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Tuesday, February 12, 2019,  
Magha 23, 1940 (Saka)

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

**(English Version)**

**Seventeenth Session**

**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



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

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## CONTENTS

**Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXXVI, Seventeenth Session, 2019/1940 (Saka)**

**No. 9, Tuesday, February 12, 2019/Magha 23, 1940 (Saka)**

### SUBJECT

### PAGES

#### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

\*Starred Question Nos.121 to 123 18-47

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

Starred Question Nos.124 to 140 48

>Unstarred Question Nos.1381 to 1429 and  
1431 to 1610

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 49**

---

\* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

> Unstarred Question No.1430 was deleted due to passing away of Shri Ladu Kishore Swain, a sitting Member of Lok Sabha.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER** 64

**COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES**

Statements 65

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

30<sup>th</sup> Report 67

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ASSURANCES**

91<sup>st</sup> to 101<sup>st</sup> Reports 68

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

31<sup>st</sup> Report 70

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE  
TABLE**

42<sup>nd</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> Reports 71

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE**

50<sup>th</sup> Report 72

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

53<sup>rd</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup> Reports 73

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

25<sup>th</sup> Report 75

### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

**Shri Radha Mohan Singh** 76

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 13<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing

Committee on Labour on 'Deployment of Contract/Casual/ Sanitation workers for perennial nature of jobs in NDMC', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs

**Shri Hansraj G. Ahir**

77

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 40<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Overseas Employment of Women Workers including Nurses and Maids, Issues and Regulatory Framework' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Employment

**Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)**

78

(iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 208<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 198<sup>th</sup>

Report of the Committee on Disaster in  
Chennai caused by Torrential Rainfall and  
consequent flooding, pertaining to the  
Ministry of Home Affairs

**Shri Kiren Rijiju** 79

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

324<sup>th</sup> Report 89

**SUBMISSION BY MEMBER**

Re: Rafale deal 93-163

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377** 164-205

- (i) Regarding setting up of new medical  
institutes in the country.

**Shri Ajay Mishra Teni** 165

- (ii) Regarding penalty imposed on Rudhauri  
Sugar Mill by NGT

**Shri Sharad Tripathi** 166

- (iii) Need to start flight from Chakarbhata Airport in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh  
Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu 167
- (iv) Regarding compensation to farmers relating to setting up of Air Force Ground Range in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan  
Shri Rahul Kaswan 169
- (v) Regarding appointment of dependants of deceased employees of Damodar Valley Corporation on compassionate ground and rehabilitation of land oustees  
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey 170
- (vi) Regarding establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.  
Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray 172

- (vii) Need to improve railway services and passenger facilities in Korba Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh  
Dr. Banshilal Mahato 173
- (viii) Regarding setting up of seven petrol pumps in Mumbai North East Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra  
Dr. Kirit Somaiya 174
- (ix) Need to provide passage to people on Kosamba - Umarpada and Limbada-Asrama railway lines in Gujarat.  
Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava 175
- (x) Regarding POCSO Act  
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel 177
- (xi) Need to set up a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mehsana district, Gujarat  
Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel 178

- (xii) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh
- Shri Satya Pal Singh 180
- (xiii) Regarding setting up of branches of Public Bank and Insurance company in Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
- Shrimati Rama Devi 182
- (xiv) Need to provide the benefit of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme to allottees of Housing Scheme in Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat
- Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh 184
- (xv) Need to provide funds for treatment of leprosy
- Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 186
- (xvi) Regarding granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities of Assam
- Shri Rameshwar Teli 187

- (xvii) Regarding railway projects in Bihar  
Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 188
- (xviii) Need to adopt special programme to provide nutritional food in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.  
Shri R. Dhruvanarayana 189
- (xix) Need to promote Courtallam in Tamil Nadu as a tourist spot.  
Shrimati M. Vasanthi 191
- (xx) Need to allow clay brick manufacturers to opt for compounding way of taxation  
Shri R. Gopalakrishnan 193
- (xxi) Regarding reopening of Mining and Allied Corporation at Durgapur, West Bengal  
Dr. Mamtaz Sanghamita 194
- (xxii) Need for reconsideration of privatization of six airports

- Prof. Saugata Roy 196
- (xxiii) Regarding railway services in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
- Shri Ramchandra Hansdah 197
- (xxiv) Regarding compensation to fishermen displaced due to land acquisition
- Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut 198
- (xxv) Need to provide Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians.
- Shri Jayadev Galla 199
- (xxvi) Regarding development of Son Bheel in Karimganj district, Assam as a tourist spot
- Shri Radheshyam Biswas 201
- (xxvii) Regarding difficulties faced by farmers of Haryana in getting insurance claims for damaged crops
- Shri Dushyant Chautala 203

(xxviii)	Regarding alleged duty evasion in import of black pepper	
	Adv. Joice George	204
(xxix)	Regarding special package for Bodoland Territorial Area Districts	
	Shri Naba Kumar Sarnia	205
	<b>FINANCE BILL, 2019</b>	206
	Motion to Consider	206
	Shri Piyush Goyal	206-216, 345-359
	Shri K. C. Venugopal	217-228
	Shri Nishikant Dubey	229-248
	Shri P.R. Sundaram	249-253
	Prof. Saugata Roy	254-261
	Shri Alphons Kannanthanam	262-272
	Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo	273-283
	Shri Arvind Sawant	284-295

Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud	296-302
Shri M. B. Rajesh	303-308
Shri Om Birla	309-315
Shri Ramchandra Hansdah	316-317
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	318-319
Shri Rajesh Ranjan	320-325
Shri N.K. Premachandran	326-331
Prof. K.V. Thomas	332-335
Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray	336-341
Shri Bhagwant Mann	342-344
Motion to Consider	360
Clauses 2 to 22 and 1	360-362
Motion to Pass	363
<b>BANNING OF UNREGULATED DEPOSIT SCHEMES BILL, 2019</b>	<b>364</b>

Motion to Consider

364

Shri Piyush Goyal

364-371

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, February 12, 2019/Magha 23, 1940 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will allow you after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

**11 01hrs**

**\*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Question No. 121. Shri K.N. Ramachandran – not present.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister.

**(Q.121)**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, do you have any supplementary question?

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** No, Madam....(Interruptions)

**11 02 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Abhijit Mukherjee, Prof. K.V. Thomas and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Shri Jagdambika Pal.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** Madam, a pilot scheme was launched in the year 2013-14 to produce iron-rich pearl millet, protein-rich maize and zinc-rich wheat. For micronutrients, and with the objective of increasing the yield of food crops enriched with organic elements, work was undertaken in this direction in the year 2014-15 under the National Food Security Mission within the framework of the National Agriculture Development Scheme. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what results were achieved and whether any action plan has been formulated to enhance the production of such nutrient-rich crops in the future, and by when it will be implemented.

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the Modi

Government has declared the year 2017-18 as the Millets Year and has also made a separate budgetary allocation of Rs. 100 crore. Prior to this, under the National Food Security Mission, the scheme that was operational until the year 2013-14 covered only a limited number of districts. In the year 2014-15, immediately upon assuming office, the Modi Government increased the number of districts and brought all States under this scheme. Furthermore, apart from the budget earmarked for NFSM, by declaring the Millets Year, an additional amount of Rs. 100 crore was allocated separately to the States. In the reply laid on the Table of the House, the State-wise details have been indicated.

[English]

**SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:** Madam, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister, the State-wise results thereof.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Is it about Q. 121?

**SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:** Yes.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT):** Hon. Speaker, Madam,

the information just provided by the Hon. Minister indicates that States were linked with coarse grains under the Food Security Mission. There are 269 districts in 27 such States that were connected with coarse grains under NFSM, the National Food Security Mission. Through this scheme, the Government of Hon. Modi has created two categories, namely coarse grains and nutritious grains, and under the category of nutritious grains, 202 districts in 14 States have been included. Under the BGREI, (Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India) scheme, these districts have also been prioritised for integrating nutritious grains with NFSM.

**(Q.122)**

**SHRI KRIPAL BALAJI TUMANE:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, we are witnessing that ever since our Government has been working in this country, significant initiatives have been undertaken for the development of slums, and several commendable schemes have been introduced. Through the AMRUT scheme, considerable emphasis has been placed on the development of Municipal Councils and Municipalities.

Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether, just as the Maharashtra Government has introduced various schemes relating to slum rehabilitation on lands belonging to the Maharashtra Government, the Union Government is also considering any similar scheme so that the people residing in slums located on lands belonging to the Union Government may likewise be provided housing.

[English]

**SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that since land is a State subject, the responsibility for slums lies with the State Government. ...(*Interruptions*) I do not like to call them slums. I would rather use the word 'informal settlements', and that is the term which is now

widely used internationally. The primary responsibility for these informal settlements lies with the State Government. ...(*Interruptions*) However, as the hon. Member said, through the Central Government's programmatic interventions under the AMRUT Scheme which involves providing water tap connections, sewage and septage ...(*Interruptions*) I will repeat myself. I said that the primary responsibility for informal settlements or slums lies essentially with the State Government. However, through the programmatic interventions of the Central Government, primarily, through the flagship programmes like AMRUT which involves providing water tap connections, sewage and septage treatment, storm water drainage, Swachh Bharat Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, a lot of work has been done by the Central Government, as the hon. Member has acknowledged. ...(*Interruptions*) In particular, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana includes one vertical which is the 'In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation' and under this vertical, a lot of work has been done, including in the State of Maharashtra. ...(*Interruptions*)

Now, the hon. Member wishes to know whether in the land, which belongs to the Central Government, more work can be done in Maharashtra or in other places on slum rehabilitation. ...(*Interruptions*) My answer to that categorically is, 'yes'. In fact,

we are always on the lookout to encourage States to formulate proposals which involve using land either which is theirs or ours; and if any form of programmatic intervention we can do, we are quite happy to do that.

Now in terms of the State of Maharashtra or elsewhere we have the precise figures of dwelling units which have been developed under the In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation. We are encouraging the State Governments all the time to use the Central Government land whether it is with Railways or any other Central Government agency. We have it on record that the Central Government will provide Rs.1 lakh per dwelling unit through that vector. All we need is for the State Government to come up with further proposals. We are looking to augment the work done under this vertical of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.

[Translation]

**SHRI KRIPAL BALAJI TUMANE:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, there are extensive tracts of land owned by the Union Government. The Hon. Minister has provided a commendable response, for which the Government will be required to take further initiative. Through you, I would like to place a direct question before the Hon. Minister. The Government has undertaken steps to ensure the effective implementation of these facilities and schemes in remote

slum areas as well as in rural slum regions. Just as we progress with various urban development initiatives, it is equally true that rural areas also contain slum settlements on a considerable scale. In this regard, may I inquire whether the Ministry of Urban Development has formulated any scheme specifically intended for such rural slum areas?

[English]

**SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Madam Speaker, my Ministry's turf only covers urban areas. Now, the slums or informal settlements invariably come up because there are demographic shifts taking place from rural areas to urban areas. These demographic shifts take place when people come looking for employment from rural areas to urban areas.

But the hon. Member is absolutely right that informal settlements can take place also in areas which are not at present classified as urban areas. For example, the census town. In fact, I am of the view that our urban population definition would be enhanced if we were to take into account the census towns or semi-urban areas.

Madam, as far as my Ministry is concerned, without wishing to encroach on the turf of my senior colleague, Shri Narender Singh Tomar, we are quite willing and happy to extend assistance to those

informal settlements which have come up in urban and semi-urban areas or census towns. We would be very happy to look at those proposals.

**SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM :** Madam, it is a fact that about one in six Indian city residents live in urban slums. The Government has approved Rs.60,000 crore for National Urban Housing Fund to finance the Government's Housing for All programme, which aims at building 12 million affordable housing units in urban areas by 2022.

My question to the hon. Minister is whether under affordable housing scheme the Government is considering to give preference to the people living in urban slums as the objective of the said fund is also to remove urban slums.

**SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Madam Speaker, in June 2015, when the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna was commenced, we had made an assessment based on the validation done by the States and the Union Territories that a total of one crore or 10 million units would have to be built so that by 2022 every Indian citizen could have a home which he or she regards as their own.

Now, this programme of giving every Indian citizen a home of their own has been carried through four verticals. One of these verticals is In-Situ Slum Rehabilitation. The other three verticals

are – Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, Affordable Housing Projects in Partnership and Beneficiary-led Development.

As against the target of 10 million homes to be built, we have already sanctioned nearly 73 lakh units. So, it is my expectation that the target of 10 million homes by 2022 will be completed within one year from now in terms of sanctioning and it will be completed both in terms of grounding and completion well before 2022.

As far as the Central Government is concerned, this is based on demand which comes from the States and the Union Territories. We give equal emphasis to it. But the number of inhabitants in these informal settlements may be at variance.

So, in order to provide it to them, we need extra funds for which we were able to procure an amount of Rs. 60,000 crore with the Cabinet's approval through extra-budgetary resources. As the demand goes up, we will be utilising this amount of Rs. 60,000 crore, but we will be giving equal emphasis to people living in slums. ...(*Interruptions*)

If indeed the citizens living in slums require extra attention, the Central Government is ready to do that, but the State Governments and the Union Territories will have to make those proposals and send them to the Centre for clearance. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to submit, through you, the following query to the Hon. Minister. You characterise slums as the responsibility of the States. ...(*Interruptions*) Yet through schemes such as AMRUT, assistance is extended to State Governments for ensuring basic amenities in slum areas ...(*Interruptions*). However, on lands belonging to the Union Government, slum settlements exist across various locations including in your city as well as in mine. These include lands under the Railways, Civil Aviation, Ports, Defence, and the Salt Commissioner. In such cases, the concerned Ministries do not issue the requisite No Objection Certificates for basic amenities. They cause considerable difficulty and subject citizens to prolonged delays, often for years. ...(*Interruptions*) Where hutments have been in existence for 30 to 40 years, even for essential services such as toilets, drinking water and electricity, the Ministries of the Union Government decline to grant the necessary No Objection Certificates. ...(*Interruptions*) I seek to know what action the Ministry proposes to take in this regard.

[English]

**SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the Hon. member, through you, that very often these

proposals for facilities in unauthorised colonies have to take the shape of regularisation. We are providing a programmatic intervention through AMRUT. [Translation] Under AMRUT, in the cities where the population is above one lakh, we are providing water tap connections, sewage treatment and related facilities. However, these lands belong to different Departments of the Union Government, such as the Railways, we are always in touch with them so that these basic facilities and AMRUT can be made available there. We are also examining several other schemes in which land is held by Departments of the Union Government, so that regularisation may be undertaken there and that such areas may be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Madam Speaker, I want to tell you that it is a constant struggle because every government department wants to hold on to its own land, but we are trying to bring more and more. [Translation] A proposal has recently been placed before the Union Cabinet that wherever public sector units have been wound up, the land previously held by them may be utilised under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for the construction of housing for our citizens. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

So, I want to assure the hon. Member that we are at this all the time in order to get more and more houses built. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:** Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to ask a question.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to abolish slums from the metros of the country to enrich the cities as model metro cities and whether the Central Government has any proposal to replace the entire slum into a successful plan, in an inclusive and integrated community apartment. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Madam, the largest number of slums are situated on Railway lands. ...(*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether, on such Railway lands, you propose to provide housing to these people on the basis of an integrated community centre model. ...(*Interruptions*) When one arrives at Kolkata Airport and proceeds towards the Dakshineswar Temple, we have, through the State Government, redesigned the slums there and provided proper housing to the residents. ...(*Interruptions*) If you travel from Old Delhi Railway Station towards Rajasthan, the slums situated on Railway lands are in a very poor condition. ...(*Interruptions*) The

Union Government is presently under your charge and the Railways possess the land. Will you undertake proper work on those slums and provide decent housing to the residents there? Thank you.

[English]

**SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI:** Madam, the hon. Member used the term ‘abolishing slums’. [Translation] Madam, those who reside in slums are our own citizens. ...(*Interruptions*) To state that poor people live there is correct, yet they are poor because, over the past 70 years, there have been significant shortcomings in our policies. ...(*Interruptions*) [English] Slums are not created because of Executive action; slums arise because of bad policies followed by Governments.

I want to convey, through you, to the hon. Member that in 1975 there was an attempt made to resettle the people living in slums. There was a curtailment of civil liberties and move the people elsewhere. But one lesson that we have learnt in this robust and vibrant democracy is that, when you want to do slum rehabilitation, you must rehabilitate people on an ‘as-is-where-is’ basis. That is the model we are following in Delhi in the case of Katputli Colony. We cannot lift people forcibly from the areas where they live, take them and resettle them 100 kms. Away.

The Central Government Ministries have been encouraged by us to come forward to participate in the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna*. My Ministry, the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, would be very happy to follow up on the kind of proposals that the hon. Member has mentioned. They should make their land available. As I mentioned, even the land which has become surplus on account of PSUs winding up, we are proposing to utilise. But in the case of Railways that she has mentioned, especially from Old Delhi Railway Station going towards Rajasthan, in fact, our first attempt is to utilise that land to stop people from open defecation and utilise that to build toilets, etc. There. But it has been a long process and it is my expectation that with more persuasion, we will be able to utilise more of the land available with different Central Government Departments for all our Schemes, especially for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and also for *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna* where bigger parcels of land are available.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please, what you are doing is not appropriate.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM:** Madam, the Hon. Minister has responded with great sensitivity. He has correctly stated that these informal settlements, which are also described as slums in your

reply, require in-situ development. We have been saying from the very beginning that in independent India, slum clearance and slum demolition have repeatedly been carried out. ...(*Interruptions*) However, as long as poverty persists and migration from villages to cities continues, such fragile settlements cannot simply be uprooted. Land availability, therefore, remains a major concern. The question is that the State Government is being held responsible. In 1980-81, in Bengal, we enacted the historic Thika Tenancy Abolition Act, and, just as in rural areas, we abolished the zamindari system in urban regions as well. Those who were settled on the land were conferred ownership. ...(*Interruptions*) But today, where the Railways' land or land belonging to the Union Government is occupied by slum dwellers, will you engage with the Ministry of Railways to convert their tenancy into leases at least at a nominal lease rate, and thereby transform the informal into the formal? Otherwise, no development initiative, from AMRUT to any other scheme including the Health Mission, will succeed if you do not grant them the right to build a home on the land they occupy. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** What you are doing, as a responsible Opposition, is entirely inappropriate. The manner in which you are holding up these papers and displaying them here, repeatedly

disturbing the House, is unacceptable. The discussion has already taken place; everything has been said. You have also been in power in the past. I regret having to state this today, but what you are doing is not proper in any way and does not reflect well. You may be given an opportunity to raise the matter in the House. This House is meant for discussion, and you are misusing it. Please engage in debate. I am giving you an opportunity every day to speak; you may express whatever you wish to say. However, to hold papers in your hand in this manner, to display them, wave them or raise slogans across the entire House, is conduct of the lowest order.

**11 25 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Kesineni Srinivas and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1145 hours.

**11 25 ½ hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

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**11 45 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Five Minutes past  
Eleven of the Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

**11 45 ½ hrs**

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

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS-Contd.**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI):** Thank you, Madam, Speaker. The hon. Member, Shri Mohammad Salim asked a very relevant question and that related to the reality of the people living in the informal settlements and I must say that I am in total agreement with him.

We have to deal with the causes as to why they find themselves in those informal settlements. They migrated from rural areas in

search of jobs. Jobs typically are available in the metropolitan cities, right in the centre of the cities and these informal settlements or slums came up there. Therefore, the experiment tried in 1975, when civil liberties were curtailed to lift people from there, take and settle them 100 kilometres or 200 kilometres away failed and that model is no longer tenable in today's democratic India. Therefore, we took a conscious decision, when the Prime Minister started his five programmatic interventions or the flagship programmes that *in situ* slum rehabilitation will take place, as far as possible on an 'as-is-where-is' basis. That is the model we have followed in the case of the Katputli Colony.

All our programmatic interventions, AMRUT Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc., seek to provide modern facilities where hitherto informal settlements existed or where they presently exist. Therefore, I want to assure the House that our efforts to convey to the other Government departments that they should make more land available for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and for those slum-like conditions or informal settlements to be removed will be continued but we will need their cooperation. There may be other factors. We will go on working to try and get No Objection Certificates, but we are already getting a lot of land released on account of the public sector units and others

which are being wound up. We are also hoping in the next few weeks to make further announcements on where we can have further projects of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana coming up and what we can do to the people living in these informal settlements. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**(Q.123)**

[Translation]

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister because the figures relating to foodgrain wastage have decreased substantially in comparison to earlier. I commend the Hon. Minister for having succeeded in reducing the wastage of foodgrains.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that the number of warehouses which ought to be available is not presently available. I am from Bihar, and the Hon. Minister is also from Bihar. The disturbances that occur in our region are due to the fact that the storage capacity in Bihar is not in proper condition. The Government is constructing steel silos under the PPP model. Has the Hon. Minister made any arrangement for Bihar in this regard?

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, the loss referred to pertains to the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, which occurred at the Borkala and Amravati depots in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)* We have had the matter investigated, and action has been taken against all officials found responsible. ...*(Interruptions)* Our Ministry has also referred the case to the CBI. As far as the Hon. Member's query regarding Bihar is concerned,

in Bihar only in Purnia district, 1,526 tonnes of foodgrains were damaged in the year 2017-18, and that too due to flooding. There was severe flooding in that area. In any case, if you examine the figures, the loss incurred in FCI is merely 0.01 percent, which is virtually negligible. ...(*Interruptions*) As far as the point raised regarding silos is concerned, a capacity of 1,526 tonnes is already included in our roadmap and construction is under way. ...(*Interruptions*) However, certain conditions had been stipulated earlier; in some locations the issue pertained to a railway siding, while in others there were different constraints. A new CMD has taken charge and we have instructed him to simplify these conditions so that the one lakh twenty-five thousand tonnes capacity may be completed at the earliest. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to assure you that we are witnessing a bumper harvest. Due to this bumper harvest, we are able to store the foodgrains only for a single cycle, but once the stock is moved out, the godowns cannot be fully utilised. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, although we intended to discontinue the CAP system, it is still in operation. Nevertheless, we are keeping a close watch on it. While we are reducing losses, the process of increasing our storage capacity is also continuing. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, my supplementary question is whether the Hon. Minister takes private warehouses on rent. The Government has to pay rent for them and wastage also occurs. To prevent such wastage, by when will the Hon. Minister complete the creation of the full storage capacity that is required across the country? Kindly indicate the timeline as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Hon. Member has raised an issue regarding the gap between the storage capacity required in the country and the actual number of warehouses available. ...*(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Member that the maximum requirement is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. ...*(Interruptions)* On the 1st of June, we have the maximum requirement, and for that requirement our highest need is 680 lakh tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)* While we have the capacity of 851.54 lakh metric tonnes. ...*(Interruptions)*, therefore in terms of total capacity, our requirement is still lower. However, in certain States procurement is considerably higher. For instance, in Haryana and

Punjab. When our Government assumed office in Uttar Pradesh, procurement there was only nine lakh tonnes. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, more than 55 lakh tonnes of wheat have been procured there this year. ...(*Interruptions*) Naturally, on the basis of procurement, the capacity falls short for a certain period. ...(*Interruptions*) We utilise CAP, that is, the covered and plinth system, through those warehouses. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would like to inform you that in view of this capacity requirement, the Hon. Prime Minister had first directed an assessment of how many warehouses exist within the Food Corporation and what the total capacity is, and a High-Level Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Hon. Shanta Kumar Ji. This High-Level Committee has given the Report to the Government. ...(*Interruptions*) and on the basis of that report, it was recommended that the number of silos should be increased in the future, and a proposal for 100 lakh metric tonnes of silos was brought forward, which was to be covered in four years. ... (*Interruptions*) At present, silos with a capacity of 11.75 lakh metric tonnes have been completed. ...(*Interruptions*) In addition to this, orders have already been placed for approximately 17 lakh tonnes. The remaining 37 lakh tonnes of silos are in the pipeline and the process relating to bids is underway. ...(*Interruptions*). Therefore, I would like to state that the Hon. Minister has rightly informed the House that the officials and all Departments have been

instructed that it should be completed within the stipulated time, and I hope that we will complete it within the given time.

...(Interruptions)

In the same manner, you had mentioned the private arrangement. Instead of taking private warehouses on rent, the Government decided to have them constructed because the Government had announced a Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme. Under this scheme, any individual who constructed a warehouse would be given rent for ten years on the basis of a ten-year guarantee, and that godown will be treated as a Government godown. It would function as an FCI-type warehouse and the full rent would be paid. Under this scheme, orders were placed for 150 lakh tonnes, and warehouses with a capacity of 142 lakh tonnes have already been constructed, for which rent is being paid. If the FCI were to construct and maintain its own warehouses, substantial expenditure would also be incurred. Therefore, under this PEG scheme, the warehouses constructed on the basis of a Government guarantee are required to be paid rent, and we spend nearly Rs. 2,000 crore annually on this. This is not wastage. Even if we constructed our own warehouses and engaged our own personnel, expenditure would still arise. For this reason, this scheme was implemented by the FCI on behalf of the Government.

**SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:** Madam Speaker, through you, with reference to my question, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that the engagement of the private sector for the maintenance of FCI godowns is indeed a commendable initiative. However, several warehouses in Wardha and Amravati in our Maharashtra State require urgent attention, because due to the indifferent attitude of certain officials, considerable loss is being caused both to the Department and to the foodgrains stored therein. Therefore, kindly inform us what steps are being taken to improve the maintenance of FCI godown.

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Madam Speaker, I have already stated that our arrangements are proper everywhere, except at two locations in Maharashtra, namely the Akola and Amravati depots. At these two places, out of 8000 tonnes, 7,949 tonnes of foodgrains were damaged. This quantity of damaged rice and wheat pertains to the year 2013-2014. Out of the 7,949 tonnes, 5,310 tonnes were declared damaged because the foodgrains became contaminated with fertiliser, cement and other materials during storage and transportation. A quantity of 2,548 tonnes was damaged due to deficiencies in maintenance by the CWC. The estimated loss in that case is around Rs. 27 crore, and steps have already been taken for

the recovery of this amount. The damaged foodgrains have also been sold. As I have stated, we remain vigilant to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future. As far as the incident that has already taken place is concerned, we have referred the case to the CBI for investigation.

[English]

**SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:** It is a fact that country suffers from huge loss of grains every year as the same is kept in open due to lack of sufficient storage facilities at FCI. Has the FCI encouraged private participation in constructing godowns for it? If yes, what is the total capacity of godowns added from private participation till the end of 2018?

**SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY:** Hon. Member has rightly raised a question about the total capacity of godowns. I have already stated that it is around 851.49 lakh MT. Out of this, 127 lakh MT is under the CAP, that is, covered and plinth area. We are not keeping them in the open but they are kept in a very scientific manner. That is why we have brought this system of Silos and other schemes. Previously for a long time, food grains were kept in CAP. Now, we are keeping them only for four-five months, that also in the procured area.

**12 00hrs**

Where we have heavy procurement like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, we keep it, but in the distributing areas, we have proper covered go-downs. But even then, he is right that 127 lakh tonnes foodgrains have been kept under the CAP for the time being. Slowly, we are going through this PEG Scheme, Silos scheme and I hope that in the coming future, there will no such problems...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, my question is that the Silos Scheme could not achieve the desired level of success because, under the PEG scheme, the rates that were fixed in the year 2009 are the same even in 2018. ...(*Interruptions*), whereas it had earlier been stated that the price would be determined on the basis of the Consumer Price Index. ...(*Interruptions*) Is the Government considering giving the current prevailing rates to the older PEG godowns, or revising them according to the Consumer Price Index? ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is a valued colleague. He has met me two or three times on this matter. We have summoned all the officials and held discussions in his presence. We are examining the matter further. ...(*Interruptions*)



**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members have submitted to me notices on various matters from several Members. I have received the notices. Although these matters are important, it is not necessary to disrupt today's proceedings for them. These issues may be raised on other occasions. Therefore, I have not granted permission for any of the notices for adjournment motions.

*...(Interruptions)*

**\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos.124 to 140

Unstarred Question Nos.1381 to 1429 and 1431 to 1610

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**12 01 hrs**

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Papers to be laid.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10912/16/19]

[English]

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

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Union Government-Finance Accounts for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10913/16/19]

(ii) Union Government-Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10914/16/19]

(iii) Union Government-Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10915/16/19]

(iv) Union Government-Appropriation Accounts of the Postal Services for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10916/16/19]

(v) Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for the year 2017-2018 (Part I-Review)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10917/16/19]

(vi) Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for the year 2017-2018 (Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10918/16/19]

(vii) Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for the year 2017-2018 (Part II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts- Annexure-G)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10919/16/19]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 23 of 2018) (Department of Revenue-Direct Taxes)-Assessment of Assessees in Real Estate Sector, for the year ended March, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10920/16/19]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 2 of 2019) (Financial Audit)-Accounts of the Union Government, for the year ended March, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10921/16/19]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10922/16/19]

(i) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

(i) S.O.350(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th January, 2019, notifying the specifications of the customised fertilizers, mentioned therein, for a period three years from the date of publication of the notification.

(ii) S.O.351(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th January, 2019, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.3225(E) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

(iii) S.O.352(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th January, 2019, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.3226(E) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.

(iv) S.O.353(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th January, 2019, notifying the specifications of the customised fertilizers, mentioned therein, for a period four years from the date of publication of the notification.

(v) S.O.4199(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th August, 2018, constituting the Central Fertilizer Committee consisting of members, mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10923/16/19]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA):** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the following paper on behalf of my colleague Shri Krishan Pal:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities, Mumbai, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10924/16/19]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10925/16/19]

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad for the year 2016-2017.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2016-2017, Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10926/16/19]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad for the year 2017-2018.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2017-2018, Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned in item no. (a) of (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10927/16/19]

[English]

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

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968:-

(i) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Force, Security Wing, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Executive) Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1126(E) in Gazette of India dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

(ii) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Motor

Transport), Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1127(E) in Gazette of India dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

(iii) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Central Industrial Security Force, Para Medical Staff (Combatized), Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1128(E) in Gazette of India dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10928/16/19]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under article 309 of the Constitution:-

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs, National Fire Service College, Nagpur, Fire and Rescue Operator (Group 'C' post) Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.376 in weekly Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

(ii) The National Fire Service College, Nagpur, Stenographer Grade-II (Group 'C' post) Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.377 in weekly Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

(iii) The National Fire Service College, Nagpur, Leading Fireman (Group 'C' post) Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.378 in weekly Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Directorate General of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards, Deputy Fire Advisor Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No.G.S.R.379 in weekly Gazette of India dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10929/16/19]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA):** Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10930/16/19]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi,

for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi, for the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 10931/16/19]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements(Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Fifteenth and Sixteenth Lok Sabhas:-

#### FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. 26                      Seventh Session, 2011

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10932/16/19]

2. Statement No. 29 Eighth Session, 2011

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10933/16/19]

3. Statement No. 22 Thirteenth Session, 2013

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10934/16/19]

4. Statement No. 19 Fifteenth Session, 2013-14

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10935/16/19]

#### SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. 17 Second Session, 2014

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10936/16/19]

6. Statement No. 17 Third Session, 2014

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10937/16/19]

7. Statement No. 16 Fourth Session, 2015

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10938/16/19]

8. Statement No. 14 Fifth Session, 2015

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10939/16/19]

9. Statement No. 13 Sixth Session, 2015

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10940/16/19]

10.Statement No. 11 Seventh Session, 2016

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10941/16/19]

11.Statement No. 11 Eighth Session, 2016

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10942/16/19]

12.Statement No. 10      Ninth Session, 2016

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10943/16/19]

13.Statement No. 8      Tenth Session, 2016

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10944/16/19]

14.Statement No.8      Eleventh Session, 2017

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10945/16/19]

15. Statement No. 6      Twelfth Session, 2017

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10946/16/19]

16.Statement No. 5      Thirteenth Session, 2017-18

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10947/16/19]

17.Statement No. 4      Fourteenth Session, 2018

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10948/16/19]

18. Statement No. 3 Fifteenth Session, 2018

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10949/16/19]

19. Statement No. 1 Sixteenth Session, 2018-19

[Placed in Library, See No. LT  
10950/16/19]

**12 02 hrs**

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the hon. President.

“I have received the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.”

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**12 02 ½ hrs**

**COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES**

**Statements**

[Translation]

**DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the following Reports:-

(1) 10th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report (15th Lok Sabha) on the subject Higher Education in India relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education)

(2) 22nd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject „National Project on Organic Farming’ pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

- (3) 27th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twentieth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme' pertaining to the Ministry of Defence (Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare).
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**12 03hrs**

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

**30<sup>th</sup> Report**

[English]

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** I beg to present the Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2018-19) : Examination of Annual Reports of National Commission for Scheduled Castes(NCSC) presented under Article 338(5)(d) of the Constitution of India and to report as to the measures that should be taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Government.

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**12 03 ½ hrs**

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**

**91<sup>st</sup> to 101<sup>st</sup> Reports**

[Translation]

**DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Report (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) 91th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of AYUSH.
- (2) 92th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.
- (3) 93th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.
- (4) 94th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education).
- (5) 95th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.

- (6) 96th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.
  - (7) 97th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry).
  - (8) 98nd Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare).
  - (9) 99th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).
  - (10) 100th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not Acceded to).
  - (11) 101th Report (16th Lok Sabha) regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
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**12 04hrs**

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

**31<sup>st</sup> Report**

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam Speaker, I beg to present the 31th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on the subject 'Merger of Railway Finances with General Finance-Issues and Challenges'.

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*...(Interruptions)*

**12 04 ½ hrs**

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**42<sup>nd</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> Reports**

[English]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** I beg to present the Forty-second to Forty-six Reports (Original) and Forty-seven to Fifty First (Action Taken) Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2018-2019).

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**12 05hrs**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE**

**50<sup>th</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA (DEORIA):** Madam Speaker, I present the 50th Report (Hindi and English versions) on the subject 'Provision of all weather road connectivity under Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and other agencies up to International borders as well as the strategic areas including approach roads- An appraisal'.

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*...(Interruptions)*

**12 05 ½ hrs**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR**

**53<sup>rd</sup> to 56<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table-

1. 53<sup>rd</sup> Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 41<sup>st</sup> Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme (JSSS)' pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
2. 54<sup>th</sup> Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 30<sup>th</sup> Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Land Assets Management in National Textile Corporation (NTC)' pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.
3. 55<sup>th</sup> Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 42<sup>nd</sup> Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Regulatory Framework of the EPFO on the Excluded Category vis-a-vis Implementation of various PF Acts'.

4. 56<sup>th</sup> Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 39<sup>th</sup> Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'The Employees' State Insurance Corporation -Coverage of Establishments, Recovery of Arrears and Functioning of the Hospitals and Dispensaries under the Scheme' pertaining to the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
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**12 06hrs**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN**

**DEVELOPMENT**

**25<sup>TH</sup> Report**

[English]

**SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI):** I beg to present the 25th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2018-19) on the subject, 'Solid Waste Management including Hazardous waste, Medical waste and E-waste'.

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[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kumari Sushmita Dev – Not Present.

Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh - Not Present.

...(Interruptions)

**12 06 1/2 hrs**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare\***

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 35<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10951/16/19 and 10952/16/19 respectively.

**12 07hrs**

**(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 13<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Deployment of Contract/Casual/ Sanitation workers for perennial nature of jobs in NDMC', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs\***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Deployment of Contract/Casual/Sanitation workers for perennial nature of jobs in NDMC', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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*...(Interruptions)*

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10951/16/19 and 10952/16/19 respectively.

**12 07 ½ hrs**

**(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 40<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Overseas Employment of Women Workers including Nurses and Maids, Issues and Regulatory Framework' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Employment\***

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.):** I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 40th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Overseas Employment of Women Workers including Nurses and Maids, Issues and Regulatory Framework' pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 10953/16/19 and 10954/16/19 respectively.

**12 08hrs**

**(iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations/ observations contained in the 208<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 198<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee on Disaster in Chennai caused by Torrential Rainfall and consequent flooding, pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs\***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations/observations contained in the 208<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in 198<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee on Disaster in Chennai caused by Torrential Rainfall and consequent flooding, pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**12 09hrs**

*At this stage Shri Jaidev Galla and some other hon. Members went back to their seats*

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Zero Hour. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to raise the matter concerning the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) located within my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency Giridih, where approximately 1200 supply labourers have been working as contractual workers for nearly 32 years. From time to time, as per the tripartite agreement between the DVC management and the concerned labour unions, pay scales and additional facilities are provided. The DVC management had ensured the engagement of supply labourers up to the age limit of 60 years. However, at present, labourers who have rendered five years of service are legally entitled to gratuity, yet they are not receiving this benefit. The directions issued by the Chief Labour Commissioner, New Delhi, are also not being complied with by DVC.

Therefore, I would like request the Union Government to ensure the immediate payment of gratuity to the labourers so that their present condition may improve. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, I express my sincere thanks to you for granting me the time to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Nishikant Dubey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Gopal Shetty.

Have you given notice to speak during Zero Hour today? Your name is not listed for today.

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** Madam, I do not have a Zero Hour notice for today. *...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray.

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODARMA):** Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit that in our region, the railway-related problems persist and, in particular, not a single halt has been granted to us even in 5 years. *...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** At the appropriate time, I will give you an opportunity. I am not refusing. I am not saying “No” to anybody.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY:** Madam Speaker, I would like to demand a halt for the Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express at Hazaribagh Railway Station and for the Bombay Mail and Purushottam Express at Parasabad Railway Station.

...(Interruptions) Along with this, I have repeatedly raised the issue that after Ranchi became the capital of Jharkhand, there should be an EMU train connecting directly from there to my region for the convenience of the common people. ...(Interruptions) I have requested that an EMU train be operated daily from Giridih to Kodarma, via Gomoh. ...(Interruptions) I once again would like to request the Ministry of Railways, as this will benefit the people of 6 districts. Therefore, in public interest, kindly start this new train. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to fulfil this in the interest of the public. I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak. ...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ravindra Kumar Ray.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA (BHILWARA):** Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak. ...(Interruptions)

In the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan, within my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, land was allotted by the Union Government to Jindal Saw Limited for iron ore mining, upon which mining activities have been carried out for a long period.

...(Interruptions) Due to illegal blasting undertaken for mining in the suburb of Pur, near the Bhilwara district headquarters, cracks have developed in nearly one thousand houses, and many families have vacated their homes. ...(Interruptions) As a result, religious places have also been damaged. ...(Interruptions) This has caused deep resentment among the residents of Pur. ...(Interruptions) I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that if these conditions persist, there could be a major loss of life in the near future. ...(Interruptions)

Madam, through you, I would like to request the Government to put an end to the illegal blasting, ensure that compensation for the damage caused so far is recovered from Jindal Saw Limited, and cancel its mining lease. ...(Interruptions) Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Nandi Yellaiah.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is the matter? Your name has not come up yet. When your name comes up, I will allow you to speak. I am not saying 'No'.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, I shall also provide you an opportunity to speak. Kindly take your seat. Please look after your throat; there has been excessive shouting.

Shri Nandi Yellaiah ji, you don't have to speak.

Shri Anto Antony, you may speak. Shri Anto Antony is also not speaking.

Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra, you may speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The matter regarding which you were raising your voice is the same. I shall provide you an opportunity to speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Madam Speaker, I would like to raise a matter of grave importance. In Punjab yesterday, a lathi-charge was carried out on teachers. Their legs, arms, and other limbs were fractured, and water cannons were used against them. They were proceeding to submit a memorandum of demands to the Hon. Chief Minister. Excessive force was used against them. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government that the situation in Punjab has deteriorated seriously and the Punjab Government has betrayed the trust of the people. *...(Interruptions)* The people are distressed and

aggrieved. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take cognisance of this matter. ...(*Interruptions*) The situation there is becoming highly volatile and requires urgent attention. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, the matter of stray cattle and wild animals in Punjab has become exceedingly grave. ...(*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to request the Government to make suitable arrangements to control the threat posed by wild animals. ...(*Interruptions*) Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

...(*Interruptions*)

### **12 14 hrs**

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

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri P.K. Biju.

... (*Interruptions*)

**DR. P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** Madam Speaker, Kerala is famous for religious and cultural festivals. As you very well know Onam is

our national festival. Our festivals Thrissur Pooram and Uthralikkavu Pooram are famous not only in our country but in the entire world.

Madam, Nenmara Vallangi Vela is a festival celebrated annually in Nenmara in Palakkad district in my constituency.

The Vela festival is celebrated after the paddy harvest during the month of April. It is one of the most beautiful and colourful festivals. Lakhs of people across the world attend this festival every year. I urge upon the Government to include the Nenmara Vallangi Vela festival in the list of National Festivals.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shrimati Supriya Sule and Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.K. Biju.

**\*SHRI DEVJIBHAI G. FATEPARA (SURENDRANAGAR):**  
Hon'ble Speaker Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. In my constituency Surendranagar, Gujarat, there are salt farmers (agaariya) in Patdi region and they earn their livelihood by making salt. Hindustan Salt Company is working in this region since a very long time in about 23000 acre land. CMD and General Manager of this company behave in a very bad manner

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

with salt farmers. They exploit the employees and labourers very much. About 250 labourers are working in this company. Employees working at lower level do not get promotion. The salt farmers who have been working here for forty years just get Rs.220/- as daily wage. Labourers are made to work as wireman, fitter, clerk and plant operator whereas salary is paid as per Class-IV employees. General Manager and CMD of this company have awarded tenders to their relatives at high rates and thus caused loss to public exchequer. The labourers are getting salary as per 5<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission whereas 7<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission is applicable at present. These salt farmers are being exploited. The company purchases bromine from the salt farmers at very low rates and then sell it to others at very high rates. The salt farmers also pay heavy rent for the land.

Speaker Madam, please allow me to speak as it is very important issue pertaining to poor salt farmers. Lease of this company has expired in 2012. In spite of this, without renewing the lease and ignoring rules and regulations of the Government, the company is exploiting salt farmers and labourers. It was decided to allot quarters free of cost to the labourers of this company but high rent is being charged from the labourers for their quarters. These quarters are very old and dilapidated. Despite this, the company is

not constructing new quarters. Men and women start working in this company at very young age and continue working for a long period as long as they can work. These labourers are not provided with required equipments like hand gloves, helmet, jacket, shoes, etc for their safety during work. The labourers have observed hunger strike, given memorandum and representations to get justice. But CMD and General Manager of this company are not listening to them. Our local party president and I also requested the company to provide better facilities to the laboureres but CMD and General Manager of this company have not taken any action in this regard. Speaker Madam, through you I request the Hon'ble Minister to form a committee and this committee should visit the salt farmers and ensure that the salt farmer get justice. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra with the issue raised by Shri Devjibhai Govindbhai Fatepara.

Item Number - 17 was left.

Vikram Usendi ji, where do you keep going? Place the Report on the Table.

**12 19hrs**

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

**324<sup>th</sup> Report**

**SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER):** Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the 324<sup>th</sup> Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on 'Status of Forests in India'.

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[English]

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Madam, Speaker, there is an urgent crying need to increase the social equality measures in our country. From time immemorial, be they from the former princely states or from the British India, the marginalised sons of the soil and lower-class masses have always suffered humiliating inequalities and demeaning social subjugation. ...*(Interruptions)* So, an affirmative action was required to uplift all the socially and educationally backward sections of our Indian society. This emphatic social justice measure, introduced much earlier by our Dravidian Self-Respect Movement, was advocated by Dr. Ambedkar. Hence, reservation for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people was provided in our Indian Constitution. Still the process of identification and inclusion of some more castes in the List of Scheduled Castes is going on. So, the deadline for ending reservation is rightly extended every time....*(Interruptions)*

In India, Caste is decided by birth. That is why caste system is deep-rooted, thereby warranting socially uplifting measures. It is also true that Caste is not decided by religion. But the Scheduled Castes, who follow Christian religion, are denied reservation benefits under the social equality measures as if they are not

Scheduled Castes. This needs to be reviewed and remedied....(*Interruptions*)

Recently, the Union Government has earmarked 10 per cent quota in the name of reservation to forward-castes based on an economic criterion.

**12 22 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Rajeev Satav and some other hon.*

*Members went back to their seats.*

So, I urge upon the Centre to immediately provide at least three per cent to five per cent reservation from that new reservation to the deprived Scheduled Caste Christians. This is necessary because they continue to remain a socially marginalised section of the society as ever. Even otherwise, I urge upon the Union Government to include Christian Scheduled Castes also in the List of all other Scheduled Castes and extend unconditionally the reservation meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Madam Speaker, in this regard, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jayalalitha also wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh strongly backing the demand for inclusion of Dalit Christians in the List of Scheduled Castes and

demanded that necessary legislation be brought. She had also written a letter in 1995 to the then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. This is my submission, Madam.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Shrimati K. Maragatham and Dr. J. Jayavardhanare permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. P. Venugopal.

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD):** Madam, Speaker.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your name is there. I will call you. Your name is there.

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH:** Why are you not allowing me to speak?

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Explain it to him. What can I do? [English]  
Otherwise, your name is next in the list.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your name is there in the list. I will call you.

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Speaker Madam, he has greatly misused this position. ...(*Interruptions*) He has spoken every day. ...(*Interruptions*)

**12 23hrs**

**SUBMISSION BY MEMBER**

**Re : Rafale deal**

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened that we have been continuously moving adjournment motions solely to draw your attention to this matter and to place this matter before the public. Particularly, with regard to the Rafale Deal...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is placed every day, and it has also been placed before the public.

...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** A discussion has already taken place on this matter. There is no discussion every day.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** What has occurred is a scam of Rs. 35 thousand crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** A discussion of one hour has taken place.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** It has to be inquired by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. ...(*Interruptions*) Why is the Prime Minister scared? I don't know. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** What do you mean by being afraid? He has also given his reply. Everything has been addressed.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** The Prime Minister is not taking cognizance of it. We want JPC...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, I would like to bring another matter to your notice. ...(*Interruptions*) The report of the C&AG has been laid in the Rajya Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:...**\*

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** It is not in our agenda. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is there. You do not look at the agenda. ....

\*First you check.

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\* Not recorded.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Please listen. The C&AG Report has already been leaked. ...(*Interruptions*) It has already been leaked at 1040 hours. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:**... \*Ask him about it. First try to understand.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** The report was laid in rajya sabha at 11 o'clock but it was leaked at 1040 hours to media. [Translation] This clearly indicates that every attempt is being made to conceal the Rafale Deal. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing has been concealed.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** ...(*Interruptions*) That is why we demand a JPC. The Prime Minister should come and state that he is prepared for a discussion and prepared for a JPC. ...(*Interruptions*) Only then will we accept it and participate in the discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** A discussion has already taken place. I shall not permit another discussion on this matter.

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\*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to state that a discussion on the Rafale issue has already taken place in this Parliament. Along with that, the Supreme Court has also delivered its judgment in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

It is the most unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition is repeatedly attempting to project falsehood as truth by making incorrect statements again and again. ...(*Interruptions*) An effort is being made to mislead the public. It means that in a healthy democracy, political engagement should be honest and transparent. One should not mislead, deceive, or confuse the public. Instead, political actions and statements should be made openly, truthfully, and with integrity. ...(*Interruptions*)

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**HON. SPEAKER:** \* It has already been placed.

...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is the matter now?

...(*Interruptions*)

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\* Not recorded.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** There must be a discussion on this matter. ...(*Interruptions*) This is the truth. ...(*Interruptions*) We shall prove it. This is indeed the truth. ...(*Interruptions*) You must constitute a JPC. ...(*Interruptions*) If we fail to prove it, you may say whatever you wish. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri M. B. Rajesh.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD):** Madam Speaker, I have been elected from Kerala. I was born in Jalandhar, Punjab, and therefore I am emotionally connected with Punjab as well. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

Madam Speaker, this is the centenary year of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. I recently visited Jallianwala Bagh and I was shocked to see that. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Rajesh Ji, just a minute. He wants to complete his statement.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge Ji, are you completing your point?

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please complete your point in one sentence.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, Shri Rajnath Ji has stated his position. I respect him; he is a senior person and a Minister. However, your Prime Minister does not have the courage to agree to a JPC. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** He has also replied. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** He has also replied in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** You constitute a JPC, and we shall prove every aspect. Everything will come to light. ...(Interruptions) Since the Government is not prepared, we are registering our protest and walking out. ...(Interruptions)

**12 27 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon.  
Members left the House*

[English]

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD):** Madam Speaker, I recently visited Jallianwala Bagh and was shocked to see that the light and sound show at the Jallianwala Bagh is stopped due to lack of funds.

Madam Speaker, this is something which is unacceptable and shocking. We are spending Rs. 3000 crore to build a statue, but we do not have a few thousand rupees for this light and sound show at the Jallianwala Bagh. Madam Speaker, this is looked after by the Ministry of Culture and the Chairman of the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust is the hon. Prime Minister himself.

Madam, citing lack of funds as a reason to stop light and sound show at Jallianwala Bagh is an insult to the great martyrs. I hope that, at least in the centenary year, the Government will resume the light and sound show at Jallianwala Bagh. I also hope that the entire House will join me in demanding Government to release sufficient funds to resume light and sound show at the Jallianwala Bagh. Thank you very much.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adv. Joice George, Shri C. N. Jayadevan, Shri Jitendra Chaudhury, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Sankar

Prasad Datta, Dr. P.K. Biju, Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher, Shri Mohammad Salim, Shri Tariq Anwar, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Dr. Mamtaz Sanghamita, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and Shri Dushyant Chautala are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M. B. Rajesh.

[Translation]

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to submit certain points regarding my Parliamentary Constituency, Aurangabad. Both Aurangabad and Gaya districts are Naxal-affected and are among the most backward regions. I seek your protection and your blessings. Through you, I would like to place before the Government the issues concerning unemployed youth and farmers. I seek your indulgence until I complete my submission. This entire area is Naxal-affected, backward, and predominantly agricultural. The majority of the population consists of farmers. Due to the absence of employment, work opportunities, and avenues of livelihood, the youth of this region become disoriented, and straying from the mainstream, they are compelled to take up arms.

Through you, I would like to submit that the Ministry of Food Processing of the Union Government should establish food processing industries in this region based on agricultural produce,

so that the youth may obtain employment and work opportunities. This will enable farmers to receive fair prices for their produce through these industries and factories, thereby leading to the economic advancement and overall development of the region. Such an initiative would address both major concerns, unemployment and the inability of farmers to receive appropriate value for their crops, and it would also help in controlling the problem of Naxalism.

Through you, I would like to submit that the Union Government operates a scheme known as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the development of this region. In this context, I would like to request that when funds are provided by the Union Government to public representatives, including Members of Parliament, schemes may also be undertaken on the basis of the recommendations made by the Members of Parliament. It is our constant endeavour that schemes be implemented which are in the public interest, which confer maximum benefit upon the people, and which contribute to the development of our region, so that the problem of extremism may also be effectively controlled.

The Hon. Minister of Railways is presently in the House. The Union Government has allocated Rs. 25 crore for the Bihta-Aurangabad railway line, for which I express my sincere thanks. I

trust that this project will not be halted but will progress further. I would like to submit one request to him: since he has shown generosity and magnanimity, this amount may kindly be enhanced from Rs. 25 crore to at least Rs. 125 crore, so that the construction of this railway line may be completed within the shortest possible time, thereby providing employment and work opportunities to a large number of youth and bringing benefit to the farmers as well. I am grateful to you for affording me the opportunity to place my submission before the House. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** Madam Speaker, thank you. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. ...(*Interruptions*) Jammu has now become a very large city, and there is a great need for a metro. The survey for the metro rail line has also been completed. Through you, I would like to request that the survey for the Jammu Metro Rail Line, which has been completed, be accorded approval and that the work of laying the metro line be started at the earliest, so that the people residing from Samba to Jammu and from Jammu to Akhnoor may be relieved of their difficulties. The Government had

accepted our demand for a metro rail line in Jammu and had also completed the survey. I now request that, following this survey, the work be commenced at the earliest so that the metro rail line may begin operating in Jammu by next year.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jugal Kishore.

[English]

**DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR):** Madam Speaker, I rise to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

My State of Manipur and North-East India are now on the boil. They are demanding immediate withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016. The whole State was on no work strike yesterday. Every day there are some forms of strikes like dharna in public places, rallies on the national highways, etc. Manipur students' bodies, CSOs and elderly women of Ima Market of Manipur protested at Jantar Mantar on 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 demanding the withdrawal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (CAB) which was hurriedly passed by the Lok Sabha on the last day of the Winter Session 2018 after JPC had submitted its non-unanimous report on the previous day amidst boycott by the principal Opposition, the Indian National Congress Party. Even on

the day of passing the Bill, there was complete upsurge in the entire North-East. If this Bill is not withdrawn immediately, the fall-out will be very dangerous and situation will be out of control.

I strongly condemn the action of Delhi Police who arrested and manhandled our elderly women protesters without the presence of a single woman police person. My Party, Indian National Congress, and almost all political parties in Manipur have rushed to the Capital of Delhi for lobbying for the withdrawal of the Bill. If the Bill is passed in its present form, there will arise a huge demographic challenge in the North-East in general and Manipur in particular.

My State, Manipur got merged into the Union of India in 1949 under an infamous Manipur Merger Agreement, 1949 (MMA). This MMA was reportedly rejected by the then Manipur Assembly. Interestingly, this Merger Agreement was never ratified by the Parliament of India. Now I urge upon the Union Government to immediately take action for the ratification of this MMA by the Parliament of India. With the introduction of Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and its passing by the Lok Sabha; the people of Manipur have now started demanding the pre-merger status of Manipur, an erstwhile Nation State.

Hence, I strongly urge upon the Union Government to immediately withdraw the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in the best interest of all concerned.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Thangso Baite, Shri Jintendra Chaudhury, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Dr. P.K. Biju and Shri N.K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Thokchom Meinya.

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of public importance relating to my parliamentary constituency. National Highway Kollam Bypass was commissioned last month. This bypass was originally designed as a four-lane road. The land for the construction of the four-lane road was already acquired. The two-lane road for Kollam bypass was constructed and dedicated to the nation. Two-lane road is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the traffic.

In the State of Kerala, development of road is delayed to the lack of availability of land. But the land for the construction of four-lane bypass road is already available. This bypass is also crossing two other National Highways, development of main junctions such as Kallumthazham and Ayathil are also required. Construction of over-bridge, underpass, service roads and other developments are

essential for the smooth vehicular traffic through the Kollam bypass.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to initiate immediate steps for the construction of four-lane road and other related developments of Kollam bypass. Since the land is available with the Government, I request the Government of India to give full share from the Central Government. The present two-lane Kollam bypass has been constructed with the equal share from the State and the Central Government. So, I urge upon the Government of India to complete the four-lane bypass road with full cost from the Government of India.

**\*SHRIMATI P.K. SREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR) :**  
Thank you Madam Speaker, during the past five years, I had an opportunity to present many a social issues in this House. The most important issues, were concerning women, children, and the differently abled persons. I am happy that I could bring such issues to the notice of the House. Today, I am presenting once again the plight of five crores of our youngsters, children, adults, and the aged, who are differently abled. Our respected Prime Minister, had said that this section of the society should not be called *vikalang* (Physically handicapped) but they should be called *divang*

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam

(differently abled). But I speak with great anguish, that during the last five years, no enhancement of financial aid, nor other facilities have been extended to the differently abled sections in this country. I want to tell you Madam, this section, is the most marginalized, and neglected in our society. They include physically and mentally challenged, and those who have these challenges from birth onwards and those who are affected by cerebral palsy and autism. It is my desire and request to you, that the Government should take steps to redress their suffering. Therefore, on this eve, when the tenure of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha is getting over, this section of our society who suffer the most physically and mentally, and who constitutes about five crores of our population, deserves special care and protection. I urge upon the Government that for their day to day needs these brothers and sisters be provided an allowance of three thousand rupees per month. I request the Government to immediately take steps in this regard. I am thankful to you Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise this issue on the floor of the House. Thank you Madam Speaker.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shankar Prasad Datta, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Dr. Mamta Sanghamita, Shrimati Pratima Mondal, Shrimati V. Sathyabama, Shri P.K. Biju, Dr. A. Sampath, Adv. Joice George are permitted to

associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

**SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

**12 39 hrs**

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

The issue is with regard to the problems being faced by farmers all over the country. A lot of the land of the farmers are encroached for drawing high voltage power transmission lines and as a result the farmers are losing their lands. Once the high voltage transmission line is drawn, the land virtually becomes useless. The farmers are the owners of their lands and they get a paltry compensation under Section 16 of the Indian Telegraph Act. But the land becomes virtually useless after the high voltage transmission line is drawn. So, till the land is acquired and the farmers file for compensation they are put to a lot of hardship. Under Section 16 of the Indian Telegraph Act, a paltry sum is given as compensation to the farmers.

So, my demand from the Union Government is this. The Government must bring in an amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act, which is a very old Act, to enable the farmers to get sufficient

amount of compensation for the corridors where the high voltage transmissions lines pass through. They must get the value for the lands through which the high voltage transmission corridor passes through.

[Translation]

**SHRI MADHUKARRAO YASHWANTRAO KUKADE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra, there are VJNT schools. For the past four months, due to the Union Government not issuing the required orders, the supply of rice from Government depots to these schools has been discontinued. Boys and girls reside in these VJNT schools and pursue their studies there. Children belonging to the Dheemar community, the Dhangar community, the SC community, the Chamar community, the Mag community, and other extremely impoverished sections reside in these institutions. As the Union Government has not issued instructions for the supply of food grains to these schools, the VJNT schools in Gondia district have not been receiving rice and wheat from the Government head for the past four months. Due to this non-supply, the children in these schools will be deprived of essential food grains. I would like to request the Government to issue directions to ensure that all VJNT

schools in Gondia district, as well as those across Maharashtra, are provided with rice and wheat without delay.

Due to this policy of the Union Government, children belonging to the Dalit community will be unable to pursue their education. If the Union Government does not supply food grains to the VJNT schools, it will have to be understood that the Government intends to shut these schools down. To ensure that children in rural areas are not deprived of education, I would like to request the Government, through you, to issue directions that rice and wheat be supplied to all VJNT schools.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati Supriya Sule is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Madhukarrao Yashwantrao Kukade.

[Translation]

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a matter of great importance. ...(*Interruptions*) Throughout Delhi, the impact of the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon. Supreme Court has created widespread distress. No distinction is being made between what is correct and what is incorrect. Thousands of industrial units, and even residential houses, are being sealed. In my Parliamentary

Constituency, the largest cluster of industries exists, Narela, Bawana, Udyog Nagar, Mundka, Badli, and the Mangolpuri Industrial Area, where lakhs of units are situated. Officials, in the name of the Monitoring Committee, exert undue pressure and even seal those units that are not liable to be sealed, so that later, during the de-sealing process, they may engage in extortion and demand unlawful payments. This is an issue of utmost seriousness. It is not the role of the Hon. Supreme Court to run the administration. For that purpose, Parliament exists, and State Governments exist. The intervention of the Hon. Supreme Court in this matter is inappropriate. The Monitoring Committee ought to be dissolved. Yesterday evening, in the Bawana Industrial Area, hundreds of ...(*Interruptions*) which were under the State Government ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Ramesh Bidhuri are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Udit Raj.

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on a very important matter of urgent public importance.

The matter is regarding Sambalpuri and Koshali languages which are ancient languages spoken in about 12 districts and by 1.5 crore people living in the western part of Odisha. They are rich in heritage and culture. They are very popular languages spoken by the people living in the western part of Odisha. Sir, through you, we are demanding inclusion of these languages in the Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution. The hon. Chief Minister of Odisha has written several letters to the Indian Government to include Sambalpuri and Koshali languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

I urge upon the Union Home Minister through you to include Sambalpuri and Koshali languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to bring the problems of Delhi to the notice of the House.

Sir, this is a matter of considerable sensitivity. There are approximately 2,100 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, and the Delhi

Government has not regularised them to date. The residents of these colonies have repeatedly been misled. On one occasion, during an election, the Congress leaders, including Shrimati Sonia Ji, distributed provisional certificates merely to secure votes. From the year 2008 till now, no substantive action has been taken. Subsequently, in 2008, an order was issued stating that the Government would develop basic amenities in these colonies. We have no objection to that. Roads had indeed begun to be constructed in 2008-2009. However, in the last four years, during the tenure of the present Government, the MCD has not been permitted to undertake work in these unauthorised colonies, as a notification has been issued in this regard. Only the DSIDC and the Flood Department are allowed to carry out works there. The MLAs demand funds from them, yet no work is actually undertaken.

Sir, works amounting to approximately Rs. 350 crore were taken up in discussion with the Chief Secretary in the meeting held on 04.09.2013, and again in the meeting held on 09.09.2014, with respect to the laying of sewer lines and the execution of development works. In all the colonies concerned, whether Vijay Nagar, Mahavir Enclave, Rangpuri, Sangam Vihar, Deoli, Badarpur, Tughlakabad, Prahladpur, Lalkuan, or Chhattarpur, the laying of sewer lines remains to be undertaken.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ... under the \*Delhi University, there is a proposal to establish a college in that area. A substantial extent of Gram Sabha land is available there. The MCD also intends to construct a dispensary for the residents, but ... \* the Gram Sabha land is not being allotted.

Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Urban Development and the Government to make the necessary arrangements so that a dispensary may be constructed. Delhi is the capital of the country, and this matter concerns nearly thirty lakh people, as it relates to the establishment of both a college and a dispensary. The Delhi Government has been in office for four years, yet no action has been taken in this regard.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The name will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

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\* Not recorded.

**SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance in the House.

I would like to speak about a noted religious figure and humanitarian Sri Sri Shivakumara Swamiji, who headed the Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, Karnataka.

He was an Indian supercentenarian, humanitarian, spiritual leader and educator. He was a Lingayat religious figure. He joined the Siddaganga Mutt in 1930 and became the Head Seer in 1941. He also founded the Sri Siddaganga Education Society. Described as the most esteemed adherent of Lingayatism, he was referred to as a walking God in the State of Karnataka. In 2015, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award by the Government of India.

Swamiji founded a total of 132 institutions for education and training that range from nursery to colleges for engineering, science, arts and management as well as for vocational training. He established educational institutions which offer courses in traditional learning of Sanskrit as well as modern science and technology. He was widely respected by all communities for his philanthropic work.

The Swami's *gurukula* houses more than 10,000 children from age 5 to 16 at any point in time and is open to children from all religions, castes and creeds and they are provided free food, education and shelter. The pilgrims and visitors to the Mutt also receive free meals. Under the pontiff's guidance, an annual agricultural fair is held for the benefit of the local population. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, visited him at Tumakuru and praised the initiatives of Swamiji in the field of education and for his humanitarian work.

Keeping in view of all the great things that Swamiji did for the welfare of the people, I demand that Bharat Ratna may be conferred to Sri Sri Shivakumara Swamiji.

[Translation]

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would first like to express my gratitude that, for the first time, the Union Government has established a separate Fisheries Department for the welfare of the country's millions of fishermen. My request is that, through the Fisheries Department, a separate and new fishing policy should be formulated as soon as possible for the benefit of the millions of fishermen residing in the country. In our country, millions of fishermen engage in their trade in the eastern and western seas and

lead their livelihoods. However, unfortunately, whether it be Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kolkata in Eastern India, or other states, no proper policy has yet been adopted for the fishermen residing in these states. Due to the existence of different policies in different states, whether they are traditional fishermen, trawler fishermen, or other types of fishermen, they face numerous challenges in conducting their trade.

My demand from the Government is that a proper policy needs to be formulated not only for traditional fishermen but also for trawler fishermen and other types of fishermen. After the establishment of the separate Fisheries Department, I would like to urge that a new fishing policy be swiftly prepared by holding discussions with the representatives of coastal regions and the fishermen, so that the fishermen can fully benefit from the Blue Revolution.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. A. Sampath, Prof. Richard Hay, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Gajanan Kirtikar and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut.

[Translation]

**SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA (BANSWARA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sire, The Rajasthan Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Cooperative Corporation, Jaipur, is running various schemes under the special central assistance program (banking scheme) for the economic and social upliftment of poor families belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, sanitation workers, and persons with disabilities. These include the Package of Programs (Rural & Urban), Tribal Self-Employment Scheme, and non-banking schemes, among others. Under these schemes, selected BPL (Below Poverty Line) families of the Scheduled Castes and equivalent families are provided with a subsidy of 50 percent of the project cost or Rs. 10,000. However, given the current circumstances, this subsidy amount is very low. This subsidy amount was determined by the Government of India in the year 2002-03, which is almost 14 years old. I would like to request that it be increased at least five times, as per the present requirements.

Through this House, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to kindly increase the current subsidy amount of Rs. 10,000 under the special central assistance program for the beneficiaries of this category. In order to benefit

these families to a greater extent, I urge that the subsidy be raised to Rs. 50,000.

[English]

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

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Rattan Lal Kataria – Not present.

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise a very important matter of public importance. Sir, the pathetic living conditions of Dalit Christians in this country need to be addressed immediately. Just now, AIADMK leader Shri Venugopal Ji raised this issue. I am fully supporting what he has raised here. The conditions of Dalit Christians were pathetic because of no reservation for them in Government service and educational institutions. Sir, there are so many other communities which are converting to Christians. They are getting reservations, but at the same time, Dalit Christians are not being considered for the reservation facilities. For example, the Dalits who are converting to Buddhism, are getting reservation facilities. The Tribal communities in this country, whether they are

Christians and Muslims, all the Tribal communities, are getting reservations in Government services as well as educational institutions. ...(*Interruptions*). I am coming to the point. Dalit Christians are deliberately being discriminated because of their faith. So, I would like to request through you that the Government should consider this issue. ...(*Interruptions*). I am concluding. In Kerala, State Government has formed a Corporation for welfare of Dalit Christians. So, I would request the Government of India to form a national level Corporation for welfare of Dalit Christians.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Anto Antony and Advocate Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

**SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Ooty, the 'Queen of Hills', is an ideal destination for tourists. Over 30 lakh people visit the hill station every year and the Nilgiris hills has a population of 7.11 lakh as per the 2011 Census. Despite this, the hill district lacks a speciality hospital, especially one providing cardiac care. The District Headquarters Government hospital is the only major hospital in the district. With its origin dating back to 1829, the Ooty Government hospital now has 421 beds, including 116 maternity wing. In 2016, the then Chief Minister Puratchi

Thalaivi Amma, considering the Nilgiris as a special case, announced upgradation of the hospital at par with medical college hospitals under Rule 110 in the State Assembly. Ooty Mountain rail is also a world heritage. Rail Bus service should also be started for international and domestic tourists. Tea plantation site was developed in fraction. I urge upon the Government to develop the overall area for Nilgiri Hills for the benefit of domestic and international tourists.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C. Gopalakrishnan.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM):** Sir, in the early morning of today at around 4.30 a.m., a major fire incident took place in Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh, New Delhi, where a large number of people from my Constituency are staying.

So, we went to the hotel and found that about 10-15 people are missing. One person has already been declared dead.

So, it is my request to the Government that an inquiry may be conducted; proper assistance should be provided to those who are hospitalised. All possible assistance should be rendered by the Government. It also needs to be seen as to who is responsible for

this incident. It is one of the hotels, where so many people from Kerala come and stay.

So, the Government should order an inquiry; and also proper assistance be given to the victims. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Prof. Richard Hay is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. K.V. Thomas.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Sir, I am raising a very important issue. I would request the Government to initiate legislative measures to overcome the recent judgment of the hon. Supreme Court on the entry of women between the ages of 10 and 50 years into Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala. The hon. Supreme Court, on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 ruled that women of all ages have the right to enter to the Sabarimala Shrine.

This judgment is against the customs and traditions that have been observed by the devotees for a long time. Hence, this judgment has hurt not only the sentiments of the devotees but also all sections of the people in the country irrespective of their faith because Sabarimala pilgrimage is the best example of the practice of interfaith understanding and harmony. Moreover, pilgrimage is also the best example of eco-spirituality.

The Sabarimala Shrine is one of the largest pilgrim centres on account of the number of devotees.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All right.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY :** Every year, more than five crores of devotees from all over the world pay pilgrimage to Sabarimala.

However, the verdict and the subsequent developments have seriously affected the pilgrimage.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have given you enough time. All your party Members are speaking. Please cooperate.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY :** Sir, as a result, the overwhelming majority of devotees could not pay their annual pilgrimage during the last season.

I would request the Government to respond and think positively on this Sabarimala issue. I would urge the Government to initiate legislative measures to overcome the decision of the Supreme Court of India. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri P.R. Sundaram is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.

**PROF. A.S.R. NAIK (MAHABUBABAD):** Sir, nearly 10 crore of Banjara, community which is one of the large communities is spread all over the country. They have specific traditions and cultures. They speak script-less language. They believe that Sant Sevalal Maharaj is their God because he is the social reformer and

he sacrificed for his community. Every year in Maharashtra, Poriagadsar and Pordevi Garh, they celebrate his birth.

I would request the Government to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Sant Sevalal Maharaj officially.

Moreover, in our State, our hon. Chief Minister has also declared it a Government festival. On this line, the Government may also do it. Thank you.

**\*SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

I want to present before the House an issue of utmost importance, and I am thankful to the chair for giving me this opportunity. My constituency, Allapat, was ruined by the Tsunami disaster. Thousands of fisher men live there, and the entire village has gone on an indefinite strike for the last hundred and one days. Because of the illegal mining being done by the IRE the people are in a jeopardy. In the name of mining, the entire land mass is being eroded. People's lives have been affected. I have brought this issue before the Central Government, that the IRE is engaged in an inhuman enterprise. I sought the Central Government's

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\* English translation originally delivered in Malayalam

interference, and also gave a letter to the minister. The poor people of Allapat and their land needs to be saved.

A true ecological impact, study has to be done in Allapat, and it is lack of such a study, that has led to this calamity in Allapat. Mining should be stopped immediately. By understanding the problem of the people, a proper ecological impact study has to be done.

**DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice an important matter. Though I have raised this matter several times and last time, it was on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, yet no action has been initiated so far.

Islampura Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Halt Station is situated in the Bansberia Municipality area of the Hooghly District in between the Katwa-Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway. The foundation stone was laid in 2012 where the then Railway Ministers and Railway officials were present. Fortunately, the work has been completed some time ago, but no trains are stopping there.

### **13 00 hrs**

It has affected more than one lakh people. There is no other mode of transport to avail.

Therefore, Sir, with high hopes, I will request you to give instructions to the Railway officers so that train stops at that station and ease the acute difficulty faced by the people of that area.

Thank you very much.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. A. Sampath is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Ratna De (Nag).

**SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI):** Sir, how the politics of deception is being played in Delhi is for everyone to see. [Translation] People in our area are receiving phone calls informing them that their names have been removed from the voter list. When they verify it, they find that no one's name has been removed from the voter list. This is the first deception. On the other hand, those whose pensions were sanctioned through Members of Parliament are being called and told that their pensions have been stopped, and that now the Delhi Government,... \*will arrange your pension. Such fraudulent practices are taking place. Along with this, as regards police cases, the police are registering cases but are not taking action. Through you, I would like to state that this politics of deception must end. Police action should be taken against all such activities.

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do not mention the names. They will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.

**SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. My constituency, Namakkal, is the main producing district of egg and broiler in Tamil Nadu along with Erode, Karur, Palladam and Pollachi. Daily, 4 crore eggs and 4.5 crore chicks are being produced. The Tamil Nadu poultry industry is, now, facing an unexpected situation of shortage of basic raw material mainly maize due to the failure of North-East Monsoon.

Hence, I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to approve import of 10 lakh tonnes of duty-free maize for poultry farmers.

Thank you, Sir.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.R. Sundaram.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a very important issue relating to money laundering and FEMA violation issue.

Recently, it has come out in the newspaper that an Indian Passport holder did not take the approval of the Government or of the RBI before the companies in which the person and his wife and his family friends have controlling beneficial interest, opened bank accounts in the tax haven of Nassau, Bahamas. I am talking about Mr. B.J. Panda. Mr. Panda's defence is that he was neither an overseas student nor an NRI at the relevant time and, therefore, did not need prior RBI approval or of the Government before opening the accounts.

The question is this. Did he declare the account to RBI once he returned to India and ceased to be an NRI as required in law? The next question is this. Did Mr. Panda intimate the RBI and the Government when closing the account and did he repatriate the entire amounts held in these foreign bank accounts as is required in the law? If not, he is liable for criminal prosecution under several Indian laws relating to foreign exchange violation and money laundering.

A senior BJP member, a law maker, known as a trouble shooter of BJP, has said very recently yesterday that the State Government should take action.

I would like to know from the Government as to what steps the Union Government has taken in this regard. Is it still at an investigation stage? How long will it take? Why is BJP accusing the Odisha Government when BJP led Government is supposed to take action at the Union level?

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

[Translation]

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I will take just one minute. This is a national issue. In our country, elections are held, and during elections, all political parties make very tempting promises to garner votes. "We will provide you this, we will provide you that." However, after winning the elections, none of these promises are fulfilled. This harms the country, but it also causes significant harm to the people living in the constituencies. Through you, I would like to request the Government to amend the rules of the Election Commission, so that if 75 percent of promises are not fulfilled within five years, the

party's recognition should be revoked. This would be for the greater good of the country.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gopal Shetty.

[Translation]

**SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH (NAGARKURNOOL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The great and revered sage, Maharishi Valmiki, composed the epic Valmiki Ramayana. Before the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1956, the Boya community was included in the Scheduled Castes. However, after the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh, it was subsequently divided into the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Without any valid reason, the people of the Boya community were included in the backward community category in the state of Telangana. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I know your problem. What you want, you tell finally.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The great and revered sage, Maharishi Valmiki, composed the epic Valmiki Ramayana. Before the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1956, the Boya community was included in the Scheduled Castes. However, after the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh, it was subsequently divided into the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Without any valid reason, the people of the Boya community were included in the backward community category in the state of Telangana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I know your problem. What you want, you tell finally.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:** The population of the Boya community in the state of Telangana is 3 lakh 36 thousand 340. Of this, the population of the Boya community in the city of Kurnool alone is 2 lakh 50 thousand 660. In the state of Telangana, the

people of the Boya community are extremely...(*Interruptions*) I request that I be given five minutes to continue my speech.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot give five minutes; I am sorry.

Shrimati Sathyabama.

**\*SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. The National Highway No 47 passes through my Tiruppur Parliamentary Constituency and I request you to construct approach roads and over bridge between Laxmi Nagar and Chengapalli on this National Highway to avoid manyfatal accidents taking on this stretch of this National Highway. I have also raised this issue during my maiden Parliamentary Speech in this august House. I have also raised this matter with the Hon. Union Minister of Roadways. I therefore request for immediate construction of approach roads and an over-bridge on this Laxmi Nagar and Chengapalli stretch of NH 47. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI SANDHYA ROY (MEDINIPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, As the Member of Parliament from West Medinipur, I

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

would like to make a request. Through this House, I would like to appeal to the Hon. Minister of Railways to establish a railway station in Keshiari, which falls under the 223 Assembly constituency of West Medinipur, and to include the name of Keshiari in the Indian Railway map. Trough you, I would like to make a request that the Hon. Minister expedite the establishment of the railway line. Once this is done, lakhs of poor people, farmers, workers, and traders will be able to travel via Keshiari station.

[English]

**SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM):** Sir, this is to request you to take necessary action for stopping of Tambaram-Tirunelveli Antyodaya Express (16191/16192) and Rameswaram-Bhubaneswar Express (18495/18496) at Chidambaram Railway Station.

Chidambaram is a Municipal town. The mangroves at Pichavaram and Annamalai University are located in Chidambaram. Therefore, Chidambaram assumes importance and there is an urgent need for stoppage of the above-mentioned two trains. Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR):** Sir, the State Highway No. 1 in the State of Telangana which runs from Hyderabad-Karimnagar-Ramagundam is popularly known as Rajiv

Rahadari. This road was taken up under PPP model a decade back. The alignment of this road is faulty. Every day, there are many accidents occurring on this road and there is a huge traffic.

I would request the Government to take it up as a National Highway which runs from Ramagundam, Mancherial to Chandrapur and Nagpur. Thank you, Sir.

**\*SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. In my Pollachi Parliamentary constituency, coconut farming is done on full swing. I have raised almost 11 times in this august House, the issue of increasing the Minimum Support Price of Copra variety of Coconut to Rs.140 per kg. On that basis, the Union Government has raised the Minimum Support Price of Copra variety of Coconut from Rs52.50 per kg to Rs. 95.21. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to raise the MSP for Milling Copra variety of Coconut as Rs140 per kg.

Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C. Mahendran.

[Translation]

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

**SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV (MAINPURI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Today, a student union programme was scheduled to take place under the aegis of Allahabad University. The student union had invited the Hon. Akhilesh Yadav Ji, the National President of the Samajwadi Party, as the chief guest for the event. However, the Uttar Pradesh Government detained him at the Lucknow airport at 11 a.m. today, thereby preventing him from attending the programme. Through you, I would like to request that the Government issue instructions to this undemocratic administration and allow the Hon. National President to attend the programme as scheduled. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the issue of pollution in the 'Aami' River, which flows through my parliamentary constituency of Sant Kabir Nagar. When I previously raised this matter in the Lok Sabha, a high-powered committee was constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) under your guidance. This committee conducted an investigation into the pollution levels and subsequently imposed a fine of Rs. 5 crore on Rudhauri Sugar Mill. The NGT directed that this fine be utilised for developmental activities along the banks of the 'Aami' River. Through you, I would like to request that the Rs.

5 crore fine be promptly recovered from Rudhauri Sugar Mill and allocated for the development of Sant Kabir Nagar, particularly in Maghar, the site of Saint Kabir's Nirvana. I trust the Government will take the necessary action in this regard. Thank you.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

**\*SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Hon. Purachithalaivi Amma has served this nation as a member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and as six times the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Hon Amma had sacrificed her life for the welfare of the people. I request that Bharat Ratna should be conferred on Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma posthumously. As Hon. Amma had been a Member of Parliament, I request the Union Government to install a full-size Bronze statue in the Parliament complex as a tribute to this great leader. The expenses to be incurred for this purpose will be borne by the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam led by Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Hon. Dputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I also request

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

that the newly introduced Tejas Express should have a stoppage at Dindigul Railway station.

Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shrimati V. Satyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Udayakumar.

[Translation]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):**

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, lakhs of people from Bengal, suffering from hunger and poverty, leave the state and migrate to various other states in search of livelihood to sustain themselves. However, today, many Bengalis do not feel safe in several states, particularly in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and just recently, a group of our minority community from Bengal went to Assam, where they were tragically murdered. ...*(Interruptions)* In the past few months, there have been reports of the killing of Bengalis in Assam as well. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Bengali community in Assam is not safe. I would like to request that you urge the Government...*(Interruptions)* to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Bengali people. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Union Government has passed a constitutional amendment bill that provides 10 percent reservation for the economically weaker sections of the general category, based on poverty. This provision has addressed the long-standing resentment among the youth of the general category, which had existed for decades, and has resulted in a renewed sense of optimism among them. However, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has restricted the provision of reservation for the general category in educational institutions and government employment. Through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to implement a system of reservation for the general category in government jobs, in accordance with the constitutional amendment.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shrimati Riti Pathak are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Janardan Mishra.

**\*SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT):** I am deeply grateful to you Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir and at the same time, I am also indebted to Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee. I have been able to come here because of her. I will not take much time but will put forth just two prayers. Government has not fulfilled the promises made to my constituency Basirhat. Not a single commitment has been fulfilled. They know that their tenure is almost over, only for 2 months they will be in power.

Before quitting office, I request them through you sir to declare the birthday of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose i.e. 23<sup>rd</sup> January as a national holiday, immediately if they have even an iota of respect for the great leader.

Thank you, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Thank you. Sir, the most critical issue is that on one hand, employment is decreasing. The poorest regions of Bihar, such as Kosi and Seemanchal, are facing immense challenges. I urge that, under no circumstances, should the loans provided to students for education in the country be left unresolved. These loans, taken by middle-class and poor students, remain unpaid, and the loans have not been cancelled. While other measures may be taken, I insist that these loans be terminated at any cost. ...(*Interruptions*)  
Secondly, the scholarship schemes have been discontinued. I would like to request that the scholarships be restored. The scholarship schemes have also been discontinued. ...(*Interruptions*)

The scholarships for poor and middle-class students, particularly those from the Dalit, Scheduled Castes (S.C.), and Scheduled Tribes (S.T.) communities, have been discontinued.

I would like to request the Union Government to take immediate action to cancel the student loans that have been provided. Thank You.

**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, My Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency is an industrial region. Previously, the gratuity of Rs. 10 lakh was

fully tax-free. However, in the recently presented interim budget, this limit has been increased to Rs. 20 lakh. Despite this increase, millions of workers are not able to avail of this benefit due to the lack of direction from the Income Tax Department to the Revenue Department.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to make the entire amount of Rs. 20 lakh fully tax-free, so that all workers across the country can benefit from this gratuity provision. Thank You.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

**SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM):** I am bringing the following railway demands of my Kancheepuram constituency, through your goodself, to the Government:- One is stopping of Train Nos.16127/28 Guruvayur Express, 16105/06 Tiruchendur Express, 16853/54 Cholan Express, 16351 Mumbai-Nagercoil Express at Madurantakam railway station. These trains had stopping here before gauge conversion.

Mahabalipuram to Puducherry and Guduvancherry to Avadi *via* Sriperumbudur and Irnkattukottai railway route has been

sanctioned. This project was considered way back in 2008. So far, no work has been started.

For the last four-and-a-half years, I have been continuously meeting the Railway Minister, his PS, E.D.P.G & GM, Southern Railway but so far, nothing has been done. Not even a single work has been considered. Hence, once again, through your goodself, I request the Railway Minister to look into the above demands and do the needful at the earliest.

[Translation]

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring a serious issue regarding the Crop Insurance Scheme to the attention of the Union Government. In my Lok Sabha Constituency, in villages such as Batol Jatan, Rangdan, Kharkhda, Jeetpur, Badala, Kharbda, and Sisar, more than 700 farmers have had their crop insurance money deducted by the Bank of Baroda. However, due to the delay in payment to the insurance company, despite the destruction of their crops, the insurance company has yet to provide them with any compensation. Even after these farmers have provided written statements to the government, their money has not been refunded till date.

Through you, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government of India the need for action against both Bank of Baroda and the insurance company handling the Crop Insurance Scheme. I would like to urge the Government to take immediate steps to compensate those farmers whose crops have been damaged, ensuring that they receive their rightful compensation without further delay. Thank you.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dushyant Chautala.

**SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR):** Sir, how all the Bengalis, who are in Assam--we have all seen--brutally, without any reason, have been killed in broad daylight. Sir, you will appreciate our delegation had gone and they have seen first-hand how the Bengalis in Assam have been killed. It is because Bengal is always pro-India, and there is no reason. I think the dirty politics of BJP has to stop; and this is not going to yield them any result. They must stop killing people of Bengalis in Assam. I demand that from you, Sir.

**SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Stoppage of Train No.12685, Mangalore Express and Train No.12686, Chennai

Express at Chennai-Katpadi-Morappur-Salem-Erode-Tiruppur and Pothanur and vice versa has stopped. The said trains stopped at the above stations and they are district headquarters except Jolarpet Junction. At Jolarpet Junction, the station is there, which is the nearest station of Krishnagiri district but the said trains are not stopping there. The daily passengers from Krishnagiri are suffering very much to get train to Chennai and Mangalore.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary action to stop the Train Nos.12685 and 12686 at Jolarpet station for the welfare of my constituency people. Thank you.

[Translation]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Rahul Kaswan-not present.

Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Hon. Narendra Modi Ji has launched numerous schemes for the welfare of the poor and to promote the advancement of youth. However, the newly formed Congress Government in Chhattisgarh, due to political vendetta, is not implementing several of the Union Government's schemes. One of the major schemes affected is the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, which provides healthcare to the poor.

Additionally, the 10 percent reservation granted by the Union Government to economically weaker sections in the general category is not being implemented in the state.

Sir, through you, I would like to request and demand that the 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections in the general category be immediately implemented in Chhattisgarh to promote the advancement of the poor from the general category. Thank you very much.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I would like to say that Kolkata Metro is the only metro rail in India under Indian Railways. We see many accidents take place very often and fire breaks out. The metro rail has got over crowded and it needs to increase the number of trains as well as the compartments.

I urge upon the Government through you, Sir, that Indian Railways should take steps for safety and security of the common passengers who avail metro rail in Kolkata.

Thank you, Sir.

**PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):** Thank you, Sir.

Recently I had attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at Varanasi. It was a thumping success. There I met many Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), who are interested to reconnect, contribute and celebrate the culture of their country of origin.

Many of them are interested to discover the roots and heritage of India. They also want to contribute to the swifter economic development of the country by partnering with Indian companies and using modern technologies.

I urge upon the Government of India to create a separate portal for this purpose.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Richard Hay.

**\*SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. All the doctors are facing difficulties due to want of approval from Medical Council of India for continuing their Post Graduation. This issue has been raised with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Government Doctors particularly those working in the Government Hospitals of Tamil Nadu are even unable to get permission for pursuing Post Graduate education in the field of Medicine. I therefore request that Union Government should look into this matter and accord permission for those Doctors who want to continue Post Graduate courses without any delay.

Thank you.

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

**SHRI N. KRISTAPPA (HINDUPUR):** Thank you, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Valmiki Boya Sangam (APVBS) has satisfied all the conditions of Lokur Committee for inclusion into ST category from OBC. The Resolution Reference no. LR.No.266113/TW.GCC/2015 dated 15.12.2017 has been passed in Andhra Pradesh State Legislature. Now, it is pending to make and pass the Bill/ Ordinance in Parliament.

Before 1956, this Valmiki (Boya) Community belonged to Scheduled Caste category in all over Andhra region. In the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1956, this Valmiki (Boya) Community was removed from SC list without any scientific reason.

The Andhra Pradesh State Government with the help of the Ministry of Tribes took initiative and constituted a committee under Prof. Dr. P.D. Satya Paul, Head of the Department of Anthropology, Andhra University. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please conclude. Your case has already been recommended.

**SHRI N. KRISTAPPA:** Sir, I request you to help in making and passing the Bill in Parliament as well. Thank you, Sir.

**ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. This is a matter relating to the sad plight of farmers due to

distress. The recent flood in Kerala has affected the lives of farmers and due to indebtedness, they are forced to commit suicide.

All the financing institutions including the nationalised banks are taking measures under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFASI) Act and coercive steps are being taken against them.

I request the Central Government, through you, Sir, to direct the banks to abstain from taking coercive steps against the people who are living in the distressed conditions in Kerala.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. A. Sampath is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Adv. Joice George.

**\*SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA (AMRITSAR):** I thank you, Sir for giving me the opportunity to speak on a matter of urgent public importance. Sir, people of my border constituency are facing the problem of unemployment. The 550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji is round the corner. A special grant should be granted to my border constituency. Employment must be generated for the people of the area. A Central University must also be established in the area. An Economic Zone should also be set up in the border area.

The London & Toronto flights from Amritsar that have been cancelled, must be restarted at the earliest. Punjab produces and contributes the maximum foodgrains in the central pool of foodgrains. Hence, all my demands, including generation of employment, must be accepted by the Central Government.

Thanks.

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

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, this is the fourth time that I am raising this issue in this august House. In the year 2014, I had personally met the then hon. Railway Minister and submitted a letter to him regarding construction of one-side platform at Chandkhali halt station on Sealdah-Canning line which is under my parliamentary constituency, Jayanagar.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You tell me what you want.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** After that, I contacted several officers also in this regard, but nothing has been done.

Lastly, I also met the present Railway Minister and submitted a letter regarding this issue, but all my efforts have not borne fruit. So, it is my earnest request to the hon. Railway Minister, through you, to take necessary action regarding the construction of one-side platform at the said station.

[Translation]

**SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It has been two months since the procurement process for moong and urad in Rajasthan was completed. However, due to the Rajasthan

Government's failure to issue the storage receipts for these crops, the payment to the farmers has not yet been made.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that the outstanding payments for moong and urad, which have been pending for over a month and a half, be immediately processed and paid to the farmers. The necessary NOC from the State Government should be obtained, and the payment process should be expedited without further delay.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI ARPITA GHOSH (BALURGHAT):** Sir, I have raised this issue several times before. I will conclude my point in thirty seconds.

The Balurghat-Hooghly Express runs in our region. It is essential to make it a regular service. We have informed the Railway Minister about this on several occasions. There is also the Tehabaga Express, which requires AC coaches. While AC coaches were added, they were later removed.

Furthermore, there is the Gangarampur station, which is situated at a low level. It is crucial to develop this station. Additionally, the Balurghat-Hili rake point is of utmost importance, so that a rake point can be established in our region.

Thank you.

[English]

**\*SHRI BHAGWANT MANN(SANGRUR):** I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important subject of urgent public importance.

Sir, the Centre sometimes releases the pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for SC, ST and OBC in Punjab. But, the State Government misuses this money for other schemes. The scholarship is not given to the students of schools and colleges for whom it is meant. The students of these categories are suffering. Hence, I urge upon the Centre and the State Governments to release the scholarship amount of these poor students belonging to these categories at the earliest.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you.

Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. Our shiksha mitra, who have been working in the primary schools of Uttar Pradesh for the past twenty to thirty years, where there were no teachers, have been serving as teachers. The state government had

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

absorbed them as Assistant Teachers, granting them the status of teachers and a salary. However, following a Supreme Court ruling, they are now receiving a minimum of Rs. 10,000. Unfortunately, many of these individuals have passed away. This is a very serious matter.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jagdambika Pal.

**SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious incident which happened on 10<sup>th</sup> February in my State.

On 10<sup>th</sup> February, while I was visiting my parliamentary constituency along with the Deputy Leader of CPI in the Tripura Legislative Assembly and another SC MLA, all of us were attacked several times by BJP people. We might have been murdered there. An FIR was also lodged.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Arvind Sawant.

[Translation]

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, In my constituency, there are many old buildings, some of

which have been default-acquired by LIC. One such building is located in Girgaon, named Badamwadi. I have repeatedly requested for repairs to this building, but no action has been taken. We have also submitted a letter, suggesting that if LIC permits the redevelopment of this building, the lives of the residents can be saved. Not only will a new building be constructed, but LIC will also receive the financial benefit. Through you, I would like to request the Government to take this matter seriously and ensure that the necessary redevelopment permissions are granted.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Arvind Sawant.

[Translation]

**SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Changing the matter, I would like to present my demand in just thirty seconds. The gauge conversion work for the railway line in our region had been halted due to the Dudhwa National Park. In this regard, a new railway line between Palia-Nighasan-Belrayan has been constructed.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to expedite the work on the Palia, Nighasan to Singahi-Belrayan railway line and ensure its immediate commencement.

[English]

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

[Translation]

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Thank you.

I would like to bring a very important issue concerning my Parliamentary Constituency to the attention of the House. In my constituency, there is the Augasi bridge, which is being constructed by the Bridge Corporation. However, the progress of the work is very slow and unsatisfactory. Similarly, the construction of bridges at Mau and Mahilaghat is also being undertaken by the Bridge Corporation. Both of these projects have been pending for several years and are currently stalled.

Sir, I seek your protection and through you, I would like to request the Government to take immediate steps to ensure the timely completion of these vital infrastructure projects.

[English]

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

**SHRI RADHEYSHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, thank you. In my constituency, there are three National Highways, and several stretches along these highways, approximately 5 to 6 in number, are in extremely poor condition. So many agitations are taking place very often and if the restoration work is not started, people will become more restive.

It was learned from the PWD concerned of the National Highway Department that two numbers of DPRs, one National Highway No. 6 and another for National Highway No. 8 under Annual Plan 2018-19 have been submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in the month of December, 2018.

I request, through you, to sanction the work immediately.

[Translation]

**DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO (KORBA):** Thank you, Sir. The newly formed Government in Chhattisgarh is not implementing several key schemes of the Union Government. Specifically, the DMA (Disaster Management Assistance) fund, which is an

important central scheme, has been discontinued. Chhattisgarh, which receives Rs. 2750 crore annually under this scheme, has now diverted these funds into other allocations.

**SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSOUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a pressing and significant issue facing our country. While our country is making significant strides towards development, there is an equally urgent need to address the burgeoning population. By 2050, India is projected to bear the burden of a population reaching 165 crore.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the House that, through a deliberate and orchestrated effort, Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has facilitated the migration of millions of individuals from Bangladesh into the state.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Sudheer Gupta.

[Translation]

**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in our Bundelkhand region, there is a severe shortage of fodder for cattle. I have

repeatedly raised this issue in the House, urging that farmers who rear cows in Bundelkhand be provided with a financial support of Rs. 1,000 per month. Additionally, farmers who use bullocks for ploughing should receive Rs. 2,000 per month. This is essential for the survival of cattle in Bundelkhand, the prosperity of farmers, and the increase of the country's food grain reserves. I once again request the Government of India to take immediate action to stop the practice of "anna" (stray cattle) and implement this support for the welfare of farmers and cattle in Bundelkhand.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel.

**DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHAMAN DURGAPUR):** The issue is regarding the National Highway No. 2, that is NH 2, which is undergoing expansion for six lanes since ages. Its construction is very slow. Between Panagarh and Bardhaman, which is my constituency, the work has not even started. All the heavy and transport vehicles are passing through that route to Kidhirpur Shipping Block (Kolkata) to join N.H. 34 etc. So, there is a need to start the work between Panagarh and

Bardhaman immediately because it is causing immense problem of jam and increasing number of road traffic accident.

[Translation]

**DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (ALWAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to request the creation of a Yadav Regiment (Ahir Regiment) in the Indian Army. Regiments based on caste names, such as the Gurjar Regiment, Rajput Regiment, and Sikh Regiment, already exist. The Yadav community, with a population of 20 crore, is agitated over this matter. Members of this community have been awarded the Victoria Cross and Param Vir Chakra, and we still have living Param Vir Chakra awardees in our country. Given the bravery and sacrifices of this community, I would like to urge that the Ahir Regiment be created at the earliest.

**SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (MUNGER):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

In Bihar, we have a unique issue. The Tal region is known for providing pulses to the entire country. Just a few days ago, we had the privilege of meeting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari. Our Government is working with the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." Through you, I would like to request the Government to focus on the development of our Tal

region, which plays a crucial role in the nation's food security.  
Thank you.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

**13 34 hours**

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

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**15 02hrs**

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

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

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

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Regarding setting up of new medical institutes in the country**

**\*SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI):** Providing healthcare services to those in need remains a significant challenge for developing and underdeveloped countries across the world. Among the key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, this is a priority. Since the current Government assumed power in 2014, not only has access to healthcare services been significantly improved, but the Government has also increased the budget allocation, enhanced quality, and created new resources within the sector.

However, despite the establishment of new medical colleges and AIIMS under the Ayushman Bharat initiative, the growing population, poor lifestyle, and increasing healthcare needs have placed immense pressure on the healthcare system. A key contributing factor to this pressure is the shortage of doctors, auxiliary medical staff, and trained healthcare professionals.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, I would like to urge the Government to develop a practical plan to establish and promote new institutions, both at the government and private levels, to train these professionals, and to devise appropriate policies that encourage them to provide services within the country.

**(ii) Regarding penalty imposed on Rudhauri Sugar Mill by  
NGT**

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** A High Power Committee constituted by the NGT under the chairmanship of Justice D.P. Singh, while inspecting the Aami River, imposed a fine of Rs. 5 crore on Rudhauri Sugar Mill. The committee directed that the said amount be utilised for the development of the Samadhi Sthal (memorial) of the great saint, Sant Kabir, located on the banks of the Aami River.

I would like to request the Government to ensure the immediate recovery of this amount and allocate it for the development of the Sant Kabir Memorial site.

**(iii) Need to start flight from Chakarbhata Airport in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh**

**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** Under my Parliamentary Constituency, Bilaspur district is the second-largest city in the state of Chhattisgarh, which holds a significant position. Bilaspur is home to several public and government institutions. Prominent establishments such as the Chhattisgarh High Court, the Railway Zone, the SECL headquarters, and Central University operate in this region. Additionally, there are military cantonments in Sakri and Chakrabhata. The immediate commencement of air services from Chakrabhata Bilaspur will not only alleviate public inconvenience but also generate appropriate revenue.

All necessary procedures have been completed in accordance with the agreement between the Union Government, the State Government, and private airline Air Odisha. The Union Government has also released the funding for the Bilaspur Airport in Chhattisgarh. The airport has received approval from the DGCA, yet there is still a delay in the commencement. I would like to urge for the immediate initiation of operations at the Chakrabhata Airport. I would like to request that the Chhattisgarh Airport

Authority be directed to expedite the commencement of the airport operations at the earliest.

**(iv) Regarding compensation to farmers relating to setting up of Air Force Ground Range in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan**

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** I have made several requests regarding the acquisition of land for the establishment of an Air Force Ground Range in five villages, including Moter, Ghradhusar, and Banasar, located in the Nohar area of my Parliamentary Constituency. The poor farmers of this region have been running from pillar to post for a long time, yet no action has been taken by the Government to acquire the land. A proposal for the acquisition of approximately 11,990 hectares of land for an Air-to-Ground Range at the Thukrana Air Force Station in Suratgarh, Rajasthan is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Defence.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to urgently take necessary action for the acquisition of land for the Air Force Ground Range in the five villages of Moter, Ghradhusar, and Banasar, and to provide appropriate compensation to the farmers of this area. I implore that this matter be addressed at the earliest.

**(v) Regarding appointment of dependants of deceased employees of Damodar Valley Corporation on compassionate ground and rehabilitation of land oustees**

**SHRI RAVINDRA PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** The issue of appointing the dependents of deceased employees in various establishments of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been pending for a long time. As a result, the families of nearly one thousand deceased employees are facing dire circumstances, including the threat of starvation. The compensation offered by DVC in place of employment is insufficient and does not meet their needs. Therefore, appropriate action should be taken for the employment of the dependents of the deceased employees.

Even after 50 years of land acquisition for the establishment of the Bokaro and Chandrapura Thermal Power Stations by DVC, the displaced persons have not been granted ownership rights to the land, as the mutation of the plots allocated by DVC has not been carried out. Several cases regarding the employment of the displaced persons remain pending. Therefore, I would like to request that appropriate action be taken for the employment and rehabilitation of the remaining displaced persons, as well as for the mutation of the allotted land. Despite several discussions at the

level of the Chairman of DVC on this matter, there has been no progress.

**(vi) Regarding establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya in  
Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand**

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODARMA):** In my Parliamentary Constituency of Kodarma, approval for a Central School was granted nearly two years ago. The department's team had even conducted a visit, but regrettably, the Central School has not yet been established. Both the administration and I are personally committed to extending all possible assistance to the department in facilitating the opening of the Central School. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly take the necessary steps to ensure the early establishment of the Central School in Kodarma.

**(vii) Need to improve railway services and passenger facilities  
in Korba Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh**

**DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO (KORBA):** In my Parliamentary Constituency of Korba (Chhattisgarh), there is a severe lack of railway facilities. Despite having platforms on both sides at the Champa-Gevra railway stations, there is no foot overbridge, which poses a constant risk of accidents. In terms of passenger amenities, there is no drinking water or even proper shade, causing significant inconvenience to passengers in all seasons. Train number 18237/18238, the Chhattisgarh Express, currently runs as a passenger train between Korba and Bilaspur but is halted at Bilaspur on its return from Amritsar. I would like to request that this train be run as an express service from Korba itself. Similarly, Train number 18239, the Shivnath Express, is halted at Bilaspur on its return from Nagpur. I would like to urge that this train also be extended to Korba.

**(viii) Regarding setting up of seven petrol pumps in Mumbai  
North East Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra**

[English]

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** 7 Petrol pump locations, plots have been declared reserved for petrol pumps on Eastern Express Highway in my Parliamentary Constituency North East Mumbai, by BMC (MCGM). Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has intimated the Ministry of Petroleum and also Salt Commissioner, DIPP (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) for the land. BPCL and IOC have also approached Petroleum Ministry and Salt Commissioner, DIPP to get the land which belong to Government of India and has to start/install petrol pumps. All concerned parties seem positive but needs persuasion to give momentum. I request the DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry to push the matter further.

**(ix) Need to provide passage to people on Kosamba -  
Umarpada & Limbada- Asrama railway lines in Gujarat**

[Translation]

**SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA (BARDAULI):**

On the Kosamba-Umarpada narrow gauge line, between the Kosamba and Velacha stations, there exists a railway track beneath the Railway Over Bridge (ROB) on National Highway No. 8. Previously, there was a level crossing gate No. 3A at railway km 4/0-4/1, which has now been closed. The service roads on both sides of the ROB, which cross the railway line, are currently closed as well, forcing vehicles to take U-turns to access both Kosamba and Mangrol. This situation significantly increases the likelihood of accidents, and the potential for loss of life cannot be ruled out. In response to the demands of the local communities, I would like to urge that two RCC-BOX (LHS) be installed in the railway line under the ROB, along with the construction of an underground passage to connect the service roads. This would effectively resolve the issue and prevent further risks to public safety.

Between Limbada and Asarma stations, at railway km 12/0, I would like to request that a subway be constructed to allow farmers and local residents easy access to their fields. Currently, there are

two large drains (culvert) on both sides of km 12/0: Culvert No. 15 (railway km 11/8-11/9) and Culvert No. 16 (railway km 12/1-12/2). These culverts create significant problems for farmers attempting to reach their fields. Crossing these drains is not an easy task, and the railway line here is elevated above the ground. If a subway or underground passage is constructed between the two culverts along this railway line, it would resolve this issue and provide a convenient and safe passage for the farmers to access their fields.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister to kindly take immediate action to complete both these works at the earliest.

**(x) Regarding POCSO Act**

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOHO):** Under the POCSO Act, if a girl below the age of 18 elopes, marries, or has children as a result of the marriage, and the crime is proven, the accused man is subjected to imprisonment. According to the Hindu Marriage Act, if a minor marries and, upon reaching adulthood, the legality of the marriage is not questioned, it is considered valid. In my view, in cases of such marriages involving elopement where the POCSO Act is applicable, and where children are born from the marriage, the situation becomes complicated when the father is imprisoned. In such cases, the girl and children are often rejected by the husband's family. This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed, and immediate attention should be given to the difficulties faced by these women and children.

**(xi) Need to set up a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mehsana district, Gujarat**

**SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** Today, the population of my district, Mehsana, has exceeded 20 lakh. Mehsana is known for its oil, milk, industrial, and spice sectors. It is home to major establishments such as the Maruti Suzuki company, ONGC Industrial-GIDC, CRPF, BSF, and the railway junction, all of which contribute to a significant influx of officials, employees, and paramilitary personnel from across India. However, this has led to an emerging issue, there is a growing challenge regarding the education of their children. A Central School, operated by ONGC Mehsana, is currently functioning in the district. However, there is a significant demand for admissions, with many parents facing difficulties in enrolling their children. For several years, I have been receiving numerous complaints regarding the challenges in securing admissions. The 154 BN BSF camp is situated in Ambasan village, within Mehsana Tehsil. The BSF, CRPF personnel, retired soldiers, and the local population from nearby villages such as Linch, Bheshana, Modipur, Ambasan, Amipura, and Boriyaavi, covering a total of 50 thousand people, are struggling to provide their children with quality English-medium

education. Even the ONGC Mehsana Central School is unable to meet the growing demand for English-medium education.

I would like to request that, in accordance with the conditions of your Ministry, the 154 BN BSF has made all necessary preparations for the establishment of a Central School. Therefore, I would like to urge that approval be granted for the opening of a Central School in this area.

**(xii) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH (SAMBHAL):** I would like to draw your attention to the highly important issue of establishing a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal. Sambhal is an extremely backward region and holds significant historical importance as it was once the capital of Prithviraj Chauhan. It also has considerable religious significance. The literacy rate in Sambhal is quite low, primarily due to its status as an underdeveloped, impoverished, and rural area. Additionally, there is a severe shortage of educational institutions in the region. This lack of schools further hinders the progress of the local population. Children (both boys and girls) continue to remain deprived of education owing to the paucity of schools. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal, while all the adjoining districts have Kendriya Vidyalayas. I have, on several occasions in the past, submitted requests to the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, through written communication in this regard. A proposal for land has also been forwarded to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya. However, a Kendriya Vidyalaya has not yet been sanctioned for my Parliamentary

Constituency, Sambhal. The residents of the region look towards the Union Government with great expectation.

I once again would like to request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development and the Union Government to kindly approve and establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the district of Sambhal at the earliest, in the interest of the residents of the region and for securing a bright future for the children.

**(xiii) Regarding setting up of branches of Public Bank and Insurance company in Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Nagar Panchayat Sheohar, located within my Parliamentary Constituency in Sheohar District. All the bank and insurance branches established in the town of Sheohar are situated only in Ward Number 15. Sheohar town is a district headquarters with a considerably large population and area. It is to be noted that in Ward Numbers 01 and 02 of Nagar Panchayat Sheohar, the district jail, block office, circle office, electricity office, along with several other Government and non-Government offices, are located. Since all the bank branches are situated exclusively in Ward Number 15, people from the other wards are compelled to travel long distances to access bank or insurance services, causing them significant inconvenience.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to kindly undertake necessary action in the public interest by identifying an appropriate location in Ward Number 01 or 02 of Nagar Panchayat Sheohar in Sheohar District, within my Parliamentary

Constituency, for the establishment of a branch of a nationalised bank or an insurance office.

**(xiv) Need to provide the benefit of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme to allottees of Housing Scheme in Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat**

**SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT):** In my constituency, the Surat Municipal Corporation completed an LIG Housing Scheme during 2014-15, under which approximately 8,721 beneficiaries were provided housing.

The Hon. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was implemented on 17 June 2015, under which beneficiaries receive the benefit of credit-linked subsidy. The Municipal Corporation conducted the draw on 1 December 2014, after which each beneficiary was required to deposit Rs. 1,50,000 as the first instalment, and the remaining amount was to be deposited in ten instalments. A large number of beneficiaries took loans and incurred debt in order to make these payments.

Under this scheme, approximately 7,500 families have taken loans ranging from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh. Around 38 banks have approved these loans. However, there has been no progress in this regard in the nationalised banks. Subsequently, 2,296 EWS houses have been constructed by the Municipal Corporation. The LIG houses have been constructed with an area of 35 to 40 square

metres, and the EWS houses with an area of 20 to 25 square metres. The Municipal Corporation has not received any central assistance so far. If this scheme is brought under the credit-linked subsidy, significant relief can be provided to families belonging to the lower and middle-income groups.

I would like to request that the Union Government include this scheme under the credit-linked subsidy.

**(xv) Need to provide funds for treatment of leprosy**

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** The growing problem of leprosy in the country has become worrying as according to WHO, India has the highest number of leprosy cases. I urge the Government to fund leprosy as much as TB and malaria and awareness programs need to be started.

**(xvi) Regarding granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities of Assam**

**SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** The six communities in Assam namely Moran, Motok, Chutiya, Koch Rajbangshi, Tai Ahom and the Tea tribes have been agitating for a long time demanding ST status. While the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for granting of ST status to these six ethnic communities, the necessary legislation to this effect is yet to be passed by the Parliament.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps to grant ST status to these six communities in Assam as soon as possible as the granting of ST status would go a long way in protecting their land and political rights.

**(xvii) Regarding Railway projects in Bihar**

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL):** After the approval of the new railway line from Supaul-Araria-Galgalia in Bihar, this project has been included under the National Security Project. New stations are to be constructed along the approximately 95-kilometre-long railway line. Despite its inclusion under the National Security Project, only Rs. 540 crore has been sanctioned against the required allocation of Rs. 1,600 crore. Necessary action should be taken so that the work is completed within the stipulated time.

Along with this, the gauge conversion work from Saharsa to Supaul is progressing at a very slow pace. The railway line from Saharsa to Supaul and from Supaul to Araria up to Galgalia will prove to be the lifeline for the development of the Kosi region. Therefore, there is a need to expedite the land acquisition process. The construction work of the Forbesganj-Sakri railway line also needs to be accelerated. The bridge over the Kosi River has been completed. I would like to request that the railway projects should be completed at the earliest.

**(xviii) Need to adopt special programme to provide nutritional food in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka**

[English]

**SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** I would like to bring to the kind attention of the House that, Chamarajanagar District is under my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency. This District has been declared as backward district and as per 2011 Census, out of 10,20,791 total population, SC is 2,59,445 and ST is 1,20,219. i.e. percentage of SC Population is 25.41 and ST is 11.77 in the District). In this District there are about 38,000 Tribes from 7462 families and are living in 148 Tribal Colonies.

In Chamarajanagar District, due to Iron-deficiency, vitamin deficiency, bone marrow and Stern Cell problems and other health conditions, 44.5% of the Female (All women age 15-49 years) are suffering from Anemia and also 31.3 % of Children (age 0-5 children) suffering from S.A.M. due to lack of required nutritional food. These problems occurs due to financially poor condition in their family especially in Tribal families as they are unable to take energetic food by spending huge amount.

Hence I hereby urge the Union Government to treat as a special case, to implement strong framework by adopting special programmes and to provide energetic food for the above said deficiencies in order to avoid anemia among female (age 15-49 age) and S.A.M. among children (age 0-5 years) in Chamarajanagar District (Karnataka State).

**(xix) Need to promote Courtallam in Tamil Nadu as a tourist spot**

**SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI (TENKASI):** Courtallam Waterfalls is one of the famous tourist spots in Tamil Nadu. Numerous waterfalls and cascades along with health resorts make Courtallam as the Spa of South India. Many rivers like Chittar, Manimuthar, Pachaiyar and Thamirabarani originate in this region.

Courtallam having scenic surroundings is connected by Road, Rail and Air. The nearest airport is Tuticorin Airport and the nearest railway stations are Shencottah and Tenkasi.

Courtallam has nine waterfalls. Peraruvi (main falls) the biggest falls in Courtallam, is about 60 m high. The flow of water is interrupted by the Pongumakadal, a 19m deep crater and comes down with greatly reduced impact, making a bath safe. In Chitraruvi (small falls), the flow is thin. Here naturally separate places for men and women are there to bathe. The other waterfalls include Shenbagadevi falls, Thenaruvi, Aintharuvi, Pazhathotta Aruvi, the 'VIP falls', Pazhaya Courtalla Aruvi, Pull Aruvi (Tiger Falls).

The three major waterfalls reachable by road are the Main Falls, Five Falls, and Old Courtallam Falls. Other waterfalls like Shenbaga Devi Falls and Honey Falls are reachable only by

trekking on the mountain. Therkumalai Estate, Boat houses and Old Courtallam Falls, Snake Park, Aquarium, Children's Park, Eco Park and Gundar Dam near Shencottah are major attractions around Courtallam Town. Courtallam is an excellent health resort because of the herbal medicinal properties of the water and for its salubrious climate and natural scenery.

There is an urgent need to provide all necessary infrastructure facilities in and around Courtallam town to facilitate both domestic and foreign tourists. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to provide a comprehensive package of Rs. 100crores to promote Courtallam as the premier Tourist spot in Tamil Nadu.

**(xx) Need to allow clay brick manufacturers to opt for  
compounding way of taxation**

**SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI):** Bricks made out of clay are levied at the rate of 5% GST. The brick manufacturers are requesting to allow them to opt for the compounding way of taxation depending upon the number of kilns they have as it was under the Value Added Tax regime in a few States like Tamil Nadu. Brick industry is next to agriculture in rural areas. Like hotels, the clay bricks manufactures should be allowed for special compounding way of taxation with the condition that they will not claim any input tax credit or they should be allowed to go in for 5% taxation and can claim all the set offs possible under GST.

In fact, it will increase the revenue of the Government. Also, it will safeguard and help growth of the clay brick industry. About 20 lakhs persons depend directly or indirectly on this for their livelihood. Therefore, I strongly urge upon the Union Government to consider and allow the clay brick manufactures to opt for compounding way of taxation.

**(xxi) Regarding reopening of Mining and Allied Corporation  
at Durgapur, West Bengal**

**DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR):** Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC) at Durgapur is a Government undertaking company dealing with making of heavy industrial materials which is required for coal mining, defence materials etc., submarine equipment. It was closed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002. For revival of this company (factory) consoterium was made between DVC, Coal India & DEML. On 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 they bought at the expense of 100 crore rupees. But till date no action has been taken for its revival & production. It is very heart-breaking to see unused machineries lying useless and misplaced. This company (factory) was running by German and Russain collaboration and quality of the materials was high class. Representations were given several times from local authority & to the Central Government. Unfortunately no action being taken by Central Government and many workers have taken VRS or became jobless alongwith labouerers even officers also under gone out of job. It is very sad to see the factory building, officers quarters, health centres and school buildings look like haunted buildings. This is my earnest request to Central

Government to take urgent measure so that this important factory which is supplying machineries to Central Government's undertakings/Government organization & companies is reopened again. The required action need to be taken on war footing, so that lots of employees can get back their services and it will add to the counting of industrial production.

**(xxii) Need for reconsideration of privatization of six airports**

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** The Government has decided to privatize six airports presently run by Airport Authority of India under PPP model. The airports are Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangalore and Guwahati. Thousands of crores of rupees spent from public exchequer to modernize/renovate the above airports. After spending huge amount for the renovation/modernization of the above airports, the Government move to privatize them causing concern to the job safety and security of the employees who are working there. Earlier, at the time of privatization of New Delhi and Mumbai airports, Government assured various welfare schemes for the existing employees. Unfortunately, no welfare schemes were implemented to safeguard the interest of such employees. Again, the same will happen to the employees of the above six airports. The Government must intervene in the matter and take necessary steps to stop the privatization move and take steps to safeguard the interest of the employees of six airports.

**(xxiii) Regarding Railway services in Mayurbhanj district,  
Odisha**

**SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH (MAYURBHANJ):**

Though development of railways in other parts of the country has happened after independence with tangible addition of new line, irony is that in my district Mayurbhanj it has been curtailed. Madam, there have been a few surveys for missing links raising hope among the people of my district particularly (1) Bangriposi-Gorumahisani and (2) Badampahar-Keonjhar missing links surveyed will definitely give meaningful connectivity to my area if taken up. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Railways that these projects should be taken up.

**(xxiv) Regarding compensation to fishermen displaced due to land acquisition**

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG):** After passing of the Land Acquisition Bill in Parliament, land owners whose land is acquired for infrastructure projects like highways, power plants, nuclear plants, small and big industrial and commercial units, medical and educational institutions, airports etc. along thousands of kilometres of coastline are getting adequate compensation. However, millions of fishermen who are earning their livelihood by catching, selling fish and using coastal land for their fishing activities for generations are deprived of any compensation under the Land Acquisition Act. Hence, after the land is acquired whether Govt. or private land for infrastructure projects, these fishermen are debarred from doing their age old fishing activities without getting any compensation for their displacement.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to amend the Land Acquisition Act and make provision for payment of same compensation to the million of fishermen living in coastal areas of the country who are displaced and badly affected by land acquisition.

**(xxv) Need to provide Scheduled Caste status to Dalit  
Christians**

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Dalits who converted into Christianity have been fighting since 1950 when a Presidential Order absolved SC status to Dalits who have converted into a religion other than Hinduism. But, Dalits who have converted into other religions like Sikhism and Buddhism have been given SC status in 1956 and 1990 respectively through Constitution amendment and since then they have been enjoying the benefits at par with SCs. But, conspicuously. Government of India is not extending the same status to Dalits who have converted into Christians.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu while moving Resolution in Assembly on 06-02-2019, stated that Dalit Christians had been fighting for SC status for decades and their demand is genuine and justifiable. Hence, there is an urgent need to treat Dalits Christians at par with Dalits forthwith.

Secondly, Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission in 2007 has also recommended that SC status be given to all Dalits who have converted into Christians. The Commission recommends delinking

of SC status from religion and abrogation of 1950 Scheduled Caste Order which still excludes Muslims, Christians, Jains and Zoroastrians from the SC status.

Government of Andhra Pradesh issued GOMS No. 341 in 1977 and extended non-statutory benefits to Dalit Christians through AP SC Cooperative Financial Corporation. Again, GOMS No, 191 issued in 1986 which gives 12% reservation in admissions in Scheduled Hostels and Residential Schools for Dalit Christians.

In view of the above, I request Government of India to immediately amend Constitution and grant SC status to Dalits who converted to Christianity and other religions.

**(xxvi) Regarding development of Son Beel in Karimganj district, Assam as a tourist spot**

**SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ):** In my constituency and district Karimganj in Assam, there is an idyllic place with natural beauty namely Son Beel, the largest natural fishery in Asia, covering an area of 85 Sq.Km. in the high flood and reduces to 35 Sq.KM in normal summer season. It is surrounded by 35 villages with population of 80,000. The residents of the villages around are depend on the wet land for fishing. The specialty of Son Beel is that during winter season it becomes fully farm land where rice cultivation is done and from March onwards it become a natural lake. Water and soil of Son Beel suitable for natural fish breeding and in winter season it become a migratory birds sanctuary. The tragic part is that, in absence of any prohibitory measures, the migratory birds are mercilessly killed by people for food. By planning & developing Son Beel it can be used for various purposes. Firstly, by protecting and developing an area as non- fishing zone natural breeding of local fishes can be increased, birds sanctuary can be developed, and logging water can be used for irrigation purpose in winter season Once a part of Son Beel is developed as protected natural fishery and tourist spot, naturalists, bird watchers

and scientific researchers will find it a suitable place to visit. Tourist can also undertake rafting, angling and boat ride. In all, economical condition of the area will be developed in a high manner. So I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate step for developing Son Beel by sending a specialist team for survey and planning.

**(xxvii) Regarding difficulties faced by farmers of Haryana in getting insurance claims for damaged crops**

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** I hereby bring to the notice of the Government that more than 700 farmers of Bhatol Jatan, Bhatol Rangdan, Kharkhara, Jeetpura, Bhadala, Kharbala and Seesar villages in Haryana had got their crops insured in 2017. Accordingly, the local branch of Bank of Baroda deducted the premium amount from the bank accounts of farmers in these villages. Being affected by unexpected loss of crops due to untimely rain and hail, farmers applied for insurance claims but the same were not accepted on the pretext that the premium deducted from the accounts of farmers have not been transferred by the concerned Bank to insurance companies. Even though, timely deposit of premium made by the farmers, they were not allowed to claim compensation. Therefore, I urge the Government to instruct concerned officials to expedite provision of crop compensation to the farmers and take legal action against the local branch of Bank of Baroda.

**(xxviii) Regarding alleged duty evasion in import of black pepper**

**ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** The general import duty of black pepper is 70% to protect the interest of the farmers, however under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement(FTA), the import duty of pepper from Vietnam have been reduced to 51%. The FTA with Sri Lanka under South Asian area and India Sri Lanka FTA, the import duty has been reduced to 8% and duty free for 2500 tonnes respectively. Large quantity of Vietnam pepper is being imported through Sri Lanka by bogusly creating documents of Sri Lankan origin for availing the benefits of the bipartite agreement between Sri Lanka and India. To restrict indiscriminate import of Vietnam pepper through Sri Lanka, our Government have fixed the MIP of black pepper at Rs.500/kg. The Government is losing huge sums by way of duty evasion. The large scale foreign exchange is being passed out through this channel of pepper import at the Minimum Import Price of Rs.500/KG by creating bogus documents of Sri Lankan origin. Urgent intervention is requested.

**(xxix) Regarding special package for Bodoland Territorial  
Area Districts**

**SHRI NABA KUMAR SARNIA (KOKRAJHAR):** During the Bodoland movement thousands of Peoples were murdered, injured lakhs of peoples displaced and rendered homeless. Their houses burnt, all the plantation destroyed, domestic animal taken away from people in Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar and Barpeta Districts. During the movement, non-bodo people were forced to vacate their places. Still many people are living in the relief camp.

It is my humble request and demand from Central Government to grant a special package for relief and rehabilitations of BTAD.

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**15 03 hrs**

**FINANCE BILL, 2019**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now we are taking item no.23, Finance Bill, 2019.

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 2019-2020 and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers and to make amendments in certain enactments, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this Government has always been considerate about the needs of the poor, the needs of the middle class, the needs of the persons who are meeting the day to day requirements on tight budgets and, considering the pressing need to give more benefits to those who are in the lower income brackets, particularly those who have taxable income upto Rs.5 lakhs, the Government, in the Interim Budget, decided that we should at least give an additional rebate from two and a half thousand rupees to twelve and a half thousand rupees for this section of society, the lower middle-class section or those sections which pay income tax on income which

are from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.8 lakhs, but after the deductions and exemptions, taxable income comes to about Rs.5 lakhs.

Now, we have not changed any of the tax proposals *per se*. All the plans that we had for changes in the Direct Tax proposals we will do when the Government presents its full Budget in July 2019. But, for the present, we thought that this section of society will have to start paying income tax and their taxes will be deducted at source right from April onwards, therefore, it is in the best interest of such small taxpayers that there is certainty in their mind and they know exactly that they will not be required to pay taxes, and their employers also know that they are going beyond the purview of taxation because their taxable income is below Rs. 5 lakh. Therefore, for such section of taxpayers whose taxable income does not exceed Rs. 5 lakh, we have increased the rebate that is allowed to them under the Income Tax Act to Rs. 12,500.

I think that this has been widely welcomed all across the country. There has been a euphoria that we have witnessed even in this august House and outside about this significant benefit, which will give good amount of savings for our small taxpayer. This will help them in their day to day requirement; their purchases; the items that they are consuming; and this will also give a fillip to the overall economy of the country.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, over the last five years we have done a number of significant changes in the Income Tax Act in the concessions and deductions that are available to all the taxpayers. If one sees over the period of five years, we have, in one way or the other, addressed every section of society / taxpayer, be it the interest that is payable on housing loan, which we have increased from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh; be it the exemption/deduction that is allowed under Section 80C because of investments made in specified savings, which we have increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh; we have introduced standard deduction, which was not there earlier, and now we have allowed for all the employees who are salary earners and pensioners a standard deduction up to Rs. 50,000. Similarly, the exemption amount on which tax was not payable at all has been increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh in earlier years, and then from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh we gave an additional rebate. Subsequently, we changed the tax rate on the lowest slab from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh, and from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Now, in this Interim Budget, we have given a further tax rebate so that incomes up to Rs. 5 lakh are exempt. We have increased the exemption that is allowed for senior citizens on interest income from Rs. 10,000 to I think Rs. 40,000. So, there has been a significant amount of changes in every Budget because of which

collectively Rs. 1 lakh crore this Government has given as additional benefits to the taxpayers of India.

I am very happy to share with this August House, through you, Sir, that the honest taxpayers of this country have come forth with the same enthusiasm to pay their taxes honestly with the growth of the economy, and we are all aware that India today is the fastest growing economy and a large economy in the entire world. Subsequent to that, with the growing number of job / work opportunities that we have seen over the last five years, the taxpayer base also in the country has nearly doubled over the last five years. So, both because of more accurate and honest compliance as well as the fact that we have given so many benefits in the form of deductions and exemptions, and now full rebate up to Rs. 5 lakh taxable income for those up to Rs. 5 lakh income I think that this has created an atmosphere of trust between the Government, the taxpayers and the tax administration thanks to which even the tax collections have almost doubled in the last five years.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our honest taxpayers for their commitment to national growth, for their commitment to change the mindset of India, for their commitment to make India a more honest economy, for their commitment that their taxes reach out to the poor of India, help us take benefits of

prosperity to the poor and farmers of India, to those socially economically deprived sections of society to the marginalised sections of society who have remained deprived for so many years.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to this change, there were a few more changes that we felt were essential which also have an impact on the middle class. One is of course we have increased the standard deduction from Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000 which will give a benefit to three crore salary earners and pensioners. But the one problem that many taxpayers used to highlight to us was about the tax on notional rent. If a person owns more than one house, then, we examined the issue and came to the conclusion that in this day and age of nuclear families, children are working somewhere else, parents are staying in some other place, and children are studying in some other place, very often many middle class have two houses, which they have to maintain. Sometime they have the ancestral home in the village or the town and another in the city where one works. So, we decided that there will be no tax on notional rent of two self-occupied houses. Also, we have increased the existing limit for TDS from Rs.1.8 lakh on rent to Rs.2.4 lakh so that the small rental income that a person earns, there is no need to pay TDS up to Rs.2.4 lakh.

Further, very often, in a city like Mumbai where I come from, and I am sure, the story must be the same in many two-tier and three-tier cities also, where a person is living in the centre of the town, now with growing families wants to sell that house, and maybe buy two small houses in a little remote area, such persons were facing the hardships because capital gain was allowed only on the purchase of one house, when you sold one house. We have looked at that issue and in order to give the opportunity to such people to sell their house and buy two houses, we have allowed up to a capital gain of Rs.2 crore so that middle class persons can benefit. When the capital gains on the sale of residential property does not exceed Rs.2 crore benefit, we will allow the rollover of capital gains once in a lifetime for purchase of two houses instead of one house. Of course, in other times, if he sells one and buys one, that is still permitted as was the law earlier. But once in a lifetime he can take the benefit of purchasing two houses against the sale of one house.

There is a lot of growth in the affordable housing across the country. We have seen the figures – almost 1.5 crore houses have been built in the last four and a half years as against barely 24 or 25 lakh houses in the previous five years. The *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* is encouraging affordable housing so that by 2022 when the

country reaches 75 years of Independence, when we celebrate 75 years of Independent India, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi desires that every person in the country should have the roof, should have a shelter on his head. We are encouraging through the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* more and more people to purchase their own home, become the owner of their own home. In fact, at this stage, I would like to share with you, and to share with all the hon. Members through you, Sir, that under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* for loans up to Rs.6 lakh, those who buy a small house with certain size restriction or income restriction, for those who buy a small house for a loan up to Rs.6 lakh we are giving nearly Rs.6 lakh worth of interest subvention. We are reimbursing interest to the bank up to nearly Rs.6 lakh over the tenure of the loan of 20 years to encourage more and more neo middle class persons with lower income to become owner of their own house.

Loans up to Rs.6 lakh will get an interest subvention or interest relief of 6.5 per cent through the tenure of the loan. So, if a person takes a house worth, let us say, Rs.8 to Rs.9 lakh, he takes a loan of Rs.6 lakhs. The loan these days is available at about 8.5 to 9 per cent from the public sector banks at least. Other banks and NBFCs are also encouraging people to take a loan and buy their own house. When they take a loan from the commercial banks and if they pay

interest to the bank, the Government is reimbursing up to 6.5 per cent interest for the full life of the loan up to 20 years.

So, effectively a person can take Rs.6 lakh loan at barely 2.5 to 3 per cent and become the owner of his house and gradually keep repaying over a long period of time. Such affordable housing projects, if they are registered up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 – we have given one-year extension, they will also get a 100 per cent deduction of the profits that they make from these affordable housing projects. This has been made so that affordable housing projects can really be affordable. There is no income tax. So, people who are constructing them can keep the price low. We want to encourage more and more people to get into constructing affordable houses and make everybody the owner of their own house.

For those who want to take slightly bigger house, if they have a little higher income up to Rs.12 lakhs or Rs. 18 lakhs, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, we have another scheme. For loans up to Rs.9 lakh, we give a 4 per cent interest subvention for the life of the loan. For loans up to Rs.12 lakh, we have given interest subvention or interest relief of 3 per cent. So, effectively all those who are taking a loan in the middle class families, loan up to Rs.6 lakh, Rs.9 lakh or Rs.12 lakh with the size limit, I think, up to 130 square meters for the last bracket of Rs.12 lakh loan, they will get

a benefit anywhere between Rs.5 and Rs.6 lakh through the life cycle of the loan. I think, it is a big relief. For the first time, the middle class has been given such a large relief to own their own house. I think, it is an unprecedented benefit.

I would urge all the hon. Members to spread the good word in their constituencies and encourage your constituents to buy their house; take the benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and become the owner of your own home.

In fact, from the banking side I can share with you some information. The NPAs or the loan losses on the homes that our middle class people purchase is the lowest loan loss. It is because the woman of our Indian families will ensure that the person pays back the loan and will never want to give up the house that she owns. That is the strength. That is the empowered Indian woman who will ensure that the house loan is repaid and will want to enjoy the ownership of her own home. I would like to thank all the women of India for this commitment to repay the loan and to own their own home that we have found in the banking sector.

I am also happy to share with the Members through you, Sir, that there are a number of homes that have remained unsold and there is unsold inventory that is available. Thanks to that, we have also been able to keep the property prices under control. Homes are

available at very affordable prices today. But because of that there is an unsold inventory with the real estate builders and on which notional rent is payable one year after the construction is complete.

In order to encourage more people to invest in the real estate sector and give them some more time to sell their unsold inventory, the Government has decided to increase the period of exemption from levy of tax on notional rent on unsold inventory from one year to two years so that we can ensure a more orderly behaviour in the market. Prices can be kept low and prices do not become unaffordable for our middle class families and for the persons who want to own their own homes.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to beg the support of the House through you for the various proposals. These are only small set of proposals which were urgent. We have not brought any proposals for the rich people like, reducing the duties or taxes on SUV cars or on luxury cars and all that.

We have not brought any such proposal which will help big and rich people. All our proposals are for the middle class, for the honest and small taxpayers of this country. We hope that the House will support these proposals.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 2019-2020 and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers and to make amendments in certain enactments, be taken into consideration."

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank for you giving me an opportunity to initiate the discussion on the passing of Finance Bill. We all know that this is the fag-end of the Modi Government. After one month, we are going to face general elections. We all know what the Government has been trying to project before the people of India for the last 56 months. Four and a half years ago, a series of promises were made to the people of the country, like the slogan *achche din aayenge*. ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister replied on the Budget discussion. He told that in July they will introduce a new Budget and, in that Budget, they are going to fulfil all the promises. For the last four and a half years, they did not do anything.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, you know that this is a Vote on Account. After the election, we are going to have a new Budget. For the last four and a half years, nothing has been given to the people. Now they are telling that in next July they will fulfil all the promises. The hon. Minister told yesterday that he will do everything in the next Budget. Is this the way? What is the current situation? There is growing unemployment, agricultural distress, rural poverty and exclusion of the marginalised sections from the benefit of development. Actually, demonetisation, a badly implemented GST, devaluation of the rupee, price rise of petroleum

products and general price rise have destroyed both the organised and unorganised sectors of this country.

From day one, we have been thinking that they will bring something for the farmers in the next Budget. They did not do anything for the farmers. Lastly, before going to election, they have announced something for the farmers, that too, Rs. 3 per day for a farmer. In MGNREGA, a labourer gets at least Rs. 200 per day and they are offering Rs. 3 per day for a farmer. Is it a big thing? Actually, we think that they are going to have a Vote on Account, but they are trying to open an account of votes through this manifesto. This is a manifesto on Government expenses. In the name of the Budget, they have brought it. The hon. Minister already told that he will bring it in next July. They have the freedom to have a daydream. But the people of the country have been in a nightmare for the last four and a half years. Actually, they are shocked at the treatment by this Government.

I have witnessed it here itself. I remember, Deputy Speaker, Sir, you were also there when the hon. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley ji justifying demonetisation said that this is going to curb fake currency, black money and terrorism. We can make an analysis of what has actually happened. Has all the black money been wiped out, fake currency disappeared or the terrorist attacks been stopped?

The Government has now opened Seva Kendras for the perpetrators of financial frauds and fugitives to escape from the country. We have seen Mallya, Modi and others escaping from the country. We witnessed unprecedented attacks on army camps and units in Uri, Pathankot and Naxal-affected regions. During our regime there was no such time when our jawans were vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

There is a big difference between their claim and what happens in reality. Demonetisation has actually destroyed the small-scale industries. Everybody knows what has happened in Tamil Nadu. A number of small-scale industries have been shut-down due to demonetisation. Tamil Nadu Industry Minister replied in the Assembly that at least 50 lakh jobs have been lost due to demonetisation. Demonetisation has created huge difficulties in all spheres of the economy and I would say that it was a very bad decision.

But the Government has its own ways to escape from reality. If statistics do not show growth, then they will accuse the methodology. They will create an alternative reality. We have read and fantasied about the alternative realities in novels and movies. In novels and movies alternative fantasies work. The Modi

Government believes in these types of fantasies which we see in movies.

As per the NSSO survey, India's unemployment rate hit a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18. It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a Government agency after the Prime minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation move in November 2016. The Report further said that unemployment was higher in urban areas, that is 7.8 per cent, as compared to 5.3 per cent in rural areas of the country. This is as per the Report of Business Standard.

We were promised 2 crore jobs every year. We have already completed four-and-a-half years. Where are the jobs? These are the statistics of NSSO and not of a private agency. They are now saying that the methodology is wrong. If some statistics go against the Government, they will say that the methodology is wrong.

The Government is saying that a number of jobs have been created. The Government is talking about job creation out of Ola and Uber. I saw in TV one Uber driver saying that he had taken a loan from some private agency and then he got a job in Ola. The Government then claims that this is the employment which they have created. What a *jumla*, Sir !

I have already talked about the farmers' distress. For the last four-and-a-half years this Government offered nothing to them and now the Minister is saying that the Government is providing Rs.6000 per annum to small and marginal farmers. The farmers will get this benefit from December onwards. First instalment will be given now. In reality it amounts to Rs.3 per day for a farmer.

Piyush Goyal ji is a good person but he is a Member of the Rajya Sabha. I do not know whether he knows the reality of the Members sitting in Lok Sabha. I usually call the meetings of Disha where we analyse the progress of different schemes of Government of India. This is our duty as Members of Parliament.

Now, I tell you about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. You have to verify these things before telling in the House. How many farmers are getting benefits from this scheme? I would like to know whether the farmers are getting benefits or the insurance companies are getting benefit. At least, you should verify it. We are not blaming for the sake of just blaming. You have to verify the statistics. How many farmers are benefitted by this scheme? I think you are a reader. Shri P. Sainath, a renowned activist, had pointed out an individual example in Maharashtra. Some 2.8 lakh farmers sowed soya in the farms. In a district, farmers paid a premium of Rs. 19.2 crore, the State Government and the Central Government

paid Rs. 77 crore each, amounting to a total of Rs. 173 crore, which was paid to Reliance Insurance. The entire crop failed and the insurance company paid out the claims. Reliance paid Rs. 30 crore in one district, giving it a total net profit of Rs. 143 crore without investing a single rupee. This insurance company have got Rs. 143 crore and the farmers got Rs. 30 crore. This is one incident which I am telling. ...(*Interruptions*) I do not want to answer. I know that you want to support them indirectly. You do it. There is no problem in it.

Now, I come to the MGNREGA. Yesterday, Kharge Ji and Veerappa Moily Ji pointed out this thing. You all know about it. No wage is being given. Money for the material cost is also not being given. There is a total cut down with regard to this in the Budget itself. The hon. Prime Minister had already told two years back that it is going to be a *smarak* of the UPA Government. But, I can tell you, hon. Minister, that this is the only major programme for the entire India for addressing poverty alleviation. I can tell you very frankly. This is one of the best schemes. We are very proud of being a Member of Parliament. Whenever we go to the field, we see a lot of labourers working and earning money from that. Now, they are also manufacturing some products. Actually, in all the sectors, this Government is totally a failure.

Yesterday, while talking about the defence sector, you said that the allocation to the defence sector was enhanced to Rs. 1 lakh crore by the UPA Government, while we enhanced it to Rs. 80 lakh crore. That is what you told yesterday. You also gave some figures. In other words, you mean to say that you are giving more importance to the defence sector. You have a big claim with regard to 'One Rank One Pension' scheme. But, you should listen to what Jawans on the field says. They are totally fed up with this 'One Rank One Pension' scheme. What the Government has promised, has not been fulfilled in that area. ... (*Interruptions*) Under the 'One Rank One Pension' scheme, there is not enough money with the Government to give it to the Jawans. Whenever farmers ask for loan waiver from the Government of India, the Government says that there is no money for them. Then, the genuine question from the public is: Why are you giving undue benefit to Anil Ambani through Rafale? Today, the hon. Congress President has already made a Press Conference.

How much you people fought for Bofors? In the morning, Madam Speaker was telling us as to how we are shouting these types of slogans against the hon. Members. We heard the BJP people when they raised slogans against Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We are telling all these things one by one.

The hon. Prime Minister justified the Rafale deal here. A revelation was made by the Hindu newspaper next morning. The Defence Ministry, the Defence Secretary, everybody knows about it. You are all hon. Ministers. Kharge Ji was also a Minister. I also got an opportunity to work as an MoS. We know the practices in the Ministry. The Defence Secretary wrote a letter that it is going to be detrimental to Government's interest if the PMO is interfering in this matter. What was the earlier position? The PMO should not intervene in this matter at all.

Now they are telling that it is quite natural and that the Prime Minister can intervene. He has every right to intervene in these things. We raised the same issue that the Defence Secretary has no knowledge about it. Rather the Defence Secretary objected to the parallel negotiations done by the PMO. The Minister can overrule it. There is no problem but for whom he overruled it? When the Defence Ministry, Defence Secretary and everybody is telling that it is going to be against the interest of the country, then what is the necessity of overruling it? Should the Prime Minister not answer to the nation?

Last day it also came in the public domain that Rafale deal also involved major and unprecedented concessions from the Indian Government. The critical provisions for anti-corruption penalties

and making payments through an escrow account were dropped days before the signing of the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). What is this? You are waiving off everything. Why should the Modi Government waived anti-corruption clauses in the Rafale deal? The answer is very simple. There has been corruption in the Rafale deal.

Now let us look at the sequence of events. On 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2016, the Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by the Prime Minister of India approves the Inter-Governmental Agreement along with its related annexure and other papers. In September, 2016, the Defence Acquisition Council overrides the Cabinet Committee on Security. This is something which is unprecedented in itself. It amends eight vital clauses of the Rafale Fighter deal. Among those clauses is the dropping of the mandatory anti-corruption articles that are an integral part of the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2013 under which this particular agreement is signed and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2016, the contract between India and France gets signed. After the speech of the Prime Minister, these three revelations have come.

Today, *The Indian Express* newspaper has covered this deal. It says that two weeks before Rafale announcement by the Prime

Minister, Anil Ambani met French Defence officials. It further says:

“In the fourth week of March 2015, about a fortnight before Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft from France, businessman Anil Ambani visited then French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian’s office in Paris and has a meeting with his top advisors, *the Indian Express* has learnt.

The meeting was attended by Le Drian’s special advisor Jean-Claude Mallet; his industry advisor, Christophe Salomon; and his technical advisor for industrial affairs, Geoffrey Bouquot.

Ambani’s meeting was described by Salomon to a top official of a European defence company as ‘confidential and planned as you can imagine with very short notice’.

Ambani, according to an official who was briefed on the meeting, expressed his wish to work with Airbus Helicopters on both commercial and defence helicopters. He is also said to have mentioned a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ‘in preparation and the intention to sign during the PM visit’.”

What we are witnessing is that Anil Ambani is also accompanying the Prime Minister; the number of aircraft came down from 126 to 36 aircraft; HAL disappeared and Anil Ambani entered. All the conditions of the contract have been violated.

That is why, for the last so many days we are asking for a JPC on Rafale. We had a JPC on Bofors matter. We had a JPC on 2G also. Then why are you afraid to form a JPC? The country wants to know why you are afraid of JPC. We know it now. All these documents will come before JPC and something will come up again. You cannot hide everything from the public. The nation wants a clear-cut answer. For the last one year, the Congress President is asking questions in this regard from the Prime Minister. But he is not replying to those questions. Being Members of Parliament, it is our right to hear from the Prime Minister on these queries but he is not replying.

The hon. Prime Minister is saying they are only 'nationals' and we are 'anti-nationals'. This Government is for 'Make in India'. What kind of a 'Make in India'? HAL is one of the most competent Public Sector Companies in the country but the Government bypassed HAL. If the contract was given to HAL, how many young people would have found employment? So, these types of untruths have created a great apprehension in the minds of the people of this

country. Now the people are very sure that this contract has been given to Shri Anil Ambani on the instruction of the hon. Prime Minister bypassing HAL. The country needs an answer to this and we are demanding a JPC on this issue if the Government will dare. Finally, we are insisting for a JPC.

With these words, I conclude.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance, who is a long-standing friend of mine. Over the past five years, the policies of our Government have consistently prioritised the village, the poor, the farmer, the oppressed, the deprived, the afflicted, the middle class, and the student community, and this Budget represents the culmination of those efforts. It will enable us to be well-prepared for the next term. I would like to place on record my heartfelt appreciation to you and the Government for presenting such an exemplary Budget.

Sir, a discussion on GST was in progress. At that time, I was seated in the Central Hall with the then Minister of Finance. Also present were Shri Saugata Roy, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, and Shrimati Supriya Sule. We had initiated the discussion, but Dada spoke rather emphatically, remarking that a discussion on GST was underway, yet a speaker had been appointed who was not contributing at all. I must admit that his response that day provoked some anger in me. He stated that the problem in this country is that more than 90 percent of politicians fail to understand key issues. Since Shri Saugata Roy is present, I am stating this with

full authority, as a result, it becomes extremely difficult to ascertain what is truly happening in the country.

At present, the Congress spokesperson, Shri Venugopal, was speaking. The Congress is a party over a hundred years old and one of the largest in the country. While he was speaking, I was reminded of Shri Arun Jaitley, who used to ask whether the discussion was on the Finance Bill or the Budget. The discussion is on the Budget, yet no points were made regarding the Finance Bill. It is for this reason that the image of politicians has been diminished.

Secondly, in his speech, he stated that Shri Piyush Goyal is from the Rajya Sabha, and therefore, one does not understand anything. It appeared to me that the Congress Party suffers from selective amnesia. Indira Gandhi, who split the party and reconstituted it, was a member of the Rajya Sabha when she first became Prime Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh, who also belonged to the same Congress Party, served as the Prime Minister of the country for ten years, and he too was a member of the Rajya Sabha. It became clear to me what has caused the country's decline. If members of the Rajya Sabha do not understand matters, yet they were made Prime Minister, then an injustice has been done to the nation. Therefore, these individuals should apologise to the country.

Thirdly, a discussion on the Budget was underway here with two or three Members of the Congress Party. Yesterday, Shri Moily was speaking on the Budget. He is also the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Hon. Deputy Speaker, you too have served as a Chairman or a member of various committees. Rule 275(2) of the Lok Sabha provides that until a committee places a report or paper on the Table, on that day, Shri Kharge, the Leader of the Congress Party, was also speaking. We draw lessons from all such proceedings. On one occasion, I even informed Shri Veerappa Moily and Shri Kharge, and I always maintain that I have had the privilege of working with these leaders. If statements are made without placing committee reports on the Table of the House, the quality and reliability of such discourse are inevitably compromised.

Secondly, on that day, Shri Tathagat Satpathy of the Biju Janata Dal was addressing the House at considerable length and repeatedly stated that there is constant rivalry between the Congress and the BJP. Actions are taken here and there, and it is difficult to ascertain in which direction Shri Tathagat Satpathy will address the Parliament. With regard to their floor leaders. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, their floor leader asserted that the report on black money is not being released by Shri Veerappa

Moily. It is understandable that the Government has not released the report on black money. Consequently, he alleged that there is collusion between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party. I am of the view that the Biju Janata Dal is also aligned with us. The report on black money has been with our Committee for the past year. Shri Saugata Roy is a member of that Committee, as is Shri Dinesh Trivedi, and on our side, from Shri Shivkumar Udasi to Shri Gopal Shetty, all are members. Any member of that Committee has the right to examine the report. They can go and see it; they can go and read it. If you have not found the time to read this report even after a year, then where is the collusion between the Congress and the BJP? The collusion is yours. The TMC is supporting us.

Secondly, in the context of selective amnesia, from yesterday until today, I have heard several statements claiming that we have mismanaged the economy, that NPAs have risen, and so on. Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will quote only two reports, after which I shall proceed to the Finance Bill. The first is the Economic Survey of 2004. In 2004, when our Government, under the leadership of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was in office, and the UPA Government presented the Economic Survey in this Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* After that, you may speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I

have not mentioned your name; I have referred only to the floor leader.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHATAB (CUTTACK):** You mentioned my name. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** I have referred to the floor leader. ...*(Interruptions)* I have only referred to the floor leader. ...*(Interruptions)* After this, you may speak; first, allow me to complete. I am referring to the Economic Survey of 2004, which states that the Government led by Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Venugopal has left, it does not matter. The Congress Party also has a habit of leaving; they cannot listen to full responses. ...*(Interruptions)* The Economic Survey of 2004 states that the Government of Hon. Vajpayee handed over to us a robust economy with a growth rate of 8.5 percent, which, after independence, was achieved for only the second time since 1975-76. This was the state of the economy that we inherited in 2004. This is the Economic Survey of 2014. The Economic Survey is a white paper, a mirror that no one can refute. What does it state? It states that domestic savings, which were at 33 percent in 2013-14, had declined to 29 percent. Employment growth could not exceed 1 percent. The current account deficit had increased, and the condition of NPAs had deteriorated significantly. You left behind

such an economy and yet expect us to have managed everything perfectly. In the ten years since we left the economy, you have spared no effort in mismanaging it. That is why I always recite a verse for the Congress Party, which states-

Durjana svabhavena parakarye vinasyati, nodara trptam  
ayati musakah vastra bhaksakah.

(The speaker, implies that the Congress Party's persistent interference and insatiable pursuit of political gain inevitably lead to its own decline, much like a greedy mouse that is never satisfied.)

Those who are misguided always find fault, even in what is correct, often without any reason. Just as a mouse eating cloth does not satisfy its hunger but only seeks self-gratification, similarly, the Congress Party speaks out of its own self-gratification. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not intend to speak on Rafale. Now you may understand what kind of ... \*party the Congress is. ...*(Interruptions)* You may take the example of HAL. Continuously, from HAL to HAL, from their party president to all other leaders, statements are repeatedly being made regarding HAL.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, HAL is a company comparable to Airbus, Boeing, or Dassault, the manufacturer of the Rafale aircraft.

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\* Not recorded.

Just as these companies produce their aircraft, HAL manufactures its own aircraft and is developing Tejas in a similar manner. HAL does not undertake offsets itself; it assigns the offset work to other entities.

What is the nature of this controversy? A false narrative is being propagated across the country, and for what purpose? Today, I noted that in Dubai, Sharjah, at E-74, Jumeirah Beach, there is a property owned by Sanjay Bhandari, associated with the Skylight Investment Company, and certain individuals are involved in it. Concerning C.C. Thampi, I would like to clarify why this debate on black money is taking place. When the Government of India assumed office under Hon. Narendra Modi, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted. I shall outline the measures undertaken prior to demonetisation. The SIT on black money was established, and I state with due prominence in this House that it was constituted following my speech. I had highlighted that the then Members of Parliament of the Congress Party, including Shrimati Priyanka Gandhi... *(Interruptions)* Let that aside. She is the sister of the Congress Party's National President. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Let him speak on the Finance Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you deem it appropriate, that particular word may be omitted. ...(*Interruptions*) I refer to the younger sister of the Congress Party's National President... (*Interruptions*) Yesterday, when the party's National President was conducting a roadshow in Lucknow, she was present in the vehicle, regarding whom I had previously made disclosures about the then Member of Parliament of the Congress Party. Regarding the Chief Minister of Punjab, his spouse, who was the then Minister here, I had stated that both of them held accounts in Liechtenstein Bank. I had made these statements on the floor of the House. At that time, the Congress Party's Finance Minister had remarked that it was not a matter of concern, and subsequently, it was determined that these individuals were required to pay the applicable taxes. Since the Congress Government had undertaken no action, Harsh Raghuvanshi filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL against my speech). The case was argued by Shri Ram Jethmalani, while their case was represented by Shri Shanti Bhushan. Subsequently, in 2011-2012, the Supreme Court directed that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) should be constituted to examine black money. From 2012 to 2014, during the UPA Government, there was insufficient resolve to constitute the

SIT. However, when the Government of Hon. Narendra Modi assumed office, the SIT was constituted at the first Cabinet meeting on 26 May. The SIT comprises individuals such as Thampi, Sanjay Bhandari, and others. Coming from the legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru, whose contributions to the nation are immense, and whose family even donated their property, including Anand Bhavan, to the Congress Party or the nation, one individual from the Nehru family emerged seeking to amass wealth, acquire property, purchase houses in London and Dubai. Thampi, for instance, owns approximately three thousand acres of property around Delhi, registered in his name.

Through you, I would like to urge the Government to examine why individuals involved in black marketing and hoarding, such as Sanjay Bhandari and Sudhir Chaudhary, are raising the issue of Rafale. On that day in Parliament, I had stated that the relatives of the then ... (*Interruptions*) of the Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh are intermediaries in the Eurofighter deal, including Susen Gupta and Arvind Khanna, who are their MLAs in Punjab. All these individuals would benefit if the Rafale deal did not proceed, and the Congress Party is acting accordingly.

I shall move to the second point. There is a proverb: “Bura Jo Dekhan Main Chala, Bura Na Milya Koy, Jo Dil Khoja Aapna

Mujhse Bura Na Koy.” Allow me to state that the Income Tax rates were reduced by the Government. Why was black money generated in this country? There is a report by the Vanchu Committee. In 1971, the Vanchu Committee observed that the maximum marginal rates were so high that they were encouraging individuals to engage in hoarding. I was examining the tax slips from 1971. Each individual was required to pay 97 percent of their earnings to the Government of India, in addition to wealth tax. Such rates effectively incentivised people to resort to illicit practices.

The Vanchu Committee recommended that an expenditure tax should be reintroduced to check evasion through consumption, which is related to GST. From 1971 onwards, this matter was largely neglected. The Committee also stated that there should be no accretion of income of husband, wife and minor child for the purpose of tax assessment. It recommended that tax at the rate of 33 percent should be deducted at source. The rationale was that we are part of Asia. Allow me to point out that our competition is global. Questions are often raised as to why tax rates were reduced from 33 percent to 25 percent, why an exemption of Rs. 5 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh is granted. All of us here are educated, and if we wish to generate employment on a global scale, it is necessary to understand what is being practised in neighbouring countries. Through you, I

would like to inform the House that in a country like Bangladesh, which became independent after us in 1971, the individual tax rate is 30 percent. In Indonesia it is 30 percent, in Malaysia 28 percent; I am referring here to personal taxes. Azerbaijan has 25 percent, Laos 24 percent, Afghanistan 20 percent, Singapore 17 percent, and Hong Kong 15 percent. Similarly, with regard to corporate tax, the Philippines has 30 percent, Sri Lanka 28 percent, Bangladesh 25 percent, and South Korea 25 percent. If such tax rates exist in neighbouring countries, then, in order to develop our own nation, will we create an environment where our people are encouraged to pay taxes? Will we provide a suitable framework for corporations to operate efficiently? A significant aspect of this Finance Bill is that the MSME sector, represented here by Shri Giriraj Singh, stands to benefit the most. For companies with a turnover exceeding Rs. 250 crore, the overall aggregate tax rate will be 25 percent. I have consistently advocated that this tax should be gradually increased. Businesspersons engage in trade and earn profits, and therefore a measured approach is necessary. I am profoundly grateful to this Government, as for the first time any Government has expressed its gratitude to the taxpayers. The taxpayers have been thanked because, without tax revenue, the nation cannot generate funds, roads cannot be constructed, railways cannot be developed, hospitals cannot be built, and no form of infrastructure

can be created. I would like to submit that we often deliberate on how we are to compete with China, how we are to compete with Iran, how we are to compete with Singapore. Even a country like Bangladesh is attempting to compete with us in the textile sector. The Hon. Minister will elaborate on this. Countries like Thailand and Bangkok are attempting to compete with us, and tourism there is increasing. However, no one in the country has ever given thought to what is happening in neighbouring countries. Who has thought about it? It is our Government that has thought about it. Our Government has realised that if we cannot become the UK or the US, at the very least, we should ensure that the middle-class family, those families who have to educate their children, marry off their daughters, take care of their parents, and support a joint family, has access to tax benefits. There is a significant need for such provisions, so that if they cannot save, they are not compelled to indulge in illegal practices. As we move towards a digital economy, it is essential that these individuals are not drawn into such activities. For this reason, we have provided full exemptions on taxes up to Rs. 5 lakh. An additional concession of Rs. 1.5 lakh has been provided, and if one takes into account housing and education loans, particularly for children's education, it is possible that up to Rs. 9 to 10 lakh, one will be exempt from paying any tax at all. Similarly, if we wish to bring people into the manufacturing sector,

as it is in this sector that employment opportunities will be created, we need to focus on increasing this sector. To achieve this, we must bring industries on board. We must create an environment where we can do justice to the investors, such that investors from countries like Singapore, China, and Bangladesh, who are currently investing in those nations, will be encouraged to invest in our country. For this reason, we need to match the economic environment of the neighbouring countries around us.

Following this, there was extensive discussion on GST. Shri Kharge Ji was speaking continuously on the subject of GST. I would like to make a few remarks on this matter. "One Tax, One Nation" is not a new concept. I was reviewing the debates from the Constituent Assembly, and when the Constitution was being drafted, there must have been discussions regarding taxes and the tax system. Some deliberation must have taken place on this issue at that time.

### **1600 hrs**

Something must have transpired. Suddenly, I received a document stating that under the leadership of Shri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, a Tax Committee had been established. This Tax Committee has recommended that, for India to progress, it is imperative to strengthen the Centre. Strengthening the Centre

necessitates addressing the unequal distribution of resources, particularly in the northeastern and eastern regions, the development of which had been obstructed by the British for specific reasons. In order to facilitate their development, the Union Government must undertake special initiatives. Similarly, an equitable distribution of taxes must be ensured. When that report was presented here, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a figure whom the Congress frequently praises, introduced Amendment Number 425 under Section 264AA. He proposed that all taxes, whether levied by the State or the Centre, should be collected by a single entity, namely the Central Government, with the States receiving their share. The distribution should be based on population, development indicators, or other criteria such as poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. Do you know who opposed this? The then Prime Minister, along with the entire Congress Party, objected to it, as they believed that such a course of action should not be pursued at all. The reason this was not implemented is that, as regional parties hold significant influence today, leaders such as Kalikesh Singh Deo will raise issues pertaining to Odisha, and Sougat Roy will discuss matters concerning Kolkata. Even during the time of leaders like Shri Babu, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Govind Vallabh Pant, and Dr. Kamaraj, all of whom made monumental contributions to our independence, the Congress Party, under their pressure, abandoned

the "One Tax, One Nation" concept. Consequently, as we all know, in cities like Delhi, there are different rates for basic commodities such as salt, rice, and wheat in areas like Noida, Gurgaon, and Delhi itself. These regional discrepancies led to major challenges, including the entry tax, corporate tax, and corporation tax, all of which created significant problems. For this reason, India was fortunate to have Prime Minister Modi, the first truly strong leader who decided to implement the "One Tax, One Nation" theory, and as a result, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am stating that these people ask why there isn't just one tax and why the tax rate is not brought below 18 percent. As of now, only 50 items are taxed at 28 percent. Hon. Chairperson, what kind of tax is this? This tax is on luxury goods, if you buy an SUV, a washing machine, or a large luxury home. I ask, is this Congress party, which claims to be for the poor, truly working against the poor? If we are collecting taxes from the rich and distributing it to the poor, what issue do you have with that? But for some reason, such issues are raised. I would like to conclude by referring to the amendment made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which has resulted in a situation where the individual in question, often referred to in political discourse due to their marital ties to a prominent family, now faces the

consequences. As the saying goes, "Satasiya ke dohre jaise naavak ke teer, dekhan mein chhote lagen, ghav karein gambheer. (These lines highlight that actions or policies that appear minor or inconsequential, like the PMLA modification, can have serious, long-term consequences.)"

I will conclude now. I would just like to say that the Congress Party, as Amir Sahib once said in a couplet:

"Garibi ban gayi tahir ka sabab aamir,  
Jisse bhi dekho hamari misaal deta hai."

The Congress Party, by merely presenting the example of the poor, continued to exploit them. This is a government that works for the welfare of the oppressed, deprived, suffering, women, and backward communities. This Finance Bill will benefit the middle class, the poor, and rural areas. With these words, I support this Finance Bill. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** In the Budget itself, the Finance Minister had narrated about the attack, which this Government is making, about black money. Yesterday and today also, an hon. Member from the Treasury Benches mentioned my name and the issue that I had raised yesterday. The issue was that

there was a query raised by the Right to Information Act asking the Finance Ministry to reveal whatever reports they have gathered during the last five years. It is because on the basis of those reports, you have gone in for demonetisation, to attack black money. The Finance Committee, of whose Chairman is Dr. Moily, had also acquired all those reports. Recently, through that RTI, a question was posed stating that they should reveal it. The answer from the Finance Ministry was that they would not reveal it because the Standing Committee on Finance was looking into that matter.

I think, Saugata *da* also is privy to that, so also Mr. Nishikant Dubey *ji* and a number of other Members who are Members of the Finance Committee. When we asked – and this is something which is going against our Parliamentary system – the Chairman told us that he could not reveal it; he could not share it with the Members because there was a rider from the Finance Ministry saying that he should not distribute it; he should not share it and it is for his eyes only. ...(*Interruptions*) If this is the position, then why is the Finance Ministry saying that we cannot deliberate on that as the Standing Committee on Finance is doing it? I need an answer from the Government. The Government should clarify it. Or, should we believe that Congress and BJP are hand in glove to not to reveal the black money report? ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** If he has the report to read, I request him to read it and present it to this House. ...(*Interruptions*) Kindly read it and provide the information. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Sir, I would like to respond to that. Mr. Mahtab has raised an important issue. I would like to place the facts on record. There were three Task Forces that were conducting a study: the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, and the National Institute of Financial Management. Copies of all these study reports were forwarded to the Chief Economic Advisor by the previous Government. The Ministry was requested to provide inputs on the same. The CEA, *inter alia*, observed that there were large variations in numbers, percentage of unaccounted income with respect to GDP across the three reports. He opined that there was no scope for arriving at a common estimate of unaccounted income by combining estimates in the three reports. That was the CEA's opinion after studying all the three reports that they could not really come to any reasonably accurate or some credible number. These three study reports of these three institutes, along with the response of the Government, were forwarded to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on

25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 for placing them before the Standing Committee on Finance. It was further submitted that these reports had been treated as ‘top secret’ by the Ministry of Finance and concurrence of the Standing Committee on Finance was sought to place these study reports in public domain for wider discussion by the public and other institutions. I am giving you the official position on that. So, these reports were given to the Standing Committee and we asked the Lok Sabha Secretariat to guide us on that since there was no consensus, all reports spoke of different numbers, and the CEA says that they could not come to any credible conclusion; however, we were submitting it to the hon. Members of the Standing Committee on Finance. Therefore, the Members – as Mr. Nishikant Dubey rightly said – had every right to access these reports. But whether to put them in public domain was left to the Lok Sabha Secretariat or the Committee to decide, for which we got the response. It was conveyed by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, *vide* OM dated 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, that there was no provision or practice of giving any such concurrence of vetting by Parliamentary Standing Committees. So, there the matter rests. The reports are available for all the hon. Members.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** It is still not available. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** But they are not available for being put in the public domain. ...(*Interruptions*) Further I am informed by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, *vide* OM dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017, that the matter was placed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance which was seized of the matter and that they had decided to select the subject for detailed examination and report during their current term. So, maybe, at that point of time, they might be proposing to put it up for discussion before the Committee. But the fact of the matter is that all these reports are before the Lok Sabha Secretariat and it is the property of the Lok Sabha Secretariat as of now. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** The reason for this is that the entire report is based on Congress. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

**\*SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL) :** Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Finance Bill 2019. Several expectations including solutions to the Agriculture related issues, tax exemption to middle class people, tax rebate for Housing and Construction sector, have been fulfilled in the Interim Budget, I also appreciate the Union Government for maintaining financial equilibrium after fulfilling these expectations. Announcement regarding Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Financial Help Scheme for the welfare of farmers is something special. With an allocation of Rs75 thousand Crore, small and marginal farmers will be provided Rs.6000 per year. Around 12 Crore farmers' families will be benefitted, through this Scheme. The farmers having land holding up to 2 hectares will be provided Rs.2000 each in three installments. This will brighten the lives of the farmers of this country. Except Hon Member from Congress Party Shri K C Venugopal who spoke on Finance Bill in this House and the Congress Party, all the farmers are welcoming this Scheme. There are several amendments being made in the Income Tax Act through this Finance Bill of 2019. For the year 2019-20, the present income tax rate indicators will continue to remain. At the same

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

time, tax payers are provided certain relief by way of some amendments. This may lead to liquidity of cash besides improving their livelihood. Section 16 of the Financial Bill is being amended to increase the standard deduction for the salaried class from Rs40000 to Rs50000. This Financial Bill has ensured that tax payers who have one house presently can own two houses. Moreover the rental income generated from the house for two years from the date of construction will be exempted from tax. Investment made for construction of such houses will be given tax relief by way of amending Section 24 of the Income Tax Act.

By amending Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, tax payers may get tax relief on long term capital gains up to Rs. 2 Crore. I also welcome that two houses may be purchased in India through the income thus earned. By amending Section 80 IBA of the Income Tax Act, the deadline for providing houses under Affordable Housing Scheme is extended till 31 March 2020. I welcome this. By amending Section 87 A of the Income Tax Act, tax exemption is provided to all those who have an annual income of upto Rs 5 lakh. Tax relief for this amount is Rs 12500 instead of Rs2500. I welcome the announcement. By amending section 194 A of the Income Tax Act, the interest relief for TDS from the deposits made at Post Offices, Cooperative Banks and Banks has been increased

from the present Rs 10000 to Rs 40000. I welcome this announcement. By amending Section 194 I of the Income Tax Act, the tax deduction on rental income has been increased from the present Rs 1.8 lakh to Rs. 2.4 lakh. Moreover the home loan interest rebate will be provided for two houses. This measure will increase the purchasing power of the middle class. Tax exemption on rental income has also been increased from 1 lakh 80 thousand to 2 lakh 40 thousand which is highly beneficial. Union Government is engaged in reducing the tax burden of middle class people. The number of tax payers has doubled. Tax income has increased from Rs. 6, 38,000 Crore to Rs. 12 lakh Crore. Tax exemption limit of Individual tax payer has been increased from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. This will benefit the people belonging to poor and marginalized sections of the society. People working in private companies in Urban areas with a meagre income of up to Rs 40000 per month has been relieved due to this announcement. Tax payers who submit their IT returns will get refund within 24 hours. Limit of Gratuity amount has also been increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. GST for home buyers will be reduced. These are some of the announcements that will definitely lead India to development.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri Edappadi K Palanisamy, who runs the Government in the

footsteps of Hon Puratchithalaivi Amma, has called this Interim Budget as pro-poor, pro-farmer and pro-people Budget. On 8 February 2019, Hon Deputy Chief Minister presented the proactive State Budget of Tamil Nadu in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under the able guidance of Hon Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Due to paucity of time, I want to list out only a few points of that State Budget here in this august House. Rs. 10,000 Crore worth farm loans will be provided with a view to benefit the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Concrete houses will be built and provided for the people who lost their houses due to Gaja cyclone at a cost of Rs. 980 Crore. As much as Rs 250 crore has been allocated for Farmer Safety Scheme; Rs. 178 crore for farm mechanization, Rs 247 crore for full body medical check-up Scheme; Rs 100 crore for welfare of SCs' 300 petrol run scooty vehicles for women are some of the initiatives announced in the Budget-2019 of Tamil Nadu. As many as 60 lakh people including farmers, fishermen and weavers who are below poverty line will be benefitted by an announcement which provides them Rs.2000 as special financial assistance. This is historic announcement by Hon Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisamy which makes Tamil Nadu as a progressive State in India. All the 2 crore and 1 lakh ration card holders of Tamil Nadu has been provided Rs. 1000 each as pongal gift. This amounted to

Rs. 2001 crore. DMK leader... \*who cannot tolerate the implementation of this Scheme successfully is making allegations against the State and Union Governments, The people of Tamil Nadu are pretty clear in their minds. AIADMK led coalition will win all the 40 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. There will not be a single MP for DMK in the next Lok Sabha similar to a situation prevailing in the current Lok Sabha. I am having lots of hopes to say that the All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) will play a major role in deciding the future Prime Minister of India. Thank you for this opportunity.

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\*Not recorded.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Sir, I rise to speak on the Finance Bill, 2019 which seeks to continue the existing rates of income tax for the financial year and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers.

**16 19 hrs**

(Shri K.H. Muniyappa *in the Chair*)

Sir, I speak so with a heavy heart because Bengali labourers are being killed in Assam. Two labourers by name Sheikh Idris and Mohammad Jowahar were killed in the Dumduma area in Assam on Saturday. I tried to raise it earlier but since the Deputy Speaker did not allow me, I am mentioning this. The more you press with the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, more attacks will take place on Bengali labourers. I strongly protest this.

Sir, I will not speak on the expenditure side today because I had the opportunity to make a speech yesterday. I have spoken on how a defence budget of Rs.3 lakh crore is inadequate. I will not speak on how the budget for inland water transport, for civil aviation and for shipping has been cut. I shall not speak on how the budget for MGNREGA has been cut by Rs.1000 crore. I shall also not speak on how essential expenditure to be made by the Government of India has been cut. I shall confine myself to the revenue proposals of the Government.

But, may I point out, it seems, that the Finance Ministry has been boycotted by its own Ministers? The Finance Minister is not here. There are two Ministers of State in the Ministry of Finance – Shiv Pratap Shukla and Pon Radhakrishnan. I do not see any of them here. The Ministers of State have revolted against the Finance Minister for not allowing them to speak. This is not a very healthy sign for the democracy.

I listened to Mr. Nishikant Dubey from the Ruling Party. He said that Mr. Venugopal had not spoken on the revenue proposals in the Finance Bill. It is true that Mr. Venugopal mainly concentrated on exposing corruption on Rafale deal. I spoke on Rafale deal yesterday and I think that the Government has much to answer, especially after it has been revealed that the clause against corruption was eliminated in the agreement and as a result of which the inter-Governmental agreement is defective. I shall not speak on the Rafale deal.

I wanted Mr. Nishikant Dubey to speak on the revenue aspects of the Bill. But instead he brought down the level of the debate in Parliament to what he talked with Ms. Supriya Sule and Bhartruhari Mahtab in the Central Hall. If we reduce our discussion in the Parliament to whom we talk to and about what in the Central Hall, it lowers the dignity. I hope, Sir, that you will advise this young

Member to realize it. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Management Studies. He used to work as a Director in Essar and is now trying to become a face of the BJP. This is not the way this is done. He must understand that the parliamentary debates should be discussed with a certain amount of gravity.

Sir, just before I spoke, there was a question on the black money. As the Finance Minister informed us, there are three different reports on black money and the quantum of black money. It is related to revenue because black money is generated by those who refuse to pay taxes, who do not pay taxes and who evade taxes or even plan taxes as a result of which unaccounted money is generated. But they did. The Finance Ministry sent a report to the Chairman. We, as Members of the Finance Committee, were not allowed to see the reports because the Finance Ministry and the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry strictly said that this was for the eyes of the Chairman only. We demand from the Ministry that all the reports of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and the National Council of Applied Economic Research should come out.

Sir, this Government has been playing truant to the people on black money. The Prime Minister's first promise to the people of the country was that he would bring back all the black money that

is held abroad. It is five years and he has not brought back any black money let alone the deposit of Rs.15 lakh in the accounts of all Indian citizens. He has not done that.

Then, he went for the surgical strike, the cruel surgical strike called demonetisation, cancelling all 1,000 rupee and 500 rupee notes in one fell swoop, but when two years later, the Reserve Bank of India announced the figures of money deposited in banks, it was found that the same amount of money, roughly Rs. 15,00,000 and odd crores, which was cancelled, has been deposited in the banks, it meant that the whole exercise which had caused so much of pain - 150 people died in bank queues after demonetisation, lakhs of people were thrown out of employment, small businesses closed down because of demonetisation – recovered no black money. We had recovered no black money at all. This Government is a Government of *jumla*. They just believe in sloganeering and they are not able or capable of fulfilling their promises to the nation.

That is why, I say that there is nothing wrong in the Finance Bill because the Finance Bill is brought under Rule 218 of the Rules of Procedure. It presents the financial proposals of the Government. Now, this is an almost lame duck Government and in one month, it will become fully lame duck. Really, it will last for two months into the next financial year. So, it has no right to bring new tax proposals

as a result of which the Finance Minister has not increased any tax rates and it is understandable. He does not have the moral, constitutional, financial authority to impose new rates of tax, but he has tried to offer sops to certain sections of the population, especially the aggrieved section of the population, namely, the salaried middle class.

He has raised the income tax exemption limit to five lakh rupees which I have no reason to dispute, but the point is that if he had to offer sops, he should have waited for the next Government to offer sops and not give it in a hurry in order to shop for votes. He has given these sops to do shopping – shopping is for votes – for which he does not have the constitutional, moral, financial authority.

Now, let me look at some of his proposals. What are the amendments that he suggests? One is amendment to Section 16(ia) where the standard deduction has been raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. Next one is amendment to Section 23(4) where it says that notional income of two self-occupied properties will now be taken to be nil. So, now if people have two houses, the notional income of two self-occupied houses will be zero and they will be exempt. He has said in his speech:

“Considering the difficulty of the middle class having to maintain families at two locations on account of their job, children’s education, care of parents etc. I am proposing to exempt levy of income tax on notional rent on a second self-occupied house.”

I do not take any exception to that also.

Then, there is amendment to Section 23(5), which is of a technical nature, regarding property. Then, there is amendment to Section 24 which says that interest on capital borrowed for acquisition of two self-occupied house properties, instead of one earlier, shall now be admissible as deduction subject to the existing overall ceiling of two lakh rupees *per annum*. Then, he amends Section 54(1)(ii) and inserts a new *proviso*. Presently, an assessee being an individual or Hindu Undivided Family is entitled to claim deduction as regards long term capital gains arising out of transfer of residential property provided this is for one residential property. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I am the only one speaking on the Bill so far. So, please allow me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

Now, on two residential properties, people will get exemption provided the overall long-term capital gains do not exceed Rs. 2 crore. Similarly, TDS on income credited in the nature of interest from banks, deposits with post offices, up to Rs. 40,000 is not

deductible. So, these are some sops to the middle class. They are not major concessions.

This Finance Bill also talks about the Stamp Duty. Previously, if you exchange shares, you have to pay Stamp Duty individually. Now, the Stamp Duty will have to be paid by the stock exchange or by the depository. The other issue is about the PMLA. Earlier, under the PMLA the authorities were allowed to attach properties for 90 days. But now the authorities are allowed to attach properties for 365 days.

I want to end by saying that this Government is the Government of tax terrorists. The PMLA and the Enforcement Directorate are Shri Modi's handmaids. He is unleashing the dogs of war, like the Enforcement Directorate, against those opponents whom he dare not face politically. Today, I read that Shri Chidambaram has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate. On some other day, Shri Robert Vadra has been summoned. So, everyday it is happening. We have seen so many Governments since Independence. But I have never seen a Government which has used the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate as wantonly as this Government.

Shri Moily said yesterday that for five years this Government has not set up Lokpal. Had there been a Lokpal, Shri Modi would

be the first accused on the issue of purchase of 36 Rafael aircraft at the price of Rs. 59,000 crore.

With these words, I would like to say that this Finance Bill has no controversial issues. I do not oppose the Bill. Normally, amendments are not moved to the Finance Bill because the Government has to get the revenue. The Government has brought forward the Finance Bill. I do not object to that. But this Government has lost all moral authority to rule. It is on its last legs hanging by the slenderest of threads. The people of this country will soon decide the fate of this Government.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech in either House of the Parliament. I became a Minister 17 months back. I had dozens of opportunities to speak but unfortunately I could not because of obvious reasons. That is because the House could not function. ...*(Interruptions)*

I will start from where the hon. Member had stopped. He said, "I have never seen a Government like this." Let me say : In forty years of my public life, I have never seen a Government like this" ...*(Interruptions)*. In four and a half years, the state of the economy today is better than ever before in the history of Independent India. ...*(Interruptions)*. Chairman, Sir, somebody is disturbing me....*(Interruptions)*.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You can speak looking this side.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the macro economic fundamentals of the country today are better than ever before in the history of India....*(Interruptions)* My close friend Shri Venugopal was talking about inflation. That there is price rise. Mr. Chairman Sir, last month, in December, the year on year inflation was only 2.6 per cent which is the lowest in the history of

India. When the UPA was in power, what was the average inflation? It was 10.1 per cent. Today, the inflation is down to 2.6 per cent. What was the food inflation during UPA rule? ...(*Interruptions*). The average food inflation was ...(*Interruptions*). I don't listen. I know that you have not read these things ...(*Interruptions*). Please listen.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please don't interrupt.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** The average food inflation was about 18.5 per cent. Today we are down to 2.6 per cent. The greatest achievement of this is that the poor people of this country are the greatest gainers from Modi Government's rule. The fiscal deficit is completely under control. The current account deficit is completely under control. The tax base has increased dramatically. The total amount of money collected as taxes has gone up dramatically....(*Interruptions*) India is the best destination for FDI....(*Interruptions*). Mr. Chairman Sir, the fundamentals of the economy of this country have never been better than today....(*Interruptions*).

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Don't interrupt.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** This Government has put tourism right up on the pedestal. A lot of people have not read this. This is the report of the World Travel and Tourism Council, 2018. As per this report, it is stated at page No. 2, ‘in power and performance ranking’...(*Interruptions*). Please read this. If you don’t read these things, if you do not listen to these things, it is not my fault ...(*Interruptions*).

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, do not interrupt and disturb the Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** I am sure the Hon. Member has not heard of this. It does not matter. India is at number 3 in global ranking in the world in Tourism, power and performance after China and United States. What is the revenue? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think this country has the right to be informed as to what is the revenue we receive from tourism. Last year, Chairman, Sir, the revenue from tourism was 234 billion dollars, which is equivalent to rupees 16.5 lakh crores. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Saugata Royji, you are a senior Member. He can speak. Do not disturb. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** Let me come to the rest of numbers, Mr. Chairman, Sir,...(*Interruptions*). Now, as per the Tourism Satellite Account, this is as per the guidelines prescribed by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation(UNWTO)....(*Interruptions*) What did they say? This is report of 2006, this is a report of 2012 and this is the report of 2018. What does it say?...(*Interruptions*). It is very simple. As per the report, Mr. Chairman Sir, today, the tourism sector in India is employing, 81.2 million people. ...(*Interruptions*). That is the largest number of people employed anywhere in the world in the tourism sector now.

Now, Hon. Member, please listen carefully. From 2014 to 2018, in the tourism sector alone, the Government has created 13.92 million jobs....(*Interruptions*). Hon. Member, I will give you the copy, I will send you the copy, if you so desire. Please read this. ...(*Interruptions*). Who has prepared this Report? This is done by the National Council for Applied Economic Research. This is one of the most reputed institutions in the world. What is the methodology they use? The methodology they use is prescribed by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and that report says that 13.92 million jobs have been created. I will tell you the figure in crores, Hon. Member: 1.392 crore jobs have been created only in the tourism sector.

Please learn from the English dictionary. ...(*Interruptions*) It is 'jobs', Okay! ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI IDRIS ALI (BASIRHAT):** Will I learn English from you?  
...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM :** Out of this, 5.4  
...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI IDRIS ALI :** Sir, what is this? What is the Hon. Minister saying here? ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Please do not disturb him.  
... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI IDRIS ALI:** Have we come here to learn English from you?  
...(*Interruptions*) Are we illiterate? ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM :** Out of this, 5.4 million jobs were directly created in the tourism sector, and 6.98 million jobs were created indirectly by the tourism sector. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I know that they will not be able to digest many of these numbers. They cannot digest it because they have decided about it. ...(*Interruptions*) They read only one newspaper. ...(*Interruptions*) This is a copy of '*The Statesman*'. Please read it, which states : "Job boosts from tourism sector". I am sure that you have not seen this. ...(*Interruptions*) I am quoting from another very famous

newspaper, namely, '*The Times of India*', which states : "India is 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked in this year's World Travel & Tourism Council Report.". ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, the newspaper says...*(Interruptions)* It shows how far we have come. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Member, please read this. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Is it an exclusive copy? ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM :** Sir, I am placing both these Reports on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)* Whoever is interested can read it. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI IDRIS ALI:** It is a forged document. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

... *(Interruptions)*

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

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

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM :** Sir, let me also give you the figures. ...*(Interruptions)* Last year, we crossed the 10 million mark in foreign tourist arrivals. ...*(Interruptions)* While the global tourism arrivals increased by seven per cent, the global tourism arrivals to India increased by 14 per cent, which is 200 per cent of

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\* Not recorded.

whatever is the global average. While the revenue from foreign tourists went up by five per cent globally, the revenue in India went up by 19.2 per cent, which is four times more than the global average. These are most impressive figures. We are the largest growing tourism destination in the world.

As regards medical tourism, do you know how many people were coming to India when we came to power? It was 1.3 lakh people that were coming, and last year 4.95 lakh people came to India for medical tourism, which is a growth of 255 per cent. Is it not impressive? I am sorry, but these are not my figures. These are the figures of the Bureau of Immigration.

Why do people come to India? Nearly, 13.78 per cent of people come to India on business; 59.01 per cent of people come to India for leisure; 4.93 per cent of people come to India for medical tourism; 19.33 per cent of people are Indian diaspora; and 2.95 per cent of people are the 'others'. Why do people come to India? It is because the Prime Minister and our Government has created a situation and has created a beautiful country where people want to come. ...(*Interruptions*) We are the first destination in the world today. More people want to come here. ...(*Interruptions*) Kindly look at the numbers, and the way we are growing. ...(*Interruptions*)

Kindly look at the publicity. ...(*Interruptions*) In the last one year, we made five promotional movies and each movie is of 60 seconds duration. ...(*Interruptions*) During the last six months in the CNN's ranking of promotional movies, Tourism Ministry's promotional movies on India were ranked number one, ranked number two, and ranked number three every week for the past six months. ...(*Interruptions*) These are not my figures, but that of CNN. ...(*Interruptions*) We have put these things on the social media. ...(*Interruptions*) Do you know how many hits we had and how many people viewed it? ...(*Interruptions*) Do you know how many people viewed my promotion on Yoga? ...(*Interruptions*) Nearly, 60 million people viewed my promotion on Yoga; 70 million people viewed my promotion on wildlife; and about 52 million people viewed my promotion on Ayurveda. ...(*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM :** Sir, the whole world is watching India, and they say that here is a country, which we need to see. ...(*Interruptions*) India's tourism is not about visiting and it is not even about experiencing.

It is transformational. When people come to India, when they leave, they say, we are never the same again. This is a transformational country. People come here to be transformed.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, some of our destinations were ignored. When this Government came to power, Modi Government decided to put money in tourism. Two flagship programmes were started – Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD scheme. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** He has the liberty to speak. Don't intervene.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** As of today, 77 projects are going on in this country with an outlay of Rs.6,121 crore. Under the PRASAD Scheme, we have 27 projects at an outlay of Rs.832 crore; we have about Rs.7,000 crore worth of projects going on to create infrastructure in the tourism sector. We have provided in 29 States. After this Government came to power, we introduced these things. Did you ever put money in tourism? Thank you Finance Minister; thank you Prime Minister. We have created infrastructure around tourism destinations. I will tell you where we put the money.

We have 15 schemes. We have 10 projects in the North East worth Rs.856 crore.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Minister, please conclude.

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** Under the Buddhist circuit, we have five projects where we are putting Rs.361 crore; in the Himalayan circuit, we have seven projects worth Rs.668 crore; under the Coastal circuit, we have 11 projects worth Rs.798 crore; in the Krishna circuit, we have two projects worth Rs.188 crore; in the Desert circuit, we have one project worth Rs.63 crore; in the Tribal circuit, we have four projects worth Rs.380 crore; in the Eco circuit, we have six projects worth Rs.490 crore; in the Wildlife circuit, we have two projects worth Rs.187 crore; in the Rural circuit, we have two projects worth Rs.122 crore; under the Heritage circuit, we have 10 projects worth Rs.865 crore; under the Tirthankar circuit we have one project worth Rs.52 crore. We are putting Rs.6,121 crore. Did your Government do it?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Minister, thank you.

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** The Defence Secretary, ... \* – or I don't mention the name – is my batchmate from the IAS. He writes something on the file. It is the job of the political

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\* Not recorded.

Executive to take a call. Sorry. It is not the bureaucracy which will decide. The political Executive, the Minister and the Prime Minister will take a call. The buck stop with him.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Minister, please conclude.

**SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM:** I will conclude, Sir. When this Government came to power, we did not have enough bullets to fight battle for three days. ...(*Interruptions*) What did your Defence Minister do? What did they do? ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, give me a minute. It is a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, our Prime Minister, he is the one man who can stand up with a backbone and take a decision for the country. ...(*Interruptions*) He said, India must be protected; India must be defended. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR):** Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have to compliment the Minister on his maiden speech. He spoke with a lot of passion and vigour. I wish you allowed him to speak on tourism. That is all he spoke about. I am glad that he raised the issue of jobs in tourism. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Defence Secretary is not a Member of this House. How can the Minister mention his name? ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** If that is the case, I will go through the records and take a decision.

That is there. I will see and take the decision.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO :** Sir, apart from complimenting the hon. Minister, I would like to compliment him for raising the issue of jobs, one of the key reasons for the Budget and the reasons for growth: He cherrypicked the number of 13.9 million jobs. I do not know if he has created these jobs last year or in the last five years or in the last fifty years.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing will go on record. Only hon. Member's speech will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO :** How can a Minister disturb a Member?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kalikesh ji, you proceed. Hon. Minister, do not interfere please.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** Sir, how does a Minister disturb the House when I am complimenting him.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No, you please talk on the issue. Do not make any comment.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** I am thanking him and complimenting him, but he is disturbing me. I seek your protection, Sir....( *Interruptions*).If he had quoted the NSSO, the organisation which is supposed to give out numbers and statistics for the country, whose job employment report has been kept under wraps by this Government, I would have been happier, but not the NCER which seems to be his subject of choice for the quotation and not the NITI Aayog, which for some reason comments on jobs instead of policy and planning these days...( *Interruptions*)

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\* Not recorded.

I would request the hon. Minister to give me ten minutes and let me finish. He has the right to rebuttal afterwards if I have said anything offensive about him. But, Sir, I repeat again that the NDA Ministers always say the nicest things and so did the UPA Ministers. I always say that they are the two sides of the same coin.

The hon. Finance Minister also said something in his speech which I was hoping that he would reiterate that the fiscal deficit despite being election year is going to be at 3.4 per cent. That is important and I will take one minute to tell you why. Every time, when we exceed the fiscal deficit, not only are we putting a burden of our loan on our future generation but also, we are impacting or in effect devaluing the currency, increasing inflation and reducing the capital expenditure in the future years because most of the money goes into servicing debts etc. etc. or imports. Therefore, when he said 3.4 per cent which is just a deviation of 0.1 per cent, I was happy. But, Sir, on examining the numbers, I find that it would be very difficult for this Government to stick to that fiscal deficit. Let me tell you why I think that that is the case.

Sir, in the year 2019-20, the hon. Finance Minister has claimed an 18 per cent increase in the GST taxes. Notwithstanding, in 2018-19, in this current year with two months to go, he has revised downwards the GST collection by Rs. 1 lakh crore. So, the indirect

tax collections are scheduled to go down by Rs. 1 lakh crore, he has increased exemption to Rs. 40 lakhs, he has brought down the rates in GST, yet he says that GST collection will go up by 18 per cent.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has claimed that he will increase the income tax by 17.2 per cent. Notwithstanding, that he has raised the exemption limit to Rs. 5 lakh taking out almost 30 million tax payers forgoing, as per his own version, Rs. 18,500 crore of revenue.

In 2017-18 itself, the current taxation system of personal income tax has fallen much lower than what was estimated or budgeted for the year 2018-19. The simple point that I am trying to make is, the Government is unable to achieve the revenues it projects or budgets. And that also, with two months to go you are busy revising your revenues down.

How will you meet the fiscal deficit target? There are only two ways to meet fiscal deficit target, if your revenues fall. It is either by increasing disinvestment to raise your revenues or by reducing your expenditure. There is no other third way.

The disinvestment target set by the Government for the previous year was Rs.80,000 crore. This year it is Rs.90,000 crore. However, in the previous year, out of Rs.80,000 crore this Government has achieved a mere Rs.35,000 crore, that also by

telling ONGC to buy HPCL. Where is the disinvestment? Where was the big Air India disinvestment that the Government talked about? Where is the interest in the PSUs that the Government claimed are shining? Where is the growth; where is the economy?

I am not making a political point, Sir. I am seriously concerned that this will drive the fiscal deficit high.

Let us look at the expenditure. What has the Government done? The Hon. Finance Minister said something and i will say it in hindi because it is about the farmers issues. [Translation] This is a matter related to the farmers. We have provided Rs. 1 lakh 40 crore to the farmers. Out of this Rs. 1 lakh 40 crore, Rs. 75 thousand crore has been allocated under the PM Kisan scheme.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** The funds have been provided to the farmers.

**SHRI KALIKESH N SINGH DEO:** Sir, you are the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, so you would agree with me. The remaining Rs. 65,000 crore includes Rs. 25,000 crore allocated for interest subvention loans, Rs. 20,000 crore for the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, which is a failed scheme. Only Rs. 20,000 crore is being spent on creating infrastructure for farmers, whether

it is cold storage or mechanization. If you do not address the root cause of the farmers' issues, will you continue giving them temporary doses every year? Today, you have provided this, and yesterday, you implemented the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme. But how much benefit have you actually provided? Rs. 6,000 to a farmer, and that too, only to those whose land is less than 5 acres. In Odisha, under the KALIA scheme, we provide Rs. 10,000 to every farmer with land less than 5 acres, and Rs. 12,500 to those without land. In Odisha, we cover 90-92% of the farmers. You are covering only 30% of the farmers. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, please feel free to correct me.

**SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:** The 12.5 crore farmers in the country will be included in this. Only MLAs, MPs, Ministers, and IAS officers will be excluded. Otherwise, the 12.5 crore farmers with land less than 5 acres will benefit from this scheme. The total number of farmers is 14.5 crore, but 12.5 crore farmers have less than 5 acres of land.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** Sir, those farmers without land number around 16 thousand crore. Only 30-40 percent of the total farmers are covered by this.

[English]

Sir, if you look at the fiscal deficit today and we say that it is at 3.4 per cent, even that number itself is a fallacy. If you look at the off balance-sheet financing done by the Central PSUs, there are estimates that fiscal deficit is already at eight per cent. I will give you an example.

[Translation]

In your Ministry, the FCI (Food Corporation of India) takes loans and incurs losses, then sells it off. It buys from the farmer, provides subsidy, and then sells it at a loss. [English] That subsidy should have been reflected in the Budget of the Government because ultimately it is a subsidy given to the farmers. It is not being reflected. Each PSU of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry has either been funding projects of the Government for subsidy through CSR, or funding political events of the ruling party in the State of Odisha like erecting statues. If these expenses which are held at the behest of the Government are put in, then we would have a much higher fiscal deficit.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** Sir, with due respect, I am the only one speaking on the Budget. Everybody has been speaking on everything else.

**17 00hrs**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Your time is over.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO :** Sir, I will conclude in 2-3 minutes. I will not take much time.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister talks about the ease of paying taxes and he has thanked the honest tax payers. I wish, instead of thanking the honest tax payers, he would have saved them from persecution by the Income Tax Department. Instead of thanking the honest tax payers, he would make sure the refunds come early.

Sir, there is a report today in one of the papers that refunds of this year have been held back by the Income Tax Department because the Government wants to show money in the kitty; because they need to give their doles out for the election. This is a fact, Sir. If you simplify taxes, if you do not harass people, and if you had brought the direct tax code in the five years, as the previous Finance Minister Mr. Jaitley had committed in 2014, your tax base would have gone up and your tax collection would have gone up. Instead of prosecuting the offenders, you are persecuting the innocents. If this is what you end up doing, you will not only destroy the Indian economy but you will reduce the trust the honest tax payer has on this Government, in particular.

Sir, I talked about the NSSO numbers. The issue is not if one institution is correct or the other. The issue is what we are doing to

the credibility of data in our country. If we are not able to provide credible data to international investors, they will downgrade our credit rating. If that happens like what happens with China who are always downgraded one place below what they presume, our foreign borrowings will become more expensive. Our exchange rate gets devalued. The hon. Finance Minister also said somewhere, may be in jest, that they will bring more currency.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** Sir, if we devalue the currency today, please understand, that we will be ruining the economy for our future generation. I am very complimentary to the RBI when they stuck their ground and kept the interest rates where they were to keep inflation low. You are right, Sir, we have had one of the lowest inflation rates.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** But what has happened, now, when two of the RBI Governors have been shunted out? Sir, with due respect, the Congress Party with 40 MPs have got 25 minutes. I would request you to give me twelve and a half minutes for 20 MPs.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, please conclude.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** Sir, I am finishing in two minutes. Data credibility has to be above politics. If we are not able to acknowledge what is going wrong in our economy, we will not be able to correct it; we will not have the strength to correct it. If we always say that we are growing faster than China, then what is the need to provide sops to farmers? What is the need to provide sops to middle class? What is the need to provide Rs.3,000 pension to the unemployed or the informally employed? The fact is that there is a rural crisis. There is a crisis amongst the informal sector destroyed by demonetisation of which we have been just told that there are three different reports. So, the basis of demonetisation itself is a question followed by the hurried application of GST. We supported GST but the application was faulty.

Lastly, the banking sector has almost folded after the NPAs came on board and liquidity has become a problem. If we do not address these issues and if we believe as the hon. Finance Minister said in his introduction that the NBFCs are funding the construction sector and the affordable housing scheme which will give a huge fillip, that is incorrect. You have also stopped the NBFCs from funding the construction sector because the RBI has declared the short-term purpose null and void.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** Sir, my party is allowed 16 minutes.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have given 13 minutes. Please conclude.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** I am going to conclude within two minutes, Sir.

Sir, where does this Rs.20,000 crore which has been allocated to the rural agrarian sector come from? It has come from the same rural sector, the lack of spending in rural department and the lack of spending in the Panchayati Raj department. You have allocated that Rs.20,000 crore to the agricultural sector, to the rural sector and for creating infrastructure. Where is the increase in spending in the rural economy? Where is the growth-oriented orientation of the Budget? Where is the data on jobs? When will you ever fulfil the Prime Minister's promise of creating two crore jobs every year for the last five years?

[Translation]

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Finance Bill. I would also like to extend my congratulations to my colleague, Shri Piyush Goyal, who has had the opportunity to present this Finance Bill in the House, even if it is an Interim Budget for the country. As he speaks on tax matters, I must first commend him for increasing the tax limit from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. However, on the other hand, the reservation you have introduced mentions that you have decided the poverty line and the economic capacity. It is stated that if an individual's income is less than Rs. 8 lakh, they are eligible to avail the benefits of reservation. This is why our leader, Shri Uddhav Thackeray, had suggested that if you increase this threshold to Rs. 8 lakh, your stance on the issue of reservation would be more clearly reflected here. You have set the limit at Rs. 5 lakh, and I welcome that. However, I believe it is necessary to increase the limit to Rs. 8 lakh in the future, as you have stated that those with an income below Rs. 8 lakh are eligible for reservation benefits. This implies that the economically backward is decided by the limit up to Rs. 8 lakh. This should have been the limit.

You have taken a good step by exempting tax on capital gains for those purchasing a home in cities like Mumbai. If someone sells an old house and buys two new houses, they will not be taxed on the capital gains exceeding Rs. 2 crore, and this exemption has been granted on all taxes. I commend you for this. However, alongside this, you mentioned the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, stating that any person purchasing a house worth up to Rs. 12 lakh will also benefit from this scheme. I would like to raise a point with Hon. Minister of Finance and Hon. Prime Minister. We have launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Hon. Chairperson, you are aware, and I would like to urge all the members sitting around me to consider that more than 30 percent of the population in Mumbai city lives in slums. These slums are situated on land owned by the Union Government. You are aware that our Hon. Minister of Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, is doing excellent work, and everyone appreciates his efforts. He aims to develop our coastal areas, particularly the land under the Mumbai Port Trust. However, this land of Mumbai Port Trust is occupied by thousands of slums. Our state government has taken initiatives to fulfill the dream of the revered and late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray, who envisioned that every poor person should have a home. For this purpose, he introduced the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme (SRS) and established an authority to oversee its implementation. Hon.

Minister is here, and he is aware of this work. We have already begun work on this, but when it comes to private land, land owned by the state government, or land under the control of the central government, the slums located on such lands face several challenges. The Railways do not grant permission, nor does the Airport Authority, and the Mumbai Port Trust does not provide approval either. As a result, the slums that have been settled for the last 25 years have been left unresolved. If you provide an NOC for them, my knowledge is that I personally spoke to Hon. Prime Minister Ji and even wrote a letter, but despite this, no decision has been taken in the past four and a half years regarding this issue.

**17 08hrs**

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

While I have been persistently pursuing this matter with Hon. Nitin Gadkari Ji, he has assured me that he is working on it. When it couldn't be achieved, he responded on the floor of Parliament, stating that wherever they are located, homes will be provided there. In Mumbai, we have BDD Chawls, and the state government's plan includes their redevelopment. This is a very significant initiative, and it deserves all the appreciation it can get. However, one of the units of these BDD Chawls is located on Mumbai Port Trust land. The state government has stated that the homes for the residents on that land will be constructed on the same site, where the Mumbai

Port Trust land is located. But why is it not happening in Belchuri? Because it is the building of Mumbai Port Trust. Since you have mentioned the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme in the Finance Bill, I am citing this as an example. Even that is not happening. Therefore, these matters need to be examined thoroughly in this context. The benefits of the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme should reach the poor. One must not think that the poor only reside in rural areas; there are many poor people in cities as well. Slums like Dharavi exist in Mumbai. There are slums on the land of Mumbai Port Trust. There should be a policy for redeveloping these slums. We have LIC (Life Insurance Corporation). The Hon. Finance Minister is the same person; I had written a letter to him just yesterday. It concerns a property of LIC, where by default someone had taken a loan, and they have taken possession of that property.

There are many such buildings owned by LIC. For example, in Badamwadi, Girgaon, they have expressed their desire to redevelop the area. The permission for this came to the Hon. Minister of Finance, and after the payment was made, even after that, they are still not receiving the NOC. They will not be able to develop the property. If the building collapses tomorrow, who will be held responsible? On one hand, announcements are made for the

housing scheme, and on the other hand, if the existing buildings fall, who will take responsibility? Therefore, attention must also be given to the city; this is an important issue that I wanted to raise.

Madam, you are aware that we discuss taxes, and on the other hand, Shri Subramanian Swamy suggests that income tax should be abolished, completely discontinued. Now, it is necessary to understand the government's policy on this matter. After all these actions, following demonetisation, what happened has been very painful. Everyone said that it led to unemployment, and I accept this argument. However, what pains me the most is that one hundred people died in queues, at banks, women died, but there was no voice raised in this House. A hundred people died after demonetisation, but no one expressed any regret. On the contrary, we have been praising it. Even in the address of the Hon. President, demonetisation was praised. Later, in the Budget speech, demonetisation was also praised. We have created employment. Do you know what the Niti Aayog said? Niti Aayog said, "The question is not about generation of employment but of under-payment." People are under-paid. How much is the salary? We are all caught up in the process of outsourcing, and as a result, we pay a watchman six or seven thousand rupees, housekeeping staff six or seven thousand rupees, and claim that employment has been created. We

do have the statistics. I had said two things about labour earlier, one, that salaries are low, and this is a major problem. Ultimately, we need to talk about permanent employment and assured income. We have choked the life out of PSUs. In the year 2014, during the thank you motion on the President's address, I had said, "Dukh bhare din beetay re bhaiya, ab sukh aayo re". We are suffocating PSUs. Some PSUs are profitable, they have a lot of money.

Madam, a proposal was made, and I had a discussion with the Minister, who mentioned that the profits of some companies, which have accumulated over time, could potentially be used to help these companies recover. However, these companies have made significant mistakes. The issues with 2G, 3G, and 4G led to the downfall of BSNL and MTNL. As a result, these companies had to take loans amounting to Rs. 10,000 crore. The moment they took this loan, they started incurring losses, and today both are still in the red. Does the government not have a policy to revitalize these companies? While acknowledging their mistakes, we must address the fact that we are continuing along the same path. Every day we hear about their losses, but what steps are we taking to rectify the situation? If a doctor's responsibility is to keep the patient alive and improve their health, similarly, it is the government's duty to keep these PSUs operational, make improvements, and provide the

necessary treatment. We should not simply say, "They made mistakes, so let them fail." What we need to ask is, how do we revive these PSUs that were once crucial sources of employment? Today, the narrative is that one PSU is in loss, another is in loss, and then we offer them VRS (Voluntary Retirement Scheme). But the critical question remains, where will employment be generated if we continue down this road?

Madam, I would like to bring to your attention a very serious issue regarding the MUDRA scheme. A TV channel in Maharashtra conducted a sting operation in which they met with bank managers and inquired about obtaining a MUDRA loan. To their surprise, the bank managers responded by saying, "What is this MUDRA loan? There is no such thing available here, please leave." This was not an isolated incident. Similar responses were received in several banks, including Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and others. They also visited branches in Pune, Solapur, Mumbai, and Mandvi, and at each location, the response was the same, that there was no such scheme called MUDRA in these banks. While we are bringing forward good initiatives, we must not forget to assess their ground-level impact. It is critical to understand what is actually happening at the grassroots level and how these schemes are being implemented.

Shri Nishikant Ji was mentioning whether we are discussing the Finance Bill or the Budget. He himself spoke on this matter and eventually addressed the Finance Bill. These issues are such that they have a deep impact on the people. Hon. Prime Minister has introduced several beneficial schemes, and I wholeheartedly appreciate the health campaign, especially the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. However, the crucial question remains, how will these schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, reach the poor, and who will ensure their delivery to the intended beneficiaries? I had said that the Ayushman Bharat Yojana should be implemented effectively. Recently, I was in Mumbai, and I met a woman from Nanded who had come to me with a distressing story. Her child had fallen from the third floor, and she was in need of urgent medical help.

I approached the hospital and requested them to treat the child. They informed me that the cost of treatment would be Rs. 57,000. I responded by saying that the family is struggling to make ends meet and cannot even afford two meals a day. How can she pay Rs. 57,000? Moreover, under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, they must be registered and complete an online application. Do the poor, who have limited access to resources, even understand these processes? This is a serious issue. We introduce numerous schemes, but due to the complexities in their implementation, they often fail to reach the

poor. Have you ever considered this? Take Ayushman Bharat, for instance. How will it reach the people it is intended for? A simple solution would be that anyone holding a BPL card should be able to walk into a hospital and receive free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, without any hassle. This is my suggestion. You have introduced the Kisan Samman Yojana, which is a commendable initiative. However, while the scheme is beneficial, there are political discussions surrounding it. Yes, politics is involved, and the focus is on five lakh rupees, this will continue. If the government is benefiting from it, what's wrong with that? It's a good initiative, and people will benefit from it, so let it be. We have no objections to that. However, what we do object to is whether you are aware that Maharashtra is facing a drought, and the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is present here. When you talk about land holdings of two and a half acres, even farmers owning land beyond two and a half acres are suffering due to the drought. Should we not extend the benefits to them as well? There are districts where drought has persisted for three to four years consecutively. Why then do you restrict the benefit to farmers with land holdings of only two and a half acres? What happened in Telangana, what happened in Odisha, I understand that very well. However, I would like to request you to consider this issue carefully. If you are introducing the scheme with the provision of

Rs. 2,000 in three installments, please consider the situation of farmers with land holdings of two and a half acres. These farmers, especially those in drought-affected areas, where crops have been damaged due to hailstorms, are suffering. For the past three to four years, they have been facing consistent losses. For these farmers, I request that the limit of two and a half acres be reconsidered. I am not speaking for everyone, but I know that the scheme will benefit 12 crore people, including those who are suffering. For them, I request that this limit not be applied. This is my humble appeal to you. My second request is regarding the ongoing amalgamation in the PSU banking sector. Recently, it was announced that HPCL and ONGC have also been merged. What is the rationale behind this? What is the production capacity of each, and how do they align? Has anyone consulted the concerned authorities? The Chairman of HPCL himself stated that he had no knowledge of how this decision was made. He has not been taken into confidence. Do you know it? Why are we doing all these things? In Uttar Pradesh, there is a small bank named "Prathama Bank," which is a Regional Rural Bank. There has been a discussion about its amalgamation, with the proposal to merge it with "Sarv Uttar Pradesh Bank," forming one larger entity. Prathama Bank's performance is outstanding, and it has all the necessary facilities such as ATMs, among others. On the other hand, Sarv Uttar Pradesh Bank lacks these facilities.

However, Prathama Bank has been merged into Sarv Uttar Pradesh Bank, whereas logically, Sarv Uttar Pradesh Bank should have been merged with Prathama Bank. The sponsor for the merger was Punjab Bank, which was previously associated with Syndicate Bank, and now, Syndicate Bank is part of Punjab National Bank. These actions are misguided. I would like to request that such issues should not be politicized. When making social decisions, the primary goal should be to ensure that the benefits reach the underprivileged sections of society. Additionally, the decisions taken must lead to progress, not setbacks. This is an important point that must be kept in mind. I shall conclude my remarks in a minute. I would like to say a few more things about the farmers. Regarding the Bhavantar scheme, why not implement it? What is the difficulty in doing so? First, you say that you will double production, and then bring in the Bhavantar scheme, which will make the farmers happy. Lastly, regarding unemployment, I would like to raise one point, Why is it that you do not have data on this? You must be aware, Madam, that there used to be Regional Employment Exchanges. At that time, everyone had to go and register. It was then that you would get data on how many people had completed up to 10th grade, how many were graduates, undergraduates, engineers, doctors, and so on. This data would be collected. But today, you do not have this data. As Kalikesh rightly pointed out, "Do you not

have real data?" If you do not have data, you will say that someone bought a taxi and became a driver. But does that make them employed? This does not seem correct. For this reason, I say that while the Budget and Finance Bill should be supported, there are sometimes moments of joy and sometimes sorrow. It is happening that way. So, if you can alleviate some of the sorrow, it will bring happiness into the lives of the people. With this, I conclude my remarks.

[English]

**DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR)** : Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on the Finance Bill.

I come from the State of Telangana, the youngest State of the country. Today, I take pride that under the leadership of my hon. Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, the State of Telangana has become a role model for the country in implementing various policies.

When I was a student, I used to hear, 'What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow'. That was the saying. But I am proud to say that today 'What Telangana thinks today, India thinks tomorrow'.

First of all, I would like to say good things. I am happy as also sad about what is happening. I would first tell you the happy part. Today, Telangana State is implementing a scheme called Rythu Bandhu. In Hindi, we can call it 'Kisan *Bandhu*'. It is an investment scheme for farmers where per acre per year Rs.10000 are given. It is not for five years. So for 60 lakh farmers, with a budget of Rs.15000 crore per annum, we are pioneering this Scheme. Now *der se sahi* but *fir bhee*, the Central Government has adopted it in the form of PM Kisan Yojana. I take pride in it because my State has pioneered this Scheme.

Secondly, the flagship programme which has been introduced in this budget is called Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Pension Yojana. This is a contributory pension scheme for the unorganised labour. In my State, we have got one crore families, out of which, 60 lakh families get Rs.2016 per month as pension at the age of 57 years – not 60 years. For the physically disabled, Rs.3016 are given. I think the Pradhan Mantri has taken inspiration from Telangana Aasara Pension Scheme to draw this Scheme. I would urge upon the Minister to include in the category of unorganised sector, people from the traditional occupations like barbers, shepherd, toddy tappers, handloom workers, etc. But I have a doubt. Since this is a contributory scheme, if they join at the age of 18 years or 20 years, after 40 years they would get this pension. I do not know what will be the value of Rs.3000 at that time. So, they have to re-think about the entire thing.

Thirdly, everybody talks about doubling the farmers' income. We are the pioneers in reducing the farmer's input cost. We give free electricity for 24 hours to the farmers. We give Rs.10000 per acre for investment to the farmer. We give subsidized fertilizer. We give subsidized seeds. Telangana is the only State which has MSP for almost 11 crops. Even the last grain is bought by the Government. The good part of it is that the Government of India as

also many States are drawing inspiration from our State and from our Chief Minister KCR Ji.

coming to the sad part, one slogan of the government which i used to like when i entered this parliament in 2014 was ‘sabka saath, sabka vikas’.i was really fascinated by this slogan. I do not know about ‘sabka saath, sabka vikas’ but I must tell you that in the last four and a half years, Madam, With everyone but not with Telangana. I must tell you that we have *khalihaath*.

We are also implementing one of the biggest irrigation projects which gives irrigation to 30 lakh acres of land. It is called the Kaleshwaram Project. Even for such a project, they did not give anything. We have *khalihaath*. NITI Aayog is the brainchild of this Government. Telangana is the only State which gives to almost every household potable tap water. No other State in the country has done this. We have spent Rs.40,000 crore on this. We are implementing Mission Kakatiya to rejuvenate 46,000 tanks. What has the NITI Aayog recommended? It has said that since the Telangana State has done excellently well, the Government of India should give Rs.23000 crore to them. But we are *khali haath*.

What happened to Indian Institute of Management, the National Institute of Design, IIT at Karimnagar, NIMZ at Zaheerabad and Bayyaram Steel Plant. In the AP Reorganisation

Act, there is a provision for giving tax incentives in the backward districts of Telangana and also Andhra Pradesh.

no tax incentive has been given.i do not even know if the government will be able to fulfil the demands that i am making here since the parliament session is going to conclude tomorrow.But they must realise “What they promised has to be fulfilled”, otherwise that promise has no meaning.We have seen many movies which say "Prana jaye par vachan na jaye", but I do not understand whether they watch these movies or not.

Madam Speaker, I would like to refer to the sad part of this Budget. The hon. Finance Minister seems to have forgotten the interest of half of India’s population. He has forgotten 50 per cent of Indian population. You can ask me why. The population of the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes constitute 50 per cent of India’s population. What is the amount that has been provided for these people in the Budget? it is a meagre Rs. 1200 crore, for around 60 crore population of india, a paltry sum of Rs. 1200 crore has been allocated which comes to around Rs.20 per person. Will it lead to “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”? I felt happy when the Finance Minister was announcing the allocations. He announced Rs. 1,30,000 crore for women; Rs. 1,00,000 crore for children; Rs. 70,000 crore for people belonging to the Scheduled

Caste; Rs. 60,000 crore for people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes; Rs. 60,000 crore for the North-Eastern region and I thought that he would announce at least a sum of Rs. 2 lakh crore to Rs. 3 lakh crore for the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes. ...(*Interruptions*) So, we are not even worth cows!

My next point is about the PG scholarship. This country is respected across the world for its education. But the hon. Finance Minister announced only 1000 scholarships for the entire country. For around 60 lakh people belonging to the OBC only 1000 PG scholarships have been announced. What is the kind of justice that is being given to them? Again, after 25 years, this Government accorded NCBC a constitutional status. I thank this Government for that. Since then, one year has elapsed, but the Commission has not yet been constituted. How does the Government justify this? How will the Government go and ask for votes in the States? How will the people belonging to the OBC feel when they have to go to the polling booth to cast their votes on the EVM machines? They would go there with a lot of heart-burn.

The other point that I would like to make is about the EBCs. I like the slogan '*Sabke saath sab ka vikas*'. What prevents this Government from conducting a socio-economic survey so that we get to know the real economic status of the people of the country?

The Supreme Court is not a constitutional authority and it has no power to make the Constitution. This power is vested with the Parliament. Does the Constitution limit a 50 per cent reservation? It does not. Nowhere in the Constitution is it written that there is a cap of 50 per cent on reservation. But we have kept silent and agreed and have not implemented it thereby depriving reservation for the majority population in India. I was one of the Members to have introduced a Private Members' Bill on reservation for Economically Backward Sections because I believe in '*Sabka saath sab ka vikas*'. It is me who suggested that for upper class people the criteria should be 5 acres for getting reservation under the Economically Backward Sections and it could be anybody, be it the Patels, the Kapoors, the Jats or the Marathas. I was one of the pioneers of this. Anyway, now this has been done. Since we have now crossed that 50 per cent reservation, what prevents the Government to deny reservation on the basis of population to the OBCs?

Madam, i now come to the provisions of the finance bill. I welcome the raising of the personal income tax limit up to Rs.5 lakh because in this country it is only the salaried people who are compulsorily paying income tax.one thing that happens in this country is that first a person is punished and then a person is given

justice. Those who keep going around in the court again and again, that is the punishment and finally tired and say that God knows. Take the case of the Money Laundering Act. It is mentioned that within 365 days the case will be settled. Now, after 365 days the court delivers a judgment saying that the person is innocent, then the person is the sufferer.

With these words, I support the Finance Bill. But before I conclude I want the Government to believe in their slogan of '*Sabka saath sab ka vikas*', and this should be applicable for the State of Telangana also.

Thank you.

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD):** Madam Speaker, this is the last opportunity to expose this Government's performance and failures on the economic front.

My friend and hon. Minister Shri K.J. Alphons delivered a political speech and left. He made many claims. He claimed that the economic fundamentals of our country are very strong and he has not seen such a Government in the last four-and-a-half decades. But I would like to point out some facts which are contrary to his claim and this Government's claim. When the Government is claiming that the economic fundamentals are strong, what happened to our exports? In the tenure of this Government, exports have come down to the extent of 15 per cent, the rupee slide is at a historic high, NPAs have reached historically high levels, Current Account Deficit has widened, and the Index of Industrial Production has come down. The biggest failure of this Government is on the employment front. The NSSO data, which the Government does not want to be published, shows that the rate of unemployment has reached the highest level in the last four-and-a-half decades. One of the television advertisements of this Government says that things which have not happened in decades are happening now. It is true that things which have not happened earlier are happening now. The

rate of unemployment, which has never reached such a high level, is reaching the highest level in the last four-and-a-half decades.

Madam, my hon. friend Shri K.J. Alphons was talking about tourism ranking etc. I would like to remind him about some other rankings. The UNDP's Human Development Index ranks India 134 out of 167 countries; in the Global Hunger Index, India is ranked 100 out of 119 countries; and we are having the highest number of infant deaths in the world. We are having the highest number of undernourished children in the world. But this Government is not bothered about all these rankings. This Government is bothered about only Ease of Doing Business ranking. But this Government is not at all bothered about Ease of Living ranking.

Now, many claims and many promises were made by the Acting Finance Minister in his Interim Budget Speech. One of such promises is the income support to farmers. This income support is only Rs. 6,000 per annum and this amounts to just Rs. 4 per person per day. That is the reality of this much orchestrated income support scheme for the farmers. I would like to inform this House that the biggest income support scheme is being run in the State of Kerala by the Left Democratic Front Government led by Comrade Pinarayi Vijayan. I would like to inform that Rs. 14,400 is the income support in the form of pension being given in Kerala to 44 lakh

persons. So, 44 lakh persons are getting annually Rs. 14,400 as pension in the form of income support. But this paltry income support to farmers can only be called suicide allowance. This is not an income support.

When we are talking about farmers, the Minister was making claims about the Prime Minister's Fasal Bima Yojana. What is the reality? The PMFBY enrolment has come down by 15 per cent, from 57.3 million to 48.8 million in three years. Then, the area coverage under *kharif* crops has come down from 670 lakh hectares in 2015 to 631.53 lakh hectares in 2018. So, there has been a huge decline in area coverage under *kharif* crops. Again, when we talk about the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the promise made by the BJP in 2014 Election was that they would give 50 per cent plus the cost of production as MSP.

But the reality is that 11 out of 14 crops have received less MSP than the market price.

Madam Speaker, now coming to the pension scheme announced by the hon. Minister, the unorganized sector workers will get a pension after 30 years and the allocation for the same is only Rs. 500 crore today. It is like demonetisation. The Government is taking away money from unorganized workers. They have to pay Rs. 100 every month for 30 years and the Government will have to

give benefit only after 30 years. Yesterday, the *Deccan Herald* has reported quoting a Government notification that only workers below the age of 40 years of age will be allowed to join. Only they can join in the pension scheme. This means that a large number of workers are left out of the ambit of this scheme. So, all this is nothing, but an eyewash with the objective of getting votes.

Regarding the PM-KISAN, it was reported in the newspaper that for the first instalment of PM-KISAN, which will be taking place before elections, Aadhaar is not mandatory. Without Aadhaar, you are going to transfer the amount to the bank accounts. But after the elections, from July onwards, Aadhaar is going to be mandatory. So, what does it mean? The Government is utilizing this PM-KISAN as a bribe to get votes. Rs. 2000 will be transferred to your account and you give your votes. Then after the elections, they will impose Aadhaar on this. ...(*Interruptions*). Madam Speaker, I am going to conclude. I am in the process of concluding.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have to conclude it now.

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH :** This is the final speech in this Lok Sabha. I will not be begging for more time in this Lok Sabha. Madam Speaker, the Government is making huge claims in the employment sector on the basis of Mudra Scheme. Again, what is the reality? The Finance Ministry's own data shows that the NPAs of Mudra

has increased from Rs. 597 crore to Rs. 11,000 crore. What does it mean? This means that Mudra Scheme has failed to generate employment and income. That is why, the beneficiaries of Mudra loans are unable to repay the loan amount and the NPA is increasing. Madam Speaker, all the claims made by the Government are bogus and hollow. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech said that job seekers have become job creators. This is the biggest failure of this Government. That is why I am focusing on: 'Job seekers have become job creators'. The Mudra Scheme shows that job seekers have become debt makers. Madam Speaker, the Government has put an official stamp on the logic of *pakoda* economy. In the other House, the leader of this Ruling Party said that selling *pakoda* is also an employment. So, this Government is putting an official stamp on this *pakoda* logic.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I think you do not eat *pakoda*.

**SHRI M. B. RAJESH:** Madam Speaker, even selling *pakoda* is becoming difficult because the purchasing power of the people is coming down. There is no employment, no income. How can they purchase even *pakodas*? That is the reality of our country. They have created two Indias. The Oxfam Inequality report has stated that 9 individuals have a total wealth equal to the wealth of 50 per

cent of the population. So, two Indias have been created – one India of billionaire and the other India of poor and *aam aadmi*.

Finally, the hon. Finance Minister has stated that ‘job seekers have become job creators.’ But I would like to amend it. They have failed to create enough jobs; and those who have failed to create jobs, will become jobless in the next elections.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

**SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill 2019. In this Finance Bill for 2019-20, the government has demonstrated its foresight by allocating 13 percent more budget compared to 2018-19, specifically to 13 ministries that are closely linked to public services and public sentiments. Hon. Speaker, Madam, this Bill is all-encompassing, all-touching, and all-inclusive, and it is a Bill that will empower the 123 crore people of the country with renewed energy to realize the vision of New India. Through this Bill, the government has provided strength to the poor, empowerment to farmers, respect to workers, and a better future for the middle class. Furthermore, the government has expressed its gratitude to honest taxpayers. In addition, through infrastructure development, we have laid the foundation for unprecedented growth in this country.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, in this budget, the focus has not only been on the infrastructure for farmers, but also on addressing long-standing challenges. There were 99 irrigation projects in this country that remained incomplete for over 20 years. Through these projects, water will be made available to every farm. The government's plan is to ensure that by 2022, water will reach the fields of farmers, thereby enhancing agricultural productivity. For

the first time, a scheme has been introduced to assist 12 crore farmers through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. Additionally, initiatives such as Soil Health Cards and Minimum Support Price (MSP) have been expanded, with the government increasing MSP for 22 crops for the first time, ranging from 50 percent to 90 percent of the cost of production.

Madam, in addition to this, we have established separate departments for the livestock and fisheries sectors, ensuring that these industries receive dedicated support. Through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, assistance and loans are being provided to them as well. Moreover, for the unorganized sector workers who are above 60 years of age and unable to continue their labor, a historic step has been taken with the launch of the Shram Yogi Scheme. This scheme ensures that workers who become incapacitated after 60 years of age will receive a minimum pension of Rs. 3,000. This is a significant step towards providing security for our labor force, something that was not available for 67 years after independence. Over the last five years, this government has increased the minimum wages of semi-skilled and skilled workers by 40 percent, and has ensured that these workers receive a minimum pension of at least Rs. 1,000. This is a crucial relief

measure for our working class, reflecting the government's foresight and commitment to their welfare.

The youth of this country is making remarkable strides through startups, and India is proudly represented by the names of three of the top startups globally. As the youth population is shrinking worldwide, India's young generation is leading the world. Our youth are contributing not only through startups but also through the Standup India initiative and by developing skilled professionals. For 67 years, this country only witnessed the children of laborers becoming laborers, but today the scenario is changing. The son of a laborer will no longer remain a laborer. Instead, he will be a skilled professional, ready to find employment opportunities both within the country and abroad. We are also ensuring that the youth in rural areas are included in the country's growth. For the first time, we have focused on the infrastructure development of rural areas. Through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), we have covered 98% of small villages and hamlets, allocating a budget of Rs. 19,000 crores. Hon. Speaker, Madam, in the last 67 years, only 1,959 villages were connected to digital literacy. However, we have expanded broadband connectivity to 1 lakh 16 thousand villages, bringing them into the digital age and empowering rural India.

Today, the youth in our villages have the opportunity to study and understand the world, right from their homes. They can explore what is happening across the country and around the world, gaining insights into global trends and activities.

Through the MUDRA Scheme, we have empowered four crore individuals, of whom 70% are women, particularly from rural areas. These women, who were previously involved in small-scale cottage industries or running beauty parlors, have now been given a platform to be self-reliant. What is truly remarkable about this initiative is that MUDRA provides access to capital without the requirement for any collateral security. For those who had no access to traditional banking facilities or were unable to provide security for loans, the MUDRA Scheme has opened new doors. It has enabled young women across rural India to start their businesses, become financially independent, and contribute significantly to the local economy. This initiative is empowering the next generation of women entrepreneurs in our villages, giving them the tools to succeed.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, this is a country that had been waiting for years. Hon. Prime Minister has introduced the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, a groundbreaking initiative that will benefit 50 crore people in this country who were unable to afford medical treatment

due to financial constraints. In their desperation, these individuals would often sell their land or take out loans, plunging deeper into debt while still being unable to access the healthcare they so desperately needed. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana is a scheme that stands as a symbol of hope for the poor. Under this programme, every poor person will receive medical treatment, ensuring that no one dies due to lack of financial resources. We have worked in this direction, and through this initiative, we are contributing to the creation of a new India, where healthcare is accessible to all, irrespective of their financial situation.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, this Government has taken a significant step towards providing substantial relief to the medium and small industries in our country, which employ 90 percent of the workforce. These small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in generating employment and driving economic growth. To ensure their growth and sustainability, this Government has implemented measures aimed at supporting and expanding these industries.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, the middle class has been waiting for years. They have always hoped for tax rebates in the Budget, eagerly anticipating that the Government would provide relief. However, it is this Government that has fulfilled the dreams of the

middle class. Now, a tax rebate of up to Rs. 5 lakh, extending to Rs. 6.5 lakh and, with additional exemptions, up to Rs. 8.5 lakh, will be rebate.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, for years, the poor individual from the middle class, who belonged to the general caste, had been waiting for this opportunity. For 67 years, the youth from the upper castes, who had been saying, "I was born into an upper caste, but I am economically disadvantaged," had been yearning for reservation. It is this Government, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that has, for the first time, extended reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS) of the general category. This is a significant step, and it is the Government of Hon. Prime Minister Modi that has made this provision for the economically weaker sections of the general caste in our country.

Today, through this Budget, we can confidently assert that a new direction has been charted for the entire nation. We have endeavoured to advance the country by focusing on rural farmers, youth, women, rural infrastructure, national development, and social welfare initiatives. Today, the 130 crore people of this country acknowledge that the Government they have entrusted with power is ready to fulfil the vision of a New India. Hon. Speaker, Madam, through this Budget, I would like to state that it will lay the

foundational framework for the country's development. It will work towards uplifting the underprivileged sections of society and contribute to their progress. A Budget is meant to change people's lives, and this one will undoubtedly do so. Thank you very much.

[English]

**\*SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH (MAYURBHANJ):**

Hon'ble Speaker Madam, at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in my mother tongue Santhali for the first time. Madam it has become a history. Madam, as regards the finance bill that has been brought to the Lok Sabha, I remember that according to the Planning Commission, in view of ST / SC population budget provision for Scheduled Tribes under head Tribal sub-plan and for Scheduled Castes under head Scheduled Castes sub-plan had been made earlier for their welfare and development since 1974 and 1979 respectively. But after this Government came to power, it is planning to allocate funds under different heads by scrapping the existing system of fund allocation under different new guidelines.

I am afraid that this Government might do away with the system of allocating funds separately for such people of the society gradually. Also, I would like to make another point that today, the Government has done away with the separate budget provision made earlier for the development of backward districts of the country. As such the backward regions and the people of the regions will become more backward than other regions and the people of

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

those regions and thus it will never do any good to the country. Madam, the fund earmarked in the budget for expenditure to be incurred under centrally sponsored schemes, does not reach to some State Governments at times consequently, the funds are not utilized properly. Despite constitutional provision of state's having major share in devolution of funds, the states have to bear the burden of major share in TSP component now. As a result of which the backward states have lagged behind in terms of development and to bring them on par with other states, we must provide them financial assistance separately. For the apathy shown by the Government towards these issues during the last four years, I don't support the bill.

Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Finance Bill, 2019.

Madam, the proposal of the Hon. Minister of Finance pertains to retaining the existing income tax rates for the financial year 2019-20 and enhancing the tax exemption limit for small taxpayers to Rs. 5 lakh. I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for understanding the concerns of the middle-class salaried population and for attempting to provide maximum relief. Now, no tax will be levied on individuals with an annual taxable income of up to Rs. 5 lakh. This will greatly benefit salaried employees, businesspersons, large farmers and small industrial and trade units. It is estimated that nearly three crore current taxpayers will benefit from this measure.

Now the limit for standard deduction is being increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000, and Section 3 will also be amended accordingly. Clause 4 proposes an amendment to Section 23, extending its applicability to two years. Clause 5 proposes an amendment to Section 24 to provide further relief. Clause 6 contains a proposal to amend Section 54. Clause 7 proposes an amendment to Section 80IBA, thereby granting taxpayers an

additional year of extended benefit. Clause 8 contains a proposal to amend Section 87A, under which the benefit will now be available for income up to Rs. 5 lakh. Clause 9 amends Section 194, raising the TDS threshold on interest from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000. Clause 10 amends Section 194I, increasing the TDS threshold on rental income from Rs. 1 lakh 80 thousand to Rs. 2 lakh 40 thousand. This is a commendable step. Likewise, in Clauses 11 to 21, the amendments proposed by the Hon. Minister of Finance will provide relief to shareholders, and the payment of stamp duty on shares will become more convenient. Clause 22 also proposes an amendment to sub-section 3 of Section 8 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Even while extending such substantial reliefs, the revenue target from income tax for the year 2020 is estimated to be around Rs. 13 lakh 80 thousand crore.

I extend my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister for his vision of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”. I also congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance and express my support for the Finance Bill, 2019. Thank you.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would first like to urge the Government to reconsider the provisions made under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The population of our country is approximately 130 crore, yet only Rs. 3,200 crore has been allocated in the Budget for this scheme. If even one individual from this population were to receive coverage of Rs. 5 lakh, the total requirement would be around Rs. 65,000 crore. In such a situation, I fail to understand for whom and for what purpose the Ayushman Bharat Yojana has actually been designed.

Secondly, please look at the Budget allocations for the social sector. Examine the provisions for SCs, STs, students and scholarships. I have stated earlier as well that if the Government can grant waivers in various other areas, then it should also consider waiving student loans. If you look at the social sector, you will find that the Budget allocation has decreased significantly. Consider the pension schemes: old-age pensions, widow pensions and disability pensions, among others. There are six types of pensions, yet no adequate allocation has been made for them. You have not increased these pensions. How long can a person survive on Rs. 500? Unless pensioners are provided at least Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000, how will they manage? In the villages, the most vulnerable people are pension dependants and women. Those below the middle class,

the BPL families, cannot survive on Rs. 500. If you do not ensure a pension of at least Rs. 3,000 and if infrastructure is not taken to the right places, what will happen to them?

The third issue I would like to raise is that the allocations for health and education have been reduced. In rural areas, even basic facilities such as X-ray machines are lacking because the Budget for such essential medical infrastructure is inadequate. If you compare these allocations with global standards, it becomes evident that the provisions fall significantly short.

The fourth issue relates to the MUDRA Yojana and the Jan Dhan Yojana. The intent of this Government and of the Hon. Prime Minister is undoubtedly strong; I do not dispute that. However, proper implementation is absolutely essential. A recent survey from Bihar regarding the MUDRA Yojana shows that barely 1.2 Percent of applicants were provided even Rs. 50,000 by the banks.

The Government had mentioned that they would discontinue the Ujjwala Yojana, and that it would not be continued. Madam, in one district, only 12 and 8 individuals received gas connections under the Ujjwala Yojana in one entire year. Madam, you will be surprised to know that even these connections were not refilled.  
*...(Interruptions)*

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a very good scheme. This scheme has been running even before, but due to corruption, where Rs. 4000 was taken as bribe out of the Rs. 12000, no Open Defecation Free (ODF) status has been achieved in many areas. We want the amount to be increased to Rs. 20000. You are doing good work, and I would like to make a request on behalf of several issues. One request is regarding unemployment allowance for the youth.

Madam, the government has proposed an allocation of Rs. 12.5 crore for farmers, but the budget for irrigation has been reduced this time. I would like to urge you to review this allocation. Madam, the budget for the Namami Gange scheme has also been cut. If the budget for irrigation is slashed and only Rs. 12.5 crore is allocated for farmers, how will this be sufficient? Moreover, day labourers, sharecroppers, and bonded labourers account for approximately 74.4 percent of the workforce. If we are to provide these workers with Rs. 6,000 as income support, it must be accompanied by initiatives to strengthen their livelihoods. Merely giving them Rs. 6,000 without creating sustainable income sources will not bring about meaningful change.

The Hon. Minister made a reference to tourism, and I would like to draw attention to an important point. The history of Bihar is deeply intertwined with the history of India. In fact, the history of

India cannot be complete without Bihar. If we talk about Vaishali, Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, the land of Babu Veer Kunwar Singh, Mahatma Gandhi's birthplace, the land of Karna, Singheshwar, Deoghar, the birthplace of Sita, the concept of zero, and the great intellectual debates between Chanakya and Chandragupta, along with Nalanda University and Vikramshila, we are referring to a legacy that is foundational to the history of the world. Vaishali was the first republic in the world, yet, if we observe the present condition of Vaishali and Bodh Gaya, there is a glaring absence of basic infrastructure such as even a four-star hotel. Over the past five years, Bihar could have made significant progress in tourism development, but this potential has not been realised due to lack of focus. Had we prioritised tourism, Bihar could have witnessed remarkable growth in this sector. However, when we examine Bihar's budget, we find that there was virtually no allocation for tourism. Bihar has been consistently lagging in the tourism sector, and the state government has not taken adequate steps to address this issue.

Madam, in conclusion, I would like to talk about small and cottage industries. Employment comes from small industries, cottage industries, and infrastructure. Regarding investment, all our sugar mills are closed, and almost 35 jute mills are also closed.

**18 00hrs**

Our region, Kosi and Seemanchal, used to have dairy production factories. We produce the most milk, butter, and maize here. From Kishanganj to Araria, jute is most prevalent. The jute factory in Katihar has been closed. If small and cottage industries were promoted in Bihar, the massive labor migration that occurs from Bihar would not happen. Today, Bihar has the highest number of migrant workers in the country. A discussion was also held in the house on this matter, that the most children migrate from Bihar to other states, causing difficulties for the people. What is the reason that industries are not promoted in Bihar? We have not been able to assess our own willpower. We wish to make Bihar self-sufficient in the field of small industries with a special package. The Kosi region should be developed in maize and dairy production, and more allocation should be made in our budget to relieve us from floods and droughts.

Madam, I would like to express my gratitude for granting me the opportunity to speak in this final session of the Lok Sabha. I sincerely appreciate your kind gesture in allowing me to put forth my views in the House. With this privilege, I also seek your blessings for my victory and pray that I may return to the House for the seventh time. I would like to make a humble request that we

must focus more on women's safety and youth employment, as the majority of unemployed individuals in our country are youth. It is essential for us to address this matter with seriousness, for if we do not, we will be unable to fulfil our vision of building a strong and prosperous India.

**HON. SPEAKER:** If the House agrees, the time of the House will be extended until the completion of the discussion on the Finance Bill.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, after this, we also need to take up Item-24, the Bill on Unregulated Deposit Schemes. Hon. Member, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, has requested that this Bill also be taken up.

**HON. SPEAKER:** If another Bill is taken up, the time of the House can be extended.

[English]

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Madam Speaker, thank you very much for affording me this opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill.

Madam, maybe, this will be the last speech in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. So, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to you, Madam, Speaker, as well as to the Deputy Speaker and the members of the Panel of Chairmen, and also the people belonging to my Kollam constituency for giving or affording me this opportunity to speak on various issues in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. Once again, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Madam Speaker too.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose the Finance Bill on two grounds. First is on the Constitutional ground by which I am opposing this Finance Bill because in the case of propriety, the Government has no political mandate to have a Finance Bill so as to impose taxation on the people of this country up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. It is because this Government is having the political mandate only up to 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. But a full-fledged Finance Bill is being placed before this House and taxation is also being imposed. It is not fair and proper on the part of the outgoing Government to have

such a full-fledged Finance Bill. Hence, I oppose the Finance Bill. This is my first ground.

And, the second ground is, I oppose this Finance Bill because if we examine this, it is unrealistic and unscientific on the basis of the facts and figures. Immediately after the presentation of the Finance Bill, the Government of India, through the Press Information Bureau, issued a Press Release by which it is being stated that income up to Rs.5 lakh is exempted from income tax. But what the Budget speech in paragraph 89 and the Finance Bill say is this, 'Annual income up to Rs.5 lakh will get full tax rebate.' Exemption from income tax and rebate on tax is different. I do admit that the effect is the same. That means, the effect is, people with income up to Rs.5 lakh need not pay income tax. The effect is same but the impact is different because if you are exempting from income tax up to Rs.5 lakh, then one need not file the income tax return. But if it is only a rebate on income tax, then one has to file the income tax return.

Madam, people have been misled by the Government. Issuing of the press release through the Press Information Bureau that the people who are having income up to Rs.5 lakh are exempted from Income Tax is contrary to the actual fact which is being presented

before this House. This is the way by which people have been misled through aggressive media campaign.

Madam, let us come to the contents of the Finance Bill. As per the Revised Estimates for 2018-19, Rs.22.5 lakh crore is the gross GST revenue. But the Budget Estimates was Rs.22.7 lakh crore. The net tax revenue to the Centre after devolution to the State was estimated as Rs.14.8 lakh crore. That means, there was an estimated deficit of Rs.1 lakh crore in the CGST. The Budget Estimates of 2019-20 in the Interim Budget is Rs.25.5 lakh crore. That means 13.5 per cent growth over the Revised Estimates of the current financial year. Despite the GST revenue shortfall, the Interim Budget has estimated 18.2 per cent growth in GST. That is, Rs.7.64 lakh crore for the next financial year. This means, it requires a monthly average of Rs.1.1 lakh crore to achieve this target. But the average monthly collection of GST is less than Rs.97,100 crore during the current financial year. After this, rate cuts have been affected on nearly 400 items out of 1200 items in GST, which was rolled out in July 2017. Definitely, the income is going to come down. Even the Finance Minister in the Interim Budget said that the Government has suffered Rs.80,000 crore of loss on the basis of the rate cuts in GST.

Madam, my simple question to the hon. Finance Minister is, how is he going to achieve the targeted GST gross revenue? That means, it is totally unscientific and unrealistic assessment of the GST revenue collection.

Madam, it is also interesting to note that in the Interim Budget a growth of 20 per cent is projected in CGST collection in the year 2019-20 whereas the overall growth in collection in the current financial year, 2018-19, has been around 8 per cent over the 2017-18 Budget. So, how the Government is going to achieve this growth when the GST revenue collection in the current financial year is only 8 per cent compared to last financial year?

Madam, the Government is projecting 20 per cent GST collection, which is an unrealistic fact just to woo the electorate that the economic condition of the country is good. If you want to achieve this ambitious growth rate, you will have to expand the tax base, enhance the GST rates and apply stringent measures to pluck tax leakages. It means that whichever Government comes in power after the elections has to suffer a lot because of unscientific and unrealistic economic projections which are being made by the Government.

Madam, coming to the Direct Tax, I would like to inform the House that Direct Tax collection in the current financial year is

Rs.12 lakh crore. In 2019-20, it has been estimated at Rs.13.7 lakh crore. That means, a total of 14 per cent growth compared to current financial year. How is this possible after the Direct Tax exemption, rebate and deduction? How the Government is going to achieve this? This is also an unrealistic figure, which is being projected by the Government just to show that the economic condition of the country is in a good position.

Finally, the last point which I would like to make is regarding unemployment and the economic growth. I am not going into the details. The current 6.1 per cent unemployment growth rate is the highest in the four and a half decades of Independent India. We have never seen and heard of it. The National Sample Survey Organisation report is there. How will this match with the economic growth? The Government is claiming that 7 to 7.5 per cent growth is there. How the 7 to 7.5 per cent average growth will correlate with the fact of unemployment growth? The Government has claimed that the Budget itself has reversed the policy paralysis taking the nation on the track of growth and prosperity and towards New India by 2022.

I admit that they have reversed the policy paralysis and taken the country on the track of growth and prosperity. But for whom? That is the question to be asked. That is why we are saying that

policy paralysis has been reversed only for the corporate, the multinationals and the rich people in the country. We have seen it in the Rafale deal also.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please conclude.

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :** I am concluding in just one minute.

Madam, there are eight conditions in the international agreement which have to be followed in the Rafale deal. These eight conditions have been violated just to safeguard the interest of a crony capitalist. That is why, madam, I totally oppose the Finance Bill.

I conclude my speech with these words. I once again express my sincere thanks to the hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak. Thank you, Madam.

**HON SPEAKER:** Prov. K.V. Thomas, actually your party does not have any time left, but I am allowing you to speak for five minutes.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM):** Madam, we are in the last days of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes. We are on the last stage and also, you are behaving like a good parliamentarian today. That is why, you may continue.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** Madam, I came to this House in 1984. I had the privilege to see our young Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, sitting on that chair and then, Dr. Manmohan Singh and now, Narendra Modi, but this is the first time that I see a Prime Minister who refuses to come to this House and answer many questions. I have also seen charges against the Prime Minister and the Government, but this charge of Rafale deal is the mother of all corruption charges that have been made.

Apart from that, there have been smaller promises which the Prime Minister had made in this House. One is the SAGY villages. Madam, you may remember that he had made the promise that all help would be given. Now, the third SAGY has come. I am one of the MPs who have implemented the first, the second and the third edition thinking that something will come from the Prime Minister's Office. I know that you are also with us, but we all feel unhappy now because when we have to fulfil our promises to our

voters, then we should be sincere to them. That SAGY has become a failure.

The second one is Swachh Bharat Scheme which the Prime Minister had promised. What has happened? I come from a coastal village and I belong to a fisherman community. During the Ockhi Cyclone as well as mega floods in Kerala, both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had come and a lot of promises were made in respect of fisherman villages. Even today, construction of houses is not over. The Government of India has not given any assistance.

Even with regard to construction of toilets, I have been told that we would get adequate assistance from the public sector companies. I have got some major public sector companies in Cochin like Cochin Shipyard, Cochin Refinery and Cochin Port, but the assistance we are getting is meagre. As a result, Swachh Bharat Scheme has become a failure.

Regarding housing, the PM has promised that by 2022, everybody will have the house, but where are we and how far have we gone? The next one is employment. PM said that every year, two crore employment opportunities will be there, but we have failed completely in that.

Regarding the CRZ rules, I am one of the persons who have been arguing in this House for effective CRZ rules, but the present

CRZ proposals are against the interests of the fishermen. Last week, I had put a question in the House regarding acquisition of land for national highways. In my constituency, from Muthagundham to Kochin, national highways have been widened. I am for that. Land had been taken thirty years back, but the refund has not been made till now and the compensation has not been paid. At that time, it was 30 metres and now, it is 45 metres wide. We have been requesting the Government to specify as to how much land will be taken and how much compensation will be given to the people.

Madam, I am one of the persons who moved the Food Security Bill in this country. Even now, in Kerala, we are not getting adequate food items, especially rice, as promised in the Food Security Bill. The Food Security Bill had also promised that adequate funding will be given by the Government of India for modernisation, but that has not been given.

So, this is a Government which has made lot of promises, but failed to implement any. I find that the days have come when the people are going to give their verdict and that verdict will be against this Government. Most probably, what I feel as a Member of this Parliament for a long period, this Finance Bill will be the last Finance Bill of the last BJP Government.



[Translation]

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY (KODARMA):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I express my sincere gratitude to you. On this day, when we are discussing the Finance Bill in the 16th Lok Sabha, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate you for providing me, as a Member, with maternal protection in your capacity as Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, today we are deliberating on the Finance Bill. The Finance Bill consists of two parts, one is the Budget, which the House approves concerning income and expenditure, and the second, which we are discussing today, grants the government the authority to allocate and spend the approved funds. For the last three days, we have been hearing discussions on the distribution and utilization of funds across various schemes. However, I would like to diverge slightly and present a different perspective. The government should be granted the authority to spend any budget only if it is not merely keeping accounts of income and expenditure but is also committed to fulfilling a larger mission for the country.

I believe that the government currently led by Hon'ble Narendra Bhai Modi is steering this country with a vision for its future, treating it as a mission. Not only for the future, but also to

save the country and preserve its identity. I recall that during our student life, we used to hear a poem that went as follows:

"Roman, Yunan, Misr sab mit gaye jahan se,  
kuch baat hai ki hasti mitti nahin hamari."

Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Kumbh Mela is currently underway. People from all over the world have come to take a dip in the holy waters, and it has been widely acknowledged that 80 percent of the pollution in the Ganges has been reduced. No one could have imagined, a year or two ago, that the Ganges would once again flow clean and untainted, restoring its purity and its life-giving waters. Our government's ministers have assured us that in the next four years, even the Yamuna will be fit for drinking. This is a belief we must have. Shouldn't such a government be entrusted with the responsibility of managing expenditures? When I first entered this House, for five consecutive years, discussions have been focused on the farmer. When India gained independence, there was talk of large factories and industries, but India failed in that regard. Unemployment in India did not go away, and the aspirations of its youth remained unfulfilled. Now, once again, a government has set its sights on returning to focus on the farmer.

Today, regardless of the political side, whether it is the ruling party or the opposition, the issue of farmers is being discussed

across the country. Undoubtedly, the coming times will be more prosperous for farmers. Who would have thought that wrestlers, who once practiced yoga secretly in closed rooms, would now be celebrated globally for their yoga practices? Yoga has now been recognised worldwide, with the establishment of an International Yoga Day. Today, our youth stand with pride. When we came to power in 2014, there was a sense of despair among the youth of our country. Farmers were disheartened, and hopelessness was widespread. It seemed as though the nation had lost its way. However, today, when India's influence and reputation resonate across the world, whether in the United States, Russia, China, or the United Kingdom, Indian youth and educated citizens walk with their heads held high, filled with pride for their country. Should such a government not be entrusted with the responsibility of managing public expenditure? Who else could be trusted? Whether it is the Swachh Bharat Mission, ensuring dignity for impoverished mothers and sisters, building toilets, the Jan Dhan Yojana, or establishing new medical colleges, these are all the results of a government committed to delivering for its people. In my state of Jharkhand, there were only three medical colleges for 50-60 years, but in just four years, 8 new medical colleges have been established, along with an AIIMS hospital. Roads now connect every village, thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The efforts made

by the Bharatiya Janata Party under its leadership to uplift rural areas, farmers, and the villages of India are clear for all to see. The trust of the village, the farmer, and the youth has been revitalised. Therefore, I firmly believe that such a government should be entrusted with the authority to manage public spending.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, recently elections were held in Rajasthan, and I had the opportunity to read the manifesto of the Congress Party. In that manifesto, they claimed that if their government is formed, they will build a cow shelter in every panchayat at government expense. Where did this sudden wisdom come from? Some effects are direct, while others are indirect. Just a while ago, those who were embarrassed to even mention cows are now promising to build a government-funded cow shelter in every panchayat. What compelled them to make such a statement? Those who once looked down upon the discussion of temples and religion, Hon. Speaker, during the Karnataka elections, the leaders of the Congress Party went temple-hopping. We often request Pandit Ji for a small mark (tilak) on the forehead, but now we see that the entire forehead is marked, and the sacred thread ceremony is being performed in full view. People used to wear the sacred thread beneath their clothes, but now Congress leaders wear it over their kurta, pose for photographs, and proclaim themselves as Hindus.

They have searched for their gotra from Italy to Karnataka, but they have failed to find it. This, however, is a separate matter. What is the reason for this sudden surge of reverence for Hinduism? This is the growing influence of India's culture under the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is reaching deep into your conscience. If it were not for this, the wave of public opinion has compelled you to speak about cow protection and respect for Indian culture. You are now being forced to respect the very culture that you once disregarded.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would particularly like to address my esteemed opponents, and I would like to convey to them that the country has understood, the country has recognized, and I would like to tell them that-

"Tumhare paon ke niche koi zamin nahin, kamal ye hai ki phir bhi tumhe yaqin nahin."

(The speaker is addressing the opposition, pointing out that despite their lack of support, they continue to deny the undeniable success of the current government and refuse to acknowledge its progress and achievements.)

I would like to convey one more thing to them that in the times to come, they will need to understand that-

"Doston ab manch par suvidha nahin hai, aajkal naipathya ki sambhavna hai."

(The speaker tells the opposition that they no longer hold a prominent role ("the stage") and now belong in the background ("the backstage"), indicating their diminished influence and urging them to accept their reduced position in politics.)

Consider engaging in politics from there itself. The people of this country have ended all provisions for a platform for you.

"Ho gayi har ghat par poori vyavastha, shauk se doobe jise bhi doobna hai."

(The speaker implies that everything is prepared for the opposition's downfall, and they are free to fail on their own terms.)

The Bharatiya Janata Party will nurture this nation, and the coming time will be one of India's prosperity, with India rising to become a global leader and its victory being celebrated worldwide. This will be achieved under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi ji and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Therefore, I would like to state that this government should be granted the full authority to allocate and utilize the necessary funds.

[English]

**\*SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** I thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker to speak on this important Finance Bill. This is the last debate of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. At the fag end, I have been given the opportunity to speak.

Madam, unemployment is the biggest problem facing the country. India is the youngest country on earth. Over 60% of our population falls in the age group of 18 years to 35 years. But the energy of our youth is not being utilized judiciously. Unemployment is the root-cause of all problems. Frustration leads to crime. Young people are always in search of short-cuts for success. It leads to drug-addiction and illegal immigration. However, nothing has been mentioned in this Finance Bill about unemployment.

Tall claims were made regarding generation of 2 crore employment. However, the ground reality is different. The slogans of 'Make in India' have been exposed to be empty and hollow slogans. Statue of Sardar Patel is being made in China. Bullet trains are being imported from Japan. Who will provide employment to

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

our youths? 'Make in India' has not been discussed in detail in the Finance Bill.

Our educated unemployed youth are finding it impossible to make both ends meet. Those who demand jobs are lathi-charged. Those who should be working for the progress of the country are being injured in cane-charging.

In Punjab, farmers are in a pitiable condition. They are protesting on the roads. Their genuine demands have fallen on deaf ears in the last 5 years. The Swaminathan Commission report is gathering dust and is not being implemented. The BJP manifesto talked at length about the welfare of farmers. PM Shri Modi talked about welfare of farmers in his speeches. However, the farmers were left in the lurch. They have been cheated by the Central Government.

Madam, the backbone of small traders have been broken due to implementation GST and de-monetization. These ill-conceived moves have devastated their business.

Madam, false promises have been made to the farmers. Farmers are being promised Rs.6000/- annually in their accounts, i.e. Rs.500/- per month, i.e. Rs.16.50 per day. Will such a paltry amount make any difference or remove the poverty of the farmers?

Madam, in Punjab, the Congress Government had promised that they will waive off all loans of the farmers. However, they have gone back on this promise. Election manifesto should be considered a legal, recorded document. An empowered committee should monitor its implementation. Time-bound fulfillment should be made compulsory. Parties that do not honour their manifesto should get their recognition cancelled.

Madam, unemployment, poverty, agriculture etc. are problem areas. In the end, let me say that if I have erred unknowingly regarding the dignity of this august House, I apologise for it. I hope that in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, secular parties will form the Government and BJP will find itself in the opposition seat.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to thank all the Hon. Members who participated in this important discussion on the Finance Bill. Several Hon. Members raised issues regarding the Finance Bill, some linked it to the Budget speech, while others, perhaps politicising it, did not focus on either the Budget or the Finance Bill. I was just now surprised that even amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, which we have made, were not raised by any Member. I was thinking, after preparing so thoroughly, what should I do now?

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is not necessary.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Just now, at the end, the Member implied that he was expected to perform decisively, yet even with that responsibility, his performance was disappointing and below the level one would expect. He mentioned Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, and my colleague Shri Gajendra Shekhawat, the Minister of Agriculture, immediately referred to Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's own article, which is a scientific paper. "The agriculture mission: How the Modi Government is shaping the future of farming and farmers?" This article is dated 6th August 2018. It is not so old that anyone could have forgotten it so quickly. People may express themselves differently at different times, but it is not to the extent

that one cannot recall what was written on 6th August. To begin with, Dr. Swaminathan states, this is in English, so I will read it in English; if needed, I can also translate it into Hindi. My Punjabi is a bit weak, whereas my wife speaks Punjabi very well. Dr. Swaminathan says.

[English]

Dr. Swaminathan says, under Agriculture Minister, Rajnath Singh, our Minister of Home Affairs, in 2004, for the first time in the history of Independent as well as Colonial India, a National Commission on farmers was set up by the Government of India for looking into the problems of farmer families and suggesting methods for making farming more remunerative as well as attractive to the younger generation. [Translation] Shri Rajnath Ji is present here, Sir, and you were just being referred to. Dr. Swaminathan had stated that it was under your leadership that the National Commission on Farmers was constituted during the tenure of the late Atal Ji's government. Today, we have had the privilege of unveiling a very distinguished portrait of him, presented by the Hon. President. For the benefit of the next generation, and to ensure better utilisation of agriculture, Hon. Rajnath Singh Ji constituted this Commission.

Now, kindly listen, this is a matter of great importance. This Commission's Report in 2006- Which government was in power in the year 2006? You are aware. Sometimes your leaders join hands with them and at other times they withdraw. Just recently, I was watching on India Today, your leaders keep changing their stand for convenience. They cannot decide where they belong, and their political stance changes repeatedly. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Kharge Ji, all your Hon. Members of Parliament have discussed everything except the Finance Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Kharge Ji, you were not present; what were these Members saying?

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** This Commission's Report in 2006 not only contains suggestions for the advancement of agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*) All these points were made by Dr. Swaminathan Ji. After that, what do they say in this article. [English] But also for the economic wellbeing of farmer families. Although the NCF Report was submitted in 2006, very little action was taken until the present Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took place. [Translation] From 2006 to 2014, no action was taken on this matter for eight years. When the Government of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi came to power, action on this report was

initiated. Fortunately, over the last four years some attempts have been made, you have provided these Rs. 6 thousand. Swaminathan Ji's own words are that it is indeed a matter of good fortune that in the last four years [English] several significant decisions have been taken to improve the status and income of farmers.

Designation of the Agriculture Ministry as the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry has stressed keeping farmers welfare as the measure of agricultural progress. Issuance of soil Health Cards-I had also highlighted this in my Budget speech. To all farmers has been critical because soil health is basic to plant health, and plant health is basic to human health. Dr. Swaminathan Ji has stated that unless the land is in good condition, how can the welfare of the farmers be ensured? ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are saying something, that is why he is replying. What to do? They have also put forward a statement concerning Dr. Swaminathan Ji's observations. This is a statement presented by the Opposition.

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Both budgetary and non-budgetary resources have been allocated for promoting micro irrigation through the *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana*, conservation and sustainable use of indigenous breeds of cattle – We are engaged

in the service of cows, which has also been commended by them. Is being encouraged through a *Rashtriya Gokul Mission*. [Translation] *In this interim budget, the provision has been enhanced to Rs. 750 crore , and this allocation has been made for the current year. The decision to establish the Kamdhenu Commission has also received the approval of the Cabinet.*

Four days after the Budget, the Cabinet granted its approval. The Hon. Prime minister also inaugurated the first ever International Agrobiodiversity Congress. In a way, I can continue reading from that. Repeatedly, it has been mentioned that this is a Government – meaning, when you were concerned, I said I should inform you that this Government has, for the first time, taken the welfare of farmers seriously. Concrete measures have been taken regarding farmers, and farmers are the central focus of our development. This Government is dedicated to the farmers of this country. This Government is dedicated to the poor of this country. This Government is dedicated to the backward sections of this country. This Government is dedicated to the middle class of this country. This Government is a Government that pursues development by ensuring the participation of all. Just now, Hon. Premchandran Ji stated that this Government has no justification to impose any new taxes, yet we have not levied any new tax. Today,

the entire country appreciates that even though it is an interim budget, this budget has done something beneficial for everyone. It has taken into account the future and the prosperity of all. I understand that you have said our mandate is limited, but we have not imposed any new tax. Yes, if we provide some relief to our middle-class brothers and sisters, it is better than reducing the cost of SUVs and luxury cars. Surely, you must also acknowledge that the taxes changed by Chidambaram Ji were for the rich. We have prioritised the welfare of the middle class and the poor. If you are not satisfied with that, you may state in the House that you do not wish for the middle class to have a tax-free income of up to five lakh rupees. Please state your position in the House. You should inform the people of this country that you do not wish for farmers to continue receiving Rs. 6 thousand annually, which amounts to nearly seven and a half lakh crore rupees over 10 years. You contend that your allocation of Rs. 52 thousand crore is sufficient, and that seven and a half lakh crore rupees is excessive. Convey this to the farmers of the country. Inform the workers, for whom we have taken numerous measures, that the Congress intends for them to remain in distress. Whatever Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has done for their benefit, you propose to reverse. State clearly in your manifesto that all measures were undertaken in the spirit of serving the farmers, and that all provisions for workers are being

withdrawn. Specify in your manifesto that the tax-free limit of five lakh rupees will revert to two and a half lakh rupees. Ensure that this is explicitly included in your manifesto. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Madam Speaker, for the benefit of smaller taxpayers, the TDS should commence from April, so that for the months of April, May, June, and July, until the presentation of the final Budget, they need not visit for tax refunds, and are informed of the relief in advance. This is the measure we have introduced. The remaining tax proposals have not yet been brought forward by us. Is such a minor Finance Bill typical? Being an interim Budget, we have not undertaken extensive measures. The tax proposals will be introduced in July, after which there will be even greater enthusiasm across the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

Several Hon. Members of Parliament, including Hon. Premchandran Ji and my esteemed colleague Shri Kalikesh Ji, have remarked that these represent over-optimistic tax projections. I would like to inform the House that we have, on multiple occasions, already apprised it through your good offices that, following demonetisation, there has been a notable increase in tax buoyancy, resulting in higher tax collections. The tax base has expanded considerably, and the number of taxpayers in the country has nearly doubled. In the previous year, direct tax collection increased by 18

percent. These developments indicate that the nation has embarked upon a new trajectory. The mindset of the country has become aligned with principles of honesty and accountability. Consequently, tax collections are rising. We have presented this information before the House. In fact, an examination of our four-year track record demonstrates that annual collections have consistently met the projected targets. A few thousand crore rupees may fluctuate, and we shall endeavour further to enhance it. However, I would like to emphasise that last year the Budget estimate stood at Rs. 9 lakh 80 thousand crore. In view of the increased tax buoyancy observed following demonetisation, we revised the estimate to Rs. 10 lakh 5 thousand crore.

We achieved Rs. 10 lakh 3 thousand crore. I believe it is a matter of great significance that the people of India contributed Rs. 23 thousand crore more in taxes than the Budget had projected. I would like once again to express my gratitude to the people of India and to the taxpayers. It has been suggested that the fiscal deficit target of 3.4 percent was overly optimistic. Perhaps you were not present when I fully explained how these figures were derived from the lower base, and in reality, our fiscal deficit was not 3.4 percent but 3.3 percent. I could have adjusted an additional Rs. 4-5 thousand crore. of expenditure. Such precision would earn commendation

from the Chartered Accountancy profession, yet we did not even undertake that adjustment. We have placed the actual figures before the House. Although rounding resulted in the fiscal deficit appearing as 3.4 percent, we reported it as 3.4 percent, reflecting the integrity of an honest Government. Concerns have been raised regarding lower GST collections. In response, a comprehensive effort has been undertaken, and this year alone, refunds were processed fortnightly on five to six occasions, ensuring that all pending refunds were disbursed promptly to traders and industries. This has enabled them to operate their businesses efficiently while ensuring that small traders do not face any inconvenience. We do not allow considerations of tax revenue to impede this objective. The welfare of small traders and small industries remains a priority for this Government, even if it results in reduced tax collections. My esteemed colleague from Shiv Sena and my local Member of Parliament, while I cannot disclose to whom I cast my vote, they are fully aware of my choice. Shri Arvind Sawant raised the question as to why the limit was not set at Rs. 8 lakh. I would like to clarify, Shri Arvind, that the tax proposals have not yet been presented; what has been announced is only a rebate, which we have increased to Rs. 12,500.

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:** We have welcomed it.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** That is indeed commendable, and I would like to thank all my colleagues from Shiv Sena for welcoming the Budget. However, the limit of Rs. 8 lakh already existed for the OBC category. In the 10 percent additional reservation that we have provided, the same limit of Rs. 8 lakh has been maintained. This pertains to the family's income, not the individual's income. Tax is levied on the individual, not the family. At the same time, regarding the deductions and exemption, *...(Interruptions)* Considerable care must be exercised in this matter; I am unable to provide any assurances, lest all the officers in my Department become displeased with me. The decisions that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi may take on this issue after the elections will be seen in due course. As of today, however, if an individual invests Rs. 1.5 lakh in savings, subscribes to a mediclaim policy of Rs. 25 thousand, contributes Rs. 50 thousand to the National Pension Scheme, and has purchased a house, then a deduction of Rs. 2 lakh is available on the interest. Similarly, if a loan has been taken for educational purposes, the interest thereon, along with other standard deductions available to pensioners and salaried individuals, may be applied. On aggregating all these provisions, my Department has provided me with a written note before me stating that an individual may remain tax-free on an income of up to 9-9.5 lakh Rs. Several provisions in the Finance

Bill were largely unrelated; I shall not reiterate them, though I am fully prepared to do so.

Madam Speaker, you will appreciate that I could respond to all these matters for 2 to 4 hours. This is an interim Budget, and we have not introduced significant amendments in the Finance Bill. We are fully confident that we will receive the wholehearted support and blessings of this House, as well as the full support and blessings of the people of this nation.

In conclusion, I would like to share some good news, as tomorrow marks the last day of this Government's term in this session. We will meet again in the next term, but I have just received some encouraging news. The inflation rate for January 2019 has been released today. You may recall that in my Budget speech, I mentioned that during the Congress era, inflation rates were as high as 12 or 13 percent. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this Government reduced inflation to 2.19 percent in December 2019, which is one-sixth of the previous figure.

Madam, the inflation rate for January has now been announced, and the CPI rate for January has further decreased to 2.05 percent, even lower than the previously reported 2.19 percent. This reflects the approach and methodology of good governance, and it serves as the report card of a competent Government. It is the

outcome of building a strong economy with careful planning, working in the best interests of the nation and the public.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone.

[English]

**SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN):** The Karnataka Government has taken a decision to waive off loan up to Rs.2 lakh from the Scheduled banks or the Cooperative banks. Earlier, the Scheduled banks had agreed and they called the meeting of all the CEOs. They have agreed that they are going to waive off the interest component, the penal interest and all these things if the Government is going to pay the loan. That was agreed.

Now, the Scheduled banks are going backward from their promise. Will you kindly instruct the Scheduled banks? The Government is prepared to pay the principle amount. They have agreed on the interest, penal interest and all these things but now, they have backed down. I have raised this issue only on that point during the Budget discussion. I have also sat here till the end of the reply. Kindly clarify that point.

[Translation]

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, since there has been considerable discussion on this matter and the reports of

all three Finance Committees have been presented, Hon. Minister has quoted that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has mentioned that the Government should decide. However, as a member of the Finance Committee, I believe it is Parliament that should decide. No committee's report is discussed or decided upon by Parliament unless it is presented for discussion. My point is that, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee is from Congress, and if they do not wish to disclose it, I would like to refer to a couplet by Kabir:

"Chah mithi, chinta mithi, manwa beparwah,  
Jisko kuch na chahiye, woh hai shahenshah."

(The couplet implies that true authority comes from being free of desires and worries, and that a person with nothing to hide holds real power.)

Hon. Modi Ji follows this principle. These are the actions of Congress. When will you present that report and make it public? The black money was generated by them, and therefore, we are not concerned with the estimation of that black money. When will you disclose it to the public?

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, I am referring to what Shri Dubey Sahab mentioned, as he stated that the Chairman of the Finance Committee has not disclosed the report on black

money and has kept all three reports undisclosed. While speaking, he quoted a couplet by Kabir. I too recall another couplet-

“Kahoon to bhi kahen, na kahoon to bhi kahen,  
kahoon to maa mar jaaye, na kahoon to baap kutta khaaye,  
kahe Daas Kabir...”

(Thee couplet is used to express frustration with continuous and unfounded criticism, implying that, in the political arena, it is impossible to avoid disapproval, regardless of one's stance or response.)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, there is an English word, "introspection." At times, Shri Kharge Ji engages in introspection as well.

Hon. Devgauda Ji mentioned bank loans. That is precisely what this Government has put an end to. There is no longer "phone banking" from Delhi. No instructions or directives are sent from Delhi to the banks on what they should or should not do. It is this practice that we have stopped, which existed under previous Governments. Now, public sector banks make decisions based on the established rules and regulations. They will certainly make the appropriate decisions as per those regulations. However, I do not believe that the Government can issue orders dictating how much

loan to give, how much to take, how much to forgive, or how much to waive. However, I will say this, in May, an announcement was made in Karnataka. Now, it is February, and it has been nine months. In these nine months...(*Interruptions*) the distress faced by farmers, and the assurances given to them, must be fulfilled as soon as possible, just as we have already begun the work.

As Members of Parliament, we should also urge our respective state governments to expedite the provision of data. Hon. Prime Minister is soon to formally launch the PM-Kisan scheme. Through your esteemed office, I would like to request the Karnataka Government to promptly provide the data of all farmers along with their bank account details. The assistance that the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is set to provide through the PM-Kisan scheme should ensure that no farmer is excluded. You are free to make any announcements as you see fit.

As for your remarks, the current term has ended, and the report has not been released. We will reconsider the matter in the next term and deliberate on how to move forward with it.

Thank you very much.

[English]

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

“That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 2019-2020 and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers and to make amendments in certain enactments, be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

### **Clause 2 to 7**

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

“That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.*

### **Clause 8**

### **Amendment of Section 87A**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab to move amendment no. 1 to clause 8.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** I beg to move:

Page 8, *for* line 32,-

*Substitute* “shall be substituted subject to the (1)  
condition that where the total income of an  
assessee, being an individual resident in  
India, exceeds five hundred thousand  
rupees, total amount payable as income tax  
(including any cess) on such income shall  
not exceed the amount of income that  
exceeds five hundred thousand rupees.”.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mahtab ji, do you want to say something?

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Madam, if one goes through this amendment, it will help the government to clear most of the misunderstandings. I need not read it as it is a small amendment. The rebate of five lakh rupees that has been given, if the rebate is deducted, it becomes less than five lakh rupees, the way my amendment has been framed, I can share it with the minister mathematically. as a chartered accountant, with his experience he can understand it better. If you consider the wordings here, it helps those people whose income is upto Rs.5 lakh with rebate; it will be

easier. It is written in the same language. I have written it in that way.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I shall now put amendment no. 1 to clause 8 moved by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

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

“That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 8 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 9 to 22 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

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

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The motion is adopted and the Finance Bill, 2019 has been passed.

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**18 54 hrs**

**BANNING OF UNREGULATED DEPOSIT SCHEMES  
BILL, 2019**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Minister, are you not taking up item no. 24?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Madam, we want to take up item no. 24.

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):** Madam, item no. 24 is about banning of unregulated deposit schemes.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Madam, please take up this item tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is no time tomorrow.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposit schemes and to protect the interest of depositors and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Minister, do you want to say something?

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Madam, the Standing Committee has already given its recommendations. We have taken full cognisance of those recommendations. It is in the interest of the small depositors and lakhs and crores of people all over the country who are suffering because of lack of regulation of one section of these companies. Many are regulated by SEBI, RBI or NABARD. But there is still a little loophole that some chit funds and ponzi funds are using. Nowadays, a lot of such instances are coming to light. I think it is in the interest of the small investors and common man. It is a simple Bill. If the House wants to discuss, we are open to it. Otherwise, after the Bill having gone through the Standing Committee, we can easily pass it.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** Since morning the Government has been saying that only the Finance Bill will be taken up for discussion and now the Government is asking for the discussion on a new Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is already listed in the agenda.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** We can take it up tomorrow.

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL :** Madam, there was a request from the Opposition side. ...(*Interruptions*) ... \*has requested me.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do not take his name. You can request the House for it.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR):** As the Minister of Finance has stated, this Bill is important and in the public interest, and I believe that if we sit for a little longer, we can finish it. Shri Kharge is also ready.

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\* Not recorded.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please complete it now; what difference does it make? Tomorrow, there will not be enough time. Tomorrow is the last day. [English] If you are ready, we can take it up just now.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Yes, Biju Janata Dal is prepared to discuss this Bill not today, but tomorrow. My request would be that two Bills should be taken up. One is about the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill which is of urgent need and I think every political party is in favour of passing it.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL :** How can it be? ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :** Not today. Listen to me.  
...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** He is saying, not today.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM (RAIGANJ):** Hon. Minister is repeating the same thing. I support Shri Mahtab Ji, please bring the Bill tomorrow. It is necessary, but a serious discussion should take place.

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** It is better that by 2 o' clock we can take up this Bill immediately after Lunch, if possible. It is important and it is necessary. The Standing Committee on Finance has gone through it.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** You can suspend the Question Hour tomorrow and take it up. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** We have to take it up after the Question Hour only.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Tomorrow is the last day. Everyone wishes to leave early tomorrow, so it is better to complete it today.

[English]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** As the Finance Minister, the thickness of the Bill must be known to you. It is not a two-page Bill like the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill. It is a different matter altogether that most of the hon. Members agreed with the amendments and that is why this Bill has come up here. But there is a necessity to discuss it here. Even if you pass it without a discussion here today, will you be able to pass it in the Rajya Sabha?

That issue is still there. Therefore, my request would be not to rush it through in the last moment.

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Let the Rajya Sabha discuss and pass it tomorrow because they are also concerned with the problems of crores of people in the country. So, at least, let us make an effort. Let us make an effort to appeal to the conscience of the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** This should be taken up today. ...(*Interruptions*) The Standing Committee has corrected this word.

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** If it is passed today, we will communicate it to the Rajya Sabha tomorrow.

[English]

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** We can at least appeal to the conscience of the hon. Members of the Rajya Sabha to pass it.

[Translation]

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, if this Bill is passed today, it can only be communicated to the Rajya Sabha tomorrow. Tomorrow is the last day of the session. Through your esteemed office, I would like to appeal to all our friends in the

Opposition to understand the significance of this Bill and pass it today, within the limited time available. If everyone cooperates, it will be in the best interest of all, as after tomorrow, there will be no opportunity. Even if we pass it tomorrow, it will not reach the Rajya Sabha.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** It has not even started there.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** It will be done tomorrow.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** You can take it up by suspending Question Hour, and it will automatically be taken up in the afternoon. Nothing has started there yet. *...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** Question Hour causes inconvenience to all Members. This is the last session, and all Members will have concerns. *...(Interruptions)* At this rate, half of it would have been passed by now. That is the reality.  
*...(Interruptions)*

**19 00hrs**

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** We will not speak much; we will let them speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please decide whether we will limit the discussion and proceed to pass it. One or two persons will speak. Are you ready to pass it without discussion?

...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, we will suspend Question Hour tomorrow and begin at 11 AM sharp. ...(*Interruptions*) I have already introduced the Bill. We can start the discussion directly at 11 AM tomorrow. ...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:** I believe that the opinion of the House has been conveyed to Hon. Speaker Madam. Madam, whatever decision is made, we all will accept it.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do you all agree to suspend the Question Hour tomorrow and to take up the debate? [Translation] Any suggestions from all of you?

...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** But this should happen in one hour, not in two hours. [English] You agree with this thing also because time

allotted for the Bill is two hours. Only one hour will be given. There will be no two hours for this. Tomorrow, we will see as to what to do.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have put forth your suggestion in two ways.

...(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** One moment, at present, I am not discussing the suspension of any Question Hour. You have given the suggestion, so, we will think about it. But, the other thing which I am saying is, the time allotted for the bill is two hours, so, do not say like that tomorrow. The decision must be concluded in exactly one hour or half an hour, otherwise, everyone will wish to speak, and it will lead to chaos. If you agree with one hour, then only we will do it.

Didn't you all offer support earlier? How much delay has there been today? As I was leaving, my emotions surged. Well, the right point has finally come up.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at 11.00 a.m.

**19 02 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on  
Wednesday, February, 13, 2019/Magha 24, 1940 (Saka)*

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