promote early detection, intervention and treatment and to ensure the provision of appropriate support and services.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to move for leave to introduce a Bill to recognize and address the needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders to promote early detection, intervention and treatment and to ensure the provision of appropriate support and services.”

[English]

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part- II, Section-2, dated 26.07.2024.

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[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister Shri Rammohan Naidu - Not present.

Hon. Members, before I call Shri Shafi Parambil to speak on the Private Members' Resolution about appropriate measures for regulating airfares in the country, discussion has to be allotted by the House. If the House agrees, two hours may be allotted for discussion on the resolution.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, the time allotted is very short, please extend the same.

HON. SPEAKER: Let's allot two hours time then, later it will be extended.

Item No. – 50, Shri Shafi Parambil*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, the concerned Minister is absent. This is not fair. The Private Members' Business is also having same importance like the Government Business. None of the concerned Ministers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation are present in the House. This is not fair.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: He has authorised the Minister of Jal Shakti.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: No other Minister has also been entrusted with the responsibility. Nothing is there. The Speaker has no intimation or information.

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This is a grave mistake on the part of the Minister. The Private Members' Business is having equal importance like that of the Government Business.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, Shri N.K. Premachandran Saheb is a very learned Parliamentarian. The cabinet is collectively responsible for any subject. The Minister is incharge of that Department. Two cabinet ministers are present here. Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi Saheb and Shri C.R. Patil saheb are present here. It is a Private Members' Bill and I think discussion on the subject should be allowed. If we raise such an issue then the time allotted for discussion will get wasted. He is elected Member of Parliament for the first time and he has got an opportunity, so I think we should start discussion without creating any kind of confusion.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: No, we are not raising any objection. He will move the Resolution. Was intimation given to the hon. Speaker that the concerned Minister will not be present? This is the first Private Members' Resolution coming before the House and the concerned Minister is absent. The Cabinet Ministers present are not responding, and the response is coming from Mr. Nishikant Dubey. Let the Government say it. You are also equal to us. We are all private Members. Let the Government say. The Government is not speaking anything. The Government is silent on this matter. How can Nishikant Dubey ji speak? How can he respond to it?

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[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Hon. Speaker Sir, if the hon. Members desires that the concerned hon. Minister should be here; you can adjourn the House for half-an-hour and then reassemble the house. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI): Hon. Speaker Sir, Shri Nishikant Dubey has rightly said that, if one or even two ministers, represent in the house then they represent the cabinet. Three Ministers are present here and I think, it is not correct for the hon. Member to say that no one is present here on behalf of the Government. We are present, and we are listening.

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, this is here collective responsibility. Now, start the discussion. I have already informed.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It is not a question of friendship. It is a question of system.

Now, Shri Shafi Parambil move the Resolution.

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16.00 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Appropriate measures to regulate airfare in the country

[English]

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL (VADAKARA): Sir I beg to move:

“Having regard to the fact that:-

- (a) before the de-regulation of airfare in the year 1994, the air tariffs were fully regulated by the Government of India to keep airfares under check;
- (b) with the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, airlines are free to fix reasonable tariffs under the provisions of sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937;
- (c) although Rule 135(4) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 empowers the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to issue directions to an airline in case it has established excessive tariff Appropriate Measures to Regulate Airfare in the country under rule 135(1) or has indulged in oligopolistic practice; the said provision is rendered ineffectual on account of the arbitrary and unbridled powers given under Rule 135(1) of the Rules to the airlines to establish tariff;
- (d) ever since the adoption of the policy of deregulation, there has been a considerable increase in airfare depending on market dynamics and competitiveness;

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- (e) recent years have witnessed an exorbitant rise in both domestic and international airfare, especially during the holiday seasons affecting a large number of passengers including the expatriates living in the Gulf Countries;
- (f) most of the migrant workers in the Gulf region are un-skilled and semi-skilled workers with limited income, the unscrupulous increase in airfare during the vacation seasons always drags them into a huge debt trap;
- (g) in the case of the expatriates, most of the migrant workers get leave only during the vacation season and hence the emotional value of uniting with family is most important for them. Most of the time, they are forced to pay their one-year savings only for the round trip airfare charges and many expatriates complain about the huge loan they had to take in order to get tickets;
- (h) as the airlines operate at full capacity during the peak season and earn huge profit margins, the current policy of 'unregulated overpricing' is unethical, unfair and an injustice to the poor migrant workers living abroad;
- (i) although the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has created 'Tariff Monitoring Units', it only ensures that the fares charged by the airlines are within the prescribed tariffs of the airlines displayed on their websites;

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- (j) airline companies need to be deregulated in order to ensure competitiveness, growth and efficiency in the aviation sector, the Government cannot ignore the sentiments of the key stakeholders of the industry- the passengers; and
- (k) realizing the seriousness of the situation, the Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has already stated that the self-regulating mechanisms of the current airline monitoring regime are inadequate to address the financial burden of the passengers on the one hand and the tariff structure of the airline companies on the other, this House urges upon the Government to-
 - (i) initiate appropriate measures to regulate the airfare in such a way that there is a reasonable upper limit on the maximum fare that an airline can fix in a specific route;
 - (ii) convene a joint meeting with airline operators, representatives of the people and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue of excessive airfare during the vacation seasons urgently; and
 - (iii) establish a quasi-judicial body to regulate and monitor the air tariff ethically and equitably.”

During Question Hour yesterday, this House, though for a few minutes, discussed the exorbitant prices and exploitation faced by our expatriates. Our

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brothers and sisters, our parents and children, our husbands and wives, and friends and relatives, who work hard to make both ends meet, are being unfairly treated and burdened. The responses I received after presenting that question yesterday were innumerable, reflecting both the depth of concern and the extent of exploitation they are experiencing. I got so many messages, so many calls, and so many responses. They all know that we have discussed this before, but they were so keen to see that their issue was being discussed in this House. We often call them our backbone. We all are aware that this House has debated this issue numerous times in the past too. However, what stood out this time was our hon. Minister's response. It was not merely technical or routine, but conveyed a genuine intention to take meaningful action for the community that we rightfully call our backbone. I would like to thank the hon. Minister on behalf of the Indian diaspora across the globe for their response and for not being ignorant towards their hardship and their pleas.

I will just try to bring one example to the notice of this House. The fare to fly from Cochin to Dubai tomorrow, i.e., 27th July, in Air India-933 is Rs. 19,062. I am talking about tomorrow in Economy Class. It is Rs. 19,062. The sites show that only four seats are vacant which means it is almost full. This shows Rs. 19,000 is the fare. Surprisingly, in the same airline, for the same duration, for the same ports of departure and arrival, for 31st August, the same Air India-933 flight shows s fare of Rs. 77,573. Only nine seats are left. So, is this just about demand and supply?

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Tomorrow, only four seats are left, and they are flying it for Rs. 19,000 and on 31st August, they have got nine seats left, and they are charging Rs. 77,000. How can our people come home? How can they go back to their work? They are all not rich people who have abundant resources. Most of them are normal labourers who work for a flat salary. They get a very flat salary which may not provide them a ticket annually and which may not even provide them accommodation and food, but still they work hard so that they can ensure that their family is having their bread and butter, they can ensure that they can meet expenses for his or her parents' treatment, they can ensure that they could send their child to some school where they learn to become the future citizens of this country.

Sir, how can a normal employee abroad afford an amount of Rs. 77,000? If it is a family trip, think about four members of a family coming home on their vacation and trying to go back after the vacation and he is being charged Rs. 80,000 per ticket. Sir, paying an amount of Rs. 3,20,000 for one-way flight to their work, what will they earn in their life? What will be the balance in their life? They get a small amount from the salary after all their expenses. Will it be enough for buying a ticket?

Sir, we often call them our backbone. We boast about their remittance. They give billions of rupees to our economy. Sir, in our State, we get annually Rs. 1,10,000 crore a year through remittances, but what do we give them back, as we discussed yesterday? Sir, the hon. Minister is here. I thank him for his response

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yesterday. It gave us some hope. They know that this has been discussed also numerous times earlier.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: It is expected that the hon. Minister will take proper action in this regard. The hon. Minister will take action on the issues that you have raised.

Hon. Minister, Please call the airlines and take appropriate action on the issues raised by the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU):

Definitely, Sir.

HON. SPEAKER: Parliament bears the entire amount.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: Definitely, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Parliament bears the entire amount.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU: Sir, I apologise for being late. I was stuck with some other work.

SHRI SHAFI PARAMBIL: Sir, as the hon. Minister is here, I would like to mention yesterday's reply was not mechanical or typical. An intent was there. The diaspora

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outside India called, so many of them called, so many of them messaged, so many of them responded through social media. They all are eagerly and keenly awaiting some actions from the Government to happen because they feel that it is not market-driven, but at times, this is greed-driven by the airlines.

Sir, I just quote an example before your arrival. I would like to repeat it in small sentences. For 27th July 2024, I am talking about tomorrow, an airline from Cochin flying to Dubai, Air India Airline, AI-933 is charging Rs. 19,062 for tomorrow's economy class ticket from Cochin to Dubai. The same flight, the same duration, the same port of departure, the same port of arrival, for 31st August, the same carrier is charging Rs. 77,573. How can we call this just market-driven? I repeat, this is greed-driven. How can we call this profit-making? I repeat, this is extreme exploitation of the situation.

We all know that we call our expats backbones of this country for the remittance that they give us. All our agencies, all our laws, all our acts passed, all our monitoring bodies, all our rights, all our scopes to intervene, even the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Embassies, the Parliament, the Cabinet, courts, everything and everyone stay as silent spectators when our beloved expats are looted like this. This has to stop. It is high time that we put an end to this by showing our political and administrative will. I repeat, Rs. 19,000 to Rs. 77,000 in 30 days cannot be justified as market-driven.

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Sir, I mentioned before you came, how about four of them coming here? How about four of them going back after the vacation? How can they afford this? When Zainul Abid, a constituent of mine, went to the court regarding this thing, the court and the Government presented Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules. The arbitrary and unlimited powers given to the airlines to fix their tariff under Rule 135 (1) of the Aircraft Rules need to be redefined. It cannot go like this. We cannot allow them to loot our people like this. We cannot allow them to exploit our people like this.

It is very important to note one thing. According to the report of the Airports Council International, India has the highest airfares compared to other countries in the Asia-Pacific and the Middle-East Regions. The ACI studied airfares in around 36,000 routes in the Regions and came to the conclusion that the Indian aviation market has the highest increase with 41 per cent hike in the prices. Against 34 per cent in the UAE and against 30 per cent in Singapore, our industry is marking 41 per cent hike in airfare in the recent history. So, this is intentional. We all say that it is market-driven. They are forced to come back at the time of vacation because otherwise they will lose their classes, they will miss their exams; otherwise they would not even get leaves from their jobs. They know that this is the opportune time.

I heard that in an Air India flight or a flight of some other carriage, they flew back almost blank. There were very few travellers in that airline. But they were not ready to reduce the price at that point of time – they say it is market-driven –

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because they thought that that will be an example to set and they may have to reduce the fare further. Even when it is coming back without passengers, they keep on charging at these rates in the season. So, there we have to get involved. Everybody talks of Rule 135 (1) and it being market driven, but there are policies to fight against cartelisation and monopoly in this field also.

When everybody, all the airlines hike their prices together – not even a single airline left – they work like a cartel. Is it not so? We have enough laws to fight against cartelization. We have enough laws to protect our customers. As you said, the customer is the king. We have enough laws to protect our customers who are being looted by this cartel. I must say that they are acting like a cartel. They are proceeding like it is their monopoly. Why do we not step in, we check, we study, we learn and we act to curtail this loot or to curtail this exploitation? This is because all the airlines simultaneously increase their rates. They fix it too high. Check the flights for the same duration in other countries and how do they charge in their seasons and how are we being charged. It is a great discrimination that our people are facing.

There is a movie called '*Aadujeevitham*' or The Goat Life which is there in the OTT platforms and is successfully running in the theatres. It shows the story of a Malayali person Najeeb who had to spend years in an unknown area in deserts. He was forced to work as a shepherd. It is not a story. It is a real-life incident. Our beloved actor Prithviraj lived like Najeeb. I cannot say he acted like Najeeb; he

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lived like Najeeb. This is the story applicable to Najeebs who are not getting yearly tickets, annual tickets from their employers, who are not getting accommodation facilities from their employers, who could not even come back to their homes in one year or in two years or in three years or in four years. There are people who cannot come back to their homelands for decades. They are stuck there. We see people from abroad as people with all the facilities. They may wear a good shirt and pant and come back. But the story behind it is very sad. They live in the labour camps. We have seen that in person. They live in labour camps. These are like hostels, one above another with small rooms, in congested areas. There are also no facilities for them. They have six hours to sleep in labour camps and then they have to vacate the place. They also need to come back to see their families. Why do they face such hardships? It is because they want to ensure that their parents are safe, they can buy some medicines, and they can also send their children to schools. They cannot come here annually because of these high prices. And this is the time when they get leave. But they cannot come home. So, what do they do? They wait for a year or two. They wait for another two or three years. And after four years when they come, what have they been left with? All their savings are looted because of these high air fares. This issue has continuously been discussed in this House. Several Members have raised this issue before, and maybe, in future also, they will come back with this issue. But your yesterday's reply is giving us some hope. I repeat I see some intent to ensure that something is happening in this

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regard. Apart from our talks and apart from our discussions, they feel that something is happening. So, everybody will appreciate it. Not only Treasury Benches and Opposition Benches in this House, but everybody -- every single Indian and every single person who is out of this country for work and for earning daily bread for their family -- will appreciate it. Even a small step in this regard will be fruitful for them.

16.16 hrs

(Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

To my second question which I asked yesterday, you replied that you will be seriously thinking about appointing a body, maybe a *quasi-judicial* body or a much more powerful body, which can look into this matter and which can, in future, ensure that this is monitored by a law. If an enactment has to be there, and if some law has to be introduced, that must be introduced because they are our brothers and sisters who work not just for their families but for this country too.

Hon. Chairperson, I suggest immediate intervention and resolution by the Government to appoint such a body. I suggest the Government to intervene to embrace competition in this regard. Though they work as a cartel, it is learnt that so many bilateral agreements with foreign countries especially the Middle East are not being reviewed. In this regard, a greater number of routes, flights and trips may help us to fight this monopoly to an extent. Even think about subsidies and financial assistance to poor people who cannot come to their homes to see their parents or

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children for two or three or four years at a stretch. As we are getting a huge amount from them as remittances, it is time that we could give something back to them.

Hon. Chairperson, our enhanced Consumer Protection Act must be a reply for all these actions and looting by the airlines. We have to enhance our consumer protection. Though all other sectors are market-driven where we all have something to stop from being completely looted, there are no other options here. Yesterday, you have told in the House that now airlines are the new railways. We all want it to flourish more. We all want more connectivity in this sector. So, when airlines are the new railways, it is sure that we do not allow our best operators, we do not allow our train tickets, and we do not allow any other mode of transport to be exorbitant like this while charging the people. When there is no other option to come back to home and go back to work and when our people are being looted on that front, how about Consumer Protection Act being more enhanced on that front?

Hon. Chairperson, how about doing collaboration with host countries. We know a number of Indians who are working abroad. Millions and millions of people are working abroad. We know the great respect that host countries show to our community for helping in developing their countries. We have our roles. You can see Indians in every sector in all countries around us. So, how are we initiating a collaboration with the host nations to explain them this is their labour force and our brothers and sisters who face this situation during this period.

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Madam, how about more Government schemes to support them and how about promoting more parallel ways of transport to Dubai and to other places?

Madam, I have read news about even ships being used as a parallel transport mechanism. They may have to travel three days. But this exploitation is at the time of season. If someone wants to do that, how about giving it a try? I have some news that it has happened earlier also. Sir, these actions are a necessity for our citizens who live abroad. While moving this Resolution, I strongly believe that this is not just an exercise of tongue but this will initiate some kind of action from the Government.

Madam, the Indian diaspora throughout the globe is keenly awaiting an action from you. I remember your first response when you took over the Ministry. When you took over the Ministry, you were facing the media and answering them. Then, you said that you want airfares to be affordable for the people of India to travel inside and outside. Believing that as a motto, believing that as a principle, believing that as a promise and pledge, I urge the Government to intervene immediately. I urge the Government to form a body which can look into this, which can talk to our people abroad, which can talk to their relatives back home, which can know the social consequences and also which can know the economic consequences. Yesterday, I mentioned that I have got two calls just after becoming MP. I got two calls in 30 days. People from abroad call me and say, Sir, if you can, please go and visit my home. I asked them, why. They said, "My father passed

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away”, “My mother passed away”. I asked him: “Are you not coming”? He says, “If I come now, I cannot go back. I cannot afford the ticket”. If he cannot see his mother or father for the one last time because of their airfare prices, we cannot skip this by saying this is market-driven. This is the largest democratic nation in the world. This is a strong nation. We cannot allow our citizens being looted by any airline company for that matter.

Some capping must be there. At the peak of the season, some capping must be there. At least some capping must be there. So, I hope you would initiate action. You could float a Committee as early as possible to look into this and we can address our people abroad who are keenly waiting for your reply and for your actions regarding this.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I once again with folded hands request our Minister and the Government and everybody sitting here to involve in this matter and to raise the voice for our people abroad.

Thank you.

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[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The resolution was presented:-

“In view of the fact that:-

- (a) before the de-regulation of airfare in the year 1994, the air tariffs were fully regulated by the Government of India to keep airfares under check;
- (b) with the repeal of the Air Corporations Act in March 1994, airlines are free to fix reasonable tariffs under the provisions of sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937;
- (c) although Rule 135(4) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 empowers the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to issue directions to an airline in case it has established excessive tariff under rule 135(1) or has indulged in oligopolistic practice; the said provision is rendered ineffectual on account of the arbitrary and unbridled powers given under Rule 135(1) of the Rules to the airlines to establish tariff;
- (d) ever since the adoption of the policy of deregulation, there has been a considerable increase in airfare depending on market dynamics and competitiveness;
- (e) recent years have witnessed an exorbitant rise in both domestic and international airfare, especially during the holiday seasons affecting a large number of passengers including the expatriates living in the Gulf Countries;

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- (f) most of the migrant workers in the Gulf region are un-skilled and semi-skilled workers with limited income, the unscrupulous increase in airfare during the vacation seasons always drags them into a huge debt trap;
- (g) in the case of the migrants, most of the workers get leave only during the vacation season and hence the emotional value of uniting with family is most important for them. Most of the time, they are forced to pay their one-year savings only for the round trip airfare and many migrants complain about the huge loan they had to take in order to get tickets;
- (h) as the airlines operate at full capacity during the peak season and earn huge profit margins, the current policy of „unregulated overpricing“ is unethical, unfair and an injustice to the poor migrant workers living abroad;
- (i) although the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has created 'Tariff Monitoring Units', it only ensures that the fares charged by the airlines are within the prescribed tariffs of the airlines displayed on their websites;
- (j) airline companies need to be deregulated in order to ensure competitiveness, growth and efficiency in the aviation sector, the Government cannot ignore the sentiments of the key stakeholders of the industry- the passengers; and

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realizing the seriousness of the situation, the Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has already stated that the self-regulating mechanisms of the current airline monitoring regime are inadequate to address the financial burden of the passengers on the one hand and the tariff structure of the airline companies on the other,

this House urges upon the Government to-

- (i) initiate appropriate measures to regulate the airfare in such a way that there is a reasonable upper limit on the maximum fare that an airline can fix on a specific route;
- (ii) convene a joint meeting with airline operators, representatives of the people and all other relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue of excessive airfare during the vacation seasons urgently; and
- (iii) establish a quasi-judicial body to regulate and monitor the air tariff ethically and equitably.”

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[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): Thank you Madam for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

This regulation for air-fare, which was brought by Hon. Shri Shafi Parambil, about this Hon. Minister has also replied in the House yesterday. In connection with this, I need to tell about the history. When the Hon. Prime Minister took oath for the first time in the year 2014, there were 74 airports. Today there are 157 airports under able leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister of our country. This number is also increasing.

I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for the same. I thank him because he has given an opportunity to the common man, and the common poor citizen, to travel in aircraft. One can sit at the smallest airport and biggest airport and fly in a plane to his relatives, from one place to another for work as well as, business. It was his thinking, he has worked to connect the hearts of the people along with connecting people through the 'Udaan' scheme. Every person is important for us and by connecting the hearts the sentiments for the country not just at one place, but in a big country like ones, he has done a lot. It is very important for our country and today because of him we are moving forward in this area. Through Viability Gap Funding of Rs 2,500 for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, Hon. Prime Hon. Minister has tried to promote airline companies to go to small places through

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bids. Today I must say that about 40 percent of the main cost of the airline industry involves airline turbine fuel. Today I must say that before Covid, I am giving an example of Delhi, earlier it was 53,515 KL and at the time of Covid it increased to 1,31,354 KL almost 145 per cent was the hike. In view of this, I urge the Hon. Minister that the rates of ATF, which will be determined by the GST Council through the Ministry of Finance, and for these rates of ATF I seek the cooperation of all the Hon. MPs, for the people of their respective states to talk to their respective Hon. Chief Ministers so that these rates are reduced. This will reduce the airfare in all the areas. Today I need to tell you that our airfare regulation was from the Air Corporation Act 1953, but on March 21, 1994, this Act has been repealed and after the repeal, the domestic aviation has been deregulated. Deregulating means that each airline company can fix its own rates. I need to tell you how airlines fix their rates. People say what are the components of rates? It must be explained that It has a common user terminal equipment fee, user development fee, aviation security fee, passenger service fee, GST and passenger service as well as fuel charge. If you want to fly from Delhi international airport, then your fee will be around 52 rupees 56 paisa.

Hon. Chairperson Madam, Hyderabad from where the Hon. Minister comes from, there the international rate is Rs. 700. This is the level playing field, it has been added to the user charges. The concessionaires to whom we have given airports, those private operators should be called and discussion should be held.

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During of Covid period first airline IndiGo was in profit. Air India and Indian Airlines were merged. Current passengers should get a fair deal.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister to designate an institution for the Embassy to help passengers on time, in case they come across any problem. Reservation booking designators have been made from the airline pricing system. Hon. Shafi ji was telling that the air fares have been fixed on market demand and seasonal factors, and he has requested that it should be governed by DGCA. The regulation of the DGCA is contained in Rule 135 of the Aircraft Act. Through this TMU, the tariff mechanism, the DGCA has fixed about 50 routes but the DGCA does not have enough power to regulate it. A committee has also presented a report that those who come out of the industry, you should engage them with it and do the monitoring work. When it comes to passenger, as per traffic and operational viability, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority was established in 2008. Its work was to look after landing, parking, housing and user development fees. If it is amended, improved, then people will not face problems in future. As per the Ministry of Civil Aviation and airline companies, there is a point about reasonable profit. There is no agreement for this reasonable profit. It is different in Air India and IndiGo. There is a need to provide information about it. As per it, Air India works on the basis of cost recovery method. Indigo Company works on reasonable profit. When we talk about reasonable profit in Air India, it is highly elastic, competitive

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and it is fair market-driven. When you look at Indigo's reasonable profit, it is demand-driven, seat-driven and estimates are cost recovery based.

A few days ago DGCA said about the 'unbundling of services'. In the services of scheduled airlines, if a passenger has zero baggage, does not have any baggage, does not have preferential seating and does not want to eat anything onboard as there is an option of 'opt-in' and 'opt-out' is provided, he should be provided some relief from this 'unbundling of services'. Kids should also be given some relief from this 'unbundling of services'. The seats on the airplane are like dishes. They are like dishes because they are perishable. If you do not use them, they will perish. The airlines that we have at present are trying to sell them like perishable commodities. They take into account their capital investment, working capital, revenue expenditure and operating expenditure. If we make the fixed cost a little cheaper, then ticket pricing will also become a little cheaper.

We should keep these airlines also and make efforts to let them grow. But, if we do not give them reasonable profits on their investment, we may face problems in future. They need to be given profit because it is a level-playing field. The airline industry is a price-driven industry. If it does not get good service, then this industry will decline. It requires a lot of capital investment. In this, we need to discuss about working capital. We need to look at revenue expenditure and fixed costs in this.

Sir, talking about flight-booking portals, hon. Member Shri Maran of DMK Party from Chennai, had said that changes took place in Vistara's portal when he

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was taking a flight. For that, we have to look at our aggregators. Guidelines should be issued through DGCA that reasonable fares should be available for the passengers.

Sir, our reservation booking designators have to work well. As Shafi ji was telling, airlines that come from abroad, such as Air India Express, in these flights all passengers travel in economy class. In this regard, we have to ensure that seats in the economy class are sold in good number and we have to see that how many seats should be sold on low price so that concerned airlines get the fuel cost, fixed cost and revenue properly and along with that we should give some reasonable profit to the airlines companies, so that our commercial operation in that area continues.

Madam, I have just told you about Impact and User Fee. User fees in domestic flights vary from place to place. I have also told you about 'AERA'.

[English]

Passenger Service Fee, Air Navigation Fee, Landing Fee, Parking Fee, Housing Charge, UDF, Fuel Infrastructure Fee, Airport Electric Ground Power Fee, Common Use Terminal Equipment Fee, Common Use Service Fee, Baggage Reclamation Fee, *[Translation]* These are the fees that we need to see how we can implement them.

We have told you earlier that we have airplanes in these areas. Many airline companies have also grounded the airplanes due to malfunctions in the spare parts

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of Pratt & Whitney engines in our airplanes. The MRO and maintenance of these airplanes are not done here. When maintenance is not done here, equipment are not imported, when airplanes do not fly, we also face problems due to shortage of airplanes. If IMs, equipment manufacturers in the country also participate in this sector, our industry will improve.

I would also like to say that the low cost service in this sector is completely market driven. In some areas the charges are different, particularly in four airports, different in low cost. We have to make tickets affordable. Standard revenue management and forecasting have to be made according to the convenience of the people and not perishable. By doing so, we will be able to connect all the people to this sector. It is not an easy task. It will require the contribution of all the people. AERA is our main regulatory agency. Apart from taking it forward, we want AERA to fix the tariff, the airport fee and include all the stakeholders.

Madam, I come from Rajasthan and Rajasthan also has 32-33 airports. We want that airport facility should be provided in hon. Speaker's area and also in my area Jhalawar-Baran. Hon. Prime Minister has encouraged that MROs should be set up at small places in our area. Setting up of MROs will enable the repairs and maintenance of airplanes. With the facility of maintenance, our people will also be able to get jobs there. This will provide work to everyone. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman have also expressed their views about it in context of Skill India. All I have to say is that there was a time when

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people in our area used to think as to when they would be able to travel by an airplane. There was a time when we did not have phones. Shri Vajpayee Ji has done the work of giving mobile phones to everyone. He brought telecom reforms. Hon. Modi Ji has worked to connect directly to people. Be it East or West, Kashmir or South India, Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji has done the work of connecting our entire region. Hon. Modi ji has also made efforts to enable the last person to travel by air. There was a time that policies were made for big people. *[English]* As facilitators, *[Translation]* now we have done the work of making the policy. *[English]* We are facilitators to the people of India. We want to help them. We want the industry to grow for the common man of India, *[Translation]* Shri Jagdambika Pal has said so.

I wish that our new Railway as Shafi ji was telling that our New Railway is our airplane. For us, the work of connecting people with hearts through means of transport is also done. There are also small islands in our country.

Hon. Prime Minister has talked about more than 25 water air drones in our country. He has also worked to connect temples along with people. Today a magnificent temple of Rama has been built in Ayodhya.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam, I am concluding. Work has been done very well in our area. This is the tip of the iceberg.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is over.

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SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam, I am going to conclude in one minute. Now a resolution is about to be moved. Our Hon. Prime Minister will move the resolution. We will make efforts with the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister. Since an issue has been raised by Shri Shafi ji, we will make effort to regulate prices with the industries. We do not want the industry to be collapsed. We want industries to run and people avail the facilities of the industry. Along with people, we should also take the industry forward. We have to take all the people together. We should make efforts to take all the communities together.

Madam, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister. I would also like to thank Shafi Ji that he has moved a good resolution. I would also like to request the hon. Minister that the better work should be in the sector. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat .

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

First of all, I take this opportunity to congratulate the first-time Member of Parliament, Shri Shafi Parambil, from my State for moving this Private Member's Resolution. He has narrated the situation in the best way, for which I extend my hearty congratulations to Mr. Shafi Parambil.

Madam Chairperson, this is one of the very important and sensitive issue so far as the State of Kerala is concerned. That is why, he was so emotional in

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presenting the issue before this House. Three million people are working in the Middle East countries, in the Gulf countries. If we examine the social status or the economic background of these people, 90-95 per cent of them belong to the lower strata or the middle strata. How is a person or passenger belonging to such a family going abroad and living in the Gulf countries, leaving behind their families and everything else? It is just for their bread and butter. They are working hard there. How are they able to meet this airfare which is coming to even one lakh rupees for the economy class? They have to bear this expense. That is why, he has suggested, and I fully agree with the Private Member's Resolution, that it is not a demand-driven project, but it is absolutely a daylight looting of the passengers of our country by almost all the airlines.

Madam, I still remember that I had a debate with Shri Arun Jaitley ji at the time of privatisation of Air India. The globalised economic philosophy today is: success through competition and survival of the fittest. At that time, he was arguing with me by saying that when the competition increases in the civil aviation sector, definitely, the beneficiary will be the passengers. Now, the entire airline sector has been privatised. The hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is also present here. Air India is also privatised. I would like to ask a specific question to the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has conducted any study on the impact of privatisation of Air India and what improvement is there in the service of Air India after privatisation. I request him to get this examined. If the Government does a microscopic scrutiny of Air India

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after the privatisation, they will find that there is no improvement in the efficiency of service. On account of improvement in efficiency, nothing is there. We are also travelling regularly. Last week also, I travelled as a regular traveller in Air India and I felt it very much. This is the situation prevailing. That is why, something has to be done to control these airlines in our country.

That is why, we are saying about the air fares. The people, who are living, especially in the Gulf countries, are finding it very difficult. Suppose, their immediate brother or father or anyone else dies, they are not able to come and attend the funeral ceremony and perform the last rites of their most beloved wife or father or mother. This is the situation prevailing. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to take it seriously. Not only in the foreign sector but also specifically in the Gulf sector you should have a critical examination. During holidays when schools and colleges are closed or during festivals like Onam, Christmas, and Eid, they are exorbitantly increasing the rates without any reasonable cause. They are increasing the rates only on the reason that this is demand-driven or the market forces are determining the price of the airfares. Is it the best result of privatisation? That is why, at the time of privatisation, we, the Opposition Members, were strongly and vehemently opposing the privatisation of the airline sector in the country. Now, that has come true. Just now, Shri Shafi has narrated how the prices went up from Rs. 77,000 to more than Rs. 1 lakh. How could it be justified? So, an urgent action and intervention is required from the hon. Minister.

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Madam Chairperson, before 1994, the Government of India was having absolute control over all the airlines, and fixation of airfares was also being done by the Government of India. At that time, strict guidelines were there, norms were there in fixing the airfares. Now, after the repeal of the Air Corporations Act of 1994, that is, after the liberalisation, globalisation, and privatisation, the airlines are free to fix reasonable tariff under the provisions of sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. This provision has to be reviewed and relooked. The sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 has to be reviewed. Rule 135(4) of the Aircraft Rules empowers the Director-General, Civil Aviation to issue direction to the airlines in case it has imposed excessive tariff under Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules.

I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. During the period subsequent to the formulation of these rules, how many times the DG, Civil Aviation, has intervened and what relief has been provided or what penalties have been imposed for excessive tariff imposed by these airline companies? We would like to have statistics on it because according to my information nothing is being done. Now, the airline sector is absolutely dominated by the private airlines. According to their whims and fancies, they are imposing exorbitant charges, which is unaffordable to the poor people of the country, in particular, those ordinary poor people who are living in the Gulf countries.

Madam, subsequent to the deregulation, there have been a huge increase in the airfares depending on the market conditions which have already been narrated.

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I have rightly mentioned about the migrant skilled and semi-skilled workers in the Gulf countries. What is their salary? It is well-known to everybody.

They are not able to afford these prices. In 2023, the domestic air traffic has grown by 23 per cent. We are having a record 153 million passengers now. By 2030, it will increase by 300 million. My question is this. Whenever the demand and the number of passengers increase, definitely, the price has to come down. We are having 156 million passengers and it is a very good growth as far as air traffic is concerned. By 2030, it will be increased to 300 million. This is the statistics and the Report also shows it. Then why are the airfares not coming down? That has to be explained. That is another point which I would like to make.

Madam, I would like to refer to Report No. 353 of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. It is very specific. They have given so many recommendations. None of these recommendations have been implemented so far. I would like to go through some of the very important recommendations. Firstly, it states that:

“The Committee reiterates its view that passengers should receive a fair deal at all times and recommends that the Ministry should have a relook in its policy regarding regulation of airfare tariff in view of the sudden surge in airfares in normal times as also during disasters and calamities and take appropriate actions in consonance with the powers delegated to it under Rule 135 of the Aircraft Act, 1937”.

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Has any action been taken by the DGCA by invoking the power under Rule 135? Their power is absolutely there in the provision, but nothing is being done. This is the experience, which goes to show it. Otherwise, let the Minister explain and convince the House that it is being done in a proper way.

What is the term 'reasonable profit'? This is the word which is being misused and misquoted by these airline companies. What is 'reasonable profit'? Who is determining 'reasonable profit'?

The Committee further says: "The Committee is of the opinion that the term 'reasonable profit' should be clearly defined in the Rules, taking into account various financial and operational factors, as it is the most significant aspect for controlling the surge in the airfares, which affects the common man". What else is required?

This is the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Transport, and specific recommendation has been given to the Government that the term 'reasonable profit' is being misused by the airlines in the country. This has to be reviewed, relooked, and it should be affordable to the common man. This is the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Transport. What action did the Government take on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee?

There are so many recommendations and I am not going through all of them. Further, the Committee recommends that the Ministry, in consultation with the

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airlines, should devise a mechanism or a formula so that the concept of 'reasonable profit' as provided explicitly in Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 is adhered to. It has already been explained. Hence, I am not going into the details of it.

Further, the Committee also recommends setting up of a grievance redressal mechanism to deal with such complaints. A specific demand in Mr. Shafi Parambil's Private Members' Resolution is to have a separate quasi-judicial mechanism so as to look into the airfares to see whether they are excessive, reasonable, just or genuine. This has to be looked into and for that a quasi-judicial mechanism has to be provided. Though the word 'quasi-judicial' is not being used by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, yet they have recommended setting up of a grievance redressal mechanism to deal with such complaints. The Committee also recommends that the Ministry may ensure the proper implementation of the existing Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which is the national law in India for fixing of reasonable airfares by the airlines for the benefit of the passengers. The Committee further states that the Ministry may devise suitable monitoring mechanism to keep a check on the sudden surge in prices during the festive season or holidays or natural calamities, as it has a negative impact on tourism.

One of the major incomes of my State of Kerala is tourism. It is well-known to all. It is being described as 'God's own country'. During the tourism season, vacation season and also during the festive seasons, exorbitant rates are being imposed on the passengers, and the Committee is very specific that a suitable

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monitoring mechanism has to be put in place so as to check the sudden surge in prices. ... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, I am concluding in a couple of minutes. The Committee further mentions that the AERA, in consultation with the various stakeholders, may look into the feasibility of reducing the various components of airfares, which may result in decrease in airfares.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that not only in the airlines, but also the Government has to do a lot of things on the other issues. I am saying this for the tax on air fuel and so many other issues also. Just now Mr. Dushyant was mentioning about some of these other components, which are being enhanced. So, definitely the Government has to come forward on how to address the issue; how to minimise or address the issue of the highest airfare in the country; and regulate all these things.

17.00 hrs

It has already been mentioned here that the Airports Council International conducted a study of 36,000 routes in the top 10 aviation markets in Asia-Pacific and in the Middle-East. It found that India saw the highest airfare increase of 41 per cent, followed by UAE which is 34 per cent, Singapore which is 30 per cent and Australia which is 23 per cent. International airfares in particular have seen a 50 per cent increase in the September-December quarter of 2022 compared to the

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same quarter in pre-Pandemic period in 2019. This is the situation prevailing in the country.

Madam, if you travel by IndiGo and such low-cost airlines, you would not even get drinking water which is the basic human right to get drinking water and a similar situation is also there for the seating arrangement. There is a Committee report regarding special fee for the seats. If you want to sit in the front row, you have to pay Rs. 1,500. We, the Members of Parliament, are suffering because we have to pay Rs. 1,500 from our pocket. The Lok Sabha Secretariat does not pay for this.

Yesterday, the Hon. Minister gave a very good reply. We all congratulate him. Now, Indian civil aviation has become the railways of India. Railways is improving in so many aspects now, whether it is railway stations or trains like Vande Bharat. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to pay a special attention to this airfare issue and to bring some legislative amendment. We will fully support the Government. The Government should have some definite and specific role to control the airfare.

I would like to suggest that the Government should examine this special case of the Middle-East countries from where the poor people are travelling every day for jobs and bread and butter.

Once again, I fully support the Private Member's Resolution brought by Shri Shafi Parambil. It is the first Private Member's Resolution of the 18th Lok Sabha. I

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would request all the hon. Members and the Government to pass this Resolution since this Bill has the unanimous support from all the hon. Members of this House.

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to speak in support of the first resolution introduced by the new member Shri Shafi Parambil. Fortunately, the newly appointed Cabinet Minister Shri Rammohan Naidu and his predecessor Shri Scindia Ji are also present here. I would like to thank them for the hard work put in day in and day out firstly by Shri Scindia Ji and subsequently by Shri Rammohan Naidu Ji in furthering the policy and intention of hon. Prime Minister.

A lot is spoken here as to what is supposed to be discussed or not discussed here. The party to which Shafi Sahab and N.K. Premachandran Ji belong should understand and tell the country how such a situation arose. Today we are discussing in Parliament and asking the hon. Minister to change the law. Have you ever thought why the Act of 1937 which was enacted in 1957 during Shri Jawaharlal Nehru Government completely changed in 1994 by the Congress?

Who abolished the Act in respect of which Shri Premchandran Saheb is asking the hon. Minister to amend the same? Today, Air India has been sold, Indian Airlines has been sold but why these airlines were sold? These were sold because it is the responsibility of the Government of India to operate airlines in rich areas as

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well as poor areas. Air India and Indian Airlines used to operate on the routes where there were no passengers, such as Agartala, North East, Guwahati, Patna and and to small place like Gaya. The airfare was economical. Its fare was regulated by the Government of India. It gradually landed in financial crunch due to no earnings. The problem aggravated with the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India. Today, telephone tariff is regulated. We are able to talk on the phone in 40 paise, because despite all the odds, BSNL and MTNL have not been sold by the Government of India. It has set an example that even if Airtel, Vodafone, Reliance or any other telephone tariff becomes expensive, the Government is still committed to provide low cost mobile and tariff to the 140 crore people of the country. However when Indian Airlines and Air India were in profit, your GOM and Chidambaram Saheb created such a situation that Air India suffered losses of Rs.30,000 crores or Rs.40,000 crores or Rs.50,000 crores every year forcing the Government to sell the airlines. Once sold, what option will be left with the Government of India to regulate it? Please come out of the year 1994. In the year 1994, privatization was promoted. East-West Airlines, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines all came into play. Air India and Indian Airlines were made profitable during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Despite that, Indira Ji led Government in 1973 brought a provision 135-B under Aircraft Act 1957 which nevertheless empowered the DGCA. We respect Nehru Ji and Indira Ji. I am reminding as we tend to forget. After the fall of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government, the provision 135-B of the Act was also

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abolished in September 2004. If you say that you de-regulated because private airlines had to be adjusted, then similar was the case with us. We were also in power for six years. We never felt it. But, what have you done? The day you abolished the 135-B Act, there was nothing left in the hands of the Government of India. As we discuss it Today, it is a matter for the nation to understand that due to the policies and the legacy problem of the Congress, 140 crore people are suffering. I am saying this because when I was elected as an MP in 2009, the maximum Members of Parliament were making demands that a train or a passenger train should be introduced and stoppage should be provided in their constituencies. It continued from 2009 to 2014. But, in the year 2014, when Hon. Modi Ji became Prime Minister, he said that he will make the air travel affordable even for a person who wears slippers. Scindia Saheb has carried forward his vision. Today the number of airports have gone up from 70 to 157. Since I am also a part of that scheme. Scindia Ji visited Deoghar and Santhal Pargana where stoppage of train was not provided. Today there is an airport with flight connecting to Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata, Ranchi, Patna and many other places. All this happened in about one and half to two years. I can see the hon. Members discussing about the airports and the flight operations in their constituencies. This is the greatest difference made by the hon. Prime Minister. We have moved from discussing railways to discussing aeroplanes here and this is indeed the country's development.

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Madam Chairperson, through you, I would like to bring three points to the notice of the hon. Minister. The Airlines always try to find opportunities in crisis situation. The report Mr. Premchandran Ji, is talking about, and the matter we are discussing is not based on that. The air fare started increasing during COVID time. Since there was no mechanism with Government of India to control it, the airlines converted the disaster into opportunity. Mr. Dushyant Singh was a permanent member in that committee for 20 years. Probably the committee has changed now. It seems from their conversation.

Let me tell you that all the airlines and the Indian Government approached that committee. The resolution of Mr. Parambil and the statement of Mr Premchandran Saheb in his support is only one aspect of this. There are three different aspects thereunder. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that it needs to be handled in three different ways.

The first thing you have to do is to clarify what laws are applicable to the international airlines which have been permitted by the Government of India under the bilateral agreements. There are laws for domestic airlines like Air India, Indigo and Vistara; how DGCA exercises control over the foreign airlines; how do you bring them under the ambit of law. Please clarify this.

Secondly, there are legacy problem too. How these all will be solved? How do we amend the bilateral agreements concluded by the previous Governments before 2014? Because the Government is a continuous process. There are laws

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for the domestic travelers who travel within the country. In the year 2014, the previous Governments allocated many slots to domestic airlines. What will happen in case the airlines go bankrupt?

Third, as I said, apart from railways, waterways and transport, cargo transportation has now become a major mode of transportation. Suppose someone wants to deliver flowers, vegetables or other things to someone, at a cheaper rate. How will he do that? If we divide it into three segments then, I think we will probably be able to address the above issue. How to deal with international travelers, domestic travelers and then what to do with cargo must be clarified because this is what going to grow the economy of this country.

Let me tell you that there is a frequent discussion on Rule 135, through which we monitor the price mechanism that it should not be beyond the approved limit. There is a principle of dynamic fare all over the world including UK and US. There is lacuna in this. Let me talk about the AERA Act 2008. They have enacted it. They curtailed the powers of the Government.

There is mention of major airports in 'AERA'. Dushyant Singh Ji has talked about ATF which is the major component responsible for rise in air fare or its charge. Since ATF does not fall under GST, The State Governments charge ATF at different rates. The biggest problem is that the states impose different ATF. It may be different in Mumbai and Karnataka and other states.

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Apart from ATF, there is AERA which defines landing charges, parking charges etc for the major airports. Apart from landing and parking charges, AERA also determines tariff for the aeronautical services including, the fare for travelling from one place to another.

Thiruvananthapuram or Bengaluru or the airports in big cities are considered Major Airports and flights operate from these cities to Delhi or Mumbai; the tariff would be decided by AERA in these cases. But when it comes to small place like Deoghar Airport or Jharsuguda or Jwal Oram Saheb's constituency or Hon. Minister's constituency Gwalior or Vijayawada, who is going to decide the tariff? AERA is a regulatory body. That is what I am saying. I was coming to your point that a mechanism is decided by the regulatory body The Government has nothing to do in these matters. There is a mechanism decided by the Airport Authority of India or by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. When you interfere in each other's matter, who will resolve the issue? *[English]* Who will be the authority? *[Translation]* Let me tell you that it is not only about enabling 135 or strengthening DGCA, its about the amendments to be made in the AERA Act for strengthening AERA? Unless the Minister takes a call, there won't be any solution to this problem. We will continue to discuss these issues for the welfare of 140 crore people but then how the tariff will come down?

Hon. Madam Chairperson, the statement of the airline company before the Committee is very important and needs deliberations. The company said that they

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fix the price mechanism on competitive rates. Only Indigo Airlines operates in my constituency. It has no competitors. Shafi Ji was saying about cartelization. I agree with it completely. I am not denying it, but where only one airline is operating, what is the price mechanism there? If I travel to Patna, the fare is about five thousand rupees but the fare to my place from Delhi is not less than 15 to 20 thousand rupees. They travel to poor places. Third is a very good policy, which has greatly benefited the common citizen of the entire country. There are airports in small cities akin to the hospitals for healthcare under Ayushman Bharat. The airline companies have benefited from the UDAN scheme. Let me cite the example of Darbhanga airport. During the COVID pandemic, Darbhanga Airport was in news because maximum passengers were traveling to and from this place. The airline companies acquired places and detain slot under UDAN scheme. The day funds under the scheme exhaust or the scheme gets completed; the airline companies discontinue flight operations. The people who have formulated this kind of mechanism say that they are promoting to strengthen this sector. Who is deciding on the bidding process in this sector? Who are the stakeholders involved in the process? I would like to quote the name of a major airline company Spicejet. Their intention is to take Government money in the name of UDAN scheme and then discontinue the flight operations. (Interruptions). I will conclude my speech in few minutes after giving one or two concrete suggestions.

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Madam, as I mentioned Air India and Indian Airlines used to operate flights to small places; due to which the poor people were benefited, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the big companies like Air India, Vistara do not operate their flights in small towns? Who will take a call on this? Why do they try to operate in profitable market? Why do everyone need to operate between Delhi and Mumbai or to Bengaluru? In this regard I would like to say that we deregulated the telecom companies and it was done by former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. I would like to thank him for this. Mobile phone was launched during the tenure of Narasimha Rao Government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji introduced a great mechanism and became the Prime Minister after two to three years.

It is called the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USFO), which is under the Ministry headed by Mr. Scindia under which there is a provision of penalty for not serving the neglected area, aspirational district, LW area and backward area. BSNL, MTNL, Airtel, Vodafone and Reliance are a part of USFO. The Government should develop that sort of mechanism. There are 157 airports. Some of them are making huge profit, but certain airports have to operate flights as a part of social obligation. The Government has the right to provide them certification and slots. They operationalize as per the regulations of the Government because none of the airports have yet been privatized. The Government of India has its stakes in all the airports. So the Government can ask them to serve the aspirational district along

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with those airports that are in profit. Only this will lead to competition among them, otherwise, single airline will keep operating from the same airport.

Lastly, I suggest to constitute a separate committee comprising of members from DGCA, AERA and concerned Ministry meeting of which should be held every month. Final air fare in all sectors needs to be calculated each month. Whether seats are being booked on the basis of dynamic pricing based on that air fare or are lying vacant. I have witnessed that to increase the fare under dynamic principle, seats are claimed to be full, but most of the times 20-25 seats remain vacant. How many seats were booked? What is the criteria for fixing the dynamic pricing? If you set up a committee to look into this matter and inform the Parliament from time to time, in every three to four months, then we will be able to do justice to 140 crore population of this country. With the objective of 'Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik' i.e. common man wearing 'hawai chappals' (slippers) should also fly in an aircraft, the number of airports are going to increase from 157 to 500. This is a huge market. Air India and IndiGo have placed large orders for aircrafts. The whole world will witness India's growth in the aviation sector. The Government will introduce policies to start sea-plane service. We will ensure the success of these policies. Thank you for providing me ample time. I conclude with these words.

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SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR): Hon. Chairperson, I express my gratitude towards you for granting me the opportunity to speak on this matter. Mr. Shafi Parambil has introduced an appropriate Bill.

Madam, this issue pertaining to the airlines is a nation-wide issue. Nowadays everyone has less time and everyone wants to travel by air. Usually, a family of two to four members travel together and normal air fare for example from Delhi to Chandigarh is as high as 15 to 18 thousand rupees for economy class. At times same airline has charged Rs. 18 thousand for the economy class ticket and Rs. 22 thousand for the business class ticket. General public has to face such difficulties.

Madam, Chandigarh is just 225 kilometers far from here and the airlines are exorbitantly charging 7 thousand, 8 thousand, 10 thousand, 15 thousand rupees. It is only a 30-minute flight. But, I do not know under what mechanism that the boarding pass reflects the flight timings of one hour, while it should be 30-35 minute flight. It is regulated by the DGCA. It has the authority. As per the report of the Standing Committee on Transport that has been presented on 10 August, 2023, there was a mention of Section 135(1) with regard to the grant of authority but despite that there seems no change.

The airline companies have increased the air fare by three to four times all over the world since the Covid-19. Post Covid no airlines has reduced the fare. In case of an emergency, such as floods or farmers' agitation, the airlines had charged 70 thousand rupees for Chandigarh. Amritsar being a tourist city attracts a lot of

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tourists. On an average, about one to one and a half lakh people visit Chandigarh in a day, but with the exorbitant increase in fare, people are left with no option.

As far as international flights are concerned you will not believe that the fare from Amritsar to Singapore including hotel is 20 thousand rupees. Airlines in Singapore or Malaysia are charging reasonable fare. International airlines are charging reasonable fare but domestic airlines are not. Many people from Punjab have migrated to UAE and the Gulf in search of labour. There is SpiceJet, Indigo and Air India Express flight to Dubai and Sharjah from Amritsar. Air India Express is the most expensive. One-way ticket of Air India Express is 28 thousand. If you book the same ticket from Delhi, you will be charged 16-17 thousand rupees. The distance from there is less than 400 kilometers but the ticket is 25 to 35 percent more expensive.

In case of any difficulty or in case of death of any labour, then people unable to travel, because their income is very low and the fare is exorbitantly high. The Government has the responsibility in DGCA. The portfolio of Ministers changes and other Ministers assume office in their place. When Nishikant ji delivers his speech, he goes back to 10 to 20 years. His speech cannot begin without mentioning Congress. Nishikant ji is 'Congressjeevi', that is why he starts his speech with a mention of Congress. Your Government has been in power for 10 years why did not you modify the policies of Congress Government. Now you could change it. If

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you could abrogate Article 370, and bring other laws, then you should have changed it too, but you did not do it.... *(Interruptions)*

You can do anything. You talked about BSNL, MTNL, are you even aware about the present state of BSNL? Earlier they had the access in remote villages, but now no one is posted there. The Government is just talking about one airline, all the public sector units.... *(Interruptions)* May be few units are following this....*(Interruptions)*

Madam, all the public sector units, I agree that at that time the Act was enacted in 1994 to introduce private airlines, but I am saying.... *(Interruptions)* The process of privatization began with the selling up of public sector units of the entire country. Government may apprise the country about the number of airports under the control of Adani ji and the operator of railways. I am talking about this bill.... *(Interruptions)*

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Hon. Chairperson, he is making a wrong statement. No airport is under the control of Adani he is merely an operator.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: Nishikant ji, everything is being looted in the name of the operator.... *(Interruptions)* Adani Airport is written there.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please speak on the subject.

...(Interruptions)

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SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: They welcome at airport. ... *(Interruptions)* They are welcoming at every airport that it is Adani's airport. They have deployed employees but they are denying the fact. Adani is written on trains. How can you refuse? It is clearly visible.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please make your point.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: That is what we are saying. The Government should constitute a committee to reduce the fare. Strengthen the regulatory authority if required. We support this bill.

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THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS; AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): They started the process of selling in 2006. You cannot have your cake and eat it too....

(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, Please conclude. I urge you all to take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: Sir, I urge upon the Government to provide special incentives for elderly passengers. Once the seats are booked, only middle seats remain available on normal booking, airline charges Rs 200 to Rs 2000 for booking other seats. Even a family of 10 members is again charged 20 thousand rupees. This needs to be regulated.

Madam, you all know that they have sold the whole country.... *(Interruptions)*
They have sold the airlines, railways and other public sectors units. The Government should at least regulate this. I urge the Hon. Minister that we support the bill introduced by Shafi Parambil Ji. Take due cognizance of it. Thank you.

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[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): *Dhanyavad*, Madam Chairperson. The hon. Speaker has congratulated our colleague Shafi Parambil. Actually, yesterday, I was inquiring what does this Parambil stood for and I was told from his friend that it is his family name. I believe, it is the surname which is being used. A week or ten days before, I was reading about him in the *Hindustan Times* a piece of good news along with his photo. That news was about his student career, as a student leader, and how he took the challenge during this 2024 General Election and came to a different place to contest. He managed to mobilise adequate support. He has, I believe, upto 10 points in the Resolution. Out of which, nine points are explaining the situation and the last one, that is, 'K' where he has certain suggestions. This needs to be adopted by this House. My request to you, Shafi ji, is that do not get persuaded by the Minister to withdraw the Resolution. I am in the Treasury Bench and as this is a Private Members' Bill, my suggestion would be this. I do not know what is your experience in the Assembly but this Resolution needs to be passed. This is my view. You have congratulated the Minister about his yesterday's assurances but if you feel that this needs to be passed as a Resolution by this House, please do not withdraw it.

Now, I am coming to the issue. I think, most of the points have already been covered but I would just like to mention here about the Standing Committee Report, especially, for the information of the young Minister. The Chairman of that Standing

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Committee was Mr. Vijayasai Reddy. He is also from Andhra Pradesh and from the YSR Congress Party. He was heading that Committee. Most of his suggestions are being deliberated today and your Resolution is also quite part of that. One point of that Committee's Report is: "After considering responses from the Civil Aviation Ministry on airfares, self-regulation of ticket prices by airlines has not been effective." The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism, and Culture said: "self-regulation of ticket prices has not been very effective."

It suggested to have a mechanism whereby the DGCA is empowered to regulate the tariff. I defer with this suggestion. I will come to my suggestion a little later.

Currently, the air fares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. It has also reiterated to explore the feasibility of establishing a separate entity with quasi-judicial powers to exercise control over air fares being charged by the airlines. I am not against privatization. It is because of privatization, the texture of airports has changed drastically. We saw it before our eyes that how the texture of airports has changed during the last 20 years. But privatization was supposed to bring in competition. But as rightly told by the mover of this Resolution, what the problem today is, it is not competition, it is cartelization. To a certain extent as Nishikant ji mentioned, it is monopolistic also, which means, only one airline will go to that same airport, and it will decide what the rate would be. How are the rates fixed for air journeys? Is it that only the revenue management and commercial

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interest are at the core in determining the rates? We are told that the air fares are market-driven, and are neither regulated nor established by the Government. The Airlines are free to fix reasonable tariffs. I am yet to understand what these reasonable tariffs are. Perhaps, the Ministry of Commerce may explain that to us or the Minister of Civil Aviation can tell us about it.

Should it be the cost of operation, characteristics of services, and reasonable profit, or all these three taken together? We are also told that the DGCA has established a tariff monitoring unit which monitors fares on select sectors on a random basis. And, I am also reminded last month when the Minister practically vowed to review the surging prices of air fares so that it becomes affordable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of '*Hawai Chappal Se Hawai Jahaz Tak*' is very much in the mind of the hon. Minister. New airports have come up during the last seven to eight years.

There were air fare regulations in the past. The Air Corporations Act 1953 required various airline corporations to seek approval of the Central Government for fixing the air fares. But since 21st March 1994, the said Act has been repealed and the Indian domestic aviation sector was totally de-regularized. The airlines had the freedom of fixing air fares. Now it is said that the price of air travel is dynamic, and is determined by market, demand and supply. It is notable that the passenger movement has increased significantly. That figure has already been stated here. But today, the airlines are taking advantage of this surging demand.

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In the last two decades, due to affordable air fares, many passengers, who used to travel by rail traditionally, have now started travelling by air. Notably, the airfares are increasing internationally.

According to the report of Airports Council International Asia Pacific, there has been an increase of up to 50 per cent in the international air fares. The report also says that the highest increase in the airfare was 49 per cent in India. After the private sector was allowed into the aviation sector, generally, the decision of airfares has been left to the airlines so that they can fix the prices according to the market. But is it being decided by the market? It is nothing else but exploitation.

My suggestion would be that we have to form a *quasi judicial* body to oversee this exorbitant profit-driven pricing system. My suggestion would be, as the DGCA is today overloaded with many other things, do not entrust the pricing issue on to them. There has to be a regulator. Rule 135 (iv) empowers the DGCA to issue directives to the airlines. If they have charged excessively, which means more than their stated rate, to stop the oligopolistic policies, there is a need to have a robust regulator like the Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which is an autonomous body that regulates security market and protects the interests of investors. It is also a controlling body. Therefore, we need to have a *quasi judicial* body which would monitor the rates of tickets of passenger airlines, and also will be a controlling body which can act as a regulator, and also put fine on them. So, we need something

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like SEBI because before SEBI came into existence there was no such body to oversee the security market, and after it came, there has been a lot of stability in the security market. Similarly, in this monopolistic or cartelization of airlines, this needs to be done.

Secondly, there is an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority about which Shri Nishikant Dubey just now mentioned. Its mandate is to determine tariff for aeronautical services, and how the airfare is determined across the airports. When I purchase a ticket for Delhi, I am charged Rs.1140 more as an airport charge. When I go to Bhubaneswar, the charge is Rs.690. Why is this charged more? Is it because of the services that are provided in the airport or because we walk more from the aerobridge to our vehicle? There has to be some explanation somewhere. Somebody has to be made accountable. Why is it so? Sometimes we are also left in the tarmac to board a bus and to come to the airport.

So, there is a need for rationalization of airfares. When someone travels to Bombay, the rate is something in the morning. In the afternoon because of the pressure, of course, the rate is less. But the greater problem today is that in that same aircraft, in the same class of tickets, the rates are different. They have a different word to say that this ticket was purchased earlier. Even if I travel in one airline to Bhubaneswar, more than 50,000 points have been accrued to my account. But whenever I ask to do a ticket against those points, it is never done. The usual reply is, ticket against points is not available right now. When I ask for

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air ticket after 15 days, after 5-10 minutes they say, Sir, it is not available. So, what is the point of having these points in our account? It is just a market strategy or just to hoodwink the passengers. I am yet to understand that. This is the case of a Member of Parliament. What to say of general passengers?

I would, therefore, say that it is necessary to have this Resolution passed. As the hon. Speaker has said, he will be having a meeting. He had also instructed the Minister to have a meeting like this. But the best part of this Resolution, which I very much appreciate, is we have to find out some mechanism to implement it, and I think, the Minister can find out some mechanism to implement this. Can we not fix the upper limit of the fare, saying that the maximum fare will be this much and not more than that? I understand that economics will always determine that. The moment you fix the upper limit, all the airlines will go up to that limit immediately. But for specific routes, this can be fixed because many a time during the festival season or during certain exigencies, the fare goes through the roof. That is the reason why the mover of this Resolution, Shafi ji has mentioned that.

I fully support the demand to establish a *quasi judicial* body which can regulate it. It should be like SEBI.

Thank you, Madam

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[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that while one searches the tickets for booking, initially it shows lower price, but after searching the tickets two to four times, the fare dramatically increases.

Hon. Minister, you may look into the matter. You may raise this issue before the committee that will be constituted in this regard.

Hon. Member, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy ji.

[English]

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you very much, Madam, for permitting me to participate in this Private Member's Resolution on taking appropriate measures to regulate the airfares, which has been brought in by the hon. Member, Shafi Parambil. I would also like to congratulate him for being the first-time Member of Parliament that he has achieved this amazing feat of bringing in the first Private Member's Resolution to be passed in the 18th Lok Sabha.

I would also like to congratulate my friend, hon. Rammohan Naidu on becoming the Civil Aviation Minister. I am sure that he is able to achieve a lot of things and especially in regard to this particular Resolution where the House is unanimous and everybody is of the same view that something concrete can happen. I think this Resolution will definitely be passed.

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Madam, so many people have already spoken. All senior Members have spoken regarding the importance of capping the upper limit of airfares and I have a very few words to add to that.

Madam, there is a specific requirement saying that a *quasi-judicial* body needs to be formed to monitor the pricing of airfares. This is definitely a useful one and if possible, it can be an Airline Passengers' Welfare Board, of which even the Members of Parliament can also be a part. Someone from the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha can be associated with it because being frequent travellers, almost all of us travel around throughout the year. We can also be a part of that Board where we will be able to look into the grievances because we all face the same problems. Like Mr. Mahtab has already pointed out that though he has some airlines' points which accrued in his account, he has never been able to encash them. So, we need to find out what are the reasons and why these things are being denied. When it is being denied especially to a Member of Parliament, we can very well imagine the plight of the common citizen.

Apart from the airline fares, there are also other problems being faced by passengers. Everybody was talking about the whole country. I doubt if the whole country is travelling by airlines. I think, maybe, about 20 per cent of the population will be travelling by airlines, but it is a significant improvement over the last decade or two. So, we have to understand that airline traffic is bound to keep increasing, and more and more number of people are going to be travelling by air.

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One of the biggest problems that we face is that when we are travelling, there are flights which get cancelled. When the flights are cancelled, especially for tourists when they are in a different destination away from their homes, it becomes a big challenge because some of the Indian airlines do not take care of the welfare of these passengers and they are left in the lurch. They do not have proper facilities for accommodating them till their next flight is taken care of. Sometimes, since their bookings are made online, they say that the payment will also be made online whereby some people will not be able to purchase tickets for their return from that particular destination. I think, a few weeks back, there took place such an incident where a lot of people from Kerala were stranded in Agatti. More than 100 people were stranded over there and no proper service was provided to them.

These issues create a sense that the Indian airlines are not comparable to the international airlines because whenever you travel abroad, you do not face any such problems, especially when you go to other countries, be it East or West. They always ensure that if a passengers' flight is delayed beyond a reasonable time, they are accommodated, and their return tickets are being processed by the airlines. But here, the moment there is a flight cancellation, probably, sometimes it is not even possible to see any staff of that particular airline to raise the grievance. So, I think the hon. Minister will be able to take up this issue and probably address this matter.

Madam, this issue has also happened in Jaffna (Palaly) Airport, when a few people from Tamil Nadu were traveling, again, the flight was cancelled. I think the

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airlines was Alliance Air, subject to correction. The passengers were stranded there where they had absolutely no clue about where they could go and stay. This creates a lot of problems for travelling passengers, especially for senior citizens and people travelling with children. So, I think the hon. Minister can look into this issue.

The former Civil Aviation Minister is also here. I have had a few interactions with him when I had raised this issue of international airlines, especially Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, and even Lufthansa and British Airways. When they come and the port of landing is in some State in South India, like Tamil Nadu or Kerala, there are announcements made in the regional language, either in Tamil or Malayalam or Kannada or Telugu. But surprisingly, the Indian airlines have announcements made only in two languages, in English and in Hindi. I have made several representations to the hon. Minister, and I would like to carry forward those representations to the present Minister to see, if at least, a recorded message can be put up in the airlines. With the improvement of airlines and the affordable prices of airlines, it is not that we can expect everybody who is travelling to be knowledgeable in English or in Hindi. There are some people who probably are not aware of the language which is being spoken, and especially in flights where it is transiting *via* another place. There have been instances where people have tried to get out of the airport without their knowledge. They were totally unaware. A recorded message, at least, will definitely help those people so that they can be better informed.

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Also, when we are talking about the airports, I would like to take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister that in Tamil Nadu, we have three airports which are lined up. One is in Parandur, and the other is in Hosur. It can be speeded up. There is an airport in Salem where there is already an existing airport, but the runway is short where they are hoping that it can be expanded so that larger aircraft can land over there. The land acquisition is an issue there, and the Government of Tamil Nadu would be happy to support the DGCA and the Ministry. If that also could be expedited, I would be very grateful.

Thank you very much, Madam.

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CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES (SOUTH GOA): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First of all, congratulations to my colleague, Shafi *sahib*, for this Bill.

A lot of discussion has happened. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that I come from Goa. We have got two airports. One is the Dabolim airport, and the other is the newly constructed Mopa airport. When we talk about the difference in prices, we have a similar situation in Goa. When we investigated, we came to know about the difference in price. We have two airports – Dabolim and Mopa. Before the aircraft is leaving, if you want to book the ticket, you will find difference in prices. When we inquired, we came to know that it was because of the UDF, User Development Fee. We have made a lot of noise. Even the Chief Minister of Goa has promised that he will be approaching the Centre for the same. So, we hope that it can be looked into.

As per the reply what I got yesterday, in 2023-24, Dabolim recorded a passenger movement of 68,55,000, and at Mopa, it was 44,38,000. What we are worried about, especially, the people in South Goa is this. We feel that there have been attempts somehow to close down the Dabolim airport. We were given assurance in 2009, *vide* a Cabinet decision by Dr. Manmohan Singh that both the airports will be operational simultaneously.

But we have seen that several airlines have shifted operations to Mopa Airport all of the sudden including Spice Jet, Oman Airways, Qatar Airways, TUI Airways, and recently a week back, Air Arabia also. We have been told that there

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is no regulation to stop them. But we also know that by suddenly shifting these airlines, it is going to have a bearing on the Dabolim Airport because Dabolim Airport is not an airport just for landing, but the entire economy of South Goa and probably of Goa depends on the Dabolim Airport. I am saying this because lakhs and lakhs of tourists are landing there, and whether it is the shack operators, the hoteliers, the taxi drivers, etc., all are dependent on this airport. So, my humble request is to please ensure that the Dabolim Airport remains operational and the jobs of lakhs and lakhs of people are protected. Thank you, Sir.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

17.56 hrs

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Shiromani Verma ji, your cap looks different today.

SHRI RAM SHIROMANI VERMA (SHRAWASTI): Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Private Members' Bill. My Lok Sabha Constituency falls under the aspirational district category. Former Minister of Civil Aviation Scindia ji and the present Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Naidu ji are both present in the House. Airport was built on this holy land of Lord Gautam Buddha that led to the commencement of air travel from here three days a week. As per the earlier announcement flights would operate from Shrawasti to Lucknow, Prayagraj, Kanpur and Varanasi but flights are only operating from Shrawasti to Lucknow. It is the sacred land of Lord Gautam Buddha which attracts large number of tourists

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from abroad. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister that owing to Shrawasti being a sacred land of Lord Gautam Buddha and an aspirational district, regular flights should operate from there. Adjacent to Shrawasti is Sarnath which is also a backward district.

I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that while booking the flight tickets the fare from Lucknow to Mumbai which is Rs. 5000 in the morning sometimes surges up to Rs. 20,000 in the evening. In such a situation, a poor person who earns only Rs 8-10 thousand a month is forced to pay a higher price. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister to at least look into this matter.

The Hon. Prime Minister says that common man wearing hawai chappals (slippers) should also fly in an aircraft, but with this surge in price from Rs 5,000-6,000 in the morning to Rs 20,000-25,000 in the evening it seems a distant dream. Hon. Minister should consider this aspect as well.

At times Airlines companies, like IndiGo or Air India, cancel the flights without informing the passengers who remain stranded at the airport. The airlines does not take responsibility for it either. This aspect should also be considered.

HON. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 29, 2024.

18.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Monday, July 29, 2024/Sravana 7, 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)
